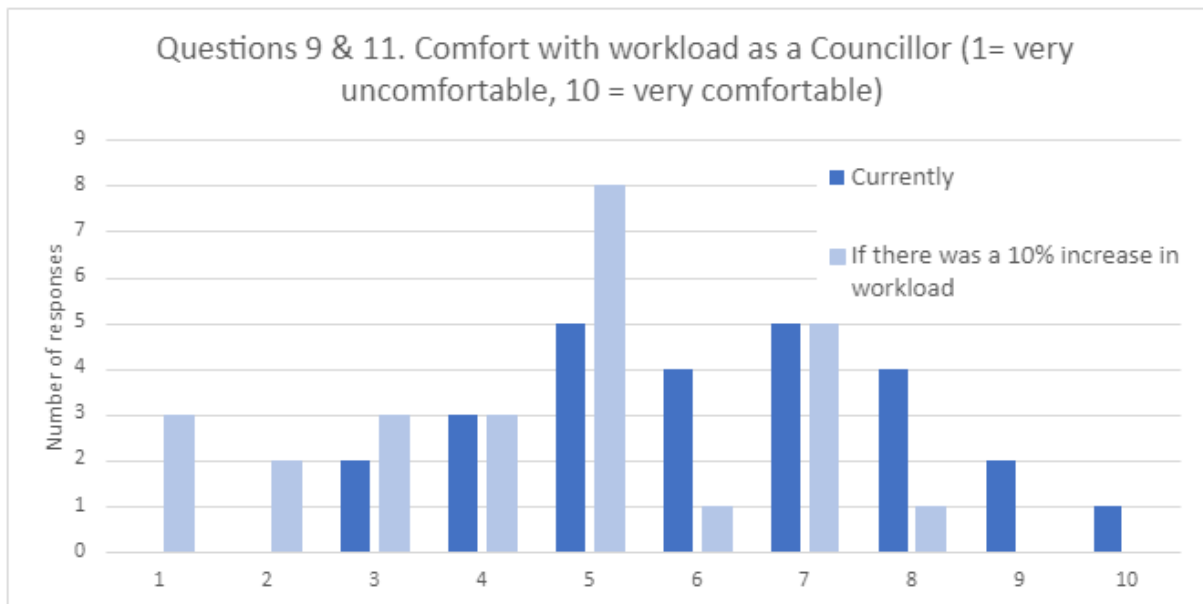


9. How comfortable are you with your workload as a Councillor? & 11. How comfortable would you be with your workload as a councillor if your workload was to increase by 10%?



10. What are the challenges (if any) you face in managing your workload?

"balancing workload with non councillor work"

"Representing six parish councils spread among the District's largest ward."

"Badly written, unnecessary or junk emails"

"Calendar management. Keeping up and following up case work as not always informed if issues have been resolved, either by member or public who asked for help. Fending off complaints about Council performance in planning, enforcement etc from both members and public."

"Balancing work and family responsibilities with council duties. The allowance is very small compared to the hours worked and means I face a financial loss compared to my other work. I also need to travel for my work and for family reasons and this is hard to balance with time needed for council activities."

"Never ending elections increase work load enormously, community and case work takes second place during election periods. I am not 100% comfortable with that as stood for election to serve my community."

"Slow or no responses from officers as there are shortages of staff and alternate priorities. The learning curve of figuring out what can be done and how to do it. My ward is a long way from Cirencester. Time consuming technical systems. Effect on family member when unavailable."

"Meetings in working hours, particularly afternoons which often clash with my full time job - working for a US company"

"None - though the impact on other things in my life is significant"

"conflicts with work, ability to balance both at times. If I'm away with work I can go a couple of days without engagement in council work"

"Having sufficient time to spend on the more strategic/longer term work and bigger issues, when dealing with lots of smaller case work that is important to residents."

"Time!"

"Managing should I return to paid employment as I did until June 2022. I spend significantly more time on my role as a councillor as I am not in paid work."

"Lots of correspondence from multiple channels e.g. email, social media, whatsapp, phone etc"

"work/life balance IT"

"Peaks and troughs in District Councillor workload may not always fit with my work."

"Parish Council meetings clashing. Increased work due to the change in the planning application process. Balancing my job with Council work sometimes."

"ward structure in Cotswold DC with part of Fairford in 2 member ward and not clear to voters who does what"

"The expectation to attend several parish council meetings, often on the same evening."

"When I was elected in 2016, I had no grandchildren. I now have four & I have a significant child care commitment"

14. Is there anything else you would like to say about your workload as a Councillor or the size of the Council?

"Depends if you represent a rural ward with a number of parish councils or a large village or town with just one parish council."

"No"

"As a voluntary role it is almost a full time job; the above questions didn't ask about training or joining on line conferences, updates etc relating to my portfolio."

"Dem services help enormously with organization and lighten my workload. I feel the numbers are about right"

"I have responsibilities that could make me a cabinet member but there is no budget and there are limited resources. I have several chunky committees, which cabinet members do not have, and am in the Ward most affected by the Area Plan. So, with private life as well my situation is probably not the norm"

"Having Council and Cabinet meetings from 6pm onwards throughout the year would be better, the afternoon times are difficult for someone working full time. This might exclude some people from standing. I find using AI to help analysis reports, research, write responses and documents very helpful - improves the quality and efficiency of what I do."

"To be truly effective, the role is incompatible with being f/t employed elsewhere. I stood down for a term because of this."

"I don't think the number of councillors is the issue, its the support services and ability to respond to detailed specific questions from the public"

"I think increasing the number of councillors would benefit residents overall. Some wards are geographically big, far from Cirencester (long travel times for meetings) and have multiple parishes meaning that a lot of time can be taken up covering the basics, before any productive work even begins."

"Whilst I have no real concerns about my ward workload, I am able to attend the majority of all meetings, I am aware of wards where there are so many parishes that ward councillors are unable to attend all meetings."

"There are too few councillors which has made it difficult to find substitutes for scrutiny committees, particularly when the cabinet is large and the administration has a narrow majority."

"We need more officers, rather than Councillors. Especially in Planning and in Enforcement given the new Govt's focus on housebuilding expansion."

"we need a district council rather than a single tier of local government"

"I think there should be no 2 member wards. All wards should be 1 member"

"My ward is small enough for me to be known by most of my residents"

"The workload has mainly increased due to the larger number of enquiries on planning. This is a byproduct of the Planning Dept being understaffed and residents using the Ward members as a method of getting updates and extra information"