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Local elections 2003

This paper summarises the results of the local elections held in England and Scotland on 1 May 2003. It includes a detailed analysis of the performance of the British National Party and an examination of turnout in districts participating in experimental (pilot) schemes.

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Summary of main points

- On 1 May 2003, local elections were held in 340 district-level local authorities in England and Scotland.
- The Conservatives made net gains of almost 600 seats and 31 councils. They have more councillors in Great Britain than any other party for the first time since 1991. Labour lost over 800 seats and 28 councils in net terms, while the Liberal Democrats made small gains.
- All major parties, however, lost and gained councils. It appears that many elections were settled by local factors.
- Estimates suggest that the Conservatives won approximately 35 percent of the national equivalent vote, compared to 30 percent for Labour and 27 percent for the Liberal Democrats.
- Turnout was similar to recent local elections, at just over 30 percent. A variety of experimental schemes took place aimed at increasing turnout. Estimates suggest that all-postal ballots were successful in increasing turnout to around 50 percent.
- The British National Party won 13 seats in total, making 11 gains. They are now the second largest party on Burnley district council.

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I Introduction

On 1 May 2003, elections were held in the following local authorities:

- One-third of the council in 36 metropolitan districts
- The whole of the council in 27 English unitary authorities and one-third of the council in a further 13.
- 232 of 238 district councils, with 82 electing by thirds.
- The whole of all 32 Scottish councils.

Welsh council elections were postponed to avoid clashing with those to the National Assembly.

This paper is intended as a brief and immediate summary of the local elections and is largely based on media reports and data supplied by local authorities. The final compilation of the results, including details of votes cast, inevitably takes some time. These will be published later this year.¹

In some areas, there were major boundary changes and alterations to the number of seats. In the case of such authorities, gains and losses illustrate changes in representation before and after the elections. Because of changes in the number of seats, the reported gains and losses do not necessarily sum to zero.

II The results

Estimates suggest that the Conservatives won around 35% of the national equivalent vote, compared to 30% Labour and 27% Liberal Democrat.² Turnout was around one-third of the registered electorate.

A. Council control

Table 1: Changes in council control: summary

		From:					Total post-elections
		Con	Lab	LD	Oth	NOC	
To:	Con	70	8	0	1	31	110
	Lab	1	58	0	1	6	66
	LD	3	2	16	0	7	28
	Oth	0	1	0	10	3	14
	NOC	5	25	7	3	82	122
Total pre-elections:		79	94	23	15	129	340

¹ Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher *Local Elections Handbook 2003* (Local Government Chronicle Elections Centre, University of Plymouth)

² Rallings and Thrasher estimate in *The Sunday Times*, 4 May 2003, *Duncan Smith hits out at BBC election 'bias'*, David Cracknell and David Smith

Conservatives now control 110 of the 340 councils contested, compared to 79 before the election. This net gain of 31 comprised 40 gains and 9 losses. Labour now have control of 66 of the 340, a net loss of 28 councils. The Liberal Democrats gained control of 5 councils in net terms, while the independent/other total fell by one to four. 122 of the 340 councils are now in no overall control (NOC), a fall of 7.

Councils changing control are summarised in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Changes in council control: listing by party

Gains			Losses
Conservative: Net gain 31 councils (40 gains, 9 losses)			
from Labour (8)			to Labour (1)
Castle Point	Kettering		Plymouth
East Staffordshire	North Lincolnshire		to Lib Dem (3)
Erewash	Thanet		Shepway
Hyndburn	Wellingborough		Torbay
from Ind (1)			to NOC (5)
Rutland			Carlisle City
from NOC (31)			Gedling
Ashford	Ribble Valley		Horsham
Aylesbury Vale	Salisbury		
Basildon	Scarborough		
Chelmsford	Selby		
Congleton	South Holland		
Cotswold	South Kesteven		
Dacorum	South Oxfordshire		
Fylde	St Edmundsbury		
Guildford	Stafford		
Hinckley & Bosworth	Stratford-on-Avon		
Kings Lynn & W Norfolk	Taunton Deane		
Medway	Tonbridge & Malling		
Melton	Tynedale		
Mendip	West Dorset		
Mid Suffolk	Worcester		
Poole			
Labour: net loss 28 councils (8 gains, 36 losses)			
from Conservative (1)			to Conservative (8)
Plymouth			Castle Point
from SNP (1)			East Staffordshire
Clackmannanshire			Erewash
from NOC (6)			Hyndburn
Barrow-in-Furness	Sheffield		to Lib Dem (2)
Oldham	Stirling		Chesterfield
Renfrewshire	West Dunbartonshire		to Ind (1)
			Mansfield
			Labour losses to NOC (25)
			Allerdale
			Ashfield
			Birmingham
			Bolton
			Brighton & Hove
			Bristol
			Broxtowe
			Cannock Chase
			Coventry
			Dartford
			Durham City

Table 2 continued

Gains			Losses
			Labour losses to NOC continued
			Derby
			Dudley
			Exeter City
			Forest of Dean
			High Peak
			Luton
			North East Lincolnshire
			North Warwickshire
			Northampton
			Redcar & Cleveland
			Rochdale
			Rossendale
			South Ayrshire
			Trafford
			Vale Royal
Liberal Democrat: net gain 5 councils (12 gains, 7 losses)			
from Conservative (3)			to NOC (7)
Shepway	Waverley		Berwick upon Tweed
Torbay			Brentwood
from Labour (2)			East Cambridgeshire
Chesterfield	Durham City		South Gloucestershire
from NOC (7)			
Bournemouth	Watford		
Inverclyde	Windsor & Maidenhead		
North Norfolk	York		
Uttlesford			
Others: net loss 1 council (4 gains, 5 losses)			
Ind from NOC (3)			Ind to Conservative (1)
Caradon	Torridge		Rutland
Teesdale			Ind to NOC (3)
Ind from Labour (1)			Bridgnorth
Mansfield			East Lindsey
			SNP to Labour (1)
			Clackmannanshire

Table 3 below details pre- and post-election council control in all 340 local authorities where elections took place. In this case, control is defined as having more than 50 percent of councillors. No account is taken of effective control though coalition.

Table 3: Council control**Shire districts**

Adur	Thirds	Conservative hold
Allerdale	Whole council	Labour lose to NOC
Alnwick	Whole council	NOC - no change
Amber Valley	Thirds	Conservative hold
Arun	Whole council	Conservative hold
Ashfield	Whole council	Labour lose to NOC
Ashford	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Aylesbury Vale	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Babergh	Whole council	NOC - no change
Barrow-in-Furness	Thirds	Labour gain from NOC
Basildon	Thirds	Conservative gain from NOC
Basingstoke & Deane	Thirds	NOC - no change

Table 3 continued

Bassetlaw	Thirds	Labour hold
Bedford	Thirds	NOC - no change
Berwick upon Tweed	Whole council	Lib Dem lose to NOC
Blaby	Whole council	Conservative hold
Blyth Valley	Whole council	Labour hold
Bolsover	Whole council	Labour hold
Boston	Whole council	NOC - no change
Braintree	Whole council	NOC - no change
Breckland	Whole council	Conservative hold
Brentwood	Thirds	Lib Dem lose to NOC
Bridgnorth	Whole council	Ind lose to NOC
Broadland	Thirds	Conservative hold
Bromsgrove	Whole council	Conservative hold
Broxbourne	Thirds	Conservative hold
Broxtowe	Whole council	Labour lose to NOC
Burnley	Thirds	Labour hold
Cambridge	Thirds	Lib Dem hold
Cannock Chase	Thirds	Labour lose to NOC
Canterbury	Whole council	NOC - no change
Caradon	Whole council	Ind gain from NOC
Carlisle	Thirds	Conservative lose to NOC
Carrick	Whole council	Lib Dem hold
Castle Morpeth	Whole council	NOC - no change
Castle Point	Whole council (a)	Conservative gain from Labour
Charnwood	Whole council	NOC - no change
Chelmsford	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Cherwell	Thirds	Conservative hold
Chester	Thirds	NOC - no change
Chesterfield	Whole council	Lib Dem gain from Labour
Chester-le-street	Whole council	Labour hold
Chichester	Whole council	Conservative hold
Chiltern	Whole council	Conservative hold
Chorley	Thirds	NOC - no change
Christchurch	Whole council	Conservative hold
Colchester	Thirds	NOC - no change
Congleton	Thirds	Conservative gain from NOC
Copeland	Whole council	Labour hold
Corby	Whole council	Labour hold
Cotswold	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Craven	Thirds	NOC - no change
Crawley	Thirds	Labour hold
Crewe & Nantwich	Thirds	NOC - no change
Dacorum	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Dartford	Whole council	Labour lose to NOC
Daventry	Thirds	Conservative hold
Derbyshire Dales	Whole council	Conservative hold
Derwentside	Whole council	Labour hold
Dover	Whole council	NOC - no change
Durham City	Whole council	Lib Dem gain from Labour
Easington	Whole council	Labour hold
East Cambridgeshire	Whole council	Lib Dem lose to NOC
East Devon	Whole council	Conservative hold
East Dorset	Whole council	Conservative hold
East Hampshire	Whole council	Conservative hold

