

Powers and duties of Local Councils

| Function | Powers & Duties | Statutory Provisions |
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| Allotments | Powers to provide allotments. Duty to provide allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied and if reasonable to do so | Small Holdings & Allotments Act 1908 s.23 |
| Borrowing money | Power for councils to borrow money for their statutory functions or for the prudent management of their financial affairs | Local Government Act 2003, Schedule 1, para 2 |
| Baths and washhouses | Power to provide public baths and washhouses | Public Health Act 1936 s.221 |
| Burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria | Power to acquire and maintain Power to provide Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries | Open Spaces Act 1906 s.9 and 10; Local Government Act 1972 s. 214; Parish Councils and Burial Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970 s.1; Local Government Act 1972 s.214(6) |
| Bus shelters | Power to provide and maintain shelters | Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 s.4 |
| Bye-laws | Powers to make bye-laws in regard to pleasure grounds Cycle parks Baths and washhouses Open spaces and burial grounds Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms Public conveniences | Public Health Act 1875 s.164 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 s.57(7) Public Health Act 1936 s.223 Open Spaces Act 1906 s.15 Public Health Act 1936 s.87 |
| Charities | Duties in respect of parochial charities Power to act as charity trustees | Charities Act 1993 s.79 Local Government Act 1972 s.139(1) |
| Clocks | Power to provide public clocks | Parish Councils Act 1957, s.2 |
| Closed churchyards | Powers to maintain | Local Government Act 1972 s.215 |
| Commons and common pastures | Powers in relation to inclosure, regulation and management and providing common pasture | Inclosure Act 1845 Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 s.34 |
| Conference facilities | Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities | Local Government Act 1972 s.144 |
| Community Centres | Powers to provide and equip buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or recreational objectives Power to acquire, provide and furnish community buildings | Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19 Local Government Act 1972 s.133 |
| Crime Prevention | Powers to spend money on various crime prevention measures | Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s.31 |
| Drainage | Power to deal with ponds and ditches | Public Health Act 1936 s.260 |
| Entertainment and the arts | Provision of entertainment and support of the arts | Local Government Act 1972 s.145 |
| Environment | Power to issue fixed penalty notices for litter, graffiti and offences under dog control orders. | Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 S.19, s.30 Part 6 |
| Gifts | Power to accept | Local Government Act 1972 s.139 |
| Highways | Power to maintain footpaths and bridleways Power to light roads and public places Provision of litter bins Powers to provide parking places for bicycles and motor-cycles | Highways Act 1980 s.43,50 Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301 Litter Act 1983 s.5,6 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 s.57,63 |

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| | <p>Power to enter into an agreement as to dedication and widening</p> <p>Power to provide roadside seats and shelters</p> <p>Consent of parish council required for ending maintenance of highway at public expense, or for stopping up or division of highway</p> <p>Power to complain to highway authority as to unlawful stopping up or obstruction of highway or unlawful encroachment on roadside wastes</p> <p>Power to provide traffic signs and other notices</p> <p>Power to plant trees and lay out grass verges</p> | <p>Highways Act 1980 ss.30,72</p> <p>Parish Councils Act 1957, s.1</p> <p>Highways Act 1980 ss.47,116</p> <p>Highways Act 1980 s.130</p> <p>Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 s.72</p> <p>Highways Act 1980 s.96</p> |
| Honorary titles | Power to admit to be honorary freemen/freewomen of the council's area persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place of area | Local Government Act 1972. s249 (5), s.249 (9) |
| Investments | Power to participate in schemes of collective investment | Trustee Investments Act 1961 s.11 |
| Land | Power to acquire by agreement, to appropriate, to dispose of | Local Government Act 1972 s.124, 126, 127 |
| | Power to accept gifts of land | Local Government Act 1972 s.139 |
| Litter | Provision of receptacles | Litter Act 1983 s.5,6 |
| Lotteries | Powers to promote | Gambling Act 2005 s.252, 258 |
| Markets | Power to establish or acquire by agreement markets within their area and provide a market place and market buildings | Food Act 1984 s.50 |
| Mortuaries and post mortem rooms | Powers to provide mortuaries and post mortem rooms | Public Health Act 1936 s.198 |
| Newsletters | Power to provide information relating to matters affecting local government | Local Government Act 1972 s.142 |
| Nuisances | Power to deal with offensive ditches | Public Health Act 1936 s.260 |
| Open spaces | Power to acquire land for public recreation and maintain | Public Health Act 1875 s.164 |
| | Power to acquire and maintain land for open spaces | Open Spaces Act 1906 s.9 and 10 |
| Parish property and documents | Powers to direct as to their custody | Local Government Act 1972 2.226 |
| | Duty to deposit certain published works in specific deposit libraries | Legal Deposit Libraries act 2003, s.1 |
| Public buildings and village hall | Powers to acquire and provide public buildings for public meetings and assemblies | Local Government Act 1972 s.133 |
| Public conveniences | Powers to provide | Public Health Act 1936 s.87 |
| Recreation | Power to acquire land for or to provide recreation grounds, public walks and open spaces and to manage and control them | Public Health Act 1875 s.164 Local Government Act 1972 s14 (27) Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 s.44 Open spaces Act 1906, s.9 and 10 |
| | Power to a wide range of recreational facilities | Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19 |
| | Provision of boating pools | Public Health Act 1961, s.54 |
| Town and country planning | Right to be notified of planning applications if right has been requested | Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Sched. 1, para.8 |
| Tourism | Power to contribute to organisations encouraging tourism | Local Government Act 1972 s.144 |

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| Traffic calming | Powers to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes | Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s.30 |
| Transport | Powers to spend money on community transport schemes | Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.26-29 |
| War memorials | Power to maintain, repair, protect and adapt war memorials | War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923 s.1; as extended by Local Government Act 1948 s.133 |
| Water supply | Power to utilise well, spring or stream and to provide facilities for obtaining water from them | Public Health Act 1936 s.125 |
| Websites | Power for councils to have websites | Local Government Act 1972 s.142 |
| Well-Being | Power for (eligible) parish councils to do anything they believe is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic and/or social and/or environmental well-being of their area | Local Government Act 2000 s.2 amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 s77. |