



RESEARCH PAPER 08/48
12 JUNE 2008

Local elections 2008

This Research Paper summarises the results of the local elections held on 1 May 2008.

Elections were held in 137 local authorities in England and all 22 authorities in Wales. In England, one-third of seats were contested in 36 Metropolitan Boroughs, 67 Shire Districts, and 19 Unitary Authorities; and all seats were contested in 4 Shire Districts, and 2 shadow and 2 transitional Unitary Authorities. One-half of seats were contested in 7 Shire Districts. In Wales, all seats were contested on the 22 Welsh councils.

The Conservatives made a net gain of 12 councils and 257 seats. Labour made a net loss of nine councils and 334 seats. The Liberal Democrats made a net gain of one council and 33 seats. The four 'shadow' and 'transitional' authorities are not counted in calculations of the net gain/loss of council control.

The British National Party gained 10 seats in net terms while the Greens made a net gain of five seats.

Estimates suggest that the Conservatives won 43% of the national equivalent share of the vote, Labour 24% and the Liberal Democrats 23%.

Turnout was estimated to be 36%.

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Summary of main points

Elections were held in 159 local authorities on 1 May 2008 comprising:

England (137 local authorities)

- 36 Metropolitan Boroughs (one-third of seats)
- 78 Shire Districts
 - 67 Shire Districts (one-third of seats)
 - 7 Shire Districts (one-half of seats)
 - 4 Shire Districts (all seats)
- 19 Unitary Authorities (one-third of seats)
- 2 “shadow” and 2 transitional Unitary Authorities (all seats)

Wales (22 local authorities)

- 22 Unitary Authorities

No elections were scheduled in Scotland, Northern Ireland, London Boroughs, County Councils in England, or in the remaining Unitary Authorities and Shire Districts in England.

The **Conservatives** won or retained control of 63 councils, a net gain of 12, comprising 14 gains and two losses. They gained one council from Labour (Nuneaton & Bedworth), one council (West Lindsey) from the Liberal Democrats and 10 seats from No Overall Control (NOC). They lost two councils to NOC (Colchester and Coventry). Following the elections, the Conservatives controlled 213 local authorities in Great Britain overall. The Conservatives also won the two ‘shadow’ authorities of Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester.

Labour won or retained control of 17 councils, a net loss of eight councils, comprising nine losses and one gain. They gained one council from NOC (Slough), lost one council to the Conservatives (Nuneaton & Bedworth) and lost nine councils to NOC (including Torfaen where Labour lost 16 councillors compared to the previous elections). Overall, Labour lost 334 councillors and they now control 51 councils in Great Britain. Labour won the ‘transitional’ authority of Durham.

The **Liberal Democrats** won or retained control of 13 councils, a net gain of one, comprising four councils gained from NOC (Burnley, Kingston-upon-Hull, Sheffield, and St. Albans), two losses to NOC (Liverpool and Pendle), and one loss to the Conservatives (West Lindsey). The Liberal Democrats now control 26 councils in Great Britain.

The **British National Party** won 10 seats in net terms, comprising 13 gains (Stoke-on-Trent (3), Nuneaton & Bedworth (2), Rotherham (2), Amber Valley (2), Three Rivers (1), Pendle (1), Thurrock (1), and Calderdale (1)) and 3 losses (Epping Forest (2) and Kirklees(1)).

Following the elections, a further 64 councils went to **No Overall Control** (NOC), taking the total number of authorities under NOC to 124. The “transitional” authority of Northumberland also went to NOC.

At the elections, the estimated national equivalent share of vote was Conservatives 43%, Labour 24%, and Liberal Democrats 23%. Estimated turnout was 36%. Elections were also held on the same day for Mayor of London and London Assembly. These are provided in [Library Research Paper 08/47](#).

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I Introduction

Elections were held to 8,416 seats in 159 local authorities in Great Britain on 1 May 2008. In England, there were elections in 137 authorities and elections in a further 22 authorities in Wales, comprising:

- 36 Metropolitan Boroughs (one-third of seats)
- 78 Shire Districts
 - 67 Shire Districts (one-third of seats)
 - 7 Shire Districts (one-half of seats)
 - 4 Shire Districts (all seats)
- 19 Unitary Authorities (one-third of seats)
- 2 “shadow” and 2 “transitional” Unitary Authorities (all seats)
- 22 Unitary Authorities in Wales

The Government is in the process of implementing a programme of restructuring in English local government. A number of local authority proposals for unitary status which were judged to have met the Government’s criteria have been taken forward. Orders creating nine new unitary authorities in seven county areas from 1 April 2009 have now been approved by Parliament. A discussion document on implementation issues indicated that the Government wanted to avoid establishing shadow authorities except where it was unavoidable. Instead, where there was an obvious candidate, the existing authority would continue in existence, becoming transitional and, from 1 April 2009, the new unitary authority.¹

County councils in five areas – Cornwall, Durham, Northumberland, Shropshire and Wiltshire – have continued in existence and are preparing to assume the responsibilities of district councils in those areas. Two of these “transitional” authorities – Durham and Northumberland – held elections in May 2008. Restructuring is also taking place in Cheshire and in Bedfordshire. In Cheshire, the existing county and district councils are being replaced by two new district unitary authorities - Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester. “Shadow” authorities have been established for both areas and elections were held for those on 1 May 2008. The four “shadow” and “transitional” authorities are not counted in calculations of the net gain/loss of council control.

This paper is intended as a provisional summary of the results, and is based on media reports and data supplied by the BBC’s Political Research department, and local authorities. The final compilation of the results, including votes cast at ward- and authority-level, shares of the vote, and turnout will be published later in the year by Professors Rallings and Thrasher of the University of Plymouth in their *Local Elections Handbook 2008*.

Comparisons of net gains and losses are based on council composition immediately prior to the elections. Control is attributed on a simple numerical basis – minority

¹ Department of Communities and Local Government,, *Councils’ proposals for unitary local government: an approach to implementation (discussion document)*, August 2007, <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/unitarycouncilsimplementation>

administrations and coalitions are not taken into account; they are regarded as the authority being under no overall (single party) control.

