

Survey to Leeds City Council Elected Members on Boundary Commission Changes 2015

How long have you been a Leeds councillor in total (including any breaks)? (Tick one only)

	Frequency	Valid Percent
0 - 2 years	10	12.2
2 - 5 years	17	20.7
5 - 10 years	13	15.9
10 - 15 years	15	18.3
15 - 20 years	8	9.8
20+ years	19	23.2
Total	82	100.0

Please indicate the ward that you represent (Tick one only)

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Adel & Wharfedale	3	3.7
Alwoodley	2	2.4
Ardsley & Robin Hood	3	3.7
Armley	3	3.7
Beeston & Holbeck	3	3.7
Bramley & Stanningley	3	3.7
Burmantofts & Richmond Hill	2	2.4
Calverley & Farsley	3	3.7
Chapel Allerton	3	3.7
City & Hunslet	2	2.4
Crossgates & Whinmoor	1	1.2
Farnley & Wortley	3	3.7
Garforth & Swillington	2	2.4
Gipton & Harehills	2	2.4
Guiseley & Rawdon	3	3.7

Harewood	2	2.4
Headingley	2	2.4
Horsforth	2	2.4
Hyde Park & Woodhouse	3	3.7
Killingbeck & Seacroft	2	2.4
Kippax & Methley	2	2.4
Kirkstall	2	2.4
Middleton Park	2	2.4
Moortown	3	3.7
Morley North	3	3.7
Morley South	3	3.7
Otley & Yeadon	3	3.7
Pudsey	2	2.4
Rothwell	3	3.7
Roundhay	3	3.7
Temple Newsam	2	2.4
Weetwood	3	3.7
Wetherby	2	2.4
Total	82	100.0

Please indicate which positions you hold within the Council (Tick all that apply)

Leader	1
Deputy Leader	1
Chief Whip	1
Deputy Whip	2
Executive Board Member	3
Deputy Executive Board Member	6
Support Executive Board Member	12
Opposition Exec Board Portfolio Holder	7
Scrutiny Chair	6
Community Committee Chair	9
Ward Councillor	76

Please indicate which Council committees/sub-committees you are a member of: (Tick all that apply)

Executive Board	5
Cabinet	3
Scrutiny Board	53
Plans Panel	28
Licensing Committee	12
Health and Well Being Board	4
Community Committee	67
Licensing Sub-committee	10
Corporate Governance & Audit Committee	8
Standards Committee	6
General Purposes Committee	9
Member Management Committee	12
Housing Advisory Board	8
Development Plans Panel	8

Please indicate any political positions held: (Tick all that apply)

Group Leader	5
Deputy Group Leader	4
Chief Whip	8
Deputy Whip	2
Group Office Holder	4

**How many external appointments do you hold where you are appointed as a representative of the Council?
(number)**

	Frequency	Percent
0	6	7.3
1	10	12.2
2	14	17.1
3	16	19.5
4	16	19.5
5	9	11.0
6	5	6.1
7	2	2.4
8	1	1.2
9	1	1.2
10	1	1.2
46	1	1.2
Total	82	100.0

How many hours per month do you spend on councillor business? (number)

Category of time spent	Total hours spent by 81 respondents	Average hours (mean)	Lowest number of hours spent	Highest number of hours spent
Attendance at any formal Council meetings (e.g. planning, licensing, Scrutiny Full Council etc.)	1691.0	20.9	5.0	250
Attendance at other council meetings (e.g. meetings with officer's task and finish groups, scrutiny working groups, political group meetings etc.)	1449.0	18.3	3.0	150
Time spent on Group business	502.0	6.8	0.0	33
Attendance at external meetings (where you have been appointed as a representative of the Council, rather than attending because of your ward councillor position)	597.5	7.7	0.0	30
Community obligations	1362.0	17.7	0.0	90
Community Committees/Position on community committee	524.0	6.6	1.0	35
Involvement with Tenant & Resident Associations/ Housing Advisory Panels	513.0	6.8	0.0	30
Engaging with constituents, surgeries, street surgeries, ad-hoc approaches by constituents (in person/phone/email etc.)	1643.0	20.5	2.0	80
Dealing with constituent enquiries, casework etc.	2070.0	25.9	3.0	84
Preparation for meetings (including pre-meeting briefings)	824.0	10.4	0.0	40
Attending seminars, conferences and training	290.5	4.0	0.0	30
Travel related to councillor business	1341.0	17.6	0.0	200
Media/press work	282.5	4.2	0.0	30
Discussion at Group Meetings	287.5	3.9	0.0	22
Site Visits	358.0	5.0	0.0	30
Executive Board Portfolio Work (either in administration or opposition 'shadowing' role)	448.0	8.6	0.0	95
Other	129.0	3.9	0.0	16
Total of all time spent	14312.0	176.7	11	724

How many hours per month do you spend on social media? (number)

Number of hours	Frequency	Valid Percent
0	20	24.4
1	4	4.9
2	4	4.9
4	4	4.9
5	3	3.7
6	1	1.2
8	5	6.1
10	11	13.4
12	5	6.1
15	1	1.2
16	2	2.4
18	1	1.2
20	7	8.5
22	1	1.2
25	1	1.2
30	5	6.1
40	1	1.2
56	2	2.4
60	1	1.2
75	1	1.2
100	2	2.4
Total	82	100.0

	Total hours spent by 82 respondents	Average hours (mean)	Lowest number of hours spent	Highest number of hours spent
Time spent on social media	1148.0	14.0	0.0	100.000

**Can you describe the impact that this Social Media has had on your role as a Councillor?
(open response)**

A big impact - need to keep an eye out and respond at all times, including out of hours.
Awareness of issues, support to all, inclusion, allowing changes in regulations to be broadcast.
Better awareness and access to information, better contact with constituents
Difficult to give a quanta give amount of time I use social media - it's made the job 24 hour, where people can contact you via email/twitter/Facebook/text and expect an immediate response
Do live surgery every Thursday night and save our Beeston plus adhoc inquiries
Email has had an immense impact on my role as a councillor as it is a constant relentless tide of issues. Eleven years ago when I was first elected the majority of my casework was from letters and phone calls. Now I still get some letters and a lot of phone calls but the vast majority of contact with my constituents is via email. I do not use Twitter or Facebook but use email as a way to communicate and inform residents of all sorts of issues that may affect them e.g. road closures when we have road works or marathons, etc. Residents respond positively to these emails and more often than not with casework issues. Email allows residents to respond at a time convenient to them which is really important in our 24 hour economy. This is also an advantage for councillors. Replying to a resident via email is quicker, cheaper (no paper, envelopes, stamps or time to type letters etc.) and saves money. It is also easier to keep a trail of any correspondence which is easy to access. Trying to deal with this constant flow of emails can become difficult at times especially if one is in meetings all day and into the evening. There is a high expectation from residents in this 'instant' society for an immediate reply. Councillors need to manage their residents' expectations. Councillors need to ensure that they have a work/life balance to survive these pressures. Emails can become addictive and increasingly in many meetings it is noticeable that many attendees are spending a lot of time replying to their messages.
Email has had an immense impact on my role as a councillor as it is a constant relentless tide of issues. Eleven years ago when I was first elected the majority of my casework was from letters and phone calls. Now I still get some letters and a lot of phone calls but the vast majority of contact with my constituents is via email. I do not use Twitter or Facebook but use email as a way to communicate and inform residents of all sorts of issues that may affect them e.g. road closures when we have road works or marathons, etc. Residents respond positively to these emails and more often than not with casework issues. Email allows residents to respond at a time convenient to them which is really important in our 24 hour economy. This is also an advantage for councillors. Replying to a resident via email is quicker, cheaper (no paper, envelopes, stamps or time to type letters etc.) and saves money. Trying to deal with this constant flow of emails can become difficult at times especially if one is in meetings all day and into the evening. There is a high expectation from residents in this 'instant' society for an immediate reply. Councillors need to manage their residents' expectations. Councillors need to ensure that they have a work/life balance to survive these pressures. Emails can become addictive and increasingly in many meetings it is noticeable that many attendees are spending a lot of time replying to their messages.
Helps to spread the word.
Higher profile. Nearer people. For information on big issues e.g. fracking. Informed about topical and relevant issues exchange and information of views: Alert on emergency flooding.
Higher profile, closer to people for information and issues and concerns such as Fracking, Flooding. Kept informed about topical issues in the ward. A far better understanding on views of electorate such as Planning, Housing and Flooding

<p>Huge - Both as Climate Change Support Executive Member and as a ward Councillor I get at least 10-12 tweets a day and Facebook posts personally or on the Moortown page either in response to something I have posted or proactive contact. This sometimes needs prolonged debate or follow-up by e-mail. At least twice a week it requires phone or physical follow-up.</p>
<p>I am active on both Facebook and Twitter as a Councillor. I think social media is a great way of making yourself available to your constituents and promoting local events and campaigns. I am contacted by constituents on social media with casework enquiries multiple times a week.</p>
<p>I can get information out about activities and events much quicker and as it is retweeted it does widen the group other than mine. We also raise issues of community concern such as planning and licensing applications. It tends to reinforce the work I do but still have meetings and send letter and do press</p>
<p>I don't have time to exploit its full potential.</p>
<p>I find social media a very useful tool. I have set up a FB page for our ward and use it to publicise local events, consultations etc. but generally to raise the profile of the ward councillors. Also useful to reach younger residents and interact with other agencies</p>
<p>I have my Cllr page on Facebook and twitter. We also have a Garforth and Swillington news and events which gives us a chance to keep the public informed, but it has increased our casework as it's easier to contact us. Younger people use social media.</p>
<p>I now receive many direct communications - messages, notifications, and comments on sites like "Street Life" or Community websites. Monitoring and partaking in such activities is becoming a much more prominent part of my work.</p>
<p>I prefer email contact and also respond to things that come in via social media.</p>
<p>I receive requests for community actions through social media and clearly this will continue to grow due to its popularity.</p>
<p>I recognise the importance of this and do need to spend more time on social media. It is any are that will continue and from no social media presence two years ago I now have Facebook and Twitter accounts.</p>
<p>I regularly engage with constituents answering queries and responding to casework on Twitter and Facebook. This has allowed me to engage with a wider demographic than just using traditional means of communication.</p>
<p>I use Twitter and Facebook to both to engage with the wider community and to keep up to date with current events in politics and the news. It's important to be up to date so we can respond quickly as a Labour group to questions and news stories. Alongside a new level of interaction with the public, the time spent on social media is high but necessary to be on top of the issues that local people are concerned about.</p>
<p>I used social media to reach and help me interact with my constituency</p>
<p>Ideal mostly with e-mail which I have not included in the above figures but in the casework and engagement numbers. I am not heavily involved directly in social media but pick up work via the group and constituency offices.</p>
<p>Improved communication. Impact of building a profile in ward</p>
<p>Increases every year</p>

<p>It allows me to communicate with and receive comments from large numbers of constituents quickly and at low cost. It also allows me to get important information out to residents quickly e.g. if there is a road closure or RTA I will highlight that, if there is severe weather forecast I will highlight that and plans the council has made, recently I gave updates in relation to some power outages that happened within the ward these get very widely shared.</p>
<p>It enables me to contact a wide range of people directly and instantly</p>
<p>It has given more people a voice and opened a new gateway for constituents to contact their Councillor without leaving their home whilst also providing a platform for councillors to promote events and proposed changes within the ward. Good way to promote community consultation delivering the same message to all.</p>
<p>It has had a profound impact as local people are aware of what their local councillor does through social media. I use my blog, my own Facebook page, the Rothwell News Facebook page I created, twitter and regularly contribute and respond on local forums. The time spent on this is ever increasing.</p>
<p>It has made me more accessible to residents and given me the opportunity to pick up on lots more local issues/casework.</p>
<p>It helps when you can post statements/pictures on events you attend on Facebook and Twitter + follow others to become more informed</p>
<p>It is becoming more and more important. It is becoming the normal means of communicating.</p>
<p>It makes engagement with constituents much faster.</p>
<p>It saves time to deal with ward matters and increases the link to deal with raised. it helps me to gain formation related to my duties as a councillor</p>
<p>it's a necessity it keeps you in touch with the people you represent more important you visit the older people who never leave there homes, it is difficult to put a time to this ,could be walking in the street and people stop you and want to discuss things</p>
<p>Keeps you up to speed with developments in the community, ward and city. Only just beginning to use it so unsure yet of impact.</p>
<p>Less than might be anticipated. Most of my constituents contact me (on the internet) by email (70%, I guess) or by phone.</p>
<p>Made me more accessible.</p>
<p>Made me more accessible. Keeps my constituents in touch with what is happening in the ward.</p>
<p>Marked. I have to spend significant time following what is being said locally, even though more often than not I will not add a comment. For example this week, I picked up parking issues related to a local school expansion. I arranged to meet affected residents with officers, met the residents on site, agreed a way forward and defused the issue. Social Media is good to identify what really concerns residents.</p>
<p>Massive impact. Constituents are more aware of councillors and their role and how they can help them. It's more difficult and time-consuming obtaining information from social media and it takes time to reply to the many different constituents.</p>
<p>Massive!</p>

<p>Massive. Twitter, Facebook and my 'Councillor' website has opened up access, openness and transparency and local democracy much more than ever. Where once councillors sat awaiting 'snail mail' and lately email and where given time to respond, the use of social media rarely allows you that privilege. Residents want responses and answers now and are quick to criticise if you don't reply NOW. Since joining social media I have seen my casework quadruple; whilst the need to inform, educate and advise to residents and communities have meant that I am 'always on duty' as a councillor. Of course, as my 'profile' has raised so demand on my time has both 'on and off line' risen. Being accessible and approachable means that I generate casework, enquires and demand on my time that would not have happened had I not 'released the genie' of social media!</p>
<p>More effective way of working, reaches a different age range of constituents. Excellent way to promote Community activities. Builds Communities that can identify and communicate issues that are having an impact on where they live. Constituents feel that you are accessible and that they can communicate short messages on Unemployment , Health , Environment , low pay , disabilities , welfare , school places and performance of the Council It enables me to send out notifications to targeted groups this is fantastic for job seekers</p>
<p>My initial reaction was that people posted a load of trivia on social media but I'm starting to see the benefits. For example, getting people to a public meeting at short notice.</p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p>None</p>
<p>On constant call. Multimedia consequences, mobile phones, I pads etc. Less requirement for group office assistance. More self/personal involvement which results in more immediate completion of tasks.</p>
<p>One of the major changes is social media in the way I work and people are using it for good as well as bad. It is something I need to learn.</p>
<p>Opened up the role - social media allows me to reach and connect with many more people - especially those who don't attend the usual meetings. Great way to share information, listen to others views, and show I am a human being</p>
<p>Our residents expect face to face contact - Most do not own a computer</p>
<p>People use social media a lot more and also take an interest in your work on social media</p>
<p>Some requests and information asked for via Twitter and updating residents on local matters (Facebook kept private).</p>
<p>Take up a lot of spare time, easy access on phone, this is used during meetings, during leisure time, on holiday, can be a distraction, due to trying to keep up with all the case work.</p>
<p>The public presume you are available 24 hours a day if you have Twitter/Facebook accounts etc. Need to set out the hours you are available. Positive impact is that it makes it easier to communicate and share messages quickly and also other group's messages to meet a wider audience.</p>
<p>The social media is a double edged sword. Whereby it has greatly improved connectability to officers and constituents. It has also generated vastly more correspondence and casework from people, organisations not exclusively from my own ward at Armley.</p>
<p>Twitter allows local issues (like road closures) to be advertised quickly. Facebook and twitter allow a message to reach a demographic (younger, incomers) not attuned to local print media</p>

Twitter helpful in keeping up to date with developments, commenting on same, promoting good work taking place in city and ward and promoting events/activities. Facebook less so. Difficult to manage public profile and maintain privacy esp. for family. Social Media has primarily created another job to do at the end of a long day.
Useful but can be dangerous.
very little
Very little
Very little.
Very useful in keeping up to date with the local community. It is a useful contact for constituents who cannot get to surgeries or community meetings
Very useful in keeping up to date with the local community. Useful contact for constituents who cannot get to surgeries or community meetings
zero - Proactively made a decision not to engage on social media

Does the area you represent include parish or town councils? (Tick one only)

	Frequency	Valid Percent
No	55	67.1
Yes	27	32.9
Total	82	100.0

Which parish and town councils does the area you represent include? (open response)

