



# Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972

## CHAPTER 9

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1972

#### PART I

##### DISTRICTS AND COUNCILS

- 1 District councils.
- 2 Boroughs.

#### PART II

##### MEMBERS, MEETINGS AND PROCEDURE

##### COUNCILLORS

- 3 Qualifications.
- 4 Disqualifications.
- 5 Disqualifications to become inapplicable in certain cases.
- 6 Penalties for acting while disqualified.
- 7 Declaration on acceptance of office.
- 7A Northern Ireland code of local government conduct.
- 8 Resignation.
- 9 Vacation of office on account of non-attendance.
- 10 Declaration of vacancy in office in certain cases.

**Changes to legislation:** Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

---

## CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

- 11 Chairman.
- 12 Payment of allowance to chairman.
- 12A Election of chairman.
- 13 Vice-chairman.
- 14 Declaration of acceptance of office.
- 15 Resignation.
- 16 Vacation of office on account of absence from district.
- 17 Casual vacancy in office of chairman.

## COMMITTEES

- 18 Power to appoint committees and sub-committees.
- 19 Joint committees.
- 19A Voting rights of members of committees, sub-committees and joint committees.
- 20 Expenses of joint committees.
- 21 Disqualification for membership of committees.

## PROCEDURE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

- 22 Meetings and proceedings.

## ADMISSION TO MEETINGS

- 23 Admission of public to meetings.
- 24 Information to be given as to meetings.
- 25 Facilities for newspaper representatives.
- 26 Certain publications to be privileged.
- 27 Savings.

## PECUNIARY INTERESTS

- 28 Disclosure of councillors' pecuniary interests and disability from voting on account thereof.
- 29 Restrictions on application of section 28.
- 30 Relatives of councillors.
- 31 Recovery of wrongful gains and remedies against councillor guilty of reprehensible conduct.
- 32 Ancillary powers of the High Court in exercising jurisdiction under section 31.
- 33 Time limit for proceedings under sections 28, 30 and 31.

**Changes to legislation:** Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

---

## GENERAL PROVISIONS AS TO COUNCILLORS, CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES, ETC.

- 34 Re-election.
- 35 Validity of acts done by unqualified person.
- 36 Payments to councillors.
- 37 Expenses of official and courtesy visits, etc.
- 38 Expenses incurred in attending conferences and meetings.
- 39 Insurance against accidents to councillors.

## PART III

### OFFICERS

- 40 The Staff Commission.
- 41 Appointment and qualification of officers.
- [41A Appointment of Officers by the Executive.
- 41B Loans to officers for purchase of motor cars or motor cycles.
- 42 Councillors not to be appointed officers.  
S.43 rep. by 1973 NI 10
- 44 Retirement of officers.
- 45 Insurance against default of officers.
- 46 Duty of officers to disclose pecuniary interest.
- 47 Prohibition of acceptance of unauthorised fee or reward.
- 47A Delegation of functions to officers.
- 48 Protection for officer acting in execution of duty.
- 49 Officers of joint committee.

## PART IV

### ALTERATIONS OF DISTRICTS

- 50 Local government boundaries
- 51 Change of name of district.
- 52 Supplemental provisions as to alterations of boundaries or names.

## PART V

### FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

#### ANNUAL BUDGET AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 53 Annual budget.
- 54 Arrangements for handling receipts and payments.

#### FUNDS

- 55 The district fund.
- 56 Power to establish capital fund and renewal and repairs fund.
- 57 Capital fund.
- 58 Renewal and repairs fund.
- 59 Proceeds of sale of capital assets.
- 60 Limitation on application of funds.

**Changes to legislation:** Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

---

## BORROWING

- 61 Purposes for which money may be borrowed.
- 62 Modes of borrowing.
- 63 Security for borrowing.
- 64 Priority of securities.
- 65 Repayment of money borrowed.
- 66 Power to suspend annual provision for repayment of, and to borrow for payment of interest on, certain borrowed money.
- 67 Application of unexpended portion of borrowed money.
- 68 Power to re-borrow.
- 69 Lenders relieved from certain inquiries.
- 70 Securities regulations.
- 71 Appointment of receiver.
- 72 Consolidated loans fund.
- 73 Use of money forming part of capital fund or renewal and repairs fund.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITORS

- 74 Local government auditors.
- 75 Audit Fees

## AUDIT

- 76 Audit of accounts of councils.
- 77 Duties of officers as to audit.
- 77A Confidentiality of officers' records.
- 78 Production of, and declaration as to, documents.
- 79 Right to objection.
- 80 Auditor's report.