II The results

A. Council control

The **Conservatives** won or retained control of 63 councils, a net gain of 12 comprising 14 gains and two losses. They gained one council from Labour (Nuneaton & Bedworth), gained West Lindsey from the Liberal Democrats and gained a further 10 councils from no overall control (NOC). They lost two councils to NOC (Colchester and Coventry). The Conservatives control two councils in Wales, gaining Vale of Glamorgan from NOC. Overall, following the elections, the Conservatives controlled a total of 213 councils in Great Britain. They also won two 'shadow' authorities (Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester).

Labour won or retained control of 17 councils, a net loss of nine councils, comprising 10 losses and one gain. They gained one council from NOC (Slough), lost one council to the Conservatives (Nuneaton & Bedworth), and lost a further nine councils to NOC (including Torfaen where Labour lost 16 councillors compared to the previous elections). Labour lost 334 seats. They now control 51 councils in Great Britain. Labour also won the 'transitional' authority of Durham.

The **Liberal Democrats** won or retained control of 12 councils, a net gain of one council, comprising four gains from NOC (Burnley, Kingston-upon-Hull, Sheffield and St. Albans) one loss to the Conservatives (West Lindsey), and two lost to NOC (Liverpool and Pendle). The Liberal Democrats now control 26 councils in GB.

The **British National Party** made a net gain of 10 seats, comprising 13 gains (Stoke-on-Trent (3), Nuneaton & Bedworth (2), Rotherham (2), Amber Valley (2), Three Rivers (1), Pendle (1), Thurrock (1), and Calderdale (1)) and 3 losses (Epping Forest (2) and Kirklees(1)).

A further 63 Councils went to **No Overall Control** (NOC) following the elections, three fewer than before the elections. In Great Britain overall, there are now 124 councils under NOC. The "transitional" authority of Northumberland also went to NOC.

Other parties control 12 councils in Great Britain. In Wales, Plaid Cymru lost one council to NOC.

Summary: changes in council control

Councils holding elections on 1 May


	Pre-election	Post-election	Change
CON	51	63	12
LAB	26	17	-9
LD	11	12	1
Others	1	0	-1
NOC	66	63	-3

Changes in council control

Conservative (net +12)

Gains (14)

From Labour (1)

 Nuneaton & Bedworth

From Liberal Democrat (1)



 West Lindsey

From NOC (12)

 Basingstoke & Deane
 Bury
 Elmbridge
 Harlow
 Maidstone
 North Tyneside
 Redditch
 Rossendale
 Solihull
 Southampton
 Vale Of Glamorgan
 Wyre Forest

Losses (2)


To NOC (2)

 Colchester
 Coventry

Labour (net -9)










Gains (1)

From NOC (1)


 Slough

Losses (10)

To NOC (9)

 Blaenau Gwent
 Caerphilly
 Flintshire
 Hartlepool
 Merthyr Tydfil
 Newport
 Reading
 Torfaen
 Wolverhampton





To Conservative (1)

 Nuneaton & Bedworth

Liberal Democrat (net +1)



Gains (4)

From NOC (4)

 Burnley
 Kingston-Upon-Hull
 Sheffield
 St Albans

Losses (3)

To NOC (2)

 Liverpool
 Pendle

To Conservative (1)















 West Lindsey

B. Council seats

The table below summarises seats won, and net gains and losses by party:

Seats won and net gains

Seats contested on 1 May

	Seats won	Net change
 Conservative	3,155	+257
 Labour	2,365	-334
 Liberal Democrat	1,804	+33
 Plaid Cymru	205	+31
 Green	47	+5
 Residents Association	43	-11
 British National Party	37	+10
 Liberal	20	-2
 Independent Kidderminster Hospital and Health Concern	10	0
 UK Independence Party	8	+3
 Respect	4	+1
 Socialist Alternative	2	0
 Others	716	+4
 No Overall Control		
Total	8,416	-3

The **Conservatives** won 3,155 seats, 37% of the total contested and a net gain of 257 seats. In England, the party made a net gain of 194 council seats and in Wales they made a net gain of 63 seats. The Conservatives continue to have no councillors on several metropolitan boroughs, including Liverpool, Sheffield, Gateshead, and Newcastle-upon Tyne. In Manchester, the Conservatives won one seat where previously they were not represented. Oxford is the only English district council where the Conservatives have no seats. Several unitary authorities in Wales also have no Conservative councillors.

Labour won 2,365 seats, 28% of the total contested and a net loss of 334 seats. The party has no representation on 19 district councils and unitary authorities in England. Labour continues to be strongest in metropolitan boroughs, winning 45% of the contested seats with 1,093 councillors. On English district councils, Labour won 535 seats, and in Wales they won 342 seats.

The **Liberal Democrats** won 1,804 seats, 21% of seats contested and a net gain of 33 seats. The party has no representation on 14 authorities in England, and none on two Welsh councils. The party won 766 councillors on English district councils, (23%) of the total number of contested seats, and in Wales they won 162 seats.

The **Green Party** won 47 seats, a net gain of five seats. The party has 13 seats in Norwich, seven in Oxford, and six in Stroud.

The **British National Party** won 37 seats, a net gain of 10 seats.

C. National equivalent share of the vote

Professors Rallings and Thrasher at the University of Plymouth estimate that the Conservatives won 43% of the national (Great Britain) equivalent share of the vote, Labour 24% and the Liberal Democrats 23%. This is an estimated share of the vote in all authorities had elections been held across Great Britain. It is not necessarily equivalent to the share of the vote in those seats contested. The table and chart below show trends in the national equivalent share of the vote. Where general elections were held simultaneously, the general election result is shown.

