€300 million spent by local authorities on social housing maintenance in 2025, up 6.57% on 2024, while vacancy rate for directly provided local authority housing at 2.44%, the lowest since 2015

New figures contained in 2025 'Local Authority Performance Indicator Report' from National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC)

- **Local authorities owned 158,772 social housing units at the end of 2025, adding 4,324 homes to their stock during the year**

- **80.52% of households now avail of a three-bin waste collection service, up from 22.09% in 2014**

- **79.21% of public lighting is now LED, supporting both energy efficiency and sustainability objectives**

- **22.8 million items issued to library members in 2025, up 30.68% on previous year**

- **82.45% of motor tax transactions were conducted online, increasing from 56.60% in 2015**

- **All updates on Housing, Roads, Water, Waste and Environment, Planning, Fire Service, Library / Recreation, Youth and Community, Corporate, Finance and Economic Development included in report here –** View Performance Indicator Report 2025

The National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) has today published the latest Local Authority Performance Indicator Report, an independent assessment of local authority performance across Ireland in 2025. The report examines 129 datasets across 46 indicators covering 11 key areas, highlighting how local authorities are performing in delivering services and supporting communities nationwide.

This is the twelfth edition of the annual report offering over a decade of data, trends and research. The report is being published at a significant time for the local government sector. The publication of the Local Democracy Taskforce Report and the Government's Implementation Plan 2026–2029 marks a major programme of reform designed to strengthen local democracy, to create a more responsive, accountable and locally empowered system of government. As local authorities assume greater decision-making responsibilities and elected members exercise enhanced democratic oversight, the importance of robust, transparent and comparable performance information will increase.

Financial governance and effective resource management remain critical to local authority performance. Commercial rates and home loan collection rates have improved significantly over the past decade, while rent collection performance has remained stable. However, considerable variations in collection performance between local authorities persist. **Waterford City and County (100%)**, **Fingal (99.7%)**, **Meath (98%)** and **Monaghan (98%)** perform strongly in commercial rates collection. Authorities such as **Sligo (78%)**, **Leitrim (81%)** and **Donegal (81%)** continue to report rates collection levels below national averages.

Local authorities spent **€300.8 million** on social housing maintenance in 2025, an increase of **6.57%** compared with 2024. The number of housing units added to local authority social housing stock decreased by **18.78%**.

Meanwhile, **3,866** social housing units were vacant at the end of 2025, down from **4,251** in 2024. The overall vacancy rate for directly provided local authority housing stock stood at **2.44%** in 2025, the lowest point since 2015.

Additionally, average re-letting times remained above **32 weeks nationally** in 2025, with considerable variation across local authorities. **Monaghan** recorded the shortest average re-letting time at **11.61 weeks**, followed by **Laois (16.07 weeks)** and **Sligo (20.71 weeks)** while at the other end of the scale were Kerry **(66.12 weeks)** and Limerick City and County **(56.50 weeks).**

A total of **2,671** local authority homes were retrofitted across Ireland in 2025, an increase from **2,634** in **2024**. Dublin City recorded the highest number of retrofits for the third consecutive year, with **327** homes upgraded, followed by **Cork County (208)** and **Donegal (200).** The lowest number of retrofitted houses was **Mayo (11)**, **Westmeath (14)**, and **Leitrim (16)**.

The report notes that the current pace of retrofit activity is unlikely to meet the national target of retrofitting **36,500** local authority properties to a B2 Building Energy Rating (BER) or cost-optimal equivalent by **2030**. While retrofit activity increased year-on-year in 2025, the rate of growth remains below the level required to achieve this target.

The Local Authority Performance Indicator Report provides NOAC with insights into local government performance across key service areas. The data collected, alongside validation and scrutiny meetings, supports NOAC's assessment and analysis of local authority performance. The report identifies areas of progress as well as areas requiring further attention, with the scrutiny process playing a central role in evaluating performance.

