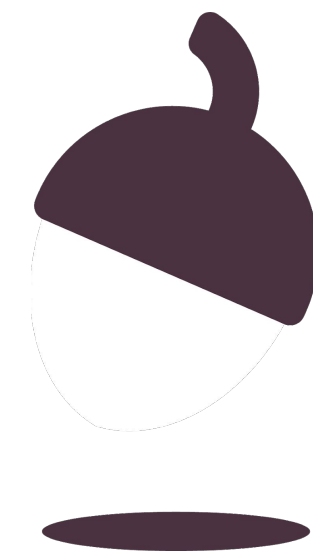


Citizenship

How is local government structured?

Downloadable Resource

Mr Miskell



OAK
NATIONAL
ACADEMY

Why is it important to know who holds power?

It's important for an Active Citizen to know who holds power locally as this allows you to target who best to speak to and **persuade**. For example, if you really don't want a new housing development to be built in your area, you are powerless to do anything about it, unless you know who makes those decisions. Knowing who makes decisions allows you send petitions, email or meet with them. In local government this can be complicated; you need to know about **Councillors, Cabinet Members** and **Council Officers**.



Credit: Pixabay

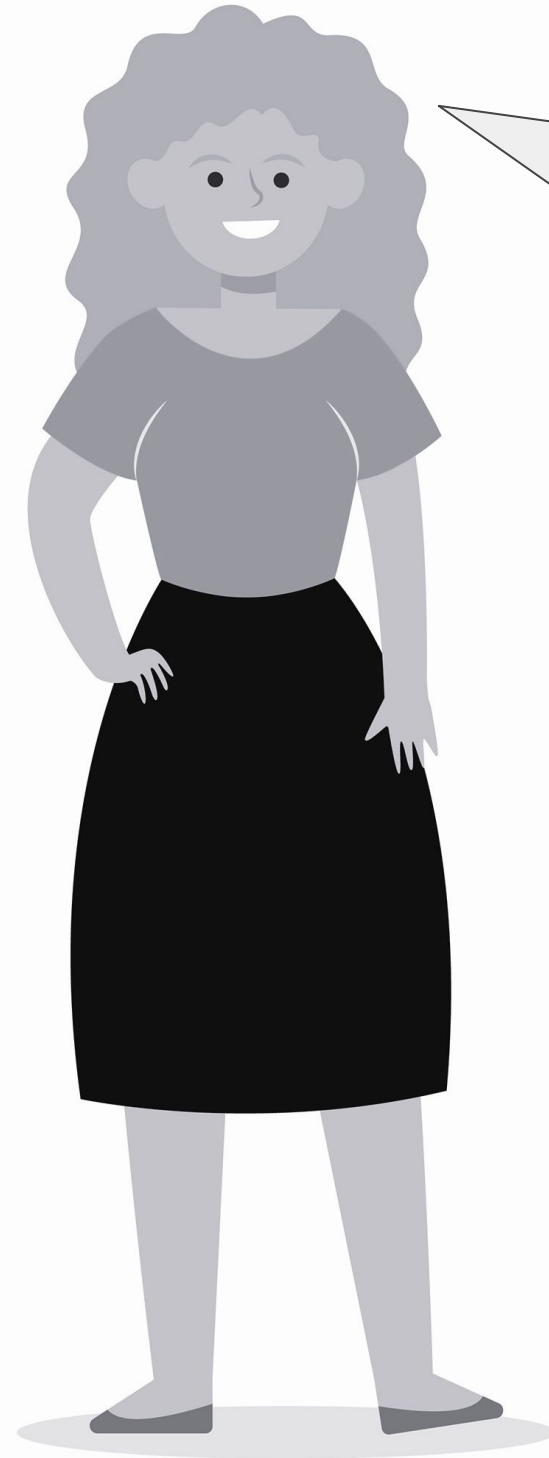


Task 3: roles in the Council

	Backbench Councillor (Jayne)	Cabinet Member (Mary)	Council Officer (Fred)
Role			
Accountability			



My name is Cllr Jaye and I'm a backbench Councillor



I'm a backbench councillor, this means that I don't have a specific job in the council, other than to represent the community that I was elected to serve. I also have a full time job, so I often attend council meetings in the evening. I spend my time answering emails from residents in my ward (area) and speaking up for them. Constituents (residents) in my area elect me.



My name is Cllr Mary and I'm a Cabinet Member



Like Jayne, I'm also a Councillor, but I have a specific role in the council. The Leader of the council appointed me as a Cabinet Member, which means that I sit on the front benches in big Town Hall meetings. It's my responsibility to make important decisions and lead a 'portfolio' area within the council. My portfolio is Housing and Community Services. This means that it's my job to make sure we have good quality homes in our city.



My name is Fred and I'm a Council Officer



My job is to implement (put in place) political decisions made by local councillors. I am not elected and am there to advise councillors. There are council officers that are specialists on lots of different topics, but I am an expert in planning. This means I help councillors make decisions on whether new housing developments should be allowed. I'm not elected to my job but appointed through application and interview.

