

歡迎/WELCOME

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HONG KONG BNO DROP-IN SESSION 11 JANUARY 2023

# The role of a local council



Migration Yorkshire



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities



# Rules for today

- We are recording this event, but participants (audience members) will not be recorded
- Camera can be on/off, but please keep microphones off when not participating
- Cantonese interpreter is available
- In-meeting chat is open for your messages in either Cantonese or English
- PowerPoint slides and recording will be available on our Hong Kong Hub but can also be requested from [HK@migrationyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:HK@migrationyorkshire.org.uk)



# What will we cover?

- Types of local councils
- Services a local council is responsible for
- Decision-making processes
- Local councillors and elections
- Q&A



# Types of local councils

## What is a local council?

A local council is a local government office responsible for a range of essential services for people and businesses in defined areas.

## Type of councils

### What are the different types of councils?

Town or parish council		The smallest type of council. Responsible for local issues like allotments and play areas.
District council		Responsibilities include bin collections, parks and local planning. Other services are provided by a county council.
County council		Provides services across the whole county: such as road maintenance, schools and libraries.
Unitary authority		A type of council that provides all local government services, including housing.

BBC



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# Types of local councils

## Type of councils:

- Single-tier council – where just one council carries out all local government functions. There are three types of those:
  - 36 metropolitan boroughs (represent the largest urban areas outside of London)
  - 59 unitary councils (previously two-tier councils which merged throughout the 1990s and 2000s due to local government reform)
  - 33 London boroughs (covering the capital city)
- Two-tier councils
  - 24 county councils (cover large historic, more rural county areas, such as North Yorkshire County Council; mostly responsible for strategic services such as transport and people-facing services such as public health, children's services)
  - 181 district councils (represent a much smaller area within a county council; responsible for 'location-related' services such as housing, planning, licensing)

# Types of local councils

There are 15 local authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region:

[Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

[Bradford Metropolitan District Council](#)

[Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

[Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

[East Riding Of Yorkshire Council](#)

[Hull City Council](#)

[Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

[Leeds City Council](#)

[North East Lincolnshire Council](#)

[North Lincolnshire Council](#)

[North Yorkshire County Council](#)

[Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

[Sheffield City Council](#)

[Wakefield Metropolitan District Council](#)

[City of York Council](#)

# Types of local councils

These 15 local authorities divide into 21 local government districts in Yorkshire and the Humber:

- 9 metropolitan districts in South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire
  - South Yorkshire: Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield
  - West Yorkshire: Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Wakefield
- 7 non-metropolitan districts within North Yorkshire:
  - Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough, Selby
- 5 five non-metropolitan districts that are unitary authorities:
  - East Riding of Yorkshire, Hull (Kingston upon Hull), North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire) – called Humber or Humberside
  - City of York

# Services provided

Services a local council is responsible for [Understand how your council works: Types of council - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

