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Leadership change and public service performance in English local governments, 1998-2006

Data set codebook

Variable name	Description and notes
lacode	**Local authority identifier** This is a unique number assigned to each local authority. The variables **lacode** and **year** together uniquely identify each observation in the panel.
year	**Financial year YY/Y(Y+1)** This variable indicates the financial year. For example, year == 2002 indicates financial year 2002/03 (1st April 2002-31st March 2003). The variables **lacode** and **year** together uniquely identify each observation in the panel.
authtype	**authority type** 1 == London borough 2 == metropolitan district 3 == county council 5 == unitary authority
londonb	**london borough** 1 if London borough; 0 otherwise.
met	**metropolitan borough** 1 if metropolitan district; 0 otherwise.
county	**county council** 1 if county council; 0 otherwise.
unitary	**unitary authority** 1 if unitary authority; 0 otherwise.

Variable name	Description and notes
govregion	**government office region** 1 == South East 2 == East Midlands 3 == Yorkshire & Humberside 4 == North East 5 == West Midlands 6 == London 7 == North West 8 == East 9 == South West
counciltax	**Ave. council tax/dwelling (in £)** Average council tax in £ Source: Department for Communities and Local Government
seats	**No. of seats on council** Number of seats on the council Source: BBC News Online
labseats	**% seats held by Labour** Per cent of all council seats held by councillors of the Labour Party Source: BBC News Online
conseats	**% seats held by the Conservatives** Per cent of all council seats held by councillors of the Conservative Party Source: BBC News Online
libseats	**% seats held by the Liberal Democrats** Per cent of all council seats held by councillors of the Liberal Democrats Source: BBC News Online

Variable name	Description and notes
area01x	**area 01** Area of the local authority in square kilometres (from the 2001 Census) Source: Office for National Statistics
pop01x	**population 01** Population within the local authority's boundaries (from the 2001 Census) Source: Office for National Statistics
logpop01x	**population (log10) 01** Log 10 of the population within the local authority's boundaries (from the 2001 Census) Source: Office for National Statistics
depr04imd	**index of multiple deprivation 04** Average (for the local authority) of the ward-level index of multiple deprivation as published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2004 (drawing on data from the 2001 Census). It is derived from thirty-seven indicators covering income, employment, health and disability, education, housing and geographical dispersion (ODPM, 2004). Higher values of the index indicate greater deprivation. Source: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
const_type	**Council constitution type** This is a string variable with four different values. They are: -"Alternative Arrangements" -"Leader and Cabinet" -"Mayor and Council Manager" -"Mayor and a Cabinet"
con_alt_arrng	**la_const==Alternative Arrangements** 1 if the constitution in place falls under the category "Alternative Arrangements", 0 otherwise

Variable name	Description and notes
con_lead_cabinet	**la_const==Leader and Cabinet** 1 if the constitution in place falls under the category "Leader and Cabinet", 0 otherwise
con_mayor_cm	**la_const==Mayor and Council Manager** 1 if the constitution in place falls under the category "Mayor and Council Manager", 0 otherwise
con_mayor_cabinet	**la_const==Mayor and a Cabinet** 1 if the constitution in place falls under the category "Mayor and a Cabinet", 0 otherwise
sp_per	**Service performance score (from CPA)** Core Service Performance score from the Comprehensive Performance Assessment, expressed as a percentage of (core service performance score achieved/maximum possible core service performance score for this type of local authority) Source: Audit Commission
ca_total	**Ability to improve score** Ability to Improve score from the Comprehensive Performance Assessment Source: Audit Commission
cpatravel	**CPA direction of travel** Direction of Travel from the Comprehensive Performance Assessment Source: Audit Commission

Variable name	Description and notes
ssa	**SSA** Standard Spending Assessment (in £). The SSA was the index of needs used by central government to distribute grant funding to councils. It was heavily weighted towards the major local government functions (such as education and social services) and was based on indicators of service need, such as the number of schoolchildren and elderly people in the local population. The SSA figures took account not only of the breadth but also the intensity of need (e.g. number of children with long term illness). It was replaced by the Formula Spending Share (FSS), a roughly similar formula, beginning with the 2003/04 financial year. Source: Department for Communities and Local Government
fss	**FSS** Formula Spending Share (in £) Source: Department for Communities and Local Government
polcontrol	**pol. control** 1 == Council under Conservative Party majority control 2 == Council under Labour Party majority control 3 == Council under majority control by the Liberal Democrats 4 == No Overall Control (no single party is in majority control of the council) Source: BBC News Online
elec	**Election held yes/no and type** 0 == No election 1 == Whole council election: all seats are up for election 2 == Election by thirds: A third of the council seats are up for election (normally, each ward has three council seats, and one of them is up for election in each election by thirds, so that all geographic areas of a local authority are involved in each election by thirds) Source: BBC News Online

