

Conservative Research Department

Local Gov.

Elections

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THE 1981 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

As promised late last week I enclose a copy of my analysis note on the results from this year's local government elections. The note provides fairly comprehensive statistics with regard to political control of local authorities after the elections.

D. K. Britto

Enc.

THE 1981 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS - THE RESULTS ANALYSED1. Introduction

The 1981 Local Government elections held on 7th May took place for all members of the Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Counties in England and Wales and for all members of the Greater London Council. The Councillors up for election were elected in 1977 when the Conservative Party made large gains of seats from Labour and to a lesser extent from the Liberals and Independents. The 1977 local government elections took place at a time when the Conservatives led Labour by over 20 percentage points in the opinion polls. The 1977 elections involved all seats in the Scottish Districts, the English and Welsh Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Counties and for the Greater London Council. These 1977 elections resulted in the local government map of England and Wales being "painted" blue.

Before 1977 local government elections, the socialists controlled all the Metropolitan Counties in England (Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear, West Midlands and West Yorkshire) together with the Greater London Council. After they controlled only two of the Metropolitan Counties (South Yorkshire and Tyne and Wear). We were firmly in control of the remainder and also of the Greater London Council.

In the Non-Metropolitan Counties in England and Wales, Labour after the 1977 election remained in overall control in only three (Durham, Mid-Glamorgan and West Glamorgan), although in seven Counties no Party had overall control or the Council was controlled by Independents (Cornwall, Northumberland, Salop, Clwyd, Dyfed, Gwynedd and Powys). Details of the Counties where Conservatives gained control in 1977 are given below:-

<u>Gains from Labour</u>	<u>Gains from Independent</u>	<u>No previous overall control</u>
Cleveland	Isle of Wight	Bedfordshire
Derbyshire		Berkshire
Humberside		Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire		Cumbria
Nottinghamshire		Gloucestershire
Staffordshire		Hereford & Worcester
South Glamorgan		North Yorkshire

The final figures with regard to gains and losses of seats in 1977 are shown below:-

	<u>Net gain/ loss</u> <u>Seats 1977</u> (England and Wales)
Conservative	+1,193
Labour	- 925
Liberal	- 170
Independents	- 130
Others, including Plaid Cymru	+ 32

It is against this background that the results of the 1981 Local Government elections must be judged. The previous elections to the local government authorities having elections this year were in 1973 at a point when we trailed Labour by 3 percentage points in the opinion polls.

The table below shows the gains and losses of control of authorities in the 1981 elections.

Gains and Losses of Control 1981 Local Government Elections

Conservatives Loss to Labour

Greater London Council

Metropolitan Counties (England) Lost to Labour

Greater Manchester

Merseyside

West Midlands

West Yorkshire

Non-Metropolitan Counties (England) Lost to Labour

Avon

Cleveland

Cumbria

Derbyshire

Humberside

Lancashire

Nottinghamshire

North Yorkshire

Staffordshire

Welsh Counties Lost to Labour

South Glamorgan

Conservatives Loss to Liberals

Isle of Wight

Conservatives Losses to No Overall Control

Bedfordshire

Berkshire

Buckinghamshire

Cheshire

Gloucestershire

Leicestershire

Northamptonshire

Warwickshire

No Overall Control to Labour

Northumberland

Labour gained control of 14 local authorities from the Conservatives in England and one in Wales. In addition we lost control of one authority to the Liberals and 8 to 'no overall control'. The table on the following page shows for the 54 Counties (treating the Greater London Council as a county) the numbers controlled by the various parties. In terms of seats we estimate we lost 1,043 seats and from these Labour gained 826 and the Liberals 246.

Political Control 1973, 1977, 1981

(treated G.L.C. as a County)

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1981</u>
Conservative	16	42	19
Labour	19	5	21
Liberal	0	0	1
No Overall Control	13	4	10
Independent	6	4	3

2. Composition of English and Welsh Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Counties and Greater London Council 1973, 1977 and 1981(a) Metropolitan Counties (England)

Labour now control all the six English Metropolitan Counties - in the 1981 elections they gained control of Greater Manchester, Merseyside, West Midlands and West Yorkshire from the Conservatives. Details of the political composition of the Metropolitan Counties in 1973, 1977 and 1981 are shown below:-

Composition - Metropolitan Counties (England)

