

## WHO DOES WHAT?

### Structure

Local government structure varies from county to county. In most of Devon there are three tiers of local government with a county council, district councils, and parish and town councils. Some parts of the country have unitary authorities which provide all local government services, these can be city areas (such as Plymouth) or counties.

### Powers and Duties

Local authorities have some duties (things they must do) and powers (things they can do). There are some things that parish, town, district and county councils can all do such as providing street lights, car parks and financial support for a range of organisations. Just because all councils can do these things, it does not mean that the council has to do it.

Parish councils have a wide range of powers\* that can help them work in their communities. Many of these powers can benefit from partnership working with another organisation. For example, a parish council might work with Devon County Council through their Road Warden Scheme or Snow Warden Scheme to help repair potholes or clear snow in an emergency.

<b>Parish Councils*</b>	<b>District Council</b>	<b>County Council</b>
Grant giving to a range of organisations including youth clubs, village halls and voluntary organisations.	Street cleaning and litter	Education (early years, schools, families and young people)
Consultee on planning applications	Recycling	Public Rights of Way (maintenance)
Can provide public conveniences, car parks, life-saving devices, allotments, burial grounds, bus shelters, war memorials, clocks	Elections (electoral registration)	Land Charges Unit (common land)
Can provide recreational and educational facilities	Standards (Monitoring Officer can investigate Code of Conduct complaints against parish and town councillors)	Traffic calming and management
Can own and equip buildings for community or recreational facilities	Rubbish collection	Roads/bridges

Can provide lunches for pensioners	Public conveniences	Adult social care
Can give honorary titles	Council Tax collection	Roads and transport (pothole reporting, parking, road closures, road maintenance, roadworks and street lights)
Can provide open spaces	Social housing	Children's social care (child protection, children in care, fostering, adoption).
Provides information in newsletters or websites	Planning authority for residential and business development (although in Devon, the Dartmoor National Park Authority and Exmoor National Park Authority are also planning authorities)	Country parks (Stover Country Park, Grand Western Canal)
Supports the arts	Licensing	Libraries
Neighbourhood planning	Leisure services such as swimming pools, gyms and parks.	Recycling and waste disposal (responsible for safe disposal of municipal household waste generated in the districts)
Can support or provide community transport	Environmental health	Registration Service (births, deaths and marriages)
Street cleaning and litter	Emergency planning in the district	Health Protection (protecting the health of people in Devon and responding to any health-related emergencies)
Emergency planning in the community		Trading Standards (advice and support)
		Planning (minerals and waste)
		Emergency planning in the county

## Who else is there?

This is not an exhaustive list, and there are other organisations who also provide a public service. Network Rail looks after the country's rail network, Highways England is responsible for the trunk road network (all motorways and some A-roads). Utility companies look after utilities such as the water or gas supplies. Devon and Cornwall Police, and the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, are also precepting authorities in Devon.

## Other partnership organisations

There are many other partnership organisations that local councils might work with, including the Devon Association of Local Councils, Devon Communities Together and other local organisations and charities.