

Our leadership

we are a member-led organisation

> The **Leaders' Committee** is our main decision-making body. The committee includes the Leaders of each London borough council. Leaders' Committee sets policy and takes decisions on the latest developments affecting London local government. The committee meets at 59½ Southwark Street. Meeting dates, agendas and minutes are available at www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees

> Our **Executive** acts as a forum for more detailed policy development and reports to the Leaders' Committee. The Executive is made up of 11 members from across the political groups.

> Our **Grants Committee**, comprising 33 councillors, one from each of London's local councils, oversees the London Boroughs Grants Scheme, set up under the 1985 Local Government Act. The grants programme is funded and governed by the 32 London boroughs and the City of London.

> The **Transport and Environment Committee (TEC)**, provides a range of high quality operational services such as parking and traffic appeals, the lorry control scheme, the Freedom Pass and Taxicard schemes. The committee deals with a wide array of issues, including CCTV camera traffic enforcement, waste, air quality, and public protection.

London

by numbers



With a population of more than
8.3 million

London is the most populous city in Europe



There are
33 local authorities

in London comprised of

629 wards

and represented by

1,855 elected councillors



There are more than
3,000 schools

in London, educating around

1.25 million pupils



There are more than

4,390 GPs

in London



London needs to build an extra
800,000 new homes

by 2021 to clear its backlog and keep pace with its growing population



London Underground trains carried more than

1.17 billion passengers

in 2012, a new record



Between December 2012 and December 2013, the Metropolitan Police dealt with just over

709,000 crimes

(all notifiable offences), more than 10 per cent fewer than the previous year



London's councils collect around

4 million tonnes of rubbish

a year.



Education 51%

and

Social care 26%

together accounted for more than three quarters of total local government expenditure in 2012/13

Guide to London Councils



londoncouncils.gov.uk



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LONDON COUNCILS

About

London Councils

➤ London Councils represents London's 32 boroughs and the City of London.

It is a cross-party organisation that works on behalf of all of its member authorities regardless of political persuasion.

London Councils makes the case to government, the Mayor and others to get the best deal for Londoners and to ensure that our member authorities have the resources, freedoms and powers to do the best possible job for their residents and local businesses.

London Councils runs a number of direct services for member authorities, including the Freedom Pass, Taxicard and Health Emergency Badge. It also runs an independent parking appeals service and a pan-London grants programme for voluntary organisations.

London Councils acts as a catalyst for effective sharing among boroughs – be that ideas, good practice, people, resources, or policies and new approaches.

The strategic direction of London Councils is set by the Leaders' Committee. Our Leaders' Committee comprises the Leaders of all of London's local authorities. There is also a cross-party Executive, which guides the organisation's day-to-day work.

The London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime are also in membership.

Adding value

for London's boroughs

➤ London Councils acts as host for a number of bodies which add value to the work of our member authorities by helping them co-ordinate their work with pan-London organisations. These include:

London Safeguarding Children Board – representing London's councils in a broader partnership with police, health and other partners to promote child safeguarding across London.

London Young People's Education and Skills (YPES) Board – the lead strategic body for 14-19 education and training in the capital.

London Councils is the Regional Employer body for London local authorities. Boroughs are members of the Greater London Employer Forum and are represented on the Greater London Provincial Council for the purposes of negotiations with trades unions.

London's improvement and efficiency partnership, Capital Ambition. Capital Ambition is run by a board comprising representatives of the boroughs, the City of London, London Councils, the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority and other partners.

London European Partnership for Transport, which provides the London boroughs with support and access to European funding for transport projects.

London Health Board, jointly established by London Councils, the Mayor of London and key health partners, the London Health Board provides leadership on health issues of pan-London significance, where this adds value to decisions, agreements and action at local level.

London Councils also provides a key interface between boroughs, the London Fire Brigade, the Greater London Authority and emergency services on issues around city management and resilience.

Advancing London

the focal point for local government

➤ Member authorities have their own relationships with pan-London organisations and in particular with the Mayor and the GLA. There are, however, a range of issues where the Mayor, the GLA and other pan-London organisations seek to establish negotiation or dialogue with London's boroughs. On these issues, London Councils acts as the focal point for representing borough interests - informed by the political and professional networks that we run.

To ensure influence in the decisions made at pan-London level that impact on councils and the communities they serve, London Councils has developed a series of shared governance arrangements with the Mayor, Transport for London, Metropolitan Police, health and other partners, including London business organisations. London Councils nominates – on a cross party basis – members to serve in such shared governance arrangements, including:

- London Housing Board
- London Waste and Recycling Board
- London Crime Reduction Board
- London Enterprise Partnership
- London Health Board.

Some of these have statutory underpinning. The overall progress of these is monitored jointly by the Mayor and borough Leaders.

In addition, London Councils ensures that the London local government perspective is part of policy development at national level by, for example, organising ministerial meetings and briefings of senior civil servants.

Keeping informed

stay in touch

➤ There are a number of ways you can stay in touch and find out more about London Councils' work.

Our public website **www.londoncouncils.gov.uk** visited by more than 1.75 million people a year contains a wealth of information, data, policy reports, and all the latest news on the work of London Councils.

Our exclusive members website **www.members.londoncouncils.gov.uk** is where elected members can access exclusive policy briefings, sign-up for free member events and edit personal preferences to receive information on the topics they find most useful.

Our weekly update of London local government matters, **Key Issues**, is emailed every Wednesday morning to more than 7,000 subscribers across the capital. You can sign-up to receive Key Issues and other e-bulletins on specific topics at **www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/newsletters**

You can follow us on Twitter **[@londoncouncils](https://twitter.com/londoncouncils)** or read more about our work on **[LinkedIn.com/company/London-Councils](https://www.linkedin.com/company/London-Councils)**