



Revised edition:

A directory of council elections *still* taking place in May 2025

The local elections on Thursday 1st May 2025 will be the first big electoral test of Keir Starmer's continuity-Tory New Labour government, with 23 councils together covering a population of over 15 million going to the polls.

It was set to be an even bigger test until, in mid-December, the government published its English Devolution White Paper signalling its intent to merge many districts councils into larger, less accountable, single bodies – known as unitary authorities – and increase the number of directly-elected mayors. In doing so it gave the option to county councils facing elections in May this year to apply to postpone those contests if they could show they could carry out re-organisation plans by 2026.

In the event elections have been cancelled for seven county councils and two unitary authorities, meaning that over five million voters have been denied the chance to vote – both on who should run their local services now and on how their local councils should be organised in the future.

Below is a breakdown of those elections that are going ahead in May: in each case the number of councillors up for election; the council's current political leadership; some of the key towns where these elections will take place – and some unitary authorities within the county area that are *not* part of the elections – and the population in the 2022 census.

In total these county councils and unitary authorities will be electing 1,588 councillors in 1,366 divisions or wards. In addition there is an 'all-up' election for the 55 councillors on Doncaster metropolitan borough council, elected from 21 wards, taking place alongside the election of the directly-elected Doncaster Mayor. There is also a Mayoral election in North Tyneside, but without concurrent elections for councillors.

Clive Heemskerck,
TUSC National Election Agent
5th February 2025

Blank page



The 2025 elections:

The English county councils and unitary authorities

Below is a breakdown of the English county councils and unitary authorities (and two metropolitan boroughs) with elections in May 2025, grouped into regions with the number of seats up for election in each council, the current political leadership of the council, some of the key towns where these elections will take place – and some unitary authorities within the county area that are *not* part of the elections – and the population in the 2022 census.

Eastern

Cambridgeshire County Council (LD-Lab-Ind)

No. of councillors: 61 in 59 divisions

Key towns: Cambridge; Huntingdon; St Neots (not Peterborough)

Population: 689,000

Hertfordshire County Council (Con)

No. of councillors: 78 in 78 divisions

Key towns: Stevenage; Watford; Broxbourne

Population: 1.21m

East Midlands

Derbyshire County Council (Con)

No. of councillors: 64 in 64 divisions

Key towns: Bolsover; Chesterfield; Long Eaton (not Derby)

Population: 803,000

Leicestershire County Council (Con)

No. of councillors: 55 in 52 divisions

Key towns: Loughborough; Hinckley; Wigston (not Leicester)

Population: 722,000

Lincolnshire County Council (Con)

No. of councillors: 70 in 70 divisions

Key towns: Lincoln; Boston; Grantham (not Scunthorpe)

Population: 776,000

North Northamptonshire Council (Con)

No. of councillors: 78 in 26 wards

Key towns: Corby; Wellingborough; Kettering

Population: 363,000

Nottinghamshire County Council (Con)

No. of councillors: 66 in 56 divisions

Key towns: Mansfield; Hucknall; West Bridgford (not Nottingham)
Population: 835,000

West Northamptonshire Council (Con)

No. of councillors: 76 in 35 wards
Key towns: Northampton; Daventry
Population: 429,000

Northern

County Durham Council (LD-Con-Ind)

No. of councillors: 98 in 63 divisions
Key towns: Durham; Consett; Newton Aycliffe (not Hartlepool)
Population: 528,000

North Tyneside Council Mayor (Lab)

Population: 304,000

Northumberland County Council (Con)

No. of councillors: 69 in 69 divisions
Key towns: Blyth; Ashington; Morpeth
Population: 324,000

North West

Lancashire County Council (Lab)

No. of councillors: 84 in 82 divisions
Key towns: Preston; Lancaster; Chorley; Burnley (not Blackburn; Blackpool)
Population: 1.25m

Southern

Buckinghamshire Council (Con)

No. of councillors: 97 in 49 wards
Key towns: Aylesbury; Buckingham; High Wycombe (not Milton Keynes)
Population: 505,000

Kent County Council (Con)

No. of councillors: 81 in 72 divisions
Key towns: Dover; Maidstone; Canterbury; Folkestone (not Medway)
Population: 1.59m

Oxfordshire County Council (LD-Green)

No. of councillors: 63 in 61 divisions
Key towns: Oxford; Banbury; Abingdon
Population: 738,000

South West

Cornwall Council (Con)

No. of councillors: 87 in 87 divisions
Key towns: Truro; Cambourne; Falmouth; Penzance
Population: 575,000

Devon County Council (Con)

No. of councillors: 60 in 58 divisions
Key towns: Exeter; Newton Abbot; Barnstaple (not Plymouth)
Population: 826,000

Gloucestershire County Council (Con)

No. of councillors: 53 in 53 divisions
Key towns: Gloucester; Cheltenham; Stroud
Population: 652,000

Wiltshire Council (Con)

No. of councillors: 98 in 98 divisions

Key towns: Trowbridge; Salisbury; Chippenham (not Swindon)

Population: 516,000

West Midlands**Shropshire Council (Con)**

No. of councillors: 74 in 63 wards

Key towns: Shrewsbury (not Telford)

Population: 327,000

Staffordshire County Council (Con)

No. of councillors: 62 in 62 divisions

Key towns: Stafford; Newcastle-under-Lyme; Cannock (not Stoke)

Population: 886,000

Warwickshire County Council (Con)

No. of councillors: 57 in 57 divisions

Key towns: Nuneaton; Rugby; Leamington (not Coventry)

Population: 608,000

Worcestershire County Council (Con)

No. of councillors: 57 in 52 divisions

Key towns: Worcester; Kidderminster; Redditch; Bromsgrove

Population: 609,000

Yorkshire**Mayor of Doncaster (Lab)****Doncaster Borough Council (Lab)**

No. of councillors: 55 in 21 wards

Population: 311,000