

Parish & Town Councils

Windsor Forum



This is NOT a Parish Council

What are Parish Councils

- Civil local authorities
- A tier of local government that is closest to communities
- Created by the Local Government Act 1894
- They vary enormously in size with some representing populations of less than 100 to others over 130,000
- Individual budgets ranging from less than £1,000 to over £4 million
- They cover both rural and urban areas
- Generically referred to as “local councils”, there are over 10,000 in England
- There is not a ‘one-size fits all’ definition



Naming Style

As well as Parish Council, a local council can resolve to call itself any of the following:

Town Council

Village Council

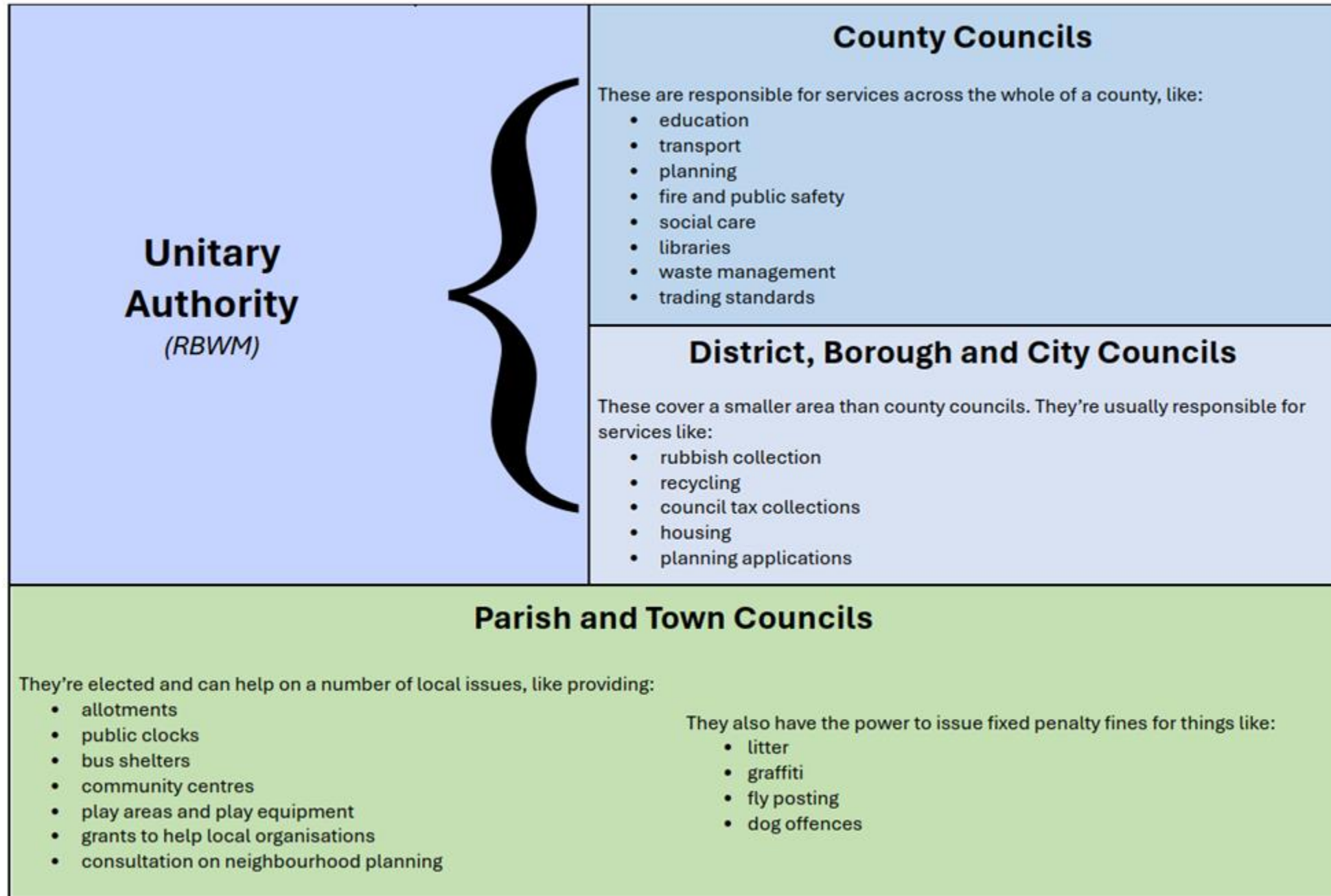
Community Council

Neighbourhood Council

However, their powers and duties are the same whatever name they choose – the same legislation applies to all.

