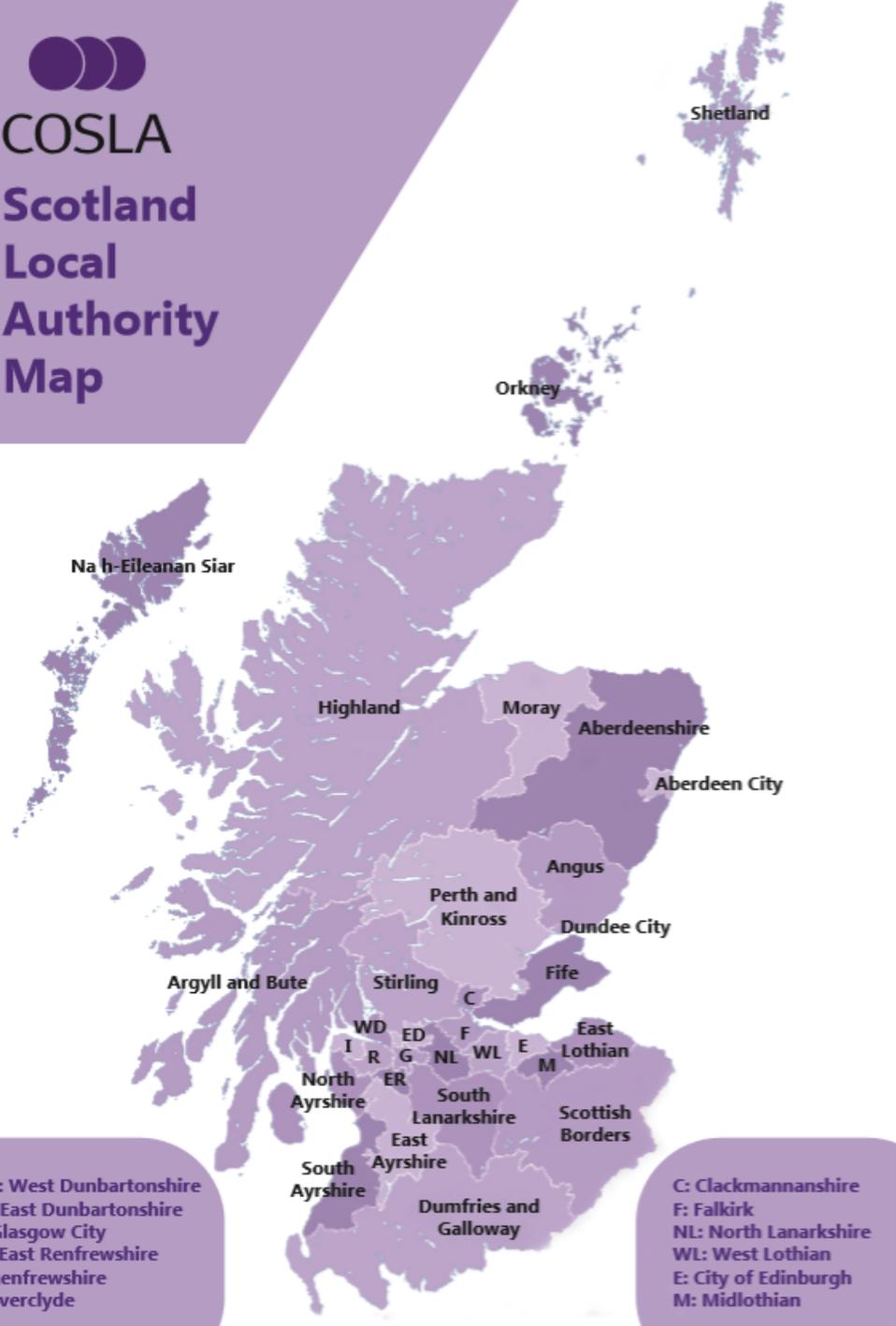


Local Government in Scotland





COSLA Scotland Local Authority Map



There are 32 Local Authorities in Scotland with identical functions and powers.

Each Local Authority provides public services, including education, social care, waste management, libraries and planning.

Each Local Authority is different in size and population and may have different needs.

Councils operate independently of central government and are accountable to local people for the services they provide.

Key People

Elected Members

Councillors are elected by their communities to represent them and make decisions on their behalf.

Administration is the group of elected Councillors that represent the majority and control the running of the Council.

Council Leader: A Council Leader is elected by the party that forms the administration. Some Councils decide to have Co-Leaders who share this responsibility.

Civic Head: the Council will also elect a civic head that will represent them at events. This person is a Lord Provost or Provost.

Non Elected Members

Chief Executive: the Chief Executive is normally the head of paid staff and is employed by the Council.

Officers: officers are employed by the Council to carry out its functions.

Funding

- Local Authorities receive funding from Scottish Government.
- They generate their own income through Council Tax and other agreed taxes.
- Councils may generate income by charging for some local services.
- This funding is used to fund all Council services and staff.



Together Councils had £15.2bn total income in 2016/17 (£2bn local tax revenue)

Across Scotland, Local Authorities impact in every community:

244,000 staff – 10% of working population

£6.3bn annual procurement

£250m annual investment in local economic growth

£787m Capital Budget

Decision Making



Full Council Meetings

At full Council meetings Councillors meet to debate key issues and take decisions on behalf of their communities. Setting the annual Council Budget and the rate of Council Tax are always decided by full Council.

Committee

The Council might decide that decisions on other issues can be taken by committees or sub committees, for example decisions on youth services or the environment.

Why is Local Government Important?

- Councils put communities and their people first in the design of local services
- They provides community leadership
- They deliver the vast majority of public services in local areas, impacting the lives of everyone.
- How does your Council work for you?