



DEBATE PACK

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Local government reform

Debate Pack produced ahead of the debate on Local government reform initiated by Alec Shelbrooke MP in Westminster Hall on:

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Structures: history

1.1 Pre-1972

Elected county councils were established in England and Wales by the Local Government Act 1888, and district councils by the Local Government Act 1894. A number of larger towns and cities were permitted to opt out from county government under the 1888 Act: these became 'county boroughs'. The 1888 Act included criteria through which authorities could apply for county borough status in the future. Similar structures were introduced by the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898 and the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1889.

1.2 The 1972-74 reforms

The Local Government Act 1972 reorganised the whole of England (except London) and Wales into a two-tier structure, with 45 county councils as upper-tier authorities and 332 district councils as the lower tier. Six of the counties, and 36 of the districts, were 'metropolitan counties' and 'metropolitan boroughs' respectively: the division of functions between the two tiers in metropolitan areas was different to that in non-metropolitan areas. In addition, London was governed by the Greater London Council (GLC) and 32 London boroughs.

Immediately prior to the reorganisation, England had 46 county councils, 79 county boroughs, 32 London boroughs, 449 urban districts, 227 metropolitan boroughs, and 410 rural districts.¹ The changes came into effect on 1 April 1974.

The six 'metropolitan counties' all covered newly-constituted geographical areas, with most including parts of two or three traditional county areas. Their boundaries took strong account of 'functional economic geography' – essentially uniting cities with their economic hinterlands. Metropolitan counties handled police, fire, passenger transport, waste disposal, economic development and land-use planning. These counties were abolished by the Local Government Act 1985, following the Conservative government's 1984 white paper *Streamlining the Cities*.

A related reorganisation took place in Scotland under the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1973, which replaced 33 counties, 197 burghs and 196 district councils with nine regional councils, 53 district councils, and three unitary authorities (Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles). The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 replaced 55 district councils, two counties, six county boroughs and ten boroughs with 26 district councils in Northern Ireland.

London had previously been reorganised under the London Government Act 1963, with changes taking effect in 1964. This Act introduced one county council, 32 boroughs, and left the City of London untouched.

¹ Lord Redcliffe-Maud, Royal Commission on Local Government, 1968, p. 21

The area covered by the new Greater London Council had previously been covered by the London County Council (with 28 boroughs, smaller than the current ones), Middlesex County Council, and a patchwork of municipal boroughs and urban district councils.

A number of local authorities were permitted to retain the title of 'borough council' or 'city council' following the 1972 reforms, despite taking on the status of a district. This is an honorific title and has no implications for these authorities' functions.

1.3 Structural changes since 1972 s

A number of further reforms to local authority structures have taken place since 1972 (see the Table below). The overall effect has been to reduce the overall number of authorities and councillors, and to move further towards a pattern of unitary authorities and a move away from the two-tier structure of the 1972 reforms.²

Table: changes to local government structure in England since 1972

1986	Abolition of the six metropolitan county councils and the Greater London Council, passing some of their functions to joint boards and some to borough councils in their areas
1994	Replacement of two-tier structure in Scotland and Wales with 32 and 22 unitary authorities respectively
1996-98	Creation of 46 new unitary authorities across England
2003-04	Proposals for unitary authorities in the North-East, Yorkshire & Humber and North-West regions, accompanying plans to introduce elected regional assemblies in the North of England. Neither plan succeeded.
2007-09	Creation of nine new unitary authorities across England, in an application-based process
2014-15	Merger of 26 district councils into 11 larger district councils in Northern Ireland. Proposals for the merger of 22 unitary authorities in Wales into 10-12 larger unitary authorities

From the Commons Library briefing on [Local government in England: structures](#).

² See Office for National Statistics, [Historical boundary change](#), for details of changes up to 1998; Office for National Statistics, [United Kingdom: Local Authority Districts, Counties and Unitary Authorities, 2012](#), for subsequent changes.

