



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council

Background to County Offaly

County Offaly is located in the centre of Ireland in the province of Leinster and is one of twelve local authorities comprising the Eastern and Midlands Region.

County Offaly has a population of 78,003 (2016 Census) with approximately 60% of the population residing in rural areas.

The principal towns are Tullamore (the county town), Edenderry, Birr, Clara and Portllington. Offaly shares a border with seven other counties and has a total land mass of approximately 200,000 hectares.

The county is traversed by the Grand Canal and is bordered by the River Shannon to the West and Slieve Bloom mountains to the South, both of which play a key role in the economic and tourism development of the county.

Offaly County Council consists of 19 members who are elected every five years, the most recent local elections having taken place in 2019.

The county is divided into the three Municipal Districts of Tullamore, Birr and Edenderry with the local authority administrative headquarters located in Tullamore.

At a strategic level, the Council operate through its Corporate Policy Group comprising the Cathaoirleach of the Council and the Chairs of the local authority's four Strategic Policy Committees as well as a Municipal District representative.

The Chief Executive and the Council's Management Team play a key role in supporting and advising this policy group.