



BRIEFING PAPER

Number CBP 8306, 14 May 2018

Local Elections 2018

By Noel Dempsey

Contents:

1. Results Summary
2. Elections in England
4. Post-election composition
5. National share of the vote
6. Mayoral elections
7. Voter ID pilot schemes
8. About the data
9. Appendix

**POLLING
STATION**

WAY IN 

Contents

1. Results Summary	3
Voter ID pilot scheme	4
2. Elections in England	5
Electoral cycles	5
4. Post-election composition	10
5. National share of the vote	12
6. Mayoral elections	14
7. Voter ID pilot schemes	16
How many people were prevented from voting?	17
Was turnout affected by the ID requirements?	18
Which piece of ID was most frequently presented by voters?	18
8. About the data	19
9. Appendix	20
9.1 Local Elections 2017: results	20
9.2 London council control	21
9.3 English council control	22

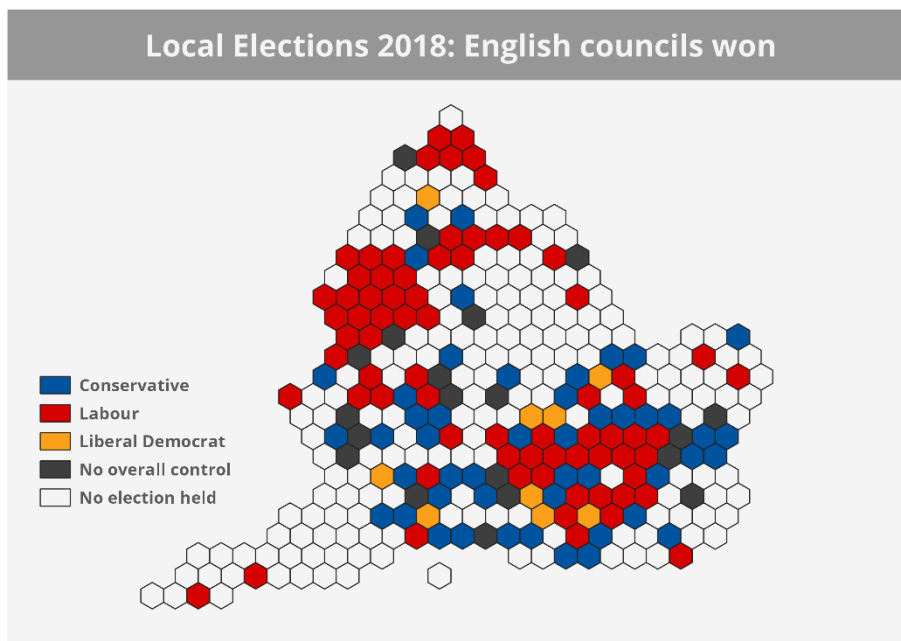
Contributing Authors: Chris Watson, Lydia Jackson

1. Results Summary

The **Conservatives** won or retained 47 of the councils which had elections on 3 May 2018, and now control a total of 198 councils overall in England – a net decrease of two compared to 2017.

Of the gains made by the Conservatives most were from councils which were previously 'no overall control', although they did gain two councils from Labour: Amber Valley and Redditch.

The Conservatives lost control of five councils: three to the Liberal Democrats and two to no overall control.



The **Labour** Party won or retained control of 74 councils at this year's elections taking their total council control to 98 (one fewer than last year). All of Labour's three gains were from councils which had previously been no overall control: Kirklees, Tower Hamlets, and West Lancashire.

Labour lost seven councils overall – two to the Conservatives and five to no overall control.

The Labour Party won four out of the five local council mayoral elections, and won the Sheffield City Region mayoral election with their candidate Dan Jarvis MP.

The **Liberal Democrats** won or retained nine councils taking their overall council control to 11 – this is the third year in a row that the Liberal Democrats have increased the number of councils controlled. The Liberal Democrats made gains this year and were all from the Conservatives (Kingston upon Thames, Richmond upon Thames, and South Cambridgeshire). There were no Liberal Democrat losses of control. In the Watford council mayoral election, the Liberal Democrat candidate won.

The **Green Party** won 39 seats at the local elections (around 1% of all the seats having elections). This continues the trend in the relatively small proportion of the overall number of seats the party has won. In London the party nearly tripled the number councillors elected compared to 2014. The Green Party does not currently control any council in Great Britain.

UKIP won three seats at this year's local elections - two more than in 2017, although significantly less than the 201 seats won in 2015.

The highest percentage of seats up for election won by UKIP was in 2013 (6%).

Voter ID pilot scheme

In five local authorities there were pilots for voter ID schemes. The Electoral Commission has yet to publish its analysis of the pilots, although the [Electoral Reform Society](#) cited work by [Democracy Volunteers](#) claiming that just under 4,000 people were turned away from pilot polling stations for lack of ID.

Subsequent data published by the five pilot councils show that about 688 electors were initially turned away from voting for failing to show the required proof of identity. Of those initially turned away, around half returned with the correct documentation enabling them to vote. This means that about 340 people did not vote because they did not return with the required proof of identity.¹

¹ BBC, [Voter ID: 340 did not vote after failing to show documents](#), 22 May 2018

2. Elections 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, with upper-tier county councils covering multiple lower-tier district councils.

On 3 May 2018, 150 councils in England held elections: 67 district councils, all 32 London boroughs, 34 metropolitan boroughs, and 17 unitary authorities.

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 (elections are held in different years) 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 each year.

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

- **Whole:** All councillors are elected once every four years, in whole council elections.
- **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.
- **Halves:** Councillors are elected for four-year terms by halves; that is, at each election, half the councillors are elected. Elections are held every two years.

Local election cycles in England: a rough guide

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Unitary Councils	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
Metropolitan	Shaded		Shaded	Shaded	Shaded		Shaded
London Boroughs			Shaded				Shaded
District Councils	Shaded		Shaded	Shaded	Shaded		Shaded
County Councils		Shaded				Shaded	

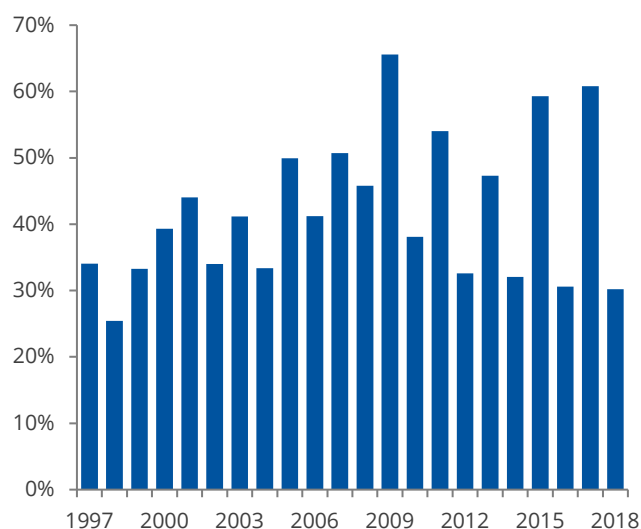
Shaded areas indicate when elections are scheduled.

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.

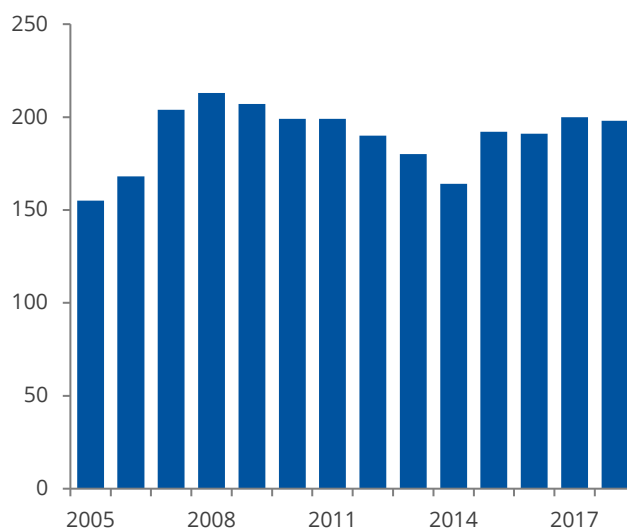
Conservative

The Conservatives won 30% of the seats up for election on 3 May 2018, this is around half the share of seats won in 2017, although only around two percentage points less than in the comparable 2014 election. The overall number of councils controlled by the Conservatives decreased by two compared to 2017. The Conservatives retained their long-standing control of Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster councils in London both of which have been held continuously since 1964.

