

Members Guide to Local Government

A three-tier local government is a system of governance where there are three levels of elected bodies that have certain responsibilities and powers. These levels include:

1. Parish or Town Councils
2. District Councils
3. County Councils

Below is a brief overview of the roles and responsibilities of each level of local government:

- 1. Parish or Town Councils:** They are the smallest form of local government and typically represent a small community or village.

They are responsible for local issues such as:

- Allotments
- Benches
- Burial Grounds
- Bus shelters – some not all
- Cemeteries
- Christmas lights
- Community Centres
- Community days/fun fairs
- Grounds maintenance
- Markets
- Playgrounds
- Recreation grounds
- Removal of illegal signs on lampposts or fly posting
- Some public bins – which ones? Logos – Loughton Rec Ground where lake is – bins are Loughton Town Council responsibility – dog bin is ours
- Town/Village halls
- War memorials
- Welcome signs & notice boards

There are 24 Parish and Town Councils in the Epping Forest district. To find out where these Councils are located visit this webpage:

<https://rds.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/mgParishCouncilDetails.aspx>

- 2. District Councils:** They cover a larger area than Parish Councils. They often work with Parish Councils on matters that affect the whole community.

They are responsible for services such as:

- Benefits
- Business rates
- Council Tax
- Crime
- Environment
- Housing
- Leisure

- Licensing
- Parking
- Planning
- Waste Collections – public litter bins and dog bins

To find out more about the services Epping Forest District Council provide, visit this webpage: www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Epping Forest District Councils main contact number is 01992 564000.

3. County Councils: They cover a wider geographical area than District Councils.

They are responsible for matters such as:

- Adult social care and health
- Footpaths/pavements
- Libraries
- List of all areas they are responsible for - <https://www.essex.gov.uk/local-councils> School/education
- Planning
- Register birth
- Register death
- Roads – Essex Highways
- Transport – buses and trains
- Waste – local waste and recycling centres - <https://www.loveessex.org/>

To find out more about the services Essex County Council provide visit this webpage: www.essex.gov.uk

Essex County Councils main contact number is 03456037631.