

Regulatory Services and Environmental Health Apprenticeship Roles and Career Pathways

This short guide has been developed by the Local Government Association in association with Spark & Associates, using the knowledge and experiences of Local Authorities (LAs) across England. It aims to help councils and their staff understand the career opportunities available through apprenticeships.

Building a Career in Regulatory Services and Environmental Health Supported by Apprenticeships

What this Career Pathway Guide Shows

This pathway shows how careers in Regulatory Services and Environmental Health within a council can be developed through apprenticeships, from entry-level support roles through to professional, specialist and leadership positions.

This guide provides a broad Regulatory Services and Environmental Health career pathway, illustrating how careers can develop across environmental health, food safety, environmental protection, housing, licensing, trading standards, public protection and related specialist functions that help create safe, healthy and sustainable places.

Regulatory Services and Environmental Health teams play a vital role in protecting communities, supporting local businesses.

Apprenticeships provide structured routes to build skills and support recognised professional careers such as Environmental Health and develop specialist knowledge across a range of regulatory and public protection functions.

Why this matters (for councils and learners)

Councils continue to face recruitment and retention challenges across many regulatory and environmental health functions. Apprenticeships provide a practical way to attract new talent, develop existing staff and support long-term workforce and succession planning, including "grow your own" approaches to specialist and hard-to-recruit roles.

Clear and well-communicated progression routes:

- support recruitment and retention
- create opportunities for career development and progression
- help build sustainable in-house specialist capability.

How to use this Guide

This guide outlines typical entry points, progression routes and relevant apprenticeships across Regulatory Services and Environmental Health. Entry routes may include A Levels, T Levels, foundation apprenticeships, higher education, career change or internal progression from business support, operational or related technical roles.

Development pathways are not always linear. Individuals may:

- move into specialist areas such as environmental health, food safety, environmental protection, housing, licensing or public protection
- progress into professional qualification or leadership routes
- take sideways steps to build broader technical or specialist experience.

Job titles and roles may vary between councils, so apprenticeship suitability should be reviewed against role requirements and prior experience. Training providers and employers can support this through initial assessment and guidance.

Details of apprenticeship standards and career progression routes can be found on the [Skills England website](#), including their [Occupational Maps](#).

Understanding progression

The pathway diagram on page 4 illustrates how careers can develop across Regulatory Services and Environmental Health roles, from entry-level to senior and specialist positions. It highlights:

- typical entry routes into regulatory and environmental health careers
- progression between levels and professional pathways
- relevant apprenticeships that support technical, specialist and professional development.

Progression may involve changes in role, responsibilities or specialist area as skills develop.

Typical Career Progression Routes – Environmental Health and Public Protection

This table shows typical job roles by level within Environmental Health and Public Protection services in a council, alongside examples of relevant apprenticeships. It provides an overview of how individuals can enter these careers, develop specialist technical and professional skills, and progress into senior specialist or leadership roles.

Guide to typical progression in Environmental Health and Public Protection careers linked to apprenticeship / qualification levels:

- **Entry (L2–3):** Build technical, inspection, regulatory and public protection skills.
- **L4:** Develop specialist expertise in environmental health, food safety, environmental protection, housing or related public protection functions.
- **L5–6:** Progress into professional, specialist, management or technical leadership roles.
- **L7:** Progress into senior professional, strategic or leadership roles (subject to policy / funding availability).

Career Stage	Typical Roles+	Example Relevant Apprenticeships
Entry and Early Careers (Level 2/3)	Environmental Health Assistant / Environmental Protection Assistant Technical Support Officer Housing Support Officer / Housing Assistant Animal Welfare Assistant / Public Protection Support Officer Business Support Officer / Customer Contact Officer	Business Administrator (L2/ L3) Customer Service Practitioner / Specialist (L2 / L3) Public Service Operational Delivery Officer (L3) Housing and Property Management Assistant (L2)
Technical and Developing Roles (Level 3/4)	Environmental Health Technical Officer/ Food Safety Officer Environmental Protection Officer / Environmental Officer Housing Officer / Private Sector Housing Officer Animal Welfare Officer Health and Safety Officer Public Protection Officer	Regulatory Compliance Officer (L4) Housing and Property Management (L3) Senior Housing and Property Management (L4)
Professional and Specialist Roles (Level 5/6)	Environmental Health Officer Senior Environmental Health Officer / Principal Environmental Health Officer Environmental Officer / Environmental Services Manager Environmental Protection Specialist Senior Housing Officer Public Protection Team Leader	Environmental Health Officer (L6) Environmental Practitioner (L6) Project Manager (L6) Public Health Practitioner (L6)
Strategic and Leadership Roles (Level 6/7)	Head of Environmental Health Head of Public Protection Head of Regulatory Services Strategic Housing Leadership roles	Senior Leader (L7)* / other specialist or leadership development (subject to availability)

