

1.5 Which authority does what?

Many parts of England, including much of Devon, have two tiers of local government:

- **county councils**
- **district, borough or city councils**

In some parts of the country, there's just 1 (unitary) tier of local government providing all the local services (for example, Torbay Council, Plymouth Council).

County councils

These are responsible for services across the whole of a county, like:

- **education**
- **transport**
- **highways (including pot hole repairs)**
- **public safety**
- **social care (adults and children)**
- **libraries**
- **trading standards**
- **on-street parking**

District, borough and city councils

These cover a smaller area than county councils. They're usually responsible for services like:

- **rubbish collections**
- **recycling**
- **council tax collections**
- **housing**
- **planning applications**
- **off-street parking**
- **licensing**
- **building control**
- **administering local elections**

Parish, community and town councils

These operate at a level below district and borough councils and, in some cases, unitary authorities. They're elected and can help on a number of local issues, like:

- **allotments**
- **bus shelters**
- **community centres**
- **public toilets (some overlap with districts)**
- **play areas and play equipment (some overlap with districts)**
- **grants to help local organisations**
- **consultation on neighbourhood planning**
- **Christmas lights**
- **Civic occasions**