## SURCHARGE, ETC.

- 81 Declaration that item of account is unlawful.
- 82 Recovery of amount not accounted for, etc.
- 82A Power of auditor to issue prohibition order.
- 82B Effect of and appeals against prohibition orders.
- 82C Supplementary provisions as to prohibition orders.
- 82D Power of auditor to apply for judicial review.

## FUNCTIONS OF MINISTRY AS TO ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

- 87 Regulations as to accounts and audit.
- 88 Extraordinary audits and inspections.
- S.89 rep. by 1992 NI 6

## STUDIES FOR IMPROVING ECONOMY, ETC. OF SERVICES

- 89A Studies for improving economy, etc. of services.

### PART VI

#### BYE-LAWS

- 90 Bye-laws.  
91 Procedure, etc., for making bye-laws.  
92 Penalties for contravention of bye-laws.  
93 Enforcement of bye-laws.  
94 Evidence of bye-laws.

### PART VII

#### MISCELLANEOUS FUNCTIONS

##### LAND

- 95 Provisions of offices, halls, etc.  
96 Acquisition, etc., of land.  
97 Acquisition of land otherwise than by agreement.  
98 Power to enter on land.

##### CONTRACTS

- 99 Contracts of councils.  
100 Sealing of contracts

##### LOCAL AND PERSONAL BILLS

- 101 Power to promote or oppose local or personal Bills.  
102 Sanction of council to promotion of, or opposition to, Bills.  
103 Taxation of costs.

#### CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER COUNCILS, PUBLIC BODIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

- 104 Agency arrangements  
105 Arrangements for the supply of goods and services or interchange of staff.  
106 Contribution to other councils, etc.

#### CO-OPERATION WITH VOLUNTARY BODIES, ETC.

- 107 Contributions for development of trade, tourism and cultural activities.  
108 Contributions to other voluntary bodies.

**Changes to legislation:** Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

---

#### ADVICE AND INFORMATION

- 109 Instruction, lectures, etc., on questions relating to the functions of councils.
- 110 Information centres.

#### OTHER MISCELLANEOUS FUNCTIONS

- 111 Subscriptions.
- 112 Insurance.
- 113 Exercise of certain functions outside district.
- 113A Power to provide advice and assistance.
- 114 Acceptance of gifts.
- 115 Expenditure for special purposes.

#### PUBLICITY

- 115A Publicity Prohibition of political publicity.
- 115B Codes of recommended practice as regards publicity.
- 115C Separate account of expenditure on publicity.
- 115D Sections 115A to 115C: supplementary provisions.

### PART VIII

#### LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

##### LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

- 116 Power to prosecute or defend.
- 117 Appearance in legal proceedings.
- 118 Name of council need not be proved.
- 119 Evidence of resolutions, etc.

##### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

- 120 The seal.
- 121 Inspection of documents.
- 122 Public notices.
- 123 Penalty for destroying notices.
- 124 Authentication of documents.
- 125 Custody of records.
- 126 Compensation for damage by council.

##### SUPERVISION OF COUNCILS

- 127 Information, reports and returns.
- 128 Inquiries and investigations.
- 129 Default of council.

**Changes to legislation:** Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

---

## JURISDICTION OF HIGH COURT

- 130 Exercise of jurisdiction of High Court.

### PART IX

#### ABOLITION OF EXISTING LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

- 131 Abolition of existing local government areas and dissolution of existing local authorities, with certain exceptions.  
 132 Charters  
 133 Transfer of functions.  
 134 Supplementary and transitional provisions.  
 135 Transfer of officers  
 136 Superannuation officers.  
 137 Compensation of officers  
     S.138 rep. by 1985 NI 15  
     S.139 rep. by SLR 1980  
 140 Bye-laws, etc.  
     S.141 rep. by 1985 NI 15

### PART X

#### GENERAL

- 142 Application of Act to joint committees.  
 143 Orders and regulations.  
     S.144 rep. by SLR 1980  
 145 Payments due by councils to government departments, etc.  
 146 Interpretation: pecuniary interests.  
 147 Interpretation: “provide” and “maintain”.  
 148 General interpretation.  
 149 Amendments, repeals and savings.  
 150 Short title and commencement.

