



Operation Black Vote

BAME LOCAL POLITICAL REPRESENTATION AUDIT 2019



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Acknowledgments

Principal Researchers

Adrienn Kovács, Romani Studies Program, Central European University

Dancho Yakimov, Romani Studies Program, Central European University

Marvin Kwang, Boston University

Nina Kambili, New York University

OBV Team on project led by Ashok Viswanathan and Simon Woolley, and supported by Merlene Carrington JP and Rafiq Maricar.

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Introduction

Operation Black Vote (OBV) has undertaken an historic Political Audit that examines the representation of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) populations in England within Local Councils in the London Boroughs, Metropolitan Districts, and Unitary Authorities (collectively called Single Tier Councils).

Some time after the 2018 Local Elections, OBV began to collect data on the composition of Local Councils with respect to the representation of BAME communities. This audit has sought to see where we are right now particularly with the upcoming 2019 Local Elections, in which many of the Metropolitan Borough Councils and Unitary Authority Councils will be elected.

Fundamentally, we have been interested in whether or not local government looks like the population it seeks to represent. With all the challenges that we have in our society around education, housing, knife crime, and a community sense of belonging, we strongly believe that inclusive representative Local Government has never been more important.

Additionally, it is widely acknowledged that serving as a local political representative is often a pathway to other positions of political leadership and influence, including becoming an MP.

Our data shows some local authorities are doing well in regards to overall BAME local representative democracy, but others, nearly a third, are frankly woeful. The combined figures for the 123 local authorities in England reveal that of the 7,306 councillors, 1,235 are from a BAME background. This represents 14% which roughly mirrors that of the 2011 census data, although present BAME estimates are likely to be more than 14%.

That overall picture though belies a greater challenge, particularly in some areas of England that our political class and communities must urgently confront. 40 local authorities with BAME populations of between 6% and 12% have either zero BAME representation or one BAME councillor. For tens of thousands of BAME individuals, these all-white or almost all white democratic institutions can feel remote and out of touch with the challenges many face.

Equally important is the fact that apart from three local authorities, African/Caribbean councillors, particularly men, are very much under-represented. BAME women too are under-represented across the vast majority of councils. And despite their growing communities, there is only a handful of Chinese and Somali councillors.

Our findings raise some fundamental questions in general about belonging, having a voice, and how political parties are failing to understand their role to ensure inclusive representative democracy. Specifically both the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats are both in a really poor place when it comes to their BAME councillor representation. The percentage breakdown of BAME councillors presently is: Labour 84%, Conservatives 11%, Liberal Democrats 3% and 2% other affiliations.

Our national democratic institutions are becoming desperately undermined, not least with our failure to resolve the Brexit crisis. Local democracy therefore, offers real hope to engage and give hope that politics can work, but with a third of these local democratic institutions lacking little or no representative democracy for BAME communities, the feeling that democracy doesn't work will only get worse.

Key Findings

- Of 123 'Single Tier' local authorities in England, **one third has either no BAME representation or one BAME councillor**. 28 Single Tier councils have no BAME councillor whilst 12 have just one.
- The worst of these local authorities with sizable BAME populations (between 6% and 12%) but zero or one BAME councillors are: Brighton, Bracknell Forest, Southend-on-Sea, Stockport, Portsmouth, Solihul, and Bournemouth.
- The percentage figures for BAME populations could be higher given that the population data is from 2011. The Office of National Statistics (ONS) estimates show that BAME populations have risen faster than white populations.
- Of the most representative 'Single Tier' local authorities in England are: Barking and Dagenham, Birmingham, Bradford, Brent, Ealing, Hounslow, Newham, Redbridge, Slough and Tower Hamlets. Seven of the ten are in London.
- As of April 2019, there are **1,026 BAME councillors** in London Borough Councils, Unitary Authority Councils, and Metropolitan Borough Councils ('Single Tier'), comprising 14.04% of the total number of councillors.
- Generally, the 2018 councils are consistent with the demographics of England using the 2011 census, with about 86% of councillors being white.
- Women from BAME backgrounds are under-represented and only 38.4% of the identified BAME councillors are female.
- There appears to be a 'gap' in African/Caribbean representation within the broader BAME category; even in areas with significant black populations, the number of African/Caribbean councillors is relatively low.
- According to the 2011 Census, London is about 13.3% African/Caribbean; about 9% of London Borough councillors are African/Caribbean.
- Focusing in on heavily African/Caribbean boroughs, this disparity becomes more apparent. The London Borough of Lambeth, which is about 30.4% African/Caribbean according to its 2016 State of Borough data, has a council which is only 16.1% African/Caribbean.
- There is an additional gap in black male representation, with **just 81** of the 1,026 BAME councillors being African/Caribbean men.
- Of the total number of African/Caribbean councillors that we found, only 36% were African/Caribbean men.
- In London, there are just 62 African/Caribbean male councillors, making up 3.4% of the total London Borough councillor population.
- BAME Councillors are disproportionately affiliated with the Labour Party at 84.2%, followed by the Conservative Party at 10.9%, the Liberal Democrats at 3.1%, and 1.8% are affiliated with other parties or independents.

123 Single Tier Council List by BAME Councillors

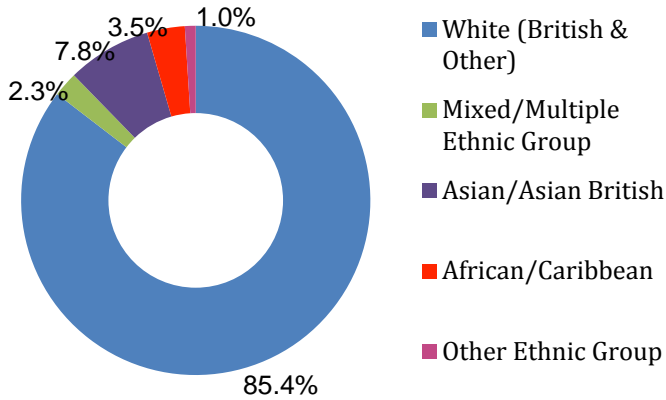
	Area Name	BAME Cllrs (2018)	Total Cllrs (2018)	BAME Representation %	Overall Population % BAME	Disparity
1	Brent	42	63	66.7%	64.9%	-1.8%
2	Newham	41	60	68.3%	73.1%	4.7%
3	Hounslow	38	60	63.3%	51.6%	-11.7%
4	Birmingham City	33	101	32.7%	42.1%	9.4%
5	Ealing	31	69	44.9%	53.5%	8.5%
6	Redbridge	30	63	47.6%	62.7%	15.1%
7	Slough Borough Council	29	42	69.0%	54.3%	-14.7%
8	Tower Hamlets	28	46	60.9%	54.0%	-6.9%
9	Barking and Dagenham	28	51	54.9%	49.5%	-5.4%
10	Bradford City	28	90	31.1%	32.5%	1.4%
11	Harrow	27	63	42.9%	61.8%	18.9%
12	Enfield	27	63	42.9%	42.3%	-0.6%
13	Leicester City Council	25	54	46.3%	49.4%	3.1%
14	Waltham Forest	24	60	40.0%	49.9%	9.9%
15	Croydon	21	70	30.0%	49.9%	19.9%
16	Haringey	21	57	36.8%	38.2%	1.3%
17	Luton Borough Council	20	47	42.6%	45.3%	2.7%
18	Manchester	19	96	19.8%	33.3%	13.5%
19	Oldham Metropolitan Borough	19	60	31.7%	22.4%	-9.3%
20	Southwark	18	63	28.6%	45.7%	17.1%
21	Wolverhampton	18	60	30.0%	32.0%	2.0%
22	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	17	51	33.3%	30.9%	-2.4%
23	Kirklees	17	69	24.6%	20.9%	-3.7%
24	Hillingdon	16	65	24.6%	45.7%	21.1%
25	Hackney	15	57	26.3%	43.6%	17.3%
26	Lambeth	15	62	24.2%	41.5%	17.3%
27	Merton	15	60	25.0%	36.7%	11.7%
28	Sandwell	14	72	19.4%	30.1%	10.7%
29	Coventry	14	54	25.9%	26.2%	0.3%
30	Greenwich	13	51	25.5%	40.3%	14.8%
31	Camden	13	54	24.1%	34.6%	10.5%
32	Walsall	13	59	22.0%	21.2%	-0.8%
33	Bolton Borough	13	60	21.7%	18.1%	-3.6%
34	Peterborough City Council	13	58	22.4%	17.5%	-4.9%
35	Leeds	13	99	13.1%	15.0%	1.9%
36	Islington	12	48	25.0%	32.0%	7.0%
37	Nottingham City Council	12	54	22.2%	28.5%	6.3%
38	Rochdale Metropolitan Borough	12	60	20.0%	18.4%	-1.6%
39	Lewisham	11	52	21.2%	47.4%	26.3%
40	Derby City Council	11	51	21.6%	19.8%	-1.8%
41	Barnet	10	63	15.9%	38.7%	22.8%
42	Sheffield	10	84	11.9%	16.3%	4.4%
43	Kingston upon Thames	8	48	16.7%	30.4%	13.7%
44	Sutton	8	54	14.8%	25.0%	10.2%
45	Dudley	8	72	11.1%	10.0%	-1.1%
46	City of Westminster	7	60	11.7%	38.8%	27.1%
47	Hammersmith and Fulham	7	46	15.2%	33.7%	18.5%
48	Kensington and Chelsea	7	50	14.0%	30.0%	16.0%
49	Havering	7	54	13.0%	15.7%	2.7%
50	Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Council	7	57	12.3%	13.9%	1.6%