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Alwoodley Parish council, Harewood Parish council	1	4.2
Bramhope and Carlton, Pool, and Arthington	1	4.2
Bramhope Parish Council Pool Parish Council Arthington Parish Council	1	4.2
Harewood Parish Council Alwoodley Parish Council	1	4.2
Horsforth Town Council	1	4.2
Kippax, Ledsham, Allerton Bywater, Ledston, Micklefield.	1	4.2
Kippax, Ledston, Allerton Bywater, Ledsham, Micklefield.	1	4.2
Morley Town Council	4	16.7
Morley Town Council, Drighlington Parish Council and Gildersome Parish Council.	1	4.2
Otley Town Council	2	8.3
Otley Town Council & Bramhope and Carlton Parish Council. I stood down from Otley Town Council in May 2015 due to the increased city councillor workload generated from social media.	1	4.2
Pool PC Bramhope PC Arthington PC	1	4.2
Rawdon P.C.	1	4.2
Rawdon Parish Council	2	8.3
Rawdon Parish Council and Horsforth Town Council	1	4.2
Scarcroft, THorner, Aberford, Barwick & Scholes, Harewood, Shadwell, COLLingham & Linton, East Keswick, Bardsey.	1	4.2
Swillington and Great Preston Parish Councils	1	4.2

Wetherby Town Council, Bramham-cum-Oglethorpe Parish Council, Boston Spa Parish Council, Thorp Arch Parish Council, Walton Parish Council	2	8.3
Total	24	100.0

Are you a member of one of these? (Tick one only)

	Frequency	Valid Percent
No	16	59.3
Yes	11	40.7
Total	27	100.0
Missing	55	
Total	82	

How many hours per month do you spend on Parish / Town Council business? (number)

	Frequency	Valid Percent
0	2	7.4
1	1	3.7
2	3	11.1
3	1	3.7
4	4	14.8
5	1	3.7
6	3	11.1
8	1	3.7
10	5	18.5
12	2	7.4
16	1	3.7
20	1	3.7
29	1	3.7
30	1	3.7
Total	27	100.0

Time spent on Parish / Town Council business	Total hours spent by 27 respondents 226.0	Average hours (mean) 8.4	Lowest number of hours spent 0.0	Highest number of hours spent 30.000
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Any other comments relating to Parish/Town Councils (open response)

<p>Although I have retired from Morley Town Council in May, I still attend Full Council meetings and some Planning work for the Council. I also attend some Drighlington and Gildersome Parish Council meetings.</p>
<p>As a former Otley Town Council I have had to provide support, advice and guidance to the 'new' town council administration, which has 19 (out of 20) new parish councillors. Many look to me for help and guidance and ask me to pick up their casework.</p>
<p>Attend Parish Council meetings and other events arising from these.</p>
<p>Attend PC meetings and other events arising from these.</p>
<p>Dealing with Patient Participation Groups at the local practice</p>
<p>Harewood Parish Council takes a decreasing amount of time since I ceased to be chairman. I do, however, provide the link with L.C.C., where there are always matters of substance where I can help.</p>
<p>Have 5 parish Councils- Key part of our role liaising, joint meetings on issues like planning, housing, sports facilities and transport.</p>
<p>I am the main conduit for information between the two parish councils in my ward and the city council</p>
<p>I attend both Parish Councils on a regular basis</p>
<p>Includes emailing, calls, meetings, full parish council meetings and generated casework.</p>
<p>Meeting with town councillors to discuss mutual issues and assist them.</p>
<p>Meetings, discussions and dealing with council issues</p>
<p>Much of the work of the PCs is closely connected to city council issues</p>
<p>Parish Council Meetings, planning meetings and meeting with individual parish councillors are all vital to ensure smooth co-operation between all levels of local government.</p>
<p>The 4 hours above only relates to the formal work of the council such as attendance at meetings. I sit on the community committee, audit committee and the complaints sub-committee. There is a blurred line between activities of the Town Council and the city council with many constituents not sure which body provides which service and who is responsible for civic and other activities in the town. This means that I spend more time on council affairs but this included elsewhere.</p>
<p>We have 5 PC's- a key part of our role is to liaise and arrange joint meetings on issues such as Planning, Housing, Sports Facilities, transport and so on</p>
<p>We have two Parish Councils in our ward- as Chair of the Community Committee I meet them regularly at the Garforth and Swillington Forums, they are invited to attend all Community Committee meetings and do attend.</p>
<p>Wetherby Town Council and 2 sub-committees</p>
<p>When I am free I call into parish council meetings for an hour or so, to provide information on what I am doing and to pick up on any issues that are worrying the parish councillors.</p>

Do you feel that membership of these bodies is a necessary part of being a city councillor in the area you represent? (open response)

As a member of the group and the council it is very difficult to manage regular attendance. Also very difficult to avoid conflict of loyalties and interest on issues like planning and housing. However, it is important to listen and liaise on these important issues but also maintain a healthy distance to avoid inconsistencies.
As an elected member you need to engage with all different organisations, which I feel in our ward we do. We work closely with Police, Fire, Housing, Neighbourhood Networks, Housing Panels, School, Tenant Groups, Parish Councils, Sports Clubs, Uniformed Clubs, and Older People's Groups to engage with all ages.
As Leader of Group and Council, very difficult to manage regular attendance. As Leader of Group and Council, conflicts on big issues, e.g.. Housing, planning, etc. Important to listen and liaise.
As Parish Councils are very much concentrated on one part of the ward it is useful to the Parish Council to be able to pass things on of a more strategic or city-wide view.
Attendance is very much necessary. Parish Councils need the help of city councillors for more strategic and city wide issues.
Bringing the community together each helps the other
By attendance I can provide wider a city view on local issues and vice versa. It helps put things into context and provides me with close contact with local councillors.
Enables me to listen to town councillors' and town clerk's concerns and then act on them.
Have regular contact with P.C. councillors.
I have regular contact with them.
I was a city councillor 15 years before the Town Council was created
It certainly benefits if you are retired, a financially independent or have the time to represent both effectively. As a married relatively young family man with kids, needing to work 30 hours a week in a 'real' job I found I couldn't do justice to be parish councillor role.
It gives a clear view of what residents are thinking at a very local level.
It is not clear whether you refer to the town council or external bodies. It is not necessary to be part of a separately elected town council provided you liaise with them. Other external bodies help to understand historically what is going on in the ward.
It is vital that City Councillors and Town/Parish Councillors work together for the good of the communities.
Membership is not necessary, but attending parish council events provides valuable contact with the community and a crucial opportunity to address public concerns about LCC.
No, it is not necessary to be a town councillor if you are city councillor. The electorate determine if you are elected to both councils. However a city councillor will be expected to liaise closely and work with a town council and town councillors especially on civic and community events in a manner that does not occur in the older urban area of Leeds. In Morley there are 28 Town councillors, 25 parish councillors in the area covered by two wards represented by six city councillors.

<p>Not absolutely necessary but it does help, particularly with community liaison</p>
<p>Not being a member but working closely with them as a local and legislative body.</p>
<p>Not essential - I had to give Morley Town Council up after fifteen years because combined workload was too much any have managed since May without when on Morley Town Council I had worked for more hours on it than anyone else consistently over those years.</p>
<p>Outer North East is unusual in having so many active and effective parish councils. Other areas of the city should be encouraged to form P.C.s; they are not 'necessary' for L.C.C councillors but they allow us to do our jobs with better information than if they did not exist. Time spent with parish councillors is never wasted.</p>
<p>Parish council spend a lot of time discussing items such as bulb planting and repairs to benches, which I don't feel are of major concern to a city councillor.</p>

Is the time you spend on council business what you expected when you became a councillor? (Tick one only)

	Frequency	Valid Percent
No, I spend MORE time on council work than I had expected	59	72.0
No, I spend LESS time on council work than I had expected	0	0.0
Yes, the amount of time I spend is just as expected	23	28.0
Total	82	100.0

Is the time you spend on council business what you expected when you became a councillor? (open response)

<p>1) Many constituents' issues are not simple of straight forward. They require exchange of information, follow-up meetings and real persistence in order to achieve satisfactory outcomes. 2) Large and controversial planning issues are taking a very substantial amount of time.</p>
<p>Although I have been a councillor for only three years I have been a political campaigner for over ten years and worked alongside councillors in that time and consequently was very familiar with what councillors did and the time commitment involved.</p>
<p>As a minority party Councillor perhaps I spend more time on all aspects of Council work, as we don't have a party machine.</p>
<p>As a new member I found that I didn't have a full understanding of the nature of the role. I'm finding that I'm spending about as much time as I envisaged in the ward. Dealing with casework can become very complex and time consuming. I wasn't really prepared for how much time would be taken up on strategic matters away from the ward. Additionally as a new member I am keen to attend training sessions or briefings whenever I can to enhance my knowledge.</p>
<p>As my husband was elected 4 years before myself and I helped him, I knew what to expect.</p>
<p>As social media, e-mails and other forms have become a more direct means of communication, as services are delegated so involvement in local community has grown, time spent as ward member grown.</p>
<p>Because the three ward councillors for Calverley and Farsley all live within the ward, and have done for many years, all three are well known by local people. As a result we are contacted by constituents at all hours of the day, including on an evening and weekend, when out with family or socialising. This is only likely to increase given the proposals for new housing in my ward.</p>
<p>Becoming a Councillor is like no other position. There are so many aspects to the role it is difficult to quantify. It is essential to build up knowledge of many areas including housing, planning, employment, education, homelessness, community organisations, corporate parenting, partnership meetings, environmental issues, highways, residents associations. To undertake the role of Councillor in the correct way, these issues need dealing with in details to ensure constituents get the correct advice and help. This takes time to research and understand the correct information.</p>
<p>Being a Councillor is a 24/7 job. Unlike other jobs where you can switch off at 5pm or on a weekend, the demands and needs of a community are your responsibility every time of day and night. There is a great deal of pressure on local Councillors to dedicate as much of their time as possible on addressing the needs of the community. It is very rare that I have a free weekend or can completely switch off in an evening.</p>
<p>Being a Councillor is an almost full time commitment. You should not get elected unless you are prepared to commit significant amounts of time into the job.</p>
<p>Case/ward work is what I expected. Responsibilities have greatly increased with time. Particularly Civic/Group.</p>
<p>Council is now a full time job in my ward - people get in touch with you for everything. Poor people need help and this takes a lot of time.</p>

<p>Council work is open-ended. It is never finished, If you think it is, and then something else will appear.</p>
<p>Having been involved with local community groups before I became a Councillor I knew how time consuming it would be. Especially attending meetings in the evening.</p>
<p>Having been involved with local community groups before I became a Councillor I knew how time consuming it would be especially when also attending meetings in the evening.</p>
<p>I am a full time Councillor and I am Health and Social Care Champion so I spend a lot of time doing Council business, attending the meetings as well as formal Council meetings.</p>
<p>I believe that I would spend about 30 hours per week, so this is clearly more than I expected. I now sleep and eat council work, first thing in the morning and last thing at night.</p>
<p>I deliberately chose to be a Councillor after being involved in a hugely demanding job role.</p>
<p>I expected to spend a considerable time on council business when elected but spend more time on constituent's casework local issues and community involvement than I anticipated.</p>
<p>I had a break from being a councillor for five years and was shocked at how the workload has increased. I couldn't do this role if I worked. Fortunately, I am retired.</p>
<p>I have got more involved as the years have gone by.</p>
<p>I intended to work hard for my constituents so I think issues are aired</p>
<p>I knew due to my previous community work that the case load is high and that council business takes up time.</p>
<p>I put myself forward on the expectation that it would be a full time commitment.</p>
<p>I rather naively did not appreciate the amount of paper work that a council generates for committee meetings and how long it would take to read them. Also belonging to a small group means that members of that group have to double up on committees etc. and thus have more work to do.</p>
<p>I represent a very challenging and hard to reach community, because of the nature of my community I am always in demand.</p>
<p>I spend in the region of 37 hours a week on work that is solely due to my being a councillor. I had expected to spend between 15 and 20 hours a week.</p>

<p>I think it is about commitment to those you represent and the passion to make a difference. I if you have an area with high unemployment spending a few hours a week will not bring it down, successive government schemes have failed communities. Local Civic leadership is needed the type that understands the whole community and its needs, but also understands the barriers to work. Leadership that needs an helicopter view that connects with schools colleges and business. Leadership that builds and delivers a sustainable plan for future generations. I have worked on this agenda and we now have fantastic outcomes but there is still much to do and simply waiting for Government Schemes is not the answer it is not a one size fits all approach. Culture changes driven by constituents wanting a clean, safe place to live not a lot to ask for but needs to be delivered by building community confidence and capacity for change. Leadership and a long term plan that is achieved with the community in the community and celebrated and shared via all communication possible marking milestones this takes time and trust. What works in one part of the city on health and education doesn't always work for your community so it is about having a neighbourhood plan, that thinks about all your constituents and there needs but also cost wise how you get the best housing and how assets of the council are used in a cost effective way.</p>
<p>I thought I could keep my employment, have a home life and be a councillor. First I had to go part time, then give up work and my children saw very little of me as they grew up.</p>
<p>I thought I would attend council meetings and help residents when they are struggling with bureaucracy. I had not realised the amount of preparation involved for this and that needed for whole council and committee meetings. Also the amount of time emailing. Also the amount of time spent reassuring the community by your attendance at community events. To do the job well I don't think someone can also work full time.</p>
<p>I was already aware of the time involved as my brother had previously been a councillor</p>
<p>I was aware in advance of how much time should be spent on council work by close relationships with city councillors.</p>
<p>I was aware that it was a big job, but not quite as all-encompassing as I'd expected due to the constant call on your time</p>
<p>I was elected 17 years ago. I was a junior part time councillor. The role has changed significantly with more expectations and personally I have more senior responsibilities.</p>
<p>I was given more responsibility than expected and the number of local initiatives to support has increased</p>
<p>I was surprised at the amount of work involved.</p>
<p>I work and have a young family. I had to reduce my hours at work significantly and I work every evening (either in front of the computer or attending events) and at least one weekend day to be able to keep up with my Council duties. My children have become very used to attending community events, public meetings, memorial services etc. in the community as I can't get childcare for all the things I have to go to.</p>
<p>If done thoroughly and effectively, the range of duties/work I carry out equates to a full working week at least. Much is evening/weekend work on top of full 5 working days.</p>
<p>If you are a councillor doing the job as it should be done you are 7/24 what is a free week-end??? you are an advisor / confident /agony aunt /mediator, uncle tom cobbly and all .</p>
<p>My husband is a city councillor and I know how hard he works.</p>

<p>My role has grown considerably since I became a Councillor. The demands of ward work are the same but being an Exec Board member and Chair of a strategic board generates a huge amount of extra work. As a result of evening meetings in the ward, Group meetings, Full Council and Group meetings into the evenings, advice surgeries, events in the ward and campaigning at the weekend maintaining a work life balance is almost impossible. The antisocial hours are not great for family life.</p>
<p>Obviously being on the Executive Board increases the time commitment quite considerably, but dealing with Community Committee business, constituent's enquiries and dealing with correspondence, emails, phone calls and meetings, it all adds up. Going to community events, seminars organised by Outside Bodies and community organisations.</p>
<p>Outcomes for regeneration and planning. Dealing with housing and repairs, private landlords. NHS, the environment all makes it worthwhile plus voluntary groups and probation service.</p>
<p>Over the years the amount of time it is necessary to spend on council business has increased dramatically. Residents'™ expectations are certainly higher; the amount of correspondence has increased dramatically.</p>
<p>Over the years the time spent as a councillor has greatly increased. We now liaise with many other bodies such as neighbourhood police forums, NHS, local charities and third sector organisations and the Fire and Rescue Service.</p>
<p>Over the years, both the time and demand has increased in line with public expectation, changing roles and increased council role</p>
<p>Probably my own fault for volunteering to join committees/panels and substituting for those who cannot attend.</p>
<p>Rather naively I had not realised how much paper work there would be for council meetings and I found this overwhelming to begin with but soon got to grips with it.</p>
<p>residents are better informed these days and therefore their demands are greater</p>
<p>The more conscientious you are, and the more you achieve, the more issues will be raised with you at Ward level, but also the more responsibilities you will be given. On election I thought it possible to do the work in 2 or 3 days a week. It is now effectively a 5 day a week job, but spread over 7 days, and taking up most evenings.</p>
<p>The nature of the changes made over the years have resulted in the workload changing and hence meant that your time is taken over more and more. For example, in planning we used to do a couple of site visits and then the meeting in the afternoon. Now most of the morning is spent on site visits and meetings can go on until 7 or 8 in the evening</p>
<p>The need to challenge officers to give a fair approach to my ward is greater than anticipated.</p>
<p>The required commitment grows each year, or councillors are easier to contact. There is never a day without two or three 'engagements' with constituents; 20 years ago contact was less frequent and tended to be with people who knew one personally.</p>
<p>The role is huge and could easily be full time, with every day filled with activity. I have to curtail the hours I spend on council work as I also work full time in a demanding senior role. Being a councillor is not really a part time role - I constantly feel I am short changing my constituents.</p>
<p>The time spent has increased as responsibilities and problems have recently increased due to cut backs.</p>

