

National census of local authority councillors 2022



REPORT OF THE COUNCILLORS' CENSUS 2022

INTRODUCTION

The Local Government Association (LGA) has carried out the ninth Census of Local Authority Councillors in England. This census provides the most comprehensive, timely overview of local government representation and, with previous years' data, how that has changed over time. The results will help to inform central and local government and political groups in the development of strategies and policies for local government. The 2022 Census was conducted in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and its effect on local communities, and recent prominent issues of personal safety.

The 2022 Census collected data between January and February 2022 and updates previous censuses conducted over 1997-2018.

The 2022 Census was the second to be conducted entirely online. All 16,930¹ councillors in England were emailed a unique link to the questionnaire. A total of 5,055 councillors responded, a response rate of 30 per cent. This is markedly higher than in 2018 (15 per cent), but lower than those in 2013 (38 per cent) and earlier.

In this report, the data have been grossed to show estimates for all councillors in England. Please see [Annex A](#) for details. [Annex C](#) compares the profile of councillors with those of the adult population as a whole.

Response

The 2022 response rate of 30 per cent compares with 15 per cent in 2018, 38 per cent in 2013, and 33 per cent in 2010. A variety of measures taken to improve upon the dip in response in 2018 are described in [Annex A](#).

The actual number of respondents, 5,055, is sufficient to enable robust national estimates to be produced for all councillors assuming that there is no systematic bias among respondents. As far as can be gauged, there was no large-scale systematic bias – see [Annex B](#) for further details. The lower response does, however, mean that sub-national estimates should be treated with caution. In some cases, comparisons with previous Censuses should be treated with caution where questions have been changed (this is noted on relevant [tables](#)).

The response by type of authority and region is detailed in [Annex A](#).

¹ This is slightly less than the total number of council seats at the time (17,001) as at any given time there are likely to be a small number of vacant seats.

Scope

Questions in the 2022 Census, which were largely the same as in 2018, fell into three broad areas, shown below together with the relevant table. A [full series of tables](#) covering each question is shown towards the end of the report.

- Councillors' views on a range of areas:
 - reasons for becoming a councillor (Table 1)
 - important things that councillors do (Table 2)
 - influence of councillors (Table 3)
 - effectiveness of councillors (Table 4)
 - whether councillors would recommend their role to others (Table 5)
 - intention to stand for re-election (Table 6)
 - arrangements for dealing with inappropriate behaviour (Table 7)
 - how often councillors feel at risk personally (Table 8)
 - arrangements for protecting councillors personally (Table 9)
 - frequency of abuse or intimidation (Table 10).

- Councillors' work:
 - length of service (Table 11)
 - positions of responsibility (Table 12)
 - time spent on council/party business (Tables 13-16)
 - party/group (Table 17)
 - membership of other councils (Table 18).

- Councillors' personal characteristics:
 - employment status (Tables 19-22)
 - voluntary/unpaid positions (Table 23)
 - highest qualification (Table 24)
 - sex (Table 25)
 - gender identity (Table 26)
 - age (Table 27)
 - ethnic group (Table 28)
 - sexual orientation (Table 29)
 - health conditions or illnesses (Table 30)
 - caring responsibilities (Table 31).

SUMMARY

The main findings of the 2022 Census were as follows:

Councillors' views

- 85 per cent of councillors became councillors in order to serve their community;
- 63 per cent thought that listening to the views of local people was among the most important role of councillors, 60 per cent thought the same of representing local residents, and 58 per cent supporting local communities;
- 32 per cent of councillors thought they were very effective in their role, and 60 per cent fairly effective;
- 79 per cent would recommend the role of councillor to others;
- 65 per cent intended to stand for re-election;
- 70 per cent thought that the council had effective arrangements for dealing with inappropriate behaviour by council officers, 57 per cent by councillors and 55 per cent by members of the public;
- 28 per cent had either frequently or occasionally felt at risk personally in their role as a councillor, while 72 per cent had rarely or never felt at risk;
- 65 per cent thought that council arrangements for protecting councillors personally were either very or fairly effective;
- 10 per cent of councillors had experienced abuse or intimidation frequently over the last twelve months. 29 per cent occasionally, 33 per cent rarely, and 27 per cent had never had any such experiences.

Councillors' work

- On average, councillors had served for 9.1 years in their current authority; 48 per cent had served for up to 5 years while 12 per cent had done so for more than 20 years;
- 54 per cent of councillors held a position of responsibility, most commonly as chair or vice-chair of a committee;
- Councillors spent, on average, 22 hours per week on council business, the largest chunk of which was on council meetings (8 hours);

Councillors' personal characteristics

- 40 per cent of councillors were retired, and 32 per cent were in full- or part-time employment;
- 61 per cent of councillors held other voluntary or unpaid positions, such as school governorships;
- 64 per cent of councillors held a degree or equivalent or higher qualification; only 4 per cent did not hold any qualification;
- 59 per cent of councillors were male, and 41 per cent female (but see [page 13](#));
- The average age of councillors in 2022 was 60 years; 16 per cent were aged under-45 and 42 per cent were aged 65 or over.
- 92 per cent described their ethnic background as white;
- 84 per cent described their sexual orientation as heterosexual or straight;

- 16 per cent had a long-term physical or mental health problem which reduced their daily activities;
- 46 per cent of councillors had a responsibility as a carer, most commonly looking after a child.

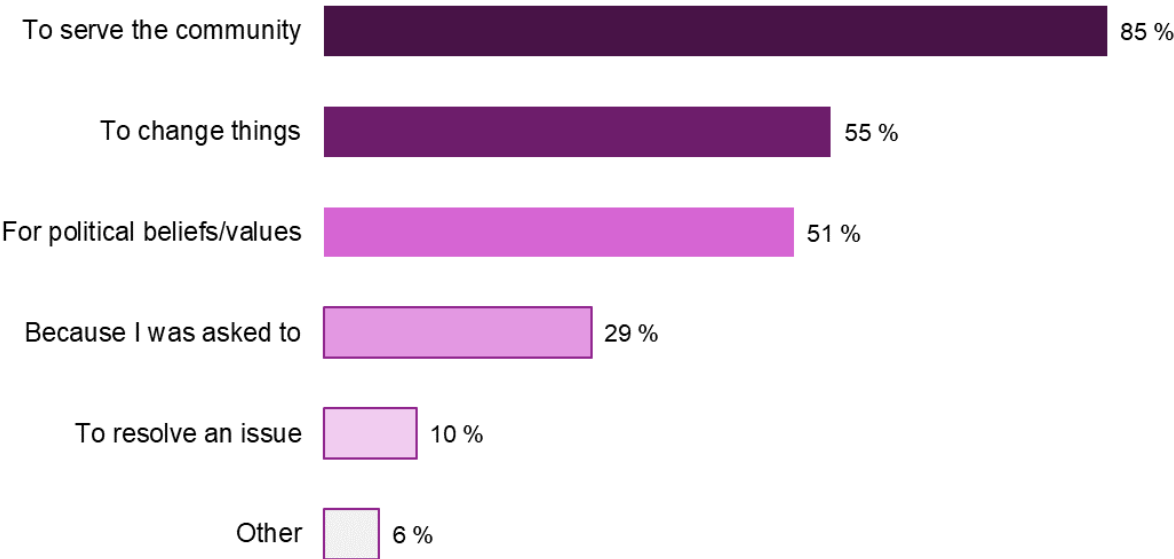
MAIN FINDINGS

This section covers a selection of survey findings together with the relevant [table](#).

Reasons for becoming a councillor (Table 1)

More than four of five (84.8 per cent) became councillors in order to serve the community, and more than a half did so in order to change things (54.8 per cent) or for their political beliefs/values (50.5 per cent). The reasons for becoming a councillor have changed little since 2006.