2. Parliamentary material

2.1 Parliamentary questions

Oral questions on Combined Authorities

HC Deb 18 July 2016 cc537-8

Michael Fabricant (Lichfield): What steps he is taking to encourage devolution of powers to combined authorities; and if he will make a statement. [905894]

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

(Sajid Javid): Our Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 is delivering on our manifesto commitment to devolve powers and budgets to boost local growth in England. Ten devolution deals have been agreed already in local areas, covering some £7 billion of funds and some 16 million people in England.

Michael Fabricant: A few days before the referendum, we heard that 5,000 jobs would be lost from HSBC. Surprisingly, only three days ago Mr Nigel Hinshelwood, who is the chief executive of HSBC, announced 1,200 new jobs and said that no jobs would be lost because of the supreme efficiency of the west midlands area. May I ask my right hon. Friend what further developments are happening with regard to the west midlands combined authority, which has the potential to promote even more employment during Brexit?

Sajid Javid: I understand the vital importance of the west midlands and the financial sector in boosting growth in that area as a fellow west midlands MP. My hon. Friend will know that very recently, in my former role, I went there to open the midlands financial centre of excellence, which will further help to develop jobs in that area. The west midlands combined authority that he asks about is now formally constituted; that happened last month. It looks set to have its first set of elections in May next year.

Mrs Emma Lewell-Buck (South Shields): Over the next five years alone, the north-east was due to receive £726 million in EU funding, but the north-east devolution deal promises only £30 million a year for 30 years. Despite what the Secretary of State said just now, many devolution deals were already in a state of collapse before the EU referendum. With such high levels of uncertainty because of Brexit, is it not time he revisited all the devolution deals?

Sajid Javid: There is no need to reconsider any of the deals. These are good deals that have been reached by local leaders and central Government, and they will all, in turn, help to boost local growth. The hon. Lady mentions EU grants. As my hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning has mentioned, it is important that we bring certainty, and that is what we will be working to do.

Martin Vickers (Cleethorpes) (Con): One of the devolution deals that my right hon. Friend referred to a moment ago is the greater Lincolnshire deal, which is under consultation. May I urge my right hon.

Friend, despite the comments of my hon. Friend the Member for Gainsborough (Sir Edward Leigh), to push ahead with that deal with, as the two councils in my constituency want, an elected mayor as part of it? [905902]

Sajid Javid: As my hon. Friend knows, it is not right for central Government to impose deals on any area. We certainly will not be doing that. These are deals because they require an agreement to be reached, but we will certainly be working with all areas that are interested, including Lincolnshire, to see what we can do.

Grahame M. Morris (Easington) (Lab): The Secretary of State will be aware of the statement by the Local Government Association following the decision to leave the European Union. EU laws and regulations impact on many council services including waste, employment, health and safety, consumer protection, trading and environmental standards. My question on devolution is this: what steps is the Secretary of State taking to ensure that local government is consulted and represented when negotiations over the UK's exit from the EU commence, and that powers from Brussels are devolved to a local level, not centralised in Whitehall?

Sajid Javid: It is very important that local government, whether through the LGA or otherwise, has a say in the process of leaving the EU. I think we all agree that it is important that that is done properly, and I will certainly be taking it up with my right hon. Friend the new Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union.

Combined Authorities: Devolution

26 Apr 2016 | PQ 35104

Justin Madders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, whether there are any circumstances under which a devolution deal with a combined authority will be undertaken without an elected mayor being proposed.

James Wharton | Department for Communities and Local

Government: The Government is open to discussing any devolution proposals that include strong, accountable governance arrangements. But we have been clear—the most ambitious, far-reaching powers and responsibilities will be offered only to those areas that provide a directly-elected, single point of accountability.

Combined Authorities: Accountability

14 Mar 2016 | PQ 30162

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to the letter to the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish from the Minister for Local Growth and the Northern Powerhouse of 18 February 2016, on accountability of combined authorities, if he will make provision for public involvement in

the key decision process within the scrutiny arrangements for combined authorities.

