

**WATER/ENVIRONMENT/EMERGENCY SERVICES  
SEIRBHÍSÍ UISCE, TIMPELLACHTA AGUS ÉIGEANÁLA**

**Draft Budgeted Expenditure: €29,545,700**

**Draft Budgeted Income: €13,500,700**

The following pages set out the above as per relevant Programme Groups.

## Programme Group 3

### **WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE SOLÁTHAR UISCE AGUS SÉARACHAS**

Draft Budgeted Expenditure: €17,011,600

Draft Budgeted Income: € 7,307,300

(Pages 7-10 of Blue Pages)

#### **1. Operation and Maintenance**

##### **1.1 Water Services (Water Supply & Sewerage)**

###### **1.1.1 INTRODUCTION**

The Census of population and Housing 2002 indicates that approximately 38,000 households in County Donegal enjoyed piped water supply, 31,600 of which were supplied directly from public mains. The balance 6,500 were supplied through Group Water Supply schemes, either taken in charge by the council or private. Some 4,700 households had private supplies. 215 households reported no supply. The corresponding figures for wastewater facilities indicate a much higher dependence on private systems. 15,600 households were connected to public schemes, 26,800 reported individual septic tanks, 500 households reported 'other' facilities, and 288 reported no facility.

Water is extracted from eighty eight separate water sources throughout the county and delivered to consumers through fifty two public water supply schemes and over 140 private group schemes. The above numbers cover schemes serving at least 50 persons. The cut-off of schemes serving 50 persons or more reflects the requirement in the Drinking Water Directive to monitor schemes of this size in terms of drinking water quality. There are very many smaller schemes, mainly private group water schemes, serving small numbers of households that don't fall within the monitoring requirement of the Directive.

Wastewater systems are categorised in terms of 'population equivalent' treated. There are fourteen public schemes in Donegal treating more than 2,000 population equivalent, twenty seven public schemes treating between 500 and 2,000 p.e., and fifty six public schemes treating less than 500 p.e..

The Water Services Bill, which is currently going through the Oireachtas, sets out, inter alia, a new licensing system and regulatory framework for private water service providers, including group water service schemes. The County Council, formerly a Sanitary Authority, will become a Water Services Authority, with new obligations in respect of the licensing and

regulation of private operators. This legislation puts in sharper focus than before the obligations of private groups and the obligations of the Council with respect to their performance. As a prelude to these changes the role of sanitary authority was removed from Town Councils and vested in County Councils in 2004.

This new legislative framework, together with the requirement that all non-domestic water consumers are metered by year end 2006, and charged the full operational cost of water services, plus a portion of the cost of developing capital infrastructure, heralds a period of change in the water services sector.

Two other drivers impacting on water services operations during 2005. The Health, Safety and Welfare at Work Act 2005, has given a renewed focus to safety in the workplace. The launch of the Office of Environmental Enforcement within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has resulted in increased monitoring of our activities.

### **1.1.2 PROGRESS IN 2005**

#### **1.1.2.1 *Water Supply***

Almost 24 million cubic metres of drinking water were produced during the year, of which 22.5 million came from council operated public sources, one million from sources serving private supplies. The Council purchased approximately 200,000 cubic metres water from Northern Ireland during 2005. The Illies water treatment works in Inishowen has replaced NI sources for supplies in the north east of the county.

Customer service has been improved by retaining the services of a call centre to take out of hours emergency calls.

Pilot work on developing workplace safety statements for a number of water treatment plants and pumphouses commenced during the year. A programme of dam inspections was also initiated during the year.

#### **1.1.2.2 *Water Quality***

The environmental health officers of the Health Service Executive continue to monitor drinking water quality on all our schemes. Council laboratory staff and external laboratories were required to play an increased role during 2005 in order to meet the demands of the Drinking Water Directive. The Drinking Water Monitoring Programme covers both public and private supplies serving more than 50 persons or serving facilities where the general public gather.

The EPA report on water quality for year 2004 were published in December 2005. The following is a summary of the report on Donegal.

