

Understanding the role of HAPTC.

Working with Parish, Town &
Community Councils



Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils

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HAPTC - Strengthening Local Governance

- Membership organisation representing the majority of parish, town and community councils across Hertfordshire
- Acts as the collective voice of local councils to principal authorities, government and sector bodies.
- Supports councils to operate effectively, lawfully and transparently.
- Promotes high standards of governance, ethical conduct and community leadership.
- Provides practical advice, training and professional support to elected members and officers.

Helping Councils Govern Well



- Day-to-day advice on governance and council procedure.
- Support on standing orders, policies and constitutional matters.
- Guidance on member conduct, ethical standards and code of conduct issues.
- Advice relating to transparency, meetings and decision-making.
- Signposting to specialist legal and professional resources where required.
- Support for clerks and councillors navigating complex governance challenges.
- Provision of an internal audit service for members



Building Knowledge and Capability

Councillor induction training.

Chairmanship and leadership development.

Planning, finance and audit training.

Clerk professional development and training.

Webinars, workshops and bespoke council sessions.

Continuous learning to support changing legislation and best practice.

Supporting Councils as Employers

HR advice and guidance.

Employment policies and procedures.

Recruitment support and good practice.

Managing performance, conduct and workplace issues.

Advice to help councils meet their employer responsibilities confidently and fairly.



Working Together for Hertfordshire's Communities



Representation of local councils with Herts County Council, our district and borough councils and national bodies.

Facilitating communication between tiers of local government.

Sharing best practice and innovation across councils.

Supporting councils through legislative and policy changes.

Encouraging collaboration, resilience and continuous improvement.



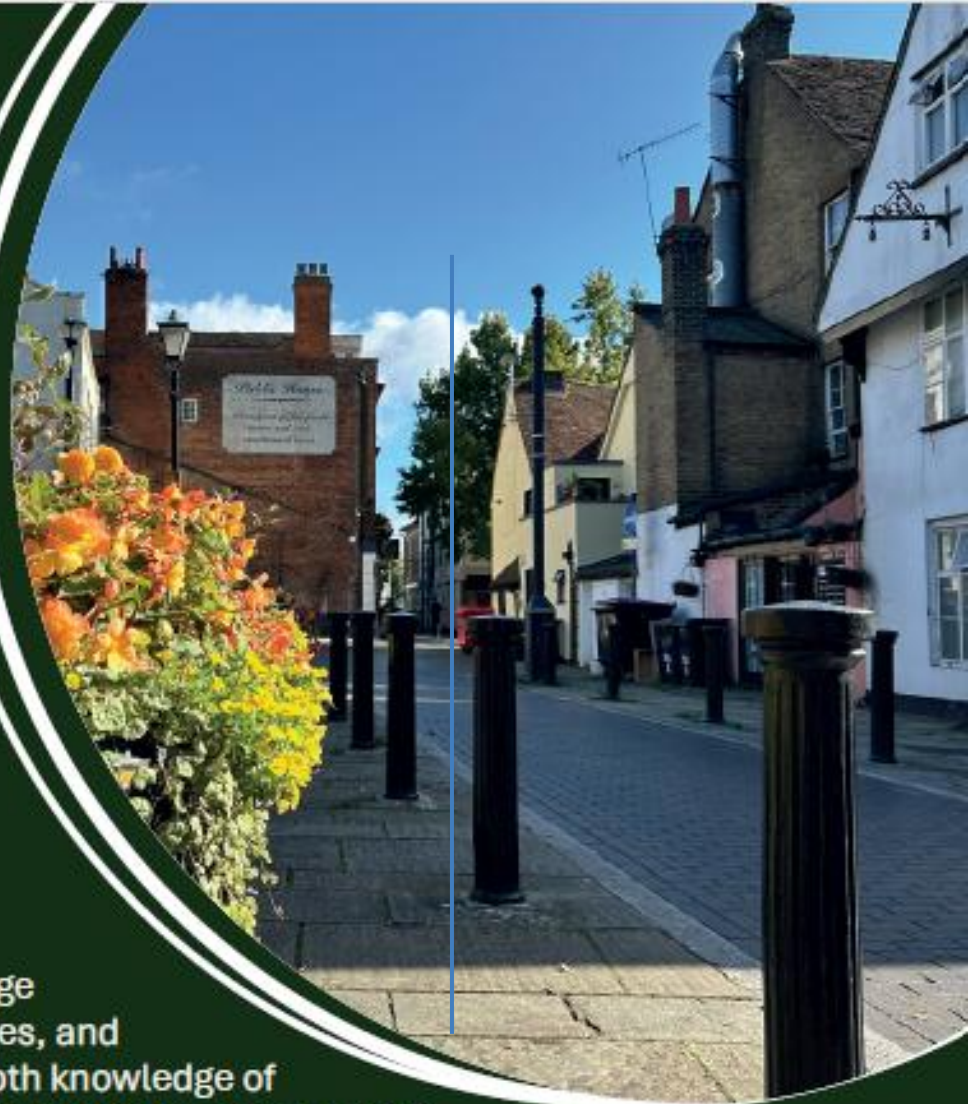
Hertfordshire's 124 Town, Parish and Community councils form a crucial element of local democracy covering 85% of the county's land, they collectively raised £20.7million in precept for 2025/26.