Table 3 continued

East Hertfordshire	Whole council	Conservative hold
East Lindsey	Whole council	Ind lose to NOC
East Northamptonshire	Whole council	Conservative hold
East Staffordshire	Whole council	Conservative gain from Labour
Eastbourne	Thirds	Lib Dem hold
Eastleigh	Thirds	Lib Dem hold
Eden	Whole council	Ind hold
Ellesmere Port & Neston	Thirds	Labour hold
Elmbridge	Thirds	Residents hold
Epping Forest	Thirds	NOC - no change
Epsom and Ewell	Whole council	Residents hold
Erewash	Whole council	Conservative gain from Labour
Exeter	Thirds	Labour lose to NOC
Fenland	Whole council	Conservative hold
Forest Heath	Whole council	Conservative hold
Forest of Dean	Whole council	Labour lose to NOC
Fylde	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Gedling	Whole council	Conservative lose to NOC
Gloucester	Thirds	NOC - no change
Gravesham	Whole council	Labour hold
Great Yarmouth	Thirds	Conservative hold
Guildford	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Hambleton	Whole council	Conservative hold
Harborough	Whole council	NOC - no change
Harlow	Thirds	NOC - no change
Harrogate	Thirds	NOC - no change
Hart	Thirds	Conservative hold
Havant	Thirds	Conservative hold
Hertsmere	Thirds	Conservative hold
High Peak	Whole council	Labour lose to NOC
Hinckley & Bosworth	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Horsham	Whole council	Conservative lose to NOC
Huntingdonshire	Thirds	Conservative hold
Hyndburn	Thirds	Conservative gain from Labour
Ipswich	Thirds	Labour hold
Kennet	Whole council	Conservative hold
Kerrier	Whole council	NOC - no change
Kettering	Whole council	Conservative gain from Labour
Kings Lynn & W Norfolk	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Lancaster	Whole council	NOC - no change
Lewes	Whole council	Lib Dem hold
Lichfield	Whole council	Conservative hold
Lincoln	Thirds	Labour hold
Macclesfield	Thirds	Conservative hold
Maidstone	Thirds	NOC - no change
Maldon	Whole council	Conservative hold
Malvern Hills	Whole council	Conservative lose to NOC
Mansfield	Whole council	Ind gain from Labour
Melton	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Mendip	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Mid Bedfordshire	Whole council	Conservative hold
Mid Devon	Whole council	NOC - no change
Mid Suffolk	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Mid Sussex	Whole council	Conservative hold

Table 3 continued

Mole Valley	Thirds	NOC - no change
New Forest	Whole council	Conservative hold
Newark & Sherwood	Whole council	NOC - no change
Newcastle-under-Lyme	Thirds	NOC - no change
North Cornwall	Whole council	Ind hold
North Devon	Whole council	Lib Dem hold
North Dorset	Whole council	NOC - no change
North East Derbyshire	Whole council	Labour hold
North Hertfordshire	Thirds	Conservative hold
North Kesteven	Whole council	NOC - no change
North West Leicestershire	Whole council	Labour hold
North Norfolk	Whole council	Lib Dem gain from NOC
North Shropshire	Whole council	Ind lose to NOC
North Warwickshire	Whole council	Labour lose to NOC
North Wiltshire	Whole council	NOC - no change
Northampton	Whole council	Labour lose to NOC
Norwich City	Thirds	Lib Dem hold
Oadby & Wigston	Whole council	Lib Dem hold
Oswestry	Whole council	NOC - no change
Pendle	Thirds	NOC - no change
Penwith	Thirds	NOC - no change
Preston	Thirds	NOC - no change
Purbeck	Thirds	Conservative hold
Redditch	Thirds	NOC - no change
Reigate & Banstead	Thirds	Conservative hold
Restormel	Whole council	NOC - no change
Ribble Valley	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Richmondshire	Whole council	NOC - no change
Rochford	Thirds	Conservative hold
Rossendale	Thirds	Labour lose to NOC
Rother	Whole council	Conservative hold
Rugby	Thirds	NOC - no change
Runnymede	Thirds	Conservative hold
Rushcliffe	Whole council	Conservative hold
Rushmoor	Thirds	Conservative hold
Ryedale	Whole council	NOC - no change
Salisbury	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Scarborough	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Sedgefield	Whole council	Labour hold
Sedgemoor	Whole council	Conservative hold
Selby	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Sevenoaks	Whole council	Conservative hold
Shepway	Whole council	Lib Dem gain from Conservatives
Shrewsbury & Atcham	Thirds	Conservative hold
South Bedfordshire	Thirds	Conservative hold
South Bucks	Whole council	Conservative hold
South Cambridgeshire	Thirds	NOC - no change
South Derbyshire	Whole council	Labour hold
South Hams	Whole council	Conservative hold
South Holland	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
South Kesteven	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
South Lakeland	Thirds	NOC - no change
South Norfolk	Whole council	Lib Dem hold
South Northamptonshire	Whole council	Conservative hold
South Oxfordshire	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC

Table 3 continued

South Ribble	Whole council	NOC - no change
South Shropshire	Whole council	NOC - no change
South Somerset	Whole council	Lib Dem hold
South Staffordshire	Whole council	Conservative hold
Spelthorne	Whole council	Conservative hold
St Albans	Thirds	NOC - no change
St Edmundsbury	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Stafford	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Staffordshire Moorlands	Whole council	NOC - no change
Stevenage	Thirds	Labour hold
Stratford-on-Avon	Thirds	Conservative gain from NOC
Stroud	Thirds	Conservative hold
Suffolk Coastal	Whole council	Conservative hold
Surrey Heath	Whole council	Conservative hold
Swale	Thirds	Conservative hold
Tamworth	Thirds	Labour hold
Tandridge	Thirds	Conservative hold
Taunton Deane	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Teesdale	Whole council	Ind gain from NOC
Teignbridge	Whole council	NOC - no change
Tendring	Whole council	NOC - no change
Test Valley	Whole council	Conservative hold
Tewkesbury	Whole council	NOC - no change
Thanet	Whole council	Conservative gain from Labour
Three Rivers	Thirds	Lib Dem hold
Tonbridge & Malling	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Torridge	Whole council	Ind gain from NOC
Tunbridge Wells	Thirds	Conservative hold
Tynedale	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Uttlesford	Whole council	Lib Dem gain from NOC
Vale of White Horse	Whole council	Lib Dem hold
Vale Royal	Whole council	Labour lose to NOC
Wansbeck	Whole council	Labour hold
Warwick	Whole council	NOC - no change
Watford	Thirds	Lib Dem gain from NOC
Waveney	Thirds	NOC - no change
Waverley	Whole council	Lib Dem gain from Conservative
Wealden	Whole council	Conservative hold
Wear Valley	Whole council	Labour hold
Wellingborough	Whole council	Conservative gain from Labour
Welwyn Hatfield	Thirds	Conservative hold
West Devon	Whole council	NOC - no change
West Dorset	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
West Lancashire	Thirds	Conservative hold
West Lindsey	Thirds	NOC - no change
West Oxfordshire	Thirds	Conservative hold
West Somerset	Whole council	Conservative hold
West Wiltshire	Whole council	Lib Dem lose to NOC
Weymouth & Portland	Thirds	NOC - no change
Winchester	Thirds	Lib Dem hold
Woking	Thirds	NOC - no change
Worcester	Thirds	Conservative gain from NOC
Worthing	Thirds	Lib Dem lose to NOC
Wychavon	Whole council	Conservative hold

Table 3 continued

Wycombe	Whole council	Conservative hold
Wyre	Whole council	Conservative hold
Wyre Forest	Thirds	NOC - no change
Metropolitan boroughs		
Barnsley	Thirds	Labour hold
Birmingham	Thirds	Labour lose to NOC
Bolton	Thirds	Labour lose to NOC
Bradford	Thirds	NOC - no change
Bury	Thirds	Labour hold
Calderdale	Thirds	NOC - no change
Coventry	Thirds	Labour lose to NOC
Doncaster	Thirds	Labour hold
Dudley	Thirds	Labour lose to NOC
Gateshead	Thirds	Labour hold
Kirklees	Thirds	NOC - no change
Knowsley	Thirds	Labour hold
Leeds	Thirds	Labour hold
Liverpool	Thirds	Lib Dem hold
Manchester	Thirds	Labour hold
Newcastle Upon Tyne	Thirds	Labour hold
North Tyneside	Thirds	Labour hold
Oldham	Thirds	Labour gain from NOC
Rochdale	Thirds	Labour lose to NOC
Rotherham	Thirds	Labour hold
St Helens	Thirds	Labour hold
Salford	Thirds	Labour hold
Sandwell	Thirds	Labour hold
Sefton	Thirds	NOC - no change
Sheffield	Thirds	Labour gain from NOC
Solihull	Thirds	Conservative hold
South Tyneside	Thirds	Labour hold
Stockport	Thirds	Lib Dem hold
Sunderland	Thirds	Labour hold
Tameside	Thirds	Labour hold
Trafford	Thirds	Labour lose to NOC
Wakefield	Thirds	Labour hold
Walsall	Thirds	NOC - no change
Wigan	Thirds	Labour hold
Wirral	Thirds	NOC - no change
Wolverhampton	Thirds	Labour hold
Unitaries		
Bath & NE Somerset	Whole council	NOC - no change
Blackpool	Whole council	Labour hold
Bournemouth	Whole council	Lib Dem gain from NOC
Bracknell Forest	Whole council	Conservative hold
Brighton & Hove	Whole council	Labour lose to NOC
Bristol	Thirds	Labour lose to NOC
Darlington	Whole council	Labour hold
Derby	Thirds	Labour lose to NOC
East Riding of Yorkshire	Whole council	NOC - no change
Hartlepool	Thirds	NOC - no change
Herefordshire	Whole council	NOC - no change
Kingston upon Hull	Thirds	NOC - no change
Leicester	Whole council	NOC - no change
Luton	Whole council	Labour lose to NOC

