



Annual Conference 2024

The Evolving Role of the Director

Shannon Suite 2 and 3 / The Strand Hotel, Limerick City
Thursday 18th and Friday 19th January 2024

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you to the 23rd annual conference of the Local Government Directors Association. I have no doubt that you will be actively involved in the programme where we aim to build on the success of our previous conferences.

The theme of this conference is entitled 'Evolving role of the Director'. The conference will address the contribution that senior management makes to transforming public services on an ongoing basis. Local Government has already demonstrated its ability to adapt to the changing needs of our society. However, the new challenges that face us call for an even greater response and we, as Directors of Services, are well placed to lead the changes required. The area of governance is considered to be of key importance and we are responsible and accountable for how we navigate in a complex and ever changing environment and for the example that we show others. Ignorance is not a defence, despite certainty being elusive.

The objectives of the Association include working to support the local government system and promoting the professional interests of the membership. In this context, the theme of this year's conference is extremely relevant. We are fortunate to have a number of excellent leaders in Irish public service and private enterprise at this time and our conference brings some of them together so that we may hear their views on how we could meet some of the current challenges facing the sector. These individuals embody the best in public service ideals and are giving of their time at this conference to guide and motivate those of us facing today's daunting challenges in our own local democracies so that we can add to the positive changes that are shaping the public service of the future.

The conference will include the Annual General Meeting of the LGDA and the LGDS. The involvement of all Directors throughout both days is crucial to the success of our organisation in the coming year.

I would like to thank all of the Directors, especially the members of the Executive Committee who have organised this conference for which the fee is €495 which does not include accommodation but does include the optional tour of Ardnacrusha on the afternoon of Friday 19th January, which I strongly recommend.

I ask that you please forward a Purchase Order number so that we can send the appropriate invoice to your Local Authority.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference and bringing you up to date on progress over the last 12 months and plans for 2024.

Liam Bergin,
Local Government Directors Association.



Liam Bergin, Chair, Local Government Directors Association.

Liam is currently a member of the Board of An Bord Pleanála. Liam has worked in a number of Local Authorities and in the private sector.

The Evolving Role of the Director

Shannon Suite 2 and 3
Programme Day 1 Thursday 18th January

Morning Session:

9.00am **Registration and Morning Tea/Coffee**

Chaired by Liam Bergin

9.30 a.m. **Welcome and Introduction to Conference Liam Bergin, Chair, LGDA**

Welcome by Dr. Pat Daly CE Limerick City and County Council

9.50 a.m. **Presentation 1:**
Mr. Senan Turnbull Former Director Fingal County Council
The role of a Director on the Board of Local Authority Companies.

Q&A

11.00 a.m. **Tea/Coffee and networking Break**

11.20 a.m. **Presentation 2:**
Workshop on developments in the sector in the last 12 months and upcoming 12 months
Liam Bergin / Donal Brennan Chair and Vice Chair of the LGDS

Q&A

12.45 p.m. **Lunch**

Afternoon Session:

Chaired by Liam Bergin Chair LGDA

14.00 p.m. **Presentation 3:**
Workshop - The next 5 Years in the Irish Public Sector and what it means for the role of the Director
The Executive of the LGDA

Q&A

18.00 p.m. **Reception – in King John's Castle**

20.00 p.m. **Evening Dinner**

Shannon Suite 2 and 3
Programme Day 2 Friday 19th January

Morning Session:

9.00 a.m. **Tea/Coffee**

9.30 a.m. **AGM of the Local Government Directors Association**

10.00 a.m. **AGM of the Local Government Directors Society – guest Brendan O'Brien SIPTU**

11.00 a.m. Review of Programme for 2023 and programme for 2024

12.45 a.m. Conference close

13.00 Lunch

Afternoon Session:

14:00 (elective) Tour of Ardnacrusha Hydroelectric Station



Gordon Daly, Vice Chair

Gordon is the Director of Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism and is responsible for the Newcastle West Municipal District. Gordon is the Vice Chair of the LGDA.

Donal Brennan, Vice Chair

Donal Brennan is Director of Services in Laois County Council. His areas of responsibilities include Corporate Services, Human Resources, Libraries, ICT, and Community Development. Donal has worked previously worked in Councils in Limerick, Offaly and Westmeath, as well as in the private sector.

His academic qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering and a Master's in Business Administration; Donal is also a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers of Ireland.

Anne Devine, Treasurer

Anne is currently a Director of Service in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council with responsibility for progressing the Cherrywood Strategic Development Zone. Anne has an engineering background and has worked in Local Authorities and the UK. Anne became the Treasurer of the LGDA in 2023.

David Joyce, Secretary

David is the Director of the Roads & Environment Operations Directorate in Cork City Council. He has responsibility for the provision of a wide range of services to the communities and business of the city, including environmental services, road and traffic services, flood and extreme weather emergency management, cemeteries, recreation facilities and playgrounds. In the past he led the City Council's Boundary Transition Team and Business Process Improvement (BPI) Unit. He has also worked in many other areas of service delivery including Traffic, Parking, Asset Management and Roads Control Divisions of the City Council. He also holds a Masters Degree in Local Government Management.

Mary T Daly, Membership Officer

Mary works for Fingal County Council as Director of Services for Operations since November 2020. Prior to this she was the Director for Corporate Services in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and worked for the previous 10 years in Louth County Council. Mary holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Management and a Diploma in Law.

Dorothy Clarke

Dorothy Clarke currently is Director of Services in Sligo County Council currently having responsibility for Planning, Economic Development, Community Development & Cultural Development in County Sligo. Prior to her current role she has also worked in and had responsibility for Social Housing, Corporate Services, Human Resources, and Emergency Services.

Louis Duffy

Louis is an experienced Director Of Services with a demonstrated history of working in the government administration industry. Skilled in Emergency Management, Environmental Awareness, Water Resource Management, Renewable Energy, and Energy. Strong operations professional graduated from Trinity College, Dublin.

Michael Nicholson

Michael is Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Community, Cultural and Social Development directorate in Wicklow County Council. Michael has worked in a number of different Local Authorities during his long years of service. Michael is also Chief Officer of County Wicklow Local Community Development Committee.

Patricia Liddy

Patricia works for Cork County Council as a Director of Service with responsibility for Municipal Districts & Rural Development including County Architects and the Library & Arts Service. She holds an MSc, a BA, a diploma in corporate governance, a diploma in project management, a certificate in ESG, a lean six sigma green belt, is an Executive Coach, a certified INLPTA NLP



Local Government Directors Association
Comhlachas Stiúrthóirí Rialtas Áitiúil

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