



Lichfield City Council

Armorial Bearings

The heraldic shield was in use by the late 17th century. Its heraldic description is 'Or, a cross square pierced ermine, five chevronells, gules' The Supporters on either side are a later addition and a privilege granted by the College of Heralds only to royalty and very ancient families and corporations. On the dexter (right side, looking from behind) is St Chad, one of the patron saints of the Cathedral; on the sinister side is a robed master of St Mary's Guild. The motto "Salve, magna parens", meaning 'Hail, great mother' is Samuel Johnson's greeting to Lichfield in his Dictionary, and is a tribute to Lichfield as both his native city and the mother city of the Kingdom of Mercia.

The first origins of 'local government' in Lichfield date back to 1387 when the Guild of St Mary established its hall on the present site in Bore Street. This was a religious guild but became increasingly involved in the secular government of the City.

In 1553, by Queen Mary's Charter, Lichfield was made a city and county, with its own Sheriff and corporation, and the City remains one of the few towns in England which still appoints this ancient office.

In 1836 a new corporation was established, arising from the Municipal Corporations Act of 1834. The new corporation was the beginning of democratically elected and accountable local government.

In 1974 the old City Council ceased to exist, and was replaced by the new Lichfield District Council, combining the former City Council and the former Lichfield Rural District Council. The city was the only 'unparished' part of the new district, and so "Charter Trustees" were appointed to look after the civic and ceremonial property of the old city, and appoint the offices of Mayor and Sheriff. The Charter Trustees were the fifteen district councillors who were elected from city wards.

In 1980, following a request from the Charter Trustees, a new parish council for the City was established in place of the Charter Trustees. The new council petitioned the Queen to restore its City status, and this was granted by 'letters patent' in November 1980. There are 8 cities in England which have parish status; the others being Chichester, Ely, Hereford, Ripon, Salisbury, Truro, and Wells.

Lichfield District Council

The dignity and privileges of the City of Lichfield are vested in the parish council of the 14 km² Lichfield civil parish. The non-metropolitan district of Lichfield covers nearly 25 times this area and its local authority is Lichfield District Council.

The district was formed on 1 April 1974, under the Local Government Act 1972, by a merger of the existing City of Lichfield with most of the Lichfield Rural District.

Geography

The district includes areas in two parliamentary constituencies: Lichfield and Tamworth.

Settlements within the district

- Alrewas, Armitage
- Blithbury, Burntwood
- Chase Terrace, Chasetown, Chorley, Clifton Campville, Colton, Comberford, Croxall, Curborough
- Drayton Bassett
- Edingale, Elford, Elmhurst
- Farewell, Fazeley, Fisherwick, Fradley
- Gentleshaw
- Hademore, Hammerwich, Hamstall Ridware, Handsacre, Harlaston, Haunton, Hill Ridware, Hilliards Cross, Hints, Hopwas
- Kings Bromley
- Lichfield, Little Aston, Little Hay, Longdon
- Mavesyn Ridware, Mile Oak
- Orgreave
- Pipe Ridware
- Rileyhill
- Shenstone, Stockwell Heath, Stonnall, Streethay, Swinfen
- Thorpe Constantine
- Upper Longdon
- Wall, Weeford, Whittington, Wigginton

Politics

Elections to the district council are held every four years, with all of the 56 seats on the council being elected. The council has been controlled by the Conservative party, except for a period of no overall control between 1973 and 1976, and a period of Labour control between 1995, and 1999. The November 2021 political composition of Lichfield District Council was:

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Independent
34	10	1	1

Since 2011, Lichfield has formed part of the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership along with neighbouring authorities Birmingham, Bromsgrove, Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Redditch, Solihull, Tamworth and Wyre Forest.

Responsibilities

- Sport, leisure and recreation
- Parks
- Arts and tourism (including the Lichfield Garrick Theatre)
- Housing advice
- Housing and council tax benefits
- Local plans

- Planning and building control
- Environmental health
- Waste and recycling collections
- Street cleaning
- Licensing and inspections of food, taxis, etc.
- Off street parking and car parks
- Collection of council tax and business rates
- Community safety and community development

Wards

Lichfield District's 22 wards are:

- Lichfield City
- Boley Park,
- Chadsmead,
- Curborough
- Leomansley,
- St John's,
- Stowe,
- Burntwood
- Boney Hay and Central,
- Chase Terrace,
- Chasetown,
- Highfield
- Summerfield and All Saints
- Outlying villages
- Alrewas and Fradley,
- Armitage with Handsacre,
- Bourne Vale,
- Colton and the Ridwares (including Mavesyn Ridware),
- Fazeley
- Hammerwich with Wall,
- Little Aston, and Stonnall
- Longdon
- Mease Valley
- Shenstone,
- Whittington and Streehay

Demographics

According to mid-2020 estimates, the population of Lichfield district is 105,637, with 53,583 (50.7%) of the population female.

In the 2011 census, 69% of the population reported their religion as Christianity, and 23% reported no religion. 6% did not state a religion, with the remainder reporting other religions. The most common ethnicity was White British, 94.6%, followed by Other White, 1.5%, and Asian/Asian British: Indian, 0.9%.

