



National Assembly for **Wales**  
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol **Cymru**

## **Local Election Results 2008**

This paper summarises the results of the local elections held on 1 May 2008.

Figures are provided on overall control of councils and the number of seats won by each political party.

**May 2008**





# Local Election Results 2008

Stephanie Howarth

May 2008

Paper number: 08/035

© National Assembly for Wales Commission 2008

© Comisiwn Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru 2008



## Executive Summary

- The number of councils in no overall control in Wales increased from nine in 2004 to 14 in 2008.
- Independents were the largest group in four councils in 2008, compared to three in 2004. Independent councillors gained 24 more seats than they won in 2004, resulting in a total of 346 seats.
- The Conservatives retained overall control of one council and won overall control of one additional council. They also increased the number of seats they held from 107 in 2004 to 174 in 2008.
- Labour retained overall control of 2 councils but lost overall control of six councils. They also lost 137 seats, bringing the total number of seats held in 2008 to 342.
- The Liberal Democrats did not win overall control of any councils, but increased the number of seats they held from 146 in 2004 to 162 in 2008.
- Plaid Cymru lost overall control of the one council it controlled in 2004, but increased its number of seats by 30, bringing the total number of seats it won to 205.



## Contents

|          |   |          |
|----------|---|----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Introduction</b> .....   | <b>1</b> |
|          | <b>Data sources and notes</b> .....   | <b>1</b> |
|          | <b>Further Information</b> .....  | <b>1</b> |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Council Control</b> .....  | <b>2</b> |
|          | Number of councils controlled, by party .....                                 | 2        |
|          | Changes in Council Control .....  | 2        |
|          | Political control of unitary authorities and change from 2004 .....           | 3        |
|          | Map of unitary authorities by controlling party, 2004 .....                   | 4        |
|          | Map of unitary authorities by controlling party, 2008 .....                   | 5        |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Council Seats</b> .....  | <b>6</b> |
|          | Number of seats won, by party .....   | 6        |
|          | Number of seats won, by unitary authority and party, 2008.....                | 7        |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Reference Tables</b> .....   | <b>8</b> |
|          | Summary of 2008 local government election results, by unitary authority ..... | 8        |
|          | Changes in number of seats won, compared to 2004, by unitary authority .....  | 9        |
|          | Key to Party Codes .....  | 10       |





## Local Election Results 2008

### 1 Introduction

On 1 May 2008, local elections were held in all 22 unitary authorities in Wales. On the same day, elections were held in 137 English councils, while in London, elections were held for the London Assembly and London Mayor. This paper gives a summary of the results of the local elections held in Wales. The Members' Research Service intends to produce a fuller paper in the near future showing a number of other elements of the results, including pages on the main parties' showings at the elections.

This paper is intended to be read as a colour document and many of the charts, tables and maps may not be fully understood in black and white format.

#### Data sources and notes

The election statistics shown in this paper are based on local authority declarations of results and media reports. Every effort has been made to ensure that figures are correct, however, figures are subject to revision and should be treated as provisional.

This paper includes comparisons of the 2008 results with positions after the 2004 local election, as published by Professors Rallings and Thrasher in their *Local Elections Handbook 2004*. It does not take into account any by-elections or changes in political affiliations of councillors which may have taken place since then.

Control is attributed on a numerical basis, being allocated to the party or group that holds the majority of the seats. Minority administrations and coalitions are not taken into account. They are regarded as being under no overall control. The Members' Research Service will be producing a paper on councils in Wales, including details of coalitions, at a later date.

Seats are allocated to the Independent group if a candidate listed themselves as independent (or 'annibynnol' in Welsh) on their nomination form or did not give a party. Unless given separately, 'independent groups' are also included in this category. These include Merthyr Independents (3 seats) in Merthyr Tydfil and Llantwit First Independents (3 seats) in the Vale of Glamorgan. The 'Other' category includes all other parties. Further information on other parties is available in the reference table section of this paper.

Elections were postponed in one seat in Gwynedd, one seat in Flintshire and 6 seats in Newport. These vacant seats should be taken into consideration when viewing figures for 2008 and making comparisons with 2004 for these councils.

#### Further Information

A full analysis of the results at a ward level, including share of the vote and turnout, is likely to be published later in the year by Professors Rallings and Thrasher at the University of Plymouth in their *Local Elections Handbook 2008*.

## 2 Council Control

Fourteen councils were in no overall control (NOC) in 2008, compared to nine in 2004.