Table 3 continued

Medway	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Middlesbrough	Whole council	Labour hold
Milton Keynes	Thirds	Lib Dem hold
North East Lincolnshire	Whole council (a)	Labour lose to NOC
North Lincolnshire	Whole council	Conservative gain from Labour
North Somerset	Whole council	Conservative lose to NOC
Nottingham	Whole council	Labour hold
Plymouth	Whole council (a)	Labour gain from Conservative
Poole	Whole council	Conservative gain from NOC
Portsmouth	Thirds	NOC - no change
Reading	Thirds	Labour hold
Redcar & Cleveland	Whole council	Labour lose to NOC
Rutland	Whole council	Conservative gain from Ind
Slough	Thirds	Labour hold
Southampton	Thirds	NOC - no change
Southend-on-sea	Thirds	Conservative hold
South Gloucestershire	Whole council	Lib Dem lose to NOC
Stockton on Tees	Whole council	Labour hold
Stoke-on-Trent	Thirds	NOC - no change
Swindon	Thirds	NOC - no change
Telford & Wrekin	Whole council	Labour hold
Torbay	Whole council	Lib Dem gain from Conservative
West Berkshire	Whole council	Lib Dem lose to NOC
Windsor & Maidenhead	Whole council	Lib Dem gain from NOC
Wokingham	Thirds	Conservative hold
York	Whole council	Lib Dem gain from NOC
Scottish Councils		
Aberdeen	Whole council	NOC - no change
Aberdeenshire	Whole council	NOC - no change
Angus	Whole council	SNP hold
Argyll & Bute	Whole council	Ind hold
Clackmannanshire	Whole council	Lab gain from SNP
Dumfries & Galloway	Whole council	NOC - no change
Dundee	Whole council	NOC - no change
East Ayrshire	Whole council	Lab hold
East Dunbartonshire	Whole council	NOC - no change
East Lothian	Whole council	Lab hold
East Renfrewshire	Whole council	NOC - no change
Edinburgh	Whole council	Lab hold
Falkirk	Whole council	NOC - no change
Fife	Whole council	NOC - no change
Glasgow	Whole council	Lab hold
Highland	Whole council	Ind hold
Inverclyde	Whole council	Lib Dem gain from NOC
Midlothian	Whole council	Lab hold
Moray	Whole council	Ind hold
North Ayrshire	Whole council	Lab hold
North Lanarkshire	Whole council	Lab hold
Orkney	Whole council	Ind hold
Perth & Kinross	Whole council	NOC - no change
Renfrewshire	Whole council	Labour gain from NOC
Scottish Borders	Whole council	NOC - no change
Shetland	Whole council	Ind hold
South Ayrshire	Whole council	Lab lose to NOC
South Lanarkshire	Whole council	Lab hold
Stirling	Whole council	Labour gain from NOC

Table 3 continued

West Dunbartonshire	Whole council	Labour gain from NOC
West Lothian	Whole council	Lab hold
Western Isles	Whole council	Ind hold

B. Council seats

Tables 4, 5 and 6 below summarise the local election results in terms of council seats. Results are shown in terms of seats won, seats gained and lost at the elections compared to the situation immediately beforehand, and final council composition. It should be noted that many areas have been subject to boundary changes.

The Conservatives won approximately 4,400 seats nationally, a net gain of almost 600. Labour won almost 3,000, a net loss of over 800, while the Liberal Democrats now have almost 200 more councillors than they did prior to the elections.

Table 4: Seats won on 1 May 2003: England

	Seats won				Net seat gains and losses				Council composition			
	Con	Lab	LD	Oth	Con	Lab	LD	Oth	Con	Lab	LD	Oth
Shire districts												
Adur	11	4			+4	-3		-1	27	8	2	2
Allerdale	14	27	5	9	+6	-8	-3	+5	14	27	5	9
Alnwick	3	2	10	14	+1		-3	+2	3	2	10	14
Amber Valley	12	3			-1	+1			25	20		
Arun	36	8	10	2			+1	-1	36	8	10	2
Ashfield	1	16	0	16	+1	-15		+14	1	16	0	16
Ashford	25	4	5	9	+2	-6	-2		25	4	5	9
Aylesbury Vale	30	0	25	4	+3	-1	+1	-2	30	0	25	4
Babergh	11	6	18	8	+1	+1	+5	-6	11	6	18	8
Barrow-in-Furness	4	8		1	-1	+2		-1	14	21		3
Basildon	8	5	1		+2	-2			23	14	3	2
Basingstoke & Deane	11	5	3	1	+2		-2		26	15	15	4
Bassetlaw	9	4	1	2	+3	-3	-1	+1	19	25	2	2
Bedford	7	3	5	3	-1	-1	+2		18	13	12	11
Berwick upon Tweed	12	1	9	7	+9	+1	-6	-4	12	1	9	7
Blaby	25	4	9	1	-1	-2	+2	+1	25	4	9	1
Blyth Valley	3	35	9	3	+1	-1	-1	+1	3	35	9	3
Bolsover		31		6		-1		+1		31		6
Boston	12	11	4	5	-2	+1	+1		12	11	4	5
Braintree	27	20	4	9	+10	-10	+1	-1	27	20	4	9
Breckland	42	8		4	+8	-5	-2		42	8		4
Brentwood	6	1	5		+2	+1	-2	-1	14	2	20	1
Bridgnorth	10	2	8	14	+5	-2	+4	-6	10	2	8	14
Broadland	6	1	6	3	+1	-3	+2		27	2	12	8
Bromsgrove	26	8		5	-1	+1			26	8		5
Broxbourne	11	1		1	-1			+1	34	2		2
Broxtowe	14	15	13	2	+2	-10	+2	+1	14	15	13	2
Burnley	1	5	2	8	-1	-3	-1	+5	3	24	7	11
Cambridge		6	11			-2	+2		2	14	26	
Cannock Chase	3	6	6			-3	+3		9	20	12	
Canterbury	24	7	19		+5	-5	+2	-1	24	7	19	
Caradon	4	1	15	22	+2	-1	-3	+3	4	1	15	22
Carlisle	9	8	2		-3	+4		-1	24	22	5	1
Carrick	12	1	29	5	+5	-1		-2	12	1	29	5
Castle Morpeth	9	10	6	7	+5	+1	-3	-3	9	10	6	7