James Wharton | Department for Communities and Local

Government: The scrutiny requirements for combined authorities are set out in Schedule 5A to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, as inserted by the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016, which provide that overview and scrutiny committees of combined authorities have powers to call in decisions and to involve other persons in their work. Schedule 5A also provides for secondary legislation which must ensure that the majority of members of an overview and scrutiny committee will be members of the combined authority's constituent councils and that at least one member of an audit committee is an independent person. The scrutiny requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 do not apply to combined authorities.

Combined Authorities: Accountability

14 Mar 2016 | PQ 30160

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to the letter to the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish from the Minister for Local Growth and the Northern Powerhouse of 18 February 2016, on accountability of combined authorities, what his policy is on the appointment of hon. Members from the constituent districts to the scrutiny, overview and audit panels of combined authorities.

James Wharton | Department for Communities and Local

Government: The scrutiny requirements for combined authorities are set out in Schedule 5A to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, as inserted by the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016, which provide that overview and scrutiny committees of combined authorities have powers to call in decisions and to involve other persons in their work. Schedule 5A also provides for secondary legislation which must ensure that the majority of members of an overview and scrutiny committee will be members of the combined authority's constituent councils and that at least one member of an audit committee is an independent person. The scrutiny requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 do not apply to combined authorities.

Unitary authorities

10 Mar 2016 | PQ 30099

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what applications for unitary authority status his Department has received in the last year.

Mr Marcus Jones | Department for Communities and Local Government

Whilst we understand a number of local areas are considering moving to unitary structures, we have over the last year received no applications for unitary status, which in future will be considered under the provisions of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016

Combined Authorities: Devolution

10 Nov 2015 | PQ HL3137

Lord Greaves: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether introducing an elected mayor will be a requirement of all future devolution deals with combined authorities.

Baroness Williams of Trafford | Department for Communities and Local Government: Development of devolution deals is a bottom up process, in which areas bring us their proposals for the powers and budgets they want devolved to them. The accompanying governance arrangements they propose to support those powers and budgets must be commensurate with the scale of devolution they are seeking.

Elected mayors provide that strong, single point of accountability which is essential for any devolution deal of the scale and ambition of the deals we have announced for Greater Manchester, Sheffield City Region, Tees Valley and the North East.

Combined Authorities: Powers

14 Jul 2015 | PQ 6459

Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what resources his Department plans to make available to facilitate combined authority devolution negotiations; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Mark Francois | Department for Communities and Local Government: Devolution is one of the Government's top priorities and will therefore be prioritised within departmental resourcing. To meet this commitment, the Government will prioritise the resources necessary to facilitate negotiations with areas and to deliver on any statutory elements of deals, such as the establishment of combined authorities. The deployment of resources will need to be flexible to accommodate the nature and number of negotiations happening at any one time, which will vary as will the total cost of the negotiation process.

The Government is committed to devolving far-reaching powers within England as part of a power shift away from central government, enabling places to drive their own economic growth and take decisions over public services.

In devolving powers the Government is committed to a 'bottom up' approach and is asking local areas to come forward with proposals on the form of devolution that would work best for them. This approach

builds on the devolution deal the government struck with Greater Manchester in the last Parliament that will see the devolution of significant powers and budgets and the establishment of a directly elected mayor.

Oral question on local government

HC Deb 13 May 2014 cc541-2W

Mr Nicholas Brown

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria he will use to assess requests for extra powers from local enterprise partnerships and combined authorities.

Answering member: Kris Hopkins | Department for Communities and Local Government

The Government is currently negotiating a 'Growth Deal' with every Local Enterprise Partnership, based on the Strategic Economic Plans they submitted in March 2014. The criteria being used to assess the plans are set out in the guidance published in July 2013. These are: ambition and rationale for intervention; value for money; and deliverability and risk. Combined authorities, where they exist, are represented in Local Enterprise Partnerships and will have been involved in the development of the Strategic Economic Plans.

Notwithstanding, as I indicated to the right hon. Member in my answers to him of 3 April 2014, Official Report, column 778W and 6 May 2014, Official Report, column 24W, we should be cautious about any measure which had the effect of transferring power upwards away from elected local councils. Decentralisation should devolve power to the lowest appropriate level.

