Local government information guide

What is local government?

Local government is responsible for a range of vital services for people and businesses. Councils are at the heart of the places we live, work, learn shop, socialise, and exercise. In England, more than one million people work in local government across a range of different types of authorities, providing more than 800 different services to local communities.

Local councils, which is the most common type of local authority, are made up of councillors who are elected by the public in local elections.

Councillors work with local people and partners, such as local businesses and other organisations, to agree and deliver on local priorities. The decisions are implemented by permanent council staff, council officers, who deliver services on a daily basis.

In total there are 353 councils in England. There are several different types of council: county, district, London borough, metropolitan, English unitary and town and parish councils, each with a range of responsibilities. The services the council will provide and how they are funded is agreed

by councillors (elected members who are voted for by the public in local elections) and are delivered by paid council employees. Councillors

from different political parties make up the full council. The number of councillors is determined by the size of the population it serves.

What career paths are available in local government?

Career paths can greatly vary within local government due to the different services being delivered.

Among them are well known functions such as social care, schools, housing and planning and waste collection, but also lesser-known ones such as licensing, business support, registrar services and pest control. Other career paths within local government include Legal, Digital, Environmental Health, Occupational Health, & Tourism. It will be beneficial to explore your local council and find out what services they deliver.

Entry routes into local government

There are several entry routes into Local government and councils. These do vary depending on your local council.

Below are some examples of how young people have started gaining experience or working for local government:

* T Level Industry Placements
* Work Experience
* Traineeships
* Volunteering
* Supported Internships
* Kickstart
* Graduate training scheme
* Internships
* Part time work
* Entry level roles
* Apprenticeships

The broad range of services local government deliveries gives you an excellent opportunity to develop your skills and gain experience. Local government can offer a diverse range of job and career options. During your career within local government you can progress, while at the same time receive training and development.

What to expect working in local government?

Working in Local government will give you the opportunity to enhance your skills and gain excellent working experiences. Due to the variety of departments and services within Local government you can expect to engage with different stakeholders. This will help you develop workplace skills such as teamwork and communication. Local government can be dynamic and exciting due to the constantly changing environment.

You will also be making a difference. Local government needs to respond both to the needs of the local community and central government, therefore, you will be actively contributing to the development of services.

You can also expect to work with a variety of individuals within local government and can learn from their knowledge and experiences. This can also be a useful way to build contacts and understand their journey into local government.

Benefits of working in local government

There are many benefits for working in local government, below are just a few:

* Making a difference
* Develop a wide range of skills
* Opportunities for growth and development
* Career Progression
* Working in a forward-thinking environment
* Engage with a variety of services
* Competitive salaries and benefits
* Different entry routes
* Work alongside highly experienced colleagues

(INSERT COUNCIL NAME)

Now you have an understanding on what local government is, it is important to develop your knowledge on your local council.

Overview of (INSERT COUNCIL NAME) Editable

*What you could include:*

* *Overview of your council*
* *Brief outline of the services you deliver*
* *Why your council is a good place for young people to work*

Brief overview of (INSERT DEPARTMENT STUDENT WILL BE WORKING IN) Editable

*What you could include:*

* *What is the name of the department the young person will be working?*
* *What service do they deliver?*
* *What is the departments/service aim(s)*
* *Which other departments do they work with?*

Resources for the young person to read prior to their Industry Placement Editable

*What you could include:*

* *Links to your website*
* *Information relating to the department the young person will work in*

Things to consider prior to starting your Industry Placement

*Do you know your start date and time?*

*Who is your main point of contact during the Industry Placement?*

*Do you need to complete any research prior to starting your Industry Placement?*