Places of interest

- Drayton Manor Theme Park
- Lichfield Cathedral
- Bishop's Palace
- A path in Beacon Park
- Minster Pool with Lichfield Cathedral in the background
- Chasewater

History and heritage

- Cathedral - The only medieval cathedral in Europe with three spires. The present building was started in 1195, and completed by the building of the Lady Chapel in the 1330s. It replaced a Norman building begun in 1085 which had replaced one, or possibly two, Saxon buildings from the seventh century.
- Cathedral Close - Surrounding the Cathedral with its many fine buildings is one of the most unspoilt in the country.
- Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum - A museum to Samuel Johnson's life, work and personality.
- Erasmus Darwin House - Home to Erasmus Darwin, the house was restored to create a museum which opened to the public in 1999.
- Lichfield Heritage Centre - in St Mary's Church in the market square, an exhibition of 2,000 years of Lichfield's history.
- Bishop's Palace - Built in 1687, the palace was the residence of the Bishop of Lichfield until 1954, it is now used by the Cathedral School.
- Milley's Hospital - Located on Beacon Street, it dates back to 1504 and was a women's hospital.
- Hospital of St John Baptist without the Barrs - A distinctive Tudor building with a row of eight brick chimneys. This was built outside the city walls (barrs) to provide accommodation for travellers arriving after the city gates were closed. It now provides home for elderly people and has an adjacent Chapel.
- Church of St Chad - A 12th-century church though extensively restored, on its site is a Holy Well by which St Chad is said to have prayed and used the waters healing properties.
- St Michael on Greenhill - Overlooking the city the ancient churchyard is unique as one of the largest in the country at 9 acres (4 ha).
- Christ Church - An outstanding example of Victorian ecclesiastical architecture and a grade II* listed building.
- The Franciscan Friary - The ruins of the former Friary in Lichfield, now classed as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
- Lichfield Clock Tower - A Grade II listed 19th century clock tower, located south of Festival Gardens.
- The remains of a Roman Staging Post and Bath House, in the village of Wall, 1-mile (1.6 km) south of the city.
- Staffordshire Regiment Museum - 2.5 miles (4 km) east of the city in Whittington, the museum covers the regiment's history, activities and members, and include photographs, uniforms, weapons, medals, artifacts, memorabilia and regimental regalia. Outdoors is a replica trench from World War I, and several armoured fighting vehicles.
- The Market Square - In the centre of the city of Lichfield, the square contains two statues, one of Samuel Johnson overlooking the house in which he was born, and one of his great friend and biographer, James Boswell.

Parks

- Beacon Park - An 81-acre (33 ha) public park in the centre of the city, used for many sporting and recreational activities.
- Minster Pool & Stowe Pool - The two lakes occupying 16 acres in the heart of Lichfield, Stowe Pool is designated a SSSI site as it is home to native White-Clawed Crayfish.
- National Memorial Arboretum - 4 miles (6 km) north east of the city in Alrewas, the arboretum is a national site of remembrance and contains many memorials to the armed services.
- Chasewater Country Park - A country park including a 3-square-kilometre reservoir which hosts a variety of activities including water skiing, sailing, angling and bird watching. The Chasewater habitat also supports several rare plant and animal species.
- Chasewater Railway - A 2 mile long, former colliery railway running round the shores of Chasewater.
- Garden of Remembrance - Located next to Lichfield Cathedral and Minster Pool, the garden was opened in 1920 to commemorate soldiers lost in the First World War.
- Gentleshaw Common - A Site of Special Scientific Interest that contains rare species of heathland plants.
- Fradley Junction - A canal junction between Fradley and Alrewas popular with gongoozlers and other visitors. Fradley Pool Nature Reserve is adjacent to the junction.

- Prince's Park - Located in Burntwood, it is featured in the Guinness Book of Records for being the smallest park in the United Kingdom.
- Shopping and retail
- Three Spires Shopping Centre - The principle shopping area in the heart of Lichfield with over 40 top name stores and 750 parking spaces.
- Heart of the Country Shopping Village - Individual shops and distinctive restaurants, a welcome alternative to high street shopping.

Plans have been approved for Friarsgate, a new £100 million shopping and leisure complex opposite Lichfield City Station. The police station, bus station, Ford garage and multi-storey car park will be demolished to make way for new retail space and leisure facilities consisting of a flagship department store, six-screen cinema, hotel, 37 individual shops, 56 apartments and over 700 car parking spaces.

Staffordshire Hoard Discovery

Discovered in a field near the village of Hammerwich, near Lichfield City, in Staffordshire, on 5 July 2009, the Staffordshire Hoard is the largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver metalwork ever found. It consists of nearly 4,000 items that are nearly all martial in character. The artefacts have tentatively been dated to the 7th or 8th centuries, placing the origin of the items in the time of the Kingdom of Mercia.

The hoard was valued at £3.285 million, and was purchased by the Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery where items from the hoard are displayed.