Table 4 continued

	Seats won				Net seat gains and losses				Council composition			
	Con	Lab	LD	Oth	Con	Lab	LD	Oth	Con	Lab	LD	Oth
Castle Point	39	2			+22	-19		-1	39	2		
Charnwood	24	22	6		+2	-1		-1	24	22	6	
Chelmsford	35	2	20		+13	-3	-6	-3	35	2	20	
Cherwell	10	4	3		-3	+1	+2		34	12	4	
Chester	5	7	8	1	-1	-1	+2		18	20	21	1
Chesterfield		12	36			-16	+17			12	36	
Chester-le-street	1	29		4		-1	-1	+3	1	29		4
Chichester	26		21	1	-3		+3	-2	26		21	1
Chiltern	27		12	1	-2		-7	-1	27		12	1
Chorley	9	6			+2		-2		18	22	4	3
Christchurch	14		8	2	-3		+3	-1	14		8	2
Colchester	10	2	8	1			+2	-2	24	5	25	6
Congleton	8	1	4	3	+6		-4	-2	28	3	10	7
Copeland	16	31	1	3	-1	+1			16	31	1	3
Corby	9	18	2		+6	-7	+2	-1	9	18	2	
Cotswold	24		8	12	+6	-1		-6	24		8	12
Craven	4		1	5	-2			+2	11		9	10
Crawley	4	7	1		+1	-1			8	22	2	
Crewe & Nantwich	8	6	2	3		-1		+1	21	22	5	8
Dacorum	32	14	6		+6	-7	+2	-1	32	14	6	
Dartford	18	17		6	+7	-11		+1	18	17		6
Daventry	13	1			+7	-5	-1	-1	33	4		
Derbyshire Dales	24	5	9	1	+3	-1		-2	24	5	9	1
Derwentside		38	1	16		-9	+1	+8		38	1	16
Dover	22	20	3		-4	-8	+2	-1	22	20	3	
Durham City		17	30	3		-15	+17	-1		17	30	3
Easington		42	2	5		-3	+1			42	2	5
East Cambridgeshire	15		18	6	+13	-4	-1	-6	15		18	6
East Devon	35		18	6	-4	-1	+3	-1	35		18	6
East Dorset	24		11	1	-2		+2		24		11	1
East Hampshire	26		18		+4		+1	-3	26		18	
East Hertfordshire	41		7	2	+9	-7	-2		41		7	2
East Lindsey	15	12	6	27	+7	+2	-1	-9	15	12	6	27
East Northamptonshire	33	3			+12	-12			33	3		
East Staffordshire	22	16	1		+7	-12	-2		22	16	1	
Eastbourne	5		4		+1		-1		13		14	
Eastleigh	2	2	10		+1		-1		10	4	30	
Eden	5		4	28	+3	-1	+2	-4	5		4	28
Ellesmere Port & Neston	3	12			+2	-2			10	31	2	
Elmbridge	7		3	10	+1	-1			21		8	31
Epping Forest	10	1	5	2			+1	-1	24	9	15	9
Epsom and Ewell	2	3	6	27	+2		-3		2	3	6	27
Erewash	26	19	4	2	+10	-10	+1	-2	26	19	4	2
Exeter	2	5	4	2		-2	+2		6	20	10	4
Fenland	36	3		1	+7	-4	-1	-2	36	3		1
Forest Heath	21			6		-1	-2	+5	21			6
Forest of Dean	17	16	4	11	+14	-12	-2	-3	17	16	4	11
Fylde	26		2	21	+4	-2	-1	-1	26		2	21
Gedling	21	21	7	1	-8	+2		-1	21	21	7	1
Gloucester	5	2	4			-1	+1		14	11	11	
Gravesham	21	23			+6	-6			21	23		
Great Yarmouth	7	10			-2	+2			26	22		
Guildford	26	2	19	1	+8	-4		-1	26	2	19	1
Hambleton	36	1	3	4		-1	-1	-1	36	1	3	4
Harborough	16	1	18	2	-2	-2	+5	-1	16	1	18	2
Harlow	4	3	4		no change				12	9	12	
Harrogate	8		10	1	+1		-2	+1	27		25	2
Hart	22		10	3	no change				22		10	3
Havant	8		2			-1	+1		23	8	7	
Hertsmere	8	3	2			-1	+1		25	8	6	

Table 4 continued

	Seats won				Net seat gains and losses				Council composition			
	Con	Lab	LD	Oth	Con	Lab	LD	Oth	Con	Lab	LD	Oth
High Peak	12	18	7	6	+2	-9	+2	+4	12	18	7	6
Hinckley & Bosworth	20	6	8		+10	-3	-7		20	6	8	
Horsham	22		20	2	-2		+6	-3	22		20	2
Huntingdonshire	12		5	1	no change				36		14	3
Hyndburn	7	5			+1	-1			18	17		
Ipswich	6	7	3		+3	-4	+1		12	31	5	
Kennet	27	1	3	12	+4	-3	+1	+1	27	1	3	12
Kerrier	4	6	10	24		-4		+4	4	6	10	24
Kettering	30	13		2	+15	-10	-1	-4	30	13		2
Kings Lynn & W Norfolk	34	14	7	6	+7	-9	+2	+2	34	14	7	6
Lancaster	10	20	8	22	-1	+4	+1	-6	10	20	8	22
Lewes	11		28	2	-7				11		28	2
Lichfield	35	16	5		+5	-8	+3		35	16	5	
Lincoln		11			no change				6	27		
Macclesfield	11	3	6	1	+1		-1		36	6	14	4
Maidstone	9	1	7	1	+2		-2		21	10	21	3
Maldon	21	2		8	+2	-3		+2	21	2		8
Malvern Hills	13		19	6	-10		+8	-2	13		19	6
Mansfield	2	15	4	25	-3	-24	+2	+25	2	15	4	25
Melton	19	4		5	+8	-1		-5	19	4		5
Mendip	38	1	9	5	+13	-10	-5	+2	38	1	9	5
Mid Bedfordshire	37	1	11	4	+2	-5	+3		37	1	11	4
Mid Devon	11	1	8	22	+8		-9	+5	11	1	8	22
Mid Suffolk	21	2	11	6	+8	-4	-3	-1	21	2	11	6
Mid Sussex	28	2	24		-1		+3	-2	28	2	24	
Mole Valley	9		5		+2		-1	-1	19	1	15	6
New Forest	32		27	1			+4	-2	32		27	1
Newark & Sherwood	23	13	4	6	+2	-12	-1	+3	23	13	4	6
Newcastle-under-Lyme	5	10	4	1	+2		-3	+1	12	29	18	1
North Cornwall	3		13	20			+4	-6	3		13	20
North Devon	10		22	11	+5		-5	-1	10		22	11
North Dorset	15		11	7			+2	-2	15		11	7
North East Derbyshire	8	36	5	4	-1	-4	+2	+3	8	36	5	4
North Hertfordshire	9	3	4		-1	-1	+2		27	16	6	
North Kesteven	18	4	5	13	+3	-1	-2		18	4	5	13
North West Leicestershire	12	20	4	2					12	20	4	2
North Norfolk	14		28	6	+1	-7	+15	-7	14		28	6
North Shropshire	15	4	1	20	+2	-1		-1	15	4	1	20
North Warwickshire	15	16	4		+6	-6	+2	-1	15	16	4	
North Wiltshire	25	26	1	1	+5	-3	+1	-2	25	26	1	1
Northampton	19	11	17		+11	-15	+5	-1	19	11	17	
Norwich City		5	10	2		-4	+4		1	14	30	3
Oadby & Wigston	9		17		+5		-5		9		17	
Oswestry	12	1	6	10	+7	-3	-1	-3	12	1	6	10
Pendle	6		12			-4	+4		11	15	23	
Penwith	5		3	4		-1	+2	-1	10	2	11	11
Preston	7	9	3	2	-1			+1	18	25	11	3
Purbeck	3		5		-3		+3		13		8	3
Redditch	5	2	3		+2	-4	+2		14	10	5	
Reigate & Banstead	10	2	3	3		-1	+1		33	5	7	6
Restormel	9		22	14	-3	-1	+4	+1	9		22	14
Ribble Valley	22	1	15	2	+3		-1	-1	22	1	15	2
Richmondshire	11		8	15	+4		-2	-2	11		8	15
Rochford	12	1	2			-1	+1		30	3	4	2
Rossendale	9	3	1		+5	-6	+1		17	18	1	
Rother	23	3	8	4	+5	-6	+1		23	3	8	4
Rugby	6	7	3	1	no change				18	16	10	4
Runnymede	12	1		2	no change				32	4		6
Rushcliffe	34	4	10	2	+4	-7	-2	+1	34	4	10	2
Rushmoor	9	2	3		no change				25	6	10	1

Table 4 continued

	Seats won				Net seat gains and losses				Council composition			
	Con	Lab	LD	Oth	Con	Lab	LD	Oth	Con	Lab	LD	Oth
Ryedale	13		8	9	+2	-1	+3	+3	13		8	9
Salisbury	31	11	9	4	+2		-6	+1	31	11	9	4
Scarborough	27	8	2	13	+7	-3	-3	+1	27	8	2	13
Sedgefield	1	35	7	7	+1	-7	+4	+3	1	35	7	7
Sedgemoor	35	14	1		+4	-2	-2		35	14	1	
Selby	23	14	1	3	+7	-6	+1	-2	23	14	1	3
Sevenoaks	32	9	8	3		+3	-1	-1	32	9	8	3
Shepway	16	1	29		-13	-9	+12		16	1	29	
Shrewsbury & Atcham	6	3	3	1	no change				22	9	6	3
South Bedfordshire	11	1	5		+3	-1	-2		31	6	13	
South Bucks	33		1	6	+4		-1	-3	33		1	6
South Cambridgeshire	8		5	6	+1	-2		+1	23	4	16	12
South Derbyshire	15	21			+5	-3			15	21		
South Hams	28	3	7	2		+1	+2	-3	28	3	7	2
South Holland	26	1		11	+8	-2		-6	26	1		11
South Kesteven	31	10	5	12	+2	-2	+2	-2	31	10	5	12
South Lakeland	9		8		-1		+2	-1	18	9	23	2
South Norfolk	18		28		+2	-2	+1	-2	18		28	
South Northamptonshire	30	4	1	7	+1	-2	-2	+3	30	4	1	7
South Oxfordshire	27	4	9	8	+5	-3	-8	+4	27	4	9	8
South Ribble	19	17	15	4	+1	-3	-2	+1	19	17	15	4
South Shropshire	10		14	10	+10		-3	-13	10		14	10
South Somerset	17		36	7	+5		-6	+1	17		36	7
South Staffordshire	35	8	1	5	-1	-3		+3	35	8	1	5
Spelthorne	35		4		+8	-9			35		4	
St Albans	5	4	12			-2	+2		21	13	23	1
St Edmundsbury	28	12	2	3	+7	-5		-1	28	12	2	3
Stafford	40	14	5		+17	-13	-3	-2	40	14	5	
Staffordshire Moorlands	21	7	11	17	+4	-8	+1	+3	21	7	11	17
Stevenage	1	11	1		no change				3	33	3	
Stratford-on-Avon	6		9	1	+1	-1			27	1	22	3
Stroud	6	3	2	6	-1	-2	+2	+1	28	10	6	7
Suffolk Coastal	43	2	10		+6	-5		-1	43	2	10	
Surrey Heath	22	3	13	2		-3	+5	+2	22	3	13	2
Swale	9	3	3			+1	-1		28	10	6	7
Tamworth	5	4		1	+3	-4		+1	11	18		1
Tandridge	10	1	4	1	-1			+1	28	3	10	1
Taunton Deane	31	5	15	3	+10		-8	-2	31	5	15	3
Teesdale	3	9		20				-1	3	9		20
Teignbridge	14		16	16	-6	-1	-1	-6	14		16	16
Tendring	25	11	13	11	+8	-9	+2	-1	25	11	13	11
Test Valley	30		16	2	+1		+3		30		16	2
Tewkesbury	18	3	9	8		-5	+5	+2	18	3	9	8
Thanet	31	23	1	1	+14	-10	+1	-3	31	23	1	1
Three Rivers	3	3	10		-1		+1		14	7	27	
Tonbridge & Malling	33	7	13		+6		-8		33	7	13	
Torridge	1		7	28	+1	-2	-4	+5	1		7	28
Tunbridge Wells	12	1	4		-1		+1		33	3	12	
Tynedale	27	9	11	5	+4	-3		-1	27	9	11	5
Uttlesford	10		31	3	-5	-2	+13	-4	10		31	3
Vale of White Horse	21		29	1	+6	-2	-4		21		29	1
Vale Royal	22	21	12	2	+6	-11	+4	+1	22	21	12	2
Wansbeck		36	9			+11	-10	-1		36	9	
Warwick	16	14	10	6	+6	-3	-3	+1	16	14	10	6
Watford	1		10	10		-6	+6		7	8	20	1
Waveney	8	6	1	1	no change				21	20	3	4
Waverley	27		30		-4	-2	+6		27		30	
Wealden	34		15	6	-1		-2		34		15	6
Wear Valley		25	9	6		-5	+5			25	9	6
Wellingborough	27	9			+13	-10	-3		27	9		
Welwyn Hatfield	9	7			+1	-1			27	20		

