



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown
County Council Comhairle Contae
Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth an Dúin

**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



DUBLIN (ALL OF IT) IS DIFFERENT

Deiric Ó Broin

School of Law and Government

Dublin City University



Dublin City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath



**Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas**
South Dublin County Council

#CADubMayor

A capital city and a capital city in a very centralised system **but** a capital city with a significant number of strong towns (suburbs) in its immediate vicinity.

Centre of the national economy, legal, commercial, professional, civil society, religious, infrastructural and cultural centre.

Difficult and probably not helpful to compare to other cities on the island.



In 1907 it was said that Dublin Corporation and the Dublin townships provide a near “cradle to grave” range of services:

It offers to that the child is brought safely into the world. It provides him in infancy with suitable food. It gives him playgrounds to amuse himself in and baths to swim in. It takes him to school ... it trains him for future work. It sees that the citizen’s house is properly built and sometimes even builds it for him. It brings into his home an unfailing supply of pure water from the remote hills. It guards his food and tries secure it is not dangerously adulterated. It sweeps the streets for him and disposes of the refuse of his house. It carries him swiftly to and from work. It gives him good books to read, pictures to look at, music to listen to and lectures to stimulate his thought. If he is sick it nurses him, if he penniless it houses him, and when he dies, if none other will, it buries him.

If Dublin’s local government was different and distinct in 1907, local government in Dublin *remains* different in the range of services it provides, the complexity of the challenges it faces, the population it serves and the

City government:

First mayor in 1229 and first lord mayor 1665

A variety of reforms leading to first modern (recognisable) structure (1898)

Expansion in 20th century to include Drumcondra, Clontarf and Kilmainham (1900) Rathmines, Rathgar and Ranelagh (1930)

County government:

Modern (recognisable) structure (1898)

Relatively low key development to the 1960s. Wright report (1967) leads to the development of Blanchardstown, Lucan, Clondalkin and Tallaght as new towns (1972).



1970s-1980s

A key era of change and challenges for local government in Dublin:

Radical economic restructuring (oil crises) and challenge of unemployment

Emerging flaws in housing provision and local government in Dublin is the main landlord

Wicked issue of complex social problems coming to the fore

Recognition that the current local government arrangements are straining (78 Councillors)

Creation of three new “electoral counties” in 1985 and three new “administrative counties” (1994)

FINGAL

DUBLIN CITY

SOUTH DUBLIN

**DÚN LAOGHAIRE /
RATHDOWN**



This is not our first rodeo

A variety efforts since 1994 to address the perceived flaws in Dublin's local government system:

Local Government Acts (2001 and 2003) provide for then remove option for a directly mayor

Green Paper (2008) and Bill (2010) lapse as government falls

Local Government Act (2014) provides opportunity for local government and significantly increases the number of councillors

DIRECTLY ELECTED
MAYOR FOR
DUBLIN
Have Your Say



Have your say on the kind of Directly-Elected Mayor you would like to see in our city and county.

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INVITATION TO DISCUSS DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Kieran Dennison wishes to invite members of the public to an open evening to discuss:

**PROPOSALS FOR A DIRECTLY ELECTED
MAYOR FOR DUBLIN**

**At County Hall, Swords
On Thursday 10th October from 7.30 to 9pm**

All are welcome to attend.

Public consultation on the proposals to have a directly elected Mayor for Dublin runs from Monday, 16th September, to Saturday 12th October.

Members of the public are invited to complete a survey and/or make a submission on the topic at their Local Library, Council Office or online at www.mayor4dublin.ie

Concluding thoughts

Dublin is different in a variety of ways

It is now served by four local authorities each of which faces some broadly similar challenges and some unique problems

Actively collaborating in many areas of policy but removed from some seemingly obvious areas of policy

The application of the “county council” local government model in Dublin is nearly 30 years in operation but it remains unclear how Dubliners view their city and county/counties