Variable name	Description and notes
turnout	**% voter turnout** Per cent of registered voters who participate in the election Sources: Rallings, C.S., Thrasher, M.A.M. and Ware, L., British Local Election Database, 1889-2003 [computer file]. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive [distributor], June 2006. SN: 5319. The original data creators, depositors or copyright holders, the funders of the Data Collections (if different) and the UK Data Archive bear no responsibility for their further analysis or interpretation. Rallings, Colin and Michael Thrasher. 2004-2007. Local Elections Handbook. Plymouth: Local Government Chronicle Elections Centre.
convote	**% votes for the Tories** Per cent of all votes cast for the Conservative Party Sources: Rallings, C.S., Thrasher, M.A.M. and Ware, L., British Local Election Database, 1889-2003 [computer file]. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive [distributor], June 2006. SN: 5319. The original data creators, depositors or copyright holders, the funders of the Data Collections (if different) and the UK Data Archive bear no responsibility for their further analysis or interpretation. Rallings, Colin and Michael Thrasher. 2004-2007. Local Elections Handbook. Plymouth: Local Government Chronicle Elections Centre.
greenvote	**% votes for the Greens** Per cent of all votes cast for the Green Party Sources: Rallings, C.S., Thrasher, M.A.M. and Ware, L., British Local Election Database, 1889-2003 [computer file]. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive [distributor], June 2006. SN: 5319. The original data creators, depositors or copyright holders, the funders of the Data Collections (if different) and the UK Data Archive bear no responsibility for their further analysis or interpretation. Rallings, Colin and Michael Thrasher. 2004-2007. Local Elections Handbook. Plymouth: Local Government Chronicle Elections Centre.

Variable name	Description and notes
indvote	**% votes for independents** Per cent of all votes cast for independent candidates Sources: Rallings, C.S., Thrasher, M.A.M. and Ware, L., British Local Election Database, 1889-2003 [computer file]. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive [distributor], June 2006. SN: 5319. The original data creators, depositors or copyright holders, the funders of the Data Collections (if different) and the UK Data Archive bear no responsibility for their further analysis or interpretation. Rallings, Colin and Michael Thrasher. 2004-2007. Local Elections Handbook. Plymouth: Local Government Chronicle Elections Centre.
labvote	**% votes for Labour** Per cent of all votes cast for the Labour Party Sources: Rallings, C.S., Thrasher, M.A.M. and Ware, L., British Local Election Database, 1889-2003 [computer file]. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive [distributor], June 2006. SN: 5319. The original data creators, depositors or copyright holders, the funders of the Data Collections (if different) and the UK Data Archive bear no responsibility for their further analysis or interpretation. Rallings, Colin and Michael Thrasher. 2004-2007. Local Elections Handbook. Plymouth: Local Government Chronicle Elections Centre.
ldvote	**% votes for Lib Dem** Per cent of all votes cast for the Liberal Democrats Sources: Rallings, C.S., Thrasher, M.A.M. and Ware, L., British Local Election Database, 1889-2003 [computer file]. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive [distributor], June 2006. SN: 5319. The original data creators, depositors or copyright holders, the funders of the Data Collections (if different) and the UK Data Archive bear no responsibility for their further analysis or interpretation. Rallings, Colin and Michael Thrasher. 2004-2007. Local Elections Handbook. Plymouth: Local Government Chronicle Elections Centre.