Percent of seats up for election won^a



Councils controlled^b



Summary of Conservative local election results

Election year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Seats won	1,520	1,609	5,113	786	1,117	1,366	5,540	851	1,440	1,332
Unitary Councils	259	120	851	105	183	115	941	138	231	108
Metropolitan		154	151	110		128	162	114	7	175
London Boroughs		717				612				511
District Councils		618	4111	571		511	4437	599		538
County Councils	1261				934				1202	
% of seats up for election won ^a	66%	38%	54%	33%	47%	32%	59%	31%	61%	30%
Councils controlled^b	207	199	199	190	180	164	192	191	200	198
Unitary Councils	24	24	23	20	20	18	19	21	22	23
Metropolitan	6	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
London Boroughs	14	11	11	11	11	9	9	9	9	7
District Councils	137	135	136	131	131	119	146	143	143	143
County Councils	26	26	26	26	16	16	16	16	24	24
Net change in council control ^c	7	-7	1	-10	-10	-13	28	-1	9	-2

Notes and sources

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.

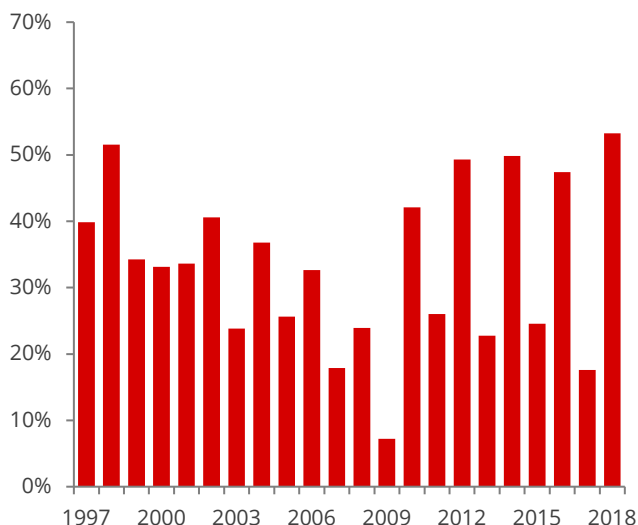
d. Figures for councils controlled and net change in councils controlled refer to those controlled by an absolute majority; minority controlled councils are excluded.

Sources: 1997 - 2017 data from Rallings & Thrasher Local Elections Handbooks; 2018 data collated by House of Commons Library; Ralling and Thrasher; "Rallings and Thrasher: Labour gains too low to boost Corbyn PM hopes" (Local Government Chronicle); 8 May 2018; BBC, "England local elections 2018".

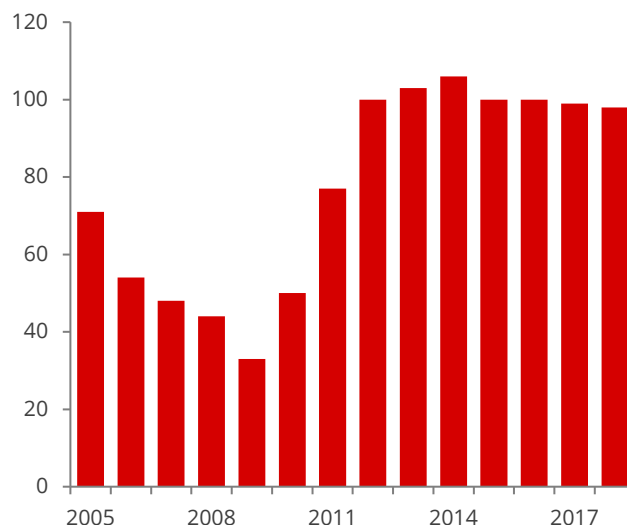
Labour

Labour won 53% of the seats up for election on 3 May 2018, this is nearly three times the proportion won in 2017. Compared to 2014, Labour increased the proportion of seats won by three percentage points. The overall number of councils controlled by Labour decreased by one compared to 2017. Labour maintained their control of all their London councils, and won Tower Hamlets from no overall control.

Percent of seats up for election won^a



Councils controlled^b



Summary of Labour local election results

Election year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Seats won	167	1,778	2,461	1,189	538	2,124	2,292	1,319	417	2,355
Unitary Councils	19	153	707	203	158	191	673	233	115	187
Metropolitan		521	594	604		565	634	664	43	723
London Boroughs		875				1060				1125
District Councils		229	1160	382		308	985	422		320
County Councils	148				380				259	
% of seats up for election won ^a	7%	42%	26%	49%	23%	50%	25%	47%	18%	53%
Councils controlled^b	33	50	77	100	103	106	100	100	99	98
Unitary Councils	9	10	17	23	23	21	18	19	20	20
Metropolitan	12	16	24	29	29	30	30	29	29	30
London Boroughs	7	17	17	17	17	20	20	21	21	21
District Councils	5	7	19	31	32	33	30	30	29	27
County Councils	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	0	0
Net change in council control ^c	-4	15	26	24	2	4	-6	0	-1	0

Notes and sources

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.

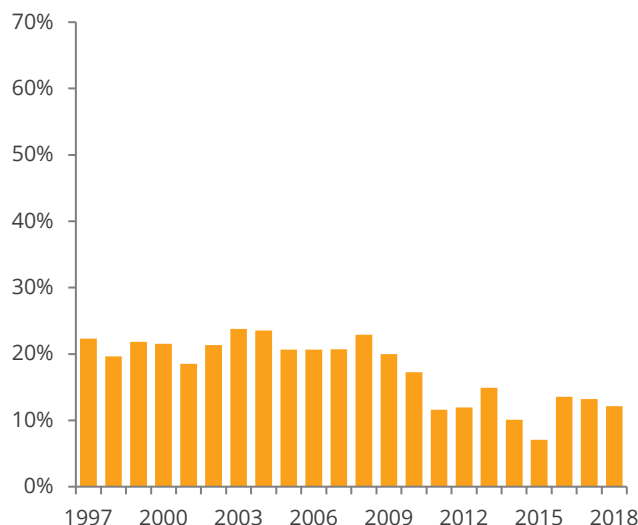
d. Figures for councils controlled and net change in councils controlled refer to those controlled by an absolute majority; minority controlled councils are excluded.

Sources: 1997 - 2017 data from Rallings & Thrasher Local Elections Handbooks; 2018 data collated by House of Commons Library; Ralling and Thrasher; "Rallings and Thrasher: Labour gains too low to boost Corbyn PM hopes" (Local Government Chronicle); 8 May 2018; BBC, "England local elections 2018".

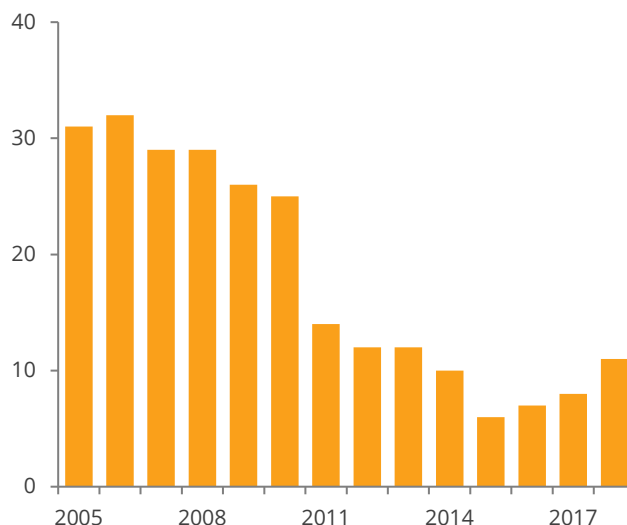
Liberal Democrat

The Liberal Democrats won 12% of all seats that were up for election. This is slightly lower than the proportion won last year, although up two percentage points compared to 2014. The Liberal Democrats increased the number of councils controlled by three - this is the third year in a row that the Liberal Democrats increased council control. The party retained Sutton in London and took back control of Richmond and Kingston upon Thames local authorities.

Percent of seats up for election won^a



Councils controlled^b



Summary of Liberal Democrat local election results

Election year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Seats won	463	728	1,099	288	352	429	661	377	313	537
Unitary Councils	117	75	216	40	101	45	123	54	88	48
Metropolitan		133	56	72		66	40	88	0	83
London Boroughs		246				116				152
District Councils		274	827	176		202	498	235		254
County Councils	346				251				225	
% of seats up for election won ^a	20%	17%	12%	12%	15%	10%	7%	14%	13%	12%
Councils controlled^b	26	25	14	12	12	10	6	7	8	11
Unitary Councils	3	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Metropolitan	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
London Boroughs	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	3
District Councils	15	18	11	9	9	9	5	6	7	8
County Councils	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net change in council control ^c	-2	-1	-10	1	0	-2	-4	1	0	4

Notes and sources

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.