51	Reading Borough Council	6	46	13.0%	25.2%	12.2%
52	Bristol City Council	6	70	8.6%	16.0%	7.4%
53	Stoke-on-Trent City Council	6	44	13.6%	11.3%	-2.3%
54	Medway Council	6	55	10.9%	10.4%	-0.5%
55	Milton Keynes Council	5	57	8.8%	20.0%	11.2%
56	Bury Borough	5	51	9.8%	10.9%	1.1%
57	Wandsworth	4	60	6.7%	29.7%	23.0%
58	Bexley	4	45	8.9%	21.4%	12.5%
59	Bedford Borough Council	4	41	9.8%	19.4%	9.6%
60	Trafford	4	63	6.3%	14.5%	8.2%
61	Liverpool	4	90	4.4%	11.2%	6.8%
62	Swindon Borough Council	4	57	7.0%	10.2%	3.2%
63	Newcastle upon Tyne City	3	78	3.8%	14.4%	10.6%
64	Thurrock Council	3	49	6.1%	14.1%	8.0%
65	Middlesbrough Borough Council	3	46	6.5%	11.7%	5.2%
66	Wokingham Borough Council	3	54	5.6%	11.6%	6.0%
67	Calderdale	3	51	5.9%	10.3%	4.4%
68	Telford and Wrekin Borough Council	3	54	5.6%	7.3%	1.7%
69	Rotherham	3	63	4.8%	6.5%	1.7%
70	Poole Borough Council	3	42	7.1%	4.2%	-2.9%
71	Bromley	2	60	3.3%	18.9%	15.6%
72	Richmond upon Thames	2	54	3.7%	15.7%	12.0%
73	Southampton City Council	2	47	4.3%	14.1%	9.8%
74	Salford	2	60	3.3%	9.9%	6.6%
75	Tameside	2	57	3.5%	9.1%	5.6%
76	West Berkshire Council	2	52	3.8%	5.2%	1.4%
77	Doncaster	2	56	3.6%	4.8%	1.2%
78	Wakefield	2	63	3.2%	4.5%	1.3%
79	North Lincolnshire Council	2	43	4.7%	4.0%	-0.7%
80	Darlington Borough Council	2	50	4.0%	3.8%	-0.2%
81	Wiltshire Council	2	98	2.0%	3.3%	1.3%
82	Cheshire East Council	2	81	2.5%	3.2%	0.7%
83	Cheshire West and Chester Council	2	75	2.7%	2.5%	-0.2%
84	Portsmouth City Council	1	42	2.4%	11.7%	9.3%
85	Solihull	1	51	2.0%	10.9%	8.9%
86	Bournemouth Borough Council	1	54	1.9%	8.1%	6.2%
87	Hull City Council	1	57	1.8%	5.9%	4.1%
88	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	1	56	1.8%	5.3%	3.5%
89	Warrington Borough Council	1	58	1.7%	4.1%	2.4%
90	Plymouth City Council	1	57	1.8%	3.9%	2.1%
91	Sefton	1	66	1.5%	2.7%	1.2%
92	Wigan	1	75	1.3%	2.7%	1.4%
93	Barnsley Borough	1	63	1.6%	2.1%	0.5%
94	St Helens	1	48	2.1%	2.0%	-0.1%
95	Cornwall Council	1	123	0.8%	1.8%	1.0%
96	Brighton and Hove City Council	0	54	0.0%	10.9%	10.9%
97	Bracknell Forest Borough Council	0	42	0.0%	9.4%	9.4%
98	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	0	50	0.0%	8.4%	8.4%
99	Stockport	0	63	0.0%	7.9%	7.9%
100	Central Bedfordshire Council	0	59	0.0%	6.1%	6.1%
101	City of York Council	0	47	0.0%	5.7%	5.7%
102	Bath and North East Somerset Council	0	65	0.0%	5.4%	5.4%
103	South Gloucestershire Council	0	69	0.0%	5.0%	5.0%
104	Sunderland	0	74	0.0%	4.1%	4.1%
105	South Tyneside	0	53	0.0%	4.0%	4.0%

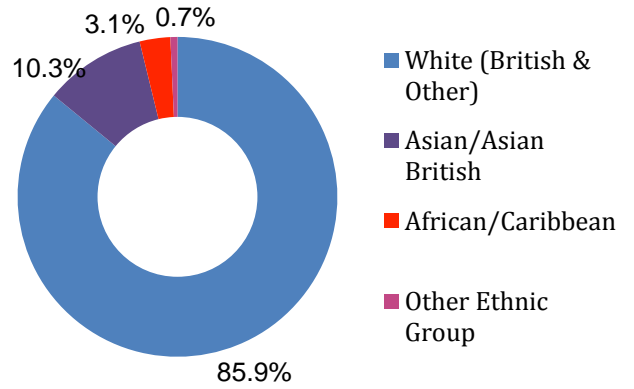
106	Gateshead	0	66	0.0%	3.7%	3.7%
107	North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough	0	60	0.0%	3.4%	3.4%
108	Blackpool Council	0	42	0.0%	3.4%	3.4%
109	Wirral	0	66	0.0%	3.0%	3.0%
110	Rutland County Council	0	26	0.0%	2.8%	2.8%
111	Knowsley	0	45	0.0%	2.7%	2.7%
112	Isle of Wight Council	0	40	0.0%	2.7%	2.7%
113	North Somerset Council	0	50	0.0%	2.7%	2.7%
114	North East Lincolnshire Council	0	42	0.0%	2.6%	2.6%
115	Torbay Council	0	37	0.0%	2.5%	2.5%
116	Hartlepool Borough Council	0	33	0.0%	2.4%	2.4%
117	Halton Borough Council	0	56	0.0%	2.2%	2.2%
118	Shropshire Council	0	74	0.0%	2.0%	2.0%
119	Durham County Council	0	125	0.0%	1.9%	1.9%
120	East Riding of Yorkshire Council	0	67	0.0%	1.9%	1.9%
121	Herefordshire Council	0	52	0.0%	1.8%	1.8%
122	Northumberland County Council	0	66	0.0%	1.6%	1.6%
123	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	0	59	0.0%	1.4%	1.4%
					Average of Disparity Indicator:	2.5%

