

BRIEFING PAPER

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Local elections 2016

By Elise Uberoi Chris Watson Richard Keen

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Tables and underlying data in this briefing are available as Excel files via: http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7596

Editor Richard Keen Contributing Authors: Chris Watson Richard Keen Elise Uberoi

> **Daniel Wells** Matthew Keep

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Summary

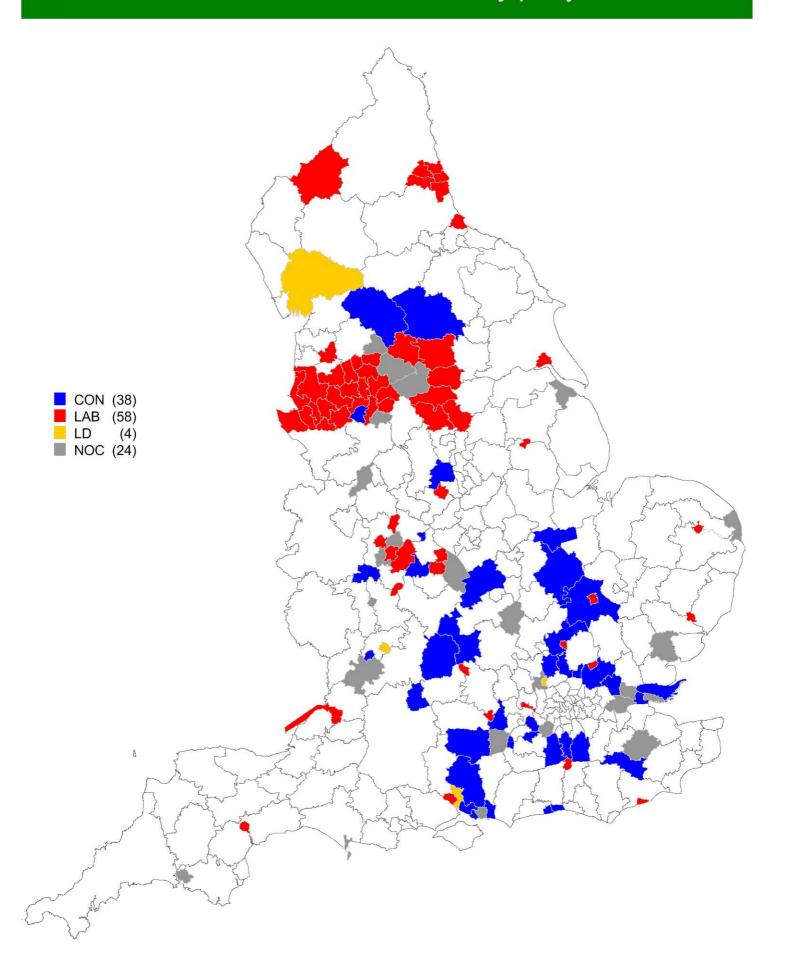
Elections were held for 2,782 seats on 124 local councils in England on 5 May 2016. These elections comprised:

- 1,393 seats on 70 district councils;
- 468 seats on 19 unitary authority councils;
- 921 seats on 35 metropolitan borough councils.

In the elections, Conservatives had a net loss of 38 seats, Labour, a net loss of 15 seats and the Liberal Democrats, a net gain of 48 seats. The changes in council control across the country were minimal.

- The Conservatives won 31% of seats up for election; this is nearly half the percentage of available seats received in 2015 (59%) but is almost identical to the comparable elections in 2012 (33%)
- Labour won 47% of the seats up for election; this is almost double the percentage of available seats received in 2015 (25%) but is almost identical to the comparable elections in 2012 (49%).
- The Liberal Democrats won 14% of the seats up for election; this is the highest percentage since 2013 where they won 15% and 2% more than the comparable elections in 2012.

Local Elections 2016: council control by party



1. Background

Local councils in England

All areas of England are covered either by a unitary council, a metropolitan borough council, a London borough council or a county council.

Unitary, metropolitan and London borough councils are all 'single-tier' councils.

In most cases county councils and district councils comprise a 'two-tier' system, consisting of upper-tier county councils covering multiple lower-tier district councils. In a handful of cases such as in Cornwall, Durham and Northumberland, district councils have been abolished and county councils now comprise a single-tier system.

Electoral cycles

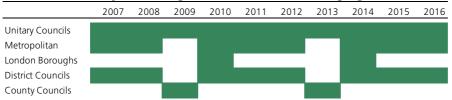
Local council members are elected for 4 year terms using the first past the post system.

There are a variety of electoral cycles (times when elections are held) so not all councillors are elected at the same time. In some authorities (including London boroughs and all county councils) elections are held every four years. Others elect a proportion of members in each year.

There are three methods of holding elections to local councils: by whole council; by thirds; and by halves.

- **By whole:** All councillors are elected once every four years, in whole council elections.
- **By thirds:** Councillors are elected for four-year terms by thirds; that is, at each election, a third of the councillors are elected. Elections are held every year except in years when there are county council elections in the rest of England.
- **By halves:** Councillors are elected for four-year terms by halves; that is, at each election, half of the councillors are elected. Elections are held every two years.





Notes: Shaded years indicate elections held. In most cases County Councils, for example, elect on a rolling four year cycle – subject to change should by elections or boundary changes occur.

All councils (even those that use a different method for holding elections) hold elections for the entire council following local government boundary reviews. By-elections may also take place in a local authority should a council seat become vacant during a councillor's term.

About the data

<u>Plymouth University Election Centre's</u> Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher have compiled <u>Local Elections Handbooks</u> each year since 1985. Historic data quoted in this briefing paper is derived, in most cases, from these handbooks; 2016 figures for net change in seats and councils controlled are derived from Rallings and Thrasher's May 2016 articles in the Sunday Times and Local Government Chronicle.

The House of Commons Library has collected 2016 data on the number of seats won or retained by party and resultant council control for those councils in which elections occurred. We have, where possible, crosschecked this data with that collected by the BBC and Press Association.

This briefing paper is therefore largely based on data collected by three sources: Plymouth University Election Centre, the House of Commons Library and selected media organisations.

Its findings may in some cases differ from analysis available elsewhere as a result of different definitions or reference points used.

Local elections results can be analysed by looking at either:

- A) The total number of councils controlled and councillors a party has at a given time; or
- B) The number of councils won/lost or seats won/lost at any given round of elections

It is not always possible to compare directly between data based on definitions 'A' and 'B' as they in effect monitor different things.