Variable name	Description and notes
boundary_chgs	**Ward boundary changes (dummy)** 1 if any ward boundary was changed, 0 otherwise Source: BBC News Online
new_seats	**# of council seats added or removed** Number of councils added (positive number) or removed (negative number), 0 if the number of council seats stayed the same Source: BBC News Online
labour_seats	**# of seats held by Labour** Number of seats held by the Labour Party
tory_seats	**# of seats held by the Tories** Number of seats held by the Conservative Party
ldp_seats	**# of seats held by Lib Dem** Number of seats held by the Liberal Democrats
coal_con_involved	**Tories involved in coalition** 1 if the Conservative Party was involved in a coalition governing this council, missing value otherwise Source: PPS Group Ltd
coal_lab_involved	**Labour involved in coalition** 1 if the Labour Party was involved in a coalition governing this council, missing value otherwise Source: PPS Group Ltd
coal_ld_involved	**Lib Dem involved in coalition** 1 if the Liberal Democrats were involved in a coalition governing this council, missing value otherwise Source: PPS Group Ltd

Variable name	Description and notes
q1claimrate	**Ave. 1st-qtr. claimant rate** Percentage of the working age population claiming job seekers' allowance (the claimant rate), average of January, February and March immediately before the current financial year (i.e. the value of this variable for year == 2003 (financial year 2003/04—see above) denotes the average claimant rate of Jan., Feb. and March 2003) Source: Office for National Statistics
newceo_old	**New CEO (old data)** 1 if chief executive succession occurs, 0 otherwise; this is the variable as it was before a number of revisions were made in the summer of 2008 Sources: Guardian Local Authority Directories, Municipal Year Books, Oscar Research Ltd.
to1ceo	**Top mgm. team turnover rate 1 (incl. CEO)** (Number of genuinely new names on the senior management team including the chief executive) / (Number of positions mentioned including the chief executive) Sources: Guardian Local Authority Directories, Municipal Year Books, Oscar Research Ltd.
to2ceo	**Top mgm. team turnover rate 2 (incl. CEO)** (Number of genuinely new names on senior management team+ number of new vacancies on senior management team, both including the chief executive) / (Number of positions mentioned including the chief executive) Sources: Guardian Local Authority Directories, Municipal Year Books, Oscar Research Ltd.

Variable name	Description and notes
to3ceo	**Top mgm. team turnover rate 3 (incl. CEO)** (Number of new names in a senior management position, including those who have been on team last year but in a different position, both including the chief executive) / (Number of positions mentioned including the chief executive) Sources: Guardian Local Authority Directories, Municipal Year Books, Oscar Research Ltd.
to4ceo	**Top mgm. team turnover rate 4 (incl. CEO)** (Number of new names in a senior management position, including those who have been on team last year but in a different position+ number of new vacancies on senior management team, all including the chief executive) / (Number of positions mentioned including the chief executive) Sources: Guardian Local Authority Directories, Municipal Year Books, Oscar Research Ltd.
to1	**Top mgm. team turnover rate 1 (w/out CEO)** (Number of genuinely new names on the senior management team excluding the chief executive) / (Number of positions mentioned excluding the chief executive) Sources: Guardian Local Authority Directories, Oscar Research Ltd.
to2	**Top mgm. team turnover rate 2 (w/out CEO)** (Number of genuinely new names on senior management team+ number of new vacancies on senior management team, both excluding the chief executive) / (Number of positions mentioned excluding the chief executive) Sources: Guardian Local Authority Directories, Oscar Research Ltd.

Variable name	Description and notes
to3	**Top mgm. team turnover rate 3 (w/out CEO)** (Number of new names in a senior management position, including those who have been on team last year but in a different position, both excluding the chief executive) / (Number of positions mentioned excluding the chief executive) Sources: Guardian Local Authority Directories, Oscar Research Ltd.
to4	**Top mgm. team turnover rate 4 (w/out CEO)** (Number of new names in a senior management position, including those who have been on team last year but in a different position+ number of new vacancies on senior management team, all excluding the chief executive) / (Number of positions mentioned excluding the chief executive) Sources: Guardian Local Authority Directories, Oscar Research Ltd.
_3	**BV3: Satisfaction w/ LA (% very/fairly satisfied)** Per cent of local authority adult residents overall very or fairly satisfied with the services provided by their local authority (point estimate from the Best Value survey) Source: Audit Commission
seatsheldbyinc	**# seats held by incumbent** Number of seats held by the incumbent party or coalition

