



An Bille Rialtais Áitiúil (Cathracha), 2026
Local Government (Cities) Bill 2026

Mar a tionscnaíodh

As initiated



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CITY OF DROGHEDA AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO PRINCIPAL ACT

ACTS REFERRED TO

Local Government Act 2001 (No. 37)

Local Government Acts 1924 to 1926

Local Government Acts 1925 to 2024

Local Government Reform Act 2014 (No. 1)



AN BILLE RIALTAIS ÁITIÚIL (CATHRACHA), 2026
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CITIES) BILL 2026

Bill

entitled

An Act to provide that the municipal district area that includes the Local Electoral Area of Drogheda Urban shall be known in the Irish language as *Ceantar Bardasach Chathair Dhroichead Átha* and in the English language as the Municipal District of Drogheda City, and for that purpose to amend the Local Government Act 2001; to provide that specified towns which comply with the requirements provided for by this Act may be granted city status and for those purposes to amend the Local Government Act 2001; and to provide for related matters. 5 10

Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:

Definitions

1. In this Act—

“Minister” means the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; 15

“Principal Act” means the Local Government Act 2001.

Drogheda City

2. (1) The Principal Act is amended, in section 22A(2) (inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014), by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (c):

“(d) subject to subsection (2A), the municipal district areas that, immediately before the commencement of the *Local Government (Cities) Act 2026*, included the Local Electoral Area of Drogheda Urban, then, notwithstanding subsection (1)— 20

(i) the area consisting of that local electoral area shall be known in the Irish language as ‘*Cathair Dhroichead Átha*’ and in the English language as ‘Drogheda City’, and 25

(ii) that municipal district shall be known in the Irish language, as ‘*Ceantar Bardasach Chathair Dhroichead Átha*’ and in the English language, as ‘the Municipal District of Drogheda City’.”. 30

(2) References, however expressed, in any enactment, legal proceedings or any other document that was subsisting immediately before the commencement of the *Local*

Government (Cities) Act 2026 to—

- (a) the areas consisting of Local Electoral Area of Drogheda Urban, or
- (b) the municipal district areas that, immediately before such commencement contained the Local Electoral Area of Drogheda Urban,

shall, where the context admits, be read after such commencement— 5

- (i) in a case to which *paragraph (a)* relates, as a reference to *Cathair Dhroichead Átha* or Drogheda City, as may be appropriate, and
- (ii) in a case to which *paragraph (b)* relates, as a reference to *Ceantar Bardasach Chathair Dhroichead Átha* or the Municipal District of Drogheda City, as may be appropriate.”. 10

Amendments consequential to section 2

- 3. The provisions of the Principal Act referred to in *column (2)* of the *Schedule* are amended in the manner referred to in *column (3)* of that Schedule opposite the reference in *column (2)* to the provision concerned.

Granting of city status

15

- 4. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 10:

“10A. (1) In this section—

‘area committee’ has the same meaning as it has in section 50;

‘as determined from the last census taken’ means as determined from the latest available report of the Central Statistics Office of the final result of a census of population of the State and a reference to ‘population density’ shall be read accordingly; 20

‘electoral division’, in relation to a local electoral area, means an electoral division, or a part of an electoral division, that is described in an order made under section 23 for the local electoral area concerned; 25

‘specified town’, in relation to an urban centre, means a town—

- (a) situated within or consisting of the urban centre,
- (b) consisting of coterminous electoral divisions within a common boundary that together form part of one or more than one local electoral area identified for the purpose of this section, and 30
- (c) where at least 50 per cent of the population, as determined from the last census taken, of the urban centre live within the area of the specified town;

‘urban centre’ means an area consisting of a specified town, or within which a specified town is situated, where such area consists of or lies within— 35

- (a) one or more than one municipal district of the county council or city and county council concerned, or

