

# LG Overview - Fire and Emergency

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Council

# Introduction

General Administrative overview -  
past and present

Current Economic Context

Finances, Personnel, Roads,  
Environment, Water, Housing,  
Local Govt

Fire and Emergency

General Directions

# The Past

- Ireland underdeveloped - poor, rural - low urbanisation, dependant on agriculture,
- Poverty - long periods of economic decline
- Education, Health and Housing success stories - long view
- Whittaker/ Lemass axis state led recovery – understanding of macro-economic processes, dev of open economy, linkage to Europe

# The Past

- Growth of centralism from independence - lack of finance major factor
- New state in 1922 ambitious
- Growth of county/city management system in 30s and 40s
- Services declined or expanded in line with economic fortunes of state
- Finances of state and public services generally tight/bad until late 80s, particularly bad up to 1960s
- Local Govt – services expansion – role of members improved – SPC, Area, MPC, CDB
- Golden era of public and private expansion until recently

# General Economic Context

- Recession credit / trade / manufacturing services/ retail – world wide
- Ireland – boom/bust - construction and banking
- Public, business and family financing crises
- New EU and national central banks architecture and resourcing
- Billions in cuts, taxes, capitalisation
- 450,000 unemployed projected by year end 2009 – 17% projected ESRI 2010

# The Present - Finances

- Local Govt - Revenue decline 2009 (Q4 2008) – Rates, Planning Fees, Rents, Water Charges – Expansion Bad Debt – Vacant Property – to continue?
- Capital decline – Govt and Dev Levies
- Loan Capacity Capped
- More focus on stress testing income/revenue operations –capital projects – services reductions likely

# The Present- Finances and Personnel

Capital expenditure constraints – all services

- Staff Pay/pensions and numbers reduction – early retirement etc
- Major Efficiency Reviews \_ all services – OECD -TPS
- Financial pressures – public and private sector

# Roads

- Major Inter Urbans Intact – Transformational Investment - 2010
- Dept of Transport Roads Programme Reductions
- Reduced Spend Roads Restoration and Maintenance Past record levels of expenditure
- Mobility Management – Urban areas
- Transport 21 – Lead Time



# Environment

- Climate Change
  - Emissions Mgt
  - Adaptation Strategy
- Energy Policy
  - Renewables and Conservation
- Waste Mgt
  - Landfill Diversion Targets
  - Waste to Energy / incineration
  - Recycling
  - M.B.T.

# Planning

- Number of planning applications reduced significantly and type
- Contract planning staff - staff redeployment
- Development Plans
- Pressure re speed of bonds release
- Development Contributions Reduced - Outlook

# Water and waste water

- Water Framework Directive
  - Catchment Management
  - Legislative Framework
- Security of Sources
  - Offences and Enforcement
  - Cryptosporidium - Nitrates
- Urban Wastewater
  - Licencing and Standards
- ECJ + EPA + Environmental Liability Regulations
- Funding & Speed & Dev levies difficulty – interregional and strategic solutions needed

# Housing

- Record levels of expenditure and completions
- Reductions in current year – 3 year programmes
- Regeneration focus
- Waiting Lists
- New Approaches
- Leasing

# Local Government Reform

- White Paper - Imminent
- Budgets – Financing - Difficulties
- Elections – LA and European
- Other Developments – OECD
- Transforming Public Services –  
TPS – shared services, shared  
procurement etc – major focus La  
and Govt

# Fire and Emergency Services

- Fire Services Change Programme - changes Implemented
- Major Emergency Framework – regions – joint approaches - major success - appraisals
- Health and Safety – major programme – new Sector wide Grouping – first meeting
- Institutional Review - submissions

# Fire and Emergency Services

- Recruitment Embargo Circular - exemption of front line staff including fire service sought
- Early retirement – career breaks implications
- SOGS – compliments on constructiveness, pro-activity and progress – very strong sector wide engagement – best practice
- Swine Flu – mild strain so far - activation of National Plan – business continuity planning – essential services

# Fire and Emergency Services

- Institutional Review Outcome and Change
- SOGS, Training, Record –keeping, standards/guidance
- International best practice and validation
- Costs and budgets – innovativeness, management and reductions – fundamental change in environment



# General Directions

- Development/expansion/ promotion of County/City/Region strengths – focus on economic development – new approaches for engagement for new unemployed
- Smart cohesive and collaborative approaches possible way forward with competitive elements - regional, national, county & city and thematic collaboration - TPS
- Improve competitiveness – cost base – reduce costs - long view

# General Directions

- “Best in .....
- ” service approach all services including Fire and Emergency insofar as resources permit - prioritisation
- Planning for reduced resources short and long term - critical – high standards of performance continuance
  - Task to manage and lead in whatever climate – provide solutions