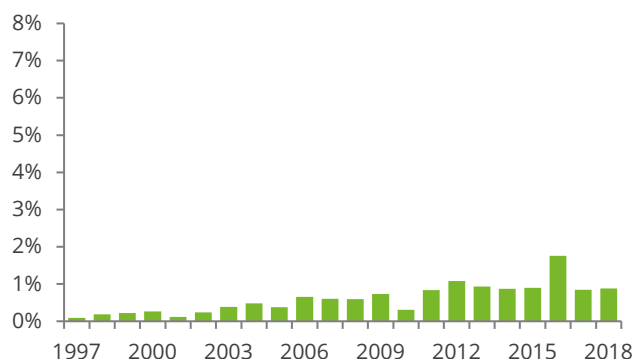
d. Figures for councils controlled and net change in councils controlled refer to those controlled by an absolute majority; minority controlled councils are excluded.

Sources: 1997 - 2017 data from Rallings & Thrasher Local Elections Handbooks; 2018 data collated by House of Commons Library; Ralling and Thrasher; "Rallings and Thrasher: Labour gains too low to boost Corbyn PM hopes" (Local Government Chronicle); 8 May 2018; BBC, "England local elections 2018".

Green

The Green Party won 39 seats at the local elections on 3 May 2018, this is around 1% of all the seats having elections. This continues the trend in the relatively small proportion of the overall number of seats the party has won. In London the Party nearly tripled the number councillors elected compared to 2014. The Green Party does not currently control any council in Great Britain.

Percent of seats up for election won^a

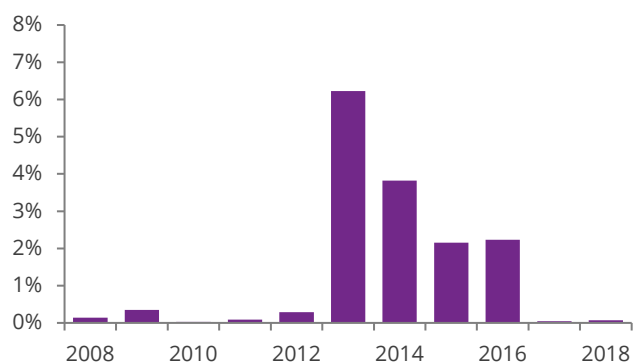


Election year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Seats won	17	13	79	26	22	37	84	49	20	39
Unitary Councils	0	2	30	1	3	5	30	15	2	2
Metropolitan		2	8	10		12	7	12	0	18
London Boroughs		2				4				11
District Councils		7	41	15		16	47	22		8
County Councils	17				19				18	
% of seats up for election won ^a	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%

United Kingdom Independence Party

UKIP won three seats at this year's local elections - two more than in 2017, although significantly less than the 201 seats won in 2015. The highest percentage of seats up for election won by UKIP was in 2013 (6%).

Percent of seats up for election won^a



Election year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Seats won	8	1	8	7	147	163	201	62	1	3
Unitary Councils	0	0	1	2	9	37	23	15	0	2
Metropolitan		0	0	0		34	8	21	0	0
London Boroughs		0				12				0
District Councils		1	7	5		80	170	26		1
County Councils	8				138				1	
% of seats up for election won ^a	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	4%	2%	2%	0%	0%

Notes and sources

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.

Sources: 1997 - 2017 data from Rallings & Thrasher Local Elections Handbooks; 2018 data collated by House of Commons Library; Ralling and Thrasher; "Rallings and Thrasher: Labour gains too low to boost Corbyn PM hopes" (Local Government Chronicle); 8 May 2018; BBC, "England local elections 2018".

4. Post-election composition

The table below summarises council composition and control for all local authorities in **England** immediately following the local elections held on 3 May 2018. This includes those where elections were not held.

English post-election council composition: May 2018

	CON	LAB	LD	OTH	NOC
Councillors					
Number					
London boroughs	511	1,125	152	45	-
Counties	1,202	258	224	103	-
Metropolitan boroughs	410	1,696	174	120	-
Shire districts	5,171	1,574	894	884	-
Unitary authorities	1,350	1,098	302	336	-
England	8,644	5,751	1,746	1,488	-
Percent					
London boroughs	28%	61%	8%	2%	-
Counties	67%	14%	13%	6%	-
Metropolitan boroughs	17%	71%	7%	5%	-
Shire districts	61%	18%	10%	10%	-
Unitary authorities	44%	36%	10%	11%	-
England	49%	33%	10%	8%	-
Councils controlled					
Number					
London boroughs	7	21	3	0	1
Counties	24	0	0	0	3
Metropolitan boroughs	1	30	0	0	5
Shire districts	143	27	8	1	22
Unitary authorities	23	20	0	0	12
England	198	98	11	1	43
Percent					
London boroughs	22%	66%	9%	0%	3%
Counties	89%	0%	0%	0%	11%
Metropolitan boroughs	3%	83%	0%	0%	14%
Shire districts	71%	13%	4%	0%	11%
Unitary authorities	42%	36%	0%	0%	22%
England	56%	28%	3%	0%	12%

Source: Rallings and Thrasher, "Labour gains too low to boost Corbyn PM hopes" (Local Government Chronicle), 8 May 2018

The **Conservatives** hold the greatest share of seats and councils in England (49% and 56% respectively). **Labour** are second with 33% of councillors and 28% of councils controlled. 12% of councils have no overall control, the **Liberal Democrats** 3% (11), and one council is controlled by an 'other' party.

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

English council control immediately after local elections

	Number					Percent				
	CON	LAB	LD	OTH	NOC	CON	LAB	LD	OTH	NOC
2005	155	71	31	7	122	40%	18%	8%	2%	32%
2006	168	54	32	5	127	44%	14%	8%	1%	33%
2007	204	48	29	5	100	53%	12%	8%	1%	26%
2008	213	44	29	5	95	55%	11%	8%	1%	25%
2009	207	33	26	4	81	59%	9%	7%	1%	23%
2010	199	50	25	4	73	57%	14%	7%	1%	21%
2011	199	77	14	1	60	57%	22%	4%	0%	17%
2012	190	100	12	1	48	54%	28%	3%	0%	14%
2013	180	103	12	1	55	51%	29%	3%	0%	16%
2014	164	106	10	1	70	47%	30%	3%	0%	20%
2015	192	100	6	2	51	55%	28%	2%	1%	15%
2016	191	100	7	1	52	54%	28%	2%	0%	15%
2017	200	99	8	2	42	57%	28%	2%	1%	12%
2018	198	98	11	1	43	56%	28%	3%	0%	12%

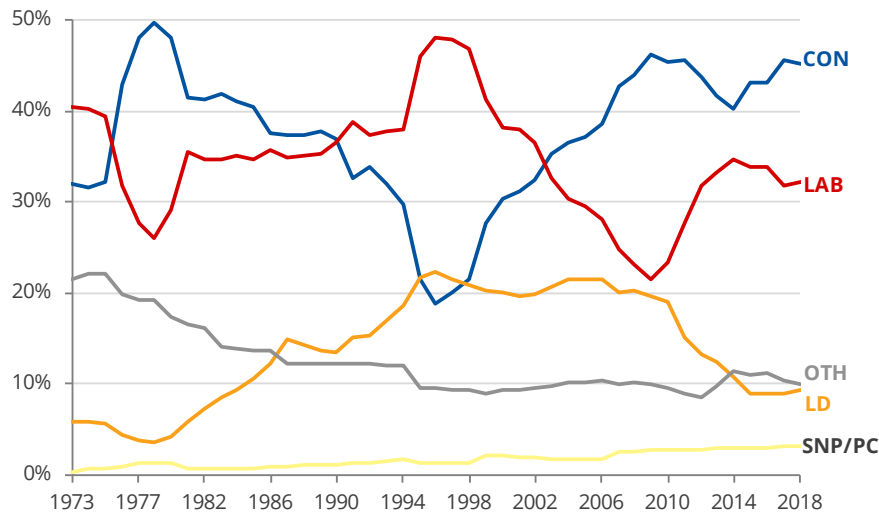
Source: Rallings and Thrasher, "Labour gains too low to boost Corbyn PM hopes" (Local Government Chronicle), 8 May 2018

There has been little change following the 2018 elections. The **Conservatives** lost control of two councils compared to 2017 and **Labour** increased the number of councils they control by one. The **Liberal Democrats** control 11 councils, three more than in 2017 and is the third year in a row that they have increased council control. However, this is still lower than any time in the decade before 2014. Their highest return in this period came in 2006 where they controlled 32 councils just 22 fewer than Labour at the time.

