



Local Elections 2013

RESEARCH PAPER 13/30 13 May 2013

This paper summarises the results of the local and mayoral elections held on 2 May 2013.

Elections were held in all 27 shire counties in England (all seats) and seven English unitary authorities (Bristol (one-third of seats), Cornwall, Durham, Isle of Wight, Northumberland Shropshire and Wiltshire), as well as one Welsh council (Isle of Anglesey).

The Conservatives lost control of nine councils and 337 seats (net). Labour gained control of two councils and 287 seats (net). The Liberal Democrats made a net loss of 122 seats.

The UK Independence Party made a net gain of 139 seats and the Greens gained 5 seats whilst the British National Party lost three seats.

Estimates suggest that Labour would have won 29% of the national equivalent share of the vote, the Conservatives 26%, UKIP 22% and the Liberal Democrats 13%.

In both the mayoral elections in Doncaster and North Tyneside Labour candidates defeated incumbents.

Nicholas Duckworth

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Research Paper 13/30

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Summary of main points

Elections were held in all 27 shire counties in England (all seats) and seven English unitary authorities (Bristol (one-third of seats), Cornwall, Durham, Isle of Wight, Northumberland Shropshire and Wiltshire), as well as one Welsh council (Isle of Anglesey).

There were no elections scheduled in Scotland, Northern Ireland, London Boroughs, or the remaining Unitary Authorities and Shire Districts in England or Wales.

The **Conservatives** lost a net total of 337 seats and lost control of nine councils, losing one to Labour (Nottinghamshire), and eight to No Overall Control (NOC).

Labour made a net gain of 287 seats and gained control of two shire county councils, (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire).

The **Liberal Democrats** made a net loss of 122 seats. **UKIP** had a net gain of 139 seats.

At the elections, the estimated national equivalent share of vote was Conservatives 26%, Labour 29%, and Liberal Democrats 13%. UKIP's estimated national equivalent share of the vote was 22%.

There were two mayoral elections (Doncaster and North Tyneside) and a by-election in the South Shields constituency on the same day. Labour candidates defeated incumbents in both mayoral contests and retained the parliamentary seat in South Shields.

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I Introduction

Elections were held on 2 May 2013 for 2,363 seats in 27 shire counties in England, seven unitary authorities (Bristol (one-third of seats), Cornwall, Durham, Isle of Wight, Northumberland, Shropshire and Wiltshire) and one Welsh council (Isle of Anglesey) postponed from 2012.

There were no elections scheduled in Scotland, Northern Ireland, London Boroughs, or the remaining Unitary Authorities and Shire Districts in England & Wales.

This paper provides a summary of the results, and is based on media reports and data supplied by the BBC's Political Research unit, and local authorities. The compilation of the final 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 2013*.

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 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** retained control of 18 councils, a net loss of ten, losing one to Labour (Nottinghamshire) and nine to No Overall Control (Cambridgeshire, East Sussex Gloucestershire, Isle of Wight, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire). Following the elections, the Conservatives control 180 local authorities in Great Britain overall.

Labour gained control of two shire county councils, (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire) and retained control of Durham council, the only council contested under Labour control. They now control 118 councils in Great Britain.

Nine councils moved to No Overall Control (NoC).

Summary: changes in council control

























Councils holding elections on 2 May

	Pre-election	Post-election	Change
CON	28	18	-10
LAB	1	3	+2
LD	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0
NOC	5	14	+9

Council control: All local authorities, Great Britain

	Pre-election	Post-election	Change
CON	190	180	-10
LAB	116	118	+2
LD	12	12	0
Others	8	8	0
NOC	79	87	+8

Changes in council control









Conservative (net -10)	Labour (net +2)	Liberal Democrat (net 0)
Gains (0)	Gains (2)	Gains (0)
	From Conservatives (1)   Nottinghamshire	
	From NOC (25)   Derbyshire	
Losses (10)	Losses (0)	Losses (0)
To Labour (1)   Nottinghamshire		
To NOC (9)   Cambridgeshire   East Sussex   Gloucestershire   Isle of Wight   Lancashire   Lincolnshire   Norfolk   Oxfordshire   Warwickshire		