<u>County</u>		<u>CON</u>	<u>LAB</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL SEATS</u>	<u>POLITICAL CONTROL</u>
<u>Greater Manchester</u>	1973	23	69	13	1	106	LAB
	1977	79	25	1	1	106	CON
	1981	19	78	9	0	106	LAB
<u>Merseyside</u>	1973	26	53	19	1	99	LAB
	1977	67	25	7	0	99	CON
	1981	27	56	14	0	99	LAB
<u>West Midlands</u>	1973	26	74	4	0	104	LAB
	1977	77	21	3	3	104	CON
	1981	25	74	5	0	104	LAB
<u>West Yorkshire</u>	1973	25	51	11	1	88	LAB
	1977	52	32	4	0	88	CON
	1981	15	62	11	0	88	LAB
<u>South Yorkshire</u>	1973	13	82	1	4	100	LAB
	1977	31	62	2	5	100	LAB
	1981	14	82	3	1	100	LAB
<u>Tyne & Wear</u>	1973	26	74	1	3	104	LAB
	1977	44	54	4	2	104	LAB
	1981	23	72	7	2	104	LAB

(b) Non-Metropolitan Counties (England)

Labour now control 10 of the 39 Non-Metropolitan Counties in England, the Liberals 1, the Conservatives 19, in 8 no party is in overall control and in 1 the county is controlled by an independent group. Details of the political composition of the Non-Metropolitan Counties in 1973, 1977 and 1981 are shown below:-

Composition - Non-Metropolitan Counties (England)

<u>County</u>		<u>CON</u>	<u>LAB</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL SEATS</u>	<u>POLITICAL CONTROL</u>
<u>Avon*</u>	1973	36	32	2	3	73	NOC
	1977	55	17	0	1	73	CON
	1981	32	39	4	1	76	LAB
<u>Bedfordshire</u>	1973	39	32	9	3	83	NOC
	1977	71	9	2	1	83	CON
	1981	40	34	8	1	83	NOC
<u>Berkshire</u>	1973	43	26	13	5	87	NOC
	1977	66	13	7	1	87	CON
	1981	42	27	17	1	87	NOC
<u>Buckinghamshire</u>	1973	36	18	4	12	70	CON
	1977	65	1	0	4	70	CON
	1981	47	15	2	6	70	CON
<u>Cambridgeshire</u>	1973	28	22	5	13	68	NOC
	1977	54	6	4	4	68	CON
	1981	35	19	11	3	68	CON
<u>Cheshire*</u>	1973	31	29	1	6	67	NOC
	1977	53	10	0	4	67	CON
	1981	28	35	7	1	71	NOC
<u>Cleveland</u>	1973	35	52	0	2	89	LAB
	1977	48	37	0	4	89	CON
	1981	25	62	0	1	89	LAB
<u>Cornwall</u>	1973	3	1	0	75	79	IND
	1977	12	1	0	66	79	IND
	1981	16	5	0	40	79	IND
<u>Cumbria*</u>	1973	38	31	1	11	82	NOC
	1977	51	25	0	6	82	CON
	1981	35	42	3	3	83	LAB
<u>Derbyshire*</u>	1973	26	60	5	7	98	LAB
	1977	60	33	0	5	98	CON
	1981	21	58	1	3	84	LAB
<u>Devon</u>	1973	54	20	11	13	98	CON
	1977	84	3	3	8	98	CON
	1981	66	15	10	7	98	CON
<u>Dorset</u>	1973	47	13	11	20	91	CON
	1977	77	5	5	4	91	CON
	1981	52	11	16	12	91	CON
<u>Durham*</u>	1973	2	56	6	8	72	LAB
	1977	14	43	7	8	72	LAB
	1981	7	53	6	6	72	LAB