Summary Data

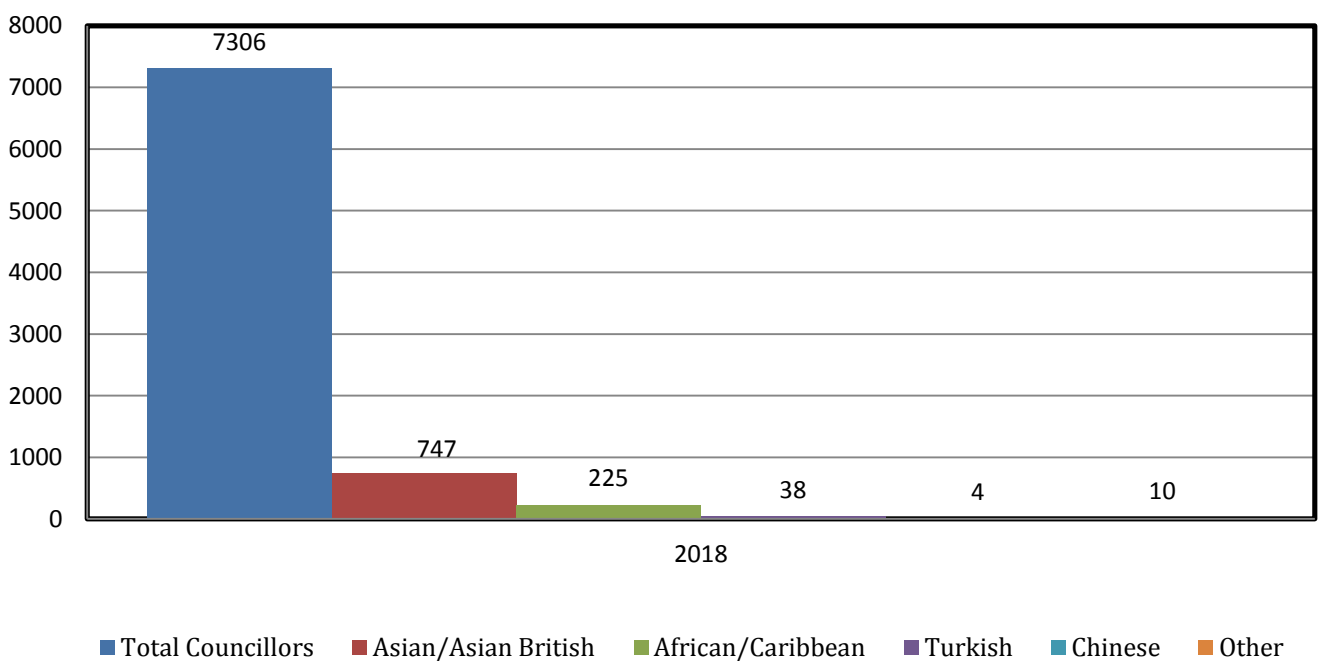
Ethnicity of England Residents (2011)



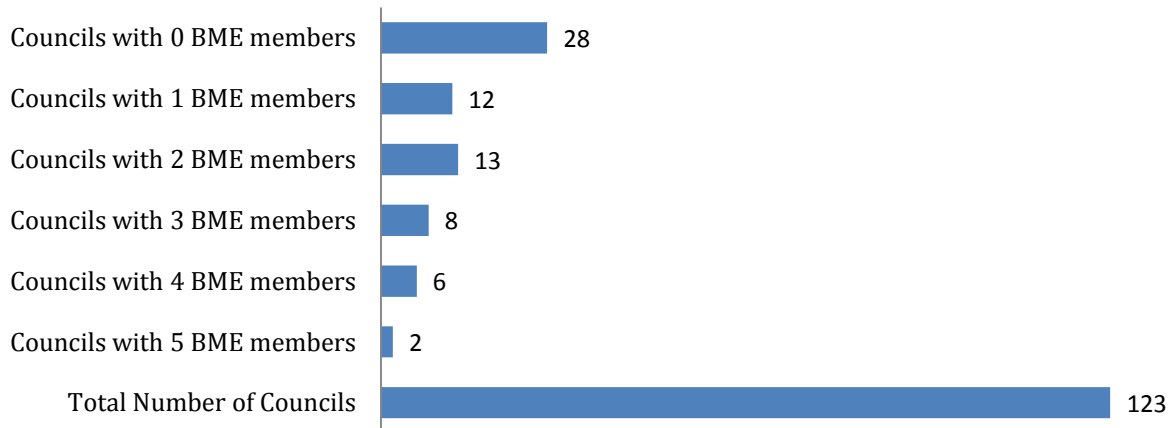
Composition of Councils (2018)



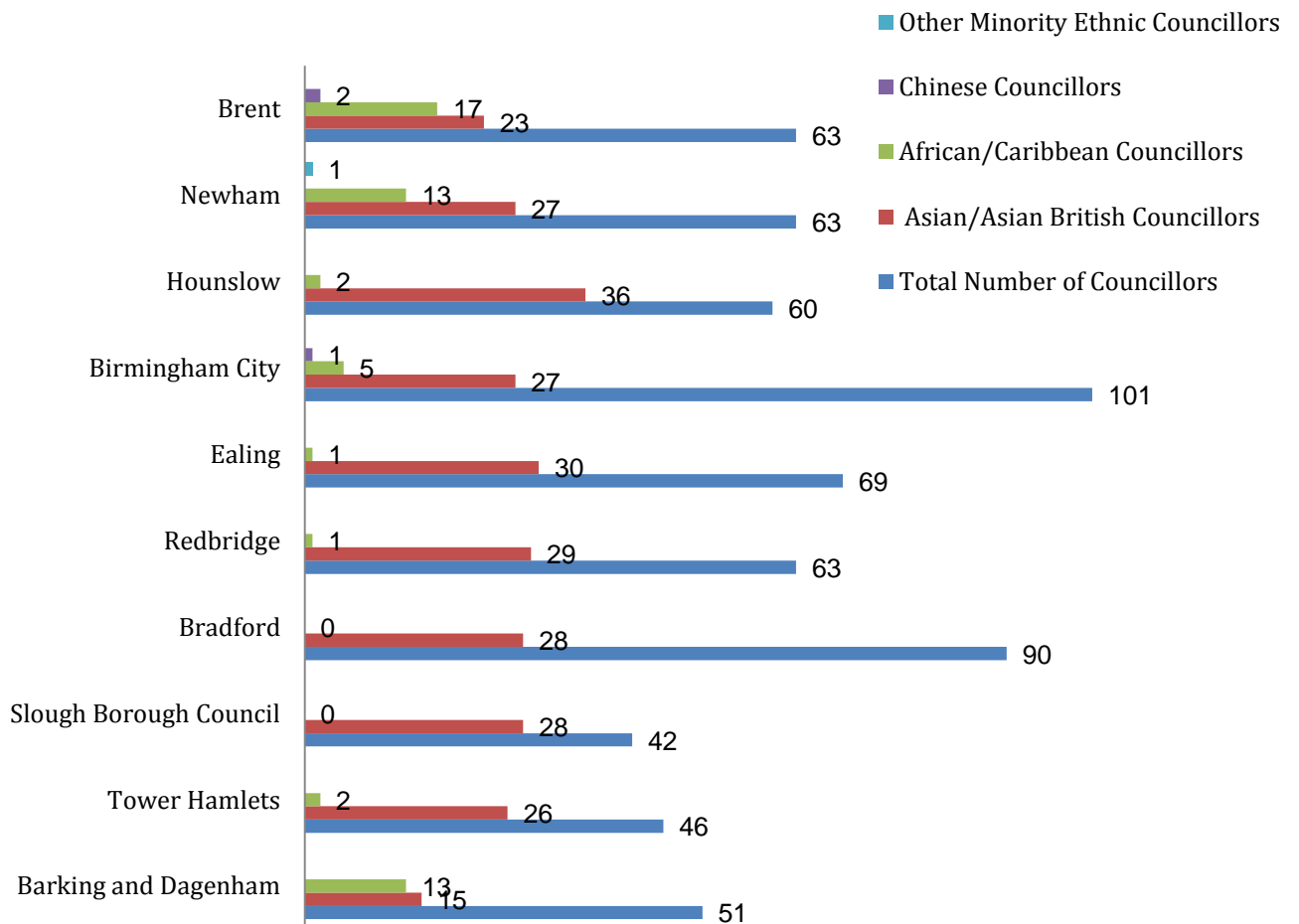
Councils BAME Representation (2018)



