

Excellence in Local Government Award Category descriptions 2021

Age Friendly Initiative

This award recognises the excellent programmes by Local Authorities who take the lead on changing thinking about ageing, and how services are planned and delivered, to encourage communities in which older people live valued lives.

Initiatives through the Municipal Districts

Municipal Districts were introduced under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 as an innovative, county- wide, system of governance and local decision-making. This award seeks to recognise the impact of initiatives that maximise the contribution of the municipal district members to local authority effectiveness, particularly in terms of governance, local representation, conduct of council business, community engagement, and economic, social and local development generally.

Supporting Sustainable Communities

This award seeks to recognise projects by Local Authorities that promote social awareness and work with communities to involve them in making their localities a better place in which to live and work. This category celebrates initiatives which promote sustainable communities, development of the community or contribute to improved quality of life in an area.

Best Practice in Community Engagement

The public are at the core of local government and it is vital that their voice is heard on decisions affecting their communities. Local Authorities have worked hard to support all parts of their community during this time. Various initiatives were developed and enacted to support groups with communities who found themselves vulnerable as a result of the fallout from the pandemic.

Health & Wellbeing

This award seeks to recognise best in class efforts by a Local Authority to promote the health and wellbeing of its community especially during the recent pandemic. Initiatives can include active transport infrastructure, health programmes, sports programmes, outdoor recreational areas, development of facilities that enable physical activities, awareness campaigns and more.

Supporting Tourism

Tourism is a vital part of the Irish economy and can have wide ranging positive effects for communities and businesses. This award seeks to recognise best practice work by local authorities to promote and increase the tourism offerings in their local areas as well as helping people appreciate the tourism attraction within their local area.



Promoting Economic Development

The relationship between businesses and local authorities is very important for the local economy of an area. This award is presented to the project which has enhanced this relationship and delivered innovative projects such as those that support women in the workforce, digital hubs which facilitate remote working, and other efforts to support the local economy based on the direct relationship between local government and businesses, their primary funders.

Local Authority Innovation

This is a wide-ranging award which recognises innovation at any level and in any capacity within the Local Authority. Examples might include the introduction of new technologies, innovative methods of service delivery or projects that are unique and original in local government in Ireland.

Sustainable Environment

This category seeks to celebrate Local Authorities that have taken actions to improve their local environment. This award will recognise a Local Authority that works to develop, promote and foster initiatives that support the sustainable development of their local environment. Projects in this category should be outward looking and seek to promote sustainable or low- carbon approaches to protecting our environment and might include work on a diverse range of areas, from enhancing biodiversity to reducing waste or improving air quality.

Disability Services

This category seeks to celebrate the provision of services that enhance accessibility or improve quality of life for all people living in a Local Authority. This category may include disability friendly services, customer charters, signage and other initiatives which increase the provision of services for disabled members of the community and as such enhance quality of services and access for a greater number of people in the area. Services which also help people with disabilities participate in society may also be included.

Best Library Service

Libraries are an important resource for communities across the country and enhance the cultural landscape and recreation facilities of an area. This award seeks to celebrate best in class service by a library to their community and recognise innovative projects or offerings.

Sustaining the Arts

The arts have taken a huge hit during the pandemic. Continued support for the arts is hugely important for the vibrancy of an area's cultural landscape and is a way in which communities can be inspired and celebrate creativity among themselves. The arts are a way in which people can express values, build bridges between cultures, and bring us together regardless of our differences. This award recognises initiatives by a Local Authority to further develop or promote the arts in their locality.



Festival of the Year

Festivals are a great way to bring communities together to celebrate even if they have moved online during the pandemic. This award recognises the best and most innovative virtual festival or event held by or in association with a Local Authority.

Commemorations and Centenaries

We are in the middle of a 'decade of centenaries'. This category seeks to acknowledge activities by Local Authorities in commemorating centenaries and celebrating landmark occasions in their communities.

Heritage and the Built Environment

This category celebrates best in class by a Local Authority to promote public interest in, and knowledge, appreciation and protection of local heritage sites. This can include enhancement or protection of the heritage environment, such as historic sites, promotion of cultural heritage, archaeological heritage and more.

Enhancing the Urban Environment

This award recognises initiatives that promote urbanism through improving and enhancing the lived experience of those who make their homes in urban environments within a Local Authority. Examples of initiatives might include programmes to reduce vacancies in urban cores, creating people friendly streets, sustainable mobility programmes, car free days, repurposing civic buildings, community art programmes, or any other initiative that improves urban quality of life.