For the past few years the **Conservatives** have controlled approximately double the amount of councils than **Labour** (56% to 28%). Their best result in the past decade, however, was in 2009 when they controlled 59% of councils compared to **Labour's** 9%.

The chart below shows the number of councillors by party in Great Britain in 1973 to 2018. As of elections in May 2018, the **Conservatives** have 9,102 (45%) councillors in Great Britain, **Labour** 6,485 (32%), the **Liberal Democrats** 1,873 (9%), and **Plaid Cymru** and the **Scottish National Party** 631 (3%). There are a further 2,019 (10%) councillors in Great Britain who are either independents or members for other parties.

Party affiliation of councillors in Great Britain

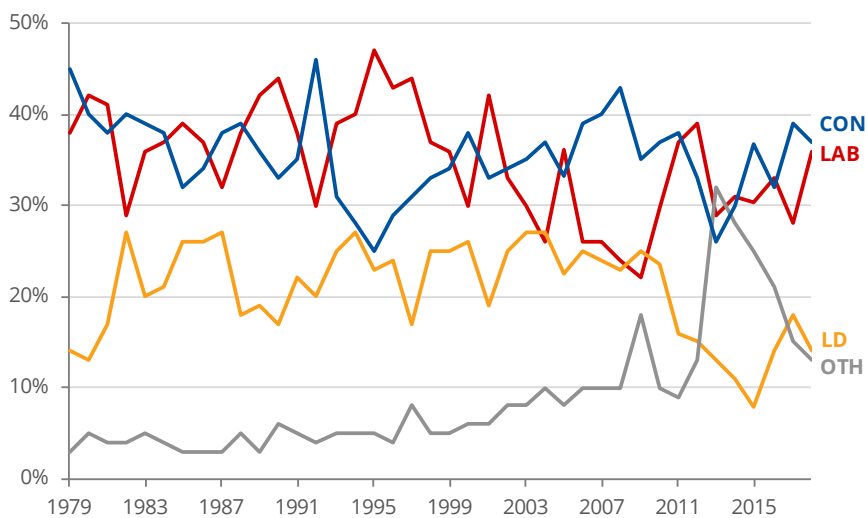


Source: Rallings and Thrasher, "Labour gains too low to boost Corbyn PM hopes" (Local Government Chronicle), 8 May 2018

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 overcome this problem by using the results of local elections to estimate how the major parties would have fared had the 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 the years where local elections have taken place.

Estimated NEV at local elections: Great Britain



Labour's NEV in 2018 increased by eight percentage points to 36% compared with 2017. The **Conservatives** decreased their NEV two percentage points on 2017 to 37%.

Estimated NEV at local elections: 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%
2017	39%	28%	18%	15%	4%
2018	37%	36%	14%	13%	

Note: Years with grey shading indicate that a General Election was held on the same day and in these years General Election vote share is shown. UKIP vote share calculated between 2013 and 2017. At the 2017 General Election the GB vote share was 43.4% for the Conservatives, 41.0% Labour, 7.6% Liberal Democrats, and 8% for other parties/independents.

Source: Rallings and Thrasher, British Electoral Facts 1832-2012; Rallings and Thrasher, Local Elections Handbook, various years; Rallings and Thrasher, "Jeremy Corbyn's big push leaves Theresa May still standing", The Sunday Times, 6 May 2018

The **Liberal Democrats** decreased their NEV. In 2018 the Liberal Democrats NEV was 14% (four percentage points lower than in 2017).

The 'others' category continued to decline in 2018 to 13% (two percentage points lower than in 2017). This is the first year since 2013 where Rallings and Thrasher did not calculate UKIP's NEV as the party "did so badly as to be not worth calculating separately and is once again subsumed within "others".¹

6. Mayoral elections

There were mayoral elections in six areas of England on 3 May 2018. Sheffield City Region held its first election for the mayor of the combined authority (known as a 'metro-mayor'). Five local authorities held mayoral elections for their respective councils.

Metro-mayor election result

	First preference		Second preference		Total vote		
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Sheffield City Region							
I. Walker	CON	37,738	14.8%	12,881	37.4%	50,619	26.0%
D. Jarvis	LAB	122,635	48.0%	21,519	62.6%	144,154	74.0%
H. Kitching	LD	27,146	10.6%				
R. Murphy	GRN	20,339	8.0%				
D. Allen	OTH	14,547	5.7%				
M. Bower	OTH	22,318	8.7%				
N. Judah	OTH	10,837	4.2%				
Electorate		1,007,748					
Turnout		25.4%					

Source: Results published online or provided by local authorities

The **Labour** candidate for the Sheffield City Region (Dan Jarvis MP) won after the election went to the second preference votes against the **Conservative** Ian Walker. Turnout for the election was 25.4%, this is similar to the turnout of the other metro-mayor elections held in 2017.

In four of the five council mayor elections a **Labour** candidate won. In Watford, a **Liberal Democrat** was elected mayor. In three out of five of the elections, a mayor was elected based on the first preference ballots. The average turnout for the five mayoral elections was 37.3%.

The Labour Party candidate Rokhsana Fiaz OBE for Newham was the only female elected mayor.

¹ Rallings and Thrasher, "[Jeremy Corbyn's big push leaves Theresa May still standing](#)", The Sunday Times, 6 May 2018

Council mayoral election results

	First preference		Second preference		Total vote	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Hackney						
LAB hold						
I. Lunat	CON	7,183	11.1%			
P.M. Glanville	LAB	42,645	65.9%			
P. Pearce	LD	4,846	7.5%			
A.H. Binnie-Lubbock	GRN	6,774	10.5%			
H. Iyengar	OTH	2,659	4.1%			
V. Williams	IND	577	0.9%			
Electorate		178,880				
Turnout		36.2%				
Lewisham						
LAB hold						
R. Archer	CON	9,790	13.3%			
D. Egan	LAB	39,951	54.3%			
C. Maines	LD	6,065	8.2%			
J. Coughlin	GRN	7,649	10.4%			
J. Hamilton	OTH	4,193	5.7%			
W. Donnelly	OTH	445	0.6%			
D. Brooks	IND	5,480	7.4%			
Electorate		199,555				
Turnout		36.9%				
Newham						
LAB hold						
R. Khan	CON	8,627	11.9%			
R. Fiaz	LAB	53,214	73.4%			
G. Evans	LD	6,809	9.4%			
C. Kumalinga	OTH	2,008	2.8%			
D. Oxley	OTH	1,815	2.5%			
Electorate		207,461				
Turnout		34.9%				
Tower Hamlets						
LAB hold						
A. Ali	CON	6,149	7.9%			
J. Biggs	LAB	37,619	48.4%	7,246	65.8%	44,865
E. Bagshaw	LD	5,598	7.2%			
C. Jebb	GRN	3,365	4.3%			
R. Khan	OTH	13,113	16.9%	3,765	34.2%	16,878
A. Ahmed	OTH	11,109	14.3%			
H. Pierre	OTH	728	0.9%			
Electorate		191,244				
Turnout		40.6%				
Watford						
LIB DEM hold						
J. Jabbour	CON	4,785	17.5%			
J. Dhindsa	LAB	9,224	33.8%	727	21.5%	9,951
P. Taylor	LD	13,275	48.7%	2,656	78.5%	15,931
Electorate		70,685				
Turnout		38.6%				

Source: Results published online or provided by local authorities

7. Voter ID pilot schemes

At this year's May 2018 local elections five local authorities ([Bromley](#), [Gosport](#), [Swindon](#), [Watford](#) and [Woking](#)) conducted [voter ID pilots](#). Each of these local authorities volunteered to trial a voter ID scheme. For voters within these local authorities, provision of identification was required before being issued with a ballot paper at the polling station. For voters in Swindon and Watford presentation of a polling card was sufficient, whilst in the other pilot areas a photo ID card or multiple forms of ID were required. More details on the individual pilot schemes can be found by following the links to the local authorities above.