Councils with Low BAME Representation (2018)



Councils with High BAME Representation (2018)



Summary Data (Continued)

Table 1: Change in BAME Councillors from 2014 to 2018

	2014	2018	Change (Raw Figure) (%)	BAME as % of Councillors (2014)	BAME as % of Total Councillors (2018)
All Councils	873	1026	153 (17.5%)	11.9%	14.0%
London Boroughs	439	553	113 (26%)	23.9%	30.2%
Metropolitan Boroughs	235	266	31 (13.2%)	9.7%	11.1%
Unitary Authorities	199	207	8 (4.0%)	6.4%	6.7%

Table 2: Female BAME Councillors in relation to total female Councillors and total Councillors (2018)

	Male Councillors (Male BAME)	Female Councillors (Female BAME)	All Councillors: % Female	All Councillors: % Total Male BAME	All Councillors: % Total Female BAME
All Councils	4548 (635)	2751 (395)	37.7%	8.6%	5.4%
London Boroughs	1080 (301)	751 (252)	41.0%	16.4%	13.8%
Metropolitan Boroughs	1429 (183)	969 (83)	40.4%	7.6%	3.5%
Unitary Authorities	2039 (147)	1031 (60)	33.5%	4.8%	2.0%

Table 3: Distribution of Asian, African/Caribbean, and Other BAME Councillors (2018)

	Asian/Asian British (% of BAME Councillors) (% of Total)	African/Caribbean (% of BAME Councillors) (% of Total)	Other Minority Ethnic (% of BAME Councillors) (% of Total)
All Councils	754 (73.5%) (10.2%)	225 (22.0%) (3.1%)	47 (4.6%) (0.6%)
London Boroughs	343 (62.%) (18.7%)	164 (29.7%) (9.0%)	47 (8.3%) (2.5%)
Metropolitan Boroughs	233 (87.6%) (9.7%)	30 (11.3%) (1.3%)	3 (1.1%) (0.1%)
Unitary Authorities	176 (85.0%) (5.7%)	31 (15.0%) (1.0%)	0 (0%) (0%)

Table 4: Party Affiliation of BAME Councillors (2018)

	Labour or Labour & Co- operative (% of BAME Councillors)	Conservative (% of BAME Councillors)	Liberal Democrat (% of BAME Councillors)	Independent (% of BAME Councillors)	Other Party Affiliation (% of BAME Councillors)
All Councils	864 (84.2%)	112 (10.9%)	32 (3.1%)	12 (1.2%)	7 (0.7%)
London Boroughs	473 (85.5%)	55 (9.9%)	22 (4.0%)	2 (0.3%)	2 (0.3%)
Metropolitan Boroughs	230 (86.4%)	21 (7.9%)	8 (3.0%)	4 (1.5%)	3 (1.1%)
Unitary Authorities	161 (77.8%)	36 (17.4%)	2 (1.0%)	6 (2.9%)	2 (1.0%)

Table 5: Councils with Zero or One BAME Councillor*Councils with BAME populations greater than or equal to 5% are highlighted.*

Area Name	BAME Councillors (2018)	Total Councillors (2018)	BAME Representation Percentage (BAME/Total)	Area BAME Population (% BAME, 2011 Census)	Disparity (Percentage Points)
Portsmouth City Council	1	42	2.4%	11.7%	9.3%
Brighton and Hove City Council	0	54	0.0%	10.9%	10.9%
Solihull	1	51	2.0%	10.9%	8.9%
Bracknell Forest Borough Council	0	42	0.0%	9.4%	9.4%
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	0	50	0.0%	8.4%	8.4%
Bournemouth Borough Council	1	54	1.9%	8.1%	6.2%
Stockport	0	63	0.0%	7.9%	7.9%
Central Bedfordshire Council	0	59	0.0%	6.1%	6.1%
Hull City Council	1	57	1.8%	5.9%	4.1%
City of York Council	0	47	0.0%	5.7%	5.7%
Bath and North East Somerset Council	0	65	0.0%	5.4%	5.4%
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	1	56	1.8%	5.3%	3.5%
South Gloucestershire Council	0	69	0.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Sunderland	0	74	0.0%	4.1%	4.1%
Warrington Borough Council	1	58	1.7%	4.1%	2.4%
South Tyneside	0	53	0.0%	4.0%	4.0%
Plymouth City Council	1	57	1.8%	3.9%	2.1%
Gateshead	0	66	0.0%	3.7%	3.7%
North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough	0	60	0.0%	3.4%	3.4%
Blackpool Council	0	42	0.0%	3.4%	3.4%
Wirral	0	66	0.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Rutland County Council	0	26	0.0%	2.8%	2.8%
Knowsley	0	45	0.0%	2.7%	2.7%
Isle of Wight Council	0	40	0.0%	2.7%	2.7%
North Somerset Council	0	50	0.0%	2.7%	2.7%
Wigan	1	75	1.3%	2.7%	1.4%
Sefton	1	66	1.5%	2.7%	1.2%
North East Lincolnshire Council	0	42	0.0%	2.6%	2.6%
Torbay Council	0	37	0.0%	2.5%	2.5%
Hartlepool Borough Council	0	33	0.0%	2.4%	2.4%
Halton Borough Council	0	56	0.0%	2.2%	2.2%
Barnsley Borough	1	63	1.6%	2.1%	0.5%
Shropshire Council	0	74	0.0%	2.0%	2.0%
St Helens	1	48	2.1%	2.0%	-0.1%
Durham County Council	0	125	0.0%	1.9%	1.9%
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	0	67	0.0%	1.9%	1.9%
Herefordshire Council	0	52	0.0%	1.8%	1.8%
Cornwall Council	1	123	0.8%	1.8%	1.0%
Northumberland County Council	0	66	0.0%	1.6%	1.6%
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	0	59	0.0%	1.4%	1.4%

Table 6: African/Caribbean Representation within High-BAME Representation Councils

**London Boroughs (highlighted orange) 'Overall Population % BAME' is pulled from GLA 2016 statistics; all other statistics are from 2011 census unless otherwise stated.*

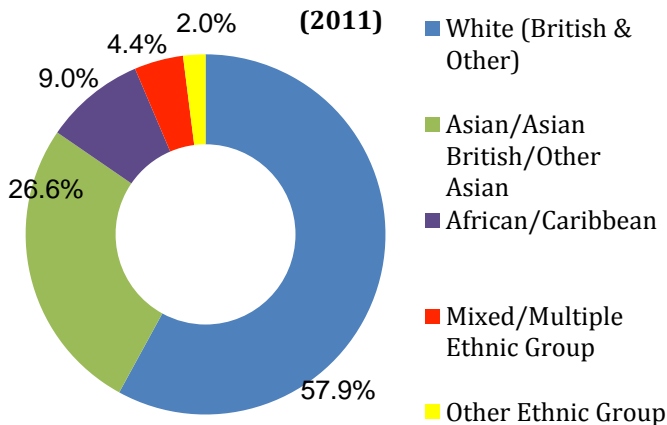
Area Name	Number of BAME Councillors (2018)	Number of African-Caribbean Councillors (2018)	Total Councillors (2018)	BAME Representation Percentage	Overall Population % BAME	Population to Representation Disparity (Percentage Points)
Brent	42	17	63	66.7%	64.9%	-1.8%
Newham	41	13	60	68.3%	73.1%	4.7%
Hounslow	38	2	60	63.3%	51.6%	-11.7%
Birmingham City	33	5	101	32.7%	42.1%	9.4%
Ealing	31	1	69	44.9%	53.5%	8.5%
Redbridge	30	1	63	47.6%	62.7%	15.1%
Slough Borough Council	29	0	42	69.0%	54.3%	-14.7%
Tower Hamlets	28	2	46	60.9%	54.0%	-6.9%
Barking and Dagenham	28	13	51	54.9%	49.5%	-5.4%
Bradford City	28	0	90	31.1%	32.5%	1.4%

