

Political and Executive Organisation of the City Council

The Municipal Charter of Barcelona, created by Act 22/1998 of 30 December and approved by the Parliament of Catalonia, and Act 1/2006 of 13 March, approved by the Spanish General Courts, is the special legal framework that reinforces the city's autonomy in the interests of effective administrative management that is accessible to the public, extends decentralisation, enhances municipal authority within the framework of collaboration with institutions and strengthens the mechanisms for citizen participation. It therefore regulates the organisation of the Municipal Government, the districts, municipal regulatory power, citizen participation and municipal authority.

In accordance with its provisions and in line with the Municipal Organic Law, in July 2011 the resolution on the political and administrative organisation of the Municipal Government was approved.



The political management is divided into the following **areas of Government**:

- 1. Presidency, Internal Affairs, Safety and Mobility.**
- 2. Economy, Business and Employment.**
- 3. Urban Habitat.**
- 4. Quality of Life, Equality and Sports.**
- 5. Culture, Knowledge, Creativity and Innovation.**

According to the Municipal Charter of Barcelona, one of the essential criteria for the city's organisation is that the deliberative functions of organisation, programming and control must be clearly differentiated from the executive functions of government and administration. As a result, there are two distinct levels of organisation within Barcelona City Council: the political level and the executive level. The former comprises elected members or councillors whose duties may involve decision-making, providing information and/or consultation. The latter comprises different sectors or branches of direct intervention and is responsible for managing programmes and implementing the resolutions approved at the political level.

The Political Sphere

This comprises the different governmental, city and regional bodies.

The **Municipal Council** is the highest body of political representation of citizens within the city government. Comprising all 41 of the councillors and presided over by the mayor, it establishes the courses of municipal action and resolves the most important issues. Its duties include constituting, planning, regulating and supervising the executive duties and approving the Municipal Action Plan (PAM), the budget, annual accounts, by-laws and urban development plans.

It acts in plenary sessions and commissions. It is responsible for the duties conferred upon it in the Municipal Charter, which can be broadly specified as:

- **Promoting and controlling the operation of the other governmental bodies.**
- **Liaising with, delegating and/or transferring authority or duties to other administrations.**
- **Deciding upon the defining characteristics of the municipality, such as the municipal boundaries, its coat of arms, seal and flag.**
- **Approving and modifying the organic law and by-laws.**
- **Approving the general plans and programmes for municipal action.**
- **Approving urban development plans and regulations.**
- **Approving the budgets and accounts of the Council and large contracts.**

The **mayor** is the head of the Council and exercises the roles conferred by the Municipal Charter of Barcelona, general legislation on local affairs, sectoral laws and the Municipal Organic Law. She or he presides over the Government Committee, which is formed by the deputy mayors responsible for the different political areas of government.

The **Municipal Council Committees** are responsible for decision-making, overseeing and dealing with information. With regards matters within their sphere of authority, they exercise the decision-making powers conferred by the Municipal Charter and the Organic Law and those delegated by the plenary assembly of the Municipal Council. They make decisions on issues that are to be submitted before the plenary assembly of the Municipal Council, although their resolutions are non-binding. They promote, control and supervise the activity of the bodies of the executive municipal government and periodically monitor the implementation of the action plan with regard to the areas under their authority.

Their decision-making powers include the authorisation and awarding of certain public and private contracts as well as the initial approval of by-laws and regulations related to their respective areas.

The six permanent commissions of the Municipal Council are:

- **Commission for Presidency and Internal Affairs**
- **Commission for the Economy, Business and Employment**
- **Commission for the Environment and Urban Habitat**
- **Commission for Culture, Knowledge, Creativity and Innovation**
- **Commission for Quality of Life, Equality, Youth and Sports**
- **Commission for Safety and Mobility**

The **Spokespersons Board** consists of those councillors who are the spokespersons for the Municipal Groups, and its meetings are chaired by the mayor or the delegated deputy mayor. Each group may also appoint a deputy spokesperson.

The **Council Executive** is the collegiate body of the executive municipal government. It consists of the mayor, the deputy mayors and those councillors nominated by the mayor, informing the Municipal Council of these appointments. It performs those duties with which it is expressly entrusted by the Municipal Charter and those that are delegated by the mayor.

The structure of Barcelona City Council is decentralised in accordance with the different **districts** that make up the city. The districts are territorial bodies for the de-concentration of management and the decentralisation of citizen participation.