Combined authorities are relatively new bodies. They now should focus on using the functions and powers that they currently have and prove themselves on delivering local growth; we do not intend to repeat the "function creep" mistakes of the Regional Development Agencies which just became unwieldy and unfocused, taking on too much and failing to deliver.

Local government reviews: constituencies: West Yorkshire

23 Feb 2016 | PQ 27396

Craig Whittaker: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, when he expects the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to next review the (a) ward and (b) councillor arrangements in metropolitan districts in West Yorkshire.

Mr Gary Streeter | Speaker's Committee on the Electoral

Commission: The Local Government Boundary Commission for England informs me that arrangements for both wards and councillors are recommended through its electoral review procedure.

The Commission further informs me that Leeds City Council is in the early stages of an electoral review to consider the number of councillors elected to the authority in the future and the ward boundaries which will accommodate those elected members. None of the other metropolitan districts in the West Yorkshire area are part of the Commission's programme of electoral reviews for the next twelve months. The Commission's programme of reviews for the following year will be agreed in autumn 2016.

There are three reasons why a local authority could become part of the Commission's programme of electoral reviews. First, the Commission assesses levels of electoral inequality across all local authorities in England on an annual basis. Where the Commission determines that there are high levels of variances between wards or electoral divisions, namely where some councillors represent many more – or many fewer – voters than the average for the authority, it will initiate an electoral review to address the imbalances.

The Commission will also carry out a review at the request of a local authority. Since 2011, the Commission has carried out 48 electoral reviews of councils that have asked the Commission to intervene. The majority of requested reviews have been initiated by authorities that have asked the Commission, in particular, to consider the total number of councillors elected to the council.

Thirdly, the Commission will intervene where it believes that an electoral review will help an authority deliver effective local government. Such reviews have been conducted in Stoke-on-Trent, Doncaster and – currently – in Birmingham where an independent report recommended that an electoral review should take place.

Councillor numbers

15 Sep 2015 | PQ 9471

Stephen McPartland

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what plans he has to reduce the number of local government elected representatives.

Mr Marcus Jones | Department for Communities and Local Government

Provisions we are seeking in the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill, if enacted, will allow a local authority to propose a reduction in the number of councillors as part of a devolution deal.

Councillors: Allowances

HC Deb 03 Feb 2014 cc20-1W

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what information he holds on the average basic allowance paid to county councillors in England in 2012-13; (2) what information he holds on the average basic allowance paid to district councillors in England in 2012-13.

Brandon Lewis | Department for Communities and Local Government: My Department does not hold this information. Every council is required to publish information yearly about their spending on councillors' allowances, showing allowances paid to each councillor.

The TaxPayers' Alliance compiled a survey on councillor allowances, including councillor pensions in August 2012, which can be found on their website at:

http://www.taxpayersalliance.com/councillors_allowances_gqor2te5_1mw_ke00yz12lxrkac

Local Authorities

HL Deb 06 May 2014 c405WA

Lord Storey: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Stowell of Beeston on 13 March (WA 404), what stipulations, if any, they have placed upon (1) Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, (2) the North East Leadership Board, (3) Sheffield City Region Combined Authority, and (4) West Yorkshire Combined Authority in terms of (a) the membership of those bodies, (b) remuneration for their members, and (c) how meetings will be (i) chaired, and (ii) recorded. [HL6571]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Stowell of Beeston) (Con): The Orders establishing each Combined Authority specify the membership of the body; and require the election of a chairman and vice-chairman at the first meeting of the Combined

Authority and thereafter at its annual meeting. Each member has one vote and there is no casting vote. The Orders also make provision that no remuneration is to be payable to members except for allowances for travel and subsistence in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Combined Authority. All of the councils concerned consented to these provisions, which were based on proposals originally made by the councils.

The statutory provisions for the conduct of council meetings apply equally to the conduct of meetings of a Combined Authority, including provisions about the taking and publication of minutes. The Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency applies to combined authorities and the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, if approved by Parliament, will also apply.

Local Authorities

17 Dec 2015 | PQ 19212

Mr Peter Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what his policy is on creation of new unitary authorities.