HAPTC have 90% of the Parish, Town and Community Councils in Hertfordshire in membership

STRONG VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

What parish, town and community councils can offer to Hertfordshire's new unitary authorities

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) presents a huge opportunity to reshape public services, drive efficiencies, and enable more strategic decision-making. With an in-depth knowledge of our local communities, access to funding and the ability to galvanise an army of volunteers, parish, town and community councils are uniquely placed to support unitary authorities to deliver **better services, more vibrant places and foster stronger communities.**



SOME OF THE SERVICES & SUPPORT TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS CAN PROVIDE

- Community Centres and Libraries
- Youth Services
- Leisure Centres and Pools
- Arts and Cultural Centres
- Managing Community Assets
- Wellbeing and Befriending Services
- Parks, Open Spaces, Sports Facilities
- Community Buses
- Car Parks
- Litter Collection
- Cemeteries and Church Yards
- Museums and Galleries
- Events, Festivals and Markets
- Outdoor Gyms and Skateparks
- Town Centre Management
- Community Shops and Cafes
- Floral Displays
- Walking Trails
- Biodiversity Projects
- Allotments
- Christmas Lights and Concerts
- Tourist Information Centres
- Emergency Response Support
- Flood Mitigation
- Coordinating Volunteers
- Community Energy Projects
- Fundraising, Grants and Awards
- Community Wardens
- Affordable and Social Housing
- Community Engagement
- Feedback on Planning
- Public Toilets
- Bus Shelters

BENEFITS OF WORKING WITH TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS

- ✓ **Better quality services** - based on our in-depth understanding of our communities and their needs.
- ✓ **Financial efficiencies** - often we can do it cheaper (and more quickly). We also have access to multiple funding sources to support delivery.
- ✓ **Improved community resilience** - greater community resilience in times of crisis.
- ✓ **Less pressure on public services** - less pressure on NHS, emergency services and council services particularly social care.
- ✓ **Greater resident satisfaction** - in their councils and a greater willingness to support their community.
- ✓ **Improved wellbeing** - more opportunities for local people to get out in nature, exercise and socialise.
- ✓ **Reduced anti-social behaviour** - activities and dedicated space for young people. Pride in place.
- ✓ **High quality environment** - harnessing our community to protect and enhance our environment.
- ✓ **Increased social value** - provides opportunities for local employment and volunteering.

Community Safety Case Study (1)



- Police, councils, businesses and community groups work in partnership in Hertford, to ensure the town centre provides a welcoming and safe place for residents and visitors.
- Hertford Town Council has funded the operation of town centre **CCTV cameras** for over 20 years.
- A significant upgrade to cameras and infrastructure took place in 2025 that was funded by the Council.

Community Safety Case Study (2)



- Taxi marshals have operated in Hertford since 2005 and are provided as a service by Hertford Town Council.
- The aim of the taxi marshal scheme is to reduce incidents of disorder in and around the taxi rank at the busiest times on weekend and bank holidays.
- The provision of this is welcomed by the community including the Police.
- It is supplemented by Street Pastors

Community Safety Case Study (3)



- Local pubs, clubs, bars, and restaurants have also been encouraged to adopt the Licensing SAVI (Security and Vulnerability Initiative) scheme launched on 1 May 2024.
- Council community events are planned with the crucial professional input of the Safety Advisory Group via East Herts District Council and Hertfordshire Constabulary, who often attend the Town Council's Business Breakfasts.

What next?

How can we work together to support the success of LGR in Hertfordshire



PARTNERSHIP

PARTICIPATION

INSIGHT