Estimated national equivalent share of vote at local elections, 1979-2008

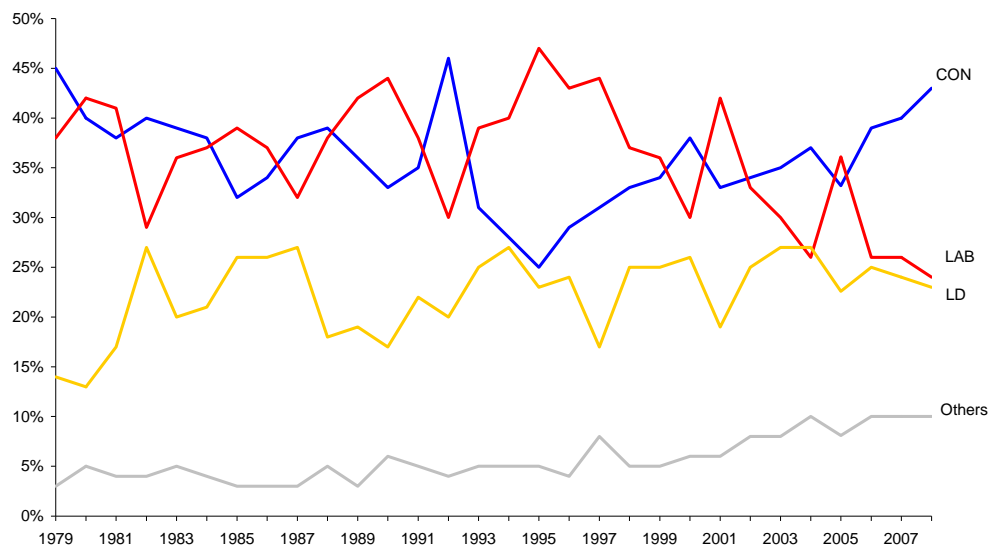
Great Britain

	CON	LAB	LD	Others
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%

Local elections in 1979, 1997, 2001 and 2005 were held on same day as a general election, and in these years general elections vote shares are shown in bold

Sources: Rallings and Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-1999*
 Rallings and Thrasher, *Local Elections Handbook*, various
 Local Government Elections Centre, personal communication

Estimated national equivalent share of the vote at local elections since 1979
Great Britain



D. Post-election council composition

The table below summarises post-election council composition and control in England and Wales for those authorities holding elections on 1 May. A table showing council composition and control for all local authorities in Great Britain, including those where elections were not held, is also provided.

Estimated post-election council composition and control: England and Wales

Councils holding elections on 1 May 2008.

	Number				% total					
	CON	LAB	LD	OTH	CON	LAB	LD	OTH		
Councillors										
Metropolitan boroughs	621	1,093	585	146	25%	45%	24%	6%		
Unitary authorities	388	292	222	89	39%	29%	22%	9%		
Shire districts	1,831	535	766	246	54%	16%	23%	7%		
<i>Shadow unitaries*</i>	141	103	69	33	41%	30%	20%	10%		
England	2,981	2,023	1,642	514	42%	28%	23%	7%		
Welsh unitary authorities	174	342	162	578	14%	27%	13%	46%		
England and Wales	3,155	2,365	1,804	1,092	37%	28%	21%	13%		
	CON	LAB	LD	OTH	NOC	CON	LAB	LD	OTH	NOC
Councils controlled										
Metropolitan boroughs	6	12	4	0	14	17%	33%	11%	0%	39%
Unitary authorities	6	2	1	0	10	32%	11%	5%	0%	53%
Shire districts	49	1	7	0	21	63%	1%	9%	0%	27%
England	61	15	12	0	45	46%	11%	9%	0%	34%
Welsh unitary authorities	2	2	0	0	18	9%	9%	0%	0%	82%
England and Wales	63	17	12	0	63	41%	11%	8%	0%	41%

* Cheshire East, Cheshire West & Chester, Durham and Northumberland

Source: BBC and Local Government Information online

Estimated post-election council composition and control: Great Britain

Councillors	Number				% total			
	CON	LAB	LD	OTH	CON	LAB	LD	OTH
London boroughs	784	682	319	76	42%	37%	17%	4%
Metropolitan boroughs	621	1,093	585	146	25%	45%	24%	6%
Unitary authorities	1,075	677	503	201	44%	28%	20%	8%
County councils	1,152	570	473	74	51%	25%	21%	3%
Shire districts	5,794	1,464	2,257	1,142	54%	14%	21%	11%
<i>Shadow Unitaries*</i>	141	103	69	33	41%	30%	20%	10%
England	9,567	4,589	4,206	1,672	48%	23%	21%	8%
Welsh unitary authorities	174	342	162	578	14%	27%	13%	46%
Scottish unitary authorities	143	348	166	371	14%	34%	16%	36%
Great Britain	9,884	5,279	4,534	2,621	44%	24%	20%	12%

Councils controlled	Number					% total				
	CON	LAB	LD	OTH	NOC	CON	LAB	LD	OTH	NOC
London boroughs	14	7	3	0	8	44%	22%	9%	0%	25%
Metropolitan boroughs	6	12	4	0	14	17%	33%	11%	0%	39%
Unitary authorities	20	10	2	0	17	41%	20%	4%	0%	35%
County councils	23	6	3	0	2	68%	18%	9%	0%	6%
Shire districts	148	12	14	5	42	67%	5%	6%	2%	19%
England	211	47	26	5	83	57%	13%	7%	1%	22%
Welsh unitary authorities	2	2	0	0	18	9%	9%	0%	0%	82%
Scottish unitary authorities	0	2	0	3	27	0%	6%	0%	9%	84%
Great Britain	213	51	26	8	128	50%	12%	6%	2%	30%

* Cheshire East, Cheshire West & Chester, Durham and Northumberland

Source: BBC and Local Government Information online

The **Conservatives** have almost 9,900 councillors, 44% of the total number of councillors in Great Britain, and the party's highest total since 1985. The number of Conservative councillors has risen consistently since 1997. The Conservatives control 213 councils, 50% of the total, including 68% of county councils and 67% of shire district councils in England. The Conservatives control two councils in Wales but none of the 32 unitary authorities in Scotland.

Labour has almost 5,300 councillors, 24% of the Great Britain total and their lowest number since the reorganisation of local government in 1973. The number of Labour councillors has fallen consistently since 1998. Labour controls 51 councils, 12% of the total number of councils in Great Britain. They control one-third (33%) of metropolitan boroughs and one-in-five (22%) London boroughs, but just 6% of Scottish councils and 5% of shire districts in England.

