Contents

	List of maps, figures and tables Preface and acknowledgements List of abbreviations	page vi ix xi
1	The local government system: an introduction	1
2	The structure of the system	13
3	The functions of local authorities	30
4	Finance and its control	50
5	Local government and the state	63
6	Stewardship	77
7	Policy making and democracy	87
8	Leaders, councillors and the party system	100
9	Bureaucracy and employees	119
0	Management and accountability	134
1	Interests, business and the media	149
12	Patterns of government	162
13	The future in a comparative context	177
	Appendix: Major events concerning the development of local	
	government in Britain	187
	References	192
	Index	201