

# The powers of the Scottish and UK Parliaments



## Introduction



The rules for Community Councils say that members of the Scottish and UK Parliaments are non-voting members of Community Councils in the area they represent.

## The Scottish Parliament



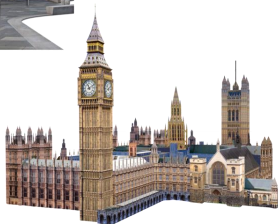
Scotland got its own Parliament after the passing of the [Scotland Act 1998](#) law.

The Scottish Parliament got devolved powers on 1 July 1999.

## Devolved and reserved powers



Devolved powers can be used to make decisions in things the Scottish Parliament has powers in, like education and health.



Reserved powers can be used by the UK Parliament in Westminster to make decisions.



The law decides which powers are devolved and which are reserved.



The Scotland Act 2016 gave some new powers to the Scottish Parliament including:

- **income tax** – the money people pay on what they earn – it is used to pay for public services like schools and hospitals
- control over some benefits
- the ability to make some new benefits

## Scottish Parliament – devolved powers



The Scottish Parliament makes laws about devolved matters in Scotland.

All matters that are not reserved are devolved.

Devolved matters over which the Scottish Parliament has legislative power include:



- health, education and training
- local government, social work and housing
- economic development and transport
- law and home affairs
- environment, sport and the arts



The Scottish Parliament can debate things that people in Scotland are worried about, whether they are devolved or reserved areas.

## The UK Parliament and reserved powers



In Scotland, the UK Parliament has authority over these areas:

- the **constitution** – the rules and laws that say
- defence and national security
- economy
- trade and industry
- transport safety and rules
- most benefits
- TV and radio broadcasting
- foreign affairs
- immigration and nationality
- energy policy