Typical Career Progression Routes – Regulatory, Licensing and Enforcement Services

This table shows typical job roles by level within Regulatory, Licensing and Enforcement services in a council, alongside examples of relevant apprenticeships. It provides an overview of how individuals can enter these careers, develop specialist regulatory and enforcement knowledge and skills, and progress into senior specialist or leadership roles.

Guide to typical progression in Regulatory, Licensing and Enforcement careers linked to apprenticeship / qualification levels:

- **Entry (L2–3):** Build core regulatory, business support, customer service and enforcement skills.
- **L4:** Develop specialist expertise in licensing, compliance, investigations, enforcement or community safety functions.
- **L5–6:** Progress into professional, specialist, management or technical leadership roles.
- **L7:** Progress into senior professional, strategic or leadership roles (subject to policy / funding availability).

Career Stage	Typical Roles+	Example Relevant Apprenticeships
Entry and Early Careers (Level 2/3)	Licensing Assistant / Regulatory Support Officer Community Safety Support Officer / Enforcement Support Officer Business Support Officer / Customer Contact Officer	Business Administrator (L2/ L3) Customer Service Practitioner / Specialist (L2 / L3) Public Service Operational Delivery Officer (L3)
Technical and Developing Roles (Level 3/4)	Licensing Officer Regulatory Compliance Officer Community Safety Officer / Enforcement Officer Planning Enforcement Officer Public Sector Compliance Investigator and Officer	Regulatory Compliance Officer (L4) Associate Project Manager (L4)
Professional and Specialist Roles (Level 5/6)	Trading Standards Officer / Trading Standards Professional Senior Licensing Officer Senior Enforcement Officer Regulatory Manager Principal Community Safety Officer / Public Protection Manager	Trading Standards Professional (I6) Project Manager (L6)
Strategic and Leadership Roles (Level 6/7)	Head of Licensing Head of Community Safety Head of Regulatory Services Strategic Regulatory Leadership roles	Senior Leader (L7)*Leadership development / specialist progression (subject to availability)

Regulatory Services and Environmental Health Pathway

Pre-Entry, e.g.:

- ✓ A Levels
- ✓ T-Levels (e.g. Science, Health, Legal Services, Management and Administration)
- ✓ Other relevant academic / career entry routes

The dotted lines indicate examples of where a sideways move from a generic role to a specialist / technical role at the same or even lower level could be a valid entry point depending on an individual's experience and aspirations.

Housing and Property Management (L2) and (L3)

Business Administration (L2) and (L3)

Customer Service (L2) and (L3)

Public Service Operational Delivery Officer (L3)

Senior Housing and Property Management (L4)

Regulatory Compliance Officer (L4)

Associate Project Manager (L4)

Improvement Technician (L3)

Trading Standards Professional (L6)

Environmental Health Practitioner (L6)

Environmental Practitioner (L6)

Improvement Specialist (L5)

Project Manager (L6)

Public Health Practitioner (L6)

Senior Leader (L7)*

Opportunities Across Departments

Regulatory and Environmental Health functions may sit within dedicated departments or across a range of council services, including Environmental Health, Public Protection, Housing, Licensing, Planning, Community Safety, Public Health and other regulatory functions. This creates opportunities for cross-department career progression and collaborative apprenticeship delivery, helping councils build larger apprenticeship cohorts whilst developing specialist expertise and supporting long-term workforce planning.

*Apprenticeship availability is subject to policy changes. Funding for Level 7 apprenticeships is subject to current government policy and eligibility criteria. Also check **Skills England's Revisions Status Report** for apprenticeships undergoing revision, showing the review stage and reason for review

Information correct as at June 2026