Chart 1: Reasons for becoming a councillor (2022)

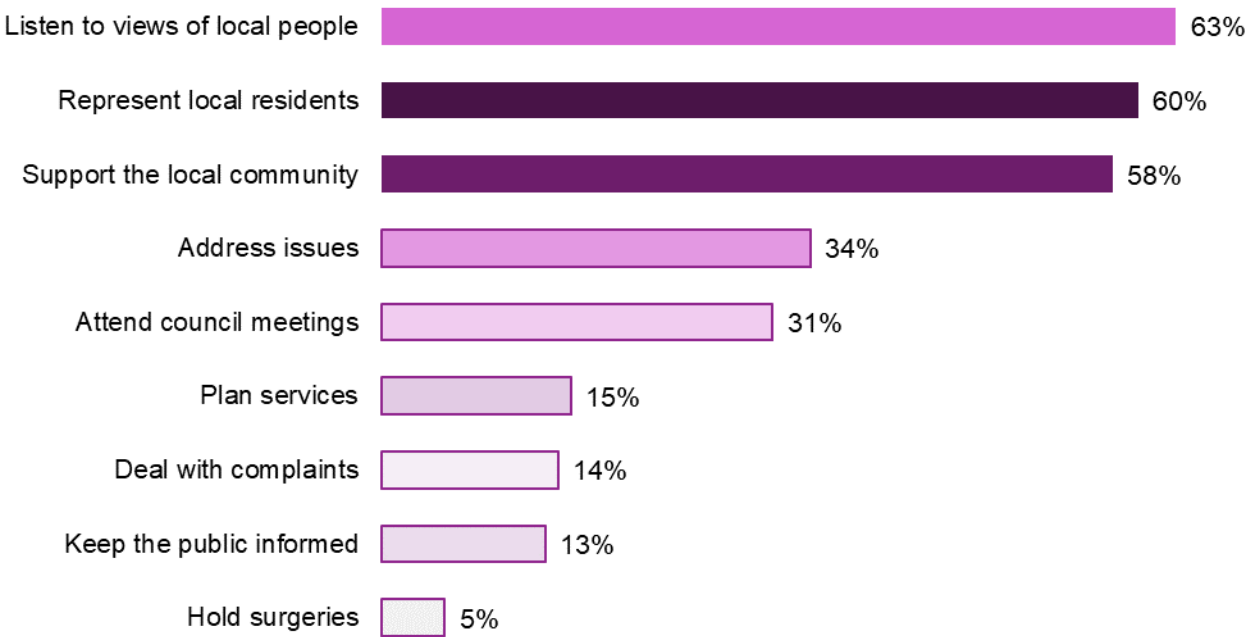


Most important things that councillors do (Table 2)²

Three-fifths of councillors (62.7 per cent) thought that listening to the view of local people was among the most important councillor roles. Representing local residents (59.7 per cent) and supporting local communities (57.7 per cent) were cited by similar proportions.

² Respondents were allowed to indicate up to three items; the proportion reporting most of them fell between 2013 and 2018, but this may be an effect of moving from a paper-based to an online questionnaire. It was impossible for respondents to tick more than three items with the online system, whereas this could not be enforced on a paper questionnaire.)

Chart 2: Most important things that councillors do (2022)



Influence of councillors (Table 3)

In 2022, 33.9 per cent of councillors thought that they had about as much influence to change things in their area as they expected before they were elected, while 33.3 per cent felt that they had more influence than expected and 32.8 per cent felt that they had less influence. These proportions have fluctuated slightly since 2008 – the proportion feeling they had less influence fell steadily from 25.4 per cent in 2008, but increased in 2022.

Effectiveness of councillors (Table 4)

A little under a third of councillors (31.9 per cent) thought that they were very effective in their role in the council and 59.6 per cent rated themselves as fairly effective. Only 5.7 per cent regarded themselves as not very or not at all effective.

Since 2006, the proportion answering ‘very effective’ has increased (from 23.5 per cent) while the proportion answering ‘fairly effective’ has fallen (from 68.6 per cent).

Recommending the role of councillor (Table 5)

In 2022, 79.0 per cent of councillors would recommend the role to others (slightly lower than in previous years), 8.6 per cent would not, and 12.4 per cent did not answer or could not say.

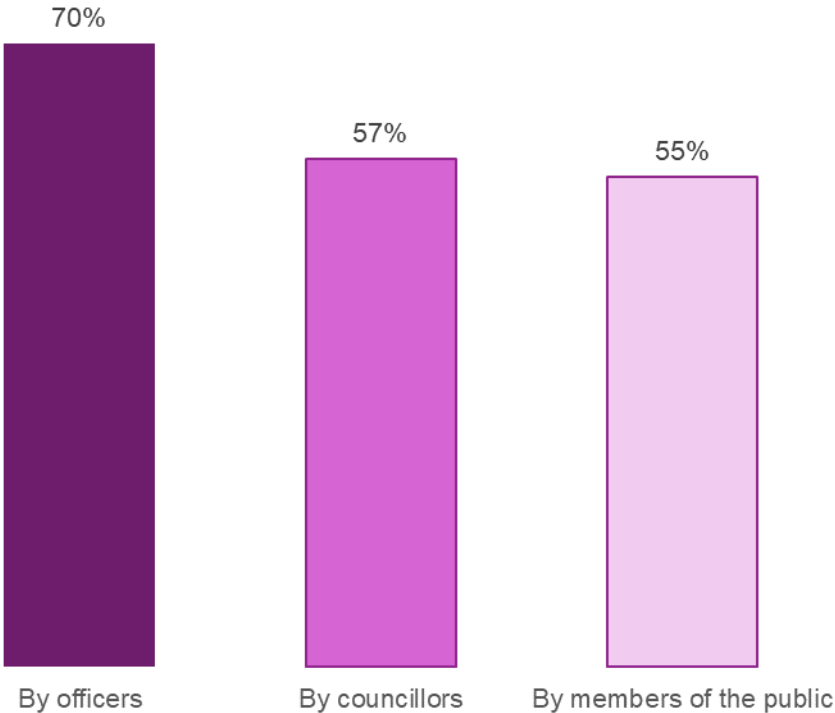
Intention to stand for re-election (Table 6)

Just under two-thirds of councillors (64.6 per cent) intended to stand at the next elections (17.6 per cent did not answer or didn’t know). The proportion not intending to stand (17.8 per cent) was slightly higher than in previous years.

Arrangements for dealing with inappropriate behaviour (Table 7)

In 2022, most councillors thought that their council had appropriate arrangements in place to deal with inappropriate behaviour towards them in their role as councillors. The proportion varied between 69.6 per cent in respect of such behaviour by council officers, 56.8 per cent in respect of councillors (50.3 per cent of female councillors compared with 61.3 per cent of male councillors), and 54.8 per cent in respect of members of the public.

Chart 3: Arrangements in place to deal with inappropriate behaviour (2022)



Feeling at risk as a councillor (Table 8)

Just under a half of councillors (45.1 per cent) reported that they rarely felt at risk personally when fulfilling their role as a councillor, while 26.8 per cent never felt at risk, 24.1 per cent occasionally felt at risk, and 4.0 per cent frequently felt at risk. Female councillors were less likely to report never feeling at risk (19.0 per cent) than male councillors (32.2 per cent), and more likely to report occasionally feeling at risk (31.1 per cent compared with 19.2 per cent of men).

Arrangements for personal protection (Table 9)

Around a half of respondents (48.7 per cent) thought that their council's arrangements for protecting councillors in their role were fairly effective, while 14.6 per cent thought them very effective. A quarter (25.0 per cent) regarded them as not very effective and 11.7 per cent as not at all effective.

Experiences of abuse or intimidation³ (Table 10)

Around one in ten councillors (10.3 per cent) had frequently experienced abuse or intimidation in their capacity as a councillor over the last twelve months, 29.4 per cent had experienced abuse or intimidation occasionally, 33.4 per cent had rarely experienced them, and 26.9 per cent had never experienced abuse or intimidation over the last twelve months.

General comments on safety or civility in public life

Councillors were also invited to add any comments they had about their safety or civility in public life more generally. A total of 2,088 did so.

Most comments concerned the types of abuse experienced, the main broad themes being listed below:

- online abuse from councillors and members of the public (including references to the lack of regulation or recourse for councillors to defend themselves) – 625 respondents;
- abuse specifically from other councillors (online and in-person, including lack of action to deal with aggressive behaviour) – 337 respondents;
- lack of or very little experience of abuse – 158 respondents;
- abuse or fear of being targeted at home (including concerns about home addresses being published) – 139 respondents;
- abuse specifically at surgeries – 121 respondents.

Other comments concerned a perceived lack of support and possible reasons for abusive behaviour:

- lack of support from police and councils (including mental health and safety training, more protection as MPs receive) – 334 respondents;
- perceived general decline in civility and respect for those in public life (councillors target of public anger about other issues including central government, lack of trust) – 261 respondents;
- councillors should be more respectful to the public (and the public will then respect councillors) and less sensitive (there is a limit to how protected councillors can be) – 112 respondents.