### *Public Supplies*

Drinking water is tested for parameters under three tables. Public water supplies in Donegal registered compliance levels in 2004 under these tables as follows :

Table A : microbiological 99.6% compliant

Table B : chemical 99.4% compliant

Table C : Indicator 94.4% compliant

Overall compliance with required standards in Public Water Supplies was 95.1%.

Two supplies had microbiological incidents during the year, Cashelard WS and Ballintra WS. The Cashelard incident was found, on investigation, to relate to the sampling procedure and not to the water supply. The Ballintra incident was caused by failure of chlorination equipment. This problem was dealt with at the time and has not recurred.

Compliance with chemical standards in 2004 was good (99.4%). Incidents of non-compliance related to Bromate and Trihalomethanes (chlorination by-products). Tests for these parameters were introduced in 2004 for the first time. Steps are being taken to minimise or eliminate these problems.

Compliance with indicator parameters was 94.4% in 2004. Problems were noted regarding non-compliance with aluminium standards in a number of cases including Ballyshannon, Falcarragh, Gortahork / Falcarragh, Leitermacaward, Frosses /Inver, Carndonagh and Carrigart / Downings water supplies. Steps have been taken to deal this problem at Ballyshannon, Leitermacaward, Carrigart / Downings, Gortahork and Falcarragh. Works are ongoing to improve the water supply at Carndonagh and works are planned to improve the Frosses /Inver supply.

### *Private Group Schemes*

The EPA report highlights problems of non-compliance of private group water supply schemes with private sources. In respect of microbiological incidents the report notes that permanent boiling notices apply to the affected schemes, thereby warning consumers to boil the water prior to use. Nevertheless the report demands action on measures to ensure that these schemes are capable of delivering potable water on a consistent basis. This matter is dealt with in some detail in section 2.2 of the Water, Environment and Emergency section of the budget text, under the heading Rural Water Programme.

An expert group, established by the Minister of Health following publication of the Forum on Fluoridation report, is working on

implementation of the recommendations of that report. The report supports continued fluoridation as a net health benefit to the population. Donegal County Council undertakes fluoridation of specified water supplies on behalf of the health authorities.

#### **1.1.2.3 *Development Pressure***

Development pressure continues to be a feature in many parts of the county, where development constraints are experienced due to limitations of water services, i.e. water supply and wastewater infrastructure. Water from the Fullerton Pollan Dam is being more widely distributed around Inishowen. A rationalisation of water supply areas in the peninsula is ongoing, funded in a range of ways including major capital schemes, development contributions and developer-led works. Interim solutions pending major schemes have seen new sources developed in Ballyshannon and planned in Letterkenny. Small Capital Schemes and water conservation have offered relief in other areas. Unaccounted for water can be reduced from a high average of close to 50%, to acceptable levels of around 30%, through investment in water conservation infrastructure and persistent operational vigilance.

#### **1.1.2.4 *Wastewater Services***

The new wastewater treatment plant at Carndonagh operated well during the year and the river into which it discharges has recovered in terms of water quality. Problems were experienced at the Stranorlar plant due to unexpected loadings from industrial sources. These discharges were brought under control towards the end of the year. Some improvements were made to sludge handling facilities at the Letterkenny works. Biological loadings at this plant have reduced in recent years due to the decline in industry. Volumetric loading continues to grow with the growth in housing and commercial activity.

Minor improvement works were carried out during the year at wastewater treatment plants at Letterkenny, Raphoe, Clonmany, Gleneely, and Newtoncunningham. New pumps were provided at Dunkineely and Castlefinn. Equipment is needed in all wastewater treatment plants to monitor flow and quality in line with EPA requirements, with the fourteen plants serving population equivalents in excess of 2,000 as a priority.

The handling and safe disposal of sludges produced by water and wastewater treatment plants have come under scrutiny by the EPA. Compliance with environmental legislation and best practice poses an ongoing challenge, particularly due to the large number of plants in the county.

Development pressure is a factor in wastewater services as is the case in water supply. The availability of private treatment plants has allowed certain developments to proceed outside the serviced areas. Donegal

County Council is in discussion with the Construction Industry Federation about the ongoing operation and maintenance of such private infrastructure.