B. Council seats

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

Seats won and net gains (GB)

Seats contested on 3 May

Party	Councillors	
	Total	Net gain
 Conservative	1,116	-337
 Labour	541	290
 Liberal Democrat	353	-125
 UK Independence Party	147	139
 Green	22	5
 Plaid Cymru	12	6
 Residents Association	12	2
 Others	175	22

Source: BBC

The **Conservatives** won or retained 1,116 seats, 47% of those contested and net a loss of 337 seats. The party won 933 shire county seats, a net loss of 295, and 183 seats in unitary authorities, a net loss of 40 seats. They also lost both their seats on Anglesey Council.

Labour won or retained 541 of seats contested, 23% of those contested and a net gain of 290. The party won 380 county council seats, a net gain of 229, 158 seats in unitary authorities, a net gain of 58, and 3 seats in Anglesey, a net loss of 1. They gained seats on all English councils up for election.

The **Liberal Democrats** won or retained 353 seats, 15% of those contested and a net loss of 125. The party won 251 county council seats, a net loss of 78, 101 seats in unitary authorities, a loss of 78. They won 1 seat in Anglesey, a net loss of 1.

UKIP won or retained 147 seats, 6% of those contested and a net gain of 139. The party won 138 county council seats, a net gain of 130, and 9 seats in unitary authorities, a net gain of 9.

Other minor parties and independent candidates won 199 seats representing 8% of the total contested. The **Green Party** won 26 seats, a net gain of 5. **Plaid Cymru** won 12 seats, a net gain of 6. The **British National Party** lost the three seats it won in 2009.

C. National equivalent share of the vote

The estimated share of the vote each party would have received had the elections been held across the whole of Great Britain is 29% for Labour, 26% for the Conservatives, 22% for UKIP and 13% for the Liberal Democrats. This 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 used.

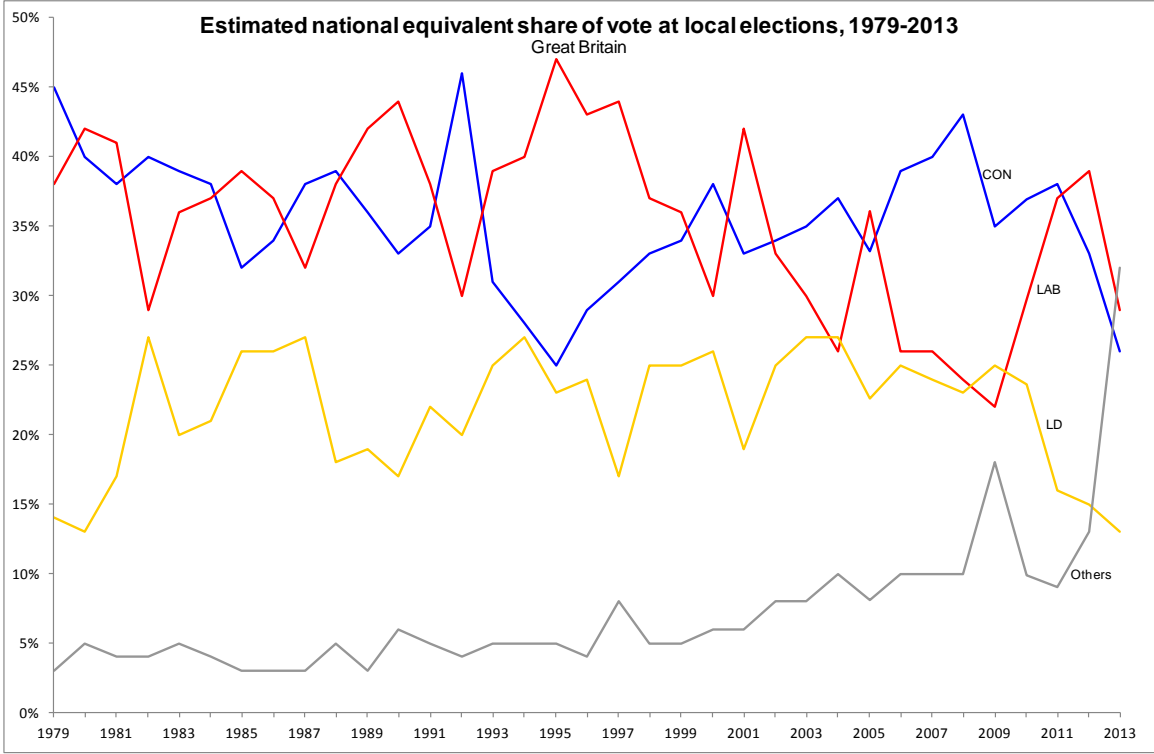
Estimated national equivalent share of vote at local elections, 1979-2013