Variable name	Description and notes
cpa	**CPA score (# of stars)** Comprehensive Performance Assessment score: number of stars; for 2002, 2003 and 2004, this translates into the following grades: 4 == Excellent 3 == Good 2 == Fair 1 == Weak 0 == Poor Source: Audit Commission
ncexp	**Net revenue expenditure (£1K)** Net revenue expenditure in £1,000 Source: Department for Communities and Local Government
pcncexp	**Per capita net revenue expend. (£)** Per capita net revenue expenditure in £ Source: Department for Communities and Local Government
controlchange	**Change in pol. control (dummy)** 1 if change in political party control of the council, 0 if no change in political party control of the council. This always refers to the election at the beginning of a financial year (May/June), if there was one. For example, if controlchange == 1 in 2003, it means that the change in political control occurred at the 1st May 2003 local election. Source: BBC News Online
y1999	**Year dummy for 1999** 1 if financial year 1999/2000; 0 otherwise.
y2000	**Year dummy for 2000** 1 if financial year 2000/01; 0 otherwise.

Variable name	Description and notes
y2001	**Year dummy for 2001** 1 if financial year 2001/02; 0 otherwise.
y2002	**Year dummy for 2002** 1 if financial year 2002/03; 0 otherwise.
y2003	**Year dummy for 2003** 1 if financial year 2003/04; 0 otherwise.
y2004	**Year dummy for 2004** 1 if financial year 2004/05; 0 otherwise.
y2005	**Year dummy for 2005** 1 if financial year 2005/06; 0 otherwise.
y2006	**Year dummy for 2006** 1 if financial year 2006/07; 0 otherwise.
y2007	**Year dummy for 2007** 1 if financial year 2007/08; 0 otherwise.
last	**CEO's last name** Last name of the current chief executive Sources: Guardian Local Authority Directories, Municipal Year Books, Oscar Research Ltd.
first	**CEO's first name** First name of the current chief executive Sources: Guardian Local Authority Directories, Municipal Year Books, Oscar Research Ltd.

Variable name	Description and notes
tenure	**CEO's tenure (incl. this year)** Tenure of the current chief executive in years including the present year; e.g. if now is 2003 and the chief executive began in 2002, then the variable tenure will take on a value of 2 years in 2003 Source: Local Government Chronicle, Municipal Year Books
outside	**CEO hired from outside (dummy)** 1 if the current chief executive was an outside hire, 0 if the current chief executive was an inside hire Source: Local Government Chronicle, Municipal Year Books
tfromlgc	**tenure info from LGC (dummy)** 1 if the tenure information for the present case stems from the Local Government Chronicle, 0 if it does not
tlgcdate	**tenure LGC issue** If **tfromlgc** == 1, this provides the date of the Local Government Chronicle issue from which the information stems
ofromlgc	**outside/inside info from LGC (dummy)** 1 if the chief executive outside/inside origin information for the present case stems from the Local Government Chronicle, 0 if it does not
olgcdate	**outside/inside LGC issue** If **ofromlgc** == 1, this provides the date of the Local Government Chronicle issue from which the information stems
ceonotes	**Sources of CEO tenure and origin information** Further notes on the sources of the chief executive tenure and origin data

Variable name	Description and notes
newceo	**New CEO** 1 if chief executive succession occurs, 0 otherwise Sources: Guardian Local Authority Directories, Municipal Year Books, Oscar Research Ltd.
outgrants	**Specific grants outside Aggregate External Finance (in £1m)** Specific grants outside Aggregate External Finance (in £ millions) Source: The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), www.cipfastats.net
ingrants	**Specific grants w/in Aggregate External Finance (in £1m)** Specific grants within Aggregate External Finance (in £ millions) Source: The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), www.cipfastats.net
rsg	**Revenue Support Grant (in £1m)** Revenue Support Grant (in £ millions) Source: The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), www.cipfastats.net
ndr_receipts	**Receipts from NDR Pool (in £1m)** Receipts from the Non-Domestic Rate Pool (in £ millions) Source: The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), www.cipfastats.net