The Electoral Commission has recommended that voters should be required to show ID before receiving a ballot paper since 2014. In its view, the system used in Northern Ireland, where voters must already produce photo ID before casting a vote at a polling station, should be rolled out across Great Britain.²

In 2015 the Electoral Commission published a report setting out how a 'voter ID' scheme could be implemented across Great Britain for elections.³

As part of this voter identity scheme, the Electoral Commission recommended that photographic driving licences, passports, Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) cards, military identification cards, police identification cards and firearms licences were acceptable forms of ID for electors. The Electoral Commission estimated how many electors across Great Britain may have access to one of the IDs deemed to be acceptable:

- Approximately 3.5m electors (7.5% of the electorate) would have none of the forms of photo ID highlighted, i.e. 92.5% of electors would already have at least one form of acceptable photo ID;
- Limiting acceptable ID to passports and photographic driving licences would see potentially 11m electors, or 24% of the electorate, without acceptable ID;
- Allowing only passports, photographic driving licences and Oyster Photocards to be used reduce the number of electors without ID to 6m, or 13% of the electorate.

The Electoral Commission will use a variety of methods to assess the success of the pilot schemes (chiefly through public opinion surveys) and will publish their assessment in July 2018.⁴

² Electoral Commission, [Electoral fraud in the UK Final report and recommendations](#), January 2014, Recommendation 2

³ Electoral Commission, [Delivering and costing a proof of identity scheme for polling station voters in Great Britain](#), December 2015

⁴ Electoral Commission, [Electoral Commission evaluation of voter ID pilots](#)

How many people were prevented from voting?

Initial estimates from the [Electoral Reform Society](#) (ERS) were that just under 4,000 electors were denied a ballot paper across the five pilot areas because they did not hold the required ID.⁵ The data used by the ERS was based on observer data collected by [Democracy Volunteers](#), although, it was not recorded whether any individual turned away returned with the correct ID requirements.

Subsequent data published by the five pilot councils show that about 688 electors were initially turned away from voting for failing to show the required proof of identity. Of those initially turned away, around half returned with the correct documentation enabling them to vote. This means that about 340 people did not vote because they did not return with the required proof of identity.⁶

Returning Officers from Swindon and Watford councils have both stated that relatively few people were prevented from voting. Stephen Taylor, Swindon council's Returning Officer, has said that:

"Our initial figures show that of the 62,166 people who voted, only 60 were asked to return to the polling station having not brought their poll card or alternative form of ID. Thirty-five of these were either attested or later returned with the appropriate ID leaving just 0.04 per cent of eligible electors who did not either return with alternative ID or seek a replacement poll card."⁷

The Local Government Chronicle reported Manny Lewis, managing director and Returning Officer at Watford council, as saying:

"192 voters were initially unable to vote as they had not brought their polling card to vote last Thursday. Of that number, 128 later returned with their polling card and successfully voted, while 64 people did not return to vote. The latter number amounts to 0.2% of the total 27,765 people who voted in Watford."⁸

Gosport council has stated that 44 people were unable to vote because of not bringing the right ID with them to the polling station. In Bromley 154 electors did not vote because they failed to show the required proof of identity, whereas in Woking this number was 51.⁹

⁵ Electoral Reform Society, [Thousands of voters turned away from polling stations in mandatory ID trials](#), 4 May 2018

⁶ BBC, [Voter ID: 340 did not vote after failing to show documents](#), 22 May 2018

⁷ Swindon Council, [Almost all Swindon residents complied with new requirement to bring ID to vote](#), 4 May 2018

⁸ The initial figure of 64 was later amended to 66; Robert Cusack, [Turnout up in polling card pilot areas and down for ID cards](#), Local Government Chronicle, 10 May 2018; BBC, [Voter ID](#).

⁹ BBC, [Voter ID: 340 did not vote after failing to show documents](#), 22 May 2018

Was turnout affected by the ID requirements?

The table below shows the changes in turnout between the 2014 and 2018 Local Elections for each of the five voter ID pilot councils. When considering this data it is important to note that the 2014 Local Elections took place on the same day as the European Elections (22 May 2014).

Turnout in the voter ID pilot councils

	ID requirement	Turnout		
		2014	2018	% pt change
Bromley	Piece(s) of ID	41.0%	40.0%	-1.0%
Gosport	Piece(s) of ID	33.5%	33.0%	-0.5%
Swindon	Polling card	33.0%	40.0%	+7.0%
Watford	Polling card	37.0%	39.3%	+2.3%
Woking	Piece(s) of ID	38.7%	37.8%	-0.9%

Source: Robert Cusack, Turnout up in polling card pilot areas and down for ID cards, Local Government Chronicle, 10 May 2018

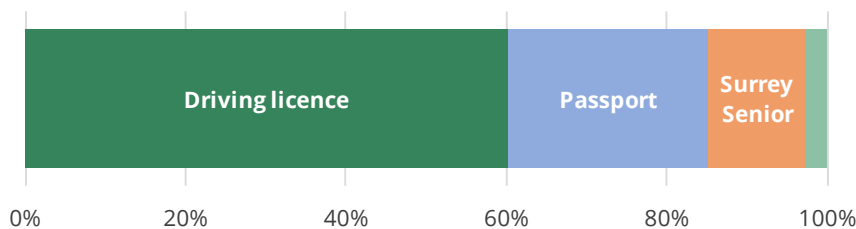
There are mixed results from the pilot scheme, whereby some local authorities have seen a decrease in turnout (Bromley, Gosport and Woking) and some have seen an increase (Swindon and Watford).

Which piece of ID was most frequently presented by voters?

Limited data is available so far on the type of ID most frequently used by voters when collecting their ballot paper, although Woking Borough Council has published full data relating to their voter ID trial.

In the Woking trial, driving licences were the piece of ID most voters chose to present when collecting their ballot paper (60.2%). Passports were the second (25%), and the Surrey Senior ID pass third (12.3%). Other types of ID (such as an EEA ID card, local elector card or student card etc) accounted for 2.5%.

ID presented at polling stations in Woking



Source: Woking Borough Council, Full voter ID trial results data

8. About the data

There is no central database where local elections results are collected by an official body.

Academics Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher have compiled [Local Elections Handbooks](#) each year since 1985. Historic data quoted in this briefing paper is derived, in most cases, from these handbooks; 2018 figures for net change in seats and councils controlled are derived from Rallings and Thrasher's May 2018 articles in [The Sunday Times](#) and [Local Government Chronicle](#).

The House of Commons Library has collected 2018 data on the number of seats won or retained by party and resultant council control for those councils in which elections occurred. These have been cross-checked 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 change parties 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').