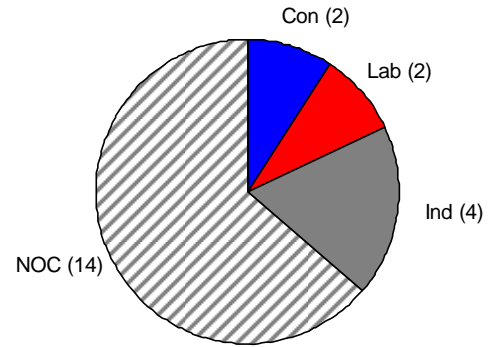
Independents were the majority group in four councils, compared to three in 2004.

The Conservatives retained overall control of the one council they controlled in 2004 and won overall control of an additional council.

Labour retained overall control of two councils, but lost overall control of six councils.

Plaid Cymru lost overall control of the one council it controlled in 2004.

Councils won, 2008




### Number of councils controlled, by party

| Party            | 2004 | 2008 | Change |
|------------------|------|------|--------|
| Conservative     | 1    | 2    | 1      |
| Labour           | 8    | 2    | -6     |
| Liberal Democrat | 0    | 0    | 0      |
| Plaid Cymru      | 1    | 0    | -1     |
| Independent      | 3    | 4    | 1      |
| NOC              | 9    | 14   | 5      |

### Changes in Council Control

Coloured blocks show the controlling party at the 2004 and 2008 elections.

