

Local authority legal powers and duties

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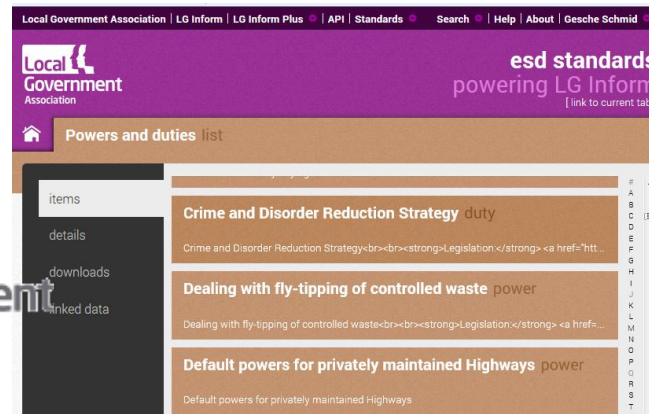
The Local Government Association publishes information on legal powers and duties of all local councils in one single database.

Situation

- Councils in England and Wales deliver a large number and wide range of services. Some services are prescribed in detail by law. Some laws describe a broad duty upon councils. Legal powers give councils discretion to deliver other services if they choose.
- With severe budget cuts and the demands of aging populations, councils need to review how they deliver services whilst continuing to stay within the law. They also need to ensure records are retained for scrutiny and to meet data protection rules.
- **Developed by:** Local Government Association
- **Organisation type:** Not for profit
- **Contact:** support@esd.org.uk



UK



Public sector

Challenge/Opportunity

- The challenge was to join together open data on the services councils deliver with UK legislation to express council powers and duties to deliver services and keep records in a definitive database. The data can provide interactive guidance and generate documents for council executives.

Approach/Solution/Business model

- Kent County Council legal / risk officers and the esd-toolkit data team assessed and recorded legislation for each council service. Funding came from the Local Government Association and the BIS Breakthrough Fund. Subscriptions to the esd-toolkit programme cover ongoing maintenance.
- **Type:** Web application

Open data used

- Data published under the open government licence at standards.esd.org.uk joins up the Local Government Services List with government legislation data.

Benefits

- Council service managers can re-design services in innovative ways whilst remaining legally compliant. Information managers can auto-generate records retention and destruction rules for their review before making official for public scrutiny.