

Debate not hate – questions for survey

1. Please amend the details we have on record if necessary. If you are a member of more than one council, please only complete this survey once.

- Name
- Authority
- Email address

2. Please indicate the type of council(s) of which you are a member. Select all that apply

- District council
- Town council
- Parish/community council

3. What is your political affiliation as a councillor?

- Conservatives
- Green Party
- Independent Alliance
- Labour
- Liberal Democrats

4. How long have you been serving as a councillor?

- Less than one year
- 1 to <2 years
- 2 to <5 years
- 5 years or more

5. How often, if at all, do you feel at risk personally when fulfilling your role as a councillor?

- Frequently
- Occasionally
- Rarely
- Never

Ask those who have been serving for at least a year:

6. How effective or not do you think are your authority's arrangements for protecting you personally as you fulfil your role as a councillor?

- Very effective
- Fairly effective
- Not very effective
- Not at all effective
- Don't know

The following questions relate to whether you have experienced abuse or intimidation in your role as a councillor and/or as a candidate or campaigner at the most recent local and/or general electoral period.

These terms are defined as follows:

Abuse – words and/or behaviour that constitute abuse or mistreatment can include, but is not limited to, physical abuse, bullying, emotional abuse, unsolicited abusive communication, and harassment. It may be one-off or repeated.

Intimidation – words and/or behaviour intended or likely to block, influence, or deter participation in public debate or causing alarm or distress, which could lead to an individual wanting to withdraw from public life. It may be one-off or repeated behaviour.

7. How often, if at all, did you experience abuse or intimidation during the local election campaign period in 2023?

- Frequently
- Occasionally
- Rarely
- Never

Ask those who have been serving for at least a year:

8. Over the last twelve months, how often, if at all, have you experienced abuse or intimidation in your role as a councillor?

- Frequently
- Occasionally
- Rarely
- Never

Show to respondents who answered rarely, frequently or occasionally at Q8:

9. And thinking about the last twelve months, how has the volume of abuse and intimidation you have received in your role as a councillor changed?

- It has sharply increased
- It has slightly increased
- It has stayed about the same
- It has slightly decreased
- It has sharply decreased
- Don't know

10. Please give reasons for your answer.

11. Have you ever reported to the police an incident of abuse or intimidation you have experienced in your role as a councillor?

- Yes
- No
- Do not wish to say

12. Due to your role as a councillor, have you or a person closely connected with you ever experienced any of the following?

For the purposes of this question, a person closely connected with you could be your immediate or extended family, your partner, or a close friend.

- Threat of damage to property
 - Actual damage to property
 - Threat of violence
 - Actual violence
 - Threat of death
 - Other, please write in
 - None of the above
-
- Against you
 - Against a person closely connected with you

Protected characteristics are a list of characteristics, for which it is against the law to discriminate against someone under the Equality Act 2010. The protected characteristics are:

- age
- being married or in a civil partnership
- being pregnant or on maternity leave
- disability
- gender reassignment
- race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

More information about protected characteristics can be found on the [Gov.UK Discrimination rights webpage](#).

13. In your role as councillor, have you ever received abuse or intimidation relating to any of the protected characteristics above?

This also includes abuse and intimidation relating to the perception that a protected characteristic applies to you, regardless of whether or not it does.

- Yes
- No

- Don't know
- Do not wish to say

Ask those who had received abuse/intimidation relating to a protected characteristic:

14. Which protected characteristic(s) was it related to? Select all that apply.

- age
- being married or in a civil partnership
- being pregnant or on maternity leave
- disability
- gender reassignment
- race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation
- Do not wish to say

15. If you would like to share more details about your experience(s), please use the space below.

16. In your role as councillor, have you ever had a member of the public attend your home or threaten to attend your home in a way that you considered intimidatory or inappropriate? Select all that apply.

- Yes – threatened to attend my home
- Yes – attended my home
- Yes – other form of contact at home
- No
- Don't know

Shown to respondents who answer yes (threat / actual / other) at Q16

17. And was this...

- One person acting alone
- More than one person, each acting alone
- A group of people, acting together
- Other, please specify
- Don't know

18. In your role as councillor, have you ever requested that your home address be withheld from the public register of interests?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

- Prefer not to say

Ask if respondent had not explicitly requested the withholding of their address

19. Were you aware that your home address could be withheld from the public register of interests?

- Yes
- No

20. And was your home address removed from the public register of interests?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Ask if home address was not removed:

21. Why was your home address not removed?

22. Have you made modifications to your home security since becoming a councillor due to concerns you have about your security as an elected member?

- Yes
- No – But I feel I need them
- No – I do not feel I need them
- Prefer not to say

Ask respondents who answered No – But I feel I need them:

23. Why have you not made modifications to your home security despite feeling you need to? Select all that apply

- I cannot afford them
- I am not sure what I should get
- Other, detail:

Ask respondents who had made modifications:

24. What modifications have you made? Select all that apply

- Security lights
- Camera doorbell
- CCTV or other cameras
- New locks
- Panic button/alarm

- Installed an external post box
- Home address flagged for police response
- Other, please specify
- Prefer not to say

25. The LGA's Debate Not Hate campaign aims to raise public awareness of the role of councillors and provides support for local politicians facing abuse and intimidation. Before this survey, had you heard of the Debate Not Hate campaign, or its slogan, "the right engagement matters"?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

26. Please use the space below to tell us anything more you'd like to about the safety of councillors, or civility in public life more generally.

27. Please tick the box below if you would like to be involved in future work related to this area and/or the contents of this survey.

[] I would like to be involved in further work

Many thanks for taking the time to complete this survey. You are in control of any personal data that you have provided to us in your response. You can contact us at all times to have your information changed or deleted.