<p>The ward I now represent is the biggest in the U.K. Shortage of housing, schools and lack of finance for all council services result in a greater casework</p>
<p>The work is constant and not in my power to control. Some days it is OK, others it is crazy. Constituents have become much more demanding and critical.</p>
<p>The work of a councillor is all consuming and you don't ever get to turn off. Councillors are expected to be at every community event and meeting in the evenings and at weekends alongside the large amount of day time work that is done in the civic hall and in community committees to administer council functions. I am available to constituents on my home telephone number and I hold surgeries and do door knocking at the weekends to maintain contact with people. Councillors are not well paid for the hours worked but we do it because we are passionate and committed to our communities and to public service. I am on a school cluster, I have been a school governor at 3 schools, I'm on the court of Leeds university, and I'm the children's champion for the community committee. On this we have ward member meetings where we dictate priorities for local projects, I have been on the wellbeing working group for local funding bids and my fellow councillors are on environment sub committees ensuring that local street cleaning dog fouling, leaf clearing and litter and grit bins are correctly administered.</p>
<p>The workload is significantly more than I thought and the time needed to present and lead my community has only got greater. Some of that is my own making. As I've said elsewhere whilst joining social media has been a benefit for local democracy and for representation it has been a significant drain on my time. The public consistently confuse my role with a 'town councillor' or goes the other way and confuses it with a MP. Either way, they generally believe that I should be available all the time, failure to do so soon create 'on line' criticism and potential harm to my ability to present all my residents.</p>
<p>There is far more involved in becoming a councillor than I ever expected. The level of commitment needed is all consuming and the demands are relentless. It is very rewarding because of what you can achieve for local people. Doing the councillors job properly is more than a full time job. I'm on call 24/7 and even having constituents knocking at my door as I live in the community I represent. Also when I'm out shopping and out for a meal or walk locally I am presented with local issues. When I drop off my daughter at school I am stopped with issues from people. The work is never ending but I love the work.</p>
<p>To be an accessible, visible, hands on councillor requires you to be on call all the time and to roll your sleeves up and get involved with all that is going on in your community. This means many evening and weekend activities as well as during the day on top of the traditional advice surgeries, resident and tenant meetings. I help to run community galas, volunteer for our older people's luncheon clubs, our in bloom groups, environmental walkabouts, as well as specific campaigns e.g. anti speeding, dementia friendly neighbourhood etc.</p>
<p>When I became a councillor, I was in full time employment and it was a struggle to keep up with the demands of constituents and my employers, so 'No, I spend more time on council work than I had expected' applied. I retired four years ago and now the option I selected above is more appropriate.</p>

When I was in full time employment I worked a 40 hour week This is not structured therefore you accommodate more into the role to suit civic duties and constituents needs

With the use of social media, emails and other forms of direct contact casework continues to increase. As services become delegated to local areas for local council involvement members responsibilities have increased in terms of directing and influencing resources and services

Working full time there are unrealistic requirements some weeks that if undertaken would result in 3 full days out of paid employment. Officers assume all councillors are available at all times of the day therefore requests for early and late meetings are required.

Have there been any changes to the demands on your time over the years of you being a Councillor? (Tick one only)

	Frequency	Valid Percent
No	10	12.2
Yes	72	87.8
Total	82	100.0

If yes, please indicate what you feel that causes of those changes are (open response)

1) The electorate in my Ward is increasing. 2) People's expectations have rightly increased. 3) We live within our communities and one seen as part of the community. 4) The availability and immediacies of social media.
Additional responsibilities on the Council. Increased casework as my reputation has built. Accumulation of membership of boards/committees
After my first year I became deputy chair and then chair of Metro - the local transport authority, and then I became deputy leader of my party. I no longer hold these positions.
As a council we decided to devolve functions to communities in the city so they can be better delivered. Each member has been given new governance roles in their areas. As described previously I am the children's lead member, and this entails a lot more work as councillors effectively get involved in guiding local delivery. But also it is a key role to feed up to the executive member for children's services the issues and priorities for the council. Also with shrinking budgets and fewer services councillors are the front line for many constituents to approach with a growing list of issues.
As constituents get to know and trust you your case work increases. Also as a new Councillor as you find your feet and realise that contact in the form of letters or consultations to constituents is required the need increases.
As more people have recognised me as their councillor throughout the ward, the time I need to devote to ward matters has increased.
as previous answer
As you become more established as a councillor more and more people contact you and invite you to their community meetings
As your become more established as a Councillor more and more people contact you and invite you to their community meetings
Blue light services very demanding work. Planning training essential. Unemployment needs very demanding of time. Homelessness a big issue.
Cases are more complicated. More access to councillors. I represent 18,000 people and many more now contact me for help.
Changes due to the way the services required to be delivered at local level and in partnership with other organisations. Providing services through Community Committee is best way of providing services but requires more involvement from ward members and working with other service providers and community organisation.
Constituent expectations Social media Cuts to services/consultations around this Street drinking/ASB/low level crime
Core Strategy and Site Allocation
Council and scrutiny meeting requirement about the same, but community committee and casework are taking up increasing amounts of time
Councillor Involvement
Cut backs, welfare changes, despair of residents requesting advice and to support changes in roles.
Demands are increasing. This issue to change of role but more specifically increasing needs of constituents due to impact of cuts.

<p>Due to the extended role of Community Committees, Localism Bill, social media and increased correspondence due to emails and due to the impact of austerity measures, lack of social housing and deprivation in the ward I represent.</p>
<p>Family & work - when I started as a councillor I was single, I now have a young family and it can be challenging to fit everything in. The public expect much more from councillors than when I was first elected but do not recognise that it is not a fully paid role and therefore unless you have private means or a cabinet position you also need to hold down a separate job to pay the bills</p>
<p>For the role of school governor and chair has substantially changed over the years. Ofsted has placed bigger demands on governors.</p>
<p>From Back bencher, to Leader has inevitably placed more demand and pressure 2004-2015. Now Transport responsibility has meant very time consuming commitments across City required. Expectations of public have risen.</p>
<p>From being a new backbencher I have now taken on new responsibilities such as Chair of Licensing Committee, Lead Member for Environment and Community Safety inevitably this has placed extra demands on my time as a Local Councillor. Given the austerity impact the local electorate have greater expectation on us to secure and protect vital services.</p>
<p>Greater expectations of residents. Greater involvement of Council in local life.</p>
<p>I am in fifth year as a councillor and there have been some changes in this time. A key change has been a greater devolvement of responsibility, community engagement, budgets and service delivery to community committees has increased work loads of "backbench councillors. Many councillors now have additional new responsibilities to lead on certain issues in the community area. I lead on training skills and welfare. In addition the impact of changes to the delivery of housing services, welfare changes and reductions in council and public services have led to more issues, casework and scrutiny from the public of council services.</p>
<p>I have been on Council six months but balancing work and Council work is a fine art.</p>
<p>I have only been a Councillor for 6 months. The demands on Councillors time are very high.</p>
<p>I have taken on additional responsibilities.</p>
<p>I represent a very deprive community, and because of the nature of my ward, there is not a day that pass by that my help and support not needed. And I always ready to help.</p>
<p>Increase in number of committees I sit on.</p>
<p>Increased workload, desire from community to attend events and further Council consultations and action - all possible to pursue under current arrangements.</p>
<p>It is busier as community expectations have been raised.</p>
<p>It is too early to answer this question, but the questionnaire would not allow me to leave it blank</p>
<p>Lack of public housing Insufficient school places Increase in life expectancy Environmental issues Lots of issues as a consequence of budget pressures</p>

<p>Lead on Climate Change then switched to Children's Services to lead on Children Looked After and also to lead on children involved Sport and Arts plus to lead on Cycling & Sport in general plus increasing number of projects in Ward</p>
<p>Learning the job. The more you learn the more you realise you have to do. In some ways you generate work by how active you are as a councillor</p>
<p>Local people expect an immediate response increasingly (and a public response) on social media so whatever you are doing in your own time you never really have your own time with family as you have to respond. As social media increases your time is increasingly taken up. This is as well as every other demand that has always been there.</p>
<p>More involvement in community groups/sports clubs etc.</p>
<p>More people and organisations engage in the democratic process via social media and via community committees.</p>
<p>More time spent on scrutiny working groups due to the Chair taking up more enquiries. I was also Group Leader for 4 years and am currently both Group Whip and Deputy Group Leader.</p>
<p>Mostly the change to an Exec Model. Paradoxically this means that if you are a member of a small opposition party then the members who are the public front of that group have to be totally on top of what is happening</p>
<p>Much more demand from emails and surgeries</p>
<p>New technology has made it easier to deal with casework.</p>
<p>Over the last 5 years, there has been a dramatic rise in the volume of casework, considerably more conflict with council departments over city-wide issues and more meetings with officers to address these.</p>
<p>See above. Greater expectations, easier contact. Unfortunately, occasionally, a reluctance to speak to a neighbour about a perceived problem. (This happens more often, and too often.)</p>
<p>See answer to question 11. It was infinitely easier when the council had committees rather than the Executive Board system. Members became specialists in certain fields and worked with their ward colleagues who were specialists in other fields of work. Now one is a 'jack of all trades' constantly checking on Executive decisions.</p>
<p>See previous answer but in many ways councillors need more skill and training to deal with complex issues and this occupies more time.</p>
<p>Since I have got involved with most of the children's committees.</p>
<p>Since we have become Community Committees my work load has increased as I have taken on my responsibilities.</p>
<p>Social Media Constituents expect a reply in a much shorter timescale and a new generation engaging with local councillors Middleton Park Ward was around 19,000 now 23,000- 26,000 population</p>

Social media has had a huge impact on councillors' time and more time is now spent on the computer than when I first became a councillor. Residents have high expectations for instant replies to their emails. There seems to be more queries around planning issues with the introduction of permitted development which is causing some real concerns for residents especially as planning applicants seem to think it is fine building up to the boundary line and then want to use their neighbour's property to access the rear of their property. These issues need investigating to ensure that the permitted development meets the criteria. Planning enforcement is another time consuming issue with plans needing constant scrutiny when conditions are ignored and the process seems to be very long as residents struggle to understand why. Another time consuming issue is the problem with the lack of primary school places in the area. Several parents have frustratingly been unable to access their nearest school leading to appeals and seeking a school within a reasonable distance of their home. There has been an increase in housing issues with more people sofa-surfing due to the shortage of houses. This is time consuming as residents are on the bidding list for longer and need to be kept informed about their position on houses they had bid for etc. Belonging to a small group means that Members often have to double up on the available jobs reducing the time that one is able to spend with residents.

The advent of electronic media has increased the amount of correspondence; councillors are quite rightly now expected to play a prominent role as community leaders.

The biggest change has been the increased use of email by the Council and residents. This has increased the amount of casework received and dealt with from residents and the amount of information sent out by the Council and by other organisations to councillors. The short supply of school places where parents are struggling to get places for their children in the nearest school to their homes and the increasing number of sofa surfers and lack of council housing are causing residents to contact their councillors. These shortages are making the process of getting into school and or housing is becoming a more protracted process and councillors are having to spend more time on dealing with these cases. More time is being spent on planning applications since the introduction of permitted development as many residents do not understand it. Another time consuming area is planning enforcement often due to approved applications having conditions attached to them and the owner totally ignoring these.

The clearest and most essential change was reduction in May 2015 by retiring from Morley Town Council.

The Exec Board/Cabinet Leader system is very demanding on members in those roles. Political pressures to maintain a presence at meetings in the ward at evenings and weekends (a marginal seat in a marginal constituency).

The expectations of constituents have risen; the difficulties of providing services while staff and resources have been cut dramatically have given rise to increasing enquiries/complaints; and the development of immediate means of communication such as e-mails and mobile phones.

The growth of email has substantially increased the ability of public and organisations to contact you. Higher expectations especially around time lines for response and resolution.

<p>The more I do the more I find I want to do and need to do to achieve the things I want to for my residents. I also spend time not just dealing with issues but trying to create opportunities for the community by tapping into things done by other organisations such as Heritage Lottery or Housing funds.</p>
<p>The need to work in partnership with other organisations and the community.</p>
<p>The public expect you to be present all the time, to be fully accountable for your views and actions - as Party loyalties break down and alienation from voters increases, this is ever more an issue as we try to be relevant and of use to our constituents</p>
<p>the responsibilities have expanded and the ward constituents have increased the Council has now involved local communities more instead of everything ben controlled at the centre</p>
<p>The time pressure has increased each year.</p>
<p>This is due to more delegated powers to community committee, email access to all and Social media.</p>
<p>This is n/a - first year as a councillor</p>
<p>This was the reason I became a full-time councillor.</p>
<p>Was given additional responsibility on the council and in the group</p>
<p>When I became a support executive member my workload increased by about a third. I am passionate about climate change and feel it is hugely important so happy to sacrifice social time to do it. With my job this may not be sustainable in the long term. I couldn't give my job up and sustain my family financially though.</p>
<p>With the reduction in the number of councillors in the Group individual workload requirements have increased. Casework loads have increased especially in areas of housing, planning and benefits. Partly generated by policy but also through a lot of "repeat business" as the ward councillors have provided good service to constituents.</p>
<p>Working to form new community groups + neighbourhood watches. Making sure there fully supported</p>
<p>Yes. I think a high personal profile has encouraged more and more people to approach me with issues. But there is no doubt that the effect of expenditure cuts is impacting heavily on day to day casework - property defects, welfare problems, the lack of road repairs due to HMT driven resource issues. This also affects Homelessness where I have a lead role. My role as Environment Champion on the Community Committee also frequently leads to issues ranging from neglected sites, to overgrown hedges, to leaf clearance. Again, an increasing profile has meant that more and more issues have been passed to me.</p>
<p>Yes. See previous answer with regards social media. I would also say that the use of emails has generated significantly more work as it is very easy for officers, the public, organisations and fellow councillors to 'hit' 'Send All'. 'Lobbying' sites (such as Change.org, 38 Degrees, 'TheyWorkForYou' etc.) also run campaigns to 'mass' contact you on a variety of issues. Sadly, I'm the type of person that feels I have to respond personally and individually to each and every one. I do not have enough 'group office' staff to undertake this sort of thing for me.</p>

Do you feel that you have sufficient time to fulfil your council and political roles effectively? (Tick one only)

	Frequency	Valid Percent
No	38	46.3
Yes	44	53.7
Total	82	100.0

Do you feel that you have sufficient time to fulfil your council and political roles effectively? (open response)

Although I manage to stay on top of my work I feel that I could be more effective and efficient if I was not under such time demands.
Always seem to be behind on casework, hours spent chasing up outstanding issues. Don't seem to have time to get stuck into project work, studying policies etc.
As a back bench councillor attempting to set up a business at the same time, it is very difficult to fit everything in and to be as truly effective as I would want to be. Problems of poverty and inequality in the city and ward are increasing the issues and demands of the job
As I have to earn money elsewhere and care for two young children I struggle to give the time I would like to council.
As long as I sit down at the beginning of the week and organise my diary and time it is manageable. Difficulties only emerge if emergencies in my family life come up
As outlined in my previous answer, the role is not part time and I could easily work 40 hours per week.
But it does get in the way with my extended family.
But with huge sacrifice of personal `activities' time and of course ludicrous reductions!
By sacrificing my business, personal and social life, I am able to provide the hours that my community need and deserve. Being a councillor devours all of my free time and often prevents me achieving anything like a full working day.
Council work is not an 8 hours a day job so you just have to adjust your private life if you want to do the job properly. You have to meet the needs of residents at their convenience not yours. Meetings are held at all sorts of peculiar times.
Giving up my teaching role in 2003 fortunately allowed me to spend full time and more as a Councillor. At a financial sacrifices sadly. However, given I spent 60/70 hours a week on Council work, impossible to ask any employer to support. Very difficult to play political role and full or part time work.
Good time management Good organisational skills Commitment
I allocate my time as necessary with the support of my ward colleagues.
I am a fulltime Councillor so I can fit in most meetings and events, but having two ward members gives you the chance to spread things out with having a big area to cover.
I am retired and therefore can fulfil the duties of a councillor, I firmly believe that to do the job correctly you need to be full time
I am retired from business.
I am retired now from my professional work.
I could just as easily have answered "no" to this question The reason I answered "yes" is because I make my council work my priority and make sure that everything gets done regardless of how much of time it takes. This does however leave little time for anything else including much social life.