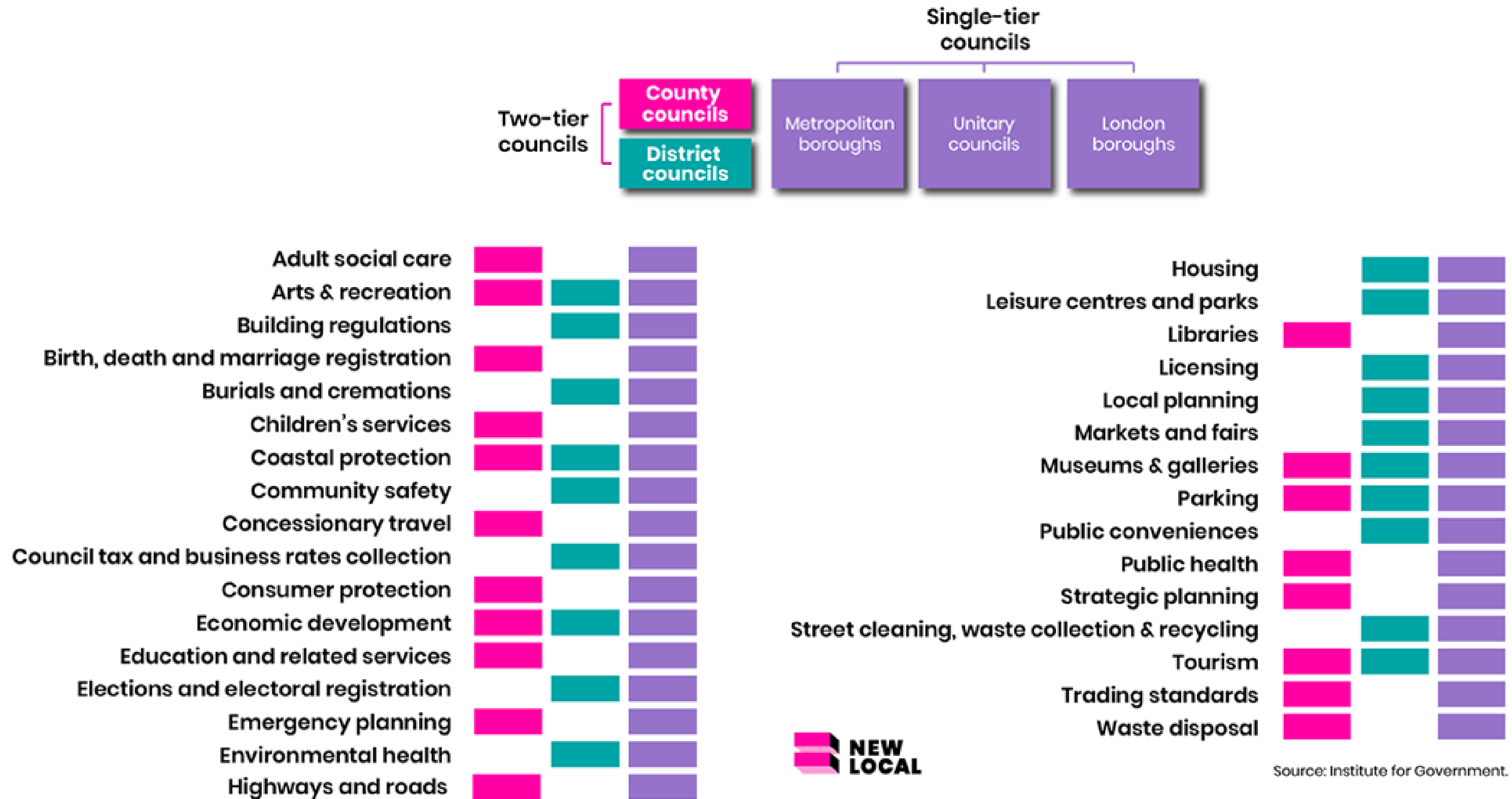
Services are distributed dependent on the geographical size and population of an area:

- Housing, planning and transport (District and single tier councils)
- Adult care, social care and Children services (County and single tier councils)
- Council and business tax, and trading standards (District and single tier councils)
- Education related services and libraries (County and single-tier councils)
- Fire and public safety and waste management (County and single-tier councils)
- Elections and electoral registration (District and single-tier councils)

You can locate your council to find out about the services provided here: [Find your local council - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



# The main services councils provide, split by tier



# Decision-making processes

Council's arrangements for decision-making are known as their 'governance'.

Most councils operate a **leader and cabinet model**:

- The full council elects a leader – the leader appoints and chairs the cabinet, each cabinet member has a specific area of responsibility e.g. children and young people, housing, or finance.
- The cabinet meets regularly (weekly or fortnightly) so decisions are made quickly
- Officers are appointed to pass decisions within the council
- Decisions are placed on the 'List of forthcoming key decisions', which provide details about the key decisions
- Agenda papers for the key decisions and contact details of a lead officer are available 5 working days before the decision will be made through the Council's website

# Decision-making processes

## Mayors

- Many councils have a civic mayor or chairman of the council, they carry out ceremonial duties and chair meetings, but can't make decisions about council business
- Councils can have both elected and civic mayors



# Local councillors and elections

## Local councillors

- Councillors are elected on four-year terms by the local community to represent its views
- Local elections are normally held on the first Thursday in May
- Councillors are responsible for wards, have local surgeries (usually in local libraries)
- For example – in Leeds there are 99 councillors, with the authority's area divided into 33 wards, so there are 3 councillors for each ward)

## Your local council will do one of the following:

- elect all the local councillors every 4 years
- elect half the local councillors every 2 years
- elect one third of the local councillors every year for 3 years and hold no elections in the 4th year

# Elections

## Register to vote

- You can register to vote in local and general elections (voting takes place every 4 years) by visiting: [Register to vote - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

## Standing in local elections:

- Most candidates stand as a member of a political party, but you can stand for election as an independent candidate (ie without belonging to any political party).
- Eligibility:
  - Be 18 years old or over on the day of your nomination
  - Be a British citizen, an EU citizen, or a Commonwealth citizen
  - Be registered to vote in and/or have either lived or worked in the area for at least one year
- Further information about the qualification and disqualification requirements is set out in the [Electoral Commission's guidance](#).

# Next drop-in session

Wednesday 25 January 2023, 12:00 – 13:30

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