



## Local Council Survey 2016 - Councillor

Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils Survey of Councillors 2016

The Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils (Northants CALC) is undertaking a survey of parish and town councillors to refresh data previously collected in the 2011 survey. We are seeking your opinion as an individual councillor. This is your opportunity to say what you think and what you really feel about councillorship. With this survey we are interested in the views of individual councillors, rather than the formal view of the council as a body (a separate survey has been sent to your Clerk to ask about the council). Your views will help shape our policy and allow us to accurately represent the sector locally and nationally. All responses will remain completely anonymous.

The survey will remain open for 9 weeks until midnight on Sunday 15 May 2016.

If you have any questions about the survey please contact Anne Kirkland on 01327 831482 or [akirkland@northantscalc.com](mailto:akirkland@northantscalc.com).

Your views are important to us and we very much look forward to receiving your responses.

Thank you for your help.

Danny Moody  
Chief Executive, Northants CALC

### Your Council Work

\* 1. What is the name of your Council? (this information will be used to analyse the data at a district level)

\* 2. When did you first become a local councillor (i.e. Parish or Town)

During the last 12 months      Between 1 and 2 years ago      Between 2 and 4 years ago      More than 4 years ago but less than 10 years ago      More than 10 years ago

\* 3. Why did you want to be a local councillor? Select all that apply.

To influence local decisions

To comment on local planning applications

To contribute to improving the quality of life in your community

To identify issues which are important to local residents

To help bring about improvements through local projects

To find out more about being a councillor before standing for election as a District/County Councillor

To give something back to the community

To represent a political party

Other (please specify)

\* 4. What do you enjoy most about being a councillor?

\* 5. What do you enjoy least about being a councillor?

\* 6. What areas of council work interest you the most? Select all that apply.

- Planning and development control
- Highways
- Representing the community
- Environmental projects
- Play
- Sports and leisure
- Community buildings
- Youth services
- Grant making

Other (please specify)

\* 7. Would you recommend being a parish/town councillor to others?

Yes	No	Not sure
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Why do you say that?

\* 8. At this stage, do you intend to seek re-election and do another term of office?

Yes	No	Not sure
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Why do you say that?

\* 9. In your opinion, what is the greatest achievement of the council in the last 4 years?

### Devolution

\* 10. Has the government been clear about what it means by Devolution?

Yes	No	Not sure
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 11. How good is your understanding of what Devolution means?

Very good	Good	Neither good nor poor	Poor	Very poor
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 12. What do you understand to be the main aspect of the Devolution agenda? Select only one

- Greater involvement for town and parish councils in local public service delivery
- Transfer of costs from principal councils to parish/town councils
- Intelligent redesign of local government services
- An opportunity to deliver services at the lowest possible level that makes sense
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

\* 13. Do you think that the Government's Devolution agenda will mean greater opportunity for your council to run/take on new services?

Yes	No	No sure
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Why do you say that?

\* 14. What services would you like to see your council take on?



### Elections

\* 15. In your current term of office were you?

- Co-opted
- Elected (contested)
- Elected (uncontested)
- Don't know

\* 16. In your opinion are elections...

	Yes	No
An opportunity to renew your democratic mandate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A process to be avoided if at all possible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An important aspect of local government	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 17. Who has the greatest responsibility to promote elections? Select one only

- Parish/Town Council
- District/Borough Council
- Representative bodies (eg Associations of Local Councils, Society of Local Council Clerks)
- National government bodies (eg Electoral Commission, Department for Communities and Local Government)

### Training and Support

\* 18. When was the last time you undertook any training related to your role as Councillor?

During the last 12 months	Between 1 and 2 years ago	Between 2 and 4 years ago	More than 4 years ago but less than 10 years ago	More than 10 years ago	Haven't undertaken any training
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<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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If you have not undertaken any training, please explain why?

\* 19. During the next 12 months do you require any training related to your role as Councillor?

Yes	No
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<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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If yes, please specify what subjects

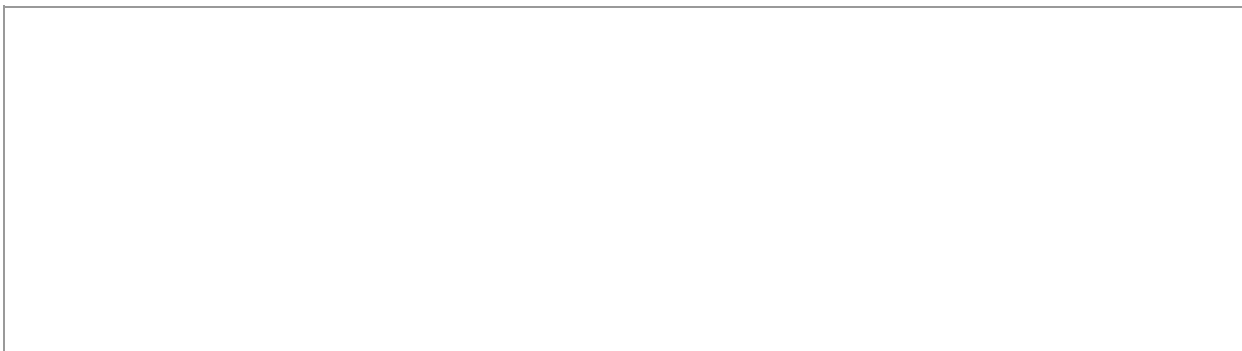
\* 20. What are the barriers to being an effective councillor? Select all that apply

- None
- Lack of council resources (funding)
- Complicated legislation
- Lack of power/influence
- Code of Conduct

Other (please specify)



\* 21. What other support do you feel you require?



### About You

\* 22. Are you male or female?

Male

Female

Prefer not to say

\* 23. How old are you?

18-29

30-44

45-54

55-64

65-74

75 or more

Prefer not to say

\* 24. As well as being a Councillor are you currently...

- Working full time (more than 30hrs per week) in paid employment or self employed
- Working part time (less than 30hrs per week) in paid employment or self employed
- A homemaker
- Retired
- Prefer not to say

Other (please specify)

25. If you would like to discuss any aspect of this survey in greater detail, or would like to be contacted directly about the results then please provide your name and e mail address below.

26. Northants CALC will be refreshing its Councillor Panel (a panel of 50 - 100 parish and town councillors in Northamptonshire). The panel is used by Northants CALC to measure opinion, float ideas and conduct polls. Would you be interested in being a member of the panel?

- Yes
- No
- Already a member

If yes, please provide your name and e-mail address below.