<u>County</u>		<u>CON</u>	<u>LAB</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL SEATS</u>	<u>POLITICAL CONTROL</u>
<u>East Sussex</u>	1973	48	19	9	8	84	CON
	1977	75	5	3	1	84	CON
	1981	53	14	15	2	86	CON
<u>Essex*</u>	1973	47	40	5	5	97	NOC
	1977	82	13	2	0	97	CON
	1981	51	33	13	1	98	CON
<u>Gloucestershire</u>							
	1973	31	18	5	7	61	CON
	1977	42	3	0	16	61	CON
	1981	25	17	11	8	61	NOC
<u>Hampshire*</u>	1973	44	27	6	20	97	CON
	1977	86	8	1	2	97	CON
	1981	62	31	7	2	102	CON
<u>Hereford & Worcester</u>							
	1973	37	30	8	17	92	NOC
	1977	69	12	6	5	92	CON
	1981	48	20	16	8	92	CON
<u>Hertfordshire*</u>							
	1973	34	33	3	2	72	NOC
	1977	64	7	0	1	72	CON
	1981	43	29	4	1	77	CON
<u>Humberside*</u>	1973	36	51	3	9	99	LAB
	1977	62	37	0	0	99	CON
	1981	31	42	1	1	75	LAB
<u>Isle of Wight*</u>							
	1973	6	6	7	23	42	IND
	1977	23	1	10	8	42	CON
	1981	12	0	27	4	43	LIB
<u>Kent*</u>	1973	63	31	7	2	103	CON
	1977	89	10	1	1	103	CON
	1981	64	23	10	2	99	CON
<u>Lancashire*</u>	1973	52	33	7	4	96	CON
	1977	82	12	2	0	96	CON
	1981	38	53	6	2	99	LAB
<u>Leicestershire</u>							
	1973	41	37	7	8	93	NOC
	1977	75	18	0	0	93	CON
	1981	44	43	5	1	93	NOC
<u>Lincolnshire*</u>	1973	35	10	3	27	75	CON
	1977	58	5	2	10	75	CON
	1981	41	13	9	13	76	CON
<u>Norfolk</u>	1973	52	27	0	4	83	CON
	1977	69	14	0	0	83	CON
	1981	51	27	4	1	83	CON
<u>Northamptonshire*</u>							
	1973	38	46	0	6	90	LAB
	1977	74	10	0	6	90	CON
	1981	31	31	4	2	68	NOC
<u>Northumberland*</u>							
	1973	10	28	3	21	62	LAB
	1977	21	22	1	18	62	NOC
	1981	14	34	15	3	66	LAB

<u>County</u>		<u>CON</u>	<u>LAB</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL SEATS</u>	<u>POLITICAL CONTROL</u>
<u>North Yorkshire</u>	1973	39	12	12	30	93	NOC
	1977	70	4	3	16	93	CON
	1981	48	19	14	12	93	CON
<u>Nottinghamshire*</u>	1973	35	54	0	0	89	LAB
	1977	65	21	1	2	89	CON
	1981	32	55	0	0	88	LAB
<u>Oxfordshire</u> ⁺	1973	36	21	2	10	69	CON
	1977	61	3	2	3	69	CON
	1981	36	19	8	5	69	CON
<u>Salop*</u>	1973	14	16	3	30	63	IND
	1977	30	6	7	20	63	NOC
	1981	16	21	10	19	66	NOC
<u>Somerset*</u>	1973	35	7	2	12	56	CON
	1977	42	4	0	10	56	CON
	1981	33	10	7	7	57	CON
<u>Staffordshire*</u>	1973	28	47	1	9	85	LAB
	1977	63	16	0	6	85	CON
	1981	27	48	4	3	82	LAB
<u>Suffolk</u>	1973	47	29	3	3	82	CON
	1977	68	11	1	2	82	CON
	1981	49	31	2	0	82	CON
<u>Surrey*</u>	1973	46	12	9	5	72**	CON
	1977	68	2	0	3	73	CON
	1981	63	7	3	3	76	CON
<u>Warwickshire*</u>	1973	27	21	5	2	55	NOC
	1977	42	11	0	2	55	CON
	1981	30	27	3	2	62	NOC
<u>West Sussex</u>	1973	52	10	7	14	83**	CON
	1977	72	4	4	0	80	CON
	1981	56	8	14	1	80	CON
<u>Wiltshire*</u>	1973	39	22	6	12	79	CON
	1977	58	15	4	2	79	CON
	1981	40	20	12	2	74	CON

* Boundary Changes 1977 - 1981

** Boundary Changes affecting number of seats 1973 - 1977

NOC - No Overall Control

+ - By-election pending due to death of candidate

(c) Welsh Counties

Before the 1981 Local Government elections we controlled one of the Welsh Counties (South Glamorgan), Labour three (Mid-Glamorgan, West Glamorgan and Gwent), three counties were controlled by Independents (Dyfed, Gwynedd and Powys) and in one (Clywd) no party had overall control. The 1981 elections resulted in two changes in control - we lost control of South Glamorgan to Labour and no party now has overall control in Gwynedd. Full details of political composition of the Welsh Counties in 1973, 1977 and 1981 are shown below:-

