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worlds collide -- Introduction -- Proximity to people and place -- Blurring the boundaries -- Contact with the council -- Paperwork -- A word about meetings -- People, patch and privacy -- Conclusion -- 7 Official mind and public image -- Introduction -- Part one: unlocking the official mind -- Journey to the centre -- The development of the contemporary official mind -- The Committee on the Management of Local Government -- Committee of Inquiry into the Conduct of Local Authority Business -- Modernising local government -- Councillors Commission -- Councillors on the front line -- Conclusion -- Part two: the public image -- Media, message and manipulation -- Councillors in the news -- An overview -- Conclusion.

8 New directions and new purposes -- Introduction -- Councillors: getting the best from executives and overview and scrutiny -- Revisiting councillors bringing order to chaos -- Councillors as governors and leaders -- The councillor as local governor -- Strengthening the government in local government -- Conclusion -- 9 Conclusion: councillors, hope for the future? -- Introduction -- Recognising a new reality -- Independent local government: a new settlement for councillors and councils -- A final three cheers -- Bibliography -- Index.

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.
