

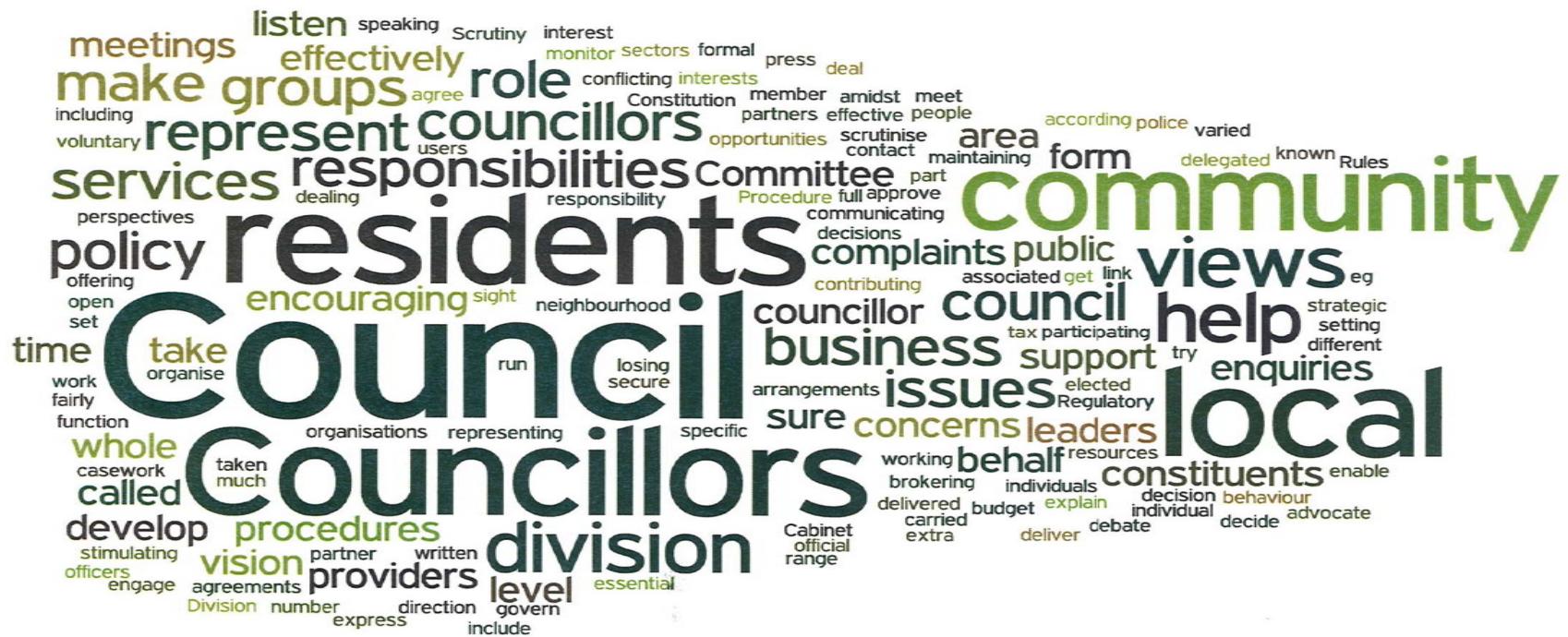
County  
**Elections**  
**2017**

# Core information for councillors (1)

Jane Burns  
Director Strategy and Challenge  
and Monitoring Officer  
12 May 2017

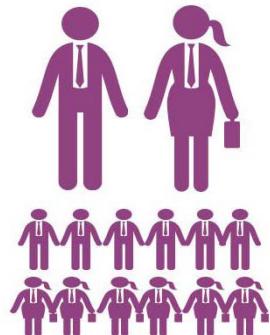


# What is a councillor?



*“Being a councillor won’t make you rich or popular at times but there are fewer more important jobs than being chosen to represent your community.”*