Local Elections 2018: Results

Authority	Council composition (post May 2018 elections)									Share of seats (%)						Net seats vs last round of elections					
	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	OTH	Vacant	Total	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	OTH	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	OTH	
District councils																					
Adur	CON	16	7	0	4	0	2	0	29	55%	24%	0%	14%	0%	7%	-4	6	0	-2	0	0
Amber Valley	CON	25	20	0	0	0	0	0	45	56%	44%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3	-3	0	0	0	0
Basildon	CON	23	12	0	5	0	2	0	42	55%	29%	0%	12%	0%	5%	6	2	-1	-7	0	0
Basingstoke and Deane	CON	33	21	5	0	0	1	0	60	55%	35%	8%	0%	0%	2%	5	4	-4	-2	0	-3
Brentwood	CON	25	2	9	0	0	1	0	37	68%	5%	24%	0%	0%	3%	7	-1	-2	0	0	-4
Broxbourne	CON	28	2	0	0	0	0	0	30	93%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2	-1	0	-1	0	0
Burnley	LAB	5	25	5	2	1	7	0	45	11%	56%	11%	4%	2%	16%	0	-3	-7	2	1	7
Cambridge	LAB	0	26	14	0	1	1	0	42	0%	62%	33%	0%	2%	2%	-1	1	0	0	1	-1
Cannock Chase	LAB	15	21	1	0	3	1	0	41	37%	51%	2%	0%	7%	2%	9	-4	-1	-6	3	-1
Carlisle	NOC	22	25	1	0	0	4	0	52	42%	48%	2%	0%	0%	8%	3	-4	-1	0	0	2
Castle Point	CON	27	0	0	0	0	14	0	41	66%	0%	0%	0%	0%	34%	7	0	0	-5	0	-2
Cheltenham	LD	6	0	32	0	0	2	0	40	15%	0%	80%	0%	0%	5%	-6	0	8	0	0	-2
B Cherwell	CON	36	9	1	0	0	1	1	48	75%	19%	2%	0%	0%	2%	-4	2	-1	0	0	0
Chorley	LAB	13	32	0	0	0	2	0	47	28%	68%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0	0	0	0	0	0
B Colchester	NOC	25	11	12	0	0	3	0	51	49%	22%	24%	0%	0%	6%	2	2	-13	0	0	0
Craven	CON	17	3	1	1	1	7	0	30	57%	10%	3%	3%	3%	23%	-1	3	-2	1	1	-2
Crawley	LAB	17	20	0	0	0	0	0	37	46%	54%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1	0	0	-1	0	0
Daventry	CON	30	5	1	0	0	0	0	36	83%	14%	3%	0%	0%	0%	2	1	0	-3	0	0
B Eastleigh	LD	4	0	32	0	0	3	0	39	10%	0%	82%	0%	0%	8%	0	0	-8	0	0	3
B Elmbridge	NOC	24	0	9	0	0	15	0	48	50%	0%	19%	0%	0%	31%	-8	0	3	0	0	-7
Epping Forest	CON	39	0	2	0	2	15	0	58	67%	0%	3%	0%	3%	26%	2	-1	-1	-2	1	1
B Exeter	LAB	8	29	1	0	1	0	0	39	21%	74%	3%	0%	3%	0%	-2	2	-2	0	1	0
Fareham	CON	24	0	5	1	0	1	0	31	77%	0%	16%	3%	0%	3%	1	0	0	0	0	-1
Gosport	CON	18	2	14	0	0	0	0	34	53%	6%	41%	0%	0%	0%	-3	-4	8	-1	0	0
Great Yarmouth	CON	23	15	0	1	0	0	0	39	59%	38%	0%	3%	0%	0%	9	0	0	-9	0	0
Harlow	LAB	13	20	0	0	0	0	0	33	39%	61%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2	3	0	-5	0	0
B Harrogate	CON	31	0	7	0	0	2	0	40	78%	0%	18%	0%	0%	5%	-3	0	-8	0	0	-3
Hart	NOC	15	0	8	0	0	10	0	33	45%	0%	24%	0%	0%	30%	1	0	-1	0	0	0
B Hastings	LAB	8	24	0	0	0	0	0	32	25%	75%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0
Havant	CON	31	2	1	2	0	2	0	38	82%	5%	3%	5%	0%	5%	0	-2	0	0	0	2
B Huntingdonshire	CON	30	4	7	0	0	11	0	52	58%	8%	13%	0%	0%	21%	-5	3	2	-7	0	7
Hyndburn	LAB	9	26	0	0	0	0	0	35	26%	74%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1	3	0	-2	0	-2
Ipswich	LAB	12	34	2	0	0	0	0	48	25%	71%	4%	0%	0%	0%	2	-1	-1	0	0	0

Authority		Council composition (post May 2018 elections)								Share of seats (%)						Net seats vs last round of elections						
		CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	OTH	Vacant	Total	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	OTH	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	OTH	
	Lincoln	LAB	9	24	0	0	0	0	33	27%	73%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3	-3	0	0	0	0	
	Maidstone	NOC	25	3	20	0	0	7	55	45%	5%	36%	0%	0%	13%	0	1	1	-4	0	2	
	Mole Valley	NOC	20	0	14	0	0	7	41	49%	0%	34%	0%	0%	17%	1	0	-1	-1	0	1	
B	Newcastle under Lyme	NOC	18	20	3	0	0	3	44	41%	45%	7%	0%	0%	7%	2	-12	-3	-5	-1	3	
	North Hertfordshire	CON	29	14	6	0	0	0	49	59%	29%	12%	0%	0%	0%	-5	2	3	0	0	0	
	Norwich	LAB	0	31	3	0	5	0	39	0%	79%	8%	0%	13%	0%	0	10	0	0	-10	0	
	Nuneaton and Bedworth	NOC	16	17	0	0	1	0	34	47%	50%	0%	0%	3%	0%	13	-11	0	0	-1	-1	
	Oxford	LAB	0	36	9	0	2	1	48	0%	75%	19%	0%	4%	2%	0	3	1	0	-4	0	
	Pendle	CON	25	15	9	0	0	0	49	51%	31%	18%	0%	0%	0%	6	-3	-2	0	0	-1	
	Preston	LAB	17	35	5	0	0	0	57	30%	61%	9%	0%	0%	0%	-2	3	0	0	0	-1	
	Redditch	CON	17	12	0	0	0	0	29	59%	41%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8	-5	0	-2	0	-1	
	Reigate and Banstead	CON	41	0	1	0	3	6	51	80%	0%	2%	0%	6%	12%	4	0	-1	-1	0	-2	
	Rochford	CON	25	0	3	0	3	8	39	64%	0%	8%	0%	8%	21%	-1	-1	0	-3	1	4	
	Rossendale	LAB	14	20	0	0	0	2	36	39%	56%	0%	0%	0%	6%	4	-4	0	0	0	0	
	Rugby	CON	24	9	9	0	0	0	42	57%	21%	21%	0%	0%	0%	1	-1	2	0	0	-2	
	Runnymede	CON	32	1	0	0	0	9	42	76%	2%	0%	0%	0%	21%	-3	1	0	-1	0	3	
	Rushmoor	CON	26	11	1	0	0	1	39	67%	28%	3%	0%	0%	3%	2	-1	1	-3	0	1	
B	South Cambridgeshire	LD	11	2	30	0	0	2	45	24%	4%	67%	0%	0%	4%	-24	1	17	0	0	-6	
B	South Lakeland	LD	19	3	29	0	0	0	51	37%	6%	57%	0%	0%	0%	4	0	-4	0	0	0	
	St Albans	CON	30	6	19	0	1	2	58	52%	10%	33%	0%	2%	3%	1	-4	2	0	0	1	
	Stevenage	LAB	9	27	3	0	0	0	39	23%	69%	8%	0%	0%	0%	7	-7	0	0	0	0	
	Tamworth	CON	22	6	0	1	0	1	30	73%	20%	0%	3%	0%	3%	6	-6	0	0	0	0	
	Tandridge	CON	22	0	9	0	0	11	42	52%	0%	21%	0%	0%	26%	-12	0	3	0	0	9	
	Three Rivers	LD	16	3	20	0	0	0	39	41%	8%	51%	0%	0%	0%	3	0	-3	0	0	0	
	Tunbridge Wells	CON	41	2	4	0	0	1	48	85%	4%	8%	0%	0%	2%	3	-1	1	-2	0	-1	
	Watford	LD	0	10	26	0	0	0	36	0%	28%	72%	0%	0%	0%	-1	-1	3	0	-1	0	
	Welwyn Hatfield	CON	25	15	8	0	0	0	48	52%	31%	17%	0%	0%	0%	-6	1	6	0	0	-1	
	West Lancashire	LAB	19	33	0	0	0	2	54	35%	61%	0%	0%	0%	4%	-8	6	0	0	0	2	
	West Oxfordshire	CON	34	6	8	0	0	1	49	69%	12%	16%	0%	0%	2%	-6	1	5	0	0	0	
B	Winchester	CON	23	0	22	0	0	0	45	51%	0%	49%	0%	0%	0%	-5	-3	-3	0	0	-1	
B	Woking	CON	16	3	8	0	0	3	30	53%	10%	27%	0%	0%	10%	-7	2	-3	0	0	2	
	Worcester	NOC	17	15	0	0	3	0	35	49%	43%	0%	0%	9%	0%	0	-1	-1	0	2	0	
	Worthing	CON	28	5	2	1	0	1	37	76%	14%	5%	3%	0%	3%	1	5	-5	0	-1	0	
B	Wyre Forest	CON	21	4	3	0	0	5	33	64%	12%	9%	0%	0%	15%	6	-5	3	-5	0	-8	
Total District Councils			1,343	785	444	18	27	180	1	2,798	48%	28%	16%	1%	1%	6%	+23	-25	-10	-77	-7	-3