Variable name	Description and notes
dtch_gbp	**Avg. price detached house in £ (Source: Land Registry AUG2008)** Average price of a detached house within the local authority's boundaries in £ Source: Land Registry. This variable falls under Crown Copyright and is not to be reproduced or otherwise disseminated except for making it available to other academic and non-profit researchers through the Economic and Social Data Services UK Data Archive.
dtch_no	**No. detached houses sold (Source: Land Registry AUG2008)** Number of detached houses sold within the local authority's boundaries Source: Land Registry. This variable falls under Crown Copyright and is not to be reproduced or otherwise disseminated except for making it available to other academic and non-profit researchers through the Economic and Social Data Services UK Data Archive.
semi_gbp	**Avg. price semi-dtchd. house in £ (Source: Land Registry AUG2008)** Average price of a semi-detached house within the local authority's boundaries in £ Source: Land Registry. This variable falls under Crown Copyright and is not to be reproduced or otherwise disseminated except for making it available to other academic and non-profit researchers through the Economic and Social Data Services UK Data Archive.

Variable name	Description and notes
semi_no	**No. semi-dtchd. houses sold (Source: Land Registry AUG2008)** Number of semi-detached houses sold within the local authority's boundaries Source: Land Registry. This variable falls under Crown Copyright and is not to be reproduced or otherwise disseminated except for making it available to other academic and non-profit researchers through the Economic and Social Data Services UK Data Archive.
terr_gbp	**Avg. price terraced house in £ (Source: Land Registry AUG2008)** Average price of a terraced house within the local authority's boundaries in £ Source: Land Registry. This variable falls under Crown Copyright and is not to be reproduced or otherwise disseminated except for making it available to other academic and non-profit researchers through the Economic and Social Data Services UK Data Archive.
terr_no	**No. terraced houses sold (Source: Land Registry AUG2008)** Number of terraced houses sold within the local authority's boundaries Source: Land Registry. This variable falls under Crown Copyright and is not to be reproduced or otherwise disseminated except for making it available to other academic and non-profit researchers through the Economic and Social Data Services UK Data Archive.

Variable name	Description and notes
flat_gbp	**Avg. price flat/maisonette in £ (Source: Land Registry AUG2008)** Average price of a flat or maisonette within the local authority's boundaries in £ Source: Land Registry. This variable falls under Crown Copyright and is not to be reproduced or otherwise disseminated except for making it available to other academic and non-profit researchers through the Economic and Social Data Services UK Data Archive.
flat_no	**No. flats/maisonettes sold (Source: Land Registry AUG2008)** Number of flats and maisonettes sold within the local authority's boundaries Source: Land Registry. This variable falls under Crown Copyright and is not to be reproduced or otherwise disseminated except for making it available to other academic and non-profit researchers through the Economic and Social Data Services UK Data Archive.
all_gbp	**Avg. price dwelling (overall) in £ (Source: Land Registry AUG2008)** Average price of any dwelling within the local authority's boundaries in £ Source: Land Registry. This variable falls under Crown Copyright and is not to be reproduced or otherwise disseminated except for making it available to other academic and non-profit researchers through the Economic and Social Data Services UK Data Archive.
all_no	**No. all dwellings sold (Source: Land Registry AUG2008)** Number of all dwellings sold within the local authority's boundaries Source: Land Registry. This variable falls under Crown Copyright and is not to be reproduced or otherwise disseminated except for making it available to other academic and non-profit researchers through the Economic and Social Data Services UK Data Archive.

Variable name	Description and notes
n_positive	**# pos. news articles in the approx. 12 months up to election** Number of news articles within the past twelve months discussing the local authority's Comprehensive Performance Assessment result in a positive way Source of the original news articles: Nexis UK National Newspapers and Nexis UK Regional Newspapers databases
n_neutral	**# neutral news articles in the approx. 12 months up to election** Number of news articles within the past twelve months discussing the local authority's Comprehensive Performance Assessment result in a neutral way Source of the original news articles: Nexis UK National Newspapers and Nexis UK Regional Newspapers databases
n_negative	**# neg. news articles in the approx. 12 months up to election** Number of news articles within the past twelve months discussing the local authority's Comprehensive Performance Assessment result in a negative way Source of the original news articles: Nexis UK National Newspapers and Nexis UK Regional Newspapers databases
all_ni	**New Nat. Insurance registrations (1000s) by all foreign nationals (DWP FEB2009)** Number of new National Insurance registrations by all foreign nationals (in 1,000s) Source: Department for Work and Pensions
female_cx	**Female chief executive (dummy)** 1 if chief executive is female, 0 if chief executive is male