#### Conservative gains

 Vale of Glamorgan

#### Independent gains

  Merthyr Tydfil

#### Losses to No Overall Control

  Gwynedd

  Flintshire

  Caerphilly

  Blaenau Gwent

  Torfaen

  Newport

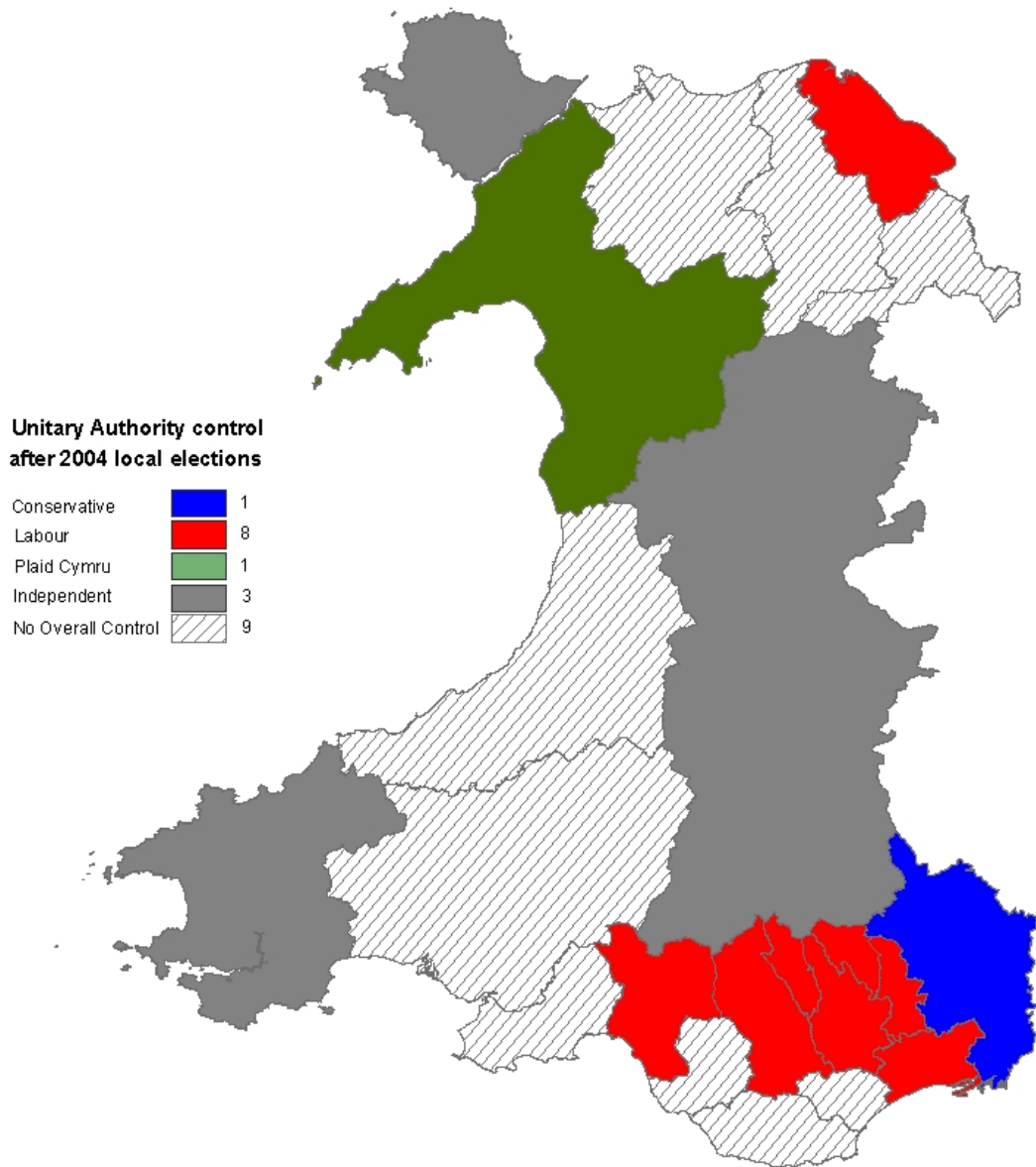


**Political control of unitary authorities and change from 2004**

| Local Authority   | 2004 | 2008 |                    | Change                  |
|-------------------|------|------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Isle of Anglesey  |      |      | Independent        | No Change               |
| Gwynedd           |      |      | No Overall Control | From Plaid Cymru        |
| Conwy             |      |      | No Overall Control | No Change               |
| Denbighshire      |      |      | No Overall Control | No Change               |
| Flintshire        |      |      | No Overall Control | From Labour             |
| Wrexham           |      |      | No Overall Control | No Change               |
| Powys             |      |      | Independent        | No Change               |
| Ceredigion        |      |      | No Overall Control | No Change               |
| Pembrokeshire     |      |      | Independent        | No Change               |
| Carmarthenshire   |      |      | No Overall Control | No Change               |
| Swansea           |      |      | No Overall Control | No Change               |
| Neath Port Talbot |      |      | Labour             | No Change               |
| Bridgend          |      |      | No Overall Control | No Change               |
| Vale of Glamorgan |      |      | Conservative       | From No Overall Control |
| Cardiff           |      |      | No Overall Control | No Change               |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf |      |      | Labour             | No Change               |
| Merthyr Tydfil    |      |      | Independent        | From Labour             |
| Caerphilly        |      |      | No Overall Control | From Labour             |
| Blaenau Gwent     |      |      | No Overall Control | From Labour             |
| Torfaen           |      |      | No Overall Control | From Labour             |
| Monmouthshire     |      |      | Conservative       | No Change               |
| Newport           |      |      | No Overall Control | From Labour             |