Mr Marcus Jones | Department for Communities and Local Government: The Government's policy is to work with local areas to deliver effective devolution with the governance necessary to support this. We support the move to create new unitary authorities where such a move is locally driven and enjoys local support.

Local Government: Cheshire

17 Nov 2014 | PQ HL2781

Lord Harrison: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to reconstitute the former Cheshire County Council by bringing together the unitary authorities of Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Department for Communities and Local Government

There are no plans to bring together the unitary authorities of Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East. Such resource intensive and disruptive restructuring of local government would be an unnecessary distraction. The two Cheshire councils already have the legal powers to share services and work together if they wish, and they do not need the Government's permission to do so.

The Tri-Borough initiative in London is a good locally-led example of how councils can work together to improve services and delivery savings without the need for local government restructuring.

2.2 Parliamentary debates

Devolution in England

[HC Deb 2 Mar 2015 cc692-733](#)

Second Reading of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill, House of Lords

[HL Deb 08 Jun 2015 cc689-691](#)

Second Reading of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill, House of Commons

[HC Deb 14 Oct 2015 c324-426](#)

Local Government: Combined Authority Orders,

[HC Deb 18 Mar 2014 | cc702-24](#)

Motion to approve the following orders:

- The draft Combined Authorities (Consequential Amendments) Order 2014,
- The draft Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority Order 2014
- The draft Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton and Wirral Combined Authority Order 2014
- The draft West Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2014

2.3 Select Committee inquiries

Communities and Local Government Committee

Devolution: the next five years and beyond

[HC 369 2015-16](#)

25 January 2016

Devolution in England: the case for local government

[HC 593 2014-15](#)

9 July 2014

Councillors and the community: Councillors on the frontline

[HC 432 2012-13](#)

10 January 2013

3. Press articles

The Guardian

March 1, 2016 Tuesday

[Is splitting Oxfordshire into four just Cameron's revenge?:
The prime minister has welcomed proposals to create four unitary
authorities in Oxfordshire, but do they make any financial sense?](#)

BYLINE: Peter Hetherington

The Guardian

May 3, 2016 Tuesday

[These council elections will do nothing to calm local turbulence:
Labour won't capitalise on Tory infighting, while Conservative
councillors are in open revolt against their government - and face being
reorganised out of existence](#)

BYLINE: Peter Hetherington

The Daily Telegraph

March 18, 2016 Friday

[Voters don't want them, but the march of the mayors is unstoppable:
George Osborne is forcing local devolution upon English cities and
regions that have already said no](#)

BYLINE: FRASER NELSON

The Guardian

February 3, 2016 Wednesday

[Elected mayors 'unlikely to be an easy fit' in some areas, report warns:
MPs' select committee says public should be able to propose alternative
forms of governance as part of UK devolution plans](#)

BYLINE: Helen Pidd North of England editor

The Guardian

December 30, 2015 Wednesday

[Public services in 2016: more localism but a crunch over money:
There's no magical transformation ahead, but local and central
government services are changing and it's the people at the top who set
the tone](#)

BYLINE: David Walker

The Guardian

February 18, 2015 Wednesday

[English councils need more power or they will not survive, report finds:
Independent commission on local government finance proposes radical
devolution programme to let councils break away from central control](#)

BYLINE: Richard Vize

The Guardian

September 17, 2014 Wednesday

[English counties add to calls for greater devolution](#)

BYLINE: Peter Hetherington

Local Government Chronicle

3 August, 2016

Boundary reviews result in axe for 500 councillor positions

By David Paine

There are nearly 500 fewer councillors than there were in 2010, according to LGC analysis of data shared exclusively by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Councillor numbers reduced by an average of 9% following a boundary review

The 111 boundary reviews completed in the past six years have resulted in the number of members being cut at 69 councils and a net fall of 491 councillors.

The average change in councillor numbers per council is -9%.

A further 140 councillor positions have been earmarked for the axe under ongoing reviews.

Reviews are triggered by notable imbalances in the number of voters per councillors in more than 30% of a council's wards, or if there is an extremely large imbalance in a single ward. However, councils can also request a review – more than a third (41) have done so.

