

Working for Uttlesford District Council



About Uttlesford District Council

Uttlesford District Council has about 300 staff and delivers a huge range of services for residents and businesses. There are dozens of different career choices for people who work in local government - where else would you find plumbers, accountants, solicitors, website developers, customer service advisors, food inspectors and building surveyors all under the same roof?

The local government sector offers career opportunities for people irrespective of their qualifications, employing everyone from school-leavers to postgraduates.

Whoever you are and whatever your background, working in local government gives you the opportunity not only to develop your career but also to help your community.Á

Essex is what is known as a “two-tier” area. This means that there is a County Council, which provides some services across the whole of Essex, and smaller district or borough councils, which deliver other services to a smaller area within the county. Examples of services provided by Essex County Council include schools, social care, road maintenance and libraries. Examples of services provided by district and borough councils are planning, bin collections, council housing and restaurant inspections.

In some other parts of the country there is only one council delivering all these services - these councils are known as unitary authorities.

There are also town or parish councils in most areas, each covering a village or town.

Excluding the town and parish councils, there are 433 councils in the UK - 353 in England, 22 in Wales, 32 in Scotland and 26 in Northern Ireland.



How local government works

Local government is the collective term for local councils. You may also sometimes hear them referred to as local authorities. Local councils are made up of councillors (members) who are voted for by the public in local elections and paid council staff (officers) who deliver services.

Most councils have a senior group of councillors, usually from the largest political party, called the cabinet. The cabinet makes the majority of policy decisions.

All councillors sit together to form the full council, which is the central decision-maker and debates and decides upon the most important policies.

After decisions have been made by the elected members of the council, officers who work to deliver services on a daily basis, implement the policies.

Uttlesford District Council's main areas of responsibility include:

Bin collections

Providing council housing

Collecting Council Tax and paying out Benefits

Environmental Health including restaurant inspections, pest control and catching stray dogs

Deciding on planning applications and making sure building work is carried out properly

Car parks (we do this with Colchester Council)

Running the local and general elections

Dealing with licences for pubs, taxis etc

Running Saffron Walden Museum

Providing leisure centres (a company called 1Life which runs these on our behalf)



Why work for local government?

Local government is a diverse employer that encourages the development of its staff who in turn deliver quality services to its clients - the public.

Employees feel that they are contributing to the local community and making a difference in people's lives whilst working in a fair and flexible environment.

Whoever you are and whatever your background, working in local government gives you the opportunity not only to develop your career but also to improve others' lives.

Benefits - As well as earning a fair salary for the job you do in local government, you will be entitled to many other benefits in your working life.

Leave - All local government employees are entitled to what is often a generous amount of annual leave. Those who work part time have leave calculated depending on the amount of hours.

Pension - Local government has its own pension scheme for employees. The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is very secure because its benefits are defined and guaranteed in law. The LGPS is available to all employees in local government. If you become employed in local government, you will automatically become a member of the LGPS unless you decide not to join.

Diversity - Because of the range of jobs in local government there are many opportunities for developing your current or future career. The variety and depth of work is huge and spans many professional and trade areas.

Flexibility - Due to the broad range of occupations in local government, there have always been many different patterns of work. Some jobs may require you to work the traditional full time week (35 to 40 hours) but often there may be part time and job share opportunities, or shift work available. There are often chances for temporary secondments or permanent re-deployment within the council, allowing you to build on your experience and develop new skills.



About the Uttlesford district

The Uttlesford district is located in north west Essex, encompassing Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow, Stansted Mountfitchet, Thaxted and about 100 villages and hamlets in between. Although it is the largest geographical district in the county, it has the second lowest number of residents, at about 79,000.



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