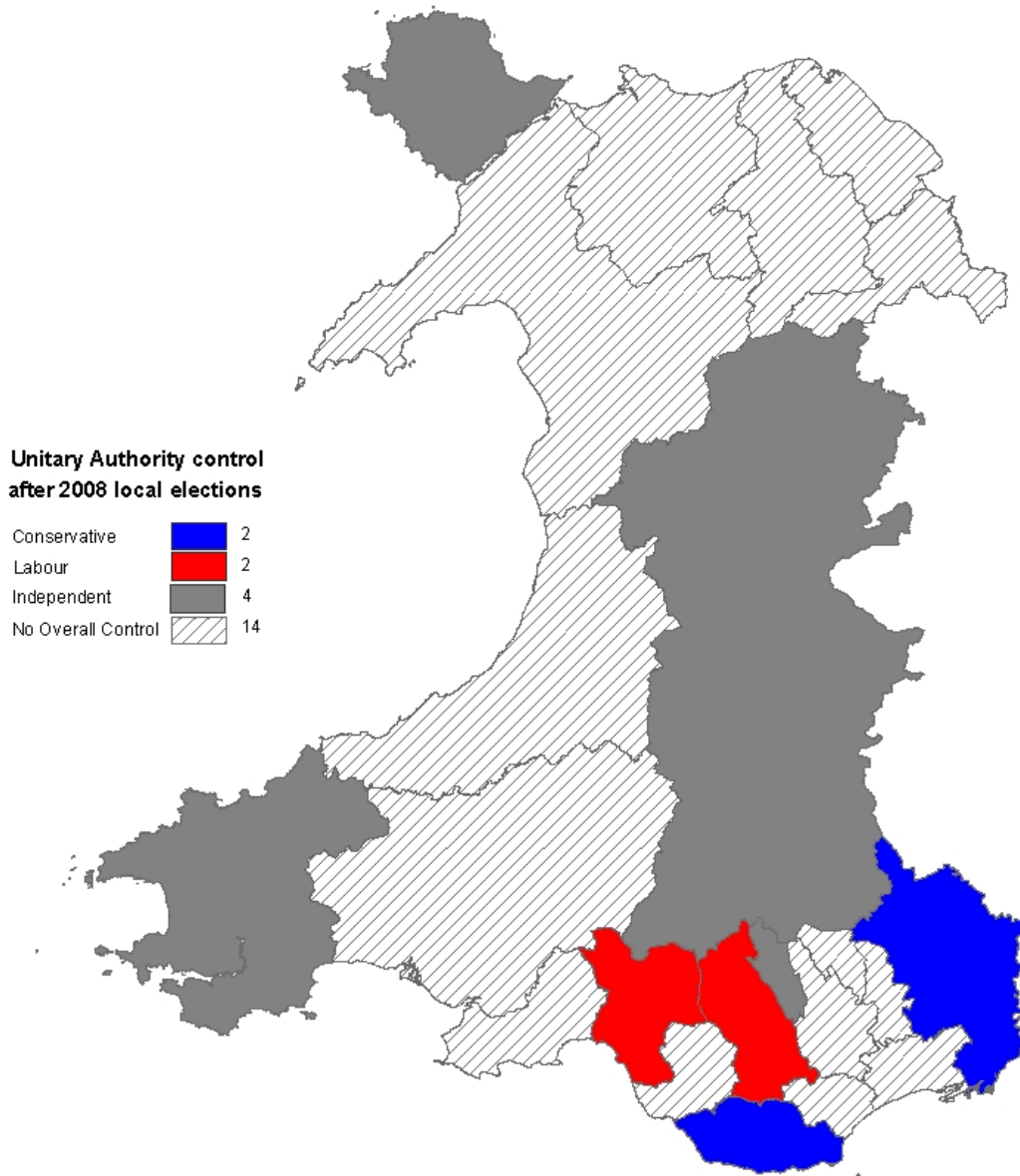


### Map of unitary authorities by controlling party, 2004





### Map of unitary authorities by controlling party, 2008



### 3 Council Seats

Independent candidates won 346 seats, 24 more than in 2004.

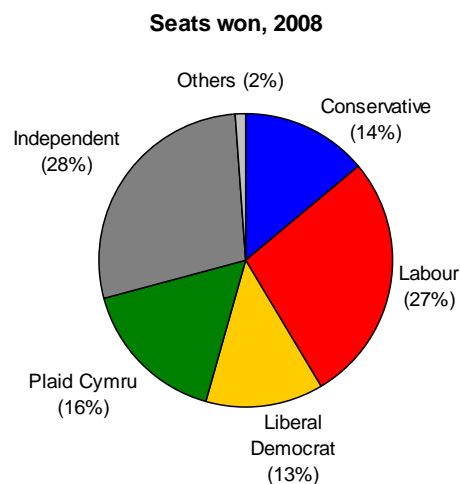
The Conservatives won 174 seats across councils in Wales, 67 more than in 2004.

Labour won 342 seats, a 137 seat decrease compared to 2004.

The Liberal Democrats won 162 seats, 16 more than in 2004.

Plaid Cymru won 205 seats, an increase of 30 compared to 2004.

Candidates from other parties won 27 seats, 8 fewer than in 2004. This included 12 seats for Llais Gwynedd and 8 seats for People's Voice.



#### Number of seats won, by party

| Party            | 2004 | 2008 | Change |
|------------------|------|------|--------|
| Conservative     | 107  | 174  | 67     |
| Labour           | 479  | 342  | -137   |
| Liberal Democrat | 146  | 162  | 16     |
| Plaid Cymru      | 175  | 205  | 30     |
| Independent      | 322  | 346  | 24     |
| Others           | 35   | 27   | -8     |



