

Questionnaire

We wondered how representative the membership of the Council was of the population in Somerset and asked some specific questions in the questionnaire to find out. It must be remembered that this is a snapshot and that not all members have completed the survey. Readers should also note that the survey was simple (to ensure a quick response) and answers have been aggregated for the sake of comparison.

There was no obligation to complete the questionnaire but 36 members (out of a maximum of 55) did so, a 65% response rate.

Table A1

Age of councillors completing survey, compared with Somerset adult population

Age group	Survey %	Somerset %
18-34	0	21
35-64	54	48
65+	46	31

Source: Panel Questionnaire/Nomis population estimates, 2019, figures rounded. The Panel has been advised that 3 SCC members are aged below 35.

Table A2

Ethnicity of councillors completing survey, compared with Somerset population

	Survey %	Somerset %
Minority ethnic background	2.7	5.4

Source: Panel Questionnaire/2011 census

Table A3

Gender of councillors completing survey, compared with Somerset population

	Survey %	Somerset %
Male	68	49
Female	32	51

Source: Panel Questionnaire/Nomis population estimates, 2019

Disability

Of those answering the Panel's questionnaire, 8% considered that they had a disability. At the time of the 2011 census, 18.8% of Somerset's population said they had a long-term condition or disability which limited their day-to-day activities a lot or a little.

We also wondered how representative SCC Councillors were of councillors as a whole and compared the questionnaire results with a national survey of councillors carried out by the Local Government Association (LGA) in 2018.

Table A4

Employment Status of councillors completing survey, compared with LGA survey

	Survey %	LGA %
Employed (to some extent)	57%	26%
Retired (completely)	14%	45%
Other	30%	29%

Source: Panel Questionnaire/LGA survey 2018

Employment Status of councillors completing survey

	SCC Survey	Survey %
Employed (full time)	7	19%
Employed (part time)	5	14%
Retired and employed	3	8%
Retired and self-employed	6	16%
Retired	5	14%
Not employed / Other	11	30%

Source: Panel Questionnaire

Table A5

Gender of councillors completing survey, compared with LGA survey

	Survey %	LGA %
Male	68	63
Female	32	36

Source: Panel Questionnaire/ LGA survey 2018

Table A6

Age of councillors completing survey, compared with LGA survey

Age group	Survey %	LGA %
65+	46	43

Source: Panel Questionnaire/LGA survey 2018 - Under 65s not comparable

Table A7

Ethnicity of councillors completing survey, compared with LGA survey

	Survey %	LGA %
Minority ethnic background	2.7	4.0

Source: Panel Questionnaire/LGA survey 2018

Disability

Of those answering the Panel's questionnaire, 8% considered that they had a disability. At the time of the LGA 2018 survey, 16% had a long-term health problem or disability which limited their daily activities.