<p>I do but it is difficult. I feel that possibly the whole role of a councillor should be reviewed. I am finding that I am working the equivalent of a f/t job as an elected member whilst still needing to retain my p/t job. I don't think that the role is (financially) attractive to younger people with families and mortgages etc. and worry that this is not inclusive.</p>
<p>I do find time to fulfil the role, but only because I do not have a full time job and so can devote most of my time to being a ward councillor.</p>
<p>I feel like I do a good job, but it is sometimes a challenge to fit it all in and inevitably you can't attend every local meeting or satisfy every person. Sometimes choices need to be made about what to attend because there are often clashes and this is what team work with ward councillors is about. It is vital to be able to share the workload with colleagues who can attend on behalf of the ward councillors and feedback. It's also very important that inevitably when people take a holiday or are away at the weekend, the other councillors can cover them for casework queries and meetings. It's important to say too that if a member holds an executive position or like myself is chief whip, sometimes the central role overtakes the ability to attend ward briefings, events and meetings. Here ward colleagues are vital.</p>
<p>I give as much time as I can, but there is always something you could give more time to. It takes up as much time as a full-time job, but of course the difference is a lot of it is evenings and weekends</p>
<p>I have had to. Learn to manage my time well.</p>
<p>I have sufficient time as I am a full-time councillor, but would doubt that I would if I worked in full-time employment (as I did previously).</p>
<p>I have sufficient time only because I am retired. I don't know how councillors with full time jobs manage to serve their communities properly. It is essential for councillors to be able to meet council officers to discuss issues in their wards, and be briefed on city wide issues. This instigates a lot of activity throughout the working day.</p>
<p>I have to provide time to accommodate my demands; thus creating flexibility and availability when required. Councillors are required 24/7 and are expected to be available at all times - I attempt to fulfil this demand.</p>
<p>I have worked full time for most of my time as councillor and there is insufficient time to take on this role. I have to turn down involvement with some activities and roles that I have been asked to do.</p>
<p>I just about am able to fulfil my duties. With co-ordination with both my ward colleagues and getting casework support I am able to manage the workload. There is an active local party so the Councillors can concentrate on their role leading the community and not undertake all the administration of the party as well. If we lost a colleague or had a significantly larger ward in terms of population or geography (I tend to cycle rather than drive) I am not sure I could continue with the current level of commitments and would need to review my continued service on the council. The council should not only be represented by retired people and those with independent means to be able to not need to work as well as serve on the council.</p>
<p>I still work for a living as well as completing council work</p>

<p>I think I'm effective but feel overstretched and under resourced. The removal of the councillor pension scheme increasingly means that councillors with young families are hardest hit. It is very hard to work and be a councillor but you have to take a financial loss to be a full time councillor and try to balance a young family without also working. I feel that many councillors of working age are taking a financial loss to be a councillor and that can mean not having a pension.</p>
<p>I took early retirement from my 'day' job; I do not know how my colleagues who have a full time job cope.</p>
<p>I was in full time work when first elected but I could not do the both together. I think it is vital you totally commit to being a City Councillor.</p>
<p>I work full-time and under the circumstances I feel I meet my minimum requirements as a Councillor. However, I would like to have more time to engage with constituents and represent them as I would like.</p>
<p>In order to address this in balance, I have now taken early retirement in order to try and have sufficient time to fulfil my council and political roles effectively.</p>
<p>It's about balancing diaries and answering communication is timely and planned with office staff - front bench roles etc. may change this and ability to pursue other work/activities.</p>
<p>Meetings, outside council often conflict with official council meetings and I cannot be in two places at once.</p>
<p>Most weeks I find myself working at least five full days and three evenings. My working month also normally includes two Saturdays per month (surgeries and attending community events etc.) and six Sundays a year. I have looked back over my diary for the last three months and I estimate that my average working week during that time was 52 hours (the exception of a leave week).</p>
<p>My mind is constantly on the go. It is a standing joke with my friends who find that while at the pub on a Friday night to unwind I am still shuffling papers, emailing and tweeting. My constituents are never far from my thoughts.</p>
<p>My time is used mainly as a Ward Councillor</p>
<p>Need to be very organised.</p>
<p>No - I feel I could always do more and better.</p>
<p>No I would like to do more but we simply don't get the funding for admin support that is needed. Inner City Wards have problems on housing, education, health, unemployment and the environment, if you balance this with communicating with constituents and attending meetings, time may never be sufficient you just keep going and work towards outcomes.</p>
<p>No, I wish there were more hours in the day.</p>
<p>No, see previous answers. I, naively took a Â£32,000 pay cut (I was a senior nurse) to become a city councillor (it was probably my 'mid life crisis! Should have bought a car or motorbike!) And it soon became evident that being a Leeds City Councillor could easily be a full time job. Sadly my wife disagreed and I needed to go back to work to support my family. Yet I love representing my community, helping people with the 'small stuff' in life and generally providing help, information and guidance and will continue to attempt to balance my time with my family, my work and my councillor and community roles.</p>
<p>Not enough hours in the day to promote the Council and services the teams provide for our great city and its officers roles linked to our roles as ambassadors for our areas public service partnerships excellent teams.</p>

<p>Not having a job (retired) means I can be more or less full-time. Sometimes not sufficient time for specific needs - e.g. time critical responses.</p>
<p>Only because I am now retired from a full time employment. Between 2010 - 2015 I was Deputy Leader and held a large portfolio - my working day was regularly 10-12 hours every day.</p>
<p>Only because I am retired</p>
<p>Only by managing my time and other roles very effectively but I sometimes run out of time and cannot always give everyone what they want in a timely way.</p>
<p>Only just enough time. I would be very worried about physical capacity if I had to take on more work, and I would need to decide which current functions I would need to drop.</p>
<p>Please refer to last comments, do not have time to repeat myself.</p>
<p>See previous answers</p>
<p>See previous comments regarding the demands on my time.</p>
<p>Some weeks are unrealistic and one has to prioritise and manage ones diary in line with urgency and need.</p>
<p>Sometimes I struggle as I also work full time and have family commitments. You have to be dedicated and good at planning your week to get the right balance.</p>
<p>Sometimes I struggle as I also work fulltime and have family commitments. You have to be dedicated and good at planning your week to get the right balance</p>
<p>Sometimes there is too much to do in short or time and it doesn't get done well</p>
<p>The amount of hours undertaken is related to how thoroughly/well I do the job. Thorough case work generated in a deprived community which is often of an intense and urgent/demanding nature could almost on its own generate a full time job.</p>
<p>the duties and time spent on those duties are very time demanding</p>
<p>The roles could always be fulfilled more effectively if more time available. More effective relationship building with outside agencies and the private sector essential for different delivery of services.</p>
<p>There are a lot of demands on the time of councillors from all of the Council meetings they are expected to attend including the sub committee meetings, outside bodies, local community meetings, residents' and tenants' meetings, group meetings and governing body meetings. This apart from meetings with officers for briefings, training and the increasing amount of casework from residents. The amount of paperwork for some meetings is ridiculous and off putting. One can plan a day's work but it only takes one phone call which needs immediate attention such as the flooding of a house. This can then take a great deal of time to contact the correct person/people who can deal with the situation to ensure that the family is taken to a safe place and the flooding dealt with. Your day's been hijacked!</p>
<p>There is always more to do. Doing more means sacrifices such as neglecting house repairs, gardening and failing to take holidays.</p>
<p>There is no question that it is difficult, particularly as I work full time, very actively Chair a newly established Free School and have significant other communal responsibilities, along with being a husband and a dad. However by working extremely long hours and by trying to manage my time very effectively, there is sufficient time to fit all in. (managing on 3 hours sleep a night does help).</p>

There is the constant flow of emails which need replying to, some more urgent than others but all need a response. These have to fit in with the Council meetings that have to be attended along with the outside bodies that one has been nominated to. Despite having a planned day something always seems to crop up that is very urgent and needs to be dealt with quickly to prevent a deterioration of a resident's situation. Problems can be further exacerbated by not being able to contact the correct person in a timely manner causing further issues. A lot of time can be spent on the phone trying to resolve the problem and sometimes one fails to do that in a timely fashion.

Time management is very challenging at times.

To undertake the role of Councillor effectively takes a lot of time and commitment. Constituents expect their Councillors to be available/contactable constantly to enable them to raise issues with us. Social media has an impact on this. Resolving casework for constituents does take a lot of time if undertaken correctly and issues are resolved in the correct manner. To undertake the role of a Councillor effectively is a 24/7 operation.

We did not seek election to these positions to work office hours. If we don't like phone calls at 10pm, we can always step down. It was less easy when I was in full-time employment and being an Executive Board member was a full-time job. I now have enough time; it is up to the electorate to judge how effective I am.

When I first became a Councillor I was in full-time employment in the education sector, but due to time pressures and constraints I stopped working in 2011 and since then I have been a full-time Councillor.

When I started my term of office as a local Councillor I was working Full Time as an Admin Manager. Having understood the role in terms of the time commitment involved I gave up my job in order to concentrate all my time on being a representative of a very big Ward - 17,000. I now spend something like 50/60 hours a week and could still work more.

While there is a huge workload that comes with being a ward Councillor, I am able to fulfil my role as I do not have an additional job outside of my Councillor role. The demands of local residents across a ward are massive and wide ranging. I do not think I would be able to fulfil my role and meet the demands of my constituents if there were less than three Councillors' per ward or if I had to represent a larger area.

With all my community duties I am often busy with other issues

Yes because I do this as a full time commitment as I do not have another job.

Yes, but only because I am retired. I work more hours as a councillor than if I had a full time job. You are always on call, you can't say 'Oh! I've worked 37 hours this week so I'm not doing it any more.' People need help and rely on you.

You never finish the work, there is always more you could do, had you the time

**Would you like to say anything about how you represent electors and your role in the community?
(open response)**

Advocate for constituents. Support for constituents. Enabling constituents. "Policing" the ward; ie. litter, pot holes, etc. Involvement with community groups. Taking a lead as necessary. Working with other bodies, groups etc. to benefit constituents.

As a Councillor I am required to wear a number of hats and not only deal with case work resolving problems for constituents but also provide a voice for some attending meetings with them and directing them through what can be a very emotional journey. With technology the role of a Councillor is slicker as photographic evidence can be provided to support case work and help when supporting a constituent. Running a Facebook, Twitter, what's app, Instagram can be a full time job in itself if used to its maximum and through this form of communication you can meet more constituents, however in turn it provides a platform for more voices to be heard. I feel that as a Councillor you must provide as many accessible avenues as possible to meet your constituents. Dependent upon the data and governance around this depends on the form of contact being made. Some like face to face therefore the regular surgeries and street surgeries are required, others like to chat on the telephone therefore you contact details must be accessible at all times, others prefer email as a form of communication and more recently private messaging through social media pathways. As a Councillor you must provide time to meet all communication needs and ensure that casework is picked up and acted upon. Constituents like councillor presence at community meetings within Headingley although a small ward it has a large number of community groups and schools where councillor attendance is required. Providing a voice for constituents at meetings such as plans panel, licensing and scrutiny boards results in a number of community pre-meets and consultations and as a Councillor I would not be able to put a time on these as it would depend on the change being proposed. The constituents voted me into my role and no matter what length of time I would dedicate this to my them.

As a councillor I represent all constituents regardless of their political affiliation. Along with my ward colleagues I carry out surveys and talk with residents to find out what they like, dislike or would like in their area, and then by working with them try to ensure that these issues are dealt with. I work with residents' associations, the various 'friends of ..' associations, schools, the children's centre, faith organisations, voluntary organisations and businesses to try and improve our area. I also try and encourage the different groups to keep in touch with one another and I try to keep them informed about any issues that their organisation would be interested in. Some areas in the ward do not have resident associations and in those areas I arrange meetings for residents to have an opportunity to meet local councillors, the police and housing officers to raise any concerns they may have which will be dealt with by those officers present. So far residents in these areas have been reluctant to start their own associations. If there is a particular issue raised I will work with the resident/s and bring in the relevant officer to try and resolve the problem. An example is the concerns raised by residents when travellers descended on one of our green open spaces and were defecating in front of the public and left a lot of litter and junk on the land. Following discussions with residents it was decided to erect a discrete fence to act as a deterrent. I will and have arranged meetings for residents about planning applications, NGT, proposals for green spaces and persuaded a university to arrange a meeting about their last planning application etc. I have supported a voluntary organisation in its efforts to open a community centre which should happen soon. I also supported a free school in the area, despite being against free schools, as it is special school. I ask questions in Council and make comments about matters in Council that affect the ward

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<p>As a Councillor working with my two colleagues we are only able to fulfil our duties by sharing responsibilities. To enable that we have broken the ward into 3 distinct areas with special responsibility. Obviously during holidays and ill health we stand in for each other when dealing with individual case work issues. Larger development projects are assessed individually but we are always involved with each other and kept to date.</p>
<p>Available 24/7 Attend local residents meetings Set up meetings, at times convenient to constituents Street surgeries School governor at 2 schools Deliver leaflets constantly for other wards as well Set up and run public meetings e.g. site allocations</p>
<p>Available 24/7 Attending local residents meetings Setting up local meetings Street surgeries School governor 2 schools Daily communications with residents to advise them Setting up public meetings and meetings with officers Attending local events</p>
<p>Because mine is such a diverse community I find I sometimes do the same things slightly differently for each community. I spend time reassuring communities and listening to concerns. Sometime all that is necessary is that you are there interacting with them, celebrating cultural activities and recognising issue and problems that diversity brings. Making sure the community voice is heard in policy making is key to my role as elected representative. I work closely with my ward colleagues so we are not duplication our efforts and we still need more time.</p>
<p>By being in the community I represent daily and joining over a dozen local groups. Talking and listening to residents daily even in my own time whilst shopping etc.</p>
<p>By engaging with all who ask for support in a friendly way and a genuine open mind. Helping them to understand that procedures have to be followed and I will do all I can to achieve a satisfactory income, unfortunately this cannot always happen.</p>
<p>Councillors are very connected to the communities they represent and play an increasingly important role, in this time of cuts. Councillors are powerful advocates for our communities and allow some of the most marginalised people in Leeds to have a voice and get their needs met</p>
<p>Councillors in Moortown act as enablers for the community on issues, the community is exceedingly self actualised and able to call large public meetings at short notice which the Councillors need to work to mediate between the council and community. The councillors both represent the community to the council and enable the community to have their own voices heard by the council. So we will work with the community on street stalls, public letter writing campaigns and organising delegations to council. We spend a lot of time advising local groups on how best to get their voices heard and how to get the best for the community. We try not to speak for the community in the communities voice but support their voice to be heard which is more time consuming but more effective.</p>
<p>Due to the increase in social media, the ease at which people can bring their opinions forward has increased. So not only are there traditional methods, such as surgeries, many people will contact you by email asking you to support various causes or to act in different ways</p>
<p>Effective role involves making yourself available for meetings, surgeries, public meetings/events, openings of local galas etc. and being available to meet 1-2-1 with constituents to discuss matters or problems and then follow up emails/dialogue/calls on matters raised. Being a community champion is vitally important in Harewood where each village is different and has its own character and issues.</p>

