

PART 1A—LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHARTER

(Extract from Local Government Act 1989)

3A. What is the purpose of local government?

The purpose of local government is to provide a system under which Councils perform the functions and exercise the powers conferred by or under this Act and any other Act for the peace, order and good government of their municipal districts.

3B. How is a Council constituted?

A Council consists of its Councillors who are democratically elected in accordance with this Act.

3C. Objectives of a Council

- (1) The primary objective of a Council is to endeavour to achieve the best outcomes for the local community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of decisions.
- (2) In seeking to achieve its primary objective, a Council must have regard to the following facilitating objectives—
 - (a) to promote the social, economic and environmental viability and sustainability of the municipal district;
 - (b) to ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively and services are provided in accordance with the Best Value Principles to best meet the needs of the local community;
 - (c) to improve the overall quality of life of people in the local community;
 - (d) to promote appropriate business and employment opportunities;
 - (e) to ensure that services and facilities provided by the Council are accessible and equitable;
 - (f) to ensure the equitable imposition of rates and charges;
 - (g) to ensure transparency and accountability in Council decision making.

3D. What is the role of a Council?

- (1) A Council is elected to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community.
- (2) The role of a Council includes—
 - (a) acting as a representative government by taking into account the diverse needs of the local community in decision making;

- (b) providing leadership by establishing strategic objectives and monitoring their achievement;
- (c) maintaining the viability of the Council by ensuring that resources are managed in a responsible and accountable manner;
- (d) advocating the interests of the local community to other communities and governments;
- (e) acting as a responsible partner in government by taking into account the needs of other communities;
- (f) fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in civic life.

3E. What are the functions of a Council?

- (1) The functions of a Council include—
 - (a) advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the local community;
 - (b) planning for and providing services and facilities for the local community;
 - (c) providing and maintaining community infrastructure in the municipal district;
 - (d) undertaking strategic and land use planning for the municipal district;
 - (e) raising revenue to enable the Council to perform its functions;
 - (f) making and enforcing local laws;
 - (g) exercising, performing and discharging the duties, functions and powers of Councils under this Act and other Acts;
 - (h) any other function relating to the peace, order and good government of the municipal district.
- (2) For the purpose of achieving its objectives, a Council may perform its functions inside and outside its municipal district.

3F. What are the powers of Councils?

- (1) Subject to any limitations or restrictions imposed by or under this Act or any other Act, a Council has the power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done in connection with the achievement of its objectives and the performance of its functions.
 - (2) The generality of this section is not limited by the conferring of specific powers by or under this or any other Act.
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