<u>COMPOSITION WELSH COUNTIES</u>							
<u>County</u>		<u>CON</u>	<u>LAB</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL SEATS</u>	<u>POLITICAL CONTROL</u>
<u>Clwyd</u>	1973	12	20	4	30	66	NOC
	1977	22	20	1	23	66	NOC
	1981	13	27	3	23	66	NOC
<u>Dyfed</u>	1973	0	29	8	43	80	IND
	1977	0	25	5	50	80	IND
	1981	0	32	4	44	80	IND
<u>Gwent</u>	1973	12	59	3	4	78	LAB
	1977	25	40	1	12	78	LAB
	1981	12	65	1	0	78	LAB

<u>Mid-Glamorgan</u>							
	1973	3	63	2	17	85	LAB
	1977	8	49	2	26	85	LAB
	1981	3	64	2	16	85	LAB
<u>Powys</u>	1973	0	7	2	44	53	IND
	1977	2	6	1	44	53	IND
	1981	1	6	2	43	53	IND
<u>South Glamorgan</u>							
	1973	35	42	0	3	80	LAB
	1977	65	15	0	0	80	CON
	1981	35	41	3	0	80	LAB
<u>West Glamorgan</u>							
	1973	9	52	2	7	70	LAB
	1977	10	46	0	12	70	LAB
	1981	10	55	0	5	70	LAB

(d) The Greater London Council

Labour's victory in the elections for the G.L.C. was the closest result in terms of majority for any party since the G.L.C. was created in 1964. Details are shown below:-

<u>GREATER LONDON COUNCIL ELECTIONS</u>							<u>POLITICAL CONTROL</u>
<u>G.L.C. Elections</u>	<u>CON</u>	<u>LAB</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>TOTAL SEATS</u>	<u>MAJORITY</u>		
1964	36	64	0	90	28		LAB
1967	82	18	0	90	62		CON
1970	55	45	0	90	10		CON
1973	32	58	2	92	26		LAB
1977	64	28	0	92	36		CON
1981	41	50	1	92	9		LAB

		<u>CON</u>	<u>LAB</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL SEATS</u>	<u>POLITICAL CONTROL</u>
<u>Gwynedd</u>	1973	0	4	0	62	66	IND
	1977	8	3	1	54	66	IND
	1981	3	14	6	43	66	NOC

The G.L.C. is the only large local government authority in which Parliamentary constituency boundaries correspond with local government boundaries and the table below shows how the G.L.C. voted in General Elections since 1974:-

GREATER LONDON (PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS)

	<u>CON</u>	<u>LAB</u>	<u>LIB</u>
1974 (Feb)	50	42	0
1974 (Oct)	51	41	0
1979	42	50	0

Labour only required a swing of just over 2.1% from May 1979 to gain control of the G.L.C. - they obtained a swing of 3.8%.

3. The G.L.C. Results in Detail

When the Labour Party last captured the G.L.C. (in 1973) they gained 58 of the 92 seats - in 1981 they only gained 50 seats. In 1981 they failed to capture the eight seats they held in 1973 - Hampstead, Hendon North, Brentford and Isleworth, Ilford North, Croydon Central, Croydon North West, Croydon North East and Carshalton.

In 1973 the Liberals held two seats by comfortable majorities - Sutton and Cheam and Richmond. In 1981 the Liberals captured Richmond after a recount by 115 votes.

In 1981 Labour captured Battersea South, Dulwich, Ealing North, Edmonton, Enfield North, Erith and Crayford, Feltham and Heston, Fulham, Hammersmith North, Hayes and Harlington, Hornchurch, Hornsey, Ilford South, Lewisham East, Lewisham West, Leyton, Mitcham and Morden, Paddington, Putney, Tooting, Wood Green and Woolwich West from the Conservatives and the Liberals captured Richmond also from the Conservatives.

Details of the swing Labour obtained in the seats they won the the party holding the Parliamentary constituency with the same boundaries are shown in the table on the following page.