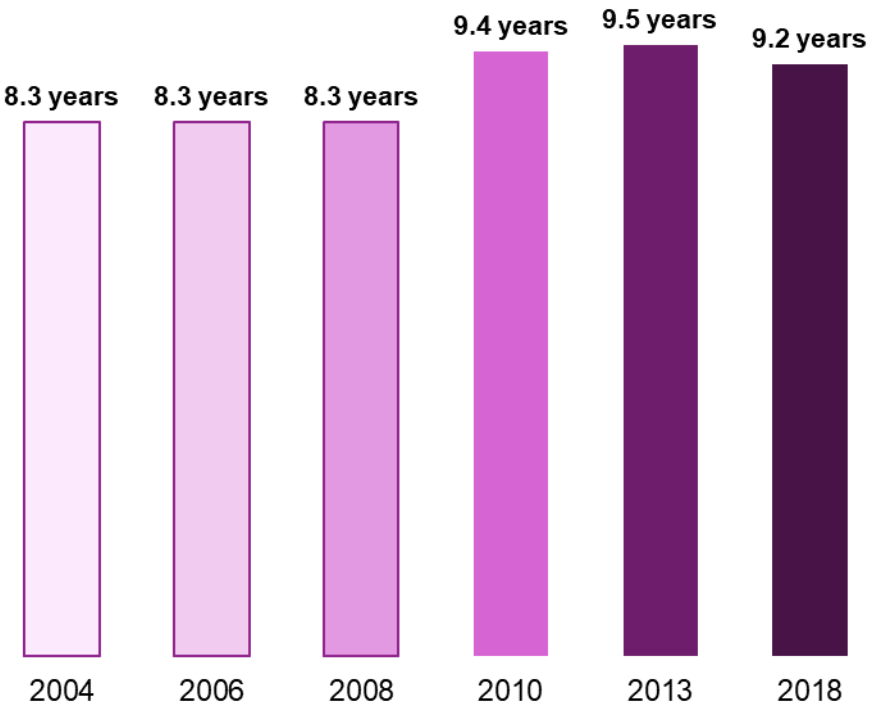
Length of service (Table 11)

The average length of service in 2022 was 9.1 years, and has not varied greatly since 2006, remaining between 8.3 and 9.5 years. In 2022, the average for female councillors (7.8 years) was lower than that for male councillors (10.0 years).

In 2022, 20.6 per cent of councillors had been a member of their current council for 1-2 years, and 27.5 per cent for 3-5 years. More than one in ten (11.5 per cent) had served for more than 20 years.

³ 'Abuse': words and/or behaviour that constitute abuse or mistreatment can include, but is not limited to, physical abuse, bullying, emotional abuse, unsolicited abusive communication, and harassment. It may be one-off or repeated. 'Intimidation': words and/or behaviour intended or likely to block, influence, or deter participation in public debate or causing alarm or distress, which could lead to an individual wanting to withdraw from public life. It may be one-off or repeated behaviour.

Chart 5: Average length of service of councillors (2006-2022)



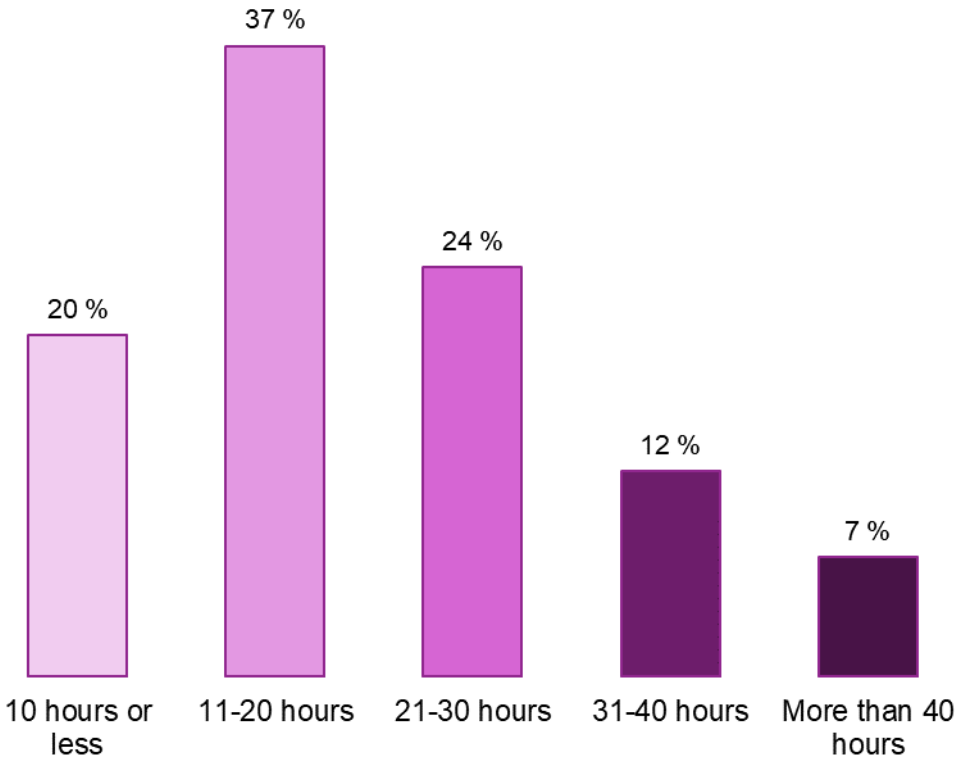
Positions of responsibility (Table 12)

In 2022, just over a half (53.5 per cent) of councillors held at least one position of responsibility, most commonly chair or vice-chair of a committee (32.5 per cent) or membership of the cabinet/executive (18.4 per cent). The proportion holding any position has not changed markedly since 2006.

Time spent on council business (Tables 13-14)

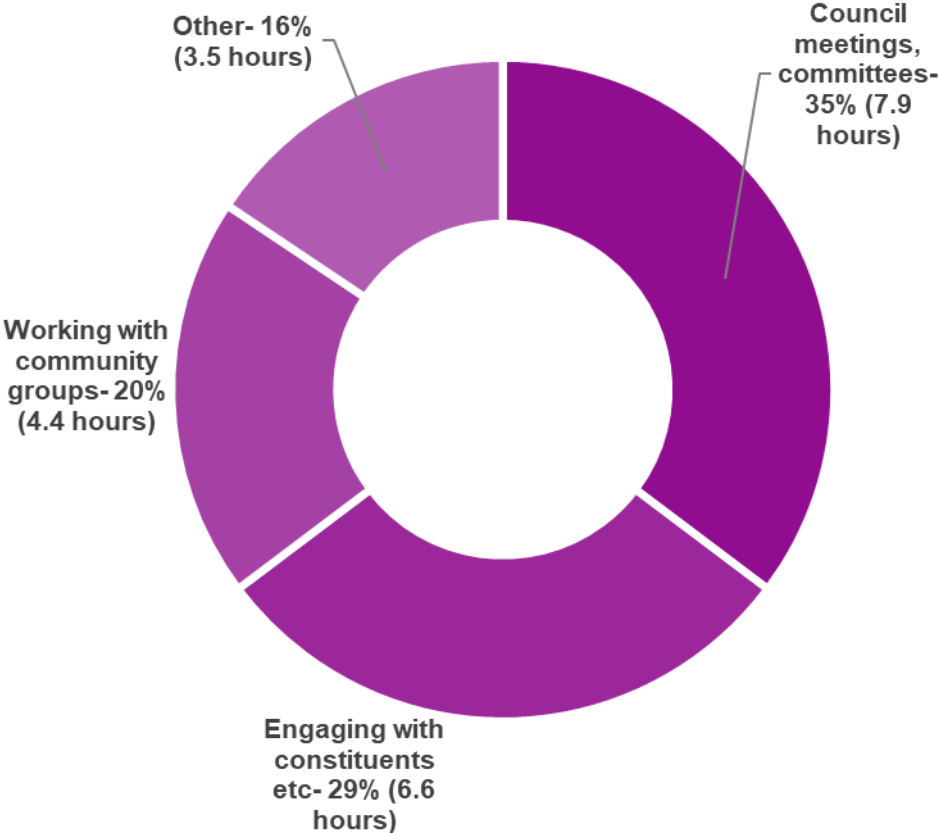
On average, councillors spent 22.4 hours per week on council business in 2022 (23.6 hours for female councillors, 21.6 hours for male councillors), compared with 22.0 hours in 2018 and 20.8 hours in 2013. In 2022, 20.3 per cent spent 10 hours or fewer and 13.5 per cent spent more than 35 hours per week. (Note: in 2022 time spent on virtual, hybrid and face-to-face activities was included.)

Chart 6: Distribution of weekly hours spent on council business (2022)



In 2022, the largest chunk of time was spent attending council meetings (7.9 hours on average), followed by engaging with constituents, surgeries, enquiries (6.6 hours), working with community groups (4.4 hours), and other items (3.5 hours).

Chart 7: Breakdown of time spent on council business (2022)



Time spent on group/party business (Table 15)

Councillors spent, on average, 5.1 hours per week on group/party business in 2022, higher than 4.3 in 2018 and 2013. Almost three-quarters (73.7 per cent) spent 5 hours or less per week, and most of the remainder (18.5 per cent) spent 6-10 hours per week.

Political party or group (Table 17)

Two out of five councillors (41.9 per cent) were members of the Conservative Party, 30.3 per cent were members of the Labour Party, 13.9 per cent were members of the Liberal Democrats, 13.9 per cent were Independent (including the Green Party and Residents' Association).