Number of seats won, by unitary authority and party, 2008

|                   | Con        | Lab        | LD         | PC         | Ind        | Other     |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Isle of Anglesey  | 2          | 5          | 2          | 8          | 23         | 0         |
| Gwynedd (a)       | 0          | 4          | 5          | 35         | 18         | 12        |
| Conwy             | 22         | 7          | 4          | 12         | 14         | 0         |
| Denbighshire      | 18         | 7          | 1          | 8          | 13         | 0         |
| Flintshire (a)    | 9          | 22         | 11         | 1          | 26         | 0         |
| Wrexham           | 5          | 11         | 12         | 4          | 20         | 0         |
| Powys             | 9          | 4          | 15         | 0          | 45         | 0         |
| Ceredigion        | 0          | 1          | 10         | 19         | 12         | 0         |
| Pembrokeshire     | 5          | 5          | 3          | 5          | 42         | 0         |
| Carmarthenshire   | 0          | 11         | 1          | 30         | 32         | 0         |
| Swansea           | 4          | 30         | 23         | 1          | 13         | 1         |
| Neath Port Talbot | 0          | 37         | 4          | 11         | 6          | 6         |
| Bridgend          | 6          | 27         | 11         | 1          | 9          | 0         |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 25         | 13         | 0          | 6          | 3          | 0         |
| Cardiff           | 17         | 13         | 35         | 7          | 3          | 0         |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 1          | 44         | 4          | 20         | 6          | 0         |
| Merthyr Tydfil    | 0          | 8          | 6          | 0          | 19         | 0         |
| Caerphilly        | 0          | 32         | 0          | 32         | 9          | 0         |
| Blaenau Gwent     | 0          | 17         | 2          | 0          | 18         | 5         |
| Torfaen           | 5          | 18         | 2          | 3          | 13         | 3         |
| Monmouthshire     | 29         | 7          | 5          | 1          | 1          | 0         |
| Newport (a)       | 17         | 19         | 6          | 1          | 1          | 0         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>174</b> | <b>342</b> | <b>162</b> | <b>205</b> | <b>346</b> | <b>27</b> |

(a) 2008 figures do not include 8 vacant seats due to postponed elections in Gwynedd (1), Flintshire (1) and Newport (6).

Figures showing changes in the number of seats won by each party, compared to the 2004 local elections are given in the reference tables section of this paper.

Members' Research Service: Research Paper  
Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau: Papur Ymchwil

## 4 Reference Tables













































### Summary of 2008 local government election results, by unitary authority

|                   | Control |      | 2008 seats won |            |            |            |            |          |          |           |          |          |          |          |
|-------------------|---------|------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                   | 2004    | 2007 | Con            | Lab        | LD         | PC         | Ind        | MI       | LFI      | LG        | NPTR     | PR       | PV       | SDP      |
| Isle of Anglesey  |         |      | 2              | 5          | 2          | 8          | 23         | .        | .        | .         | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| Gwynedd (a)       |         |      | 0              | 4          | 5          | 35         | 18         | .        | .        | 12        | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| Conwy             |         |      | 22             | 7          | 4          | 12         | 14         | .        | .        | .         | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| Denbighshire      |         |      | 18             | 7          | 1          | 8          | 13         | .        | .        | .         | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| Flintshire (a)    |         |      | 9              | 22         | 11         | 1          | 26         | .        | .        | .         | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| Wrexham           |         |      | 5              | 11         | 12         | 4          | 20         | .        | .        | .         | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| Powys             |         |      | 9              | 4          | 15         | 0          | 45         | .        | .        | .         | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| Ceredigion        |         |      | 0              | 1          | 10         | 19         | 12         | .        | .        | .         | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| Pembrokeshire     |         |      | 5              | 5          | 3          | 5          | 42         | .        | .        | .         | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| Carmarthenshire   |         |      | 0              | 11         | 1          | 30         | 32         | .        | .        | .         | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| Swansea           |         |      | 4              | 30         | 23         | 1          | 13         | .        | .        | .         | .        | 1        | .        | .        |
| Neath Port Talbot |         |      | 0              | 37         | 4          | 11         | 6          | .        | .        | .         | 3        | .        | .        | 3        |
| Bridgend          |         |      | 6              | 27         | 11         | 1          | 9          | .        | .        | .         | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| Vale of Glamorgan |         |      | 25             | 13         | 0          | 6          | 0          | .        | 3        | .         | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| Cardiff           |         |      | 17             | 13         | 35         | 7          | 3          | .        | .        | .         | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf |         |      | 1              | 44         | 4          | 20         | 6          | .        | .        | .         | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| Merthyr Tydfil    |         |      | 0              | 8          | 6          | 0          | 16         | 3        | .        | .         | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| Caerphilly        |         |      | 0              | 32         | 0          | 32         | 9          | .        | .        | .         | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| Blaenau Gwent     |         |      | 0              | 17         | 2          | 0          | 18         | .        | .        | .         | .        | .        | 5        | .        |
| Torfaen           |         |      | 5              | 18         | 2          | 3          | 13         | .        | .        | .         | .        | .        | 3        | .        |
| Monmouthshire     |         |      | 29             | 7          | 5          | 1          | 1          | .        | .        | .         | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| Newport (a)       |         |      | 17             | 19         | 6          | 1          | 1          | .        | .        | .         | .        | .        | .        | .        |
| <b>Total</b>      |         |      | <b>174</b>     | <b>342</b> | <b>162</b> | <b>205</b> | <b>340</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>3</b> |