1. The London Borough of Brent has the highest number of BAME councillors. 17 of its councillors are African-Caribbean, or about **27.0%** of the council. According to 2018 data, **Brent's population is 21.0% Black (African, Caribbean, and Other)**. [Source: Diversity in Brent Profile 2018, London Borough of Brent]
2. The London Borough of Newham has the second highest number of BAME councillors. 13 of its councillors are African-Caribbean, or about **21.7%** of the council. According to 2011 data, **Newham's population is about 16.0% Black (African, Caribbean, and Other)**. [Source: Understanding Newham 2011: Newham Household Panel Survey Wave 6 Findings, London Borough of Newham].
3. The London Borough of Hounslow has the third highest number of BAME councillors. 2 of its councillors are African-Caribbean, or about **3.3%** of the council. According to 2011 census data, **Hounslow's population is about 6.5% Black (African, Caribbean, and Other)**.
4. The Metropolitan District Council of Birmingham City has the fourth highest number of BAME councillors. 5 of its councillors are African-Caribbean, or about **5.0%** of the council. According to 2011 census data, **Birmingham's population is about 8.9% Black (African, Caribbean, and Other)**.
5. The London Borough of Ealing has the fifth highest number of BAME councillors. 1 of its councillors is African-Caribbean, or about **1.4%** of the council. According to 2011 census data, **Ealing's population is about 10.9% Black (African, Caribbean, and Other)**.
6. The London Borough of Redbridge has the sixth highest number of BAME councillors. 1 of its councillors is African-Caribbean, or about 1.6% of the council. According to 2011 census data, **Redbridge's population is about 8.8% Black (African Caribbean, and Other)**.
7. The Slough Borough Council (Unitary Authority) has the seventh highest number of BAME councillors. 0 of its councillors are African-Caribbean, or **0.0%** of the council. According to 2011 census data, **the Slough Unitary Authority's population is about 8.6% Black (African, Caribbean, and Other)**.
8. The London Borough of Tower Hamlets has the eighth highest number of BAME councillors. 2 of its councillors are African-Caribbean, or about **4.3%** of the council. According to 2011 census data, **Tower Hamlets' population is about 7.3% Black (African, Caribbean, and Other)**.
9. The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham has the ninth highest number of BAME councillors. 13 of its councillors are African-Caribbean, or about **25.5%** of the council. According to 2011 census data, **Barking and Dagenham's population is 19.9% Black (African, Caribbean, and Other)**.
10. The Metropolitan District Council of Bradford City has the tenth highest number of BAME councillors. 0 of its councillors are African-Caribbean, or **0.0%** of the council. According to 2011 census data, **Bradford's population is 1.8% Black (African, Caribbean, and Other)**.

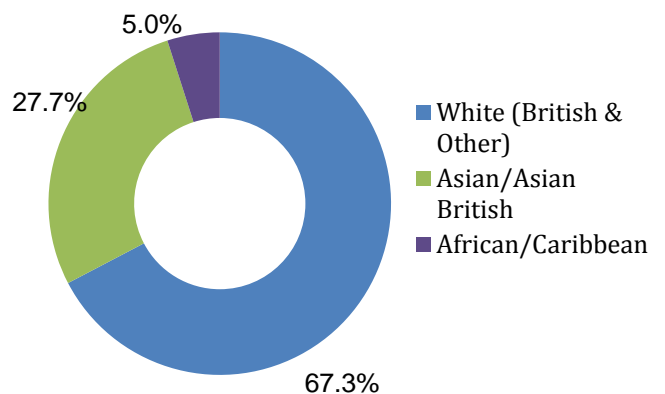
Snapshot: Birmingham

	Total Number 2014	% of Council 2014	Total Number 2018	% of Council 2018
Total Councillors	120	100.0%	101	100.0%
BAME Councillors	34	28.3%	33	32.7%
Male Councillors	78	65.0%	67	66.3%
Female Councillors	42	35.0%	34	33.7%
Male BAME Councillors	22	18.3%	23	22.8%
Female BAME Councillors	12	10.0%	10	9.9%
AB Councillors	28	23.3%	28	27.7%
AC Councillors	6	5.0%	5	5.0%
AB Male Councillors	22	18.3%	23	22.8%
AB Female Councillors	6	5.0%	5	5.0%
AC Male Councillors	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
AC Female Councillors	6	5.0%	5	5.0%

Ethnicity of Birmingham Residents (2011)



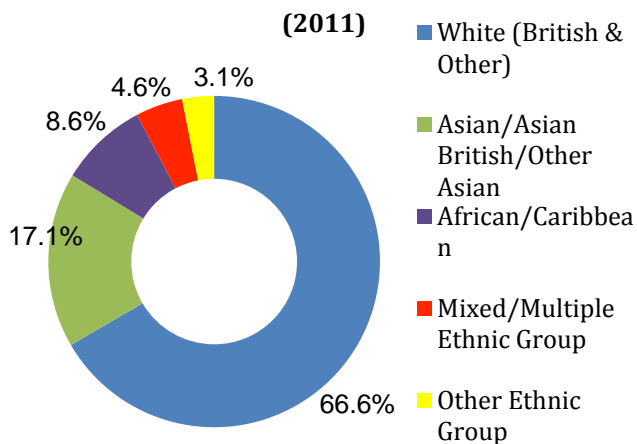
Composition of Birmingham Council (2018)



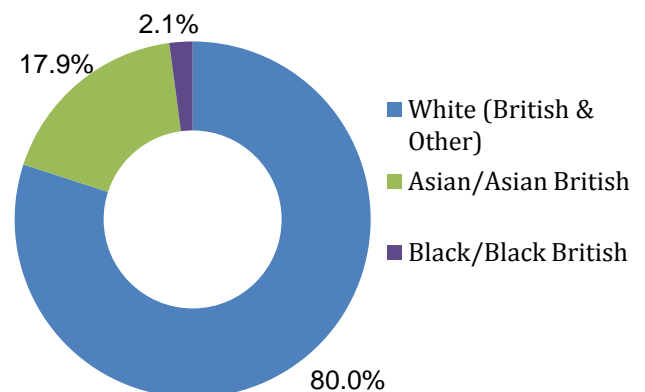
Snapshot: Manchester

	Total Number 2014	% of Council 2014	Total Number 2018	% of Council 2018
Total Councillors	94	100.0%	95	100.0%
BAME Councillors	18	19.2%	19	20.0%
Male Councillors	47	50.0%	48	50.5%
Female Councillors	47	50.0%	47	49.5%
Male BAME Councillors	10	10.6%	12	12.6%
Female BAME Councillors	8	8.5%	7	7.4%
AB Councillors	16	17.0%	17	17.9%
AC Councillors	2	2.1%	2	2.1%
AB Male Councillors	9	9.6%	11	11.6%
AB Female Councillors	7	7.4%	6	6.3%
AC Male Councillors	1	1.1%	1	1.0%
AC Female Councillors	1	1.1%	1	1.0%

Ethnicity of Manchester Residents (2011)