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%
2009	35%	22%	25%	18%
2010	37%	30%	24%	10%
2011	38%	37%	16%	9%
2012	33%	39%	15%	13%
2013	26%	29%	13%	32% (of which UKIP = 22%)

Local elections in 1979, 1997, 2001, 2005 and 2010 were held on same day as a general election, and in these years general election vote shares are shown in bold.

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



D. Post election council composition

The table below summarises council composition and control for all local authorities in Great Britain, including those where elections were not held.

Estimated post-election council composition and control: Great Britain

Councillors	Number					%total				
	CON	LAB	LD	SNP/PC	OTH	CON	LAB	LD	SNP/PC	OTH
London boroughs	711	870	243		37	38%	47%	13%		2%
Metropolitan boroughs	397	1,712	250		86	16%	70%	10%		4%
Counties	933	380	252		246	52%	21%	14%		14%
Unitary authorities	1,221	1,159	425		306	39%	37%	14%		10%
Shire districts	5,104	1,746	1,251		782	57%	20%	14%		4%
England	8,366	5,867	2,421		1,457	46%	32%	13%		8%
Welsh unitary authorities	106	579	80	170	319	8%	46%	6%	14%	25%
Scottish unitary authorities	117	396	75	420	215	10%	32%	6%	34%	18%
Great Britain	8,589	6,842	2,576	590	1,991	42%	33%	13%	3%	10%

Councils controlled	CON	LAB	LD	SNP/PC	NOC/IND	CON	LAB	LD	SNP/PC	NOC/IND
	London boroughs	11	17	2		2	34%	53%	6%	
Metropolitan boroughs	2	29	0		5	6%	81%	0%		14%
County councils	16	2	0		9	59%	7%	0%		33%
Unitary authorities	20	23	1		11	36%	42%	2%		20%
Shire districts	131	32	9		28	66%	16%	5%		14%
England	180	103	12		55	51%	29%	3%		16%
Welsh unitary authorities	0	10	0	0	12	0%	45%	0%	0%	55%
Scottish unitary authorities	0	5	0	2	25	0%	16%	0%	6%	78%
Great Britain	180	118	12	2	92	45%	29%	3%	0%	23%

Source: Rallings & Thrasher, *Local Government Chronicle*, 7 May 2013

The **Conservatives** have just over 8,500 councillors, 42% of the total in Great Britain and a fall of just under 1,000 since the equivalent elections in 2009. The party controls 180 councils, 45% of the total, including 66% of shire district councils but just 6% of metropolitan boroughs. They continue to have no control of any of the 12 councils in Wales or the 32 unitary authorities in Scotland.

Labour has almost 7,000 councillors, 33% of the total in Great Britain and around 2,000 higher than their total in 2009 (4,436), which remains their lowest number of council seats since the reorganisation of local government in 1973. The party controls 118 councils, 29% of the total number of councils in Great Britain. This includes 81% of metropolitan boroughs and over half (53%) of London boroughs, but just 7% of county councils.

The **Liberal Democrats** have just over 2,500 councillors, 13% of the Great Britain total, a fall of over 1,500 since 2009. The party controls 12 councils, 3% of the Great Britain total and around half the 26 that they controlled following the 2009 elections. They do not control any of the unitary authorities in Scotland or Wales.