Note: The Chairman of a Town Council may style themselves as Town Mayor

Local Authority 'Tiers'



Powers & Duties

Local Councils have various powers and duties conveyed by many Acts of Parliament. This means they may only do what the law says they “may” do (powers) and they must do what the law says they “must” or “shall” do (duties).



Many **duties** are in relation to operational and/or legislative compliance, i.e. appointment of relevant officers, signing of acceptance of office, financial reporting, declaration of interests, holding of an annual meeting. There is also a duty to provide allotments if demand exists.

Effectively **powers** provide the legislative authorisation for both the ability to do something along with its related expenditure. A local council may only incur expenditure from the public purse if it has a lawful basis to do so (i.e. a relevant power).

Recreation General powers
Parish documents
Clocks
Closed churchyards
Lotteries
Tourism
Burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria
Common pastures
Commons
War memorials
Entertainment and the arts
Town and country planning
Crime prevention
Open spaces
Litter
Bus shelters
Land
Allotments
Financial assistance
Public conveniences
Public buildings and village hall
Traffic calming
Baths and washhouses
Investments
Community centres
Mortuaries and post mortem rooms
Highways
Bye-laws
Access land
Conference facilities
Water supply
Gifts
Drainage

Parish & Town Council Facilities



Parish/Town Council Funding

The main source of funding is the precept levy which is part of the Council Tax bill

Other sources of funding may also include:-

- Service charges
- Hall/room hires
- Market fees
- Car parking charges
- Grants
- Allotment rents
- Lease income
- Pitch/Grounds fees
- Interest & Investments
- CIL/Section 106

In addition, capital expenditure may also be funded via loans from the Public Works Loan Board as well as reserves built up for that purpose.

Berkshire Parishes

Berkshire currently has 104 civil parishes across the six Unitary Authority areas.

- Wokingham, West Berkshire & Bracknell Forest are fully parished
- Reading has no parishes
- Slough has 3 parishes on the periphery with the vast majority of the authority's area unparished.
- RBWM has 15 parishes (13 parish councils, 1 town council and a parish meeting) – the two main urban areas of Maidenhead and Windsor are unparished.