#### **1.1.2.5 *Change Management***

The framework within which water services are delivered is changing in significant ways. Private sector involvement is stepping up from their traditional roles in design and construction activities into the arena of operation and maintenance. There have been a series of meetings and workshops during the year with staff representatives to deal with these changes. The Partnership model has worked well in facilitating this dialogue.

#### **1.1.3 PLANS FOR 2006 AND FUTURE YEARS**

The primary goal of all operation and maintenance staff is to adequately operate and maintain all water services infrastructure to comply with statutory requirements in a cost effective manner. Continued improvements will be sought in the quality of drinking water supplied during 2006. The Meenacahan / Meentinadea WS, developed through the Rural Water Programme, will be operated and maintained by the council. Active water conservation on the Lough Mourne and Rosses Regional schemes should yield results as equipment installed is commissioned and used.

A new wastewater treatment plant at Ardara will be completed and operational during 2006. Minor improvements at other wastewater treatment plants will continue in advance of major schemes.

The pilot project on workplace safety statements will be further expanded during 2006. The dam safety programme will continue, addressing defects identified last year and carrying out further inspections on other dams.

A number of Design, Build & Operate (DBO) schemes are expected to take off during 2006. These include a water scheme in Letterkenny, a wastewater scheme in south Donegal and the non-domestic metering programme county-wide. The role of the council is one of regulator rather than operator under the DBO system.

The role of staff in facilitating private development has increased, as has the scale and pace of development throughout the county. Increasingly innovative interim solutions to infrastructural deficits are conceived e.g. interconnecting adjoining supply areas to transfer water, or development of new sources. Every effort will continue to be made to identify such innovations, to ensure that they are cost effective, and to identify appropriate funding sources for their development.

## 1.1.4 FUNDING

### *1.1.4.1 Operational Costs*

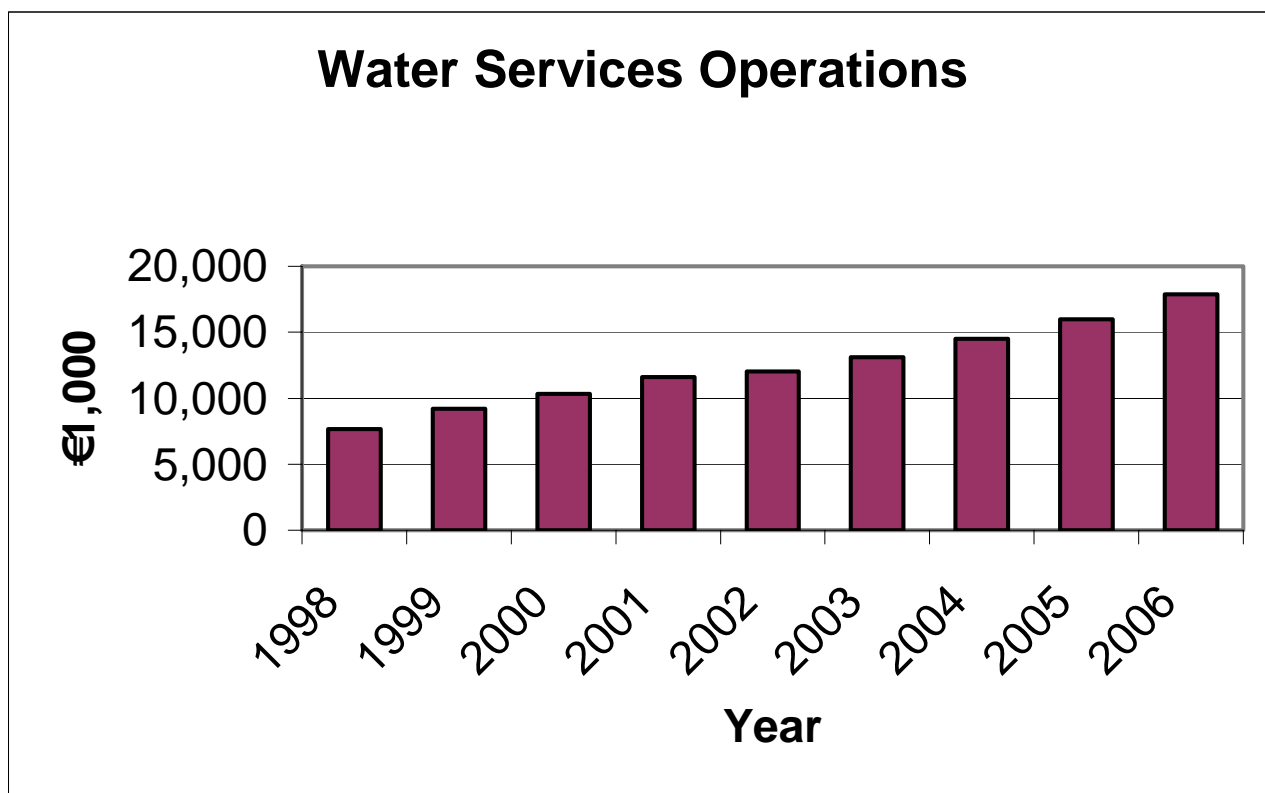
Operation and maintenance expenditure is funded from revenues. A contribution is received annually through the Local Government Fund. Income from water sales goes some way to meeting the cost.