Other insights from the report include:

- **Five** local authorities recorded a Revenue Account deficit at the end of 2025, unchanged from 2024 although four of those deficits were reduced in 2025, one local authority had an increase in their deficit balance.
- **2,479** jobs were created nationwide through Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) in 2025, up by **20** jobs compared with 2024 **(2,459)**
- **421.2km** of regional roads and **2,221.4km** of local roads strengthened in 2025
- **85,504** environmental complaints were received by local authorities in 2025, with **84,700 (99%)** closed before year end
- Library usage increased significantly in 2025**,** with **22.8 million items** issued to library members - up **30.68%** on 2024
- **268,675.52** days were lost to certified sick leave in local authorities during 2025.
- **18** local authorities saw an increase in rents collected in 2025. **Six** had no change while **seven** authorities showed a decrease in collections
- **Food waste segregation** increased significantly in 2025, with **1,478,857** households across all **31 local authorities** availing of a **three-bin waste collection service**. This represents a **14.77%** increase on 2024, when **1,288,562** households had access to the service, reflecting continued expansion of the brown bin rollout nationwide
- **Nine** local authorities achieved or exceeded the **25% annual inspection rate for private rented accommodation** in 2025, with inspections carried out to ensure properties meet required minimum standards. **Mayo** recorded the highest inspection rate at **44.58%,** followed by **Waterford City and County (39.40%)** and **Meath (36%)**. A further **15** local authorities did not reach the **25%** inspection rate in 2025
- Significant variation in **local authority performance** remains a key finding of the report, with differences highlighted across areas including **spending**, **revenue collection** and **service**

delivery. Planning expenditure varied from **€67.86** per capita in **Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown** to **€27.06** in **Cavan**, while library expenditure ranged from **€68.37** per capita in **Longford** to **€22.43** in **Galway County**

While NOAC does not set policy, provide funding or impose sanctions, its independent oversight ensures that local authorities are accountable, open and focused on future growth. NOAC is committed to working collaboratively and publishing evidence-based reports that help ensure Ireland's local authorise deliver effectively in the best interests of communities nationwide.

Commenting on the report's findings, Michael McCarthy, Chair of NOAC, said: *"Local authorities play a crucial role in supporting communities around Ireland, and their commitment is evident in this year's report. We particularly welcome the continued reduction in local authority housing vacancies and the strong financial performance achieved by many authorities, including improvements in commercial rates collection and reductions in accumulated revenue deficits. These achievements reflect the focused efforts of local authorities to improve service delivery and strengthen financial resilience.*

It is also very positive to see that performance indicators are increasingly embedded within local authority operational, budgetary, workforce planning and strategic management processes, demonstrating how the indicators are being used not only as a reporting mechanism but as a practical management tool to support service improvement and informed decision-making."

The data gathered for the Local Authority Performance Indicator Report informs NOAC as to the performance of Local Government across the traditional core services which, coupled with validation and scrutiny meeting processes, facilitates an assessment and analysis of that performance. It highlights areas where performance has been enhanced, as well as areas in need of improvement.

Editorial Notes

About NOAC

The National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) is the independent statutory oversight body for Ireland's local government sector. It was established in July 2014 under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 to provide independent scrutiny and oversight of local authorities, regional assemblies, and other local government bodies.

NOAC's role is to strengthen accountability, transparency, effectiveness, and value for money across the local government sector through independent review, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. It promotes continuous improvement and identifies examples of best practice among local authorities

NOAC's remit is wide ranging and includes:

- Reviewing the overall performance of local authorities and highlighting good practice
- Scrutinising local authority performance through the updated Scrutiny Process, with NOAC's reports forming the basis for detailed analysis and committee-style meetings with transcripts and reports published online
- Publishing independent reports on local government including performance indicators, internal audit, corporate plans, and the Public Spending Code
- Hosting thematic workshops and the annual Good Practice in Local Government Seminar which brings together leaders from across the sector to share successful initiatives

While NOAC does not set policy, provide funding or impose sanctions, its independent oversight ensures that local authorities are accountable, open and focused on future growth.

NOAC is committed to supporting continuous improvement, highlighting good practice and strengthening public trust in local government. By working collaboratively and publishing independent, evidence-based reports, NOAC helps ensure that Ireland's local authorities deliver effectively in the best interests of communities nationwide.

Its enhanced scrutiny programme, expanded performance reporting, review of corporate plans, and continued focus on customer service demonstrate an increasing emphasis on accountability, organisational effectiveness, and continuous improvement across Ireland's local government sector.

Visit noac.ie to learn more

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