

# Councillor in the Community

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# Community Leadership Resources



National  
Empowerment  
Partnership

Managed by the  
Community  
Development  
Foundation

Funded by the  
Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

[involve.org.uk](http://involve.org.uk)

There are a host of resources out there designed to enable councillors to maximise their impact and achieve the best results for their council and constituents. The resources are produced mostly by the following leading organisations (for further information see the annex 1):

- The Improvement and Development Agency for local government (IDeA)
- The Leadership Centre for local government
- The Local Government Association (LGA)
- The Local Government Information Unit (LGIU)
- London Councils

The following table (ordered by relevance) presents a selection of the key resources designed to help councillors develop as community leaders. To access the full resource click the link in the title.

Type of Resource	Title and Description	Organisation
Website	<a href="#">Councillor Development</a> This section of the IDeA's website is frequently updated with useful tools for councillors.	IDeA <a href="http://www.idea.gov.uk">www.idea.gov.uk</a>
Guide	<a href="#">So you've been elected, what now?</a> Four guides for new councillors on the following topics: <i>Making an impact</i> <i>Getting to know your ward</i> <i>Being part of a team</i> <i>Getting to know your council and beyond</i>	LGIU <a href="http://www.lgiu.gov.uk">www.lgiu.gov.uk</a>
Guide	<a href="#">LACORS Guides</a> Accessible guides on a range of important subjects for councillors.	LACORS <a href="http://www.lacors.gov.uk">www.lacors.gov.uk</a>

Type of Resource	Title and Description	Organisation
Think piece	<p><a href="#">Ward councillors and community leadership: a future perspective</a> An exploration of how the role of the ward councillor in England is likely to develop over the next five years.</p>	Joseph Rowntree Foundation <a href="http://www.jrf.org.uk">www.jrf.org.uk</a>
Case study	<p><a href="#">Trust in Democracy: Strengthening public confidence in local decision-making</a> This report showcases a range of councillor-led initiatives across London's boroughs.</p>	London Councils <a href="http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk">www.londoncouncils.gov.uk</a>
Think piece	<p><a href="#">Cabinet Member for your ward: A new challenge for all councillors</a> A think piece about how councillors can work more closely with communities.</p>	The Leadership Centre for local government <a href="http://www.localleadership.gov.uk">www.localleadership.gov.uk</a>
Think piece	<p><a href="#">21st Century Councillor: Manifesto for a modern local politics</a> A think piece about how councillors can be effective in their role as community leaders.</p>	The Leadership Centre for local government <a href="http://www.localleadership.gov.uk">www.localleadership.gov.uk</a>
Think piece	<p><a href="#">Setting the Standard</a> A think piece by four local politicians who discuss their roles on the board of Standards for England.</p>	LGA <a href="http://www.lga.gov.uk">www.lga.gov.uk</a>
Think piece	<p><a href="#">Spotlight on Health</a> A think piece about councillors' roles in the overview and scrutiny of health.</p>	LGA <a href="http://www.lga.gov.uk">www.lga.gov.uk</a>
Think piece	<p><a href="#">Frontline councillor 2017</a> A think piece exploring the role of frontline councillors.</p>	LGiU <a href="http://www.lgiu.org.uk">www.lgiu.org.uk</a>

Type of Resource	Title and Description	Organisation
Think piece Guide Case studies	<a href="#">The role of elected members in community empowerment</a> A think piece on the future of the empowerment agenda, a guide for councillors setting out some activities that help councillors to work with their communities, and a series of case studies on councillors' role in empowerment.	IDeA <a href="http://www.idea.gov.uk">www.idea.gov.uk</a>
Guide	<a href="#">Blogging and Facebook for councillors</a> A guide to effective use of Facebook and blogging.	IDeA <a href="http://www.idea.gov.uk">www.idea.gov.uk</a>
Case study	<a href="#">Members' role in community empowerment</a> Nottingham councillors and community empowerment.	IDeA <a href="http://www.idea.gov.uk">www.idea.gov.uk</a>

## Annex 1: About the Organisations

Organisation	Description
The Improvement and Development Agency for local government (IDeA) <a href="http://www.idea.gov.uk">www.idea.gov.uk</a>	The IDeA is a publicly funded agency that supports improvement and innovation in local government. They work with local authorities and their partners to develop and share good practice. They do this through networks, online resources, and support from councillor and officer peers.
The Leadership Centre for local government <a href="http://www.localleadership.gov.uk">www.localleadership.gov.uk</a>	The Leadership Centre is funded by the government department for Communities and Local Government. They work with the leaders of local authorities and within local strategic partnerships to help develop the skills and qualities they need to be effective leaders locally.
The Local Government Association (LGA) <a href="http://www.lga.gov.uk">www.lga.gov.uk</a>	The LGA is a voluntary lobbying organisation, acting as the voice of the local government sector, and is an authoritative and effective advocate on its behalf.
The Local Government Information Unit (LGiU) <a href="http://www.lgiu.org.uk">www.lgiu.org.uk</a>	The LGiU is an independent think-tank and a resource for local government. They provide practical policy advice, training, consultancy, public affairs services and other resources to their members and other organisations.
London Councils <a href="http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk">www.londoncouncils.gov.uk</a>	A think-tank and lobbying organisation that promotes the interests of London's 33 Councils. It also runs a number of pan London services.