



Census Survey of Parish Councillors 2017

1. Census of Parish Councillors 2017

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is the recognised membership and support organisation representing and promoting the interests of 10,000 local (parish and town) councils and their 80,000 local councillors.

We would be grateful if you could complete this short questionnaire and contribute to the first ever national project of its kind aimed at providing a greater understanding of the work of parish councillors.

The survey should take up to ten minutes to complete.

All responses are confidential and anonymous. Should you have any queries, please contact Ben Murray on 020 7290 0314 or Ben.Murray@nalc.gov.uk who will be happy to help.



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2. Section A - About your work as a Councillor

1 What County Association is your local council a member of?

2 How long have you been a Councillor in this local (parish or town) council? (in years)

- ☐ 0 - 5
- ☐ 6 - 10
- ☐ 11 - 15
- ☐ 16 - 20
- ☐ more than 20

3 In this council are you an elected (having been nominated and stood for election) or co-opted Councillor?

- ☐ Elected
- ☐ Co-opted

4 In this council do you hold any of the following positions or their equivalents? (please tick all relevant)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leader of the council | <input type="checkbox"/> No positions held |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chairman of council | <input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Leader of the Council |

5 Please indicate the average number of hours per month you spend on council business. (Round to the nearest hour, please tick one)

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 - 2 | <input type="radio"/> 8 - 9 | <input type="radio"/> 21 - 25 |
| <input type="radio"/> 3 - 4 | <input type="radio"/> 9 - 10 | <input type="radio"/> 26 - 30 |
| <input type="radio"/> 5 - 6 | <input type="radio"/> 11 - 15 | <input type="radio"/> More than 30 |
| <input type="radio"/> 7 - 8 | <input type="radio"/> 16 - 20 | |

6

If you are able, please estimate how much time per week in Question 5 was spent of the following: (this should total the hours in Question 5)

	1 - 2 hours	3 - 4 hours	4 - 5 hours	5 - 6 hours	7 - 8 hours	8 - 9 hours	9 - 10 hours	more than 10 hours
Attendance at council meetings, committees, working groups, party meetings etc (including preparation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engaging with constituents, surgeries, constituent enquiries, etc (incl. preparation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other e.g. external meetings, training, conference and events, travel related to council, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7

Please indicate which of the following training and development opportunities you have had in the last 4 years: (please tick all relevant)

- ☐ Received an induction
- ☐ Received a personal development plan
- ☐ Completed a training needs questionnaire
- ☐ Attended seminars/conferences
- ☐ Received mentoring/coaching
- ☐ Attended other councillor development programmes
- ☐ Received skills training e.g. IT, chairmanship skills etc
- ☐ Online training
- ☐ Training from documents
- ☐ Other training
- ☐ None

8 Which would be your preferred choice of training?

- ☐ Receive an induction
- ☐ Receive a personal development plan
- ☐ Complete a training needs questionnaire
- ☐ Attend seminars/conferences
- ☐ Mentoring/coaching
- ☐ Attend other councillor development programmes
- ☐ Receive skills training e.g. IT, chairmanship skills etc
- ☐ Online training
- ☐ Training from documents
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other (please specify)

9 Please indicate which of these resources or learning you would find beneficial to your work a Councillor: (please tick all relevant)

- ☐ Media and communication skills training
- ☐ Induction
- ☐ Political skills and community leadership training
- ☐ Information technology support e.g. computer, laptop, etc
- ☐ Better information on the role of a councillor e.g. job description
- ☐ Continuing professional development scheme for Councillors
- ☐ An online e-learning package tailored to the needs of councillors
- ☐ A more formal qualification tailored to your role as a councillor

Other resources or learning

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3. Section B - Your views as a Councillor

10 How did you get involved with your council?

- ☐ Through family or friends
- ☐ Through an issue of interest
- ☐ Through an event
- ☐ Through work or an organisation
- ☐ Through community

Other

11 How much influence on your community do you feel you have as a councillor?

- ☐ A lot of influence
- ☐ Some influence
- ☐ Not much influence
- ☐ No influence
- ☐ Don't know

12 Would you recommend becoming a Councillor if you were asked? (please tick one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

13 Do you intend to stand for re-election at the end of your term in office? (please tick one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

If your answer was No, please explain why you are standing down



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4. Section C - About yourself

14 Please indicate whether you are male or female

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Prefer to self-describe
- ☐ Prefer not to say

15 Please tick your age range

- ☐ 18 - 25
- ☐ 26 - 35
- ☐ 36 - 45
- ☐ 46 - 55
- ☐ 55 - 65
- ☐ 66 - 75
- ☐ Over 75
- ☐ Prefer not to say

16 Which of the following ethnic groups would you describe yourself as belonging to.
(Choose ONE section)(Commission for Racial Equality categories)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> White - British | <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi |
| <input type="radio"/> White - Irish | <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British - Other Asian |
| <input type="radio"/> White - Other White | <input type="radio"/> Black or Black British - Caribbean |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed - White and Black Caribbean | <input type="radio"/> Black or Black British - African |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed - White and Black African | <input type="radio"/> Black or Black British - Other Black |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed - White and Asian | <input type="radio"/> Chinese or other ethnic group - Chinese |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed - Other Mixed | <input type="radio"/> Chinese or other ethnic group - Other ethnic group |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British - Indian | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British - Pakistani | |

Any other background

17

What is your religious affiliation?

- ☐ Christian
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

18

What is your sexual orientation?

- ☐ Heterosexual/straight
- ☐ Gay man
- ☐ Gay woman/lesbian
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Prefer to self-describe
- ☐ Prefer not to say

19

Do you identify yourself as a disabled person?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Prefer not to say

20

Are you a carer for a child under the age of 18?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

21 Please tick the boxes that are closest to your current main employment status, excluding work as a Councillor (please tick the main one)

- ☐ In full time paid employment (normally 30 hours or more per week)
- ☐ In part time employment (normally less than 30 hours per week)
- ☐ Self employed
- ☐ Unemployed
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Permanently sick or disabled and unable to work
- ☐ Not in paid work - looking after home/family
- ☐ In full time education
- ☐ Not working for some other reason
- ☐ Prefer not to say

22 If you are employed or self employed, tick the box that is closest to your current occupation in your main employment status (please tick one)

- ☐ Managerial or executive
- ☐ Professional or technical
- ☐ Lecturer, teacher or researcher
- ☐ Administrative, clerical, secretarial or sales
- ☐ Manual or craft
- ☐ Public sector
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Please write in your occupation

23 If you are an employee, how does your employer support your work as a Councillor?

- ☐ Allows you time off work to complete councillor duties
- ☐ Employer is not aware I am a councillor
- ☐ They do not support my work as a councillor
- ☐ Not applicable as not employed or self employed
- ☐ Prefer not to say