Table 4 continued

	Seats won				Net seat gains and losses				Council composition			
	Con	Lab	LD	Oth	Con	Lab	LD	Oth	Con	Lab	LD	Oth
West Devon	12		8	11	+4		-1	-2	12		8	11
West Dorset	25		12	11	+3	-4	-3	-3	25		12	11
West Lancashire	9	9			-2	+2			28	26		
West Lindsey	6		3	3	+4	-2	-1	-1	17	1	13	6
West Oxfordshire	9	1	4	2	-3		+2	+1	29	2	13	6
West Somerset	19	2	2	8	-1		+1		19	2	2	8
West Wiltshire	19	2	19	4	+8		-6	-1	19	2	19	4
Weymouth & Portland	1	4	4	3		-2	+1	+1	6	13	11	5
Winchester	11	2	6		+5	+2	-6	-1	19	5	29	4
Woking	6	3	4			+1	-1		17	6	12	1
Worcester	6	5	1	1	+1	-2	+1		19	10	2	5
Worthing	8		5		+1		-1		18		18	
Wychavon	31	2	12		-2	-2	+2	-2	31	2	12	
Wycombe	46	9	2	3	+3		-4	+1	46	9	2	3
Wyre	33	21	1		-2	+2	-1		33	21	1	
Wyre Forest	5	2	1	7	+2	-1		-1	9	4	2	27
Shire districts totals	3,632	1,550	1,762	1,046	534	-611	57	-61	4,656	2,203	2,297	1,218
Metropolitan boroughs												
Barnsley	1	16	2	2	+1	-2	+1		5	47	4	10
Birmingham	11	15	12	1	+4	-11	+8	-1	35	57	23	2
Bolton	7	7	6		+3	-4	+1		19	27	14	
Bradford	10	13	6	1	-2	-1	+2	+1	36	36	14	4
Bury	7	7	2		+4	-5	+1		16	28	4	
Calderdale	9	3	6	1	+1	-1	+1	-1	25	10	16	3
Coventry	9	7	1	1	+4	-5	+1		23	26	2	3
Doncaster	2	15	3	1	+1	+2		-3	7	45	8	3
Dudley	11	10	4	1	+7	-7	-1	+1	31	30	10	1
Gateshead		16	6		no change					46	19	1
Kirklees	5	6	12	1	+1	-4	+4	-1	16	30	22	4
Knowsley		18	5			-2	+2			55	11	
Leeds	8	16	7	2	+4	-5		+1	22	52	20	5
Liverpool		11	21	2		+4	-2	-2		31	63	5
Manchester		20	13	1		-5	+5			71	27	1
Newcastle Upon Tyne		16	10			-5	+5			54	24	
North Tyneside	7	11	2		+2	-2			21	31	8	
Oldham	1	13	6			+6	-5	-1	2	33	25	
Rochdale	2	10	8			-1	+1		8	30	22	
Rotherham	1	20		1	no change				4	59		3
St Helens	2	12	6		+1			-1	6	34	14	
Salford	1	18	1		+1		-1		3	51	5	1
Sandwell	3	17	2	2	+1	-3		+2	9	55	6	2
Sefton	7	7	9		+2	-1	-1		19	24	20	3
Sheffield		17	12		-1	+6	-5		1	49	37	
Solihull	9	4	4		+1		-1		29	13	9	
South Tyneside	1	15	1	3	+1	-2	-1	+2	1	49	5	5
Stockport	3	5	12	1	+1	-2	+1		9	17	34	3
Sunderland	2	21	1	1	-2	+1	+1		9	63	2	1
Tameside	2	17				+1		-1	6	47	2	2
Trafford	10	10	1		+1	-1			29	31	3	
Wakefield	3	17	1		+2	-3	+1		7	50	3	3
Walsall	8	8	2		+1	-2			25	26	7	2
Wigan	1	18	2	3	+1	-5	+1	+3	3	60	4	5
Wirral	7	3	6		+3	-5	+2		23	26	16	1
Wolverhampton	7	12	1		no change				21	34	5	
Metropolitan br. totals	157	451	193	25	+43	-64	+21	-1	470	1,427	508	73
Unitaries												
Bath & NE Somerset	26	6	29	4	+10	-11	-1	+2	26	6	29	4
Blackpool	13	25	4		-2				13	25	4	

Table 4 continued

	Seats won				Net seat gains and losses				Council composition			
	Con	Lab	LD	Oth	Con	Lab	LD	Oth	Con	Lab	LD	Oth
Bournemouth	16	3	33	2	-10	-3	+15	-5	16	3	33	2
Bracknell Forest	35	6	1		+4	-3	+1		35	6	1	
Brighton & Hove	20	24	3	7	-3	-20	-2	+1	20	24	3	7
Bristol	3	8	13		+1	-5	+4		11	31	28	
Darlington	16	35	2		+1				16	35	2	
Derby	5	7	6	1	+1	-2	+1		12	25	13	1
East Riding of Yorkshire	28	8	20	8	+1	-3	+1	+1	28	8	20	8
Hartlepool	2	8	4	3	-1	-1	+1	+1	7	22	11	7
Herefordshire	21	4	16	17			-3	+1	21	4	16	17
Kingston upon Hull		10	7	2		+3	-2	-1	2	27	22	8
Leicester	9	20	25			-8	+9	-3	9	20	25	
Luton	4	23	20	1	+1	-13	+11	+1	4	23	20	1
Medway	30	17	6	2	-8	-8	-9		30	17	6	2
Middlesbrough	7	31	6	4	+3	-11		+3	7	31	6	4
Milton Keynes	4	4	9		no change				7	16	27	1
North East Lincolnshire	16	7	15	4	+5	-15	+9	+1	16	7	15	4
North Lincolnshire	22	21			+3	-2			22	21		
North Somerset	24	10	23	4	-8	-1	+11	-2	24	10	23	4
Nottingham	8	36	11		-3	-4	+7		8	36	11	
Plymouth	18	36	3		-19	+14	+2		18	36	3	
Poole	26		16		+9	-3	-3		26		16	
Portsmouth	5	2	7			-3	+4	-1	15	11	16	
Reading	2	11	2		+1	-1			4	35	6	
Redcar & Cleveland	13	23	15	8	-1	-8	+4	+5	13	23	15	8
Rutland	15		5	6	+13	-1	+1	-7	15		5	6
Slough	4	6	1	3	no change				6	26	2	7
Southampton	6	4	6		+1	-2	+3	-2	12	16	18	2
Southend-on-sea	10	3	3	1	-1	-1	+1	+1	32	10	8	1
South Gloucestershire	21	16	33		+11	-7	-4		21	16	33	
Stockton on Tees	13	28	6	8	+1	-5	+1	+3	13	28	6	8
Stoke-on-Trent	2	11	1	6	-1	+4	-3		5	27	7	21
Swindon	12	5	3		+6	-6			29	22	8	
Telford & Wrekin	13	29	6	6	+3	-1	+2	-4	13	29	6	6
Torbay	9		27		-21		+21		9		27	
West Berkshire	26		26		+1		-2	-1	26		26	
Windsor & Maidenhead	15	1	34	7	-14		+13		15	1	34	7
Wokingham	10		8		+4		-3	-1	33	1	20	
York		15	29	3	-3	-10	+5	+2		15	29	3
Unitaries totals	529	503	484	107	-15	-137	+95	-5	639	693	600	139
England total	4,318	2,504	2,439	1,178	+562	-812	+173	-67	5,765	4,323	3,405	1,430