LABOUR GAINS FROM CONSERVATIVE
1981 G.L.C. ELECTIONS

<u>Seat</u>	<u>Swing</u> <u>Conservative</u> <u>to Labour</u> <u>1977 - 1981</u>	<u>Party</u> <u>Holding</u> <u>Parliamentary</u> <u>Constituency</u> <u>1979 General Election</u>
Battersea South	12.3	LAB
Dulwich	7.7	LAB
Ealing North	9.8	CON
Edmonton	17.7	LAB
Enfield North	9.7	CON
Erith & Crayford	11.7	LAB
Feltham & Heston	12.5	LAB
Fulham	10.2	CON
Hammersmith North	11.5	LAB
Hayes & Harlington	14.5	LAB
Hornchurch	12.0	CON
Hornsey	9.8	CON
Ilford South	14.2	CON
Lewisham East	10.1	LAB
Lewisham West	11.3	LAB
Leyton	15.5	LAB
Mitcham & Morden	11.9	LAB
Paddington	12.6	CON
Putney	12.1	CON
Tooting	14.0	LAB
Wood Green	8.8	LAB
Woolwich West	12.1	CON

The swing to Labour from 1977 varied from 20.8% to them in Brent South to a swing of 2.1% to us in Lambeth Norwood. We are currently in process of looking at the relationship between rate rises and the results.

Although Stephen Haseler, standing as a Social Democratic Alliance Candidate in Lambeth Norwood, managed to gain 3,709 votes and beat the Liberal candidate into fourth place, it would, I feel, be unwise to attempt to draw any conclusion about the level of support from the Social Democrats from the London results.

Full details of the GL.C. results are given below:-

1981 GREATER LONDON COUNCIL
ELECTION RESULTS

<u>Constituency</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>		<u>G.L.C. ELECTIONS</u>				<u>Swing</u>
	<u>ELECTION RESULTS</u>	<u>ELECTION RESULTS</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1977 GLC</u> <u>- 1981 GLC</u>
Acton	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 9.8
Barking	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	- 9.7
Battersea North	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	-13.2
Battersea South	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	-12.3

<u>Constituency</u>	<u>GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS</u>		<u>G.L.C. ELECTIONS</u>				<u>Swing</u>
	<u>1974(F)</u>	<u>1974(O)</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1977 GLC</u> <u>- 1981 GLC</u>
Beckenham	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 9.4
Bermondsey	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	- 5.0
Bethnal Green & Bow	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	- 3.5
Bexleyheath	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 9.3
Brent East	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	-12.4
Brent North	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 9.4
Brent South	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	-20.8
Brentford & Isleworth	CON	CON	CON	LAB	CON	CON	- 5.9
Carshalton	CON	CON	CON	LAB	CON	CON	-10.3
Chelsea	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 6.7
Chingford	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 7.5
Chipping Barnet	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 7.7
Chislehurst	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 7.9
City of London & Westminster South	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 7.3
Croydon Central	CON	CON	CON	LAB	CON	CON	- 7.4
Croydon North East	CON	CON	CON	LAB	CON	CON	-10.7
Croydon North West	CON	CON	CON	LAB	CON	CON	-14.2
Croydon South	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 6.9
Dagenham	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	-13.4
Deptford	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	- 9.5
Dulwich	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	- 7.7
Ealing North	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	CON	LAB	- 9.8
Edmonton	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	-17.7
Enfield North	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	CON	LAB	- 9.7
Erith & Crayford	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	-11.7
Feltham & Heston	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	-12.5
Finchley	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	-13.9
Fulham	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	CON	LAB	-10.2
Greenwich	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	-12.5
Hackney Central	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	-15.0
Hackney North & Stoke Newington	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	- 7.6
Hackney South & Shoreditch	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	- 8.7
Hammersmith North	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	-11.5
Hampstead	CON	CON	CON	LAB	CON	CON	- 5.9

Constituency	GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS		G.L.C. ELECTIONS			1981	Swing
	1974(F)	1974(O)	1979	1973	1977		1977 GLC - 1981 GLC
Harrow Central	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	-12.9
Harrow East	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	-11.9
Harrow West	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 9.8
Hayes & Harlington	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	-14.5
Hendon North	CON	CON	CON	LAB	CON	CON	-13.1
Hendon South	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	-11.0
Holborn & St. Pancras South	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	- 8.9
Hornchurch	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	CON	LAB	-12.0
Hornsey	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	LAB	- 9.8
Ilford North	CON	LAB	CON	LAB	CON	CON	- 9.8
Ilford South	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	CON	LAB	-14.2
Islington Central	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	-16.1
Islington North	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	-17.1
Islington South & Finsbury	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	-13.8
Kensington	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	-11.9
Kingston upon Thames	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	-11.4
Lambeth Central	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	- 5.2
Lewisham East	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	-10.1
Lewisham West	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	-11.3
Leyton	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	-15.5
Mitcham & Morden	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	-11.9
Newham North East	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	-14.9
Newham North West	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	-16.8
Newham South	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	-14.2
Norwood	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	CON	CON	+ 2.1
Orpington	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 7.9
Paddington	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	CON	LAB	-12.6
Peckham	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	-10.9
Putney	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	CON	LAB	-12.1
Ravensbourne	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 7.4
Richmond	CON	CON	CON	LIB	CON	LIB	N/A
Romford	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	-14.2
Ruislip Northwood	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 9.8
St. Marylebone	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	-10.0
St Pancras North	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	- 9.6
Sidcup	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 8.2

