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Peterborough City Council was formed as a unitary authority in 1998, having previously been part of [Cambridgeshire County Council](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/) (<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>). As a unitary authority, the council has both the powers of a non-metropolitan county and district council combined.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year estimate for the population of Peterborough was 193,980 in 2015. You can read about the city's 2011 census and view various maps of Peterborough in the [About Peterborough](#) section.

Our values

The council has five core values that guide the way we treat our customers, partners and each other. They include:

- > Expertise - we recognise and value the differences, skills, knowledge and experience of all our colleagues
- > Trust - we are honest and open in all our dealings and deliver on our promises
- > Initiative - we are proactive and use our creativity to identify and resolve problems
- > Customer Focused - we understand and aim to meet our customer's diverse needs, treating them fairly and with respect
- > Work together/One team - we work with colleagues and partners to deliver the best services possible.

You can read more about the council's vision on the [strategic priorities page](#).

Council structure

The council's [constitution](http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=643&Mid=3851&Ver=4&info=1) (<http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=643&Mid=3851&Ver=4&info=1>) sets out how the council works, how decisions are made, and the procedures we follow to make sure our work is efficient and accountable to local people. Some of these procedures are set by law, while others are ones we have chosen to follow.

The council is made up of 60 [councillors](#), one-third of whom are normally elected each year, with no elections in the fourth year. Members are [elected](#) to represent the area they cover and be accountable to people living in their ward.

There are 22 electoral wards, you can find out who represents you and which ward you live in by using the [find my ward](#) search tool.

Council Leader and Cabinet

The council uses a [leader and cabinet model](#) of decision making. The Cabinet is responsible for running council services and ensuring best value is delivered. They are also responsible for implementing policies, delivering services, approving new policies other than major policies, playing a leadership role and generally promoting the economic, environmental and social well-being of the city.

The Mayor

The council elects a [Mayor](#) to serve for a term of one year. The Mayoral year is always busy and the Mayor will attend many functions including formal civic events and the annual meeting of the council. At the beginning of the year [the Mayor will nominate charities](#) which will receive the proceeds from the fundraising

undertaken during the year.

Service areas

There are directors and heads of service for each of the service areas within the council. The structure charts for these areas can be viewed on the [council structure page](#).