Membership of other public bodies (Table 18)

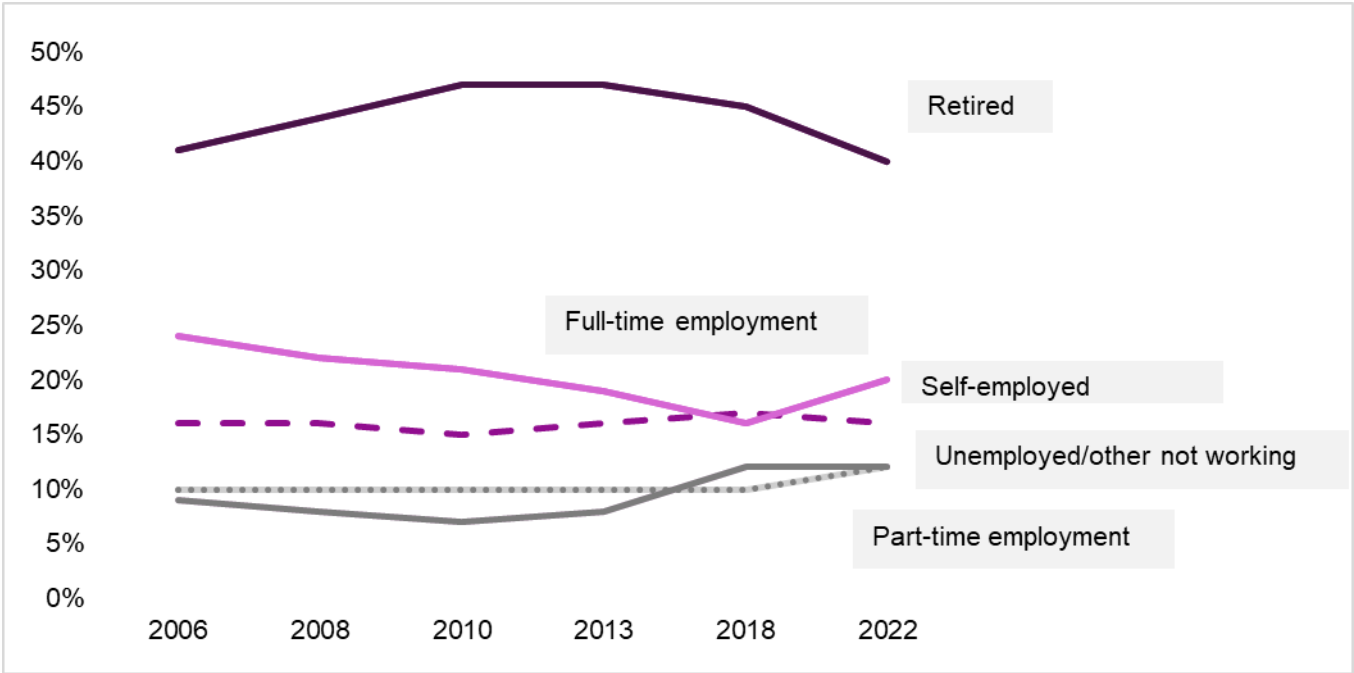
Aside from other local authorities, most commonly councillors were parish councils (13.7 per cent) or town councils (13.4 per cent).

Employment status (Table 19)

In 2022, 40.0 per cent of councillors were retired. The proportion in full-time employment had fallen gradually from 24.7 per cent in 2004 to 16.2 per cent in 2018, but increased in 2022 to 20.3 per cent.

In the population as a whole (aged 18+), 22 per cent of people were retired and 41 per cent were in full-time employment (see [Annex C](#)).

Chart 8: Employment status (2006-2022)



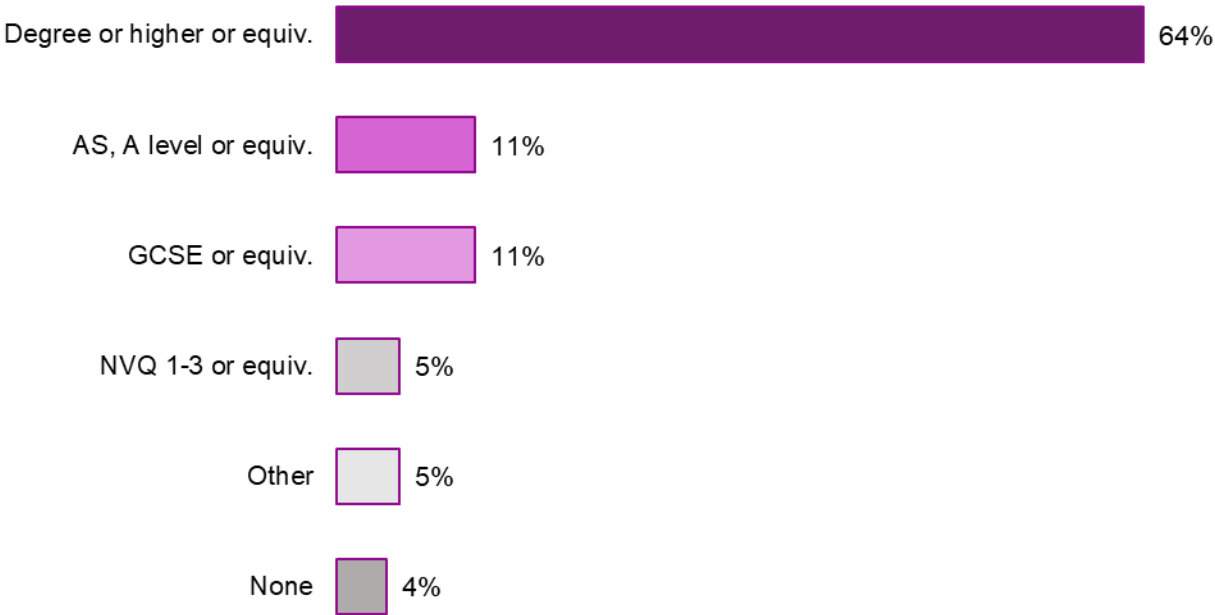
Voluntary activities (Table 23)

Three out of five councillors (61.4 per cent) held additional voluntary or unpaid positions. A fifth (20.3 per cent) were school governors.

Highest qualification (Table 24)

Just under two-thirds of councillors (64.0 per cent) had a degree or higher degree or equivalent in 2022, lower than in 2018 but higher than in earlier years (51.9 per cent to 60.4 per cent). In 2022, only 3.8 per cent did not hold any qualifications.

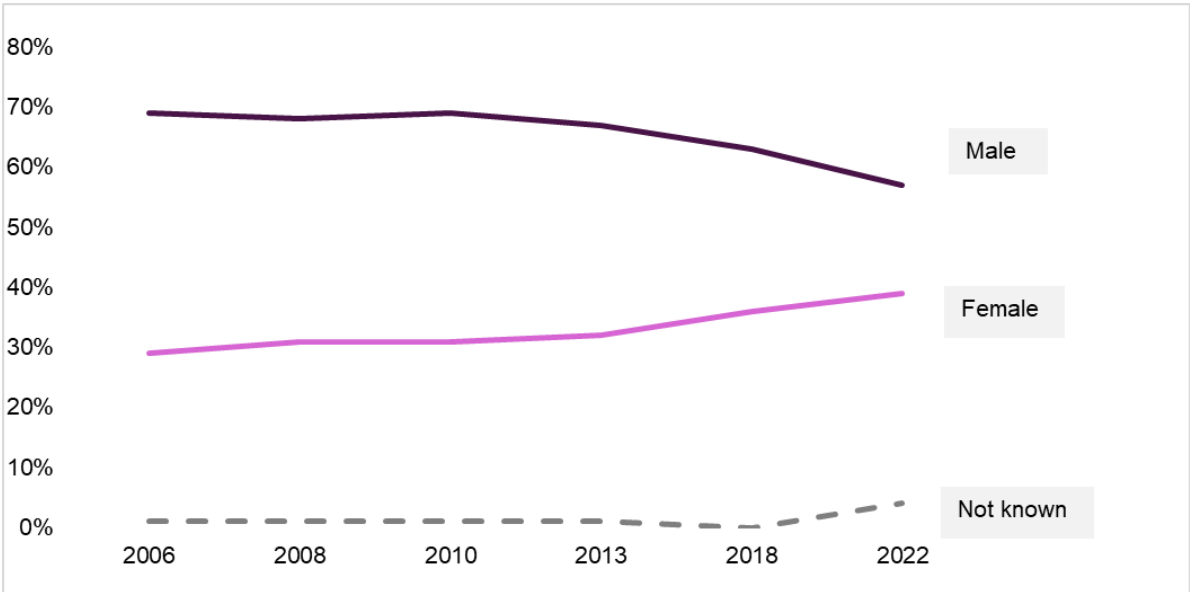
Chart 9: Highest qualification held (2022)



Sex (Table 25)

In 2022, 56.5 per cent of councillors were male and 39.1 per cent were female. If the proportions are recalculated to exclude a small number of respondents who did not answer, they equate to 59.1 per cent male and 40.9 per cent female. There has been a gradual fall in the former and concomitant rise in the latter over 2006-2022. It should be noted that figures collated by Oscar Research show proportions of 64.4 per cent male and 35.6 per cent female (more in line with previous censuses)⁴. The difference could be due to data collection method, timing, and the census response sample being slightly biased towards women.