- (b) subject to subsection (2), one or more than one area committee, by whatever name called, duly established under section 50 by resolution of the county council or city and county council concerned, that has—
- (i) as determined from the last census taken, a resident population of at least 45,000 persons with a population density of not less than 1,500 persons per square kilometre, and
 - (ii) a local civic office or other administrative centre for the provision of local government administrative services to that area.
- (2) This section applies to a specified town that is situated within an urban centre but does not apply to the following:
- (a) the administrative area of Dublin City Council;
 - (b) the administrative area of Cork City Council;
 - (c) the area of the Metropolitan District of Limerick City;
 - (d) the area of Metropolitan District of Waterford City;
 - (e) the area of Municipal District of Kilkenny City;
 - (f) the area of Municipal District of Drogheda City established by this Act;
 - (g) an area to which city status has been granted under this section.
- (3) Nothing in subsection (2) shall be read as restricting the exercise of ministerial functions enabling the alteration of the boundaries of any administrative area or other area under the Local Government Acts 1924 to 1926.
- (4) Where in respect of an urban centre at least two-thirds of the members representing—
- (a) the municipal urban district or districts within which the urban centre is situated, or
 - (b) the area of the area committee or committees established under section 50 within which the urban centre is situated,
- vote in favour of a motion to request that a specified town consisting of or situated within the urban centre be granted city status, then the members concerned may petition their county council or city and county council accordingly, as the case may be, by sending the petition to the chief executive in such form as may be prescribed together with such other information as may be prescribed.
- (5) The chief executive of the county council or city and county council, as the case may be, shall examine the petition together with any other information prescribed to accompany the petition.
- (6) Where upon examination of the petition the chief executive is satisfied

that, in relation to the petition, the requirements of this section, including any prescribed information, have been complied with, then the chief executive shall report accordingly to the council.

- (7) Where at a meeting of county council or city and county council, as the case may be, a majority of the members present and voting pass a resolution supporting the petition seeking city status for the town concerned, the chief executive shall send to the Minister duly certified copies of the following: 5
- (a) the petition and any accompanying papers to which subsection (4) relates; 10
 - (b) the report of the chief executive under subsection (6);
 - (c) the resolution proposed under this subsection;
 - (d) an extract from the records of the meeting of the county council or county and city council, as the case may be, of the vote on the resolution proposed under this section, 15
- and shall also send such other information or materials as may be prescribed by the Minister for the purpose of this subsection.
- (8) (a) After consideration of the materials sent by the chief executive under subsection (7) and after making such enquiries as the Minister considers appropriate, the Minister shall either— 20
- (i) decide to make an order under subsection (9) granting city status to the town concerned, or
 - (ii) decide not to make an order under that subsection,
- and, accordingly, the Minister shall so advise the county council or city and county council, as the case may be, in writing. 25
- (b) Where paragraph (a)(i) applies the Minister shall, after consulting with the county council or county and city council, as the case may be, make an order under subsection (9) to commence the order on a date not later than 6 months after the Minister’s decision under paragraph (a)(i). 30
- (c) Where paragraph (a)(ii) applies the Minister shall communicate in writing to the county council or county and city council, as the case may be, the reasons for the decision for not making an order under subsection (9).
- (9) (a) Where paragraph (a)(ii) of subsection (8) applies the Minister shall communicate in writing to the county council or county and city council, as the case may be, the reasons for the decision for not making an order. 35
- (b) In making an order under this subsection in respect of the granting of city status to the town concerned, the Minister shall provide that the provisions of— 40

- (i) subsection (2A) (inserted by the *section 3* of, and *Schedule to*, the *Local Government (Cities) Act 2026*), and
 - (ii) *section 2(2)* of that Act,
- that relate to Drogheda City may be applied to that town with effect from the commencement of the order, with such necessary modifications (including, if appropriate, the reference to the municipal district area) as the Minister considers appropriate. 5
- (c) A notice of the making of an order under paragraph (a) shall be published in *Iris Oifigiúil* and include a reference to the operative date for the order. 10
- (10) (a) The Minister may by regulations prescribe such matters as the Minister considers appropriate to enable this section to have full force and effect.
- (b) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (a) or section 4, regulations made under this subsection may provide for any of the following: 15
 - (i) time scales to be adhered to in respect of any part of the process to which this section relates;
 - (ii) the holding by the county council or city and county council, as the case may be, of one or more public consultations within the urban centre concerned on the proposed grant of city status to the specified town; 20
 - (iii) the provision to the Minister by the county council or city and county council, as the case may be, of such information relating to the geographic, historic, cultural or socio-economic importance of the specified town that is of relevance locally, regionally or nationally.”. 25

Short title, commencement and collective citation

5. (1) This Act may be cited as the Local Government (Cities) Act 2026.
- (2) This Act comes into operation 3 months after its passing or on such earlier date as the Minister may by order appoint. 30
 - (3) The Local Government Acts 1925 to 2024 and this Act may be cited together as the Local Government Acts 1925 to 2026.

