

Women in Leadership

- 16% of local authority leaders
- 20% of deputy leaders
- 1 out of 12 elected mayors
- 1 London borough leader
- 2 metropolitan district leaders
- 5 councils where leader and deputy are women
- 224 where they are both men
- 1 council where leader, deputy and chief exec are women
- 175 in which they are all men

2008 Local Elections

- 31% of candidates were women
- 31% of councillors elected were women

BUT

- 21% of wards had no women candidates
- Over a quarter of wards had no women standing for Conservative, Labour or Lib Dem parties

New Unitary Authorities

- 37 district and 7 county authorities will cease to exist, and will be replaced by 9 unitaries
- 4 held elections in 2008
- 33% of main 3 parties' candidates were women (35% in elections overall)
- 27% of councillors elected were women (31% overall)
- None of these 4 is led by a women
- Cheshire East has an all-male cabinet

As a result:

- We will lose at least 7 women leaders
- About 195 women in the 4 that have held elections will cease to be councillors
- More women will leave local government when the remaining 5 hold elections in 2009
- There are more new unitaries (and elections) to come

We need to:

- Raise the issue with government, the boundary commission, and political parties (in terms of maintaining the level of representation, not the principle of the structure)
- Ask questions about the gender duty during the reorganisation process
- Ensure that gender forms part of the new duty to promote democracy