Chart 10: Sex of councillors (2006-2022)



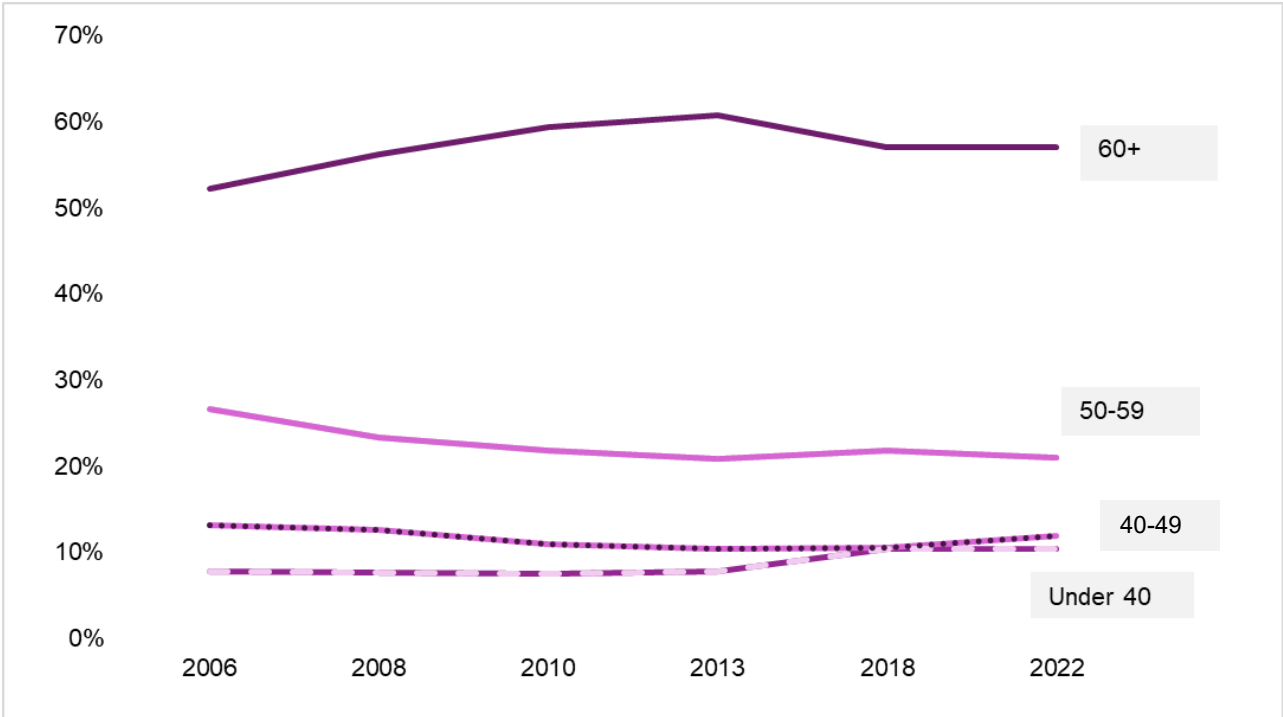
⁴ [Live Elected Representative Gender Analysis \(oscar-research.co.uk\)](https://oscar-research.co.uk)

Age (Table 27)

The average age of councillors in 2022 was 59.5 years old, similar to that over the 2006-2018 period. The proportion aged under 45 was 15.7 per cent in 2022, while 42.2 per cent were aged 65 or over. Both the proportions aged over 60 and under 40 have tended to increase slightly since 2006.

In the population as a whole (aged 18+), 43 per cent of people were aged under 45 and 17 per cent were aged 65 or over (see [Annex C](#)).

Chart 11: Age distribution of councillors (2006-2022)



Ethnic group (Table 28)

The proportion of councillors describing themselves as white was 91.7 per cent in 2022, lower than the proportion reported between 2006 and 2018 (95.9 - 96.6 per cent). In 2022, 4.0 per cent were Asian or Asian British, 1.9 per cent were mixed or multiple, 1.5 per cent were black, black British, Caribbean or African, and 0.8 per cent were of another ethnic group.

Sexual orientation (Table 29)

In 2022, 84.1 per cent of councillors described themselves as heterosexual or straight, 4.2 per cent as gay or lesbian, 2.2 per cent as bisexual, 1.6 per cent as other, and 7.9 per cent preferred not to say.

Health conditions or illnesses (Table 30)

Around one in six councillors, 15.5 per cent, reported having a physical or mental health condition or illness which had lasted or was expected to last for twelve months or more and which reduced their ability to carry out day-to-day activities. The proportion was slightly higher among female councillors (19.9 per cent) than male councillors (13.5 per cent).

Caring responsibilities (Table 31)

In 2022, more than two-fifths of councillors (45.9 per cent) had responsibility as a carer, higher for women (50.6 per cent) than men (38.9 per cent). Most commonly councillors cared for a child or children (19.7 per cent, 25.5 per cent of women and 17.1 per cent of men). Most of the rest cared for a relative (11.1 per cent) or partner (9.8 per cent). The overall proportion with a caring responsibility had previously ranged between 24.2 per cent and 27.9 per cent between 2004 and 2013, before increasing in 2018 and 2022.

TABLES

Table 1: Reasons for becoming a councillor (2006 - 2022)

	2006		2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Serve community	16,654	86.9	17,228	88.4	15,905	88.2	16,115	90.0	15,033	84.6	14,350	84.8
To change things	10,020	52.3	10,471	53.7	9,428	52.3	10,520	58.7	9,667	54.4	9,274	54.8
Political beliefs	9,866	51.5	10,032	51.5	9,064	50.2	9,752	54.4	9,400	52.9	8,552	50.5
Because I was asked to	5,631	29.4	5,909	30.3	5,079	28.2	4,902	27.4	4,887	27.5	4,841	28.6
Resolve an issue	2,183	11.4	2,436	12.5	2,317	12.8	2,621	14.6	1,759	9.9	1,661	9.8
Other	635	3.3	522	2.7	338	1.9	328	1.8	853	4.8	1,074	6.3
Base (respondents)	19,153		19,496		18,041		17,915		17,770		16,930	

Note: more than one response could be given so percentages do not necessarily sum to 100.

Table 2: Which are most important things that councillors do (2013-2022)

	2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Listen to views of local people	12,028	69.8	8,654	48.7	10,616	62.7
Represent local residents	11,162	64.8	10,733	60.4	10,115	59.7
Support local community	10,610	61.6	9,116	51.3	9,763	57.7
Address issues	6,954	40.4	6,948	39.1	5,705	33.7
Attend council meetings	5,438	31.6	4,958	27.9	5,264	31.1
Plan services	3,457	20.1	3,696	20.8	2,534	15.0
Deal with complaints	4,367	25.4	3,056	17.2	2,341	13.8
Keep the public informed	3,638	21.1	3,110	17.5	2,202	13.0
Hold surgeries	2,188	12.7	1,617	9.1	915	5.4
Base (respondents)	17,227		17,770		16,930	

Note: more than one response could be given so percentages do not necessarily sum to 100.

Table 3: Views on influence as a councillor (2008–2022)

	2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
More influence to change things than expected	7,806	40.5	7,213	40.3	7,373	41.4	6,699	37.7	5,637	33.3
Less influence to change things than expected	4,908	25.4	4,465	25.0	4,081	22.9	4,229	23.8	5,555	32.8
As much influence as expected	6,575	34.1	6,206	34.7	6,362	35.7	6,841	38.5	5,738	33.9
Base (respondents)	19,289	100.0	17,885	100.0	17,816	100.0	17,770	100.0	16,930	100.0

Table 4: How effective councillors are in their role (2006–2022)

	2006		2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Very effective	4,290	23.5	4,723	24.3	5,077	28.2	4,937	27.6	6,113	34.4	5,399	31.9
Fairly effective+	12,513	68.6	12,366	63.7	11,303	62.9	11,163	62.4	10,200	57.4	10,098	59.6
Not very effective	798	4.4	539	2.8	442	2.5	120	0.7	711	4.0	872	5.1
Not at all effective+	635	3.5	414	2.1	349	1.9	1,134	6.3	124	0.7	100	0.6
Don't know/too early to say*	n/a	n/a	1,364	7.0	804	4.5	538	3.0	622	3.5	461	2.7
Base (respondents)	18,236	100.0	19,405	100.0	17,975	100.0	17,892	100.0	17,770	100.0	16,930	100.0

*Don't know response option added in 2008 this should be taken into account when making comparisons with earlier years.