<p>Electors communicate through email, phone & face to face. I continually respond to a wide range of casework. I chair a local youth project, am a member of another one. I chair a local housing project, I am a governor of two primary schools (was chair of one), I am a Board Member of a Women's Project and lead in Health & Well-being for the Community Committee, initiating campaigns on Keep Harehills Tidy & engagement with Roma, I have directed & played lead role in Pantomime, I played lead role in Community Show at West Yorkshire Playhouse this summer and on Board of local Enterprise Project</p>
<p>Get out and about 5-6 days of the week. Almost always recognised by someone who will give a greeting or come up with a complaint. Active in organisations not to do with Council, but which are part of the of the community.</p>
<p>Here are just some of the many things I do in my community role: 1) Holding weekly advice surgeries 2) Attending tenants' and residents' association meetings 3) Visiting and supporting local schools 4) Visiting and supporting the local mosque, Sikh temple and churches 5) Speaking to residents on the doorstep 6) Conducting surveys and consultations with residents 7) Going on walkabouts with officers 8) Preparing for and attending the Armley Forum 9) Helping residents with casework 10) Supporting and engaging with local community groups 11) Attending community centre meetings and events 12) Holding street stalls in the community 13) Contacting officers about local issues 14) Helping community groups acquire funding 15) Performing my role as a school governor and local board director 16) Organising campaign to register people in ward to vote</p>
<p>I advocate and pre-empt the needs of my constituents, many of whom feel disenfranchised and marginalised. I represent their views, consult from and feedback.</p>
<p>I am a very hands on Cllr and involved with lots of in Bloom group/festival/gala acculay planning all year and on the day. I like to lead from the front and would never ask anyone to do anything I have not done myself.</p>
<p>I am accessible 24/7 for all my constituents as well as attending meetings and involved in as many groups/clubs as possible.</p>
<p>I am always available by telephone or email and attend every community association meeting in my ward of which there are four. I attend ad hoc other events in the ward and communicate by leaflet what I am doing as a councillor on their behalf.</p>
<p>I am born and bred in the community I represent; I am a governor of a Primary School and 2 High Schools within my ward. I make a point of trying to attend as many community meetings and events as I possibly can (PACT meetings, tenant meetings, community events, coffee mornings, public meetings, Christmas Parties, Chanukah Parties, Ramadan Iftahs etc.) these give a genuine 2 way connection between me and my electors, it gives me a first hand account of what issues and concerns matter to them and how they hope I might be able to address them. It also reinforces the notion that I am them to serve and support them in all the aspects of their lives (not just when there are problems). There are also times where this constant engagement and wider role means you are the person groups turn to for advice with a particular project " and this too, is a key part of our role.</p>

<p>I am in constant communication with my constituents as I live in the neighbouring ward. I shop, pick up from school and go to the same parks as my constituents. It is the most important & rewarding part of the job.</p>
<p>I am involved with Community organisations such local residents and traders groups. Community and faith organisations, Schools and traders groups. I also have an open access to constituents through telephone and face to face. I always try respond to telephone calls and voice messages. Working with other two ward colleagues we share the case work which comes to us through face to face contact, email or telephone. Personal contact and being available for electors is very important and Effective way of addressing the concerns of residents.</p>
<p>I am there to serve my community and am available whenever the need they need help or support. I believe as a local Councillor you need to attend as many community events as possible which enables you to be a more effective Councillor</p>
<p>I am there to serve my community and am available whenever they need help or support. I believe as a local Councillor you need to attend as many community events as possible which enables you to be a more effective Councillor</p>
<p>I am very proud to represent the 17500 electors in my ward. I also represent the people who are not electors, either because they are children or because they are not on the electoral register. My role is to represent the entirety of the people living in my ward and although it is a challenge to get around speaking to all of them individually, we as a team of councillors are often approached but email, or even thank you cards to say how grateful people are for our contact and for our help. It is a great privilege to do what we do.</p>
<p>I attend meetings requested by constituents and groups in the Town. "In a distinct town such as Morley there are many groups and many meetings to attend. Attached is a list of local organisations. I like to be available to electors so arrange surgeries at least once week and prefer to visit at constituent for their convenience. Constituents in the modern era of social media and email expect responses quickly and therefore I respond directly on casework and issues and do not rely on entirely on Group support workers.</p>
<p>I became a councillor because, as a member of a residents group, I was unhappy at the way our local councillors tried to foist their ideas on us, rather than listening to what we wanted and I felt I could do a better job. Since becoming a councillor, I've turned up at as many events in my ward as I can, to talk to people, to find out what they think is good about their community and how things could be improved and have then tried to make things happen.</p>
<p>I believe I represent electors by being the "expert" on my area and community (I can't claim to be there yet but am working on it!) By having this knowledge of the ward I know what will impact on my community and how best to proceed (or protest) proposed initiatives etc. I believe that I am a voice for the community hearing and understanding their concerns and reporting back appropriately. Much of what councillors do in terms of strategic issues is "invisible" to residents but I think that by being part of decision making processes (and scrutinising decisions) I can work for the benefit of my immediate community and the city as a whole</p>
<p>I believe one of the most important aspects of my role as a councillor is to communicate and pass on information from the council to the community. Council's consultation techniques are woefully inadequate!</p>

I consider myself as a community champion. I have responsibility for Jobs + Skills and welfare. I give advice to local groups and sports clubs and assist them in making bids to the lottery. Two successful bids totalling almost Â£250k has resulted. I am currently engaged in a bid for changing rooms for a local rugby club.

I deal with issues on behalf of all electors and try to resolve issues within the community and personal to some people/families. It's a role which incorporates ensuring the communities are harmonious. Trying to ensure that our communities are safe and harmonious

I do my best to attend tenants and residents meetings every month and community groups on a needs basis with some groups needing more support than others, to visit luncheon clubs and pensioners groups a few times a year so that they know they can contact me if they need help. I am a governor at two schools in my ward and Advisory Board Chair at one of the Children's Centres so visit them but rarely get time to visit the other 3 schools. I attend a PACT meeting every 6 weeks in addition to the monthly community and TARA meetings. I hold 4 advice surgeries across the ward but these are less well attended now as except for retired constituents most people email, call or use social media to raise issues rather than wait to visit the surgery.

I feel a large part of the Councillor role involves being part of the community and undertaking work in the ward. It is essential to attend residents meetings and neighbourhood watch meetings to help resolve issues, of which there are a lot in my ward. Housing estate walkabouts to understand issues first hand, being a school governor, running surgeries and street surgeries, engaging with different groups within the community are all essential to adequately represent the electors within my ward. Engaging with the local community is essential to the role -electors want to feel they're being heard and that they have a voice.

I feel an obligation to my constituents and I engage within my ward and with individuals in my community. I engage with and participate within council, for instance in scrutiny - which I take seriously and I believe cross party working is essential.

I have always been committed to Councillors as guardians and leaders of their wards and not just agents and representatives of the Council. Issues with flooding, environment, water, health, transport and so on are our responsibility. In short, our electorate, our business and partners expect leadership from Councillors. Ensuring there is public, private and voluntary sector partnerships, identifying housing needs, involving people and partners in regeneration are all vital.

I have always been committed to the role of Councillor as a guardian and leader of the community. We are not just passive agents. Issues like unemployment; flooding, health and transport are all our responsibilities. Our electorate expect us to ensure we are there to help local businesses to encourage the voluntary sector and to ensure we play a key role of leadership.

I have an active role in community groups around the ward, often in a position of an elected officer, but also as advisor. It is essential for local councillors to be highly visible. As budgets are more and more restricted, the need for councillors to encourage local community activity becomes even more important.

I have fought many local campaigns successfully and people know that I'm on their side and will always fight for them in their interest. I spend a lot of time communicating this to them as well as doing the work. It's important to be out in the community and have stalls at all local events, do street surgeries and be highly visible. To achieve this, it takes a lot of time. I see myself as a champion in our community. I will always do what is best for my community; this is increasingly hard with unprecedented cuts to the council budget.

I hold advice surgeries, conduct mobile surgeries in people's homes, I am active in many local community organisations, take an active part in running 2 community galas, attend all our resident and tenant groups, neighbourhood forums, am involved with our 2 emerging neighbourhood plans, our in bloom groups, Dementia Friendly Beeston and Holbeck, volunteer at local lunch clubs, help to initiate specific campaigns around issues such as speeding cars, anti social behaviour, attend estate walkabouts and community clean ups

I live in the ward so knew the challenges I faced, I have consistently worked hard to achieve and deliver pledges I made in my manifesto. I have led by example by taking on the role of environmental champion and work with both residents and schools. I started an Employment Board and by working with Employers and partners we are now down -46% on unemployment. I now Chair Employment Skills and Welfare for three wards in the city. I work on numerous projects in the ward to try and improve outcomes for our constituents. I have organised partnership days and I have embraced Civic Leadership something that I believe is key to connecting with communities. I have made myself accessible by the following E mail , Phone, Twitter, Facebook, Linkdin and Snap Chat . I attend all Community Events when possible and sit on several boards as a trustee that are all connected to the Community. I will highlight topics and focus on different ages and groups to work with so I have led many projects in the community and led campaigns. We are part of a team of three Councillors in our ward and we all have a different areas of work there are around 26, 000 people so we have sent 11,000 Councillors letters in the last 5 months to ask how we can help them.

I represent a ward which has an inner city area, six small Council estates and the remainder is a very affluent middle class area. The challenges and issues are very diverse and wide ranging in each of these areas of the ward. They range from community cohesion, demand for social housing, environmental, unemployment, low educational attainment, community safety, planning to health inequalities. As a Councillor I'm constantly working with electors on individual casework, community forums and meetings, ward surgeries, older people's forums and other social events.

I represent electors by making myself always accessible. All my contact details are widely available and constituents know that they can contact me at virtually any time and are assured of a quick response. I represent electors on individual and casework matters pursuing these with council officers to get correct information to constituents and resolving issues and problems. Part of the resolution should always involve lesson learning for the council and for the constituents that mistakes are not repeated. I also work at a community level on wider shared issues e.g. planning, housing policy etc. This can be done through raising questions in the relevant committees, asking questions in council, speaking on issues in council. We work alongside residents associations, neighbourhood groups and ad hoc single issue groups on a variety of matters.

<p>I represent the electors by, attending Tenants & residents meeting, School Governors meeting, Sub group, resident planning meetings, resident and planning officers, residents and highways officers, environmental officers and resident, resident and officers estate work, street surgery, appointment only surgery, Tasking meeting, Hubs meeting, Pact meetings, Meanwood Valley Partnership meetings, Moortown Group Meeting. the list is not exhausted, by attend these meeting I am supporting the electors, take their concern and issues seriously by raising them try to resolving them in order to help improve their lifes, community and environment for the better.</p>
<p>I represent them fully on any problem.they have ,I am fully integrated into my community, and people know me when I walk in the different areas ,and stop and speak to me or just a nod on passing .</p>
<p>I see my role in the community to be there for my constituents, and take forward issues on their behalf. I often spend time visiting constituents or dealing with casework outside of normal working hours. I also feel it is important to be a visible presence in my ward, and get involved as much as possible in community events, fundraising for local groups, and building community spirit, but also encouraging residents to become more involved in such matters.</p>
<p>I take up casework, attend local meetings/functions and am a school governor. I have lived in the ward I represent for 32 years, (being a councillor for 13 years). I am known just as "Ann, their local councillor" and some constituents who don't know the political structure believe I am their MP. The main thing is that people find me approachable.</p>
<p>I TRY TO BE AT ONE WITH THE COMMUNITY AND GIVE 100% ATTENTION TO THEIR CONCERNS THIS CREATES CONFIDENCE ON BOTH SIDES THE CONSTITUENTS KNOW THEY CAN RELY ON ME AND THIS IS REFLECTED AT ELECTION TIMES</p>
<p>I try to make myself available to meet, discuss, deal with issues, hold surgeries, attend meetings, use email, try to inform and contact residents through a newsletter.</p>
<p>I try to represent my constituents as one of them, not from a "Civic Hall bubble perspective". I push for efficient working always with an eye on local tax payer getting first class service. ie. cut waste, right first time on time philosophy. Motivated by a commitment to social justice, determined to make my ward the best in the city.</p>
<p>I wish I could do more but councillors are very much in the hands of officers in these economically challenging times. I have to say I wish we had more power as elected members than we do to get things done. I sometimes feel officers forget they they and we are here only to meet the nerds if residents, within reason.</p>
<p>I work with the local Tara groups and the local neighbourhood planning groups and the other local groups who all work very hard for Rothwell.</p>
<p>In Leeds we have, and continue to, devolve real functions and budgets directly to the 10 Community Committees and therefore Ward Councillors. This makes all of us very accountable to our electorate. In my Ward we engage in 3 Community forums in addition to other traditional means. We also formulate views and opinions via specific e.g. planning forums.</p>
<p>It is important to represent the views of the whole community and be a community leader. It is important to listen and sometimes explain that you cannot always do what the community wishes. Be honest about what is achievable</p>

<p>Living in the ward and doing most of socialising within it means that I am well known within the community and very accessible. In fact, a lot of my casework comes from people approaching me while I am standing at the bus stop, riding on the bus, going to the local shop or even when I am out socially in the local pubs or clubs. I coordinate with my fellow members to try and ensure that at least one of us can attend the various Tenants & Residents groups. We also talk regularly with the ward's Community Associations. All this means I know what issues are of concern and can thus represent them better and more pro-actively</p>
<p>Living in the ward is almost essential. After so long on the council one becomes known to quite a few people. Who all have friends and neighbours who may need help. Councillors are approached in supermarkets, on buses, while walking around the ward and (this week) while filling up at a petrol station. Representing electors is not a formed process; it happens unpredictably and without structure every day.</p>
<p>My main surgery opportunity is the local monthly Farmers' Market where I always pick up substantial amounts of casework over about 6 hours. I also pick up work from Social Media, telephone, email and other correspondence. I have a high profile through local events, and often through representing resident interests for example in Planning and Licensing. I see my role as to be part of the Community, to understand what the key issues are as a resident myself, and to be seen to act in the best interests of the Ward, for example through pursuing solutions to a lack of school places. I would rather be seen as a conscientious representative, rather than a leader in the Ward. This extends also to my Governor role at two local schools which enables me to have a deeper role in the Ward. As Environment Champion I can, and be seen to, make a difference very quickly which underlines the representative role of Councillors.</p>
<p>My role is to give those people a voice who would not have a voice and ensure that they feel they can make a difference.</p>
<p>My role is very challenging, there is always needs and advice from my community. Because use of the nature of some of the residents in my community I always in demand, felling forms, giving advice, accompany residents to appointments and arranging appointments for members of the community, go into schools with challenging children where English is not their first language, and along with whatever they needed.</p>
<p>See previous answers. I tend to be the 'voice of my community', I do not see myself as the 'voice of the council' and spend a lot of time reminding residents that I am their voice. I use email, snail mail, Facebook, Twitter, my website to inform, educate and advise residents. I knock on doors, speak to people in the pub, at church and in the street to better understand the community's needs. I raise their concerns in Scrutiny, Full Council using questions, statements and (now defunct) Community Backbench Concerns.</p>
<p>Since I became Community Committee Chair we have moved all our meetings into the community and have gone from no public attendance to up to 90 member attending. I feel we have moved on a long way- we hold workshops after every formal Community Committee meeting.</p>
<p>Some examples - War memorial established in ward Bramley Elderly Action Board Bramley Baths Community asset Board Working with the Childrens/church groups TARAs Bramley Historical Society Improvements in parks in ward Setting up Bramley Park Run Improvements to Bramley Shopping Centre</p>
<p>The BME community are particularly dependent on you because of the language barriers</p>

<p>The role of a councillor is to fulfil your civic duty. More importantly I support constituents in my ward through whatever problems and challenges they may present me, I also accompanied on job centre visits, and PIP assessments giving much needed support to people who do not know the system. I'm also not afraid to say it's not my remit or I don't know as I believe it's better to be honest I also can't stress the importance of community groups who give up 100% of their time for free without the volunteer sector this country would come to a great big halt</p>
<p>The role of councillors in the community has increased dramatically, particularly due to more delegated roles of Community Committees etc.. also, living in the ward ensures that I am regularly on hand for constituents to contact. This morning a constituent knocked on my door at 7.30am because of an urgent housing issue. You are always on duty.</p>
<p>To the best of my ability.</p>
<p>We do get heavily involved with the community, this means you often have to lead and guide groups, advise on aspects of the law. Pull agencies together. Make things happen. As a councillor you are expected to do all these things and above all listen to what everyone has to say, take it on board and act appropriately.</p>
<p>with parity and fairness Listen and Act A councillor is a facilitator between constituents and the perceived bureaucracy of the council in order to problem solve</p>
<p>Yes, liaison and communication with transparency on what we do as local representatives. Meetings with support financially to achieve change and outcomes. Employment training with a job guarantee working on transferrable skills to engage with our youth for future employment from youth to retail is a big challenge and we are winning.</p>
<p>You are on call 24/7: when you are shopping; on days out or trying to relax in the pub or with family.</p>

Describe how you carry out your work as a Councillor on a day to day basis (open response)

-Email check in the morning -Many meetings with officers from 8am-8.30am -Updates with office staff on yesterdays casework, correspondence and letters -Update phone calls through the day while out of the office -Lunchtime check emails and make calls to constituents - Sometimes lunchtime meetings at Civic Hall with officers and residents - Evening check in at Civic Hall and do emails/calls/write letters -Parish council/resident groups meetings or public meetings -Email and correspondence at home -Reading council minutes/agendas/papers for meetings ahead inc. ONE Community Committee, Full Council, Scrutiny Committee or other outside bodies -Weekends inc. meeting constituents, council surgeries, emails, available for events (coffee mornings, Remembrance Service, etc.) and preparations for week ahead On an ad hoc basis asked to be involved with debates, journalist requests or other activities in capacity as councillor.