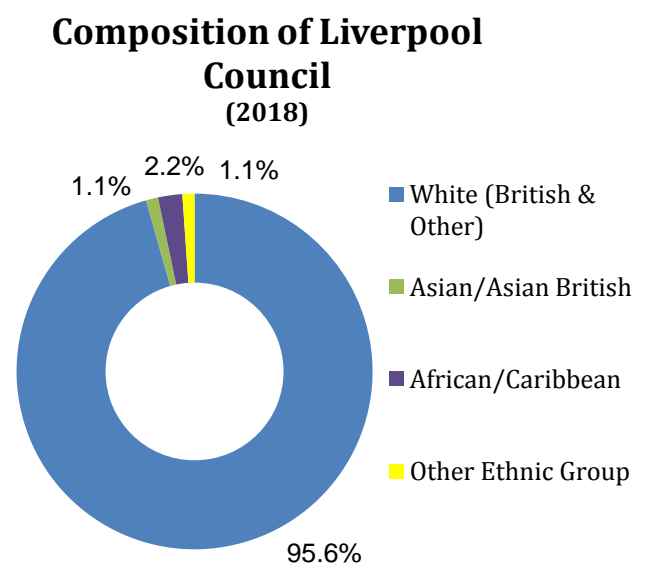
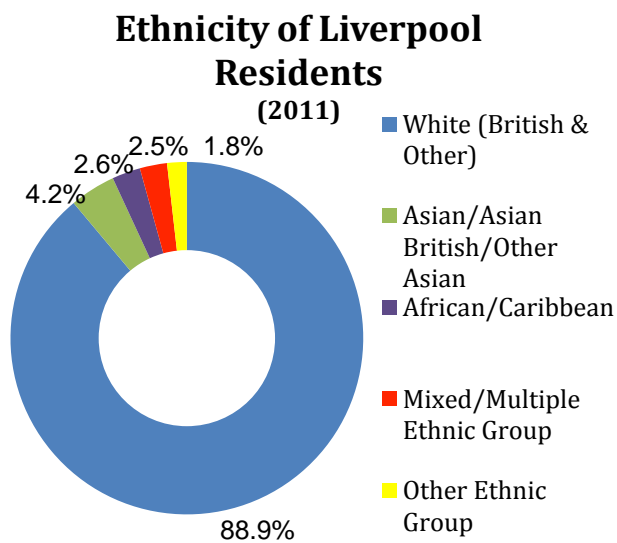


Composition of Manchester Council (2018)



Snapshot: Liverpool

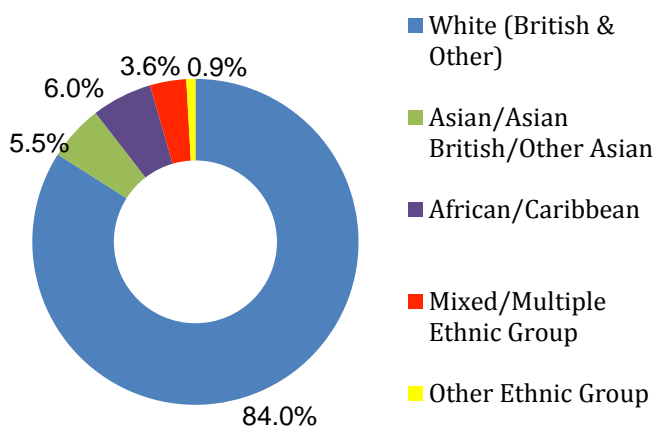
	Total Number 2014	% of Council 2014	Total Number 2018	% of Council 2018
Total Councillors	90	100%	90	100%
BAME Councillors	4	4.4%	4	4.4%
Male Councillors	48	53.3%	43	47.8%
Female Councillors	42	46.7%	47	52.2%
Male BAME Councillors	1	1.1%	1	1.1%
Female BAME Councillors	3	3.3%	3	3.3%
AB Councillors	1	1.1%	1	1.1%
AC Councillors	2	2.2%	2	2.2%
Other Minority Ethnic Councillors	1	1.1%	1	1.1%
AB Male Councillors	1	1.1%	1	1.1%
AB Female Councillors	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
AC Male Councillors	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
AC Female Councillors	2	2.2%	2	2.2%
Other Male Minority Ethnic Councillors	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Female Minority Ethnic Councillors	1	1.1%	1	1.1%



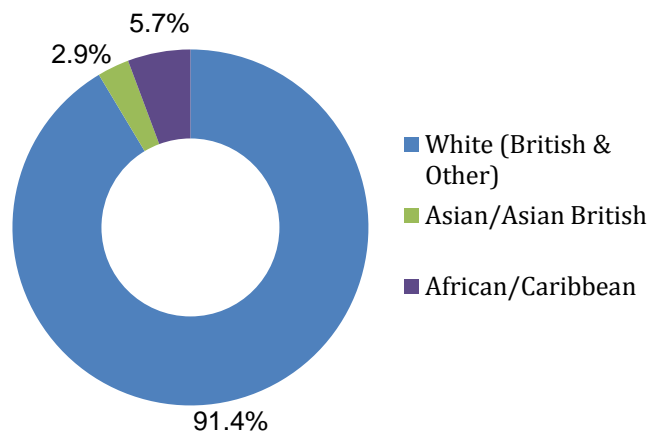
Snapshot: City of Bristol

	Total Number 2014	% of Council 2014	Total Number 2018	% of Council 2018
Total Councillors	70	100.0%	70	100.0%
BAME Councillors	7	10.0%	6	8.6%
Male Councillors	41	58.6%	42	60.0%
Female Councillors	29	41.4%	28	40.0%
Male BAME Councillors	3	4.3%	2	2.9%
Female BAME Councillors	4	5.7%	4	5.7%
AB Councillors	2	2.9%	2	2.9%
AC Councillors	5	7.1%	4	5.7%
AB Male Councillors	2	2.9%	2	2.9%
AB Female Councillors	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
AC Male Councillors	1	1.4%	0	0.0%
AC Female Councillors	4	5.7%	4	5.7%

Ethnicity of Bristol Residents (2011)



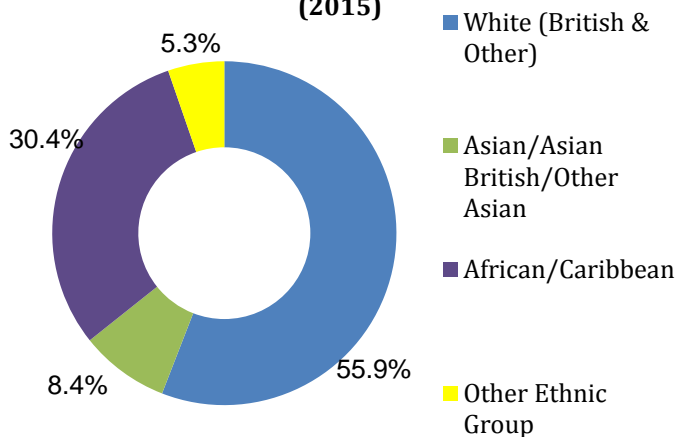
Composition of Bristol Council (2018)



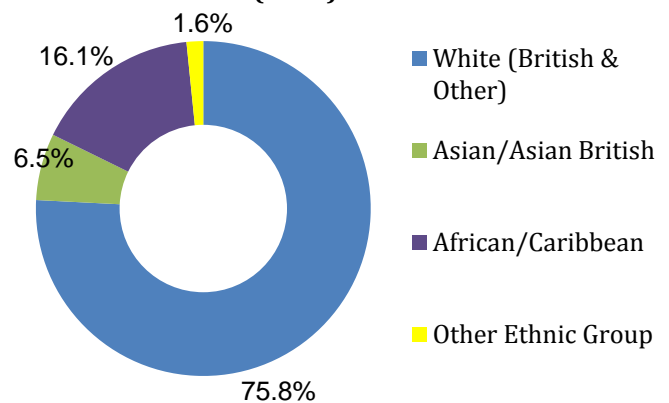
Snapshot: London Borough of Lambeth

	Total Number 2014	% of Council 2014	Total Number 2018	% of Council 2018
Total Councillors	63	100.0%	62	100.0%
BAME Councillors	13	20.6%	15	24.2%
Male Councillors	33	52.4%	35	56.5%
Female Councillors	30	47.6%	27	43.5%
Male BAME Councillors	4	6.3%	6	9.7%
Female BAME Councillors	9	14.3%	9	14.5%
AB Councillors	3	4.8%	4	6.5%
AC Councillors	10	15.9%	10	16.1%
Other Minority Ethnic Councillors	0	0.0%	1	1.6%
AB Male Councillors	2	3.2%	2	3.2%
AB Female Councillors	1	1.6%	2	3.2%
AC Male Councillors	2	3.2%	3	4.8%
AC Female Councillors	8	12.7%	7	11.3%
Other Minority Ethnic Male Councillors	0	0.0%	1	1.6%
Other Minority Ethnic Female Councillors	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Ethnicity of Lambeth Residents (2015)