The **Liberal Democrats** have just over 4,500 councillors, 20% of the Great Britain total. The number of Liberal Democrat councillors fell in both 2006 and 2007, but increased in 2008, although the party has 13% fewer councillors than in 1996. The Liberal Democrats control 26 councils, 6% of the Great Britain total. They do not control any of the unitary authorities in Scotland or Wales.

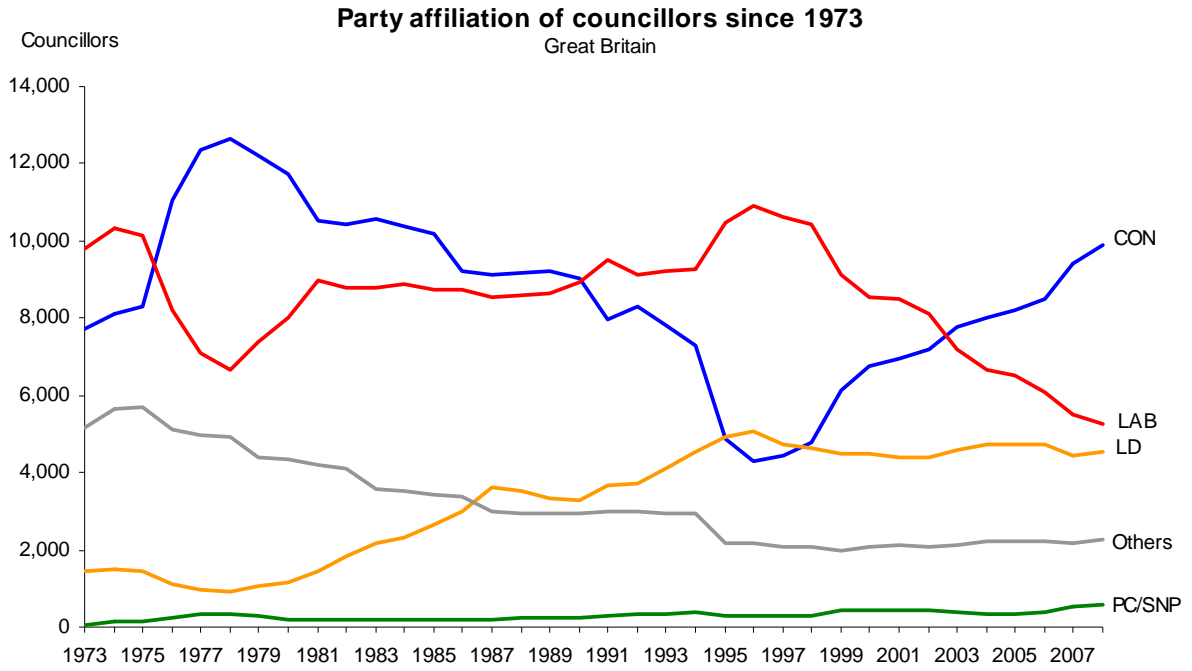
Party affiliation of councillors 1973-2008

Great Britain

	Number					Total	% total				
	CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Others		CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Others
1973	7,709	9,781	1,427	65	5,183	24,165	32%	40%	6%	0%	21%
1974	8,102	10,325	1,474	145	5,664	25,710	32%	40%	6%	1%	22%
1975	8,301	10,117	1,462	145	5,685	25,710	32%	39%	6%	1%	22%
1976	11,077	8,213	1,113	223	5,132	25,758	43%	32%	4%	1%	20%
1977	12,370	7,115	950	349	4,965	25,749	48%	28%	4%	1%	19%
1978	12,645	6,644	923	349	4,920	25,481	50%	26%	4%	1%	19%
1979	12,222	7,410	1,059	301	4,388	25,380	48%	29%	4%	1%	17%
1980	11,738	8,011	1,149	186	4,325	25,409	46%	32%	5%	1%	17%
1981	10,545	8,999	1,455	172	4,208	25,379	42%	35%	6%	1%	17%
1982	10,447	8,774	1,850	177	4,099	25,347	41%	35%	7%	1%	16%
1983	10,557	8,782	2,171	175	3,570	25,255	42%	35%	9%	1%	14%
1984	10,393	8,870	2,331	179	3,515	25,288	41%	35%	9%	1%	14%
1985	10,191	8,746	2,633	177	3,432	25,179	40%	35%	10%	1%	14%
1986	9,216	8,759	2,971	191	3,364	24,501	38%	36%	12%	1%	14%
1987	9,141	8,525	3,640	203	2,974	24,483	37%	35%	15%	1%	12%
1988	9,150	8,601	3,518	254	2,968	24,491	37%	35%	14%	1%	12%
1989	9,242	8,636	3,343	258	2,958	24,437	38%	35%	14%	1%	12%
1990	9,020	8,920	3,265	264	2,968	24,437	37%	37%	13%	1%	12%
1991	7,985	9,504	3,672	292	2,997	24,450	33%	39%	15%	1%	12%
1992	8,288	9,102	3,728	334	2,977	24,429	34%	37%	15%	1%	12%
1993	7,802	9,213	4,123	358	2,948	24,444	32%	38%	17%	1%	12%
1994	7,286	9,257	4,551	392	2,941	24,427	30%	38%	19%	2%	12%
1995	4,883	10,461	4,942	294	2,157	22,737	21%	46%	22%	1%	9%
1996	4,276	10,929	5,078	298	2,157	22,738	19%	48%	22%	1%	9%
1997	4,449	10,608	4,754	301	2,076	22,188	20%	48%	21%	1%	9%
1998	4,772	10,411	4,629	304	2,083	22,199	21%	47%	21%	1%	9%
1999	6,144	9,134	4,485	444	1,973	22,180	28%	41%	20%	2%	9%
2000	6,748	8,536	4,472	444	2,078	22,278	30%	38%	20%	2%	9%
2001	6,941	8,487	4,382	418	2,132	22,360	31%	38%	20%	2%	10%
2002	7,177	8,117	4,379	412	2,069	22,154	32%	37%	20%	2%	9%
2003	7,776	7,175	4,581	383	2,101	22,016	35%	33%	21%	2%	10%
2004	8,033	6,652	4,708	361	2,201	21,955	37%	30%	21%	2%	10%
2005	8,193	6,500	4,743	357	2,233	22,044	37%	29%	22%	2%	10%
2006	8,482	6,105	4,708	368	2,229	21,892	39%	28%	22%	2%	10%
2007	9,431	5,483	4,420	546	2,164	22,044	43%	25%	20%	2%	10%
2008	9,884	5,279	4,534	568	2,247	22,512	44%	23%	20%	3%	10%