+Wording of scale changed in 2018.

Table 5: Would councillors recommend the role to others (2008–2022)

	2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	16,050	81.8	15,118	83.4	14,928	82.4	15,051	84.7	13,378	79.0
No	1,447	7.4	1,167	6.4	1,283	7.1	995	5.6	1,457	8.6
Don't know/no answer	2,120	10.8	1,844	10.1	1,900	10.5	1,724	9.7	2,095	12.4
Base (population)	19,617	100.0	18,129	100.0	18,111	100.0	17,770	100.0	16,930	100.0

Table 6: Do councillors intend to stand for re-election (2006–2022)

	2006		2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	12,076	61.3	10,694	54.5	12,203	67.3	11,819	65.3	12,048	67.8	10,937	64.6
No	2,250	11.4	3,108	15.8	2,455	13.5	2,716	15.0	2,328	13.1	3,006	17.8
Don't know/no answer	5,363	27.2	5,816	29.6	3,471	19.1	3,577	19.8	3,376	19.0	2,986	17.6
Base (population)	19,689	99.9	19,617	99.9	18,129	99.9	18,111	100.1	17,770	99.9	16,930	100.0

Table 7: Are effective arrangements in place to deal with inappropriate behaviour (2018-2022)

	2018						2022					
	By members of the public		By council officers		By councillors		By members of the public		By council officers		By councillors	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	11,266	63.4	14,323	80.6	11,462	64.5	9,273	54.8	11,787	69.6	9,614	56.8
No	6,504	36.6	3,447	19.4	6,308	35.5	4,847	28.6	2,815	16.6	5,964	35.2
Don't know	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,810	16.6	2,328	13.7	1,352	8.0
Base (population)	17,770	100.0	17,770	100.0	17,770	100.0	16,930	100.0	16,930	100.0	16,930	100.0

Note: 'don't know' response option was added in 2022 and this should be taken into account when making comparisons with earlier years.

Table 8: How often councillors feel at risk personally when fulfilling their role as a councillor (2022)

	No.	%
Frequently	683	4.0
Occasionally	4,078	24.1
Rarely	7,630	45.1
Never	4,539	26.8
Base (population)	16,930	100.0

Table 9: Effectiveness of arrangements for protecting councillors personally as they fulfill their role as a councillor (2022)

	No.	%
Very effective	2,472	14.6
Fairly effective	8,247	48.7
Not very effective	4,230	25.0
Not at all effective	1,981	11.7
Base (population)	16,930	100.0

Table 10: How often over the last twelve months councillors have experienced abuse or intimidation in their role as a councillor (2022)

	No.	%
Frequently	1,742	10.3
Occasionally	4,977	29.4
Rarely	5,651	33.4
Never	4,559	26.9
Base (population)	16,930	100.0

	2006		2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1–2 years	4,857	24.7	6,292	32.1	3,337	18.9	4,311	24.4	4,194	23.6	3,496	20.6
3–5 years	4,757	24.2	3,495	17.8	4,104	23.2	3,001	17.0	4,087	23.0	4,656	27.5
6–9 years	3,772	19.2	3,469	17.7	3,550	20.1	3,253	18.4	3,074	17.3	2,644	15.6
10–15 years	3,133	15.9	3,157	16.1	3,399	19.3	3,684	20.9	2,790	15.7	2,777	16.4
16–20 years	1,494	7.6	1,351	6.9	1,409	8.0	1,355	7.7	1,688	9.5	1,411	8.3
21–25 years	776	3.9	854	4.4	852	4.8	885	5.0	764	4.3	909	5.4
More than 25 years	901	4.6	1,000	5.1	1,001	5.7	1,157	6.6	1,173	6.6	1,037	6.1
Average years	8.3		8.3		9.4		9.5		9.2		9.1	
Base (respondents)	19,689	100.0	19,617	100.0	17,652	100.0	17,647	100.0	17,770	100.0	16,930	100.0

	2006		2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Directly elected mayor	6	0.0	5	0.0	86	0.5	89	0.5	16	0.1	15	0.1
Deputy mayor	314	1.6	338	1.7	261	1.4	292	1.6	341	1.9	458	2.7
Leader of the council	885	4.5	1,020	5.2	924	5.1	516	2.9	337	1.9	333	2.0
Deputy leader of the council	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	557	3.1	455	2.6	593	3.5
Chair/vice-chair of council/civic mayor	876	4.5	963	4.9	805	4.4	825	4.6	596	3.4	908	5.4
Cabinet/executive member	2,969	15.1	3,214	16.4	2,900	16.0	2,815	15.5	3,480	19.6	3,114	18.4
Chair/vice-chair of committee	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,515	31.0	5,507	32.5
Chair/vice-chair of local strategic partnership main group	261	1.3	370	1.9	355	2.0	292	1.6	186	1.0	484	2.9
Chair/vice-chair of local strategic partnership sub-group	261	1.3	375	1.9	369	2.0	187	1.0	131	0.7	434	2.6
Party/group leader	1,414	7.2	1,448	7.4	1,180	6.5	1,372	7.6	1,460	8.2	1,592	9.4
Party/group deputy leader	1,109	5.6	1,160	5.9	1,076	5.9	1,084	6.0	878	4.9	1,053	6.2
Other party/group official	2,646	13.4	2,719	13.9	2,374	13.1	2,582	14.3	2,540	14.3	3,856	22.8
One or more positions	10,573	53.7	11,059	56.4	10,404	57.4	9,594	53.0	9,505	53.5	9,053	53.5
No positions	9,116	46.3	8,558	43.6	7,725	42.6	8,517	47.0	8,265	46.5	7,877	46.5
Base (population)	19,689	100.0	19,617	100.0	18,129	100.0	18,111	100.0	17,770	100.0	16,930	100.0

Notes: (1) more than one response (or no response) could be given so percentages do not necessarily sum to 100; (2) in 2006-2013, the process of grossing overstated the totals of directly elected mayors and council leaders and this was not corrected; since 2018, both numbers have been constrained to known national totals; (3) the classification changed in 2022 so only limited comparisons with earlier years are possible.

	2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
5 hours or less	916	5.2	755	4.3	643	3.8
6–10 hours	3,542	20.1	3,155	17.8	2,792	16.5
11–15 hours	2,823	16.0	3,072	17.3	2,813	16.6
16–20 hours	3,795	21.5	3,543	19.9	3,475	20.5
21–25 hours	1,886	10.7	1,875	10.6	1,903	11.2
26–30 hours	1,974	11.2	2,032	11.4	2,174	12.8
31–35 hours	600	3.4	820	4.6	840	5.0
36–40 hours	975	5.5	1,185	6.7	1,117	6.6
41–45 hours	247	1.4	412	2.3	281	1.7
46–50 hours	413	2.3	386	2.2	394	2.3
More than 50 hours	442	2.5	535	3.0	498	2.9
Average no. of hours	20.8		22.0		22.4	
Base (respondents)	17,613	100.0	17,770	100.0	16,930	100.0

Table 14: Distribution of time spent on council business (2006-2022)

	2006	2008	2010	2013	2018	2022
Attendance at council meetings, committees	10.0	10.0	10.2	8.0	8.1	7.9
Engaging with constituents, surgeries, enquires	7.0	8.0	7.9	6.0	6.2	6.6
Working with community groups*	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.5	4.1	4.4
Other, external meetings, seminars, training	6.0	6.0	5.5	4.1	3.6	3.5
Overall average number of hours	22.0	22.0	22.8	21.3	22.0	22.4
Base (respondents)	16,837	18,143	17,040	17,679	17,770	16,930

Note: *an additional item was added to this question in 2013 so 'other' categories are not directly comparable. Caution must be exercised when making comparisons.