<u>Constituency</u>	<u>GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS</u>		<u>G.L.C. ELECTIONS</u>				<u>Swing</u>
	<u>1974(F)</u>	<u>1974(O)</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1977 GLC</u> <u>- 1981 GLC</u>
Southall	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	-11.2
Southgate	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 8.9
Stepney & Poplar	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	-10.7
Streatham	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 6.0
Surbiton	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	-12.9
Sutton & Cheam	CON	CON	CON	LIB	CON	CON	- 7.2
Tooting	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	-14.0
Tottenham	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	-15.7
Twickenham	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 4.1
Upminster	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	-12.5
Uxbridge	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	-15.4
Vauxhall	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	- 6.8
Walthamstow	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	- 9.6
Wanstead & Woodford	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 9.2
Wimbledon	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	CON	- 9.4
Wood Green	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	- 8.8
Woolwich East	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	LAB	-13.2
Woolwich West	LAB	LAB	CON	LAB	CON	LAB	-12.1

4. Political Background

(i) Broad Comparison Between 1981 Local Government Elections Results and 1973 Results

The table below shows in broad terms those counties in which our performance was better or worse than in 1973 - the base year for comparison.

Better than 1973

Buckinghamshire

Cambridgeshire

Devon

Durham

East Sussex

Hampshire

Isle of Wight (but Liberals did better collapsing Socialist and Independent vote - who were probably Conservatives)

Kent

Lincolnshire

Surrey

Hertfordshire

Merseyside

Powys

South Glamorgan

West Sussex

Better than 1973 (continued)

South Yorkshire
 Wiltshire
 G.L.C.

Worse than 1973

Avon
 Cheshire
 Cleveland
 Cumbria
 Derbyshire
 Greater Manchester
 Humberside
 Lancashire
 Northamptonshire
 Nottinghamshire
 Somerset
 West Yorkshire

Approximately the same as 1973

Leicestershire
 Oxfordshire
 Tyne and Wear
 Cornwall

(ii) The Liberals

The results of the local government elections must be regarded as disappointing by the Liberals. In London in 1973 they gained Sutton and Cheam and Richmond. This time they only gained Richmond by a very narrow majority after a recount. Their overall performance in the G.L.C. was disappointing as they expected to do significantly better.

On Merseyside, the Liberals did not gain control and the results were 56 Socialists, 27 Conservatives and 14 Liberals.

The Liberals gained control of the Isle of Wight. This result was widely anticipated.

In general the Liberals have regained some of the ground they lost in 1977 but their progress has been patchy and we have held onto seats e.g. Chichester which they held before 1977, but we have also lost seats previously held by them e.g. Chelmsford. It would be interesting to examine what role party organisation played in defeating the Liberals in places like Chichester.

(iii) The Social Democrats

Although the Social Democrats were not officially putting forward candidates, the intervention of Stephen Haseler in Lambeth Norwood (standing for the Social Democratic Alliance) certainly took votes from Labour. We have at present no detailed analysis of the performance of individuals under the label 'Social Democrat' in other elections but we will be looking in detail at the results in seats with S.D. candidates.

(iv) Swings

Further detailed calculations of swings between various pairs of elections are currently being developed and these will be presented in a separate note.

(v) North/South Divide

These results reinforced the trend shown in the General Election and since for the Conservative Party to become a Southern based Party. Our presence in the North is increasingly being confined to rural areas. Our performance in this year's local government elections becomes significantly worse the further North one goes. For example, Labour have gained control of Lancashire for the first time since the War. Labour's performance in the G.L.C. was not good - they have the lowest majority of any party controlling this authority.

In the South generally Labour's performance is worse than in 1973 but in their 'heartland' Northern region their performance is significantly better than in 1973.