The government's water pricing policy requires the Council to install meters on all non-domestic users by year end 2006, and to recover full proportionate operation and maintenance costs from these customers in addition to a portion of the capital cost of all major schemes, equivalent to the marginal capital cost of supplying the non-domestic sector. It is intended to appoint a Private Service Provider (PSP) to install and maintain the meters.

The draft Budget for 2006 includes a provision of €12,916,600 for the operation and maintenance of Water Supplies, Waste Water Systems and Public Conveniences. This represents an increase of €1,912,800 on the adopted estimate for 2005. The details are as follows:

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>€</b>
Maintenance of Water Supply Schemes	9,637,200
Maintenance of Waste Water Schemes	3,041,400
Maintenance of Public Conveniences	238,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,916,600</b>

Expenditure on Water Services has been increasing consistently over the past years, from just under €8m in 1998 to approximately €16.3m in 2005. The estimate for 2006 is €17.9m



#### **1.1.4.2 Cost Increases**

Costs are increasing for several reasons:

1. Wages and allowances have increased under parallel benchmarking;
2. Cost of operating new assets, including the new Ardara STW and Meenacahan Meentinadea WS;
3. Filling staff posts not replaced in recent years to maintain quality standards and expanding pipe networks;
4. Electricity cost increases;
5. Costs of handling and disposal of water and wastewater sludge;
6. Costs associated with increased water conservation activities.

#### **1.1.4.3 Water Charges Income**

The water charging template developed by the CCMA has yielded the following statistics based on the 2004 expenditure outturn:

Waste Water:	0.564 €/m <sup>3</sup>
Drinking Water:	0.665 €/m <sup>3</sup>
Combined cost:	1.229 €/m <sup>3</sup>
Unaccounted for Water:	40.87%

#### 1.1.4.4 Charges

Government policy requires local authorities to charge the full cost of water supply to Non-Domestic Users [NDU's] by 2006. We have engaged consultants to facilitate this and intend appointing a Private Service Provider (PSP) to supply, install, read and maintain customer meters. In order to ensure that adequate funding will be available to operate new infrastructure being delivered under the WSIP, we need to charge full costs by 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2007. At that time it is likely that we will base our charges on 30% unaccounted for water (UFW). In the meantime we must develop Water Conservation programmes to achieve this reduction in UFW.

