

## Local Authority Budgets in 2018

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### Key Point

Local Authorities plan to spend almost €4.8 billion in 2018. This note accompanies the update to the [Local Authority Finances](#) website with 2018 Budgets, and explains where the money will come from and what it will be spent on.

### Local Authority Income

There are thirty one Local Authorities. They have an aggregate income of €4.79 billion for 2018. Table 1 shows both the nominal and percentage share of income attributable to different sources.

**Table 1 – Local Authority Income in 2018**

	€m	Share of Total
<b>Commercial Rates</b>	1,511	31.5%
<b>Grants &amp; Subsidies <sup>1</sup></b>	1,452	30.3%
<b>Goods &amp; Services <sup>2</sup></b>	1,413	29.5%
<b>Local Property Tax</b>	395	8.2%
<b>Other <sup>3</sup></b>	23	0.5%
<b>Total</b>	4,794	

(Source: [Local Authority Finances.com](#))

Commercial rates account for almost one-third of all income totalling €1.5 billion (31.5%), followed by Grants and Subsidies (from Central Government) €1.45 billion (30.3%), and Goods and Services €1.41 billion (29.5%). The Local Property Tax (LPT) will provide €395 million or 8.2 per cent of total income.

### Local Authority Expenditure

The thirty-one local authorities in Ireland plan to spend €4.79 billion in 2018. Table 2 displays the breakdown of this expenditure by service division.

<sup>1</sup> Grants and Subsidies include 'Housing and Building' (€795.8 million) and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) (€322.6 million).

<sup>2</sup> Goods and Services income includes rent from houses (€498 million), and Irish Water (€298 million).

<sup>3</sup> The category 'Other' accounts for any credit balance carried by a local authority.

**Table 2 - Local Authority Expenditure in 2018**

	€m	Share of Total
<b>Housing</b>	1,465	30.6%
<b>Roads</b>	913	19.0%
<b>Environmental Services<sup>4</sup></b>	654	13.6%
<b>Other<sup>5</sup></b>	507	10.6%
<b>Recreation &amp; Amenity</b>	463	9.7%
<b>Development Management</b>	415	8.7%
<b>Water</b>	378	7.9%
<b>Total</b>	4,794	

(Source: [Local Authority Finances.com](http://Local Authority Finances.com))

In 2018, the largest share of spending in both absolute and percentage terms will be housing. It amounts to €1.47 billion, or 30.6% of total expenditure this year. It is followed by roads (€913m) and environmental services (€654m).

### **Housing and Homelessness**

Key points:

- Expenditure on housing will increase by 22 per cent or €260 million from €1.21 billion in 2017 to €1.47 billion in 2018 across the 31 Local Authorities
- Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) will amount to €423 million in 2018 – an increase of 86 per cent on 2017 (€228 million)<sup>6</sup>
- Spending on the administration of homeless services will also increase by almost a fifth (19%) or €30.6 million from €161 million to €191 million in 2018. This equates to 4 per cent of all local government expenditure
- Dublin City Council is the lead statutory authority with responsibility for co-ordinating responses to homelessness in the four Dublin Local Authorities. It will spend €146m or 16% of its 2018 Budget of €917 million on homelessness

Choose your local authority on [Local Authority Finances.com](http://Local Authority Finances.com) and we'll show you the 2018 budget breakdown, how it compares to the national average, and how it compares to other councils.

<sup>4</sup> Environmental Services include recycling centres, landfills, street cleaning and the maintenance of burial grounds. The 2018 Budgets contain a spending allocation for 'Climate Change and Flooding'.

<sup>5</sup> This combines two service divisions of local government, namely; 'Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare' and 'Miscellaneous Services'.

<sup>6</sup> 17,916 new HAP tenancies were established in 2017. Current Rent Supplement recipients who qualify for social housing support are being transferred from Rent Supplement to HAP on a phased basis.