Table 5: Seats won on 1 May 2003: Scotland

	Seats won/ Council composition					Net seat gains and losses				
	Con	Lab	LD	SNP	Oth	Con	Lab	LD	SNP	Oth
Aberdeenshire	3	14	20	6		-3	-6	+6	+3	
Angus	2	1	3	17	6			+1	-4	+3
Argyll & Bute	3		8	3	22	-1		+2	-1	
Clackmannanshire	1	10		6	1		+4		-4	
Dumfries & Galloway	11	14	5	5	12	+2	+2	-1		-3
Dundee	5	10	2	11	1	+1	-2	+1	+1	-1
East Ayrshire	1	23		8			+6		-6	
East Dunbartonshire	3	9	12				-2	+2		
East Lothian	4	17	1	1		-1	+1	+1	-1	
East Renfrewshire	7	8	3		2	-1	-1	+1		+1

Table 5 continued

	Seats won/ Council composition					Net seat gains and losses				
	Con	Lab	LD	SNP	Oth	Con	Lab	LD	SNP	Oth
Edinburgh	13	30	15			+1	-1	+1	-1	
Falkirk	2	14		9	7				-1	+1
Fife	2	36	23	11	6	-1	-2	+2		+1
Glasgow	1	71	3	3	1		-3	+2	+1	
Highland		8	9	6	57		-3	-1	-2	+6
Inverclyde		6	13		1	-1	-4	+4		+1
Midlothian		15	2		1		-2	+1		+1
Moray	1	5	1	3	16		-1	-1	+1	+1
North Ayrshire	4	21		3	2	+2	-4		+1	+1
North Lanarkshire		54		13	3		-2		+1	+1
Orkney					21	no change				
Perth & Kinross	10	5	9	15	2	-1		+2		
Renfrewshire	1	21	3	15			+1			-1
Scottish Borders	10		8	1	15	+7	-1	-4	-1	-1
Shetland			5		17			-4		+4
South Ayrshire	15	15				+2	-1			-1
South Lanarkshire	2	50	2	10	3		-3	+1	-1	+3
Stirling	10	12					+2		-1	-1
West Dunbartonshire		17		3	2		+7		-4	-3
West Lothian	1	18		12	1		-2		+2	
Western Isles		4		3	24		-1			+1
Scotland total	112	508	147	164	223	+6	-19	+16	-17	+14

Table 6: Seats won on 1 May 2003: Great Britain summary

	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other
Seats won	4,430	3,012	2,586	1,565
Net seat gains and losses	+568	-831	+189	-70
Council composition	5,877	4,831	3,552	1,817

C. The overall picture

Table 7 below summarises the current state of the parties in local government:

Table 7: Estimated number of councillors: Great Britain: 2 May 2003

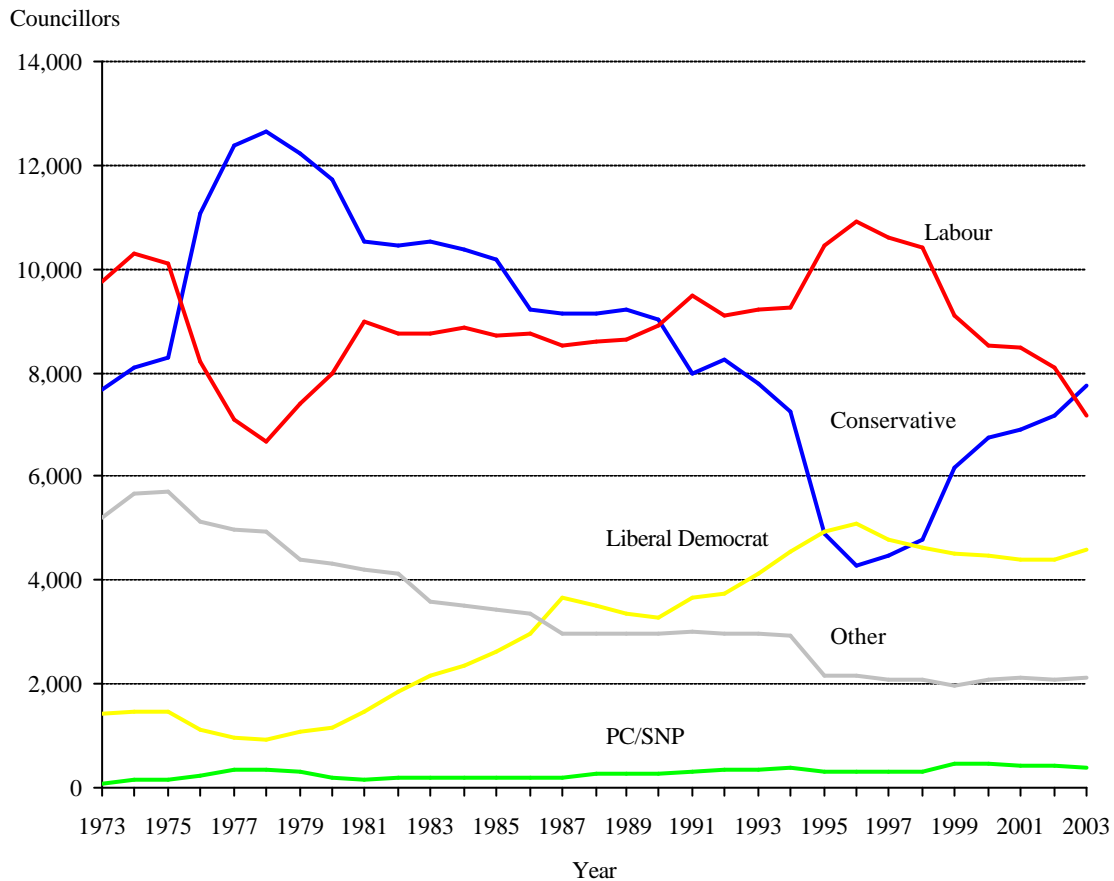
	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	PC/SNP	Other	Total
Shire districts	4,725	2,271	2,404		1,205	10,605
Metropolitan boroughs	470	1,380	525		70	2,445
London boroughs	649	866	311		35	1,861
Unitary authorities	714	886	648		152	2,400
Shire counties	1,019	704	411		80	2,214
England	7,577	6,107	4,299		1,542	19,525
Welsh unitary authorities	76	560	107	202	324	1,269
Scottish unitary authorities	123	508	175	181	235	1,222
Great Britain total	7,776	7,175	4,581	383	2,101	22,016
	35.3%	32.6%	20.8%	1.7%	9.5%	100%

<http://www.gwydir.demon.co.uk/uklocalgov/makeup.htm>

The Conservatives now hold 35 percent of seats in England, and 40 percent of those across Great Britain. Labour's share is down to 33, while the Liberal Democrats hold 21 percent of seats on local councils, compared to 8 percent in the House of Commons.

The chart below shows the party affiliation of councillors since local government was reorganised in 1973:

Party affiliation of councillors: 1973-2003



For the first time since 1991, having briefly been the third party during the mid-1990s, the Conservatives now have the largest number of councillors. Labour's total has fallen by almost 4,000 since 1996, while the Liberal Democrats are some 500 councillors below their 1996 peak. There are approximately 3,500 fewer councillors across Great Britain than in the mid-1970s.

III Local electoral pilot schemes and turnout

The Representation of the People Act 2000 enabled local authorities to apply for permission to pilot a range of new electoral arrangements for local elections. 59 local authorities took part in at least one experiment in 2003, compared to 30 in 2002. In total, the schemes covered approximately 6.5 million electors.

Table 8 below shows turnout in local authorities that operated pilot schemes. Turnout in 1999, the equivalent point on the electoral cycle, is shown for comparative purposes.