Depending on how UFW is accounted for the following table indicates the appropriate charges. Note: these charges are based on the 2004 expenditure outturn and not on 2006 estimated costs:

€ per m <sup>3</sup>	No UFW charged	10% UFW	20% UFW	30% UFW	45.65% UFW
Water Supply	0.665	0.739	0.831	0.950	1.125
Waste-water	0.564	0.564	0.564	0.564	0.564
Combined	1.229	1.303	1.395	1.514	1.689
<b>€ per 1,000 gals</b>	<b>5.586</b>	<b>5.923</b>	<b>6.341</b>	<b>6.882</b>	<b>7.677</b>

Based on 2004 expenditure the cost is €6.88 per 1,000 gallons when allowance is made for 30% UFW. In 2005 a 10% allowance was made. It is recommended that allowance is made for 20% UFW in 2006 so that the council can gradually move towards charging the full cost. This would give the following basis for water services charges for 2006:

	Per Cubic Meter	Per 1000 gallons
Drinking Water	€0.831	€3.78
Waste Water	€0.564	€2.56
Water and Waste Water	€1.395	€6.34

Based on the above a charge of €1.40 per cubic metre water used, or €6.34 per thousand gallons, is proposed for 2006. Compared to 2005 the increase proposed is 96 cent per 1,000 gallons for consumers representing an increase of 17.8%. Separate arrangements will be entered into with major consumers subject to Specific User Agreements, and with consumers who provide some level of private waste-water treatment.

### Charges:

Type of Premises	Metered Charge	Fixed Charge
Non-domestic	€6.34/1,000 gallons €1.40/m <sup>3</sup>	€436
Field supply	€6.34/1,000 gallons €1.40/m <sup>3</sup>	€236
Non-domestic with a domestic unit	First 50,000 gallons/annum free €6.34/1,000 gallons €1.40/m <sup>3</sup>	€236
Meter Rental		€30/annum

It is estimated that this measure will increase revenue by an amount of €114,400.

The council will shortly advertise tenders for a Design Build & Operate contract for the installation, maintenance of reading of water meters on all non-domestic consumers. The contractor is expected to be appointed in mid-2006 and will immediately set about surveying the non-domestic consumer premises in the county and establishing a consumer data-base. This is expected to add over 6,000 new consumers to the council's list. It is intended to capture the first 2,500 new consumers as early as possible in 2006 and to apply the above fixed charge pending completion of meter installation.

It is estimated that this measure will increase revenue by an amount of €1,090,000.

The County & City Managers' Association has been in correspondence with the Department of Environment Heritage & Local Government with regard to the funding of the operation of additional water services infrastructure through the Local Development Fund. In response to a query in 2002 the Secretary General's reply included the statement:

**"However, it is not considered likely that local authorities will have sufficiently advanced towards the development of full cost recovery on the non-domestic side in 2003 to warrant any significant adjustment in the current methodology for the making of allocations from the Fund."**

It must be acknowledged that the council is "advancing towards full cost recovery" but has not reached that stage. The proposal for 2006 is to base costs on the 2004 outturn, as this is the last year for which we have a definitive outturn cost, and to allow for 20% Unaccounted for Water, while knowing that it is actually 40%.

Programme Group 5

**ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COSAINN NA TIMPEALLACHTA**

Draft Budgeted Expenditure: €11,515,700  
Draft Budgeted Income: € 5,907,000  
(Page 14-16 of Blue Pages)

Programme Groups 6

**RECREATION AND AMENITY  
CAITHEAMH AIMSIRE AGUS TAITNEAMHACHT**

Draft Budgeted Expenditure: €459,000  
Draft Budgeted Income: € Nil  
(Pages 17-19 of Blue Pages)

## 1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

(**Note:** Elements of the above programmes are delivered through other Directorates of the County Council e.g. 'Burial Grounds' and 'Flood Relief, Coastal Protection & Other Emergencies', 'Piers and Harbours' under Roads & Transportation; 'Dangerous Buildings' under Housing Service)

### 1.2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Water & Environment Service operates under a number of Budget Programme Groups to deliver Environmental Services. The operational programme is dealt with below under the following headings:

- Waste Management;
- Environment Campaign, Blue Flag Beaches & Water Safety;
- Pollution Control;
- Emergency Services.

#### *1.2.1.1 Waste Management*

The Waste Management Plan adopted in 2000 provides the framework for dealing with municipal waste under the Waste Management Act of 1996. This Plan is currently being reviewed.