SCHEDULE

Section 3

CITY OF DROGHEDA AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO PRINCIPAL ACT

Reference No.	Provision	Amendment	
(1)	(2)	(3)	
1	Section 10(5)	In paragraph (b) substitute “this Act,” for “this Act.”.	5
2		After paragraph (b) insert: “(c) the use of the description city in relation to Drogheda, to the extent that that description is provided for by section 22A (as amended by <i>section 2</i> of the <i>Local Government (Cities) Act 2026</i>).”.	10
3	Section 22A	In subsection (2)(b) delete “the former borough of Drogheda,” and the final “and” in.	15
4		In subsection (2)(c) substitute “ ‘the Municipal District of Kilkenny City’, and” for “ ‘the Municipal District of Kilkenny City’.”.	
5		Insert after subsection (2): “(2A) Nothing in subsection (2)(d) shall read so as to prevent the Minister from amending under the Local Government Acts 1925 to 2026 the municipal district that includes for the time being Drogheda City. Upon any such amendment the area that includes most or all of the area which, at the passing of the <i>Local Government (Cities) Act 2026</i> , consisted of Local Electoral Area of Drogheda Urban, shall continue to be known by the descriptions referred to in subsection (2)(d) and may continue to be referred to as Drogheda City.”.	20 25 30
6		In paragraph (g) substitute “paragraph (d), (e), (f) or (fa)” for “paragraph (d), (e) or (f)”.	
7	Section 32(1A)	Delete “and” and the end of paragraph (b).	
8		After paragraph (b) insert: “(ba) Where immediately before the commencement of the <i>Local Government (Cities) Act 2026</i> the municipal district that included the Local Electoral Area of Drogheda Urban used the title ‘Mayor’ or ‘Deputy Mayor’, to describe its office of Cathaoirleach or Leas-Chathaoirleach as the case may be, that municipal district may continue to so use such title or titles notwithstanding the provisions of section 31 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and the <i>Local Government (Cities) Act 2026</i>), and”.	35 40 45

BILLE

(mar a tionscnaíodh)

dá ngairtear

Acht do dhéanamh socrú chun go dtabharfar, sa Ghaeilge, Ceantar Bardasach Chathair Dhroichead Átha agus, sa Bhéarla, *the Municipal District of Drogheda City*, ar an limistéar ceantair bhardasaigh ina bhfuil Toghlímistéar Áitiúil Dhroichead Átha Uirbeach agus, chun na críche sin, do leasú an Achta Rialtais Áitiúil, 2001; do dhéanamh socrú chun go bhféadfar stádas cathrach a thabhairt do bhailte sonraithe a chomhlíonann na ceanglais dá bhforáiltear leis an Acht seo agus, chun na geríoch sin, do leasú an Achta Rialtais Áitiúil, 2001; agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

An Teachta Joanna Byrne a thug isteach,

28 Aibreán, 2026

BILL

(as initiated)

entitled

An Act to provide that the municipal district area that includes the Local Electoral Area of Drogheda Urban shall be known in the Irish language as *Ceantar Bardasach Chathair Dhroichead Átha* and in the English language as the Municipal District of Drogheda City, and for that purpose to amend the Local Government Act 2001; to provide that specified towns which comply with the requirements provided for by this Act may be granted city status and for those purposes to amend the Local Government Act 2001; and to provide for related matters.

Introduced by Deputy Joanna Byrne,

28th April, 2026

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR
Le ceannach díreach ó
FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS,
BÓTHAR BHAILE UÍ BHEOLÁIN, CILL MHAIGHNEANN,
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