

Local Government Information Unit
NEWS RELEASE
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What new councillors need to know

Local democracy think tank the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) today launched Now you're a councillor, what you should know, an information pack for newly elected councillors.

The pack was compiled with expert contributions from the LGIU's policy team and contains many tips from existing councillors from all over Britain. The pack consists of 16 user-friendly factsheets under headings such as "Managing your workload", "Representing your constituents" and "Where the money comes from". They give advice on how to organise life as a councillor, the basics of how local government works and what important issues councils will face in the near future.

Tracy Gardiner, Policy Officer of the LGIU and editor of the information pack, said: "As soon as they are elected, new councillors often get buried under an off-putting volume of paper giving more information than any normal mortal could possibly absorb in such a short period. There is a need for something less intimidating and more user-friendly.

"To this end, the LGIU's information pack gives councillors useful tips about the job of being a councillor, some basic local government knowledge and information on what important issues are in the pipeline."
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Notes to Editors

1. Founded in 1983 to campaign against the ratecapping, the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) is Britain's foremost independent local democracy think tank, campaigning to extend local authority best practice, freedoms and responsibilities. The LGIU is working to influence the debate on local government modernisation. The LGIU and its sister organisations The Education Network (TEN) and the Democratic Health Network (DHN) provide research, policy briefings, information, advice, training and lobbying services to local authority and trade union affiliates. Previous LGIU news releases and statements can be viewed at www.lgiu.gov.uk.

2. Copies of the Now you're a councillor, what you should know factsheets are on sale at £20 for each set (£10 to LGIU affiliates)

from Central Books on 0845 458 9910, 0845 458 9912 (fax) or e-mail mo@centralbooks.com.

3. A PDF version of Now you're a councillor, what you should know is available to journalists by contacting Kevin Morton at kevin.morton@lgiu.org.uk. Kevin Morton should also be contacted regarding requests for articles or interviews about this publication.