
This article raises the question regarding the position and role of councillors in the system of self-government in England. It analyses the reforms implemented first by the Labour Party government under the banner of democratization and modernization of local government (1997-2010) and then by the coalition government under the banner of localism (2010-2015), highlighting how this affected the position of councillors. It analyses whether and how ideas of localism contributed to strengthening the position of councillors and changed their roles. It discusses issues related to the representativeness of councillors and local democracy, and outlines the barriers to councillors’ participation in local politics. The analysis involves tasks performed by councillors, as well as an overview of their competencies. The paper presents data showing to what degree the goal of reforms has been achieved and identifies problems still faced by councillors resulting from the policies of successive governments.

Keywords: local government, councillors, United Kingdom, England, the Labour Party, the Conservative Party