The highest governance body of each district is the **District Council**, which consists of representatives from the District's different political groups. On the district's proposal, the president is appointed and dismissed by the mayor from among the councillors. They have the authority to report on and propose plans, programmes, budgets and urban development measures that affect the district and the distribution of its expenditure.

Political Organisation Chart



The Executive Sphere

The executive organisation of Barcelona City Council, which is headed by the Municipal Manager, consists on the one hand of divisions and bodies integrated within the single legal entity of Barcelona City Council, and on the other hand of bodies that constitute separate legal entities.

This management structure ensures that the services provided to citizens by Barcelona City Council are effective and efficient and respond to the city's values and needs, while also ensuring the planning, organisation and provision of public services, in order to guarantee that the objectives set out in the City Map are met.

The **municipal manager** is the highest authority within the executive structure. They are responsible for the executive management of the planning, organisation and provision of public services, in order to guarantee that the objectives set out by the Municipal Government are met and for assessing and monitoring the implementation of municipal plans, the development of the resources invested and of those operations aimed at achieving the municipality's objectives. They are in charge of implementing and supervising the budget and investment of the municipal group and of focusing and assessing the objectives of the municipal management. They attend the sessions of the Council Executive and the Government Committee.

The executive municipal management is organised through its **Management Council** and coordinated by the Municipal Manager. It consists of six functional sectors (Culture, Knowledge, Creativity and Innovation; Quality of Life; Equality and Sports; Prevention, Safety and Mobility; Economy, Business and Employment; Resources; Urban Habitat) and two Deputy Manager's Offices, one for the Territorial Coordination of the ten district Manager's Offices and another for the Coordination of Municipal Businesses and Entities.

The **Executive Committee**, also chaired by the First Deputy Mayor with the Municipal Manager as Vice-Chair, brings together all of the Deputy Manager's Offices and Manager's Offices of the different sectors and districts, in order to prepare the measures, projects and plans that will be given to one of the permanent commissions of the Municipal Council, and to monitor and control the implementation of the municipal finances and budget.

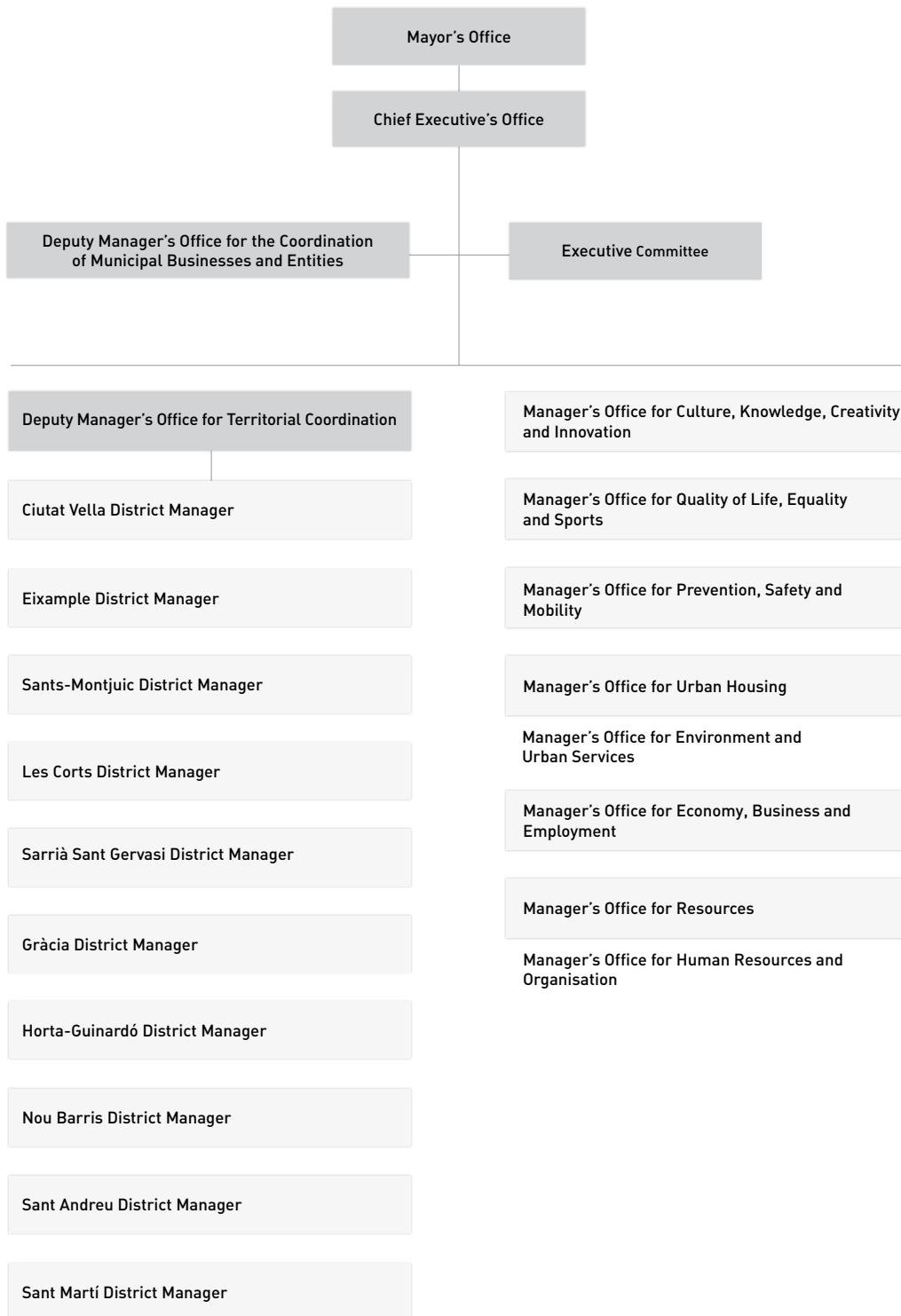
This management structure responds to the four focuses or executive spheres of municipal action:

