

Article 4 - The Council

4.1 Ards and North Down Borough Council has developed the following plans and strategies: (this list is not exhaustive and other information may be added)

- (i) Those required by Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Executive Arrangements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014;
 - Community Plan
 - Performance Improvement Plan
 - Local Development Plan

- (ii) Those other plans and strategies prescribed in legislation to be adopted by the Council;
 - Equality Scheme
 - Good Relations Strategy
 - Disability Action Plan
 - Scheme of Delegation
 - Standing Orders
 - Positions of Responsibility
 - Health and Safety Statement
 - Data Protection Policy
 - Freedom of Information /EIR Procedures
 - Publication Scheme
 - Financial Plan and Rates Strategy
 - Emergency Plan
 - Capital Project Plan
 - Food Service Delivery Plan

- (iii) Other plans and strategies, which the Council may decide, should be adopted by the Council as a matter of local choice.
 - Corporate Plan
 - Service / Business Plans
 - Communications strategy
 - Training Plan
 - Leisure Provision Strategy
 - Economic Development Plan Regeneration Strategy and Tourism and Development Plan

Budget

The budget includes the allocation of financial resources to different services and projects, proposed contingency funds, the council rate base, setting the district rate. It also includes decisions relating to the control of the Council's borrowing requirement, the control of its capital expenditure and the setting of virement limits.

Article 4 - The Council

4.2 Functions of the Council

The roles and functions, of the Council include:

- the direct provision of a number of services and facilities,
- the promotion of the arts, tourism, community and economic development,
- the regulation and licensing of certain activities relating to environmental health, consumer protection and public safety,
- a representative role on a number of bodies and boards,
- a consultative role in relation to functions conducted by other Government bodies and agencies on issues such as regional planning, water, roads and housing.
- an advocacy role for the people of the District

In the performance of the above roles the Council carries out functions in the following areas: (This is not an exhaustive list)

- the provision and maintenance of facilities for recreational, social and cultural activities including leisure centres, community centres, parks, open spaces, sports and playgrounds and places of entertainment
- street cleansing
- waste collection and disposal
- the provision of burial grounds
- the provision of grant aid to support the Arts, community development, good relations and the promotion of tourism and economic development
- the administration and regulation of certain matters relating to the environment, public health and public safety including building control, food safety, statutory nuisance, dangerous buildings, air pollution, noise pollution, dog control, consumer protection and health and safety
- the licensing and regulation of street trading, places of entertainment, amusement centres, sex establishments, society lotteries, cinemas and petroleum stations
- the making of bye-laws and regulation of same
- A wide range of powers and duties placed on the Council by statute.

Powers agreed by the Executive that will transfer to Ards and North Down Borough Council on 1st April 2015 include:

Planning

- Local development plan functions
- Development control and enforcement

Roads

- Off street parking (except Park and Ride)

Article 4 - The Council

Urban regeneration and community development

- Functions associated with physical development (e.g. environmental improvement schemes)
- Area based regeneration (such as neighbourhood renewal)
- Some community development programmes for the voluntary and community sectors

Housing

- Registration of houses in multiple occupation
- Housing unfitness responsibilities, including repair and demolition notices

Local Economic Development (transfer from Invest NI)

- Start a Business Programme and Enterprise Shows
- Youth Entrepreneurship (such as Prince's Trust and Shell Livewire)
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Investing for Women
- Neighbourhood Renewal funding relating to enterprises initiatives

Local Tourism

- Small scale tourism accommodation development
- Providing business support including business start up advice along with training and delivery of customer care schemes
- Providing advice to developers on tourism policies and related issues

As well as:

- Some elements of the delivery of the EU Rural Development Programme
- Authority to Spot List to enable Councils to add a building to the statutory list on a temporary basis, subject to ratification by the DOE
- Authority to draw up local lists of buildings that are of architectural and/or historic interest
- Local sports to give greater involvement of local government in local sports decisions
- Donaghadee harbour
- Community planning
- General power of competence

To enable the Council to provide the above services and perform its other functions, the Council must levy an annual rate and has the power to:-

- acquire and dispose of land;
- borrow money;
- employ staff;
- procure goods and services.

Article 4 - The Council

4.3 Council meetings

There are three types of Council meeting:

- (a) the annual meeting;
- (b) ordinary meetings; and
- (c) extraordinary meetings.

These will be conducted in accordance with the Council Standing Orders in Part 3 of this constitution.

4.4 Responsibility for functions

Part 2 of this constitution setting out the responsibilities for the Council's functions.