'A' looks at the total number of councils controlled or councillors by party at a given time – usually immediately following elections.

'B' looks at *net change*, comparing the number of councils or seats won/lost at an election to the situation immediately prior to that election.

A party's number of councillors and number of councils controlled are subject to change over the course of the year (councillors may defect or by-elections occur, for example), meaning figures used to calculate net change at an election ('B') will not necessarily match with the totals monitored on an annual basis ('A').

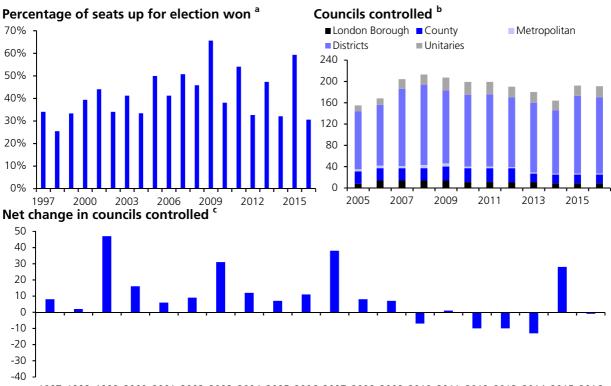
For example: Birmingham Metropolitan Council elects by thirds, meaning the last 'normal' round of elections (that is, ignoring byelections) took place in May 2015.

Following May 2015 elections there were 30 Conservative councillors in Birmingham. Of those 40 seats up for election in May 2016, 7 were Conservative: at election 2016 the Conservatives retained all 7 seats with no gains. Following May 2016 elections there are now 29 Conservative councillors, however, due to an in-year change.

According to definition 'A' this is a Conservative net change of -1 (30 councillors in May 2015 compared to 29 in May 2016). According to definition 'B' this is a Conservative net change of 0 (of 7 Conservative seats up for election, the party retained all 7).

Conservative

- The Conservatives won 31% of seats up for election on 5 May 2016
- This is nearly half the percentage of available seats received in 2015 (59%) but is almost identical to the comparable elections in 2012 (33%)
- The number of councils controlled remained almost identical at 191, losing just one council. The number has remained relatively consistent during the last decade.
- At elections 2016, the Conservatives had a net loss of 38 seats.



1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016

Summary

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Seats won	5,318	1,300	1,520	1,609	5,113	786	1,117	1,366	5,540	851
Unitary Councils	745	289	259	120	851	105	183	115	941	138
Metropolitan	186	247		154	151	110		128	162	114
London Boroughs				717				612		
District Councils	4,387	764		618	4,111	571		511	4,437	599
County Councils			1,261				934			
% of seats up for election won ^a	51%	46%	66%	38%	54%	33%	47%	32%	59%	31%
Council control b	204	213	207	199	199	190	180	164	192	191
Unitary Councils	18	19	24	24	23	20	20	18	19	21
Metropolitan	4	6	6	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
London Boroughs	14	14	14	11	11	11	11	9	9	9
District Councils	145	151	137	135	136	131	131	119	146	143
County Councils	23	23	26	26	26	26	16	16	16	16
Net change in council control ^c	38	8	7	-7	1	-10	-10	-13	28	-1

A - All figures England only. Shows seats won by stated party as a percentage of total seats up for election. Note not all parties field candidates in all seats.

B - Council control immediately following elections of stated year

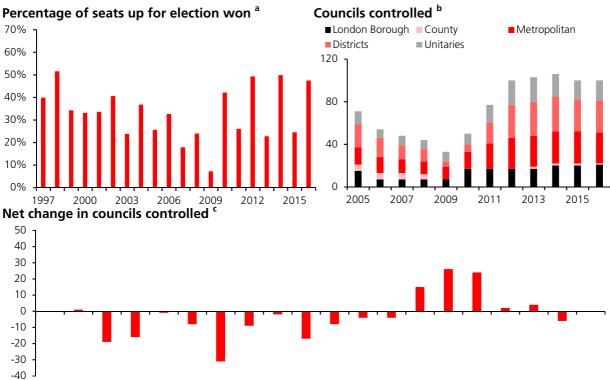
C - Net change compared to control immediately prior to election; figures not comparable with year-on-year changes to total number of councils controlled by party

D - Figures for councils controlled and net change in councils controlled refer to those controlled by an absolute majority; minority controlled councils are excluded

Sources: 1997 - 2016 data from Rallings & Thrasher Local Elections Handbooks; 2016 data collated by House of Commons Library

Labour

- Labour won 47% of the seats up for election on 5 May 2016.
- This is almost double the percentage of available seats received in 2015 (25%) but is almost identical to the comparable elections in 2012 (49%).
- The number of councils Labour control remain the same compared to 2015 (100). This continues a period of stability since 2012 with the number remaining around 100 after dropping to 33 in 2009.
- At elections 2016, Labour had a net loss of 15 seats.



1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016

Summary

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Seats won	1,874	680	167	1,778	2,461	1,189	538	2,124	2,292	1,319
Unitary Councils	450	190	19	153	707	203	158	191	673	233
Metropolitan	400	317		521	594	604		565	634	664
London Boroughs				875				1,060		
District Councils	1,024	173		229	1,160	382		308	985	422
County Councils			148				380			
% of seats up for election won ^a	18%	24%	7%	42%	26%	49%	23%	50%	25%	47%
Council control b	48	44	33	50	77	100	103	106	100	100
Unitary Councils	9	8	9	10	17	23	23	21	18	19
Metropolitan	13	12	12	16	24	29	29	30	30	29
London Boroughs	7	7	7	17	17	17	17	20	20	21
District Councils	13	12	5	7	19	31	32	33	30	30
County Councils	6	5	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	1
Net change in council control c	-8	-4	-4	15	26	24	2	4	-6	0

A - All figures England only. Shows seats won by stated party as a percentage of total seats up for election. Note not all parties field candidates in all seats.