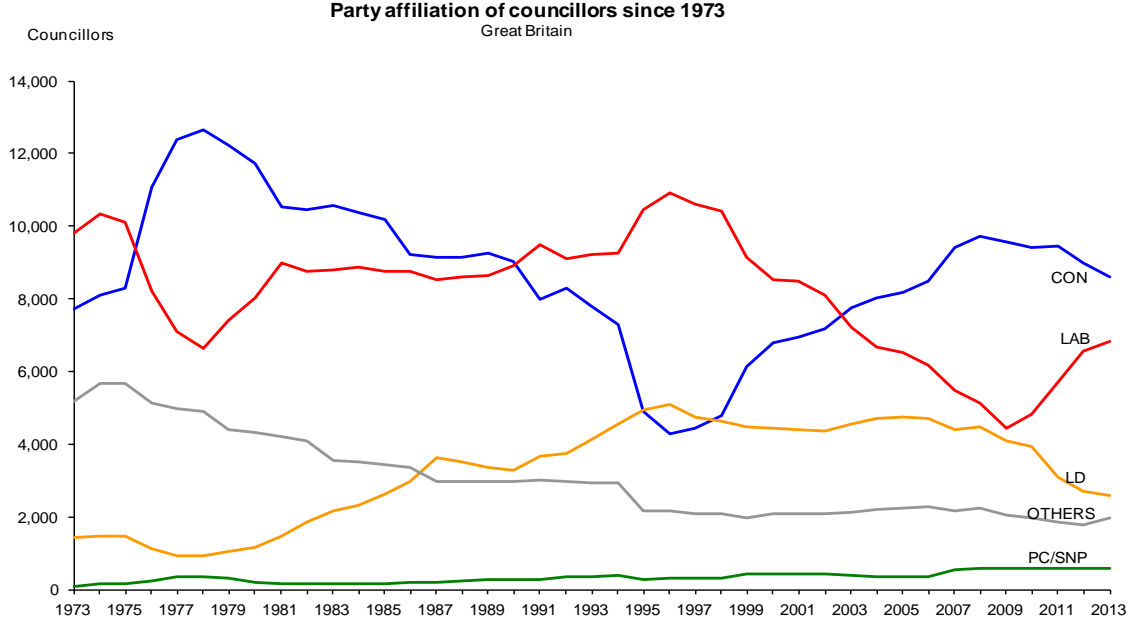
Party affiliation of councillors 1973-2013

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	6,785	8,529	4,457	447	2,071	22,289	30%	38%	20%	2%	9%
2001	6,941	8,487	4,382	418	2,091	22,319	31%	38%	20%	2%	9%
2002	7,178	8,117	4,379	415	2,094	22,183	32%	37%	20%	2%	9%
2003	7,768	7,207	4,551	388	2,125	22,039	35%	33%	21%	2%	10%
2004	8,038	6,669	4,714	355	2,213	21,989	37%	30%	21%	2%	10%
2005	8,193	6,518	4,743	357	2,233	22,044	37%	30%	22%	2%	10%
2006	8,495	6,176	4,723	364	2,273	22,031	39%	28%	21%	2%	10%
2007	9,431	5,483	4,420	537	2,173	22,044	43%	25%	20%	2%	10%
2008	9,721	5,122	4,467	569	2,225	22,104	44%	23%	20%	3%	10%
2009	9,553	4,436	4,083	570	2,060	20,702	46%	21%	20%	3%	10%
2010	9,406	4,831	3,944	568	1,962	20,711	45%	23%	19%	3%	9%
2011	9,445	5,707	3,104	568	1,855	20,679	46%	28%	15%	3%	9%
2012	8,988	6,554	2,710	579	1,761	20,592	44%	32%	13%	3%	9%
2013	8,589	6,842	2,576	590	1,991	20,588	42%	33%	13%	3%	10%

Note: LD includes predecessor parties

Sources: Rallings and Thrasher, British Electoral Facts 1832-2006
Rallings and Thrasher, Local Elections Handbook



E. Mayoral elections

Mayoral elections were held in Doncaster and North Tyneside. This was the fourth time that routine mayoral elections had been held in these authorities, although North Tyneside also held a by-election in June 2003.