Authority	Council composition (post May 2018 elections)								Share of seats (%)						Net seats vs last round of elections						
	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	OTH	Vacant	Total	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	OTH	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	OTH	
London Boroughs																					
	LAB	0	51	0	0	0	0	0	51	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0
	CON	38	25	0	0	0	0	0	63	60%	40%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6	-5	-1	0	0	0
B	CON	34	11	0	0	0	0	0	45	76%	24%	0%	0%	0%	0%	-11	-4	0	-3	0	0
	LAB	3	57	0	0	0	0	3	63	5%	90%	0%	0%	0%	0%	-3	1	-1	0	0	0
	CON	50	8	0	0	0	2	0	60	83%	13%	0%	0%	0%	3%	-1	1	0	-2	0	2
	LAB	7	43	3	0	1	0	0	54	13%	80%	6%	0%	2%	0%	-5	3	2	0	0	0
B	LAB	29	41	0	0	0	0	0	70	41%	59%	0%	0%	0%	0%	-1	1	0	0	0	0
	LAB	8	57	4	0	0	0	0	69	12%	83%	6%	0%	0%	0%	-4	4	0	0	0	0
	LAB	17	46	0	0	0	0	0	63	27%	73%	0%	0%	0%	0%	-5	5	0	0	0	0
	LAB	9	42	0	0	0	0	0	51	18%	82%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1	-1	0	0	0	0
	LAB	5	52	0	0	0	0	0	57	9%	91%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1	2	-3	0	0	0
	LAB	11	35	0	0	0	0	0	46	24%	76%	0%	0%	0%	0%	-9	9	0	0	0	0
	LAB	0	42	15	0	0	0	0	57	0%	74%	26%	0%	0%	0%	0	-6	6	0	0	0
	LAB	28	35	0	0	0	0	0	63	44%	56%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2	1	-1	0	0	-2
	NOC	25	5	0	0	0	24	0	54	46%	9%	0%	0%	0%	44%	3	4	0	-7	0	0
	CON	44	21	0	0	0	0	0	65	68%	32%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2	-2	0	0	0	0
	LAB	9	51	0	0	0	0	0	60	15%	85%	0%	0%	0%	0%	-2	2	0	0	0	0
	LAB	0	47	0	0	1	0	0	48	0%	98%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0
	CON	36	13	1	0	0	0	0	50	72%	26%	2%	0%	0%	0%	-2	2	0	0	0	0
	LD	9	0	39	0	0	0	0	48	19%	0%	81%	0%	0%	0%	-19	-2	21	0	0	0
	LAB	1	57	0	0	5	0	0	63	2%	90%	0%	0%	8%	0%	-2	-2	0	0	4	0
	LAB	0	54	0	0	0	0	0	54	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	1	0	0	-1	0
	LAB	17	34	6	0	0	3	0	60	28%	57%	10%	0%	0%	5%	-3	-2	5	0	0	0
	LAB	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	60	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	LAB	12	51	0	0	0	0	0	63	19%	81%	0%	0%	0%	0%	-13	16	-3	0	0	0
	LD	11	0	39	0	4	0	0	54	20%	0%	72%	0%	7%	0%	-28	0	24	0	4	0
B	LAB	0	49	11	0	0	0	3	63	0%	78%	17%	0%	0%	0%	-2	1	-2	0	0	0
	LD	18	0	33	0	0	3	0	54	33%	0%	61%	0%	0%	6%	9	0	-12	0	0	3
	LAB	2	42	0	0	0	1	0	45	4%	93%	0%	0%	0%	2%	-3	20	0	0	0	-17
	LAB	14	46	0	0	0	0	0	60	23%	77%	0%	0%	0%	0%	-2	2	0	0	0	0
	CON	33	26	0	0	0	1	0	60	55%	43%	0%	0%	0%	2%	-8	7	0	0	0	1
	CON	41	19	0	0	0	0	0	60	68%	32%	0%	0%	0%	0%	-3	3	0	0	0	0
Total London Boroughs		511	1,120	151	0	11	34	6	1,833	28%	61%	8%	0%	1%	2%	-102	+61	+35	-12	+7	-13

Authority	Council composition (post May 2018 elections)									Share of seats (%)						Net seats vs last round of elections						
	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	OTH	Vacant	Total	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	OTH	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	OTH		
Metropolitan Boroughs																						
	LAB	4	56	1	0	0	2	0	63	6%	89%	2%	0%	0%	3%	0	3	1	0	0	-4	
B	Birmingham	LAB	25	67	8	0	1	0	101	25%	66%	8%	0%	1%	0%	-6	-10	-4	0	1	0	
	Bolton	LAB	19	31	3	3	0	4	60	32%	52%	5%	5%	0%	7%	4	-9	0	1	0	4	
	Bradford	LAB	22	52	8	0	2	6	90	24%	58%	9%	0%	2%	7%	1	6	0	-1	-1	-5	
	Bury	LAB	17	31	3	0	0	0	51	33%	61%	6%	0%	0%	0%	6	-7	2	0	0	-1	
	Calderdale	NOC	20	24	6	0	0	1	51	39%	47%	12%	0%	0%	2%	1	-1	0	0	0	0	
	Coventry	LAB	13	40	0	0	0	1	54	24%	74%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2	-3	0	0	0	1	
	Dudley	NOC	35	35	0	1	0	1	72	49%	49%	0%	1%	0%	1%	15	-5	0	-8	-1	-1	
	Gateshead	LAB	0	54	12	0	0	0	66	0%	82%	18%	0%	0%	0%	0	-1	1	0	0	0	
	Kirklees	LAB	20	36	7	0	3	3	69	29%	52%	10%	0%	4%	4%	2	4	-4	0	-2	0	
B	Knowsley	LAB	0	40	3	0	1	1	45	0%	89%	7%	0%	2%	2%	0	-23	3	0	1	1	
B	Leeds	LAB	22	61	6	0	2	8	99	22%	62%	6%	0%	2%	8%	3	-1	-3	0	-1	2	
	Liverpool	LAB	0	76	7	0	4	3	90	0%	84%	8%	0%	4%	3%	0	-3	4	0	0	-1	
B	Manchester	LAB	0	94	2	0	0	0	96	0%	98%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0	-1	2	0	0	-1	
B	Newcastle upon Tyne	LAB	0	56	19	0	0	3	78	0%	72%	24%	0%	0%	4%	0	4	-5	0	0	1	
	North Tyneside	LAB	6	53	1	0	0	0	60	10%	88%	2%	0%	0%	0%	-6	9	-3	0	0	0	
	Oldham	LAB	4	47	8	0	0	1	60	7%	78%	13%	0%	0%	2%	2	2	-2	-2	0	0	
	Rochdale	LAB	10	47	3	0	0	0	60	17%	78%	5%	0%	0%	0%	-1	-1	2	0	0	0	
	Salford	LAB	9	50	0	0	0	1	60	15%	83%	0%	0%	0%	2%	1	-2	0	0	0	1	
	Sandwell	LAB	0	70	0	0	0	2	72	0%	97%	0%	0%	0%	3%	-1	0	0	-1	0	2	
	Sefton	LAB	8	43	12	0	0	3	66	12%	65%	18%	0%	0%	5%	1	3	-5	0	0	1	
	Sheffield	LAB	0	53	22	3	6	0	84	0%	63%	26%	4%	7%	0%	0	-7	5	0	2	0	
	Solihull	CON	32	2	4	0	11	2	51	63%	4%	8%	0%	22%	4%	3	0	-4	-1	1	1	
	South Tyneside	LAB	1	53	0	0	0	0	54	2%	98%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	4	0	-1	0	-3	
	St. Helens	LAB	3	41	3	0	0	1	48	6%	85%	6%	0%	0%	2%	0	-2	1	0	0	1	
	Stockport	NOC	13	23	21	0	0	5	62	21%	37%	34%	0%	0%	8%	3	1	-7	0	0	2	
	Sunderland	LAB	8	61	6	0	0	0	75	11%	81%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0	-2	6	0	0	-4	
	Tameside	LAB	6	51	0	0	0	0	57	11%	89%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Trafford	NOC	29	30	2	0	2	0	63	46%	48%	3%	0%	3%	0%	-4	3	-1	0	2	0	
	Wakefield	LAB	11	52	0	0	0	0	63	17%	83%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5	-2	0	-2	0	-1	
	Walsall	NOC	30	26	2	0	0	2	60	50%	43%	3%	0%	0%	3%	9	-4	-1	-3	0	-1	
	Wigan	LAB	7	60	0	0	0	8	75	9%	80%	0%	0%	0%	11%	5	-2	0	0	0	-3	
	Wirral	LAB	21	39	5	0	1	0	66	32%	59%	8%	0%	2%	0%	-1	2	-1	0	0	0	
	Wolverhampton	LAB	9	51	0	0	0	0	60	15%	85%	0%	0%	0%	0%	-3	6	-2	-1	0	0	
Total Metropolitan Boroughs			404	1,605	174	7	33	58	0	2,281	18%	70%	8%	0%	1%	3%	+41	-39	-15	-19	+2	-8