Note: LD includes predecessor parties

Sources: House of Commons Library Research Paper 08/12 Election Statistics:UK 1918-2007
Rallings and Thrasher *Local Elections Handbook*
Local Government Information online, <http://www.gwydir.demon.co.uk/uklocalgov>



III Reference tables and maps







































































England: District Council, Unitary Authority and Metropolitan Borough council composition and political control

Councils holding elections on 1 May 2008 (n=78 District Councils, 19 Unitary Authorities, 36 Metropolitan Boroughs, 4 Shodow Unitary Authorities)

Local authority	Type	Election	Control		Council composition					Net seats gained and lost					
			Control	Type	CON	LAB	LD	Others	Total	CON	LAB	LD	Others		
Adur	District	Half	■	■	CON No change	District	26	0	1	2	29	0	0	0	0
Amber Valley	District	Thirds	■	■	CON No change	District	29	14	0	2	45	+1	-3	0	+2
Barrow-In-Furness	District	All	■	■	NOC No change	District	17	8	1	10	36	0	-8	-1	+7
Basildon	District	Thirds	■	■	CON No change	District	29	10	3	0	42	+1	-1	0	0
Basingstoke & Deane	District	All	■	■	CON gain from NOC	District	35	9	14	2	60	+5	-2	-2	-1
Bassetlaw	District	Thirds	■	■	CON No change	District	30	16	0	2	48	+2	0	0	-2
Brentwood	District	Thirds	■	■	CON No change	District	28	2	6	1	37	0	-1	0	+1
Broxbourne	District	Thirds	■	■	CON No change	District	35	3	0	0	38	-1	+1	0	0
Burnley	District	Thirds	■	■	LD gain from NOC	District	6	12	23	4	45	0	-5	+5	0
Cambridge	District	Thirds	■	■	LD No change	District	1	11	28	2	42	+1	-2	0	+1
Cannock Chase	District	Thirds	■	■	NOC No change	District	12	15	14	0	41	+2	-2	0	0
Carlisle	District	Thirds	■	■	NOC No change	District	21	21	7	1	50	+2	-2	0	0
Castle Point	District	Thirds	■	■	CON No change	District	25	1	0	15	41	0	0	0	0
Cheltenham	District	Half	■	■	NOC No change	District	17	0	20	3	40	0	-1	+3	-2
Cherwell	District	Thirds	■	■	CON No change	District	44	2	4	0	50	+2	-2	0	0
Chorley	District	Thirds	■	■	CON No change	District	28	14	3	2	47	+2	-1	0	-1
Colchester	District	Thirds	■	■	CON lose to NOC	District	27	7	23	3	60	-5	+1	+4	0
Craven	District	Thirds	■	■	NOC No change	District	15	0	5	10	30	+1	0	-1	0
Crawley	District	Thirds	■	■	CON No change	District	26	9	2	0	37	+4	-3	-1	0
Daventry	District	Thirds	■	■	CON No change	District	35	1	2	0	38	0	0	0	0
Eastleigh	District	Thirds	■	■	LD No change	District	4	2	38	0	44	-1	0	+1	0
Elmbridge	District	Thirds	■	■	CON gain from NOC	District	32	0	7	21	60	+4	0	-1	-3
Epping Forest	District	Thirds	■	■	CON No change	District	33	1	9	15	58	+1	0	-1	0
Exeter	District	Thirds	■	■	NOC No change	District	12	11	13	4	40	+2	-3	+1	0
Fareham	District	Half	■	■	CON No change	District	22	0	9	0	31	0	0	0	0
Gloucester	District	Thirds	■	■	NOC No change	District	17	8	11	0	36	+2	-1	0	-1
Gosport	District	Half	■	■	NOC No change	District	16	4	14	0	34	-1	-3	+5	0
Great Yarmouth	District	Thirds	■	■	CON No change	District	24	15	0	0	39	+2	-2	0	0
Harlow	District	Thirds	■	■	CON gain from NOC	District	18	6	8	0	32	+5	-4	0	-1
Harrogate	District	Thirds	■	■	NOC No change	District	27	0	21	6	54	+2	0	-2	0
Hart	District	Thirds	■	■	NOC No change	District	17	0	10	8	35	+2	0	-2	-6
Hastings	District	Half	■	■	NOC No change	District	15	13	3	1	32	+1	+1	-2	0
Havant	District	Thirds	■	■	CON No change	District	32	3	3	0	38	+1	-1	0	0
Hertsmere	District	Thirds	■	■	CON No change	District	31	3	5	0	39	+3	-1	-2	0





































































England: District Council, Unitary Authority and Metropolitan Borough council composition and political control

Councils holding elections on 1 May 2008 (n=78 District Councils, 19 Unitary Authorities, 36 Metropolitan Boroughs, 4 Shodow Unitary Authorities)