Diversion of waste from disposal to recycling is a key strategy in the Plan. Targets include a diversion of 50% of overall household wastes from landfill, a recycling of 35% of municipal waste and a 65% reduction in biodegradable wastes consigned to landfill. To meet these targets Donegal County Council has developed recycling sites throughout the county, operates an awareness campaign, participates in cross-border co-operation, including the North West Region Cross Border Group and works closely with private sector operators in the county. All waste management activity in the county is closely monitored to ensure compliance with legislation and regulations.

Donegal County Council is the sole operator of landfill sites in the county. Six sites are licensed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Only one, at Ballynacarrick, Ballintra, is licensed to accept waste. The others are licensed to regulate their closure and remediation.

### ***1.2.1.2 Environment Campaign, Blue Flag Beaches & Water Safety***

The Council provides a range of services under these headings including annual 'clean up' campaign, litter wardens, mobile litter units, various awards, blue flag beaches, beach cleaning, lifeguards and water safety equipment.

### ***1.2.1.3 Pollution Control***

The Water & Environment laboratory carries out monitoring of environmental indicators and reporting to meet the Council's operational and statutory requirements. The range of activities covered includes drinking water quality (with the assistance of NWHB), sewage treatment works, surface water quality, landfill leachate and gasses, licensed discharges to sewers or waterways, bathing waters (blue flag beaches), oil spills and pollution incidents - water, air or noise.

The site selection process and environmental impact assessment of landfills are led out by laboratory staff, and they also have an involvement in the capital development works at landfill sites in respect of certification of quality of linings. They are also to the forefront of interpreting and implementing the Council's responsibilities under new environmental legislation/regulations. The laboratory service is subject to external audit by the EPA on all aspects of its work.

## **1.2.2 PROGRESS DURING 2005**

### ***1.2.2.1 Waste Management***

#### ***Recycling***

Most areas of the county are now served by the 57 bring bank sites, which provide glass and can recycling. Of these sites, 44 also have a textile recycling bank, while paper and plastic recycling banks remain at 3 locations. Electrical and electronic wastes are collected at the Carndonagh Civic Amenity Site (CAS) and local one-off collections have been very well received at a number of locations. Hazardous wastes such as batteries are being catered for via our banks at the Public Service Centres around the county and the mobile Chemcar collections. Subsidised home composting units remain very popular in 2005 with one thousand units now being sold annually.

In 2005 the county's waste collectors introduced a second collection for dry recyclable materials. Some 6,000 households now avail of this recycling service at their doorstep. This has proved to be the most effective and efficient method of collecting household dry recyclables such as papers, plastics, cardboard, etc.

A new directive in respect of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) came into force in 2005. Shops will now accept return of old items for recycling when new items are purchased. Households may also dispose of WEEE at Council CASs.

The Carndonagh CAS continues to attract large volumes of recyclable materials. A new CAS in Stranorlar opened on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2005.

### ***Disposal***

The Council's landfill site at Ballynacarrick, Ballintra is now the only waste disposal site accepting waste in the county. It is expected to receive approximately 36,500 tonnes in 2005. A three-year operational contract was agreed for the facility in 2005, following a competitive tender process.

In 2005, major capital works continued at Ballynacarrick to develop a new engineered lined cell, capable of holding 70,000 tonnes of waste. EPA approval to commence filling the cell has been delayed due to quality assurance issues. The Council is making every effort to achieve an early resolution of the problem.

Tenders were also sought for further capital works at the landfill. This work will include the extension of the facility through the construction of a further lined cell, as well as restoration works to areas already filled.

The Council advanced the development of a new landfill site at Meenaboll. An application for planning permission was submitted to An Bord Pleanala and an application for a waste licence was lodged with the EPA. In December 2005, the EPA notified the Council of its decision to grant a waste licence for the facility. The decision of An Bord Pleanala is expected shortly.

In 2005, the majority of waste collectors and landfill customers started paying landfill charges by direct debit. This has led to a major improvement with regard to arrears. The Council also introduced a swipe card system at the landfill.

As in previous years, the Council continued to subsidise waste collection on Arranmore and Tory island.