B - Council control immediately following elections of stated year

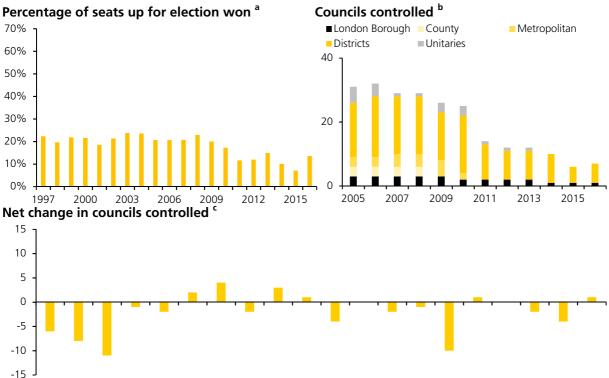
C - Net change compared to control immediately prior to election; figures not comparable with year-on-year changes to total number of councils controlled by party

D - Figures for councils controlled and net change in councils controlled refer to those controlled by an absolute majority; minority controlled councils are excluded

Sources: 1997 - 2016 data from Rallings & Thrasher Local Elections Handbooks; 2016 data collated by House of Commons Library

Liberal Democrats

- The Liberal Democrats won 14% of the seats up for election on 5 May 2016.
- This is the highest percentage since 2013 where they won 15% and 2% more than the comparable elections in 2012.
- The gain of 1 council for the Liberal Democrats is the first gain since 2012. The highest amount of Liberal Democrat controlled councils during the last decade was in 2006 (32).
- At elections 2016, the Liberal Democrats had a net gain of 48 seats.



1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016

Summary

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Seats won	2,171	651	463	728	1,099	288	352	429	661	377
Unitary Councils	335	142	117	75	216	40	101	45	123	54
Metropolitan	204	208		133	56	72		66	40	88
London Boroughs				246				116		
District Councils	1,632	301		274	827	176		202	498	235
County Councils			346				251			
% of seats up for election won ^a	21%	23%	20%	17%	12%	12%	15%	10%	7%	14%
Council control b	29	29	26	25	14	12	12	10	6	7
Unitary Councils	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	0	0	0
Metropolitan	4	4	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
London Boroughs	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
District Councils	18	18	15	18	11	9	9	9	5	6
County Councils	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net change in council control ^c	-4	0	-2	-1	-10	1	0	-2	-4	1

A - All figures England only. Shows seats won by stated party as a percentage of total seats up for election. Note not all parties field candidates in all seats.

 $[\]ensuremath{\mathsf{B}}$ - Council control immediately following elections of stated year

C - Net change compared to control immediately prior to election; figures not comparable with year-on-year changes to total number of councils controlled by party

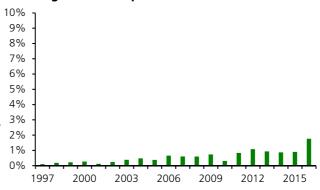
D - Figures for councils controlled and net change in councils controlled refer to those controlled by an absolute majority; minority controlled councils are excluded

Sources: 1997 - 2016 data from Rallings & Thrasher Local Elections Handbooks; 2016 data collated by House of Commons Library

Green

- The Green Party won 2% of seats up for election in 2016 (49 seats).
- This is a higher % of seats available than any other year in recent history but does not represent the highest number of seats won.
- The highest number of seats came in 2015 (84), followed by comparable elections in 2011 (79) and 2007 (63). However, it is nearly double the amount of seats won in the comparable election in 2012 (26).

Percentage of seats up for election won ^a



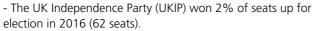
Summary

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Seats won	63	17	17	13	79	26	22	37	84	49
Unitary Councils	18	-		2	30	1	3	5	30	15
Metropolitan	6	6		2	8	10		12	7	12
London Boroughs				2				4		
District Councils	39	11		7	41	15		16	47	22
County Councils			17				19			
% of seats up for election won ^a	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%

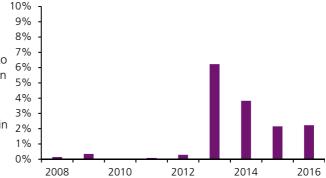
Note: The Green Party held minority control in Brighton between 2011 and 2015 as the largest party but did not hold a majority.

United Kingdon Independence Party

Percentage of seats up for election won a



- This was the smallest amount of available seats compared to the last 3 years but 55 higher than the comparable election in 2012 (7).
- The highest percentage of seats up for election won came in $_{2\%}$ 2013 (6%).



Summary b

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Seats won		4	8	1	8	7	147	163	201	62
Unitary Councils		1	-	-	1	2	9	37	23	15
Metropolitan		1		-	-	-		34	8	21
London Boroughs				-				12		
District Councils		2		1	7	5		80	170	26
County Councils			8				138			
% of seats up for election won ^a		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	4%	2%	2%

Note: UKIP took control of Thanet council in May 2015 but it returned to NOC in October 2015 following defections.

A - All figures England only. Shows seats won by stated party as a percentage of total seats up for election. Note not all parties field candidates in all seats.

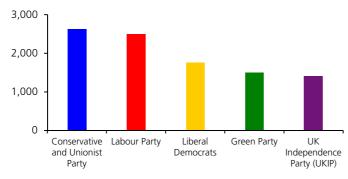
B - Data available for UKIP from Rallings and Thrasher for 2008 onwards

Sources: 1997 - 2016 data from Rallings & Thrasher Local Elections Handbooks; 2016 data collated by House of Commons Library

3. Candidates

10,708 candidates stood for election in local elections on the 5th of May 2016. Labour had 2,633 candidates, the largest number of any party, followed by the Conservatives with 2,622, the Liberal Democrats with 1,794, the Green Party with 1,502 and UKIP with 1,400.

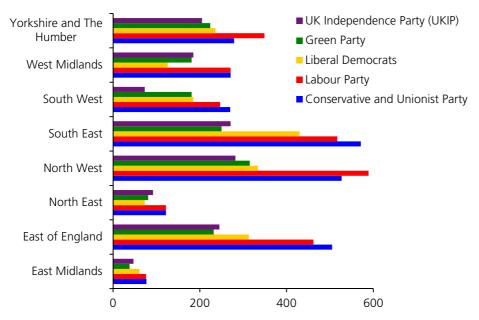
Number of candidates by party



Note: Each party does not field candidates in all seats up for election Source: Democracy Club 2016 Local Councillor CSV data downloads

The Conservatives fielded more candidates than Labour in the South East, South West, East Midlands and East of England. Labour fielded more candidates than the Conservatives in the North West and Yorkshire and the Humber.