Local authority	Type	Election	Control		Council composition					Net seats gained and lost					
					CON	LAB	LD	Others	Total	CON	LAB	LD	Others		
Huntingdonshire	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	38	0	12	2	52	-1	0	+1	0
Hyndburn	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	19	13	0	3	35	+1	-2	0	0
Ipswich	District	Thirds			NOC No change	District	19	21	8	0	48	-2	+3	-1	0
Lincoln	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	18	14	1	0	33	+1	-1	0	0
Maidstone	District	Thirds			CON gain from NOC	District	29	1	20	5	55	+2	-2	-1	+1
Mole Valley	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	22	0	16	3	41	0	0	0	0
Newcastle-Under-Lyme	District	Thirds			NOC No change	District	25	12	19	4	60	+5	-8	+1	+2
North Hertfordshire	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	32	8	9	0	49	+2	-2	0	0
Norwich	District	Thirds			NOC No change	District	5	15	6	13	39	+2	0	-5	+3
Nuneaton & Bedworth	District	Half			CON gain from LAB	District	18	14	0	2	34	+4	-6	0	+2
Oxford	District	Half			NOC No change	District	0	23	16	9	48	-2	+5	0	-3
Pendle	District	Thirds			LD lose to NOC	District	16	10	20	3	49	+2	+4	-8	+2
Preston	District	Thirds			NOC No change	District	21	24	9	3	57	+1	0	-1	0
Purbeck	District	Thirds			NOC No change	District	11	0	11	2	24	-1	0	+1	0
Redditch	District	Thirds			CON gain from NOC	District	15	10	3	1	29	+4	-4	0	0
Reigate & Banstead	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	39	1	3	8	51	-2	0	+1	+1
Rochford	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	33	0	5	1	39	+1	0	0	-1
Rossendale	District	Thirds			CON gain from NOC	District	21	11	3	1	36	+3	-3	+1	-1
Rugby	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	28	11	9	0	48	+1	0	-1	0
Runnymede	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	36	0	0	6	42	0	0	0	0
Rushmoor	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	29	5	8	0	42	+1	-1	0	0
South Cambridgeshire	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	32	1	15	9	57	+1	0	0	-1
South Lakeland	District	All			LD No change	District	14	1	36	0	51	-2	-1	+4	-2
St Albans	District	Thirds			LD gain from NOC	District	22	5	30	1	58	+3	-3	+1	-1
Stevenage	District	Thirds			LAB No change	District	5	30	3	1	39	+3	-2	-1	0
Stratford-On-Avon	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	32	0	19	2	53	-5	0	+5	0
Stroud	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	31	7	5	8	51	0	-2	+1	+1
Swale	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	26	9	5	7	47	+1	-1	-1	+1
Tamworth	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	24	5	0	1	30	+1	-1	0	0
Tandridge	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	33	0	8	1	42	+2	-1	-1	-1
Three Rivers	District	Thirds			LD No change	District	12	4	31	1	48	+1	-2	0	+1
Tunbridge Wells	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	44	0	4	0	48	+3	0	-3	0
Watford	District	Thirds			LD No change	District	3	3	27	3	36	0	+1	-1	0
Waveney	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	30	12	3	3	48	0	0	0	0
Welwyn Hatfield	District	All			CON No change	District	40	5	3	0	48	+5	-5	0	0

England: District Council, Unitary Authority and Metropolitan Borough council composition and political control

Councils holding elections on 1 May 2008 (n=78 District Councils, 19 Unitary Authorities, 36 Metropolitan Boroughs, 4 Shodow Unitary Authorities)

Local authority	Type	Election	Control		Council composition					Net seats gained and lost					
					CON	LAB	LD	Others	Total	CON	LAB	LD	Others		
West Lancashire	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	35	18	0	1	54	+2	-3	0	0
West Lindsey	District	Thirds			CON gain from LD	District	20	0	16	1	37	+4	0	-4	0
West Oxfordshire	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	40	1	6	2	49	+4	0	-2	-2
Weymouth & Portland	District	Thirds			NOC No change	District	16	4	12	4	36	+2	-2	+1	-1
Winchester	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	29	1	24	3	57	0	0	+1	-1
Woking	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	19	0	17	0	36	0	0	0	0
Worcester	District	Thirds			NOC No change	District	17	13	3	2	35	0	0	0	0
Worthing	District	Thirds			CON No change	District	25	0	12	0	37	+1	0	0	-1
Wyre Forest	District	Thirds			CON gain from NOC	District	22	2	2	16	42	+4	-1	0	-3
Barnsley	Metropolitan	Thirds			LAB No change	Metropolitan	6	32	1	24	63	+1	-1	-1	+1
Birmingham	Metropolitan	Thirds			NOC No change	Metropolitan	49	36	32	3	120	+6	-6	0	0
Bolton	Metropolitan	Thirds			NOC No change	Metropolitan	23	27	9	1	60	+1	+1	-2	0
Bradford	Metropolitan	Thirds			NOC No change	Metropolitan	35	36	14	5	90	+3	-3	0	0
Bury	Metropolitan	Thirds			CON gain from NOC	Metropolitan	26	16	9	0	51	+3	-4	+1	0
Calderdale	Metropolitan	Thirds			NOC No change	Metropolitan	20	9	17	5	51	+2	-2	0	0
Coventry	Metropolitan	Thirds			CON lose to NOC	Metropolitan	27	24	1	2	54	-1	+1	0	0
Doncaster	Metropolitan	Thirds			NOC No change	Metropolitan	9	27	12	15	63	+1	-2	0	+1
Dudley	Metropolitan	Thirds			CON No change	Metropolitan	43	26	2	1	72	+4	-2	-3	+1
Gateshead	Metropolitan	Thirds			LAB No change	Metropolitan	0	41	24	1	66	0	-1	+1	0
Kirklees	Metropolitan	Thirds			NOC No change	Metropolitan	22	21	19	7	69	+2	-1	+1	-2
Knowsley	Metropolitan	Thirds			LAB No change	Metropolitan	0	47	16	0	63	0	-3	+3	0
Leeds	Metropolitan	Thirds			NOC No change	Metropolitan	22	43	24	10	99	0	0	0	0
Liverpool	Metropolitan	Thirds			LD lose to NOC	Metropolitan	0	39	45	6	90	0	+3	-3	0
Manchester	Metropolitan	Thirds			LAB No change	Metropolitan	1	61	34	0	96	0	0	+1	-1
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne	Metropolitan	Thirds			LD No change	Metropolitan	0	29	49	0	78	0	-3	+18	-1
North Tyneside	Metropolitan	Thirds			CON gain from NOC	Metropolitan	31	21	8	0	60	+3	-2	-1	0
Oldham	Metropolitan	Thirds			NOC No change	Metropolitan	7	22	30	1	60	+4	-8	+4	0
Rochdale	Metropolitan	Thirds			LD No change	Metropolitan	8	19	33	0	60	0	-1	+1	0
Rotherham	Metropolitan	Thirds			LAB No change	Metropolitan	10	50	0	3	63	+3	-4	0	+1
Salford	Metropolitan	Thirds			LAB No change	Metropolitan	13	36	10	1	60	+3	-6	+2	+1
Sandwell	Metropolitan	Thirds			LAB No change	Metropolitan	14	49	5	4	72	+3	-4	0	0
Sefton	Metropolitan	Thirds			NOC No change	Metropolitan	18	21	27	0	66	-1	0	+1	0
Sheffield	Metropolitan	Thirds			LD gain from NOC	Metropolitan	0	36	45	3	84	-1	-5	+6	0
Solihull	Metropolitan	Thirds			CON gain from NOC	Metropolitan	26	5	18	2	51	+1	-2	0	+1













