8am to 10am I read my briefs papers for the day; I attend meetings or catch up on my emails and respond. Every three weeks I have an all day planning meeting Thursdays, site visits from 9am - 12pm, committee meeting 1.30pm - 5.30pm or 7pm. I have officers meetings and Chairs Brief prior to these meetings - about 4 hours per week. Once a month on Mondays I attend a Scrutiny Board meeting, about 4 hours. I usually have weekly briefings with officers of Adult Social Services, Children's Services, Housing Services and community organisations plus third sector or NHS and the Police. I am an active school governor of a local high school and an adult college, The Northern College, Barnsley. I am also chair of the Armley Forum which meets every month and also involves chair briefs. Weekly advice surgeries take up around two hours every week.

Already described

Apart from scheduled meetings and the usual reading of reports, as the scouts say "be prepared", as you never know what the next hour will bring.

As councillor most of the Council meetings and sub committees that I need to attend are arranged for the whole year which is the framework around which all my other work fits into place. I then try to fit in all the other outside organisations and governing body dates for the year around this. Once that is done I can then arrange other ad hoc meetings with residents and officers as when the need arises. My day to day work is based on these meetings and I deal with any phone call, letters, emails, texts and casework around them. I open my emails first thing in the morning to see if there is anything urgent that needs dealing with and if it does I will try and deal with that before I go to my first meeting. If the meeting is later in the day I will carry on dealing with my emails, make phone calls to officers, residents, arrange any meetings with a resident or officer or both depending on the content of my emails. I'll also chase up any outstanding casework issues that I've not had a reply to. I'll take assess what I will need the following day and if there are any papers that I haven't read, will read these or put aside time later in the day to do that so that I'm prepared for the meeting. Check if I want to prepare any questions or speeches for council which is the following week. I may get a call from a resident with a housing problem. She's getting frustrated because the officers do not understand the problem with the leak in the bathroom causing water to drip through the ceiling. I'll arrange to visit at time suitable for the resident. Following the visit I'll email housing explaining the issue and ask questions. If housing can't understand the problem I'll arrange to meet an officer at the house and discuss it with him/her.

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<p>Attend appointments schedules in daily planner. These include individual case work issues, community issues, council events - formal and informal, learning opportunities. Chair external and informal strategic committees and consultative and community events e.g.. Farmers' market, craft work, school governor activities in local schools. Support local churches with out of hour's activities. Attend scouts, choirs, music groups, craft groups, allotments groups, flower arrangement classes etc. Chairing of at least 6 committees, supporting ASC team attend education and information sessions arranged for all councillors.</p>
<p>Attendign meetings-whether these are community meetings or council appointed meetings. Ensuring that preparation has been done for meetings-all issues are understood. Ensuring emails are answered-I can receive around 60/70 emails a day and all need reading and answering in a timely manner and a the issue raised need dealing with. Attending meetings with residents to resolve casework. Meeting with residents in sheltered housing and similar accommodation-it is essential to engage with everyone in the community so undertaking street stalls and surgeries in sheltered accommodation and similar is important. Residents meetings/neighbourhood meetings mainly happen isn't the evening as do group meetings and community meetings so a Councillors day can last until 10pm several times a week.</p>
<p>Attention to detail with case work. Lots of pro-active reporting within the ward. High visibility in ward/walkabouts etc. High attendance at community meetings and surgeries. Try to attend all council briefings and training. Full attendance at statutory meetings and associated sub/working groups/site visits.</p>
<p>BY VISITING THEM OR TELEPHONE OR E MAIL AND OF COURSE ARRANGING SITE VISITS WITH OFFICERS OR MEETING GROUPS AT LOCAL MEETINGS</p>
<p>Check emails - responding appropriately and taking actions relevant to the case. To listen to phone messages and follow through. To visit groups, residents and collate information which may require following up and making appropriate follow up plans. Probably attending briefings or meetings on council or outside bodies. During early evening governing body meetings are often held with sub group meetings in between. Community group meetings with site visits to arrange and discuss with departments. Scrutiny work fits in between. Diary has to be kept to fit in other work bodies. Public meetings are organised and local events attended to support organisations - as well as picking up issues.</p>
<p>Check overnight emails first thing. Deal with what I can, put those needing help through to office support. Visit any residents needing me. Visit sites of any complaint/problem. To Civic for any meetings/briefings. Deal with whip/group business, committees, boards, etc. Discuss group business with Group Office Manager. Home to deal with any more that has come in through the day. Attend evening committees etc.</p>
<p>Constantly have my iPad with me - checking and replying to emails between meetings. Structured time is split between formal meetings and work in and for the ward which is self nominated</p>
<p>Couple of hours in the morning dealing with emails, reading agendas etc. Rest of day in meetings, visits or discussions with people who may stop me on the street.</p>

Deal with emails and mail Deal with casework Read papers, reports etc. Attend meetings; community, council, officer and other meetings Visit organisations as necessary Look round the ward at problem areas, often with residents Meet residents as necessary

Do reading and written work at home as much as possible rather than at the Civic Hall. Call in at the Civic Hall or Morley Town Hall as needed. Out and about on visits, meetings, community events 5 or 6 days a week. The Civic Hall allows document storage, current and immediately useful papers I keep at home. Constituents contact by telephone (I am in the directory), by email or letter (not many nowadays). Simple enquiries i.e. missed bin collections or is dealt with by my office support staff. Others I deal with either at home or site visits are often useful as people are able to show and explain problems better. We do still have formal surgeries, but they are not attended as much now. Everyone has to evolve around times and dates of community meetings, which I believe are a Councillors first duty except 'Community Committees' which are now very poor and of little discernible value.

Due to my Exec Role I am a full time Councillor. I do however try to ensure I have one day a week dedicated to community and ward issues - as these could easily be neglected due to council wide responsibilities. I regularly work weekends and most evenings. I try to attend as many community events and meetings as possible.

Due to the diverse nature of being a councillor I try to break up my day into segments to ensure that all the bases are being covered. Set around the councils diary of meetings and community needs intertwined with this is constituents calls and emails and emergency ward matters. This is brief but each day is so varied.

Emails & phone calls before and in-between meetings and at end of day. Cycle to all meetings. Each day is different so no 'usual' day. Details of days are listed in answers to previous questions.

Every day is different and there is no routine. I do as much work as I can at home. I am officially retired, and am able to give a higher proportion of my time to the role than others. We do divide roles locally as best we can to ensure the most effective handling. If I have no meetings I tend to focus on correspondence or preparation for future days. I will also go out to meet people who have ward issues. I frequently visit residents about issues ranging from complex Planning problems, to noise, to school places, to roads. I am also often asked to attend events simply as a ward Councillor. Visits always generate a lot of correspondence as does Email and this can take several hours in a day. Where there are meetings, especially on complex issues in public transport, as a school governor, or in WY Joint Services, I often spend substantial periods ensuring that I know the background and have appropriate and telling points to make. I am likely to spend substantial time in advance of Full Council ensuring I have a polished speech to give of the right length. For other meetings where timing is less regulated I prefer to work to bullet points. I frequently have formal or informal evening meetings too, and these do eat into "family time". I do also believe that I need to be seen taking a direct interest in my Support Exec role, and sometimes attend street outreach at night looking for rough sleepers. Travel is a significant issue as a return trip to the Civic Hall can take up to an hour, including incidental time. Two trips in a day can significantly eat into a day.

Every day is different. Some specific time is dedicated to preparing for and attending formal meetings. I believe equally important is to follow up and monitor relevant agreed actions happen! As a Scrutiny Board Chair I dedicate significant time to meet external providers, trusts, commissioners, interest groups, regulators and so on. As Chair of the Yorkshire and Humber Overview Committee, this takes me outside of Leeds too. As a Ward Councillor, along with my colleagues, I engage daily with constituents, officers, external agencies (Police, Health Housing associations for example) and also liaise with our local MP. A lot of cases require urgent action (homelessness, welfare, domestic violence, debt). I see my role as "making a difference to peoples lives".

Every day is very different. I plan commitments/activity to fit as efficiently as possible through the day. An example day below: 8am meeting ward colleagues on local issues 9am - 12pm Scrutiny Board meeting 12.30-1.15pm Site visit to development in the ward to meet with residents 1.30-2.30pm Briefing from Housing Manager in ward 2.30pm Consultation meeting with health colleagues in a doctors surgery in the ward on proposed new wellbeing centre 4pm Community surgery 7pm - 9.30pm Bramley Community Forum (chair) (often runs to 10pm)

First thing check emails and Facebook. Can take several hours. Then attend meeting. In the evening again with Facebook and emails.

First thing I do on waking up at 6am is to check over-night emails and social media, update my website with community information if necessary and post updates on Facebook and twitter. Ad hoc meetings with residents/officers or deliver leaflets and talk to residents whilst doing so. I am constantly checking emails and social media for casework or issues to raise awareness of on social media or via the local press. I attend meetings two to three nights per week.

Given I have been responsible for budgets, leadership, devolution, etc. for Council, I've been fortunate to have officers support. Unfortunately, officers support is reducing dramatically so often we are left with telephoning or emailing constituents ourselves. As a result of e-mails, social media, many of us rely on our own computer skills. As always we often work 6/7 days a week, tenants meetings surgeries, governors meetings and so on which many take place at weekends and the evening. Every day I visit the Council in order to get briefings, correspondence or attend seminars. Naturally I include my role as WYCA Chair of the Transport Committee and members of the investment committee on these visits.

Go through my email and telephone messages and reply to emails/return phone calls. Take up new casework and chase up on-going casework. Visit constituents where there is a problem I need to see for myself e.g. damp in council housing or other requests for repairs/ concerns about planning applications/ traffic safety concerns and other Highways matters, etc. (As I do not have a car and mainly walk or bus around the ward it is normal for constituents that see me to stop me to give me casework or ask about something - so I always have a pen and notebook with me. Go to Civic Hall, if necessary, for meetings.

How long have you got, each day, check e-mails, attend meetings, meet residents, answer phone calls and meet with officers.

<p>I am available via the Civic hall, Social Media, telephone and at my workplace. I keep in touch with the Group Office on a daily basis and communicate with constituents as much as I can. I attend many meetings in the Civic Hall on my internal role and also external roles as a representative of the Council. This includes many meetings on an evening when required and invited by local community groups</p>
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<p>I am busy every minute of the day trying to fit in all of the tasks I need to complete. I work evenings and weekends as well as during the day.</p>
<p>I am constantly juggling and spend a lot of time driving very fast between East Leeds (where I work), West Leeds and the Civic. I fit hours and meetings around each other. I also work very late every night responding to emails. The sheer volume of emails is massive and the only way I can keep on top of them is to respond on the day they come in.</p>
<p>I can send you copies of my diary if you like. I am filling this in on a Sunday evening when I should be and would prefer to be spending time with my children because there simply aren't enough hours in the day to complete this during the week!</p>
<p>I carry out day to day work by representing the electors in the ward on various issues and communication channels as stipulated in the previous section. I'm also involved and sit on Community Committee and various sub-committees. I represent the Council on outside bodies which I'm appointed to. I also sit on other statutory committees and group meetings. As a member of the Executive Board I spend considerable time in carrying out duties related to my portfolio. It involves meetings with officers, partners in the FE sector, business sector and the voluntary sector.</p>
<p>I engage with constituent issues and on their behalf work with officers to resolve individual issues. I attend meetings, for example residents associations, plus council meetings such as scrutiny and full council. I have 1:1 briefings with officers. I perform scrutiny business and follow what is expected of my role. I attend surgeries on a regular basis. I deliver the party newsletter I visit constituents as required. I canvas my ward.</p>
<p>I engage with many of the local groups, ie. tenants, residents, parish councils, sports clubs, churches, older people's groups, neighbourhood networks, youth services, local schools. I always attend surgeries and as many ward meetings as possible. I always allow time to make sure casework is up to date and realise that social media is the future and try to keep my page up to date.</p>
<p>I fit my council meeting around work. I work full time. I work on my emails every evening. I rely very heavily on the iPad I have from the council. Most of my communication is by email. I use my Filofax to manage my diary and to keep track of my meetings.</p>

I have a diary that is divided with this is split into Ward 70% and Council 30 % unfortunately you can not plan for instance last week I had residents homeless and in need of urgent accommodation. Residents on the wrong level of allowance and Scrutiny work on Fees and Charges . The phone can ring and if it is an emergency you simply have to leave what you're doing and concentrate on the case . I am well organised and carry dicta phone and all labour saving devices IPAD, Mobile Phone etc. . Your home address is also a place that residents will visit and you can't plan that in your day .

I have no structure to how I do this. Put simply as a nurse that has to work 30 hours over a 24 hour, 7 days a week cycle/rota I fit council work in as and when possible. As my A&E 'rota's' are finalised 4-6 in advance I have to 'second guess' 'council days' (days set aside by myself to attend full Council, Scrutiny etc. and to undertake casework, meetings and 'project' work etc.). As an example this week..... Monday - (Day off from 'day job') Check emails, social media, follow-up casework and project work. Attend a community led housing meeting related to planned housing allocation this evening Tuesday - (paid work 07.30 to 20.30 hours) - check emails and social media during breaks, tag for follow up in evening. Wednesday (paid work 07.30 to 20.30) - do it all again. Miss political meeting due to work. Thursday (Day off) meet with former Alderman, attend Group Meeting and meet with local 'pub action' group. Catch up on casework etc., monitor social media, fire fight as necessary. Friday (paid work 07.30 to 20.30) monitor and respond as necessary to email and social media, try and find time to start reading papers for following weeks Full Council. Saturday - (Day off) - Resident Surgery and Street Surgery. Deliver political leaflets communicating what I and my colleagues are doing in the community. Monitor and catch up on emails, snail mail and social media. Sunday - attend Remembrance Day services in Yeadon (lay a wreath on behalf of Lord Mayor), attend service and parade in Otley in the afternoon. Start night shift in A&E at 20.15 hours until 07.45 hours on Monday morning.. The following week starts with 2 night shifts finishing Tuesday morning, wake up at lunchtime (having had 3 hours sleep) to attend Community Committee Health Sub-committee then attend local community group AGM (Walkers are Welcome). Wednesday is a Full Council day (where I'm not sure yet I'll find the time to prepare) and Yeadon Tarn Users Group meeting in the evening. Lots more but at

I have to spend at least a couple of hours a day dealing with emails and phone calls. I visit residents, schools and community groups all the time and I need to phone, email and meet with officers on a daily basis. Scrutiny committees and various children's committees take up time.

I manage my diary and have the regular meetings scheduled on a daily basis such as community groups; community forums; PACT; school governor; surgeries; street surgeries; community committees along with civic duties such as full council, scrutiny and sub groups etc. On a daily basis I manage my email at least 3 times a day and pick up case work and officer led Councillor info, this may lead to further meeting requirements. Daily I also manage my Councillor face book site, Twitter, Instagram and WhatsApp ensuring all community and city events are promoted whilst also answering queries and picking up case work. My telephone is accessible for constituents at all times and any calls that can be answered are done immediately and messages are replied to in a timely manner. Scrutiny of planning applications and licensing requests in required weekly with action to consult the community through letter production and social media. In addition all ad hoc work that comes my way is slotted into the diary to ensure that the needs of my constituents are met. There is also a requirement for my attendance at Civic duties for which usually notice is provided. My community committee is very proactive which results in a number of subgroup attendance requirements which again are managed through being organised through diary management.