- **functional**
- **business**
- **territorial**
- **action**

Furthermore, the territorial scope of the executive municipal administration includes the **ten District Manager's Offices** that deal with the day-to-day municipal management of each and every one of the city's 73 neighbourhoods.

- **Ciutat Vella**
- **Eixample**
- **Sants-Montjuïc**
- **Les Corts**
- **Sarrià-Sant Gervasi**
- **Gràcia**
- **Horta-Guinardó**
- **Nou Barris**
- **Sant Andreu**
- **Sant Martí**

Executive Organisation Chart:



The Entities of Barcelona City Council

The autonomous bodies, public business entities, companies, consortiums and foundations are separate legal entities that were created by or are owned by Barcelona City Council for the effective management of services or activities, and which allow, bearing in mind its heterogeneity and complexity, for the specialised and differentiated organisation and management of the main bodies, collaboration with other public bodies and citizen participation.



Local Autonomous Bodies:

- Municipal Institute for People with Disabilities.
- Municipal Institute of Education.
- Municipal Institute of Information Technology.
- Municipal Institute of Finance.
- Municipal Institute of Urban Planning.
- Municipal Institute of Urban Landscape and Quality of Life.
- Municipal Institute of Markets of Barcelona.
- Barcelona Institute of Sports.
- Municipal Institute of Social Services.

Public Business Entities:

- Institute of Culture of Barcelona.
- Municipal Institute of Parks and Gardens.
- Fundació Mies van der Rohe Municipal Institute.
- Municipal Institution of Housing.

Companies:

- Informació i Comunicació de Barcelona, SA.
- SPM Barcelona Activa, SA.
- Barcelona Gestió Urbanística, SA.
- Barcelona d'Infraestructures Municipals, SA (BIMSA).

The investee companies of BIMSA are:

- 22 Arroba Bcn SA.
- Pro Nou Barris, SA.
- Agència de Promoció del Carmel i Entorns, SA.
- Foment de Ciutat Vella, SA.
- ProEixample, SA.

- Barcelona de Serveis Municipals, SA (BSM).

The investee companies of BSM are:

- Parc d'Atraccions de Tibidabo, SA.
- Tractament i Selecció de Residus, SA.
- Cementiris de Barcelona, SA.
- Serveis Funeraris de Barcelona, SA.
- Mercabarna.

Consortiums:

- Public Health Agency of Barcelona.
- Institute of Childhood and Urban World Consortium.
- Besòs Inter-University Campus Consortium.
- Barcelona Agency of Urban Ecology.
- Barcelona Local Energy Agency.
- Besòs Consortium .
- Consortium of Libraries of Barcelona.
- Mercat de les Flors/Centre de les Arts de Moviment Consortium.
- El Far Consortium.
- Local Locaret Consortium.

Foundations and Associations:

- Barcelona Culture Foundation.
- Barcelona Foundation for Ocean Sailing.
- International Association of Educating Cities.