The council and other interested parties then have the opportunity to put forward proposals. Commission chair Colin Mellors told LGC the commission had "no agenda to increase or decrease councillor numbers" and supported recommendations put forward by councils "in the vast majority of cases".

Professor Mellors said: "Every council is different, and every electoral review is different. Nevertheless, we have observed a trend for councils to streamline their decision making, transform the way they commission and deliver services, and reflect changes to the way elected members represent people and communities."

Councils contacted by LGC cited reduced budgets and workforces, outsourcing of services, changes to the roles of councillors as a result of technological advancements, and a desire to streamline decision-making and scrutiny functions as reasons for seeking a review.

Professor Mellors predicted the trend of the past six years might "accelerate" as councils "engage further" with the devolution agenda.

Jonathan Carr-West, chief executive of the Local Government Information Unit, told LGC some districts were being "quite shrewd" by instigating reviews to reduce costs and show they were "still viable functioning units" that could operate as part of an area taking on devolved powers.

"I know of some districts thinking quite proactively about that in order to see off any devolution bid that would get rid of them," he said.

Out of the 10 councils which saw the biggest proportionate reduction in councillor numbers only Hartlepool BC and Northamptonshire CC did not request a review.

Knowsley MBC cut its councillor numbers by 18, saving £246,000 a year.

Leader Andy Moorhead (Lab) told LGC: "Given that our residents and workforce have been affected by the impact of the government's cuts in recent years, we strongly believe it is only right that savings are also found from our elected members."

Stafford BC cuts its councillors by a third, saving £50,000 annually. A spokesman said the reduction was in response to a housing stock transfer.

However, Mr Carr-West questioned "cutting the cost of democracy". He said: "If you start merging wards and districts then its people are less represented."

Only 12 councils have increased the number of members after a review, and in eight of these it only grew by one.

The biggest increase was on Milton Keynes Council which added six councillors to its existing 51 as a result of its growing population.

Biggest proportionate reductions in councillor numbers

Upper tier	Pre-review	Post-review	% change
Hartlepool BC	47	33	-30%
Knowsley MBC	63	45	-29%
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	60	44	-27%
Northamptonshire CC	73	57	-22%
North Somerset Council	61	50	-18%
Lower tier			
Hambleton DC	44	28	-36%
Shepway DC	46	30	-35%
Stafford BC	59	40	-32%
Stratford-upon-Avon DC	53	36	-32%
South Buckinghamshire DC	39	27	-31%

4. Further reading

4.1 Commons Library briefings

[Devolution to local government in England 2014-2016](#)

Summarises the main developments regarding the process of devolution of powers to local government within England since 2014.

5 Apr 2016 | Commons Briefing papers | CBP07029

[Local Government in England: structures](#)

Details the basic structure of local government (counties, districts and unitary authorities); the electoral system, ward structures; the franchise; and the divisions of functions between local authorities.

29 Jan 2016 | Commons Briefing papers | CBP07104

[Local Government Finance Settlement 2015/16 – initial analysis](#)

The provisional local government finance settlement statement for 2015/16 was made in an oral statement to the House of Commons on 18 December 2014. Settlement funding assessments for local authorities will decrease by 13.9% and the overall reduction in Spending power, a measure of the total funding available to local authorities (excluding the GLA), was confirmed as 1.8%.

09 Jan 2015 | Commons Briefing papers | SN07079

4.2 Publications

[A Future for Local Government in England](#), Alec Shelbrooke, 22 August 2016

[Our changing state: the realities of austerity and devolution](#), Browne Jacobson, 3 May 2016

[Devolution and Super-Councils](#), Adam Smith Institute, 3 August 2015

[The Future of Local Government: Task and Finish Group Report](#), Association of North East Councils, July 2014

[As tiers go by: a collaborative future for counties and districts](#), New Local Government Network, October 2014

[One Tier or Two? A debate about the right scale for local government](#) Localis, edited by Tom Shakespeare

[2013 census of councillors](#), National Federation for Educational Research

Local Government Association, **[The LGA quick guide to local government](#)**, December 2011

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