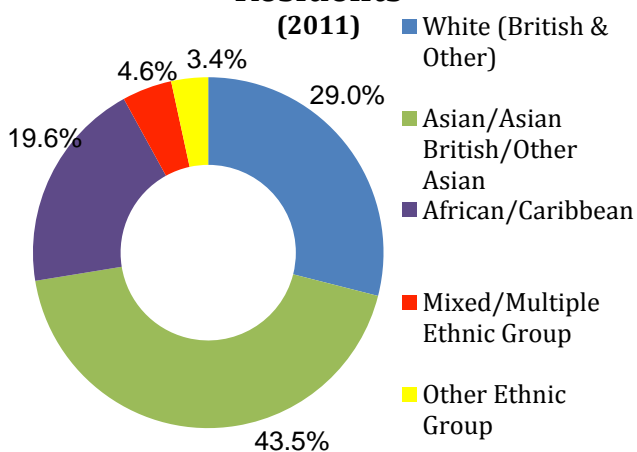
Composition of Lambeth Borough Council (2018)



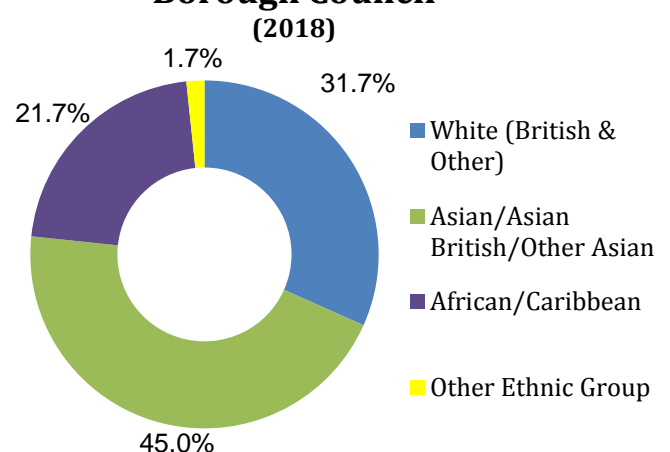
Snapshot: London Borough of Newham

	Total Number 2014	% of Council 2014	Total Number 2018	% of Council 2018
Total Councillors	60	100.0%	60	100.0%
BAME Councillors	31	51.7%	41	68.3%
Male Councillors	34	56.7%	32	53.3%
Female Councillors	26	43.4%	28	46.7%
Male BAME Councillors	19	31.7%	21	35.0%
Female BAME Councillors	12	20.0%	20	33.3%
AB Councillors	21	35.0%	27	45.0%
AC Councillors	10	16.7%	13	21.7%
Other Minority Ethnic Councillors	0	0.0%	1	1.7%
AB Male Councillors	14	23.3%	15	25.0%
AB Female Councillors	7	11.7%	12	20.0%
AC Male Councillors	5	8.3%	6	10.0%
AC Female Councillors	5	8.3%	7	11.7%
Other Minority Ethnic Male Councillors	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Minority Ethnic Female Councillors	0	0.0%	1	1.7%

Ethnicity of Newham Residents



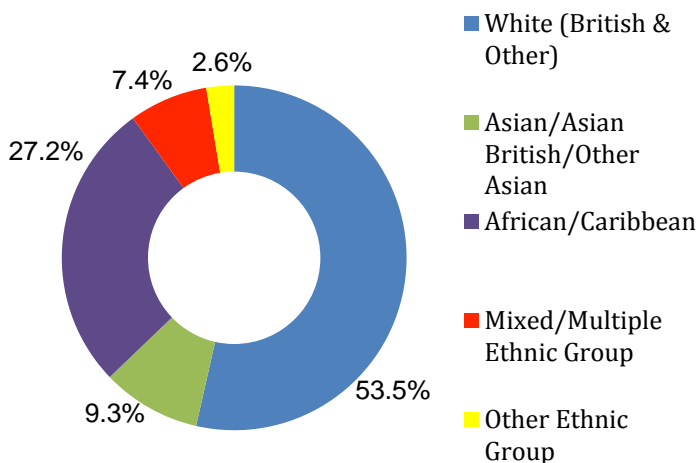
Composition of Newham Borough Council



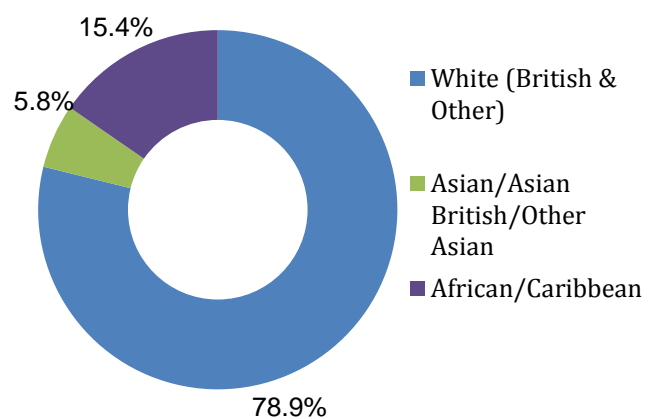
Snapshot: London Borough of Lewisham

	Total Number 2014	% of Council 2014	Total Number 2018	% of Council 2018
Total Councillors	55	100.0%	52	100.0%
BAME Councillors	10	18.2%	11	21.2%
Male Councillors	32	58.2%	29	55.8%
Female Councillors	23	41.8%	23	44.2%
Male BAME Councillors	6	10.9%	7	13.5%
Female BAME Councillors	4	7.3%	4	7.7%
AB Councillors	0	0.0%	3	5.8%
AC Councillors	10	18.2%	8	15.4%
AB Male Councillors	0	0.0%	2	3.8%
AB Female Councillors	0	0.0%	1	1.9%
AC Male Councillors	6	10.9%	5	9.6%
AC Female Councillors	4	7.3%	3	5.8%

Ethnicity of Lewisham Residents (2011)



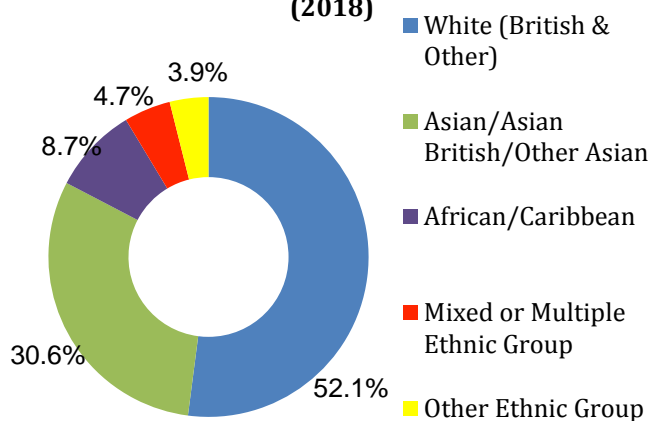
Composition of Lewisham Borough Council (2018)



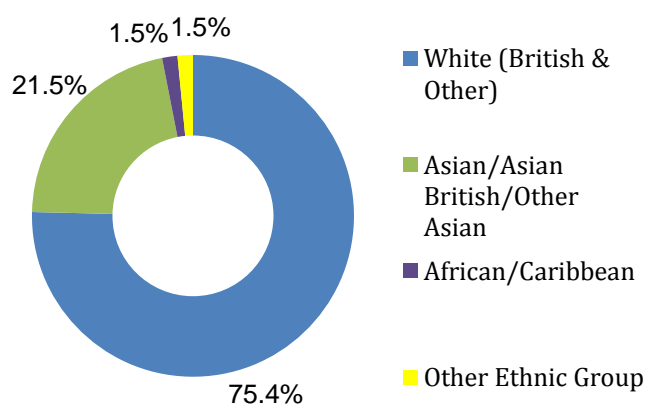
Snapshot: London Borough of Hillingdon

	Total Number 2014	% of Council 2014	Total Number 2018	% of Council 2018
Total Councillors	64	100.0%	65	100.0%
BAME Councillors	16	25.0%	16	24.6%
Male Councillors	44	68.8%	45	69.2%%
Female Councillors	20	31.2%	20	30.8%
Male BAME Councillors	9	14.1%	10	15.4%
Female BAME Councillors	7	10.9%	6	9.2%
AB Councillors	14	21.9%	14	21.5%
AC Councillors	2	3.1%	1	1.5%
Other Minority Ethnic Councillors	0	0.0%	1	1.5%
AB Male Councillors	9	14.1%	9	13.8%
AB Female Councillors	5	7.8%	5	7.7%
AC Male Councillors	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
AC Female Councillors	2	3.1%	1	1.5%
Other Minority Ethnic Male Councillors	0	0.0%	1	1.5%
Other Minority Ethnic Female Councillors	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Ethnicity of Hillingdon Residents (2018)



