

NATIONAL CENSUS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY COUNCILLORS 2018

SECTION A – ABOUT YOUR WORK AS A COUNCILLOR

A1

How long have you been a councillor in this authority?

Enter in years. If less than one year, please enter 1.

A2

In this authority do you hold any of the following positions or their equivalents?

Please tick all relevant.

Directly elected mayor

Deputy mayor

Leader of the council

Deputy leader of the council

Chair/vice-chair of the council/civic mayor

Cabinet/executive member

Chair/vice-chair of overview and scrutiny

Chair/vice chair of area forum/cttee

Chair/vice chair of regulatory cttee (e.g. licensing, planning)

Chair/vice chair of standards cttee

Chair/vice chair of main policy cttee

Chair/vice chair of other major cttee

Chair/vice chair of local strategic partnership main group

Chair/vice chair of local strategic partnership sub group

Party/group leader

Party/group deputy leader

Other party/group official

A3

Are you a member of any of the following local partnership groups/boards?

Please tick all relevant.

Crime and disorder reduction partnership

Health and wellbeing board

Local enterprise partnership

Community safety board

Other (please specify)

Other (please specify)

A4

Please indicate the average number of hours per week you spend on council business for this authority (excluding group/party business).

Enter to the nearest hour.

A5

Please estimate how much of the time specified in A6 was spent on each of the following.

Your answers should sum to the total given in A6.

Attendance at council meetings, committees etc (including preparation)

Engaging with constituents, surgeries, constituent enquiries (including preparation)

Working with community groups, community engagement etc (including preparation)

Other (e.g. external meetings, seminars, training, council-related travel)

A6

Please indicate the average number of hours per week you spend on group/party business in this authority.

Enter to the nearest hour.

A7

When last elected, for which political party did you stand as a candidate?

Conservatives

Labour

Liberal Democrats

Independent/Residents' Association

UK Independence Party

Green Party

Other (please specify)

A8

Have you changed political party since you were last elected as a councillor?

Yes

No

A9

If you have changed party since you were last elected, please indicate your current party.

Conservatives

Labour

Liberal Democrats

Independent/Residents' Association

UK Independence Party

Green Party

Other (please specify)

A10

Please indicate if you are a member of any other council.

Please tick all relevant.

Local authority council
 Town council
 Parish/community council
 Police authority
 Fire authority
 National Parks authority

A11

Please indicate which of the following online tools you use, and which you find most useful in your work as a councillor

	Use	Most useful
Own web page		
Blog		
Twitter account		
Facebook page		
YouTube		
Email		
Other (please specify)		

A12

Please indicate how you have engaged with the LGA over the last twelve months, and how you would like to engage over the next twelve months.

Please tick all relevant.

	Last 12 months	Next 12 months
Contact with LGA officers		
Contact with councillors on LGA boards		
Contacted in your role as an advisor		
Contributed via Knowledge Hub		
Contributed in LGA meetings/seminars		
Responded to LGA consultations		
Face-to-face contact, e.g. with your principal advisor		
Acted as an LGA peer or engaged in the LGA's improvement work		
Attended LGA events and conferences (e.g. LGA Annual Conference, National Children and Adult Services Conference)		
Council visited by LGA members and / or officers		
Attended LGA member training or development activities		
Attended other LGA training or development activities		
Visited the LGA website		
Submitted case studies to LGA website		
Followed / engaged with the LGA on social media		
Other (please specify)		
Not engaged with the LGA		

A13

Please indicate how useful you consider each of the following LGA activities in your role as a councillor.

Very useful / Fairly useful / Not very useful / Not at all useful / Don't know

Providing a single voice for local government

Lobbying on behalf of local government

Providing advice and information through the political group offices

Negotiating national pay, terms and conditions and providing employment advice

Managing local government's reputation in the national media

Providing support for sector led improvement (for example, peer challenges and mentoring, support for leadership, workforce management and productivity)

Providing legal advice and co-ordination of legal action for councils (for example, property searches, and NHS claims for business rate rebates)

Providing up-to-date information about local government (for example, 'first' magazine, e-bulletins and website)

Providing conferences and events

A14

How do you generally find out about the work of the LGA, and how would you prefer to?