Labour defeated incumbent candidates in both seats.

In North Tyneside, Labour's Norma Redfearn defeated the incumbent Conservative candidate Linda Arkley. Redfearn polled 56% of the vote on the first ballot, meaning no need for a second round.

Ros Jones narrowly defeated incumbent independent mayor, Peter Davies in Doncaster. Jones won by a margin of 49 votes in the second round, after neither candidate garnered the necessary number of votes in the first round ballot.

Total turnout in North Tyneside was 31.8%. a drop of 6.6 points on the last election in 2009, whilst the turnout in Doncaster was 27.2%, a drop of 10.9 points.

Results of Mayoral elections, 2 May 2013

	Turnout (%)	First vote		Second vote		Total vote	
		<i>number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>%</i>
Doncaster	27.2						
David Allen		4,615	7.5%				
John Brown		1,123	1.8%				
Peter Davies		21,406	34.9%	3,319	50%	24,725	49%
Martin Drake		2,811	4.6%				
Mary Jackson		1,916	3.1%				
Ros Jones		21,996	35.8%	3,368	50%	25,364	51%
Micael Maye		4,557	7.4%				
Dave Owen		1,066	1.7%				
Tony ward		1,110	1.8%				
Doug Wright		786	1.3%				
Total		61,386		6,687		50,089	
North Tyneside	31.8						
John Appleby		4,054	8.1%			4,054	8.1%
Linda Arkley		18,083	36.1%			18,083	36.1%
Norma Redfearn		27,905	55.8%			27,905	55.8%
Total		50,042				50,042	

Party abbreviations

ED	English Democrats "Putting England First"	TUSC	Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition
NF	National Front "Putting Britain First"		
SYS	Save Your Services		

Source: Results published online by local authorities

Turnout includes invalid votes

III Reference table and map

County council and unitary authority election results 2013 - Council composition and share of seats