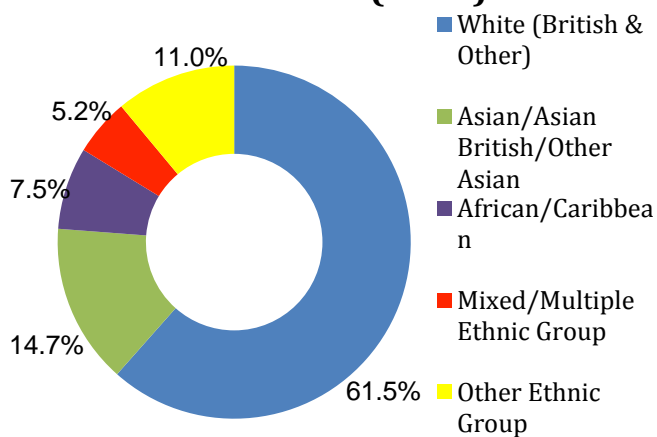
Composition of Hillingdon Borough Council (2018)



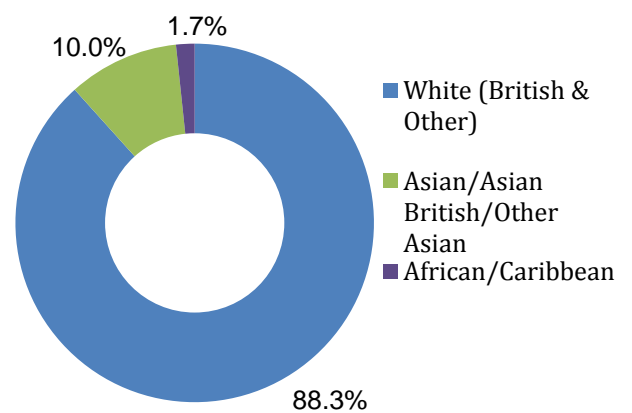
Snapshot: London Borough of Westminster

	Total Number 2014	% of Council 2014	Total Number 2018	% of Council 2018
Total Councillors	60	100.0%	60	100.0%
BAME Councillors	8	13.3%	7	11.7%
Male Councillors	37	61.7%	34	56.7%
Female Councillors	23	38.3%	26	43.3%
Male BAME Councillors	5	8.3%	4	6.7%
Female BAME Councillors	3	5.0%	3	5.0%
AB Councillors	8	13.3%	6	10.0%
AC Councillors	0	0.0%	1	1.7%
AB Male Councillors	5	8.3%	3	5.0%
AB Female Councillors	3	5.0%	3	5.0%
AC Male Councillors	0	0.0%	1	1.7%
AC Female Councillors	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Ethnicity of Westminster Residents (2011)



Composition of Westminster Borough Council (2018)



Conclusion

We hope that this report will be a wake-up call, not just for all of the mainstream political parties, and those national and local Government agencies, but also for BAME communities that urgent action is needed to close these democratic deficits, and bring communities into the civic and political space. We have looked at 123 local authorities, but we suspect that the situation is even worse if we included the other 200 or so 2nd Tier local authorities including District Councils.

We have been saying for nearly 25 years that everyone benefits when we have an inclusive and representative democracy. When a BAME person can see themselves in positions of elected power, they feel they can aspire to that role and feel they have a sense of belonging.

However, when they don't and communities feel alienated, not listened to, and most importantly, local services are not meeting their needs, serious problems can arise. The lack of representative democracy not only undermines our shared sense of belonging, it also exacerbates effectively tackling problems around knife crime, the Grenfell Tower disaster, and the disproportionate levels of BAME school exclusions.

Recommendations

1. All political parties undertake a BAME democratic audit of members, staff and elected officials at local and national level.
2. All political parties acknowledge their BAME democratic deficit and have a comprehensive plan to balance these disparities.
3. All political parties to have an unprecedented recruitment, retention and promotion drive for BAME members at local and national level.
4. National and Local Government agencies to undertake the largest voter registration drive ever seen in the UK.
5. National and local Government to support third sector initiatives that help bring BAME individuals to the civic and political space.
6. All Schools to have mandatory comprehensive citizenship lessons.

Methodology

The BAME Local Political Audit only includes analyses of single-tier local government bodies: the London Borough Councils, Metropolitan Borough Councils, and Unitary Authority Councils. It does not include the County Councils, District Councils, City of London or Isles of Scilly.

Data was initially compiled in 2017 and 2018, and then updated and cleaned in March 2019. Data was collected by the OBV Team. We sought to bring as much rigor and legitimacy as possible to this project, but acknowledge that due to its nature and scope, it may have some imperfections.

The findings we have uncovered come from juxtaposing the number of BAME councillors with BAME populations in the locality. The population figures were taken from the 2011 Census and in London the 2016 GLA data.

Additionally, we acknowledge the gaps in our coding of BAME councillors. We have generally used broader categories and integrated mixed-race individuals into these categories. We have not analysed representation with respect to religious affiliation.

We have generally collapsed the 2011 Census ethnicity categories into:

(1) White (British and Other)

- a. Includes 'White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British,' 'White: Irish,' 'White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller,' and 'White: Other White.'

(2) Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group

- a. Includes 'White and Black Caribbean,' 'White and Black African,' 'White and Asian' and 'Other Mixed.'

(3) Asian/Asian British/Other Asian [abbreviated: AB]

- a. includes 'Asian/Asian British: Indian,' 'Asian/Asian British: Pakistani,' 'Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi,' 'Asian/Asian British: Chinese,' and 'Asian/Asian British: Other Asian.'

(4) African/Caribbean [abbreviated: AC]

- a. includes 'Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African,' 'Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean,' and 'Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Other Black.'

(5) Other Ethnic Group

- a. Includes 'Other Ethnic Group: Arab' and 'Other Ethnic Group: Any Other Ethnic Group.'

Unless otherwise indicated, all population/ethnicity data is sourced from the 2011 Census and the Office of National Statistics. The graphs for Birmingham, Manchester, and Liverpool have been adapted from materials produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2014. The London Borough-specific charts utilise the 2011 census data unless otherwise indicated (i.e. cites a year after 2011). Non-census data sources can be found under Data and References.

Any aggregated London 'BAME percentage' refers to the 2016 estimates provided by the Greater London Authority. Individual ethnic group breakdowns are sourced from the 2011 census data and are referenced as such.

Data and References

All additional data used for ethnicity population estimates is sourced below.

[1] Greater London Authority, London Borough Profiles & Atlas. Created 2014, last updated 2016. <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-borough-profiles>

[2] Office of National Statistics, 2011 Census. Table KS201EW, Ethnic Group.

[3] Department for Communities and Local Government, 2014. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/390167/Birmingham_Evidence_Pack_for_publication_FINAL.pdf

[4] Slough Borough Council, Ethnicity of Primary School Children In Slough from the 2014 Census. <http://www.slough.gov.uk/council/joint-strategic-needs-assessment/ethnicity.aspx>

[5] Lambeth Borough Council, State of Borough 2016. <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/State%20of%20Borough%202016%20-%20v3.pdf>

[6] Hillingdon, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Ethnic Groups and Trends in Ethnicity 2018. https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/media/32837/Ethnic-Groups-in-Hillingdon-2018/pdf/Ethnic_groups_in_Hillingdon_2018.pdf

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations have been used throughout this report

AB Councillors	Asian British Councillors
AC Councillors	African-Caribbean Councillors
BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
GLA	Greater London Assembly
OBV	Operation Black Vote
ONS	Office of National Statistics
Single Tier	London Borough Councils, Unitary Authority Councils, and Metropolitan Borough Councils