Table 8: Electoral pilot schemes and turnout

Comparison of % turnout in 2003 with 1999 local elections

	1999	2003		1999	2003
Electronic/ internet voting			All postal ballots (a)		
<i>E Multi Channel</i>			Blackpool	N/A	50.4
Chorley	29.8	49.0	Blyth Valley	26.7	52.0
Ipswich (a)	32.0	31.3	Bolton	24.9	43.2
Kerrier (a)	32.2	28.3	Brighton & Hove	38.0	46.0
Norwich (a)	35.0	35.8	Chesterfield	34.7	51.7
Sheffield (a)	31.1	29.5	Copeland	39.1	55.7
Shrewsbury & Atcham (a)	36.7	54.5	Corby	32.9	43.4
South Somerset (a)	37.6	46.9	Darlington	35.3	51.5
South Tyneside (a)	26.0	46.1	Derwentside	32.0	52.4
St. Albans (a)	37.8	43.4	Doncaster	26.9	47.0
Stratford upon Avon (a)	40.1	37.3	East Staffordshire	34.0	45.0
Stroud (a)	36.3	36.7	Gateshead	26.0	54.7
Swindon (a)	26.1	29.8	Guildford	37.9	53.8
Vale Royal (a)	30.8	28.8	Herefordshire	N/A	60.8
<i>Internet voting</i>			Hyndburn	35.0	51.5
Rushmoor	27.5	31.0	Kings Lynn & West Norfolk	36.7	47.7
<i>Kiosk</i>			Lincoln	28.8	47.4
Basingstoke & Deane	29.2	30.9	Newcastle	24.9	49.8
Epping Forest	29.0	28.4	North Lincolnshire	34.0	51.3
Chester (a)	38.3	34.0	North Shropshire	34.8	47.3
<i>Mobile Voting</i>			Redcar & Cleveland	37.1	51.5
North Kesteven	33.0	33.5	Rotherham	22.6	51.2
Extended Voting			Rushcliffe	41.9	54.0
Medway	N/A	29.6	Salford	21.3	40.7
South Oxfordshire	38.1	35.2	Sedgefield	31.4	44.0
Windsor & Maidenhead	N/A	35.0	St Edmundsbury	38.4	38.5
Electronic counting			St Helens	22.0	48.0
Basingstoke & Deane	29.2	30.9	Stevenage	29.9	53.2
Broxbourne	24.8	25.0	Stockton-on-Tees	30.2	52.4
Epping Forest	29.0	28.4	Sunderland	19.5	46.5
			Trafford	32.8	52.4
			Telford & Wrekin	N/A	48.7
			Wansbeck	32.8	50.3

(a) commenced voting before 1 May

Source: ODPM via Electoral Commission

Turnout appears appreciably higher in areas with all postal ballots, averaging around half the electorate compared to one-third across the country. The evidence for other pilot schemes is, however, less conclusive. The Electoral Commission are due to report on the schemes later this year.

IV The electoral performance of the British National Party

The BNP fielded a total of 217 candidates in 71 local authorities in England and Scotland on 1 May 2003, including 25 in Sunderland, 13 in Burnley and 10 in Oldham. They won a total of 13 seats, as detailed below, gaining 11 on their previous position.

Table 9: Seats won by the BNP, 1 May 2003

Ward	Local authority	Votes	% share (a)
Rosedale	Broxbourne	496	48.8%
Brunshaw	Burnley	715	37.0%
Cliviger with Worsthorne	Burnley	795	32.8%
Lanehead	Burnley	688	34.6%
Gannow	Burnley	687	38.6%
Briercliffe	Burnley	877	44.1%
Hapton with Park	Burnley	661	39.0%
Whittlefield with Ightenhill (b)	Burnley	654	19.6%
Illingworth	Calderdale	896	38.7%
Castle & Priory	Dudley	1,069	42.7%
Princes End	Sandwell	754	37.0%
Great Bridge Ward	Sandwell	772	31.5%
Longton North	Stoke on Trent	948	38.0%

(a) Percentages are calculated using the best placed candidate for each party only, in line with standard practice.

(b) The BNP's candidate came second, winning one of the two available seats

The BNP polled a total of over 100,000 votes, averaging 17 percent of the vote in the wards where they fielded candidates.³ They were the best placed party in 12 wards, and came second in 49. They are now the second largest party on Burnley council, holding 8 of the 45 seats.

Table 10 details BNP performance in each ward where they fielded candidates.

Table 10: BNP performance: wards in council elections 1 May 2003

Council	Ward	BNP vote	BNP % (a)	Position (a)	Elections
North East					
Darlington	Harrowgate Hill	261	10.1%	4	Whole
Darlington	Northgate	151	11.9%	3	Whole
Darlington	Cockerton West	157	12.0%	3	Whole
Darlington	North Road	154	7.2%	4	Whole
Darlington	Bank Top	135	10.7%	4	Whole
Darlington	Pierremont	132	6.2%	4	Whole
Darlington	Haughton West	185	7.9%	4	Whole
Derwentside	Havannah	395	16.6%	3	Whole
Derwentside	Blackhill	296	17.7%	2	Whole
Easington	Wingate	283	12.7%	3	Whole

³ Percentages are calculated using the best placed candidate for each party only, in line with standard practice.

Table 10 continued

Council	Ward	BNP vote	BNP % (a)	Position	Elections
Gateshead	Teams	449	12.6%	3	Thirds
Gateshead	Dunston	352	8.7%	4	Thirds
Gateshead	Saltwell	355	12.5%	3	Thirds
Gateshead	Deckham	441	15.7%	3	Thirds
Gateshead	Felling	405	13.9%	2	Thirds
Gateshead	Bede	307	13.5%	2	Thirds
Gateshead	High Fell	237	7.7%	3	Thirds
Gateshead	Bensham	209	9.0%	3	Thirds
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Benwell	357	15.0%	3	Thirds
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	City West	126	7.2%	3	Thirds
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Scotswood	151	8.1%	3	Thirds
Sedgefield	Thickley	84	3.6%	5	Whole
Sedgefield	Neville & Simpasture	229	18.3%	2	Whole
South Tyneside	Beacon & Bents	420	16.0%	3	Thirds
Stockton-on-Tees	Hardwick	201	13.9%	3	Whole
Stockton-on-Tees	Portack & Tilery	265	13.7%	3	Whole
Stockton-on-Tees	Norton	285	10.0%	4	Whole
Sunderland	Hendon	619	15.5%	3	Thirds
Sunderland	Thorney Close	680	21.8%	2	Thirds
Sunderland	Town End Farm	878	29.7%	2	Thirds
Sunderland	Southwick	510	17.8%	2	Thirds
Sunderland	Castletown	752	23.2%	2	Thirds
Sunderland	Colliery	685	20.8%	3	Thirds
Sunderland	Fulwell	431	9.5%	3	Thirds
Sunderland	St Peters	674	15.5%	4	Thirds
Sunderland	Central	686	21.1%	2	Thirds
Sunderland	Grindon	515	17.0%	3	Thirds
Sunderland	Silksworth	575	13.7%	3	Thirds
Sunderland	South Hylton	674	13.7%	2	Thirds
Sunderland	Pallion	556	12.6%	3	Thirds
Sunderland	Ryhope	691	14.2%	4	Thirds
Sunderland	Shiny Row	474	9.4%	4	Thirds
Sunderland	Thornholme	453	14.7%	4	Thirds
Sunderland	St Chads	415	10.0%	4	Thirds
Sunderland	St Michaels	534	11.1%	3	Thirds
Sunderland	Washington North	422	14.5%	3	Thirds
Sunderland	Washington South	586	9.7%	3	Thirds
Sunderland	Washington East	371	7.5%	4	Thirds
Sunderland	Washington West	347	8.8%	4	Thirds
Sunderland	Hetton	419	10.9%	3	Thirds
Sunderland	Eppleton	225	4.8%	5	Thirds
Sunderland	Houghton	480	13.7%	3	Thirds
Wear Valley	Woodhouse Close	107	7.3%	3	Whole
Wear Valley	Henknowle	67	4.1%	4	Whole
North West					
Allerdale	Wigton	261	7.9%	5	Whole
Burnley	Bank Hall	505	33.5%	2	Thirds
Burnley	Brunshaw	715	37.0%	1	Thirds
Burnley	Cliviger with Worsthorne	795	32.8%	1	Thirds
Burnley	Rose Hill with Burnley Wood	634	34.2%	2	Thirds
Burnley	Trinity	491	34.1%	2	Thirds
Burnley	Lanehead	688	34.6%	1	Thirds
Burnley	Gannow	687	38.6%	1	Thirds
Burnley	Briercliffe	877	44.1%	1	Thirds
Burnley	Gawthorpe	712	40.1%	2	Thirds
Burnley	Hapton with Park	661	39.0%	1	Thirds
Burnley	Whittlefield with Ightenhill	654	19.6%	2 (elected)	Thirds
Burnley	Coal Clough with Deerplay	532	34.2%	2	Thirds
Burnley	Queensgate	612	33.0%	2	Thirds

