

The Powers and Functions of Local Authorities

Irish local government operates through a network of local authorities - City Councils and County Councils. There are 31 local government areas, in Ireland, each has a local authority. Councillors represent the views of their community in local authorities, and they identify local problems. Local authorities work to deliver policies and are responsible for providing a broad range of services in your area.

1. Housing and Building:

- Management and provision of local authority housing
- Assistance to persons housing themselves or improving their houses
- Traveller accommodation
- Enforcement of certain housing standards and controls etc.

2. Road Transport/Safety

- Roads, footpaths and bridges upkeep and improvement (excl. motorways)
- Public lighting
- Traffic Management facilities
- Safety and information
- Collection of Motor Tax

3. Development Incentives and Controls

- Physical Planning Policy
- Control of new developments and buildings
- Promotion of industrial and other developments etc.

4. Environmental Protection (rivers, lakes, air, noise)

- Waste collection and disposal
- Fire protection
- Pollution control and animal control
- Drainage
- Safety of structure and spaces
- Beach Guards

5. Recreation and Amenities (community, arts, culture, sports, leisure activities etc.)

- Libraries
- Parks and open spaces
- Swimming pools
- Recreation centres
- Monuments
- Conservation and improvement of all the above

6. Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare

- Local committees for agriculture, education, health, tourism, fisheries and harbour authorities
- Develop advice and offer recommendations to elected councillors and council officials

7. Miscellaneous

- Financial Management
- Rates charge collection
- Elections
- Markets, fairs and abattoirs
- Licensing of draws etc.
- Burial Grounds
- Public Toilets
- Local Enterprise Support