Table 15: Number of hours/week spent on group/party business (2013-2022)

	2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
5 hours or less	13,552	80.2	14,066	79.2	12,472	73.7
6–10 hours	2,394	14.2	2,815	15.8	3,137	18.5
11–15 hours	435	2.6	415	2.3	549	3.2
16–20 hours	256	1.5	324	1.8	323	1.9
21–25 hours	77	0.5	58	0.3	288	1.7
26–30 hours	55	0.3	45	0.3	107	0.6
31–35 hours	15	0.1	19	0.1	15	0.1
36–40 hours	44	0.3	0	0.0	28	0.2
41–45 hours	13	0.1	0	0.0	7	0.0
46–50 hours	28	0.2	0	0.0	4	0.0
More than 50 hours	20	0.1	28	0.2	12,472	73.7
Average no. of hours	4.3		4.3		5.1	
Base (respondents)	16,889	100.0	17,770	100.0	16,930	100.0

Table 16: Average number of hours spent on council and group/party business (2004–2022)

	2004	2006	2008	2010	2013	2018	2022
Average number of hours	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.7	25.1	26.3	27.5
Base (respondents)	18,678	18,596	18,850	17,579	17,613	17,770	16,930

Table 17: Political party or group to which councillors belong (2006–2022)

	2006		2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Conservative Party	7,719	42.3	9,436	48.5	9,031	50.1	8,247	46.1	8,601	48.4	7,097	41.9
Green Party	97	0.5	144	0.7	141	0.8	176	1.0	249	1.4	448	2.6
Independent/RA	1,178	6.5	1,143	5.9	964	5.4	869	4.9	533	3.0	1,905	11.3
Labour Party	4,585	25.1	4,201	21.6	3,748	20.8	5,697	31.8	5,615	31.6	5,127	30.3
Liberal Democrats	4,427	24.3	4,315	22.2	3,958	22.0	2,624	14.7	2,346	13.2	2,352	13.9
Base (respondents)	18,252	92.7	19,445	99.1	18,008	99.3	17,905	100.0	17,770	100.0	16,930	100.0

Table 18: Membership of other public bodies (2006–2022)

	2006		2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Local authority	1,888	9.6	2,265	11.5	2,090	11.5	2,388	13.2	3,181	17.9	n/a	n/a
Parish/community council	3,102	15.8	3,081	15.7	2,815	15.5	2,556	14.1	2,324	14.1	2,322	13.7
Town council	2,161	11.0	2,422	12.3	2,305	12.7	2,426	13.4	2,105	12.8	2,271	13.4
Fire authority	717	3.6	798	4.1	704	3.9	661	3.7	554	3.4	307	1.8
Police authority	558	2.8	525	2.7	432	2.4	237	1.3	232	1.4	532	3.1
National Parks authority	200	1.0	187	1.0	238	1.3	207	1.1	147	0.9	193	1.1
Combined authority	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	596	3.5
Any of the above	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7,135	39.4	6,914	38.9	n/a	n/a
Base (population)	19,689	100.0	19,617	100.0	18,129	100.0	18,111	100.0	17,770	100.0	16,930	100.0

Notes: (1) more than one response could be given so percentages do not necessarily sum to 100; (2) Combined authority was added in 2022 so caution must be exercised when making comparisons with earlier years.

Table 19: Current circumstances (2008–2022)

	2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
In full-time paid employment	4,133	22.0	3,586	21.0	3,361	19.2	2,879	16.2	3,430	20.3
In part-time paid employment	1,862	9.9	1,620	9.5	1,657	9.5	1,813	10.2	1,973	11.7
Self-employed or freelance	3,047	16.2	2,493	14.6	2,798	16.0	3,039	17.1	2,681	15.8
Unemployed	242	1.3	297	1.7	345	2.0	284	1.6	199	1.2
Retired	8,193	43.5	8,082	47.2	8,165	46.6	8,014	45.1	6,771	40.0
Not in paid work - looking after home/family	645	3.4	472	2.8	529	3.0	693	3.9	719	4.2
Not in paid work - in full-time education	69	0.4	59	0.3	57	0.3	107	0.6	121	0.7
Not in paid work - other reason	623	3.3	498	2.9	612	3.5	942	5.3	1,036	6.1
Base (respondents)	18,813	100.0	17,107	100.0	17,523	100.1	17,770	100.0	16,930	100.0

Note: the classification used has changed so caution must be exercised when making comparisons for this question, particularly for the 'other' category.

Table 20: Current occupation (2006–2022)

	2006		2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Managerial or executive	3,329	40.0	3,070	36.9	2,977	36.9	2,840	39.2	3,077	39.8	2,888	37.3
Professional or technical	2,523	30.4	2,713	32.6	2,633	32.6	2,351	32.5	2,590	33.5	2,527	32.6
Lecturer, teacher or researcher	734	8.8	744	8.9	708	8.8	546	7.5	673	8.7	696	9.0
Admin/clerical/secretarial/ sales	898	10.8	1,010	12.1	1,004	12.4	914	12.6	827	10.7	936	12.1
Manual or craft	827	9.9	781	9.4	744	9.2	587	8.1	572	7.4	703	9.1
Base (respondents)	8,310	99.9	8,319	99.9	8,066	99.9	7,238	99.9	7,730	100.1	7,750	100.0

Note: only councillors in employment.

Table 21: Employment sector (2006–2022)

	2006		2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Public sector	2,640	29.7	2,274	25.8	2,038	24.5	1,971	26.9	2,242	29.0	2,227	28.7
Private sector	5,750	64.7	6,110	69.3	5,706	68.5	4,783	65.4	4,785	61.9	4,268	55.1
Charity/community/voluntary sector	493	5.5	437	5.0	586	7.0	559	7.6	703	9.1	1,187	15.3
Base (respondents)	8,883	99.9	8,821	100.1	8,330	100.0	7,313	99.9	7,730	100.0	7,750	100.0

Note: only councillors in employment.

Table 22: Does employer support work as a councillor (2013-2022)

	2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
To a great extent	1,762	37.2	1,956	41.7	2,231	43.1
To some extent	1,870	39.5	1,923	41.0	1,941	37.5
Not at all	861	18.2	704	15.0	827	16.0
Employer is unaware I am a councillor	147	3.1	108	2.3	180	3.5
Base (respondents)	4,734	100.0	4,691	100.0	5,180	100.0

Note: only councillors employed.

Table 23: Additional voluntary activities (2013-2022)

	2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
School governorship	6,730	37.2	4,443	25.0	3,436	20.3
Magistrate	473	2.6	391	2.2	215	1.3
Other	7,921	43.7	8,174	46.0	6,939	41.0
No other such positions	6,048	33.4	6,326	35.6	6,533	38.6
Base (population)	18,111	100.0	17,770	100.0	16,930	100.0

Note: more than one response could be given so percentages do not necessarily sum to 100.

Table 24: Highest qualification held (2008–2022)

	2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Degree or equivalent or higher (foundation degree, HND or HNC, NVQ 4 or above, teaching or nursing)	10,018	51.1	10,129	55.9	10,934	60.4	11,995	67.5	10,844	64.0
AS, A level or equivalent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,827	10.8
GCSE or equivalent (GCSEs, O levels, CSEs or Basic Skills course)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,919	11.3
NVQ 1-3 or equivalent (BTEC National, OND or ONC, City & Guilds Craft/Advanced, BTEC General)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	886	5.2
Other qualification	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	807	4.8
No qualifications	3,538	18.0	1,636	9.0	967	5.3	551	3.1	648	3.8
Base (population)	19,617	100.1	18,129	100.0	18,111	100.0	17,770	99.8	16,930	100.0

Note: the classification used changed in 2022 so only limited comparisons with earlier years are possible.

Table 25: Sex (2006–2022)

	2006		2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	13,645	69.3	13,417	68.4	12,411	68.5	12,192	67.3	11,248	63.3	9,573	56.5
Female	5,774	29.3	6,038	30.8	5,545	30.6	5,748	31.7	6,344	35.7	6,622	39.1
Prefer to self-describe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18	0.1	n/a	n/a
Prefer not to say	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	160	0.9	n/a	n/a
Not stated	271	1.4	162	0.8	173	1.0	171	0.9	n/a	n/a	735	4.3
Base (population)	19,689	100.0	19,617	100.0	18,129	100.1	18,111	99.9	17,770	100.0	16,930	100.0

Note: the classification was changed in 2018 and in 2022 so comparisons with other years must be treated with caution.