Table 10 continued

Council	Ward	BNP vote	BNP % (a)	Position	Elections
Knowsley	Cherryfield	83	9.5%	2	Thirds
Liverpool	Anfield	150	6.1%	4	Thirds
Liverpool	St Marys	120	6.1%	3	Thirds
Liverpool	Kensington	92	4.3%	3	Thirds
Manchester	Newton Heath	219	10.9%	3	Thirds
Oldham	Alexandra	537	17.5%	3	Thirds
Oldham	Chadderton South	773	30.1%	2	Thirds
Oldham	Chadderton North	993	27.6%	2	Thirds
Oldham	Hollinwood	503	22.8%	3	Thirds
Oldham	Royton North	1,102	31.5%	2	Thirds
Oldham	Failsworth West	756	33.7%	2	Thirds
Oldham	Lees	746	24.7%	3	Thirds
Oldham	Shaw	680	26.0%	2	Thirds
Oldham	St James	810	31.3%	2	Thirds
Oldham	Waterhead	935	25.1%	3	Thirds
Pendle	Vivary Bridge	441	30.1%	2	Thirds
Pendle	Cloverhill	452	25.8%	2	Thirds
Pendle	Barrowford	482	26.4%	3	Thirds
Pendle	Coates	394	22.1%	2	Thirds
Ribble Valley	St Mary's	202	17.0%	3	Whole
Ribble Valley	Edisford & Lowmoor	295	20.9%	3	Whole
Ribble Valley	Primrose	242	22.2%	2	Whole
Ribble Valley	Littlemoor	292	21.3%	3	Whole
Ribble Valley	Salthill	253	21.5%	3	Whole
Sefton	Norwood	226	7.8%	5	Thirds
Stockport	Edgeley	318	13.0%	3	Thirds
Tameside	Hyde Newton	578	25.2%	2	Thirds
Wigan	Abram	576	25.9%	2	Thirds
Wigan	Orrell	368	12.4%	3	Thirds
Wirral	Tranmere	102	6.6%	4	Thirds
Yorkshire and The Humber					
Barnsley	Darton	199	7.9%	4	Thirds
Barnsley	Royston	193	9.2%	4	Thirds
Bradford	Idle	874	20.1%	2	Thirds
Bradford	Queensbury	1,489	30.0%	2	Thirds
Bradford	Clayton	691	19.3%	3	Thirds
Bradford	Shipley East	773	25.6%	2	Thirds
Bradford	Eccleshill	519	17.4%	3	Thirds
Bradford	Baildon	842	16.4%	3	Thirds
Bradford	Great Horton	546	16.3%	4	Thirds
Bradford	Bolton	657	18.5%	3	Thirds
Calderdale	Northowram and Shelf	1,119	33.0%	2	Thirds
Calderdale	Ovenden	618	29.3%	2	Thirds
Calderdale	Town	782	25.5%	3	Thirds
Calderdale	Mixenden	700	28.0%	2	Thirds
Calderdale	Illingworth	896	38.7%	1	Thirds
Calderdale	St Johns	480	13.7%	4	Thirds
Calderdale	Sowerby Bridge	711	25.7%	4	Thirds
Calderdale	Sowerby Bridge (2nd candidate)	600	N/A	Not elected	Thirds
Doncaster	Thorne	555	9.4%	4	Thirds
Doncaster	Bentley Central	381	10.5%	3	Thirds
Doncaster	Bentley North	533	13.7%	4	Thirds
Doncaster	Adwick	801	15.2%	3	Thirds
Doncaster	Stainforth	416	7.8%	5	Thirds
Hull	Orchard Park and Greenwood	134	6.4%	3	Thirds
Hull	Bransholme East	77	5.8%	4	Thirds
Hull	Bransholme West	119	10.0%	3	Thirds
Kirklees	Thornhill	1,456	27.8%	2	Thirds
Kirklees	Mirfield	1,361	30.1%	2	Thirds

Table 10 continued

Council	Ward	BNP vote	BNP % (a)	Position	Elections
Kirklees	Dewsbury East	840	19.5%	3	Thirds
Kirklees	Dewsbury West	648	13.8%	3	Thirds
Kirklees	Batley West	1,075	22.9%	3	Thirds
Kirklees	Birstall and Birkenshaw	724	16.8%	3	Thirds
Kirklees	Batley East	656	11.8%	3	Thirds
Leeds	Morley South	1,064	18.7%	3	Thirds
Leeds	South Pudsey	437	8.3%	4	Thirds
Leeds	Whinmoor	344	9.2%	4	Thirds
Leeds	Garforth and Swillington	656	10.5%	4	Thirds
Leeds	Barwick and Kippax	535	8.0%	4	Thirds
Leeds	Beeston	368	10.9%	3	Thirds
Leeds	Seacroft	356	11.7%	3	Thirds
Leeds	Richmondhill	906	15.7%	2	Thirds
Sheffield	Brightside	587	18.2%	3	Thirds
Sheffield	Handsworth	402	11.1%	3	Thirds
Wakefield	Ossett	784	18.5%	3	Thirds
Wakefield	Horbury	629	15.4%	4	Thirds
East Midlands					
Ashfield	Hucknall West	472	18.8%	3	Whole
Blaby	Kirby Muxloe	215	15.7%	3	Whole
Blaby	Enderby and St Johns	224	25.9%	3	Whole
Bolsover	Scarcliffe	101	7.1%	3	Whole
Broxtowe	Brinsley	297	43.4%	2	Whole
Erewash	Nottingham Road	282	19.2%	3	Whole
Hinckley and Bosworth	Earl Shilton	498	18.6%	3	Whole
Leicester	Thurncourt	424	13.9%	3	Whole
Leicester	Eyres Monsell	299	10.1%	4	Whole
Leicester	Freeman	163	7.3%	8	Whole
Mansfield	Cumberlands	59	4.1%	5	Whole
Birmingham	Oscott	741	16.0%	3	Thirds
Birmingham	Yardley	920	16.9%	3	Thirds
Birmingham	Northfield	581	10.7%	4	Thirds
Birmingham	Weoley	709	15.3%	3	Thirds
Birmingham	Longbridge	646	11.6%	4	Thirds
Coventry	Woodlands	1013	20.5%	3	Thirds
Dudley	Castle & Priory	1069	42.7%	1	Thirds
Dudley	St James	558	10.4%	4	Thirds
Dudley	Coseley West	682	24.1%	3	Thirds
Dudley	Coseley East	741	27.1%	2	Thirds
Oswestry	Gobowen & Selattyn	84	4.5%	5	Whole
Sandwell	Princes' End	754	37.0%	1	Thirds
Sandwell	Langley	643	22.3%	3	Thirds
Sandwell	Tividale	788	30.2%	2	Thirds
Sandwell	Tipton Green	526	12.8%	4	Thirds
Sandwell	Great Bridge Ward	772	31.5%	1	Thirds
Stoke on Trent	Chell & Packmore	588	23.0%	2	Thirds
Stoke on Trent	Weston & Meir North	697	28.0%	2	Thirds
Stoke on Trent	Norton & Bradley	675	22.0%	2	Thirds
Stoke on Trent	Longton North	948	38.0%	1	Thirds
Stoke on Trent	Tunstall	623	24.0%	3	Thirds
Walsall	Hatherton & Rushall	Election for this ward postponed			Thirds
Worcester	Holy Trinity	271	24.7%	2	Thirds
Eastern					
Basildon	Fryerns	487	21.8%	2	Thirds
Basildon	Pitsea South East	332	15.5%	2	Thirds
Basildon	Lee Chapel North	285	15.1%	3	Thirds
Bedford	Putnoe	223	8.7%	4	Thirds
Broxbourne	Cheshunt North	451	30.8%	2	Thirds

Table 10 continued

Council	Ward	BNP vote	BNP % (a)	Position	Elections
Broxbourne	Rosedale	496	48.8%	1	Thirds
Broxbourne	Cheshunt Central	242	16.0%	3	Thirds
South Holland	Weston Moulton	420	16.1%	4	Whole
Southend-on-Sea	Victoria	249	17.1%	3	Thirds
South East					
Brighton and Hove	Rottingdean Coastal	314	5.2%	5	Whole
Crawley	Furnace Green	404	13.9%	4	Thirds
Dover	Tower Hamlets	160	15.5%	3	Whole
Guildford	Stoke	187	8.2%	4	Whole
Medway Towns	Chatham Central	272	9.8%	5	Whole
Medway Towns	Luton and Wayfield	344	14.1%	3	Whole
Medway Towns	Princes Park	205	12.7%	3	Whole
Reigate and Banstead	Merstham	299	16.2%	3	Thirds
Southampton	Bitterne	288	10.3%	4	Thirds
Southampton	Coxford	197	6.5%	5	Thirds
Southampton	Millbrook	230	7.1%	5	Thirds
Southampton	Woolston	189	6.4%	4	Thirds
Southampton	Redbridge	275	9.6%	4	Thirds
Thanet	Westgate-on-Sea	280	16.5%	3	Whole
South West					
Bournemouth	West Southbourne	293	11.8%	3	Whole
Bristol	Bedminster	319	9.8%	5	Thirds
Bristol	Stockwood	330	9.7%	4	Thirds
Bristol	Bishopsworth	195	5.9%	3	Thirds
Bristol	Brislington East	293	10.1%	4	Thirds
North Cornwall	Altamun	73	9.8%	3	Whole
North Devon	North Molton	118	11.9%	3	Whole
North Wiltshire	Calne Abberd	101	16.8%	3	Whole
Plymouth	Devonport	192	6.6%	5	Whole
South Hams	Dartmouth Townstal	23	4.5%	5	Whole
Taunton Deane	Halcon	157	11.6%	4	Whole
Taunton Deane	Lyngford	137	9.4%	4	Whole
Teignbridge	Bushell	86	5.6%	5	Whole
Torbay	Watcombe	169	7.4%	5	Whole
Torbay	Berry Head with Furzeham	522	17.7%	3	Whole
Torbay	Blatchcombe	276	12.0%	4	Whole
Torbay	Tormohun	204	8.2%	4	Whole
Scotland					
East Ayrshire	Auchinleck	73	6.7%	5	Whole

(a) Percentages and positions are calculated using the best placed candidate for each party only, in line with standard practice.