County councils	Control	Council composition										share of seats (%)										Net seats				
		CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	Others	TOTAL	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	Others	TOTAL	CON	LAB	LD	UKIP	GRN	Others					
* Buckinghamshire	All-up	36	1	5	6	0	1	49	73%	2%	10%	12%	0%	2%	100%	-6	1	-2	6	0	0					
** Cambridgeshire	All-up	32	7	14	12	0	4	69	46%	10%	17%	0%	6%	100%	-10	5	-9	11	-1	-1						
Cumbria	All-up	26	35	16	0	0	7	84	31%	42%	19%	0%	8%	100%	-12	10	1	0	0	0						
Derbyshire	All-up	18	43	3	0	0	0	64	28%	67%	5%	0%	0%	100%	-13	18	-4	0	0	0						
Devon	All-up	38	7	9	4	1	3	62	61%	11%	15%	6%	2%	100%	-3	3	-5	4	0	0						
Dorset	All-up	27	5	12	1	0	0	45	60%	11%	27%	2%	0%	100%	-1	5	-4	1	0	0						
East Sussex	All-up	20	7	10	7	0	5	49	41%	14%	20%	14%	10%	100%	-9	3	-3	7	0	0						
** Essex	All-up	42	9	9	2	4	75	56%	12%	12%	3%	5%	100%	-18	8	-3	9	2	2							
** Gloucestershire	All-up	23	9	14	3	1	3	53	43%	17%	26%	6%	2%	100%	-11	5	2	3	0	0						
Hampshire	All-up	45	4	17	10	0	2	78	58%	5%	22%	13%	0%	100%	-6	3	-8	10	0	0						
Hertfordshire	All-up	46	15	16	0	0	0	77	60%	19%	21%	0%	0%	100%	-9	12	-1	0	-1	-1						
Kent	All-up	45	13	7	17	1	1	84	54%	15%	8%	1%	1%	100%	-29	11	0	17	1	1						
Lancashire	All-up	35	39	6	0	3	3	86	41%	45%	7%	0%	3%	100%	-16	23	-4	0	-1	-1						
** Leicestershire	All-up	30	10	13	2	0	0	55	55%	18%	24%	4%	0%	100%	-6	6	-1	2	0	0						
Lincolnshire	All-up	36	12	3	16	0	10	77	47%	16%	4%	21%	0%	100%	-24	8	-2	16	0	0						
* Norfolk	All-up	40	14	10	15	4	1	84	48%	17%	12%	18%	5%	1%	100%	-20	11	-3	14	-3	-3					
* North Yorkshire	All-up	45	7	8	2	0	10	72	63%	10%	17%	3%	0%	14%	100%	-3	6	-3	2	0	0					
Northamptonshire	All-up	36	11	6	3	0	1	57	63%	19%	11%	5%	2%	100%	-8	7	-1	3	0	0						
Nottinghamshire	All-up	21	34	8	0	0	4	67	31%	51%	12%	0%	0%	6%	100%	-14	21	-1	-1	0	0					
* Oxfordshire	All-up	31	15	11	0	2	4	63	49%	24%	17%	0%	3%	100%	-14	8	3	0	0	0						
* Somerset	All-up	28	3	18	3	0	2	54	52%	6%	33%	6%	0%	4%	100%	-6	1	0	3	0	0					
* Staffordshire	All-up	34	24	0	2	0	2	62	55%	39%	0%	3%	0%	3%	100%	-15	21	-4	-2	0	0					
Suffolk	All-up	39	15	7	9	2	3	75	52%	20%	9%	12%	3%	4%	100%	-16	11	-4	8	0	0					
* Surrey	All-up	58	1	9	3	1	9	81	72%	1%	11%	4%	1%	11%	100%	1	0	-4	3	1	1					
Warwickshire	All-up	26	22	9	0	2	3	62	42%	35%	15%	0%	3%	5%	100%	-13	12	-3	0	2	2					
West Sussex	All-up	46	6	8	10	0	1	71	65%	8%	11%	14%	0%	1%	100%	-2	4	-13	10	0	0					
Worcestershire	All-up	30	12	3	4	2	6	57	53%	21%	5%	7%	4%	11%	100%	-12	9	-5	4	2	2					
County Councils Total		933	380	251	138	21	89	1812	51%	21%	14%	8%	1%	5%	100%	-295	232	-81	130	2	12					
Unitary authorities																										
Bristol	Thirds	6	9	5	0	2	1	23	26%	39%	22%	0%	9%	100%	0	7	-10	0	2	1						
* Cornwall	All-up	31	8	36	6	1	41	123	25%	7%	29%	5%	1%	33%	100%	-18	8	-2	6	-1	5					
* Durham	All-up	4	94	9	0	0	19	126	3%	75%	7%	0%	0%	15%	100%	-7	24	-16	0	0	-1					
Isle of Wight	All-up	15	2	1	2	0	20	40	38%	5%	3%	5%	0%	50%	100%	-9	1	-4	2	0	10					
* Northumberland	All-up	21	32	11	0	0	3	67	31%	48%	16%	0%	0%	4%	100%	4	15	-15	0	0	-4					
** Shropshire	All-up	48	9	12	0	0	5	74	65%	12%	16%	0%	0%	7%	100%	-6	2	1	0	0	3					
Wiltshire	All-up	58	4	27	1	0	8	98	59%	4%	28%	1%	0%	8%	100%	-4	2	3	1	0	-2					
Unitary authorities Total		183	158	101	9	3	97	551	33%	29%	18%	2%	1%	18%	100%	-40	59	-43	9	1	12					
England total		1,116	538	352	147	24	186	2,363	47%	23%	15%	6%	1%	8%	100%	-335	291	-124	139	3	24					
* <i>Boundary changes</i>																										
** <i>Slight boundary changes</i>																										
Welsh unitary authorities																										
Anglesey	All-up	0	3	1	0	12	14	30	0%	10%	3%	0%	40%	47%	100%	-2	-1	-1	0	6	-2					
Welsh total		-	3	1	-	12	14	30	0%	10%	3%	0%	40%	47%	100%	-2	-1	-1	0	6	-2					

Local Elections 2013

Council control by party

Includes 7 English Unitary and 1 Welsh Unitary