Number of candidates by party and region



Note: Each party does not field candidates in all seats up for election Source: Democracy Club 2016 Local Councillor CSV data downloads

Across England, UKIP fielded just over half the number of candidates (1,400) fielded by each of Labour (2,633) and the Conservatives (2,622). UKIP fielded more candidates than the Liberal Democrats in the West Midlands and North East.

4. Results

4.1 Council control

This section discusses changes in council control as a **direct result** of the local elections held on 5 May 2016.

The **Conservatives** won or retained 38 of the councils who had elections on 5 May 2016, and now control a total of 191 councils overall. This is a net change of -2 on the composition following the 2015 elections.

Elmbridge council was all up in May 2016 and the Conservatives lost control to NOC after losing 11 councillors, leaving them with 22. It is important to note however that due to boundary changes, the council reduced from 60 seats to 48.

They also lost Worcester to NOC but they did gain Peterborough from NOC. They technically lost Rugby to NOC as well when you compare the 2016 results to the post 2015 election composition. However, during the last year, there have been two Conservative defections and a dismissal meaning that just prior to the elections on 5 May 2016, the council was already under NOC.

The **Labour** party won or retained 58 of the councils who had elections on 5 May 2016, and now control a total of 114 councils overall. This is a net change of +1 on the composition following the 2015 elections.

Bristol council was all up in May 2016 and Labour took the council from NOC after winning an extra 7 seats, leaving them with 37 out of a possible 70 councillors. They did however lose Dudley to NOC after losing 3 councillors.

The **Liberal Democrats** gained Watford council on 5 May 2016 after the council was all up. They increased their amount of councillors by 7 leaving them with 25 out of a possible 36.

They won or retained 4 of the councils who had elections on 5 May 2016. Overall this leaves them in control of 7 councils, a net change of +1 on the composition following the 2015 elections.

The **UK Independence Party (UKIP)** didn't gain or lose any councils and remained on 0 in the 2016 local elections. This is technically a net change of -1 on the post 2015 elections composition when they won overall control of Thanet. Following defections in October 2015 however, the council returned to NOC.

For more information on the difference between the BBC and House of Commons Library analyses, see section 1, 'Background – About the

Details of council composition and share of seats can be found from page 22 onwards.

Changes in council control in the 2016 Local Elections

Conservative (net -1)	Labour (net -0)	Liberal Democrat (net +1)
Gains (1)	Gains (1)	Gains (1)
From NOC (1) Peterborough	From NOC (1) Bristol	From NOC (1) Watford
Losses (2)	Losses (1)	
To NOC (3) Elmbridge Worcester	To NOC (1) Dudley	

4.2 Seats

This section analyses changes in council control as a direct result of the local elections held on 5 May 2016. Changes in seats controlled by party that are the result of other in-year changes between May 2015 and May 2016, such as from defections and by-elections, are excluded.

The table below summarises seats won or retained by party at May 2016 elections; the table also shows seats won or retained by party as a percentage of total seats up for election (2,782).

Seats won by party (England)

	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	Others	Total
District Councils	599	422	235	26	22	89	1,393
Unitary Authorities	138	233	54	15	15	13	468
Metropolitan Boroughs	114	664	88	21	12	22	921
Total	851	1,319	377	62	49	124	2,782
Percentage of seats up for	r election	won ^a					
District Councils	43%	30%	17%	2%	2%	6%	
Unitary Authorities	29%	50%	12%	3%	3%	3%	
Metropolitan Boroughs	12%	72%	10%	2%	1%	2%	
Total	31%	47%	14%	2%	2%	4%	

Notes: (a) This shows total number of seats won or retained by party as a percentage of total seats up for election. Note each party did not field candidates for all seats

Source: House of Commons Library data, derived from local authority electoral returns

Labour won or retained 1,319 of the 2,782 council seats up for election in May 2016, 47% of total seats up for election. The Conservatives won or retained 851 seats (31% of total seats up for election) and the Liberal Democrats 377 (14%). UKIP won or retained 62 seats and the Green Party 49 seats.

The second table below shows net change in seats at May 2016 elections.

Net change in seats ^c

	CON	LAB	LD	Others
Net change at May 2016 election ^a				
District Councils	-53	+4	+35	+14
Unitary Authorities	+1	-7	+12	-6
Metropolitan Boroughs	+14	-12	+1	-3
Total	-38	-15	+48	+5
Net change, all councils (England) ^b	-51	-11	+41	+21

Notes: (a) "Net change at May 2016 election" shows change in the number of seats held by party as a direct result of May 2016 elections. This is calculated by comparing, for those seats up for election in May 2016, seats held immediately prior to election to seats held immediately following election.

(b) "Net change, all councils" shows change in the number of seats held by party, from May 2015 to May 2016, across all councils in England - whether or not they held elections in May 2016. Thus, this figure accounts for changes as a results of defections and by-elections not otherwise captured by (a).

(c) Figures adjusted for boundary changes

Source: Data provide by Rallings and Thrasher; also see Rallings and Thrasher; "Rallings and Thrasher: lack of action provided plenty of opportunity for spin" (Local Government Chronicle); 11 May 2016

The table shows two net totals:

- Net change as a **direct result** of May 2016 elections. That is, seats that changed hands at election.
- Net change across all councils, May 2016 compared to May b) **2015**. This total includes all councils and council seats in England, regardless of whether the council held elections this May.

Both totals are adjusted for boundary changes.

At May 2016 elections the Conservatives made a net loss of 38 seats, the most of any party. Labour made a net loss of -15, while the Liberal Democrats made a net gain of 48.

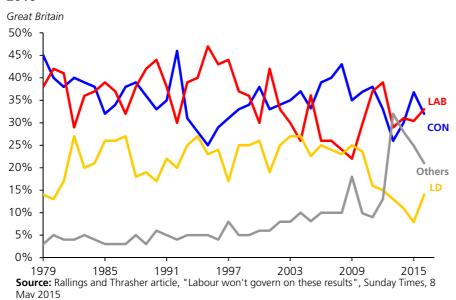
Comparing the May 2016 situation to that of May 2015, across all council seats in England in the Conservatives have made a net loss of 51, Labour a net loss of 11 and the Liberal Democrats a net gain of 41.

Note figures for net change quoted above do not correspond to those published by the BBC. See section 1, 'Background – About the data', for further details.