Find out

Prefer to find out

LGA Chairman's weekly email

LGA Chief Executive's weekly email

Political group offices' e-bulletin

Parliamentary bulletin

Other e-bulletins (for example, topic-based such as children and young people, finance)

'first' magazine

'first online'

LGA website

Media work/press releases

Publications (for example, 'Adult Social Care: State of the Nation')

Events and conferences

Face-to-face contact

Director of Communications's CommsNet ebulletin

Following LGA social media channels eg. Facebook, Twitter

SECTION B - YOUR VIEWS AS A COUNCILLOR

B1

Why did you want to become a councillor?

Please tick all relevant.

To serve the community

To resolve an issue

For political beliefs and values

To change things

Because I was asked to

Other (please specify)

B2

Please indicate which of the following, in your opinion, are the most important things for councillors to do.

Please tick up to three things.

Listen to the views of local people
Support the local community
Hold surgeries for constituents
Address issues concerning the whole area
Attend council meetings
Plan local services
Deal with complaints
Keep the public informed about council activities
Represent local residents' views to the council

B3

Which statement best describes your view of your influence as a councillor

I feel that I have ...

... more influence to change things in my area than I expected before I was elected

... less influence to change things in my area than I expected before I was elected

... about as much influence to change things in my area as I expected before I was elected

B4

To what extent do you think you are effective in your role as a councillor in this authority?

Very effective
Effective
Not very effective
Not at all effective
Don't know/too early to say

B5

Please indicate in which of the following situations you would talk about your work as a councillor.

	Never	Sometimes	Often	Not applicable
Social gatherings				
At work				
Community events				
With family				
Online (e.g. on social media)				

B6

Would you recommend becoming a councillor if you were asked?

Yes
No
Don't know

B7

Do you intend to stand for re-election at the end of your term in office?

Yes

No

Don't know

B8

Do you think that there are appropriate arrangements in place in your authority to deal with inappropriate behaviour in your role as a councillor?

Yes No

By members of the public

By officers

By councillors

SECTION C – ABOUT YOURSELF

In order that we can better understand the backgrounds of councillors, this section asks some questions about you. They are optional, so do not complete any particular question if you are uncomfortable giving the information requested.

C1

Please tick the box that best describes your current circumstances, excluding work as a councillor.

Please tick the main one.

In full-time paid employment

In part-time paid employment

Self-employed or freelance

Unemployed

Retired

Not in paid work – looking after home/family

Not in paid work – in full-time education

Not in paid work – other reason

C2

If you are employed or self-employed, please tick the box that best describes your current main occupation, and write in your occupation in the box provided.

Managerial or executive

Professional or technical

Lecturer, teacher or researcher

Administrative, clerical, secretarial or sales

Manual or craft

C3

If you are employed or self-employed, please indicate the sector in which you work.

Public sector – local government

Public sector – central government

Public sector – NHS

Public sector – other

Private sector

Voluntary sector

C4

If you are an employee, to what extent does your employer support your work as a councillor?

To a great extent
To some extent
Not at all
Employer is unaware I am a councillor
Don't know

C5

Do you hold any voluntary/unpaid positions in addition to your main job and work as a councillor?

Please tick all relevant.

School governor
Magistrate
Other
No other such positions

C6

Please tick the box that is closest to the highest qualification that you hold.

Degree/higher degree/professional qualification/NVQ 4 or 5/Higher National Certificate or Diploma
GCE 'A' level/Scottish/Irish/Higher Grade/NVQ 3/Ordinary National Certificate or Diploma
Trade apprenticeship
GCSE/GCE 'O' level/School Certificate/NVQ 2
CSE (other than grade 1)/NVQ 1
Other qualification
None of the above

C7

What best describes your gender?

Male
Female
Prefer to self-describe
Prefer not to say

C8

Please enter your age in years.

C9

Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background.

White

British

- English
- Scottish
- Welsh
- Other (please specify)

Irish

Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Any other white (please specify)

Mixed/multiple

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Any other mixed (please specify)

Asian/Asian British

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Chinese

Any other Asian (please specify)

Black/Black British

African

Caribbean

Any other black (please specify)

Other

Arab

Any other ethnic group (please specify)

C10

Which of the following best describes how you think of yourself?

Heterosexual or straight

Gay or lesbian

Bisexual

Other

Prefer not to say

C11

Do you have any long-term health problem or disability which limits your daily activities or the work you can do and that has lasted or is expected to last for at least twelve months?

Yes

No

C12

Please indicate whether you have any caring responsibilities.

Please tick all relevant.

Child(ren)

Partner

Relative

Other