

Boundary Commission Working Group - Councillor Survey Feedback
2 March 2022

1. Number of Respondents

42

Analysis

54% of councillors responded to the survey in total.

2. Types of Respondents

- representatives across all political groups;
- Executive members;
- Chairs of Committees;
- Members of Scrutiny;
- Backbenchers

Analysis

A broad range of councillors have responded to the survey, allowing for confidence that answers provided are representative of the cross section of councillors as a whole.

3. Average number of hours spent **per week** on casework, representing/supporting the community or attending Town/Parish Council meetings.

15.0 (based on 41 responses)

Analysis

Whilst the average number of hours was 15.0 per week, there is significant variance between the lowest, at 3 hours, and the highest, at 50 hours. Just over half of respondents' responses were within a range of between 10 and 20 hours.

4. Average number of contacts, **per week**, received from Members of the Public (Queries, comments etc)

13 (based on 39 responses)

Analysis

The lowest amount of contacts with members of the public reported was 3 per week, with the highest being 50 per week.

Just over a third of respondents (16) reported having fewer than 10 contacts per week, whilst just under a fifth (8) reported 20 or more contacts.

5. Of the contacts with members of the public, the main methods of communication are:-

● Email	41
● Telephone	31
● Letter	5
● Surgeries	7
● Other	17



Analysis

Consistent with more modern forms of communication, significantly the most reported forms of communication used are by email (98%) and telephone (74%).

Other methods of contact reported include:-

- i) walkabouts/out in the ward;
- ii) social activities;
- iii) in-person;
- iv) social media;
- v) Texting;
- vi) neighbourhood associations.

6. Average number of hours spent, per month, on preparing for/attending meetings of outside bodies (Excluding travel)

11 hours (based on 42 responses)

Analysis

The lowest response was 0 hours (3 respondents), with the highest being 'about 30 to 40 hours' (1 respondents). Whilst the average is 11 hours, a significant number, 33%, (14 respondents) spend 15 hours or more on such activities.

7. Average number of hours spent, per month, preparing for/attending Community Boards and their Working Groups (Excluding Travel)

6.8 hours

Analysis

A significant number, 21%, provided the lowest response of 0 hours (9 respondents), with the highest recorded being 40. 24% (10 respondents) reported undertaking 10 or more hours on this activity.

8. Average number of hours spent, per month, preparing for/attending Council/Committee meetings/working groups (Excluding Travel)

26 hours (based on 41 responses)

Analysis

The lowest number of hours spent per month is 2, with the highest being 100 (2 respondents). 32% (13 respondents) spend 10 hours or less a month on this activity, with a further 32% (13 respondents) spending 30 or more hours on this activity.

9. Average number of hours spent, per month, dealing with a portfolio (e.g Executive Member) or as a Chair/Vice-Chair of a Committee? (Excluding Travel)

22.8 hours (based on 42 respondents)

Analysis

12% (5 respondents), report not having a portfolio and so 0 hours, but of significance is the 76 hours per month averaged by executive members responding, with a further 19 hours averaged undertaken by Chairs of Committees.

10. Given the above answers, do Councillors feel they have:-

- Enough time to adequately pr... 28
- Not enough time to adequate... 14



Analysis

A significant majority of councillors, 67%, consider they have sufficient time as councillors to prepare adequately for meetings. 33% do not.

Of the members who deal with a portfolio (Executive members and Chairs of Committees) 58% (12) believe they have sufficient time and 38% (8) do not.

End of Survey