5. National share of the vote

Because local elections are not held in all local authorities at the same time, it is difficult to get an overview of how much support political parties attract across Great Britain in the years between general elections. Academics Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher (University of Plymouth) try to overcome this problem by using the results of local elections to estimate how the major parties would have fared had the local elections of that year taken place throughout Great Britain. Rallings and Thrasher's National Equivalent share of the Vote (NEV) is a widely used estimate of where the parties stand in any given year.

Estimated national equivalent share of vote at local elections, 1979-2016



Labour's national equivalent vote share in the local elections 2016 returned to being above the **Conservatives** after falling in 2015. Labour had 33% compared to 30% in 2015 whilst the Conservatives had 32% compared to 37% in 2015.

The **Liberal Democrats** increased their vote share for the first time since 2009 by increasing from 8% in 2015 to 14% in 2016. This is their highest national equivalent vote share since 2012 (15%).

The other parties category fell in 2016 to 21% from 25% in 2015. Included in this category, the **UK Independence Party (UKIP)** fell to 12% in 2016 from a high of 22% in 2013.

Estimated national equivalent share of vote at local elections, 1979-2016 Great Britain

	CON	LAB	LD	Others	Of which UKIP
1979	45%	38%	14%	3%	
1980	40%	42%	13%	5%	
1981	38%	41%	17%	4%	
1982	40%	29%	27%	4%	
1983	39%	36%	20%	5%	
1984	38%	37%	21%	4%	
1985	32%	39%	26%	3%	
1986	34%	37%	26%	3%	
1987	38%	32%	27%	3%	
1988	39%	38%	18%	5%	
1989	36%	42%	19%	3%	
1990	33%	44%	17%	6%	
1991	35%	38%	22%	5%	
1992	46%	30%	20%	4%	
1993	31%	39%	25%	5%	
1994	28%	40%	27%	5%	
1995	25%	47%	23%	5%	
1996	29%	43%	24%	4%	
1997	31%	44%	17%	8%	
1998	33%	37%	25%	5%	
1999	34%	36%	25%	5%	
2000	38%	30%	26%	6%	
2001	33%	42%	19%	6%	
2002	34%	33%	25%	8%	
2003	35%	30%	27%	8%	
2004	37%	26%	27%	10%	
2005	33%	36%	23%	8%	
2006	39%	26%	25%	10%	
2007	40%	26%	24%	10%	
2008	43%	24%	23%	10%	
2009	35%	22%	25%	18%	
2010	37%	30%	24%	10%	
2011	38%	37%	16%	9%	
2012	33%	39%	15%	13%	
2013	26%	29%	13%	32%	22%
2014	30%	31%	11%	28%	18%
2015	37%	30%	8%	25%	13%
2016	32%	33%	14%	21%	12%

Source: Rallings and Thrasher, British Electoral Facts 1832-2006 Rallings and Thrasher, Local Elections Handbook, various Local Government Elections Centre

Notes: Local elections in 1979, 1997, 2001, 2005, 2010 and 2015 were held on same day as a general election, and in these years general election vote shares are shown in bold. UKIP share of the vote calculated from 2013 onwards

6. Post-election council composition

The table below summarises council composition and control for all local authorities in England immediately following the local elections held on 5 May 2016. This includes those where elections were not held.

Post-election council composition and control: England May 2016

			Nu	mber				Pei	rcentage		
	CON	LAB	LD	OTH	NOC	Total	CON	LAB	LD	OTH	NOC
Councillors											
London boroughs	608	1,062	115	66		1,851	33%	57%	6%	4%	
Metropolitan boroughs	395	1,720	178	126		2,419	16%	71%	7%	5%	
Counties	937	377	240	257		1,811	52%	21%	13%	14%	
Unitary authorities	1,305	1,145	300	351		3,101	42%	37%	10%	11%	
Shire districts	5,239	1,588	845	898		8,570	61%	19%	10%	10%	
England	8,484	5,892	1,678	1,698		17,752	48%	33%	9%	10%	
Councils controlled											
London boroughs	9	21	1	0	1	32	28%	66%	3%	0%	3%
Metropolitan boroughs	2	29	0	0	5	36	6%	81%	0%	0%	14%
County councils	16	1	0	0	10	27	59%	4%	0%	0%	37%
Unitary authorities	21	19	0	0	15	55	38%	35%	0%	0%	27%
Shire districts	143	30	6	1	21	201	71%	15%	3%	0%	10%
England	191	100	7	1	52	351	54%	28%	2%	0%	15%

Note: Epsom and Ewell District Council is held by the Epsom and Ewell Residents Association

Source: Ralling and Thrasher; "Rallings and Thrasher: lack of action provided plenty of opportunity for spin" (Local Government

Chronicle); 11 May 2016

Despite losing seats and councils in this election, the Conservative Party still holds the largest percentage of seats and councils (48% and 54% respectively). Labour are in second with 33% of councillors and 28% of councils controlled. 15% of councils have no overall control, the Liberal Democrats control 2% (7) and 1 council is controlled by the Epsom and Ewell Residents Association, accounting for the final 0.3%.

Labour do best in Metropolitan wards, controlling 81%, whilst the Conservatives have done best in Shire districts, controlling 71%. Shire districts have the largest amount of councillors compared to any other type of council (8,570).

The following table looks council composition and control for all local authorities in England immediately following local elections by year (held on the first Thursday of May). As above, this also includes those where elections were not held.