# County Councils in England



37 county authorities  
are responsible for



£30billion  
of expenditure per year  
on local services

## Key figures



Responsible for 40% of all local government expenditure



Home to 55% of the country's elderly population



Responsible for 90% of spending on local services



Covering 86% of England's landmass

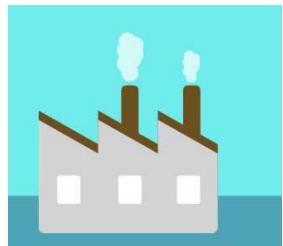
# Why county councils matter



Maintain highways  
&  
rural roads



Build vital  
infrastructure for  
communities



Support local  
economies and job  
creation



Care for the elderly  
and disabled



Protect vulnerable  
young people



Oversee high  
quality schools and  
deliver school  
places



Provide bus  
services for  
residents of all  
ages



Deliver public  
health services  
and advice



Ensure decisions  
and accountability  
are both local



Provide fire and  
rescue services

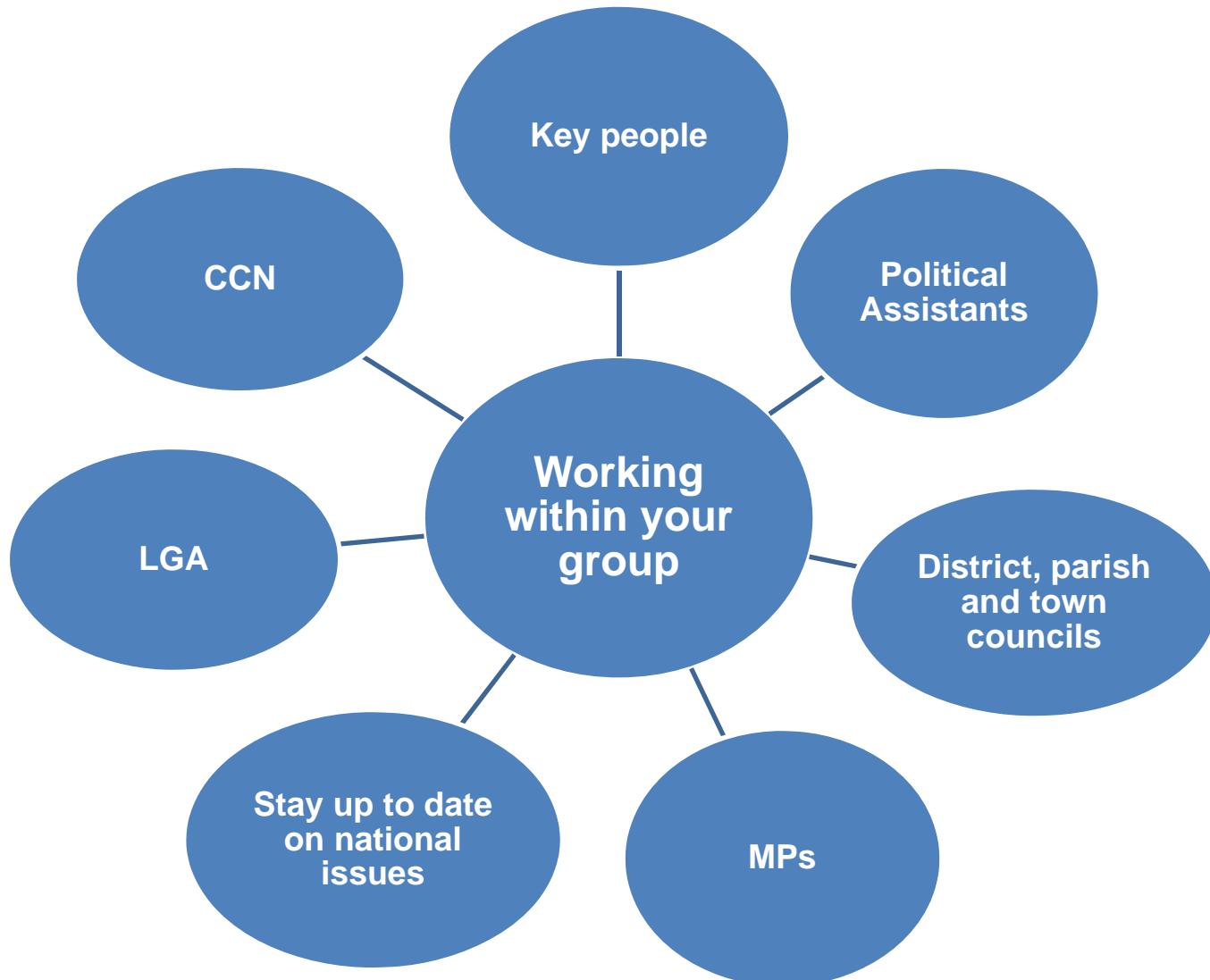
# Helping you to know your patch



# Helping you with your roles



# Working within your group



# Standards of behaviour

*Councillors have to be able to balance the needs and interests of residents, voters, political parties and the council whilst acting fairly and within the law*

- Nolan principles of public life
- Member Code of Conduct
- Declarations of interest
- Monitoring Officer
- Independent Persons
- At meetings
- Ambassador for GCC

# How the council works



*Members and officers working together in  
mutually respectful ways and in the best  
interests of the council and the county*

- County Council – the place for political debate, policy framework and the budget
- Leader and the Cabinet – main decision makers
- Overview and Scrutiny – holding to account, policy review, policy development, non-political
- New structure, chairs and lead members, senior officer support, broad and shallow; narrow and deep
- Other committees (e.g. Planning)

# County Council meetings

*My first council meeting was a cross  
between my first day at school and  
attending church*

- Strict rules and agenda
- The Chairman's word is final
- Member questions
- Motions
- Time limits
- Voting
- Points of order
- Corporate parenting pledge

# Other useful information....

- Members' allowances
- Travel claims
- Members' Matter – online resource for members  
[www.glos.gloucestershire.gov.uk/membersmatter](http://www.glos.gloucestershire.gov.uk/membersmatter)  
Login: *dsu password members17*
- Pigeon holes – collect your post when you are in
- Post Wednesdays and Fridays (as required)
- Paperless meetings
- Members' car park
- Personal safety

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Any Questions ?