I meet with councillor officers most days of the week. I carry out Council Surgeries on Saturdays three weeks out of four. I attend local committees of voluntary groups, such meetings often taking place in the daytime, as well as official Leeds City Council meetings.

I spend an hour dealing with emails, an hour or so reading papers. I will call constituents also. I attend at least one meeting either with councillors and/or officers or community meetings.

I split my time between attending Council Meetings and other relevant meetings, to keep up to date on matters that affect my constituents and my ward. I am very involved in planning matters relating to the ward, particularly large scale developments that might impact on local infrastructure. I will often make home visits or speak to people from home, as I make my home telephone number available to my constituents. Where necessary I will arrange meetings with Council officers, or call on the assistance of the Group Office to help resolve constituents' complaints/issues. I often drive round the ward, and where I notice issues of concern, report these immediately to the appropriate council department. I regularly attend residents' meetings and again take forward any issues that residents might raise. Three weeks out of four each month, colleagues and I hold council surgeries where residents are invited to meet with us to raise any concerns. We also hold Street Surgeries at intervals throughout the year, as well as visiting people at home. Myself and my colleagues are very focussed on crime and anti social behaviour, and regularly meet with the police, as well as attending local neighbourhood meetings. As stated previously, all three ward councillors for Calverley and Farsley live within the ward, and are very pro-active in supporting local businesses, as well as local community groups. Our aim is to make all areas of the ward, Calverley, Farsley and Rodley, safe and attractive places to live and work, and in order to encourage good community cohesion, we maintain a highly visible presence throughout the ward.

I think it is impossible to describe a typical day for a councillor. Some days there will be formal meetings, scrutiny boards etc. other days might be spent in the community - informal visits or meetings with residents groups, third sector partners, schools etc. Every day there will be contact with residents - by phone or letter usually by email or in person and casework to complete or chase up. I'm also likely to communicate with colleagues, other councillors or officers or other partners on a daily basis and to update social media.

I try and split the day to allow me to do council business as well as running a new business - the balance is not always easy. Some days there will be an estate walkabout or a meeting with council officers or a meeting with local residents or a council meeting. 3 or 4 evenings a week will see a residents meeting or neighbourhood forum.

I try to deal with all the telephone calls and messages on daily basis, subject to consultation with other ward councillors respond to most emails within 24/48 hours. Some of this work requires follow up. Attend meetings; do follow up work and preparation on a daily basis for the relevant committees, working groups and working parties.

I usually get up about 7am and turn on the computer to see if there have been any issues overnight and to respond to anything not done the day before. I don't like people waiting too long for a response. I look at twitter and Facebook to see if there are any messages too. I would try to arrange to leave the house about 9 to 9.30 for the days meetings. Sometime it is a little earlier as breakfast meetings are becoming more popular. There are a number of meetings at several locations across the city so being able to drive and to park easily are vital. I try to make plenty of time to call on residents for individual casework if they need me. We have regular surgeries but the poster also says call us and we will come whenever you need us. In the evening we often have residents meetings of events the resident invite us to. This is important in such a diverse community as we want to make sure everyone knows we are there for them. Even at home the computer is always on ready to respond.

I wake up as a councillor and go to sleep as a councillor. A significant amount of time every day is spent undertaking the job.

I would my current typical week as follows Working day (currently three days a week) Check emails early morning prior to going to work for 8.30. Some urgent calls or emails have to be dealt with during working hours. Occasionally attend lunchtime meetings during a working day for certain meetings. Most evenings there will be an event or meeting to attend related to council business (for example this ranges from a School governor's subcommittee meeting, a political meeting or to resident's groups meetings) Generally after arriving home in the evening I will respond to emails, read meeting papers and respond to consultations. I am currently responding to consultations on the Site allocation plan, three individual planning applications, education admission and the Kirklees LDF as this is an adjoining authority and their proposal will impact on my ward. Non-working day Attendance at formal council committee meetings, associated working groups, outside bodies Lead member meetings and extended cabinet CLT meetings Other constituency visits, preparation of comments on planning issues, schools visits. Cluster meetings, Site visits, Residents meetings, other meeting e.g. Morley Town Centre Management Board meeting, Community committee Friday evening surgery. Political meetings on many Fridays. Weekend Alternate Saturday surgeries for constituents at a local supermarket. Civic events, Community events, prepare press releases for the local paper, party political work. Constituency casework catch up. Sundays " press releases, preparation for formal meetings, reading of local papers and special local government journals

It varies greatly from day to day. I spend a lot of time on mails, social media and dealing with cases. Cases can be complicated and involve a lot of different agencies. You are never off duty and can be walking to the chip shop and get three cases on the way. Most of the work is in the community and dealing with cases, however, there are still formal meetings. We attend evening, community meetings, Neighbourhood Watch, community groups e.g. business forums, Calverley Lights, etc. There are more community groups than ever now stemming from people wanting to make their lives better.

May I say at the outset that I absolutely love my position as a councillor, representing my ward, portfolio, community committee and city. However, it is a 24/7 position. The amount of thinking required is immense, dominating all aspects of your life. I frequently find that I never stop thinking about council work all throughout the day. No amount of remuneration could ever compensate someone for this burden. Fortunately, it does not have to, since the job is immensely enjoyable and there is nothing quite like it. It should be noted that you do require a certain standard of living to survive and I cannot recommend being a councillor to anyone under-40, with a young family or in a full time job with any hope of promotion because of its anti-social, constant and irregular activity, making it impossible to raise children or commit the necessary time to your work. I am extremely sympathetic to employers of councillors, since this must present them with an incredible inconvenience.

Most of my daily work is with or for residents. I hold a street surgery every week and it inevitably leads to days of referring on to officers and following up. I visit residents with issues virtually every day. I have to visit the Civic Hall several times a week for meetings. Most evenings are spent following up emails of preparing for meetings.

My day is filled with activity both as a ward councillor and a city councillor and I am happy for my diary to be scrutinised.

My day to day routine is highly dependent on the municipal calendar. Once I have taken into account any appointments I have to attend I can then think about slotting in other meetings. The result is that I have to come down to the Civic Hall or other Council offices at least 2-3 days per week. I attend briefings from Officers, political group meetings and meetings of other boards to which I have been appointed by the Council. In addition to the above, I often spend well over 5 hours per week doing party related activities

My mobile number is available on the Leeds City Council website. I believe every member of our community should be able to contact me 24/7. I have an open Facebook and twitter account. As Councillors we are the first port of call. My wards is very large and on the outskirts of Leeds and being in the ward and getting into the Civic Hall is sometimes hardwork. I am always available for anyone in my ward. I spend a lot of time in the Civic Hall for meetings which are mainly through the day and luckily most ward meetings are on an evening time. Most Councillors can be out from morning till night but this is so they are doing the role for the best of the people we represent.

No two days are ever the same. However, here is an example of how recently I spent a day. Had a briefing at the Civic Hall first thing in the morning. Returned home mid-morning and did some work on my computer. After lunch, I went to visit an older couple, who had contacted me about a problem they were experiencing. Home to do further work on the computer, including seeking advice on how the Council could best help the older couple. After supper, by invitation, I visited a Guide company in one of the villages in my ward.

On a day to day basis, including weekends and holidays check and responding to emails at any time, usually first thing in the morning but also all day and in the evening. As chief whip I will often be in the leader's office having leadership meetings or policy meetings with cabinet members. I manage member behaviour so I deal with any complaints from the public or from other councillors and liaise with our governance team on how to manage cases. I manage the effective running of full council meetings and so have various briefings and whips meetings about running order and white papers. I work from home and from the office, dealing with constituent issues as they come in and working to resolve other issues that are on going as described. In the evening I might have a community meeting such as the meanwood valley partnership. I might have had a response from a highways officer around the work for a 20mph zone to report back to them. Or we might take some information about planning strategy to them. These meetings generate work and so I might need to set up a meeting with officers to lobby them on behalf of my constituents. It's useful that I live in my ward but that it only takes 5 minutes to get to the civic hall. I also have two small children and childcare to factor in.

One has to be prepared in a flexible way. When one is needed to attend planned meetings during the day, the office work has to be managed on none meeting days. Reading and answering electronically can be very time consuming and dealing with messages can come at any time of the day. I reply once to a message at 9.15pm on a Sunday evening and the reply received was 'Thank you for your prompt reply; I thought you might have Sundays off'. I mostly work from home.

Respond to both emails/phone calls on a daily basis. Also attend meetings. Visit community in their homes if required to do so

<p>Responding to emails Attending meetings and briefings Setting up and delivering street surgeries Communicating with residents on various local issues Input into planning applications Attending scrutiny board and examining papers Preparing for Group meetings and attending same Prepare for Full Council Prepare for Fire Authority meetings Prepare for public meetings Attending residents meetings Following up actions from all the above Attending events in the ward e.g. local church events, school events Acting as secretary to 2 local residents associations Attending school governor meetings and sub-committees Challenging officers and fighting e.g. planning applications</p>
<p>Responding to the many emails, social media, personal face to face enquiries, and phone calls. Attending the numerous meetings. Reading a lot to keep abreast of what is happening so I can be there for my community and know what is happening. Campaigning on the issues that matter in my ward. Getting out there in the ward and talking to people. The work is never ending but I love it.</p>
<p>Return miss calls, reply to emails, attend meetings, make phone calls, arrange meetings, do case work, read meetings papers, visit residents who have arranged appointments, contact officers, read policies do diary.</p>
<p>See above, plus: Every day, I open emails and answer, forward or file as necessary. Calls arrive any time of the day or evening and I have a habit of asking callers if I can visit them, to understand their problems, on a Sunday morning. With planning matters, this is always the best way to reach an opinion. It is also part of our duties to go with constituents to meet council officials, the better to understand points of view that are often in conflict.</p>
<p>Sending and responding to emails and phone calls Attending meetings and briefings Setting up and delivering street surgeries Communicating with residents on various local issues Input into planning applications Attending Scrutiny Board, pre-scrutiny briefings with scrutiny officer and follow up work including sub-committees Preparing for and attending group meetings Preparing for and attending Full Council Preparing for and attending public meetings Attending residents group meetings and follow up work Attending ward events - e.g. church and school events Attending school governor meetings and sub-groups Meeting with officers, challenging officers Submitting comments on planning applications</p>
<p>spend 2 hours every evening reading papers, answering emails or attending community meetings</p>

The day is divided into three main components. Attending meetings, preparing for meetings, ward visits and dealing with correspondence and phone calls. The majority of correspondence is through e-mail both within the council and from residents. Because our contact details are so widely circulated I do get a large number of telephone calls to my home. Many of these in the week end and evenings and calls received during the day if I am out at meetings have often to be responded to in the evening. I consider my role as councillor a full time job and carry it out as such. The formal meetings are fixed in the diary normally for the full municipal year and other council meetings are normally set with plenty of notice to aid diary management. Casework and constituents issues crop up at all times and have to be dealt with. They often come in via e-mail and telephone. Dealing with them may involve a meeting with the constituent to actually see the problem they are talking about or simply because a face to face meeting is preferable. Representing and resolving the issue also takes phone call and/or e-mails to relevant council officers and depending on the nature of the problem meeting with officers. E-mails and calls to officers need to be followed up and I have a diary follow up system to make sure this happens. The above is the core work. In addition there are weekly and monthly surgeries in locations around the ward. Some at the weekend and some in the week. We have regular evening street surgeries combined with residents surveys and at weekends we frequently are in the ward on an ad hoc basis to meet residents on the door step so that they are aware of their ward councillors and what we do.

The nature of being a Councillor is that every day is different and there is no typical daily routine. That being said, what every day does have in common is that I am contactable by my residents at all hours of the day and night. I have a regular stream of phone calls and emails from residents and officers which I am expected to respond to. Looking at this week in my diary, I have at least one meeting every day including Saturday and Sunday. Two of my days won't finish until after 9pm and on my quietest day (Sunday) I have only one community event in the afternoon although I plan to use the morning to work on the casework I pick up at my surgeries on the Saturday. Being a Councillor is not an easy job and it is a huge commitment. Our day-to-day activity can largely be divided into the role we play representing our community and the one we play running our city. Both are fundamental. Leeds is a very large and very diverse city. We need every one of our 99 Councillors to give a voice to the 700,000+ people in Leeds and work hard to make our city the best it can be.

There are two major roles. Firstly I am Chair of Licensing which is responsible for Taxi, gambling, licensed premises etc. This role is well supported by officers along with my other role as lead member on Environment and Community Safety. The other major role relates to day to day responses to emails, phone calls, social media, street surgeries, official surgeries in a ward that has over 17,00 electorate. Sadly resources for this role has been dramatically cut which means I carry out this within my own time and resource. Every day I visit the council in order to ensure I deal with briefings, correspondence, seminars, delegations and other relevant matters.

This is an almost impossible question to answer as there are rarely two days the same. As I work full time, I have to slot council meetings and constituent emails and phone calls within the working day as they arise. I try to give an initial response or reply to every communication within an hour of it coming in. From 4.30pm almost every day I am engaged in council business of one sort or another until around 7.30pm to 8pm. I then spend every night " with the exception of Friday and Saturday night working on casework, reading papers, writing and answering emails " usually from around 10pm to around 2am.

Time management, between home, home, office and all the other meetings in the community and wherever am requested. Very challenging.

Tuesdays and Thursdays are council days. I attend my other job on Monday, Wednesday and Friday but I attend full council and scrutiny on some Wednesday having to take holiday from work. On these days I tend to undertake committee meetings, ward meetings, meetings related to my support executive role and some casework visits. Mon-Friday evenings involve Group meetings, party meetings, community meetings and meetings to do with my support executive role (usually as a guest speaker). If I am not out I will do casework and correspondence or on my return. It is unusual to finish before 11pm and often not until mid-night on admin and correspondence. Saturdays I undertake street surgeries, campaigning, community events and casework that can't be done in the week. I also do occasional Sundays e.g. Remembrance Sundays. Typically 2 half days per month on a Sunday.

Up at 4am spending time reading writing preparing for meetings visit into wards, daily preparation for hand delivery on employment vacancies plus local deliveries of letters to constituents. Liaison with Construction Services on casework. West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue meetings, training plus visits plus seminars to keep our community safe is a top priority. Tasking meetings with Police positive in bringing down crime and ASB. Transparency with community on demands can we meet them or be firm and say why. Cuts caused by external forces have caused a lot of distress to local people working in partnerships with trade unions has been positive but damaging to memberships loss of jobs, voluntary work, litter picking plus looking after shopping needs for my elderly citizens.

with full commitment every day ,on whatever is needed to do .

Is there anything else about your experience of being a Leeds councillor that might be relevant to the Council's submission on council size? (open response)

<p>1) It is very easy to criticise. However, in general the popularity of Councils/Councillors is far higher than those of MP's. 2) We cover for each other in a 3 person Ward, e.g., in my Ward we had a very ill Councillor for some time (who sadly died), single person Wards are particularly very difficult. 3) Leeds is a very diverse City, growing fast, +70,000 houses by 2026. It also covers both inner City and sub City and Country. Very few other LA's do this.</p>
<p>A decision/role description for councillors can't have the present multitude and array of functions. If there were only two of us we would probably have to decide who was neighbourhood focussed and who was more strategic, city wide focussed. If there was only one of us I suspect we're talking about simply having a case work approach. Strategic development and city wide contributions would have to go. The unvaried network of this one or two councillor approach would certainly not be attractive to me. Ownership/familiarity with neighbourhoods and the ability to work in a full range of capacities within the ward is why I became a councillor!</p>
<p>All three ward councillors in this ward work similar hours. We take it in turns to work deal with planning applications on a monthly basis. We share surgery workload and attendance. If there were fewer councillors in the ward individual workload would increase significantly</p>
<p>Although, ward size and population are important factors to consider. Needs and deprivation of an area should also be taken into consideration.</p>
<p>Armley is a complex area with 23% BME population. We need to ensure representation in wards which is why 3 councillors are necessary.</p>
<p>As grants continue to be reduced, as demands particularly in relation to our elderly grow, our challenge as local councillors is to look for more innovative and creative solutions which is more stressful and indeed much harder than relying on local state delivery. Our population continues to grow and as a city we are planning to build 72,000 houses within the next 15-20 years. The challenge of time is compounded by the trend to delegate more front line services to local areas unfortunately with reduced capacity. Given there is a massive issue of lack of resources, houses, childcare, education places, the demands of local people continue to grow.</p>
<p>As resources in the form of grants diminishes, our challenge to be innovative, be creative and look at civic enterprise become more important. The devolution to local areas also gives greater responsibility to local ward members. Leeds continues to grow (now 812,000) and our wards continue to raise new issues and demands. Child Care. Communities, particularly in these days of austerity still have massive issues like homelessness which is now facing its biggest crisis since becoming a member.</p>
<p>at time we are over stretched, and the time we have to work un-social hours, a lot of people would not do it</p>
<p>Balancing work/job alongside a role as a Councillor can often be trying and becomes about prioritising needs, matters or issues and while this is possible often it involves keeping a sharp and accurate diary. Why we can't conference call into certain meetings, e.g. with officers, that are not officially minuted meetings I do not know?</p>

Being in such a busy inner city ward the work load would be impossible to manage particularly with cuts to staff, meaning little pro-active work is done by officers, so it's down to Councillors to do it and follow up. The hours above very much estimate my typical day is (6 of the 7). Sleep 6 hours, dog walk 1.5 hours, me time 3 hours, 13.5 hours council work consisting of meetings/case work/ related travel/community meetings. *This is usually a ward walkabout to engage with constituents. etc.

