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Sommario/riassunto	'In Defence of Councillors' provides just that - a defence of councillors and the institution of local representative democracy to which they are elected (the council) from the often ill-informed and inaccurate criticism of their personal, professional, and political roles as local politicians. It explores what the shift from local government to local governance has meant for councillors, their roles, functions and activities, the pressures they experience, the links they have with their parties, and the relationships they forge with citizens and communities.