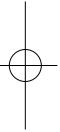
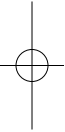
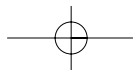


# **Local Government and the Elected Member**



**AN ROINN COMHSHAOL, OIÐHREACHTA AGLUS RIALTAIS AITIUÍL**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE  
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**



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# Local Government and the Elected Member





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## Foreword



This booklet has been supplied to all local authorities for distribution to incoming councillors following the local elections this month. It provides an outline of the local government system and the role and powers vested in the elected members. At a time of change it is my hope that it will help councillors to carry out their role as the formulators of local authority policy, in working with the executive for the common good and to maintain an overview and give general direction to local authority affairs. This is a demanding remit. As with other public agencies, the public quite rightly expect local authorities – the public representatives whom they elect and the officials alike – to operate at all times in a professional manner and to very high standards. Local government has served the community well over the years and I have no doubt it will continue to meet the demanding challenges that lie ahead. To this end, I wish each councillor every success during their coming term of office.

Martin Cullen T.D.

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

June 2004



## Réamhrá



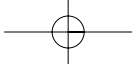
Tá an leabhrán seo á chur ar fáil do gach údarás áitiúil le dáileadh ar chomhairleoirí nua i ndiaidh na dtoghchán áitiúil an mhí seo. Tugann sé léargas ar an gcóras rialtais áitiúil agus ar an ról agus ar na cumhachtaí atá dílsithe do na baili tofa. Sa tráth athraitheach seo, tá súil agam go gcabhróidh sé le comhairleoirí agus iad ag cruthú polasaí dá n-údarás áitiúil, agus ag obair leis an lucht feidhmiúcháin ar mhaithe leis an leas coiteann agus ag coinneáil súil leathan agus treoir ghinearálta ar chúrsaí údarais áitiúil. Is sainchúram dúshlánach é seo, agus faoi mar atá i gcás áisíneachtaí poiblí eile, bíonn an pobal ag súil, agus an ceart acu, go bhfeidhmeoidh na húdarais áitiúla – idir ionadaithe tofa agus oifigigh araon – i gcónaí ar bhonn gairmiúil agus de réir na gcaighdeán is airde.

Tá seirbhís an-mhaith tugtha ag an rialtas áitiúil don pobal thar na blianta agus níl aon amhras orm ach go leanfaidh sé leis ag riar ar na riachtanais dhúshlánacha a bheidh roimhe sna blianta amach anseo. Dá bhrí sin, is mian liom gach rath a ghuí ar na comhairleoirí go léir i rith a dtéarma nua in oifig.

Máirtín Ó Cuillinn T.D.

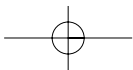
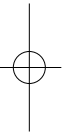
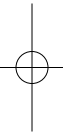
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Meitheamh 2004



*Local Government and the Elected Member*

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## Introduction

A booklet summarising the powers vested in the elected members of local authorities was first published by the then Department of Local Government in October 1955. This sixth edition of the booklet has been greatly expanded. It includes an overview of the local government system and sets out the role and powers of the elected council along with information on meetings, conduct of business, ethics and other matters of practical relevance to members. It takes account of developments, including new legislation, in the period of over a decade since the booklet was last revised and is based on the law applying as of early 2004.

It must be borne in mind however that a guide such as this does not present a complete statement of the law nor is it intended to. Likewise, it is not an authoritative or legal interpretation which ultimately in case of dispute may fall to the courts. Rather the aim is to provide a general overview and it is hoped that members of local authorities, particularly new members, will find the updated guide to be both informative and useful.

The Department wishes to acknowledge the input and assistance of the Institute of Public Administration in the preparation and publication of this booklet.

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government  
June, 2004

# Local Authority Areas

Northern Ireland  
District Council Boundary

- A Carrickfergus
- B Newtownabbey
- C Belfast
- D Castlereagh
- E North Down
- F Ards

- 1 Fingal
- 2 South Dublin
- 3 Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown

County Boundary ———

City Councils ■

Borough Councils ●

Town Councils ●

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