(a) 2008 figures do not include 8 vacant seats due to postponed elections in Gwynedd (1), Flintshire (1) and Newport (6).















Changes in number of seats won, compared to 2004, by unitary authority

|                   | Control   |   | Change in number of seats from 2004 |     |    |    |     |       |
|-------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|-----|----|----|-----|-------|
|                   | 2004  | 2008  | Con                                 | Lab | LD | PC | Ind | Other |
| Isle of Anglesey  |    |    | 1                                   | 4   | 1  | -1 | -5  | 0     |
| Gwynedd (a)       |    |    | 0                                   | -6  | -1 | -7 | 1   | 12    |
| Conwy             |    |    | 10                                  | -5  | -2 | 2  | -5  | 0     |
| Denbighshire      |    |    | 11                                  | -1  | -1 | 1  | -7  | -3    |
| Flintshire (a)    |    |    | 5                                   | -15 | 1  | 0  | 8   | 0     |
| Wrexham           |    |    | 2                                   | -7  | 1  | 4  | 1   | -1    |
| Powys             |    |    | 9                                   | 0   | -1 | 0  | -8  | 0     |
| Ceredigion        |    |    | 0                                   | 0   | 1  | 3  | -4  | 0     |
| Pembrokeshire     |    |    | 5                                   | -7  | 0  | 0  | 2   | 0     |
| Carmarthenshire   |    |    | -1                                  | -14 | 1  | 14 | 0   | 0     |
| Swansea           |    |    | 0                                   | -2  | 4  | -4 | 9   | -7    |
| Neath Port Talbot |    |    | 0                                   | 1   | 2  | 1  | 2   | -6    |
| Bridgend          |   |   | -2                                  | 5   | -2 | 0  | -1  | 0     |
| Vale of Glamorgan |  |  | 5                                   | -3  | 0  | -2 | 0   | 0     |
| Cardiff           |  |  | 5                                   | -14 | 4  | 4  | 3   | -2    |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf |  |  | 1                                   | -13 | 2  | 7  | 3   | 0     |
| Merthyr Tydfil    |  |  | 0                                   | -9  | 6  | 0  | 12  | -9    |
| Caerphilly        |  |  | 0                                   | -7  | 0  | 6  | 1   | 0     |
| Blaenau Gwent     |  |  | 0                                   | -14 | -1 | 0  | 10  | 5     |
| Torfaen           |  |  | 4                                   | -16 | 0  | 3  | 6   | 3     |
| Monmouthshire     |  |  | 6                                   | -2  | 1  | -1 | -4  | 0     |
| Newport (a)       |  |  | 6                                   | -12 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0     |

(a) 2008 figures do not include 8 vacant seats due to postponed in across Gwynedd (1), Flintshire (1) and Newport (6).

### Key to Party Codes

| Code |   | Party                         |
|------|---|-------------------------------|
| Con  |  | Conservative                  |
| Lab  |  | Labour                        |
| LD   |  | Liberal Democrat              |
| PC   |  | Plaid Cymru                   |
| Ind  |  | Independent                   |
| MI   |  | Merthyr Independents          |
| LFI  |  | Llantwit First Independents   |
| LG   |  | Llais Gwynedd                 |
| NPTR |  | Neath Port Talbot Rate Payers |
| PR   |  | The People's Representative   |
| PV   |  | People's Voice                |
| SDP  |  | Social Democratic Party       |

Each party has a short code and colours have been assigned to the main parties and groups of parties. In some tables, the independent groups (Merthyr Independents and Llantwit First Independents) are grouped together under the 'Independent' label with all other independent candidates. Remaining parties are assigned a light gray colour. In some tables these smaller parties are grouped together under the 'Other' label.