WINDSOR

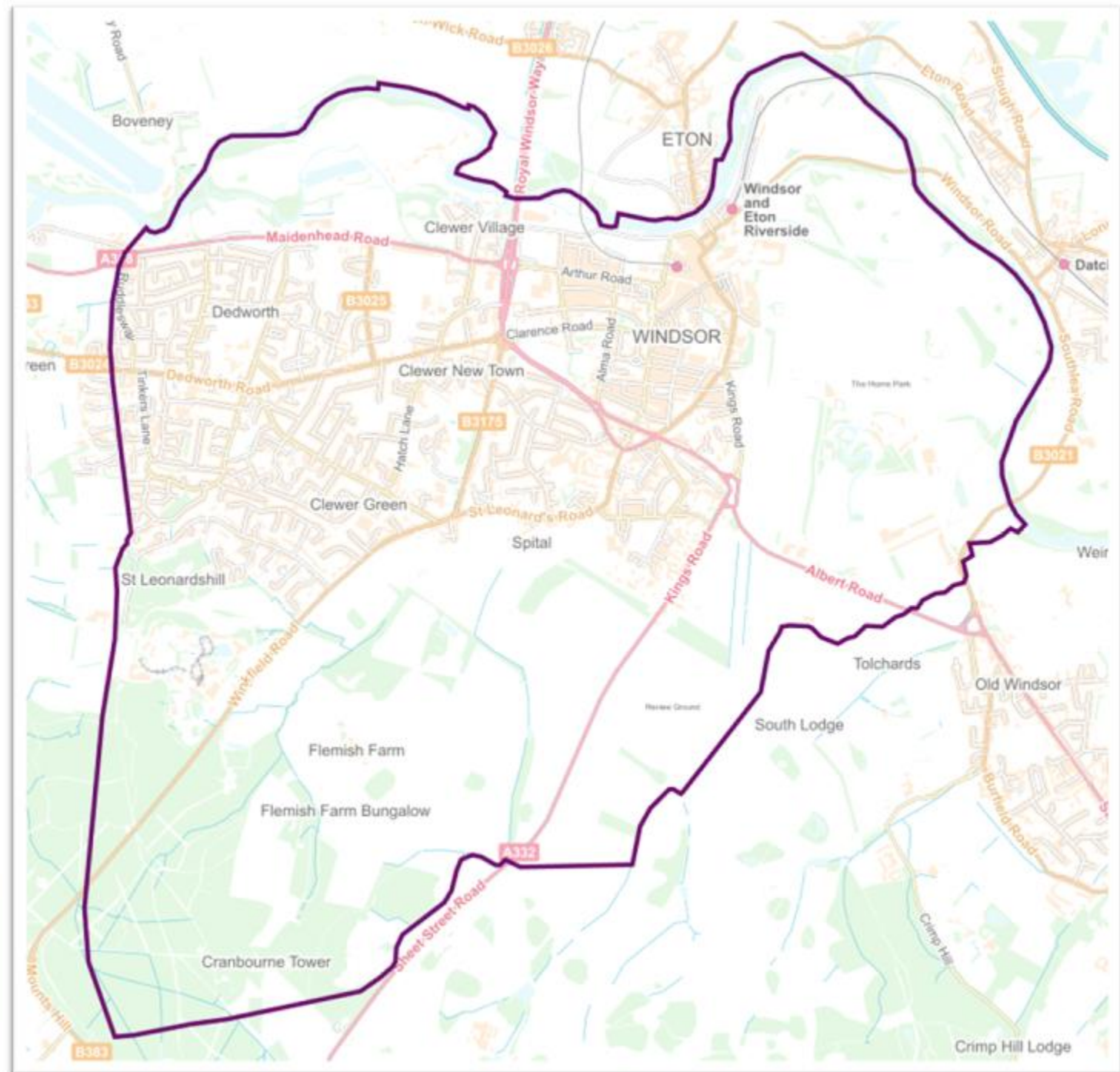
Town Council

?

Town Council Area

- Population of approx. 34,000
- Area covering 7.2 sq.miles
- 20,500 electors
- Two third's Green Belt
- River Thames
- Historic Royal Town
- Shopping Centre
- Popular tourist destination
- Royal residence

Windsor Town Council would be a large local council



Larger Council Comparison

Compared with other local councils, Windsor Town Council would be within the:

- Largest 40 within England (35th of 10,400)
- Largest 20 within Unitary Authority Areas (18th of 4,300)
- Largest 5 within Berkshire (3rd of 105)

Using the tax base for comparison

Comparative Precept Data

England

Largest 40

Average Band D = £ 80.54

Average Precept = £ 1.4m

Unitary Area

Largest 20

Average Band D = £ 110.31

Average Precept = £ 1.9m

Berkshire

Largest 5

Average Band D = £ 90.13

Average Precept = £ 1.3m

Comparison within Berkshire

As local councils vary so considerably in service delivery, demographics, geographical size, etc. it is difficult to provide direct comparisons. Tax base provides the most useful metric as it is a measurable statistic used by the Office for National Statistics.

Therefore, in Berkshire, the closest comparison to Windsor is Newbury. The Town Council's tax base and population is about the same, it is a historic market town and operates many similar services/facilities.



Services and facilities include:	2023/24 Budget & Precept
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allotments• Sports Pitches• Cemeteries• Markets• Newbury in bloom• Playgrounds• Open spaces• Public toilets• Venue hire• Benches• Litter bins• Bus shelters• Footway lights• Community Partnerships	Total Expenditure: £2,280,724 Precept: £1,575,224 Band D: £94.66

Existing Arrangements - Special Expenses

'Concurrent Functions'

Within an authority's administrative boundary, if a principle council is providing services to a specific area that elsewhere are provided by a parish or town council (known as **concurrent functions**), the Local Government Finance Act 1992 permits the principle council to charge that area separately for those services. This is classed as **special expenses**.

The purpose of this legislation is to enable the cost of concurrent functions to be applied to where they are provided – i.e. only the area's council taxpayers that receive those services pay for them.