---

## SCHEDULES

### SCHEDULE 1 — DECLARATIONS ON ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

#### PART I — DECLARATION OF COUNCILLOR

### SCHEDULE 2 — MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

#### — HOLDING OF MEETINGS (1) . . . . .

## HOLDING OF MEETINGS

- 1 . . . . .

**Changes to legislation:** Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

---

## CONVENING MEETINGS

2 .....

## CHAIRMAN OF MEETING

3 .....

## QUORUM

4 .....

## NAMES OF COUNCILLORS PRESENT TO BE RECORDED

5 .....

## PERSON AUTHORISED BY MINISTRY MAY ATTEND MEETINGS

6 .....

## DECISION ON QUESTIONS

7 .....

## MODE OF VOTING

8 .....

## MINUTES

9 .....

## STANDING ORDERS

10 .....

## VACANCIES, ETC., NOT TO INVALIDATE PROCEEDINGS

11 .....



**Changes to legislation:** Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

---

## PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

12 .....

### SCHEDULE 3 — THE STAFF COMMISSION

— MEMBERS (1) SECTION 18(2) OF THE INTERPRETATION ACT  
(NORTHERN IRELAND) 1954 (EXCEPT, IN RELATION TO...

#### MEMBERS

- 1 Section 18(2) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (except, in relation to members other...

#### ALLOWANCES

- 2 The Staff Commission may pay— (a) to its chairman such remuneration; and (b) to its...
- 2A The Staff Commission may make payments to its members for, or in relation to anything...

#### EXPENSES

- 3 Before the commencement of each financial year the Staff Commission shall prepare an estimate of...
- 4 In preparing the estimate mentioned in paragraph 3, the Staff Commission shall take into account...
- 5 The Staff Commission shall, with the approval of the Ministry, apportion the amount estimated in...
- 6 Any question arising in connection with an apportionment under paragraph 5 shall be referred to...
- 7 The amount apportioned under paragraph 5 as arising from matters directly concerning councils shall be...
- 7A The amount apportioned under paragraph 5 as arising from matters directly concerning the Executive shall...
- 8 Any sum which is payable by a council [ or, as the case may be,...
- 9 The amount apportioned under paragraph 5 as other expenditure shall be defrayed as expenses of...

#### BORROWING

- 10 The Staff Commission may borrow, by way of temporary loan or overdraft from a bank...

#### ACCOUNTS, ETC., AND AUDIT

- 11 The Staff Commission shall keep such accounts and records as the Ministry directs.

**Changes to legislation:** Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

---

- 12 The accounts of the Staff Commission shall be audited annually by the local government auditor,...

#### INFORMATION, REPORTS AND RETURNS

- 13 The Staff Commission shall— (a) make such reports and returns, and (b) give such information...

### SCHEDULE 4 — LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES COMMISSIONER PART I — APPOINTMENT, ETC.

#### *Interpretation*

- 1 In this Schedule “ a Commissioner ” means a Local Government Boundaries Commissioner.

#### *Appointment*

- 2 (1) Section 18(2) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 applies to the appointment of...

#### *Assistant Commissioners and assessors*

- 3 (1) The Department may, at the request of a Commissioner, appoint one or more Assistant...

#### *Officers*

- 4 The Department shall appoint— (a) a secretary; and (b) such other officers to assist a...

#### *Remuneration and expenses*

- 5 The remuneration and expenses of a Commissioner, any Assistant Commissioners and the secretary and any...

### PART II — PROCEDURE

#### *Procedure for Commissioner appointed under section 50(1)(a)*

- 6 (1) This paragraph applies where a Commissioner is appointed under section 50(1)(a). (2) As soon...

#### *Procedure for Commissioner appointed under section 50(1)(b)*

- 7 (1) This paragraph applies where a Commissioner is appointed under section 50(1)(b). (2) As soon...

8 (1) This paragraph applies where a Commissioner is appointed under  
section 50(4). (2) As soon...

9 In relation to a notice published by a Commissioner under paragraph  
6(7), 7(3) or (8)...

10 A Commissioner may direct any hearing under this Schedule to be held  
before an Assistant...

11 A Commissioner may, if he thinks fit, submit interim reports to the  
Department before making...

12 Subject to paragraphs 7 to 11, a Commissioner may regulate his own  
procedure.

13 Every document purporting to be an instrument made or issued by a  
Commissioner and to...

14 Regard shall be had to the desirability of determining district and ward  
boundaries which are...

15 A townland shall not, except where in the opinion of the Commissioner  
it is unavoidable,...

16 As far as practicable— (a) a district shall not be wholly or substantially  
severed by...

17 In determining the number and boundaries of wards within a district  
regard shall be had...

18 (1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) and (3)— (a) in the district of Belfast  
the number...