								-			
2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
England											
155	168	204	213	207	199	199	190	180	164	192	191
71	54	48	44	33	50	77	100	103	106	100	100
31	32	29	29	26	25	14	12	12	10	6	7
7	5	5	5	4	4	1	1	1	1	2	1
122	127	100	95	81	73	60	48	55	70	51	52
386	386	386	386	351	351	351	351	351	351	351	351
40%	44%	53%	55%	59%	57%	57%	54%	51%	47%	55%	54%
18%	14%	12%	11%	9%	14%	22%	28%	29%	30%	28%	28%
8%	8%	8%	8%	7%	7%	4%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%
2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
32%	33%	26%	25%	23%	21%	17%	14%	16%	20%	15%	15%
	England 155 71 31 7 122 386 40% 18% 8% 2%	England 155 168 71 54 31 32 7 5 122 127 386 386 40% 44% 18% 14% 8% 8% 2% 1%	England 155	England 155 168 204 213 71 54 48 44 31 32 29 29 7 5 5 5 122 127 100 95 386 386 386 386 40% 44% 53% 55% 18% 14% 12% 11% 8% 8% 8% 2% 1% 1% 1%	England 155 168 204 213 207 71 54 48 44 33 31 32 29 29 26 7 5 5 5 4 122 127 100 95 81 386 386 386 351 40% 44% 53% 55% 59% 18% 14% 12% 11% 9% 8% 8% 8% 7% 2% 1% 1% 1% 1% 1%	England 155 168 204 213 207 199 71 54 48 44 33 50 31 32 29 29 26 25 7 5 5 5 4 4 122 127 100 95 81 73 386 386 386 351 351 40% 44% 53% 55% 59% 57% 18% 14% 12% 11% 9% 14% 8% 8% 8% 7% 7% 2% 1% 1% 1% 1% 1%	England 155 168 204 213 207 199 199 71 54 48 44 33 50 77 31 32 29 29 26 25 14 7 5 5 5 4 4 1 122 127 100 95 81 73 60 386 386 386 351 351 351 40% 44% 53% 55% 59% 57% 57% 18% 14% 12% 11% 9% 14% 22% 8% 8% 8% 8% 7% 7% 4% 2% 1% 1% 1% 1% 1% 0%	England 155 168 204 213 207 199 199 190 71 54 48 44 33 50 77 100 31 32 29 29 26 25 14 12 7 5 5 5 4 4 1 1 122 127 100 95 81 73 60 48 386 386 386 351 351 351 351 40% 44% 53% 55% 59% 57% 57% 54% 18% 14% 12% 11% 9% 14% 22% 28% 8% 8% 8% 7% 7% 4% 3% 2% 1% 1% 1% 1% 0% 0%	England 155 168 204 213 207 199 199 190 180 71 54 48 44 33 50 77 100 103 31 32 29 29 26 25 14 12 12 7 5 5 5 4 4 1 1 1 1 122 127 100 95 81 73 60 48 55 386 386 386 351 351 351 351 351 40% 44% 53% 55% 59% 57% 57% 54% 51% 18% 14% 12% 11% 9% 14% 22% 28% 29% 8% 8% 8% 7% 7% 4% 3% 3% 2% 1% 1% 1% 1% 0% 0% 0%	England 155 168 204 213 207 199 199 190 180 164 71 54 48 44 33 50 77 100 103 106 31 32 29 29 26 25 14 12 12 10 7 5 5 5 4 4 1 1 1 1 1 122 127 100 95 81 73 60 48 55 70 386 386 386 351 351 351 351 351 351 40% 44% 53% 55% 59% 57% 57% 54% 51% 47% 18% 14% 12% 11% 9% 14% 22% 28% 29% 30% 8% 8% 8% 7% 7% 4% 3% 3% 3%	England 155 168 204 213 207 199 199 190 180 164 192 71 54 48 44 33 50 77 100 103 106 100 31 32 29 29 26 25 14 12 12 10 6 7 5 5 5 4 4 1 1 1 1 2 122 127 100 95 81 73 60 48 55 70 51 386 386 386 351 351 351 351 351 351 351 40% 44% 53% 55% 59% 57% 57% 54% 51% 47% 55% 18% 14% 12% 11% 9% 14% 22% 28% 29% 30% 28% 8% 8% <

Council control by party immediately following local elections, England

Source: Rallings & Thrasher local elections handbooks 2005 - 2015 & local Government chronicle's articles

There has been little change in this set of elections. **Labour** have maintained control of 100 councils with the **Conservatives** controlling 191 after losing one council. The **Liberal Democrats** gained one council and one returned to no overall control.

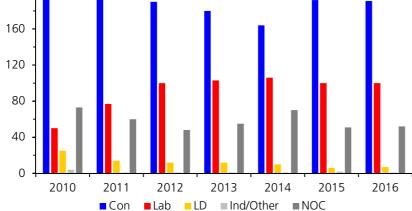
Labour's 100 councils has remained steady since 2012 where they had rose from just 33 controlled in 2009, 50 in 2010 and 77 in 2011. Their current number is higher than a decade ago and double the amount won at the 2010 General Election.

For the last couple of years, the **Conservatives** have controlled approximately double the amount of councils than Labour (54% to 28%). Their best result in the past decade, however, was in 2009 when they controlled 59% of local councils, this compared to Labour who controlled just 9%.

Both the **Conservatives** and **Labour** received almost identical results in terms of number and percentages of councils controlled to comparable elections in 2012.



Council control immediately following English local elections



Source: Rallings & Thrasher local elections handbooks 2005 - 2015 & local Government chronicle's articles

The **Liberal Democrats** gained one council on last year's elections but this is still lower than any time in the decade before 2015. Their highest return in this period came in 2006 where they controlled 32 councils, just 22 less than Labour at the time.

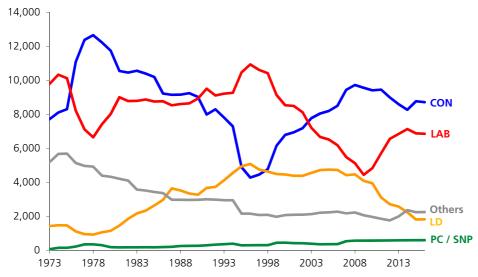
In 2015, **UKIP** gained control of Thanet council. However, following defections in October 2015, the council returned to NOC. Thanet did not have elections in May 2016.

A similar situation has happened in Rugby over the year with the Conservatives. The council was controlled by the Conservatives directly after the 2015 elections, however following defections and a dismissal the council was under no overall control at the time (and after) the local elections on 5 May 2016.

The table (page 18) shows control as a party who has an overall majority. The **Green Party** held minority control in Brighton between 2011 and 2015 by being the largest party but did not hold a majority.

The chart below shows the number of councillors by party in Great Britain 1973 to 2016. As of elections in England in May 2016, the Conservatives have 8,709 (43%) councillors in Great Britain, Labour 6,851 (34%), the Liberal Democrats 1,822 (9%) and Plaid Cymru and the Scottish National Party 596 (3%). There are a further 2,251 councillors in Great Britain who are either independents or members of other parties.

Party affiliation of councillors in Great Britain, 1973 to 2016



Notes: Liberal Democrats includes predecessor parties

Sources: Rallings and Thrasher, British Electoral Facts 1982-2006; Rallings and Thrasher, Local Elections handbook; Rallings and Thrasher, Local Government Chronicle 11 May 2016

7. Mayoral elections

Mayoral elections were held in Bristol, Liverpool and Salford. Labour won in all three with Liverpool's Joe Anderson the only incumbent.