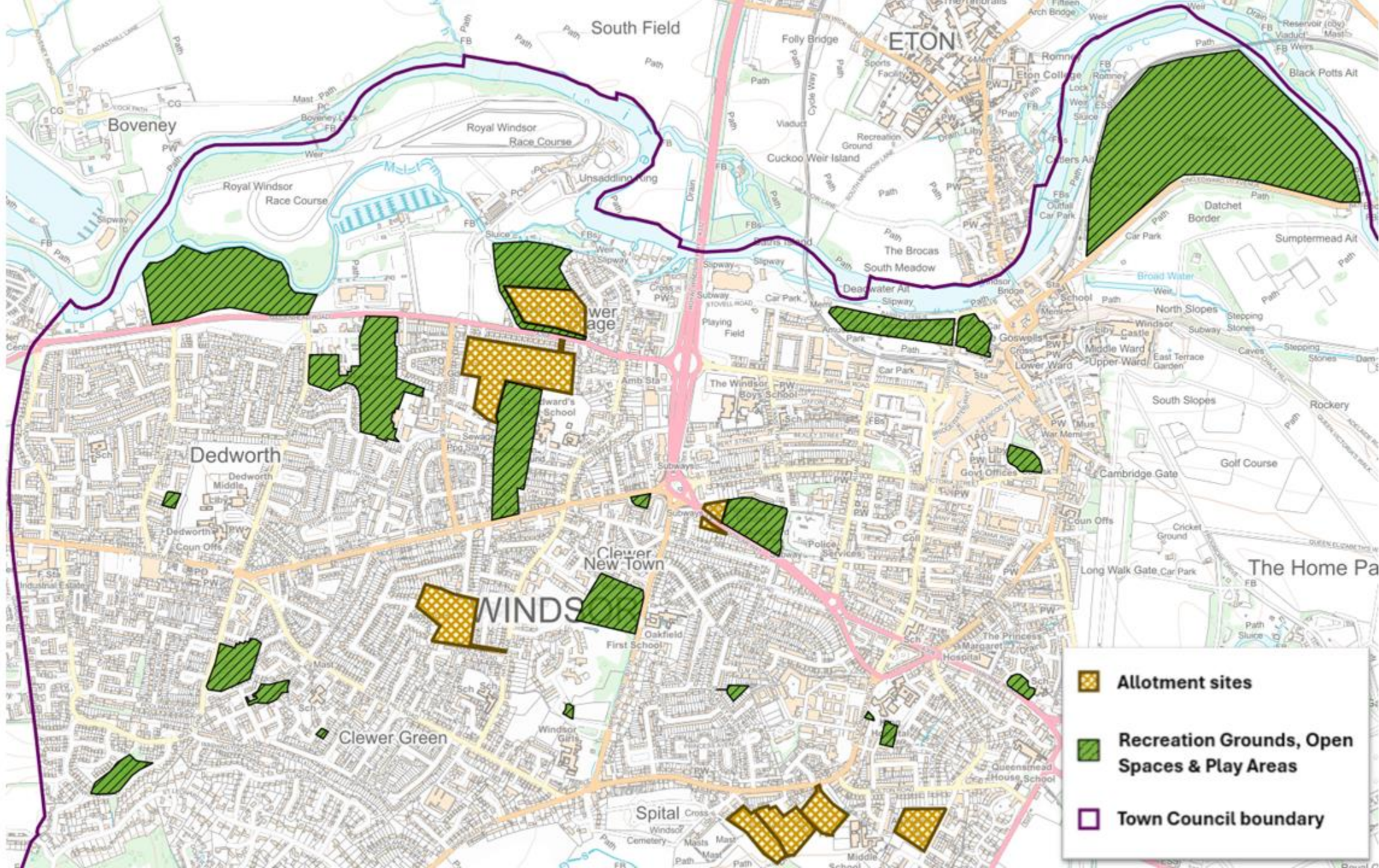
RBWM applies this in a limited way, to the unparished areas of Maidenhead and Windsor and it is accounted for as 'Special Area Expenses' (SAE).

The powers available to local councils mean that any of the list below, currently provided by the Borough Council, could be undertaken by Windsor Town Council.




Car parks	Grit bins
Sports Pitches	Public toilets
Cemeteries	Venues for hire
Markets	Benches
Allotments	Litter bins
Playgrounds	Bus shelters
Museum	Footway lights
Open spaces	Tourist facilities

All the above is subject to resourcing including finance, staffing and relevant transfers.

In addition, some 'Principle Council' functions/services can be delegated to, or provided by, a Parish/Town Council on behalf of the Borough Council if an agreement to do so is put in place. (Delegated Functions are separate to 'parish' powers.)



Legend

-  Allotment sites
-  Recreation Grounds, Open Spaces & Play Areas
-  Town Council boundary

What would Windsor Town Council be like?

This is an impossible question to answer. It can only be decided by:

Windsor Town Council and its Town Councillors

The Town Council's resources, including assets and finances

The ambition, vision and determination of the Town Council

.....and ultimately, the residents of Windsor.

Any Questions ?