England: District Council, Unitary Authority and Metropolitan Borough council composition and political control

Councils holding elections on 1 May 2008 (n=78 District Councils, 19 Unitary Authorities, 36 Metropolitan Boroughs, 4 Shadow Unitary Authorities)

Local authority	Type	Election	Control	Council composition					Net seats gained and lost				
				CON	LAB	LD	Others	Total	CON	LAB	LD	Others	
South Tyneside	Metropolitan	Thirds	LAB No change	Metropolitan	3	31	3	17	54	0	-4	0	+4
St Helens	Metropolitan	Thirds	NOC No change	Metropolitan	6	23	19	0	48	0	+2	-2	0
Stockport	Metropolitan	Thirds	LD No change	Metropolitan	10	14	36	3	63	+1	-1	0	0
Sunderland	Metropolitan	Thirds	LAB No change	Metropolitan	22	48	1	4	75	+5	-5	0	0
Tameside	Metropolitan	Thirds	LAB No change	Metropolitan	10	44	0	3	57	+2	-1	-1	0
Trafford	Metropolitan	Thirds	CON No change	Metropolitan	39	19	5	0	63	+1	-1	+1	-1
Wakefield	Metropolitan	Thirds	LAB No change	Metropolitan	23	32	2	6	63	+7	-8	-1	+2
Walsall	Metropolitan	Thirds	CON No change	Metropolitan	33	18	6	3	60	0	0	0	0
Wigan	Metropolitan	Thirds	LAB No change	Metropolitan	14	42	4	15	75	+4	-4	0	0
Wirral	Metropolitan	Thirds	NOC No change	Metropolitan	24	21	20	1	66	+4	-4	+1	-1
Wolverhampton	Metropolitan	Thirds	LAB lose to NOC	Metropolitan	27	28	5	0	60	+8	-8	+1	-2
Blackburn With Darwen	Unitary	Thirds	NOC No change	Unitary	18	27	11	8	64	+1	-4	0	+3
Derby	Unitary	Thirds	NOC No change	Unitary	14	17	18	2	51	-1	-4	+5	0
Halton	Unitary	Thirds	LAB No change	Unitary	9	33	14	0	56	+1	0	-1	0
Hartlepool	Unitary	Thirds	LAB lose to NOC	Unitary	5	23	6	13	47	+1	-1	-1	+1
Kingston-Upon-Hull	Unitary	Thirds	LD gain from NOC	Unitary	3	19	33	4	59	0	-1	+5	-4
Milton Keynes	Unitary	Thirds	NOC No change	Unitary	20	10	21	0	51	+5	-3	-1	0
North East Lincolnshire	Unitary	Thirds	NOC No change	Unitary	16	4	20	2	42	+1	-2	+1	0
Peterborough	Unitary	Thirds	CON No change	Unitary	43	2	3	9	57	+4	0	-1	-3
Plymouth	Unitary	Thirds	CON No change	Unitary	37	20	0	0	57	+6	-6	0	0
Portsmouth	Unitary	Thirds	NOC No change	Unitary	19	2	19	2	42	+4	-3	-1	-2
Reading	Unitary	Thirds	LAB lose to NOC	Unitary	18	20	8	0	46	+4	-5	+1	0
Slough	Unitary	Thirds	LAB gain from NOC	Unitary	6	23	3	9	41	-1	+4	-1	-6
Southampton	Unitary	Thirds	CON gain from NOC	Unitary	26	14	8	0	48	+8	-4	-3	-1
Southend-On-Sea	Unitary	Thirds	CON No change	Unitary	27	6	12	6	51	-2	-1	+2	+1
Stoke-On-Trent	Unitary	Thirds	NOC No change	Unitary	9	16	5	30	60	0	-7	0	+8
Swindon	Unitary	Thirds	CON No change	Unitary	43	12	3	1	59	0	-1	0	+1
Thurrock	Unitary	Thirds	NOC No change	Unitary	24	22	0	3	49	0	0	0	0
Warrington	Unitary	Thirds	NOC No change	Unitary	7	22	28	0	57	+2	-2	+1	-1
Wokingham	Unitary	Thirds	CON No change	Unitary	44	0	10	0	54	+1	0	-1	0
Cheshire East	Shadow Unitary	All	CON win		59	6	12	4	81				
Cheshire West & Chester	Shadow Unitary	All	CON win		55	13	4	0	72				
Durham	Shadow Unitary	All	Lab win		10	67	27	22	126				
Northumberland	Shadow Unitary	All	NOC		17	17	26	7	67				