Table 26: Gender identity (2022)

	2022	
	No.	%
Gender identity is the same as sex registered at birth	15,886	93.8
Gender identity is NOT the same as sex registered at birth	135	0.8
Not stated	909	5.4
Base (population)	16,930	100.0

Table 27: Age (2006–2022)

	2006		2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Under 25	58	0.3	110	0.6	124	0.8	106	0.6	107	0.6	202	1.2
25–29	273	1.5	308	1.6	221	1.4	298	1.7	444	2.5	340	2.0
30–34	430	2.4	403	2.1	378	2.4	471	2.7	657	3.7	502	3.0
35–39	656	3.6	643	3.4	454	2.9	493	2.8	657	3.7	726	4.3
40–44	1,036	5.7	1,022	5.4	662	4.2	738	4.2	764	4.3	883	5.2
45–49	1,368	7.5	1,378	7.3	1,068	6.8	1,094	6.3	1,120	6.3	1,093	6.5
50–54	1,877	10.3	1,746	9.3	1,494	9.5	1,515	8.7	1,635	9.2	1,495	8.8
55–59	2,992	16.4	2,638	14.0	1,944	12.4	2,131	12.2	2,257	12.7	2,021	11.9
60–64	3,730	20.5	4,119	21.9	3,086	19.7	2,970	17.0	2,523	14.2	2,527	14.9
65–69	3,009	16.5	3,275	17.4	3,232	20.6	3,779	21.6	3,021	17.0	2,602	15.4
70+	2,778	15.3	3,175	16.9	2,997	19.1	3,875	22.2	4,602	25.9	4,540	26.8
Base (respondents)	18,207	100.0	18,819	99.9	15,660	99.8	17,471	100.0	17,770	100.1	16,930	100.0
Average age in years	58.3		58.8		59.7		60.2		59.4		59.5	
Proportion under 45	2,453	13.5	2,486	13.1	1,839	11.7	2,106	12.0	2,630	14.8	2,652	15.7

	2006		2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	17,855	95.9	18,716	96.6	16,823	96.3	16,892	96.0	17,024	95.8	15,532	91.7
English, Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish or British	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14,745	87.1
Irish	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	284	1.7
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	0.0
Roma	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0.0
Any other white background	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	500	3.0
Mixed or multiple	127	0.7	82	0.4	106	0.6	69	0.4	160	0.9	329	1.9
White and Black Caribbean	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	0.0
White and Black African	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	30	0.2
White and Asian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	185	1.1
Any other mixed or multiple background	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	106	0.6
Asian or Asian British	519	2.8	423	2.2	407	2.3	499	2.8	373	2.1	679	4.0
Indian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	243	1.4
Pakistani	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	216	1.3
Bangladeshi	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	76	0.4
Chinese	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24	0.1
Any other Asian background	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	121	0.7
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	93	0.5	97	0.5	118	0.7	102	0.6	160	0.9	257	1.5
Caribbean	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	102	0.6
African	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	124	0.7
Any other black background	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	31	0.2
Other	25	0.1	31	0.2	9	0.0	0	0.0	53	0.3	132	0.8
Arab	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	0.1
Any other ethnic group	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	118	0.7
Base (respondents)	18,618	100.0	18,808	99.9	17,463	99.9	17,596	99.8	17,770	100.0	16,930	100.0

Notes: (1) Chinese was included within 'Asian' backgrounds in 2013; in previous years it was a separate category; (2) the classification changed in 2022 so comparisons with earlier years are limited and should be treated with caution.

	2010		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Heterosexual or straight	16,291	89.9	15,691	88.3	14,233	84.1
Gay or lesbian	464	2.6	746	4.2	716	4.2
Bisexual	174	1.0	302	1.7	374	2.2
Other	58	0.3	36	0.2	276	1.6
Prefer not to say/not stated	1,142	6.3	995	5.6	1,330	7.9
Base (respondents)	18,129	100.0	17,770	100.0	16,930	100.0

Notes: (1) the 2010 figures have been recalculated to exclude a small proportion of 'not knows'; (2) this question was not asked in 2013.

	2006		2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Long-term health condition or disability	2,138	10.9	2,602	13.3	2,563	14.1	2,383	13.2	2,861	16.1	2,627	15.5%
Base (population)	19,689		19,617		18,129		18,111		17,770		16,930	

Note: the wording of this question changed in 2022 so comparisons with earlier years must be treated with caution.

Table 31: Caring responsibilities (2006–2022)												
	2006		2008		2010		2013		2018		2022	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Child/children	2,737	13.9	2,641	13.5	2,251	12.4	2,625	14.5	2,968	16.7	3,333	19.7
Relative	994	5.0	1,374	7.0	1,163	6.4	1,368	7.6	1,777	10.0	1,886	11.1
Partner	1,521	7.7	1,825	9.3	1,432	7.9	1,430	7.9	1,422	8.0	1,664	9.8
Other	207	1.1	322	1.6	238	1.3	362	2.0	391	2.2	437	2.6
One or more caring responsibility	4,757	24.2	5,099	26.0	4,396	24.2	5,044	27.9	6,415	36.1	7,773	45.9
No caring responsibilities	14,932	75.8	14,518	74.0	13,733	75.8	13,067	72.1	11,355	63.9	9,157	54.1
Base (population)	19,689	100.0	19,617	100.0	18,129	100.0	18,111	100.0	17,770	100.0	16,930	100

ANNEX A: CENSUS RESPONSE

Response to the 2022 Census by type of authority and region is shown below.

There was no great variation, but in terms of type of authority, response varied between 25 per cent in London boroughs and 33 per cent in both counties and unitaries; by region, it varied between 25 per cent in Greater London and 35 per cent in South West.

A response was received from at least one councillor in all but one of the 333 English local authorities.

	Number of respondents	Response rate
Type of authority	Number	Per cent
Counties	528	33
London boroughs	488	25
Metropolitan districts	692	29
Shire districts	2,226	29
Unitaries	1,121	33
Total	5,055	30
Region		Per cent
East of England	752	32
East Midlands	483	27
Greater London	488	25
North East	249	32
North West	634	28
South East	1,039	32
South West	596	35
West Midlands	474	30
Yorkshire and the Humber	340	29
Total	5,055	30

Various measures were taken in order to try to increase response:

- Non-respondent councillors were emailed directly twice;
- The LGA's four political group offices each sent reminders to their respective councillors, as did the County Council Network and District Councils' Network;
- Member services officers in each council were asked to circulate general reminders to councillors and to generally encourage them to respond;
- LGA's regional offices were asked to publicise the Census and, where possible, encourage councillors to respond;
- General reminders were circulated in 'first' magazine.

Grossing note

Respondents' data was grossed to the equivalent of a 100 per cent response rate by weighting respondents according to type of authority and region (the same method as in previous Censuses). Each respondent was assigned a weight according to these two criteria.

To illustrate this, an example is given below of a scenario in which there are two types of authority and two regions.

Total number of councillors	Type 1	Type 2
Region 1	50	100
Region 2	25	75
Number of Census respondents		
Region 1	25	40
Region 2	5	25
Calculated weights		
Region 1	$50/25 = 2.0$	$100/40 = 2.5$
Region 2	$25/5 = 5.0$	$75/25 = 3.0$

Every response from councillors in authorities of type 1 and region 1 is given a weight of 2.0, and so on. By aggregating the weighted responses for each type and region, grossed national estimates for councillors are produced.

ANNEX B: PROFILE OF COUNCILLORS' CENSUS RESPONDENTS

The profile of respondents was compared with that of all councillors in order to assess whether there might be any bias among Census respondents. This is summarised in the table below.

Overall data for councillors by type of authority, region, and party is based on the position after May 2021 elections; role is based on a single leader in each council; sex is based on the latest Fawcett Society research; ethnicity is based on the previous Census.

In summary, as far as can be gauged given the available data, respondents to the Census are not markedly out of line with councillors as a whole. However, a few variations were found:

- London boroughs are slightly under-represented among Census respondents, and unitary authorities are slightly over-represented;
- South East and South West regions are slightly over-represented among Census respondents;
- Conservative Party are under-represented, while Liberal Democrats and Independents are slightly over-represented;
- Leaders are slightly over-represented;
- Female councillors are slightly over-represented.

Type of authority	Councillors' Census respondents		% of all councillors
	Number of responses	% of responses	
Counties	528	10	10
London boroughs	488	10	12
Metropolitan districts	692	14	14
Shire districts	2,226	44	45
Unitaries	1,121	22	20
All	5,055	100	100
Region			
East of England	752	15	14
East Midlands	483	10	10
Greater London	488	10	12
North East	249	5	5
North West	634	13	13
South East	1,039	21	19
South West	596	12	10
West Midlands	474	9	10
Yorkshire and the Humber	340	7	7
All	5,055	100	100
Party			
Conservative Party	1,880	37	42
Labour Party	1,501	30	30
Liberal Democrat Party	868	17	14
Independent/other	806	16	14
All	5,055	100	100
Role			
Leaders	193	4	2
Sex			
Female	1,972	39	35*

*Fawcett Society (2019).

ANNEX C: COMPARISON OF COUNCILLORS AND GENERAL POPULATION (LABOUR FORCE SURVEY)

Percentages of people	England	
	Population	Councillors
Gender		
Male	49	59
Female	51	41
Age		
18–24	10	1
25–29	8	2
30–34	9	3
35–39	8	4
40–44	8	5
45–49	8	7
50–54	9	9
55–59	9	12
60–64	7	15
65–69	6	15
70+	17	27
Ethnicity		
White	86	92
Mixed	1	2
Asian	7	4
Black	3	2
Other	2	1
Employment status		
Full-time	41	20
Part-time	13	12
Self-employed	8	16
Unemployed	3	1
Retired	22	40
Looking after family, home	3	4
In full-time education	3	1
Not working other reason	7	6
Employment sector		
Public sector	25	13
Private sector	73	25
Charity/voluntary sector	3	7

Note: table shows proportions of total population aged 18+ and councillors in each area. Labour Force Survey (ONS, January – March 2021).



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