Authority	Council composition (post May 2018 elections)									Share of seats (%)						Net seats vs last round of elections						
	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	OTH	Vacant	Total	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	OTH	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	OTH		
Unitary Authorities																						
B	Blackburn with Darwen	LAB	13	37	1	0	0	0	0	51	25%	73%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1	-11	-3	0	0	0
	Derby	NOC	20	23	5	3	0	0	0	51	39%	45%	10%	6%	0%	0%	6	-4	-2	1	0	-1
	Halton	LAB	2	52	2	0	0	0	0	56	4%	93%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0	1	-1	0	0	0
	Hartlepool	LAB	3	19	0	0	0	11	0	33	9%	58%	0%	0%	0%	33%	0	0	0	-2	0	2
B	Hull	LAB	2	31	24	0	0	0	0	57	4%	54%	42%	0%	0%	0%	0	-6	9	-1	0	-4
	Milton Keynes	NOC	24	21	12	0	0	0	0	57	42%	37%	21%	0%	0%	0%	6	-4	-1	-1	0	0
	North East Lincolnshire	NOC	18	19	4	0	0	1	0	42	43%	45%	10%	0%	0%	2%	8	-2	1	-8	0	1
B	Peterborough	CON	31	14	6	1	1	7	0	60	52%	23%	10%	2%	2%	12%	3	2	2	-2	1	-3
	Plymouth	LAB	26	31	0	0	0	0	0	57	46%	54%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2	1	0	-3	0	0
	Portsmouth	NOC	19	6	16	0	0	1	0	42	45%	14%	38%	0%	0%	2%	7	2	-3	-6	0	0
	Reading	LAB	12	30	1	0	3	0	0	46	26%	65%	2%	0%	7%	0%	2	-1	-1	0	0	0
	Slough	LAB	7	34	0	0	0	1	0	42	17%	81%	0%	0%	0%	2%	-1	1	0	-1	0	1
	Southampton	LAB	19	25	0	0	0	4	0	48	40%	52%	0%	0%	0%	8%	1	-3	0	0	0	2
	Southend-on-Sea	CON	29	11	2	0	0	9	0	51	57%	22%	4%	0%	0%	18%	10	2	-3	-5	0	-4
	Swindon	CON	29	26	2	0	0	0	0	57	51%	46%	4%	0%	0%	0%	-1	3	-2	0	0	0
	Thurrock	NOC	20	17	0	0	0	12	0	49	41%	35%	0%	0%	0%	24%	2	-6	0	-6	0	10
	Wokingham	CON	42	3	8	0	0	1	0	54	78%	6%	15%	0%	0%	2%	-2	2	1	0	0	-1
Total Unitary Authorities			316	399	83	4	4	47	0	853	37%	47%	10%	0%	0%	6%	+44	-23	-3	-34	+1	+3

Note: B indicates that a boundary change has occurred in the local authority since 2014

London council control immediately after local elections

	1964	1968	1971	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018
Barking and Dagenham	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB
Barnet	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	NOC	NOC	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON
Bexley	LAB	CON	LAB	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	NOC	CON	LAB	CON	CON	CON	CON
Brent	LAB	CON	LAB	LAB	LAB	NOC	LAB	NOC	NOC	LAB	LAB	NOC	LAB	LAB	LAB
Bromley	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	NOC	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON
Camden	LAB	CON	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	NOC	LAB	LAB	LAB
Croydon	NOC	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	LAB	LAB	LAB	CON	CON	LAB	LAB
Ealing	LAB	CON	LAB	LAB	CON	CON	LAB	CON	LAB	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	LAB	LAB
Enfield	LAB	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	LAB	LAB	CON	CON	LAB	LAB	LAB
Greenwich	LAB	CON	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB
Hackney	LAB	CON	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	NOC	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB
Hammersmith and Fulham	LAB	CON	LAB	LAB	NOC	NOC	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	CON	CON	LAB	LAB
Haringey	LAB	CON	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB
Harrow	CON	CON	NOC	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	NOC	LAB	NOC	CON	LAB	LAB	LAB
Havering	NOC	CON	LAB	NOC	CON	CON	NOC	NOC	NOC	NOC	NOC	CON	CON	NOC	NOC
Hillingdon	LAB	CON	LAB	LAB	CON	CON	NOC	CON	LAB	NOC	NOC	CON	CON	CON	CON
Hounslow	LAB	CON	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	NOC	LAB	LAB	LAB
Islington	LAB	CON	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	NOC	LD	NOC	LAB	LAB	LAB
Kensington and Chelsea	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON
Kingston upon Thames	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	NOC	NOC	LD	NOC	LD	LD	LD	CON	LD
Lambeth	LAB	CON	LAB	LAB	LAB	NOC	LAB	LAB	NOC	LAB	NOC	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB
Lewisham	LAB	CON	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	NOC	LAB	LAB	LAB
Merton	NOC	CON	LAB	CON	CON	CON	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	NOC	NOC	LAB	LAB
Newham	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB
Redbridge	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	NOC	NOC	CON	CON	NOC	LAB	LAB
Richmond upon Thames	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	NOC	LD	LD	LD	LD	CON	LD	CON	CON	LD
Southwark	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	NOC	NOC	LAB	LAB	LAB
Sutton	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	NOC	LD	LD	LD	LD	LD	LD	LD	LD
Tower Hamlets	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LD	LD	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	NOC	LAB
Waltham Forest	LAB	CON	LAB	LAB	LAB	NOC	LAB	LAB	NOC	LAB	NOC	NOC	LAB	LAB	LAB
Wandsworth	LAB	CON	LAB	LAB	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON
Westminster	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON

Source: Rallings and Thrasher, Local Elections in Britain: A Statistical Digest, April 2003; the House of Commons Library

English council control immediately after local elections

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
London boroughs														
CON	8	14	14	14	14	11	11	11	11	9	9	9	9	7
LAB	15	7	7	7	7	17	17	17	17	20	20	21	21	21
LD	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	3
OTH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOC	6	8	8	8	8	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Counties														
CON	23	23	23	23	26	26	26	26	16	16	16	16	24	24
LAB	6	6	6	5	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	0	0
LD	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOC	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	9	9	9	10	3	3
Metropolitan boroughs														
CON	4	5	4	6	6	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
LAB	16	15	13	12	12	16	24	29	29	30	30	29	29	30
LD	3	3	4	4	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOC	13	13	15	14	13	15	9	5	5	4	4	5	5	5
Shire districts														
CON	109	114	145	151	137	135	136	131	131	119	146	143	143	143
LAB	22	18	13	12	5	7	19	31	32	33	30	30	29	27
LD	17	19	18	18	15	18	11	9	9	9	5	6	7	8
OTH	7	5	5	5	4	4	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1
NOC	83	82	57	52	40	37	34	29	28	39	18	21	20	22
Unitary authorities														
CON	11	12	18	19	24	24	23	20	20	18	19	21	22	23
LAB	12	8	9	8	9	10	17	23	23	21	18	19	20	20
LD	5	4	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
OTH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOC	18	22	18	18	19	18	14	11	11	16	18	15	13	12

Source: Rallings and Thrasher, Local Elections Handbooks 2005-2016 and Local Government Chronicle articles

About the Library

The House of Commons Library research service provides MPs and their staff with the impartial briefing and evidence base they need to do their work in scrutinising Government, proposing legislation, and supporting constituents.

As well as providing MPs with a confidential service we publish open briefing papers, which are available on the Parliament website.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in these publicly available research briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

If you have any comments on our briefings please email papers@parliament.uk. Authors are available to discuss the content of this briefing only with Members and their staff.

If you have any general questions about the work of the House of Commons you can email hcenquiries@parliament.uk.

Disclaimer

This information is provided to Members of Parliament in support of their parliamentary duties. It is a general briefing only and should not be relied on as a substitute for specific advice. The House of Commons or the author(s) shall not be liable for any errors or omissions, or for any loss or damage of any kind arising from its use, and may remove, vary or amend any information at any time without prior notice.

The House of Commons accepts no responsibility for any references or links to, or the content of, information maintained by third parties. This information is provided subject to the [conditions of the Open Parliament Licence](#).