- In **Bristol**, Labour's Marvin Rees was elected with a combined first and second preference vote tally of 68,750 (63.5%). In second was George Ferguson (Bristol First) with 36.5% of the final vote. This was a reversal of the 2012 result as George Ferguson was elected Mayor with 37,353 votes to Marvin Rees' 31,259.
- In **Liverpool**, Labour's Joe Anderson was elected without the need for second preference votes after receiving over 50% of the first preference votes; He received 51,332 votes (51.6%). In second was Richard Kemp (Liberal Democrats) with 21.1% of the vote. This meant that Joe Anderson retained his position at Mayor of Liverpool following a win in 2012 with 59.3% of the vote.
- In **Salford**, Paul Dennett (Labour) was elected with a combined first and second preference vote tally of 28,332 (66.2%). In second was Robin Garrido (Conservative) with 33.8% of the final vote. Labour retained control after winning in 2012 when lan Stewart was elected Mayor with 70.0% of the final vote.

Turnout

Of the three Mayoral Elections in 2016, Bristol had the best turnout at 44.3%. Salford had the worst turnout at 29.1%, just below Liverpool (30.9%).

 In London, Sadiq Khan (Labour) was elected, taking over from Boris Johnson (Conservative). For information on the London Mayoral election, please see our separate briefing paper for full analysis: London Elections 2016

Results of Local Mayoral elections, 5 May 2016

			First p	oref	Second pref	Total v	ote
		Turnout (%)	number	%	number	number	%
Bristol		44.3%					
Marvin Johnathan Rees (Elected)	LAB	44.5 /0	56,729	40.4	12,021	68,750	63.5
George Ferguson	RE		32,375	23.1	7,202	39,577	36.5
Charles Lucas	CON		19,617	14.0	7,202	33,317	50.5
Tony Dyer	GRN		10,000	7.1			
Kay Barnard	LD		8,078	5.8			
Paul Anthony Turner	UKIP		7,115	5.1			
Tom Baldwin	TUSC		1,876	1.3			
Stoney Garnett	IND		1,384	1.0			
Christine Charlotte Townsend	IND		1,010	0.7			
Tony Britt	IND		877	0.6			
Paul Anthony Saville	IND		545	0.4			
John Langley	IND		367	0.3			
Mayor Festus Kudehinbu	IND		341	0.2			
Total			140,314				
Electorate: 316,765							
Liverpool		30.9%					
Joe Anderson (Elected)	LAB		51,332	52.6	-	51,332	52.6
Richard Kemp	LD		20,598	21.1	-	20,598	21.1
Tom Crone	GRN		10,609	10.9			
Roger Bannister	TUSC		4,950	5.1			
Alan Hutchinson	IND		3,964	4.1			
Tony Caldeira	CON		3,533	3.6			
Paul Duane Rimmer	ED		2,590	2.7			
Total			97,576				
Electorate: 315,909							
Salford		29.1%					
Paul Dennett (Elected)	LAB		24,209	49.6%	4,123	28,332	66.2
Robin Garrido	CON		11,810	24.2%	2,674	14,484	33.8
Owen Martin Hammond	UKIP		8,668	17.7%			
Wendy Kay Olsen	GRN		4,158	8.5%			
Total			48,845				
Electorate: 167,830							

Party abbreviations: TUSC = Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition, BF = Bristol First, ED = English Democrats

Source: Results published online by local authorities

		Cou	Council composition (p		ost May elections 2016)	ns 2016)			sha	share of seats (%)	(%)		Net	seats com	pared to si	Net seats compared to situation at last round of elections	last round	l of electi	suc	
	ì98 JìlA	CON	LAB	LD UKI	P GRN	Others	TOTAL	CON	LAB	l dı	JKIP	GRN Oth	ers	CON	LAB	LD UK	IP GRN	N Others	irs	
District councils																				
Adur		16	e	0	0 8	2	29	22%	10%		78%		7%	4	2			0	0	
Amber Valley		23	22		0 0	0	45	21%	46%		%0		%0	<u>-</u>	—			0	0	
Basildon		18	6	•	0 0	2	42	43%	21%		24%		7%	0	0			0	2	
Basingstoke and Deane		33	19		0 0	2	09	22%	32%		%0		3%	-	7			0	-2	
Brentwood		24	2	10	0 0	-	37	%59	2%		%0		3%	_	0			0	-1	
Broxbourne		56	e		1 0	0	30	%18	10%		3%		%0	7	0			0	-2	
Burnley		4	27	13	1 0	0	45	%6	%09		7%		%0	<u>_</u>	-5			0	0	
Cambridge		0	56	13	0	2	45	%0	%79		%0		2%	-	7			0	0	
Cannock Chase		13	21	-	4	-	41	32%	21%		10%		7%	—	<u></u>			_	0	
Carlisle		20	27	_	0 0	4	52	38%	52%		%0		%8	0	-5			0	2	
Castle Point		22	0	0	3 0	16	41	54%	%0		7%		%61	0	0			0	2	
Cheltenham		7	0	29	0 0	4	40	18%	%0		%0		%0	5-	0			0	0	
Cherwell		38	∞		0 0	2	48	%62	17%		%0		4%	ņ	_			0	_	
Chorley		14	30	0	0 0	m	47	30%	64%		%0		%9	0	<u>-</u>			0	_	
Colchester		22	=		0 0	m	51	43%	22%		%0		%9	5-	2			0	-1	
Craven		18	٣		1 0	7	30	%09	10%		3%		3%	-5	_			0	_	
Crawley		17	20	0	0 0	0	37	46%	54%		%0		%0	ς-	—			0	0	
Daventry		30	е	-	2 0	0	36	83%	%8		%9		%0	-	-			0	0	
Eastleigh		9	0	38	0 0	0	4	14%	%0		%0		%0	0	0			0	0	
Elmbridge		22	0		0 0	19	48	46%	%0		%0		%01	-	0			0	<u>-</u>	
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Exeter		00	30		0 0	0	39	21%	77%		%0		%0	-5	_			0	0	
Fareham		24	0		2 0	-	31	77%	%0		%9		3%	—	0			0	-1	
Gloucester		22	10		0 0	0	39	%95	76%		%0		%0	2	_			0	0	
Gosport		20	4		1 0	0	34	%65	12%		3%		%0	<u></u>	-5			0	0	
Great Yarmouth		14	1	0	2 0	2	39	36%	78%		31%		2%	0	ŗ			0	_	
Harlow		12	19		2 0	0	33	36%	28%		%9		%0	0	0			0	0	
Harrogate		37	0		0 0	7	24	%69	%0		%0		3%	2	0			0	c	
Hart		16	0		0 0	6	33	48%	%0		%0		%2	0	0			0	0	
Hastings		œ	24		0 0	0	32	75%	75%		%0		%0	0	0			0	0	
Havant		31	7		0	0	38	85%	2%		11%		%0	0	-5			0	0	
Huntingdonshire		34	2	9	0 6	7	52	% 59	4%		%9		3%	-5	0 ,			0 (m	
Hyndburn		~ ;	97		0 7	O (£ ;	%07	/4%		%9		%0	, ,	- (.	0 (
lpswich		<u> </u>	55.		0 0	0 (8 6	%/7	%69%		%0		%0	7.	7 ,			.	0 (
Lincoln		۽ م	/7) L	צא ד	% 20	%7%		% 2		%0	,	- c			.) -	
Mole Valle		5 6	v C		n c	י ע	5 5	%94	0 %		° %		0 / C 12%	7 0	o c			o c	- 0	
Newcastle-under-lyme		2 2	77			o c	- 6	35%	45%		% %		%0	· -	· -			0 0	۰	
North Hertfordshire		34	12		0	0	49	%69	24%		%0		%0	-5	· -			0	0	
Norwich		0	26	8	0 10	0	39	%0	%19		%0		%0	0	2			ċ	0	
Nuneaton and Bedworth		7	25		0 2	0	34	21%	74%		%0		%0	4	ή			0	-	
Oxford		0	35		0 4	-	48	%0	73%		%0		2%	0	7			.5	0	
Pendle		21	17		0 0	_	49	43%	35%		%0		7%	7	<u>_</u>			0	0	
Preston		19	33		0 0	0	22	33%	28%		%0		%0	0	-			0	-	
Redditch		13	15	0	1 0	0 1	53	45%	25%		3%		%0	<u>. </u>	, '			0	0	
Reigate and Banstead		33	0		1 2	7	51	%9/	%0		2%		4%	- (0,			0 .	0 1	
Rochford		21	0	4 (4 3	7	39	54%	%0	10%	10%	. %8	18%	φι	- (7	← (- (2,	
Rossendale		13	22		0 0	← (36	36%	61%		%0		3%	7-	m d			0 (, ,	
Rugby		21	o (o (0 0	m (42	20%	21%		%0		%/	- (7- 0)	- (
Kunnymede		g S	o	D D	0	٥	74	% 92	%0		%0		4%	Þ	D			5	0	