19 (1) Within any one district there shall, as far as is reasonably practicable  
having regard...

[illegible]

**Changes to legislation:** Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

---

This div-1 has a number but no title; creating a P1 group with an empty Title

SCHEDULE 6 — ACQUISITION OF LAND BY VESTING ORDER  
— PRELIMINARY PROCEDURE (1) A COUNCIL WHICH PROPOSES TO  
ACQUIRE LAND OTHERWISE THAN BY AGREEMENT MAY...

PRELIMINARY PROCEDURE

- 1 A council which proposes to acquire land otherwise than by agreement may submit to the...
- 2 Notice of the application, in such form and manner as the Ministry directs,— (a) shall...

MAKING OF VESTING ORDER

- 3 (1) After the expiration of one month from the date of the last publication of...
- 4 A vesting order shall contain such provisions as the Ministry thinks necessary or expedient for...

VALIDITY AND OPERATION OF VESTING ORDERS

- 5 (1) The following provisions of this paragraph shall have effect with respect to the validity...
- 6 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), a vesting order shall operate, without further assurance, to vest...
- 7 A vesting order, or the title created by such an order (if it relates to...
- 8 Where a vesting order relates to any land forming part of a holding which is...
- 9 On and after the date of vesting the council or any person authorised by the...
- 10 (1) Section 92 of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 shall not have effect in...

REFERENCE OF DISPUTED CASES TO THE LANDS TRIBUNAL

- 11 (1) As soon as a vesting order has become operative, any question of disputed compensation...
- 12 (1) When any question of disputed compensation arises, the council shall as soon as practicable...

SPECIAL POWERS OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL

- 13 (1) The Lands Tribunal shall have the same power of apportioning any rent-service, rent-charge, chief...

**Changes to legislation:** Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

---

#### SATISFACTION OF CLAIMS

- 14 (1) The council, on paying to any person any compensation (whether the amount has been...
- 15 (1) Where the compensation payable (whether the amount thereof has been settled by agreement or...
- 16 Any person claiming to be entitled to any money paid to another person pursuant to...
- 17 (1) Where the amount of compensation has been determined but for some reason it is...
- 18 (1) The council shall pay interest upon the compensation money from the date of the...

#### PAYMENT OF MINISTRY'S COSTS BY COUNCIL

- 19 (1) All costs incurred by the Ministry in carrying the provisions of this Schedule into...

#### INTERPRETATION

- 20 (1) For the purposes of this Schedule the interest of a grantee under a fee...

#### SCHEDULE 7 — PROVISIONS APPLIED TO JOINT COMMITTEES

— Schedule 8 —Amendments

— Schedule 9—Repeals

**Changes to legislation:**

Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. View outstanding changes

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- s. 1(1) words substituted by [S.I. 2006/1253 \(N.I.\) art. 5\(1\)](#)
- s. 3(1) words substituted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 8\(a\)](#)
- s. 3(2) words inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 8\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 3(2) words omitted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 8\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 9(4) words inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 10 para. 3\(2\)](#)
- s. 47A excluded by [2011 c. 25 \(N.I.\) s. 79\(4\)](#) (Effect not applied – reference to s. 47A in the affecting provision s. 79(4) was substituted (2.6.2014) by 2014 c. 8 (NI), prior to the affecting provision coming into operation.)
- s. 143 words substituted by [2014 c. 8 \(N.I.\) Sch. 9 para. 3](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 4(1)(ea) inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 5 para. 3](#)
- s. 10(1) s. 10 renumbered as s. 10(1) by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 10 para. 3\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 10(1)(a) words inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 10 para. 3\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 10(2) inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 10 para. 3\(3\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 1 repealed by [2010 c. 23 Sch. 2](#) (Amendment could not be applied - affected provision (Sch. 8) not available on legislation.gov.uk)
- Sch. 8 para. 3 repealed by [2010 c. 23 Sch. 2](#) (Amendment could not be applied - affected provision (Sch. 8) not available on legislation.gov.uk)