Councillors are heavily engaged in the running of the council. Although we use an executive model we demand that councillors are heavily involved in decision making bodies in order to ensure democracy is not just about voting in meetings but about local member accountability and effective governance. This applies to all councillors regardless of party. We are a large council and we are proud of our significant successes. I believe that this shows our political representation and governance system works. We ask a lot from our councillors, they have a very busy diary and are expected to take on outside roles such as school governing bodies and other appointments nominated by the council. It is also true to say that the city is in an unprecedented period of growth. Our housing growth plans approved by the Government Inspector are to grow by 70000 dwellings over the next 20 years. This process itself incorporated significant councillor involvement to identify sites in the city. We are already growing as a city with lots of city centre development taking place and many planning permissions granted. In order to manage this growth effectively and share the prosperity of the city as widely as possible we should keep our effective governance arrangements in place.

Councillors put in a lot of hard work on behalf of constituents and ensuring the probity of the council. To increase the workload by reducing the number of council members would prohibit many people from coming forward to be councillors, especially those with families, care responsibilities and work commitments.

Depending on the makeup of the community. The role can be very demanding because of the factors of the different needs of the community

Every Councillor is also a politician, but will mostly also have a family. They are not unique in having multiple commitments, but there is a major impact on private life from the demands, especially, for evening meetings. This does press heavily on their time. Also, the job is biggest for the most conscientious. It will never "be done" there is always something more that could be done, especially at a time when people are being pressed by welfare and other expenditure cuts. Minimising the time available to do the work, for example by reducing Councillor numbers, will simply mean it is done less well.

Given the workload faced by myself, and my two ward colleagues, I believe it would be impossible to offer the level of service constituents expect if there were not three councillors within each ward, particularly as, in order to provide a diversity of skills and backgrounds, it is likely that in most wards at least one councillor will be in either full or part time employment.

I am totally convinced that 1 councillor per ward is the right way forward, though obviously the ward size needs to reflect a suitable workload. Although my office are hardworking, diligent and highly motivated, staffing levels need to reflect the sheer number of councillors and their enormous size of wards.

I believe that it imperative that the number of Councillors we have representing the city remains the same if we are to give our constituents the services they need. It is not possible for less than three Councillor's per ward given all their personal, employment and ward commitments for Councillors to work at their best ability

I believe that no matter how small or large the ward is there is a requirement for the three councillors to work together as it is not possible for 1 person to deliver the required workload and meet their constituents needs. Organisation and a mixed skill base is necessary to enable a ward to achieve the maximum from its three councillors. As we move more towards electronic platforms the skills of a Councillor are changing and we must ensure that training is provided to keep all up to date ensuring equality across our wards and meeting the communication needs of our constituents including those where English is not the first language.

I believe that the workload of a councillor shouldn't be so great that only the unemployed or retired can take on the role. We need councillors who are out in the real world and mixing with people who aren't involved in politics.

I believe the council reflects its wards and constituents; it is a dynamic force for the good of the city of Leeds and its people. It does not require any outside alterations in my opinion.

I believe with the size of some of our wards and it being a growing city, it is important we keep all 99 Councillors.

I believe, given the size of my own ward at over 18,000 voters (equivalent to the size of a small town), to manage with less than 3 councillors per ward would be incredibly difficult. I don't believe it would be possible for anybody in the city to do the job of a councillor properly in less than 30 hours per and as I have shown, actually significantly more are needed in my own case. Reducing the number of councillors would increase the time requirement either with bigger wards or fewer councillors to do the work " which would really necessitate councillors really become a genuinely full time roll " working at least 50 hours plus a week.

I could not do everything in my ward alone. Having two colleagues allows us to specialise in certain areas, co-ordinate holidays and ensure one of us attends every meeting.

I don't believe that people would be properly represented if there were fewer than the current 99 councillors. Three councillors to cover a ward huge in size is finely stretched given the size and demands of a ward like Rothwell. The same applies to other wards (ie inner city who have different demands). Rothwell local people have high expectations of their councillors, rightly so, and this requires that we spend an inordinate amount of time looking after their needs. Knowing what the workload is currently, I believe that reducing the number would put people off becoming a councillor. Already hit by the loss of the pension scheme, councillors who are not at retirement age would be hardest hit. It is important to have people who represent communities ie women, younger people and all groups. Lowering the number of councillors would be another step towards a largely male, retired council which would badly represent the people of Leeds and Rothwell ward.

I find that it is difficult to reconcile being a councillor with being a parent of two small children given that many meetings are in the evening. This I understand as other people work during the day but it does causes issues.

I firmly believe that to undertake the role of Councillor in the correct manner, 3 Councillors per ward are definitely needed. In a world where other essential services are being cut-police, local authority officers, education, support services-residents turn to local Councillors for that help when they feel they have nowhere to go with an issue. Local Councillors are taking on more and more work that was previously done by other agencies, and electors depend on us to help them.

I represent one of the most deprived areas of Leeds. Armley has very high levels of poverty, alcoholism, drug addictions, suicide and domestic violence. These are very serious issues which require a great deal of long-term dedicated community support and representation. The people of Armley rely on their local representatives to help them face a wide range of challenges. Many of the residents who come and see me at my surgeries or contact me in another way are in desperate need of someone to help them. I dread to think what would happen if the lifeline of three local Councillors' was taken away from the people of Armley.

I think rather than decreasing or changing boundaries there should be an increase in councillors per ward We are never going to be able to meet the constituents needs the way we are with an ever increasing population by decreasing numbers OR staying as we are

I work very closely with my ward councillors. Team work is vital if we are to respond to all the requests we get. Being both a local Councillor and a city representative for children and families is very time consuming but also very rewarding. We could not manage with a smaller representation in our area.

I would strongly advocate retaining the current number of councillors. In my ward there is more than enough work for three. Additionally as a new member I have benefitted from the advice and support of my colleagues. The flexibility and teamwork we've developed means that we can virtually cover everything to do with the ward that we need to. On a city wide basis we need enough councillors to participate appropriately in the decision making process and in scrutiny. Finally as a growing ambitious city aspiring to be the best we need a council that is well trained, professional, dedicated and hard working to help drive this forward. we also need a council that reflects the diversity of our city

If all councillors do as much as I do, and I suspect those with leading roles in the administration or Groups probably do more, I feel that we should not be reducing the number of councillors. I often hear it said that being a councillor is effectively a full time job and I have no argument with those sentiments. If councillors are expected to do the job properly I see little point in reducing the number of elected members.

if we are to carry out our duties and be at the forefront of our communities we need a strong sized council so the responsibilities can be shared in every ward

If you only want retired and/or independently wealthy representation that reducing the number of councillors whilst maintaining the size of the ward will I'm afraid drive people like me away. I love being a councillor but making me work even harder (I can currently share some of my casework particularly around planning with my colleagues). This ward already has 17,750 electors (but of course a much larger community when the under 18's and non voters are added) shared among 3 councillors (luckily all the same political persuasion, imagine what such a large ward would be like if you wasn't of the same political ilk!).

In an area like Leeds, where most wards consist of a number of smaller communities, the current council size equates well to the number of electors, and the amount of work required. Any enlargement of the electoral wards would be highly detrimental to the quality and standard of representation.

In the inner areas there is more contact with councillors as there is much poverty and people earning less than the minimum wage. There is also a higher proportion of NEETs and ill health due to low income and poor housing. This casework load is high.

Inner city wards of high deprivation generate a massive amount of case work - we struggle to keep on top of it now. It is difficult to see how we would manage with a reduced number of councillors or larger wards

Key thing is being a community leader and champion for the people that elected you.

Leeds City is a very large Council with diverse communities and areas of city. Some of the needs are common to all wards and areas but in the climate of declining resources providing services at local level in partnership with other service providers and residents is crucial. Each of the 99 Councillors are involved in locality work through Community Committees. Most councillors serve as Community Champions and specialise in different areas of service for example health, environment, cleaning, housing, Employment and Education. As a member of my Community Committee I was chair for two years, Environment champion for three years and now I am Employment and Welfare rights Champion and I chair the Employment Board for East North East. I am involved with local partnership projects such as Oakwood Residents and Traders Group which delivered Renovation of Oakwood Clock. I have extensive experience of working with different Communities and in bringing about better understanding and Community Cohesion. Being able to work at local level as part of a team of Councillors with different backgrounds and experiences and with a range of community groups and other providers.

Leeds council differs to many others in its geographical size, in that many here may not describe themselves as from 'Leeds' as such, but from their suburb. For example, Headingley, my own ward, is famous in its own right for its sport, and the council area as a whole acts as a microcosm for the UK, with a real diversity in wealth, tradition, class and background.

Leeds is a large and diverse city with distinct communities and a massive inequality gap between the inner city and outer lying communities. There are pockets of deprivation in outer lying areas too. The demands on Councillors are very different depending on the area that they represent. I spend a considerable amount of my ward Councillor time dealing with "development" proposals and planning issues which are a considerable concern to my constituents as much of my ward is Green Belt. I know that many of my Labour colleagues have a much bigger casework load because the day to day pressures of welfare reform and social issues are much bigger in the areas that they represent.

Leeds is the second largest city outside of London and the wards in Leeds are relatively large compared to those in other local authorities. Having larger wards will make it more difficult for councillors to represent their constituents effectively. I've already highlighted the shortage of primary school places, the shortage of Council houses to rent and the changes in planning which are all very time consuming for councillors to deal with in trying to help their residents. Councillors attend a lot of council meetings and if there was a reduction in the number of councillors they would have to attend more meetings which would impact adversely on the small political parties in Leeds. This would also affect councillor representation on outside bodies which are funded by the Council. Leeds has a lot of full time councillors and if you increase the ward sizes this would be a deterrent to those who have paid jobs. We should be encouraging more young people including mothers and fathers to stand as councillors and I am very concerned that increasing ward sizes would have the opposite effect due to the increased work- loads.

Leeds wards have large electorates and the city covers a large area. To do justice to elections and the city itself we need plenty of Councillors.

Local Government delivers Change on the ground and keeps Cities running . We have proved in Leeds that we are working well on unemployment and out performing the government schemes, one example was the devolved Youth Contract it is crucial that this work continues. We were highlighted as a leading city in terms of our Neighbourhood Network Schemes by the Government and we recently passed a Government inspection of Children's Services rated good. We as a council have implemented plans which have seen new ways of working and we have a more innovative approach building partnerships to manage the cuts to budgets. We continue to attract investment to the city and look for growth to make sure that we are contributing to the wider economy. We have clear ways of working with good governance in place through Scrutiny , Audit and other Committees We have the right balance in place to run a city and in these uncertain times the public expect leadership from the Councillors. Communities are made stronger by good elected members who work with many ,many partners and agencies to deliver change for the people they are elected to serve.

Lowering the number of councillors on LCC would restrict the inclusivity of who is able to do the job. Not everyone can spend all this time doing council work, for instance if you have children or work away it could easily put people off. we could not do this work if more work is piled upon us.

My two ward colleagues are from a different political party which means I can not share the work I received with anyone else.

My ward is one of the largest, both geographically and electorally. So it needs 3 Councillors to be able to deal with the work generated. As Leeds is one of the biggest cities in England and the electorate will expand due to the house building that is happening (with more proposed) it needs 99 Councillors to allow Councillors to have enough time to represent them properly.

My ward is spread out over a large area, so I feel we still need 3 ward members to fulfil our commitments to our constituents.

My ward of City & Hunslet is not only big in the number of constituents but also in area, I am fortunate enough to be able to drive. I do not know how anyone could cover the ward if they did not have their own transport. All Leeds wards are big in geographical area. Leeds is four times as big as Birmingham in geographical area.

<p>Representing a deprived community in a ward like Bramley generates a huge amount of case work which would be unrealistic to manage with less than 3 councillors</p>
<p>Responsibilities have increased as cut backs have impacted on both councils and communities.</p>
<p>The formal meetings and the 'civic hall' duties of a councillor are a small element of the entire role, much more time is spent working within communities and for individual constituents.</p>
<p>The large electorate that I have, the large geographical area that the ward covers and the diversity of both property types and people make it very difficult on occasions to successfully carry out my function. If the size of the population of the ward were to increase further then it certainly would present problems and would largely be impossible for members who have a full-time job as well</p>
<p>The need to have diversity on the group. For people who work they are probably as stretched as they could be. Any reduction in council size risks losing councillors with day to day experience of work outside the council in the City.</p>
<p>The size of my electorate and their expectations would make it difficult to meet these expectations with less than three of us.</p>
<p>The ward I represent has 18,000 voters and about 4,000 young people and others who do not qualify to vote. This implies 7,000+ people per councillor, which is the highest ratio in West Yorkshire. A councillor in Calderdale, on the same basis of calculation, has 4,500 people to represent. Parish and town councils help, but less than half of Alwoodley is 'parished' and for people outside the parish areas, we are the first line of contact. There can be few cities in England with a similar call on councillors' time and knowledge. The idea of reducing the number of councillors is suspect but logic implies that if it is going to happen, it should start where existing councillors have, at present, smaller demands on their lives, than we have in Leeds.</p>
<p>The ward is very wide geographically, very different communities two councillors serve the community and the other has to concentrate on being an Executive Board Member.</p>
<p>There is three councillors per ward, but at times I honestly believe we need more than three per ward. My other two ward colleagues is as stretch for time and in demand as I am. The best bit for me is when I see the smile on their faces.</p>
<p>there never appears to be enough days in the week or hours in the day, to re reduce the number of councillors from 99 would be a retrograde step</p>
<p>We do need three councillors with the communities and ward work. The three of us all have different strengths.</p>
<p>Yes too centralised by this Government body. As a Council we should draw up any partnerships working with our MPs as Councillor between two constituencies it is very demanding. Agreement can be reached locally on boundary changes.</p>

What is your employment status? (Tick one only)

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Full-time councillor	30	37.5
In full-time education	1	1.3
In full-time paid employment	13	16.3
In part-time paid employment	9	11.3
Not in paid work – looking after home/family	1	1.3
Not working for other reason	1	1.3
Retired	22	27.5
Self-employed	3	3.8
Total	80	100.0

What is your employment status? Other (open response)

As I have said, I was in full time work and I was finding it difficult to manage both.
Due to the holidays with my employment, I work things to fit in and carry out street surgeries etc. during these times.
I am in effect a full time councillor whilst also looking after a small child and home. When I was elected I was in employment also but it was too hard to juggle, another job, the huge demands of being a councillor and family.
I had to give up my job in order to fulfil my councillor duties. Day time meetings, plus level of work needed to effectively do my job meant that maintaining a part time role outside of the council was not possible. This was a shame mainly because councillors have also lost access to the pension scheme recently.
I used to work full time but this proved impossible with my council duties. I need to take some holiday to be able to keep all my council commitments.

<p>I work full time as an Office Manager and also as a Deputy Executive Board Member and local Councillor. My week is extremely busy but this is something I accept is part of the job.</p>
<p>It should be possible to tick more than one box above. I have two young children and I know other colleagues who are family carers.</p>
<p>none</p>
<p>Public Health a major issue not accounted for here in these papers.</p>
<p>Until July 2015 I worked full time as well as being a councillor. I believe it is important that a councillor should be able to have other roles which complement that of a councillor and bring other skills and experience to the council. Whilst being a councillor I have been a school governor at two schools in Morley.</p>