Metropolitan Boroughs	CON			all All A		ı				9								
Metropolitan Boroughs		N LAB	I D	UKIP	GRN	Others	TOTAL	CON	LAB	CD	UKIP	GRN Others	ers	CON	LAB L	ID UKI	P GRN	Othe
Barnsley		4 55	0	0	0	4	63	%9	87%	%0	%0		%9	0	0			_
Birmingham	2	08 6.	10	0	0	-	120	24%	%19	%8	%0	%0	1%		_	-	0 0	
Bolton			m	2	0	0	09	25%	%29	2%	%8		%0	-	e-			_
Bradford	2		10	-	m	9	96	23%	54%	11%	1%		7%		М			
Bury	_		m	0	0	0	51	31%	%89	%9	%0		%0	4	ŗ.			
Calderdale	2	22 23	2	0	0	-	51	43%	45%	10%	%0		2%	-	-			
Coventry	_		0	0	0	0	54	78%	72%	%0	%0		%0		r-			
Dudley	2		0	00	0	0	72	40%	46%	%0	11%		%0		r-			
Gateshead			12	0	0	0	99	%0	82%	18%	%0		%0	0	-			
Kirklees	2		6	0	m	m	69	767	46%	13%	%0		4%		0			
Knowsley			М	0	0	0	45	%0	%86	7%	%0		%0		21			
Leeds			6	0	m	2	66	19%	64%	%6	%0		2%		0			
Liverpool			4	0	4	2	96	%0	%68	4%	%0		2%		-			
Manchester			-	0	0	0	96	%0	%66	1%	%0		%0		0			
Newcastle upon Tyne			20	0	0	m	78	%0	71%	%97	%0		4%		2			
North Tyneside			2	0	0	0	09	12%	85%	3%	%0		%0		2			_
Oldham			6	2	0	7	09	3%	75%	15%	3%		3%		0			
Rochdale			2	0	0	0	09	17%	%08	3%	%0		%0		_			
Rotherham			0	14	0	-	63	%0	%9/	%0	22%		2%		0			_
St Helens			m	0	0	0	48	%9	%88	%9	%0		%0		0			
Salford			0	0	0	-	61	13%	85%	%0	%0		2%		0			
Sandwell		0 70	0	-	0	-	72	%0	%26	%0	1%		1%		-			
Sefton			17	0	0	2	99	%6	28%	%97	%0		%8		4			
Sheffield			19	4	4	0	84	%0	%89	23%	2%		%0		-5			
Solihull	m		9	2	10	0	51	63%	7%	12%	4%		%0		0			
South Tyneside			0	0	0	-	54	%0	%86	%0	%0		2%		-		0 0	
Stockport		4 23	21	0	0	2	63	22%	37%	33%	%0		%8	-	2			_
Sunderland			-	0	0	-	75	%8	%68	1%	%0		1%		_			_
Tameside			0	0	0	0	22	11%	%68	%0	%0		%0		-			
Trafford	m		m	0	0	0	63	24%	41%	2%	%0		%0		0			
Wakefield		7 53	0	2	0	_	63	11%	84%	%0	3%		2%		-			
Walsall	2		2	m	0	2	09	45%	47%	3%	2%		3%		0			
Wigan			0	0	0	2	75	7%	87%	%0	%0		7%	2	_			
Wirral	2			0	-	0	99	32%	29%	%8	%0		%0	0	0			
Wolverhampton	_			-	0	0	09	17%	85%	%0	7%		%0	0	-			
Metropolitan boroughs Total	386	1,679	179	43	78	20	2,365	16%	71%	%8	7%	%	7%	13	-28	2	-	
Total	2,129	9 2,986	711	162	8	263	6,332	34%	47%	11%	3%	1%	4%	-45	-29	24	4 -3	

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