

Local Government – it's about more than just bins!



Do you live in the District of Blaby?
Are you a victim of Anti-Social Behaviour?
For free and confidential advice call the Community Safety Team on:

0116 272 7677

Blaby District Council
The Heart of Leicestershire

A photograph of four people, two men and two women, standing together. They are dressed in professional or semi-formal attire, representing the Community Safety Team mentioned in the text.

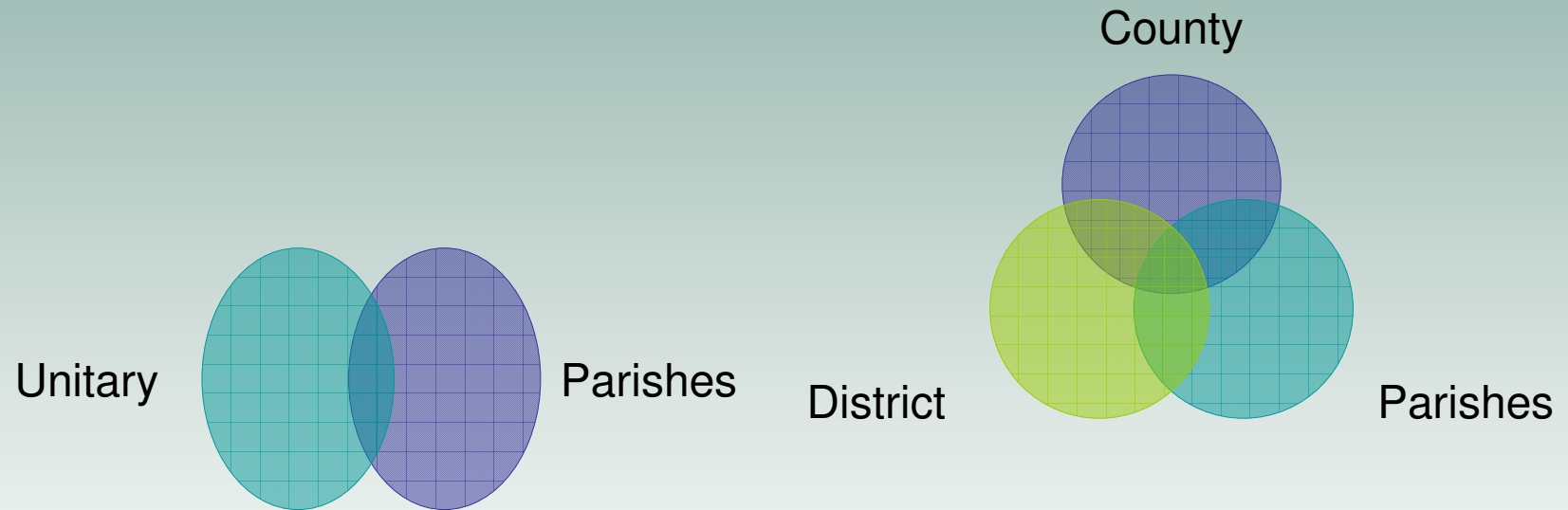
“Local government makes a difference to everybody's lives, delivering essential services and making our communities better places to live. We all benefit from having our bins collected and parks to relax in, and most of us will rely on education and social services at some point of our lives” (Department for Communities and Local Government - DCLG).

What We Want To Look at Tonight



- Local Government unveiled – Structures and Models
- Local Government Local Responsibilities – its about more than just bins!
- Local Councillors – Local Democratic Champions

Local Government unveiled – two distinct structural arrangements



What's the difference?

Unitary Structure

Single Tier

All Purpose

Provide most of the services

May include a second tier
– Parish or Town Councils

County and District Structure

At least two levels e.g.
County and District

Often include a Third Tier e.g.
Parish or Town Councils

Differentiation of services

Local Government – Models of Governance

Currently Blaby District Council operates a Cabinet Executive model with a Leader elected by Council each year. The recent Local Government White paper has proposed the following three models of executive arrangements:

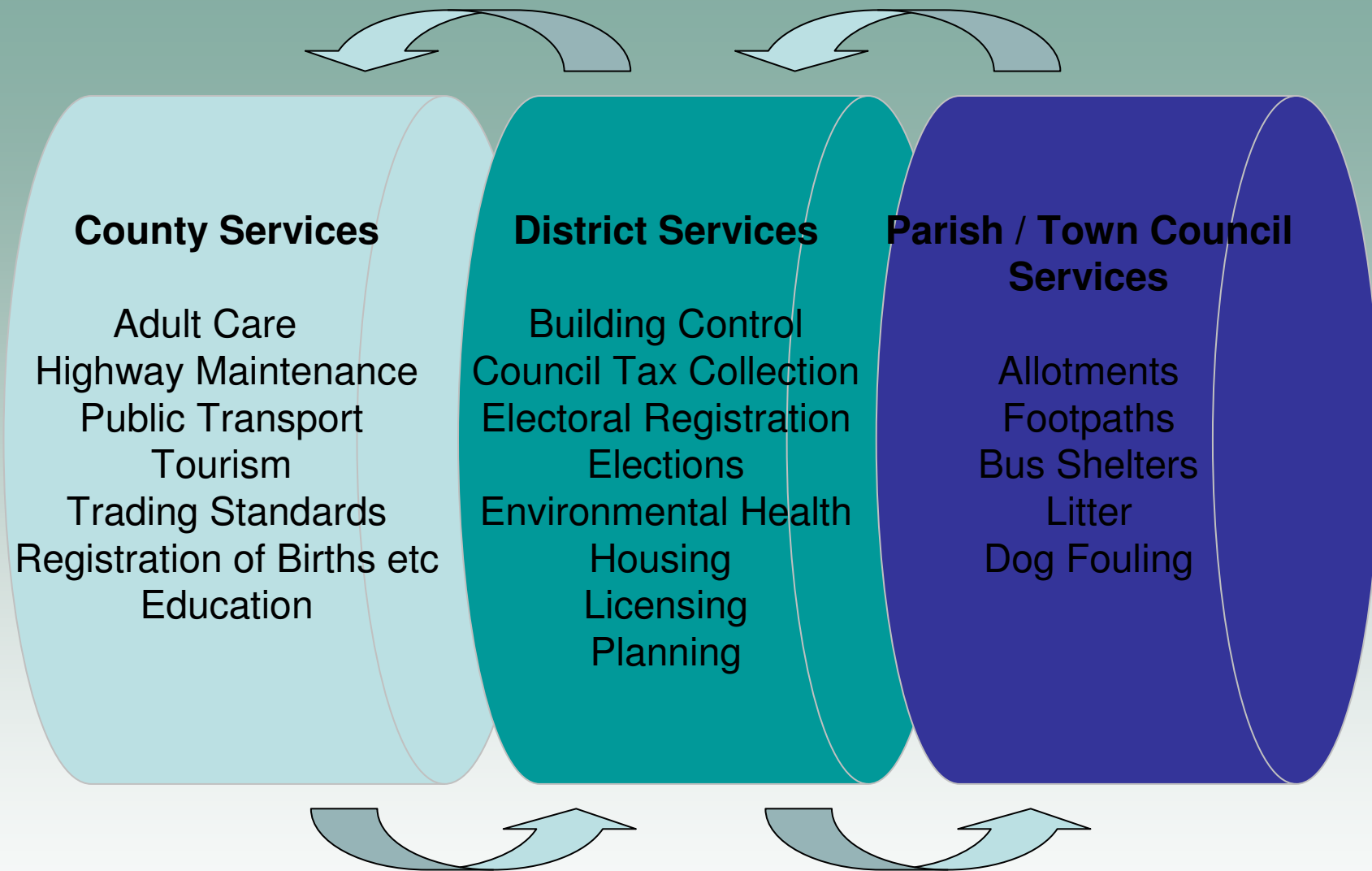
- 1.A directly elected Cabinet Executive** with a 4 year term
- 2.A directly elected Mayor** with a 4 year term
- 3.An indirectly elected Leader** with a 4 year term

Local Government – Complex Organisations

- A primary distinguishing feature of Local Government is the range of responsibilities and functions we are tasked to deliver
 - Local Authorities, in partnership with other Public and Voluntary Sector organisations, provide services for people through all of life's challenges and stages
 - Local Government as...
 - **Direct Service Provider** – historically, the main role e.g collecting bins, managing council houses
 - **Regulator/ Monitor** of the activities of other agencies and organisations e.g inspecting food shops, considering planning applications
 - **Facilitator**; providing advice, assistance and possibly finance to organisations acting on behalf of Local Authorities e.g funding voluntary organisations
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Local Councillors – Local Democratic Champions?

- **So, what does it mean to be a District Councillor - some keywords**
 - People's representatives
 - Community advocates – leaders of their own constituencies
 - Guardians
 - Scrutinisers
 - Community leaders
- **Key challenges facing District Councillors in Local Government**
 - Community champions; on the frontline and in the driving seat
 - Community engagement
 - Fostering closer links with local people
 - Strengthening communities
 - Services; ensuring they are efficient, accessible and responsive
 - Empowered communities
 - Improve accountability
 - Eliminate inequality
 - Joined up services
 - Community Call for Action
 - Balancing priorities

Representing the Community

It is the duty of Councillors to act as a bridge between the local community and the council. Different councillors work in different ways – you might achieve this by:

- **Ward walks** – enables Councillors to familiarise themselves with their local area
- **Surgeries** – enable people to meet their Councillors, raise and discuss problems, explore the impact of council policies. These can be in the form of more traditional office/building based surgeries, street surgeries or perhaps even virtual surgeries
- **Public Committees** – where decisions are made and discussions take place regarding council services and provisions
- **Area Committees/Community Forums** – an experimental concept trialled by a number of local authorities
- **Email/Telephone Contact** – enables constituents and community members to raise issues flexibly and promptly
- **Web logs** – also known as blogs. An online journal that looks like a website but is published as a diary or newsletter, and visitors have the option to post comments

Questions and Comments?