Wales: Unitary Authority council composition and political control

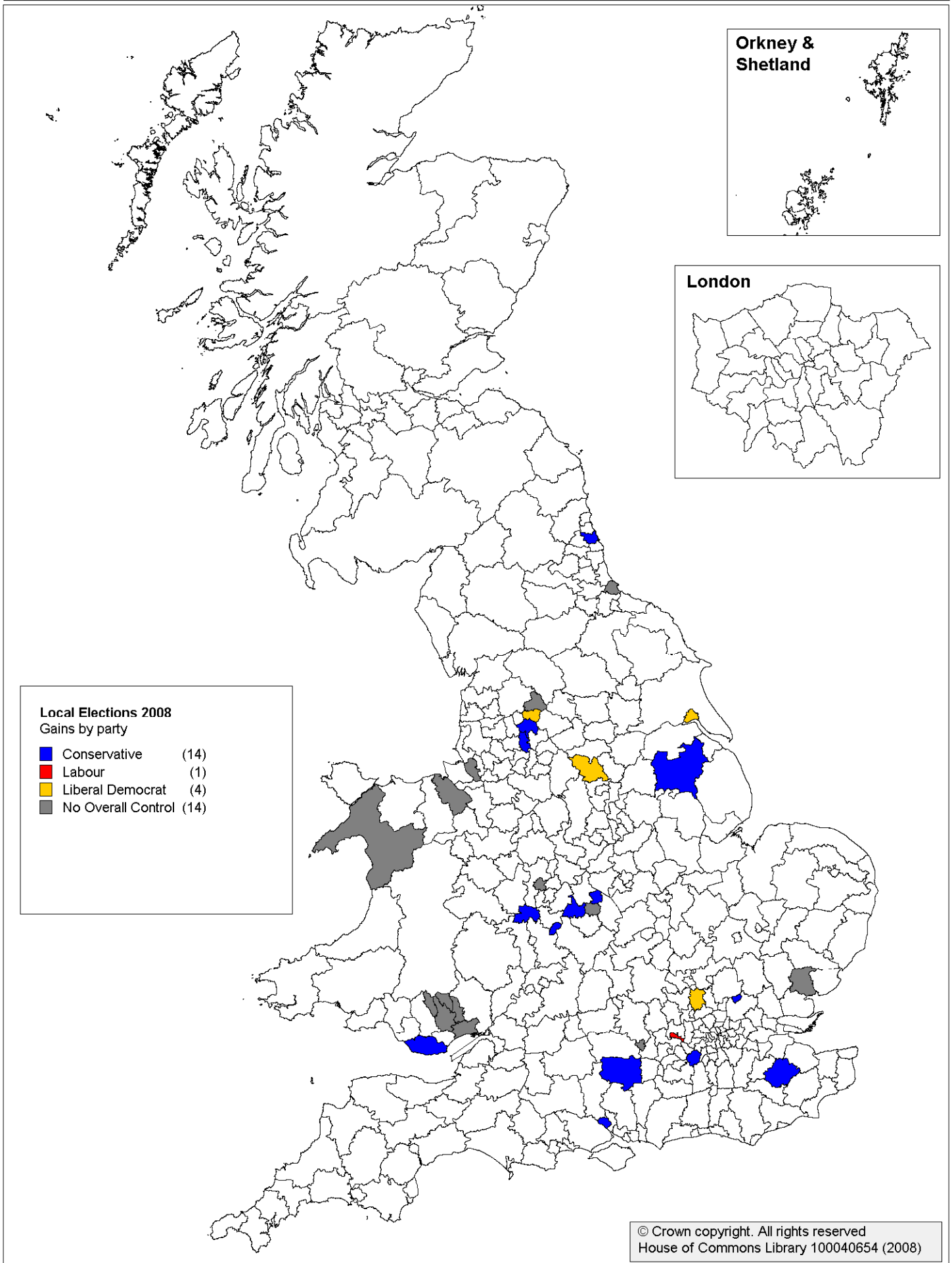
All Unitary Authorities in Wales held elections on 1 May 2008

Local authority	Type	Election	Control	Council composition					Total	Net seats gained and lost				
				CON	LAB	LD	PC	Others		CON	LAB	LD	PC	Others
Anglesey	Unitary	All	  NOC No change	2	5	2	8	23	40	+1	+5	+1	+2	-9
Blaenau Gwent	Unitary	All	  LAB lose to NOC	0	17	2	0	23	42	0	-8	0	0	+8
Bridgend	Unitary	All	  NOC No change	6	27	11	1	9	54	-1	+5	-2	0	-2
Caerphilly	Unitary	All	  LAB lose to NOC	0	32	0	32	9	73	0	-9	0	+6	+3
Cardiff	Unitary	All	  NOC No change	17	13	35	7	3	75	+7	-14	+3	+3	+1
Carmarthenshire	Unitary	All	  NOC No change	0	11	1	30	32	74	0	-14	+1	+14	-1
Ceredigion	Unitary	All	  NOC No change	0	1	10	19	12	42	0	0	+1	+3	-4
Conwy	Unitary	All	  NOC No change	22	7	4	12	14	59	+8	-5	-1	+1	-3
Denbighshire	Unitary	All	  NOC No change	18	7	1	8	13	47	+9	0	-1	+1	-9
Flintshire	Unitary	All	  LAB lose to NOC	9	22	11	1	26	69	+5	-13	+1	0	+7
Gwynedd	Unitary	All	  PC lose to NOC	0	4	5	35	30	74	0	-4	-1	-8	+13
Merthyr Tydfil	Unitary	All	  LAB lose to NOC	0	8	6	0	19	33	0	-9	+6	0	+3
Monmouthshire	Unitary	All	  CON No change	29	7	5	1	1	43	+5	-2	+2	-1	-4
Neath Port Talbot	Unitary	All	  LAB No change	0	37	4	11	12	64	0	+1	+2	+1	-4
Newport	Unitary	All	  LAB lose to NOC	17	19	6	1	1	44	+5	-8	+3	0	0
Pembrokeshire	Unitary	All	  NOC No change	5	5	3	5	42	60	+4	-6	+1	0	+1
Powys	Unitary	All	  NOC No change	9	4	15	0	45	73	+9	0	0	0	-9
Rhondda Cynon Taff	Unitary	All	  LAB No change	1	44	4	20	6	75	+1	-13	+2	+7	+3
Swansea	Unitary	All	  NOC No change	4	30	23	1	14	72	0	-2	+3	-3	+2
Torfaen	Unitary	All	  LAB lose to NOC	5	18	2	3	16	44	+4	-16	0	+3	+9
Vale Of Glamorgan	Unitary	All	  CON gain from NOC	25	13	0	6	3	47	+5	-3	0	-2	0
Wrexham	Unitary	All	  NOC No change	5	11	12	4	20	52	+1	-9	-2	+4	+6

Local Elections 2008

Total gains of Council control by party

Excluding 4 'shadow' and 'transitional' Unitary Authorities



Local Elections 2008

Council control by party

Excluding 4 'shadow' and 'transitional' Unitary Authorities