### ***Regulation***

All waste collectors are required to hold a valid Waste Collection Permit (WCP). 29 new WCPs were issued in 2005. In addition, 13 WCPs were reviewed and issued. These revisions including conditions covering "pay-by-use" and kerbside collection of dry recyclables. There is now a total of 122 valid WCPs granted in Donegal. Many of these relate to specialist waste collectors operating countrywide, while 15 relate to collectors who provide waste and skip collection services in the county. A further 23 applications are being considered at present.

Anyone operating a waste facility is required to hold a valid waste permit (WP) and to operate in accordance with its conditions. The activities subject to these permits include materials recovery facilities, sites for disposal or recovery of construction and demolition waste and central composting facilities. In 2005, 21 waste permits were issued, bringing the total granted to 32. One permit was reviewed and issued, while a further 19 applications are under consideration at present.

A new directive in respect of Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) was introduced in 2005, which placed obligations on suppliers of these goods to take certain steps. In particular, suppliers are required, when selling an item, to take back a waste item of a similar type for recycling. All suppliers can choose to register with a collective compliance scheme, which may provide a collection service from individual premises. 57 companies have already registered with the Council since the introduction of the directive in July 2005.

The movement of waste across the border with Northern Ireland was tightened up considerably during 2004. The positive effects of this are evident in the fact that approximately 36,500 tonnes of waste will be accepted at the Council's landfill in 2005.

Other enforcement activities include investigation of illegal dumping, illegal burning, and enforcement of Packaging Regulations, Farm Plastics Regulations and Plastic Bag Levies. All of these are carried out in conjunction with the Litter Wardens.

### ***Awareness***

In 2005, €170,700 was provided for the Awareness Programme. Each year a comprehensive awareness programme is developed and delivered by the Waste Awareness Officer. This programme identifies target groups and stakeholders, and outlines a method of delivering a programme of responsible waste management to each identified group. Such target groups include householders, businesses, schools, large organisations, agricultural community, community groups, Island communities and work has also been

carried out in cross border relations etc. The programme consists of delivering an extensive publicity campaign, talks, workshops, advertising and producing information leaflets and fact sheets. The waste awareness campaign is supported by the National "Race Against Waste" campaign and the waste Awareness Officer plays an integral part with the rollout of the national campaign.

In 2005 the Waste Awareness Officer delivered the schools waste management programme to approximately 80 schools. This programme is now well established and it has resulted in an increase of schools participating in the Green Schools programme. There are currently 96 schools registered with the programme and 32 Green Flags have been awarded, 12 of which were awarded in 2005.

An extensive publicity campaign highlighting the range of services such as bring banks, civic amenity sites, kerbside recycling and home composting was once again delivered. It is the role of the Awareness Officer to inform the public of the services available to them and to promote their use. This campaign also focused on Christmas recycling, Spring Clean and Backyard Burning.

The range of communication tools used included:

- The *Green Piece* environmental news page was published quarterly in five local papers;
- Seasonal advertising, in both print and local radio, e.g. Green Christmas, National Recycling Week etc.;
- Ongoing promotion through local media of services available such as the Civic Amenity Sites and Kerbside Recycling;
- Widespread promotion of Home Composting;
- Press releases to the local media;
- Interviews with the local media.

The Waste Awareness Officer provided advice and support to businesses on implementing good waste management practices. The awareness officer was invited to give waste management talks as part of a number of training schemes, these included FÁS training schemes, Worklink training and R.E.P.S. training.

The Waste Awareness Officer delivered waste management talks to Youth Clubs and Groups, Community Groups such as ICA Guilds, Women's Networks and environmental committees. Parish Council's are a useful network that are very well supported and attended by the local community. The awareness officer has given presentations to a number of these Councils

## ***1.2.2.2 Environmental Campaign Blue Flag Beaches & Water Safety***

### ***Clean Up Campaign***

Donegal County Council's annual 'Clean Up Campaign' supported the efforts of voluntary and community groups in keeping their areas tidy during 2005. The campaign coincided with An Taisce's Spring Clean Up Campaign and continued throughout the summer. The campaign is administered through the local area offices. Assistance is provided to local community groups for carrying out litter clearance activities.

A reception was held in November 2005 to acknowledge the efforts of the voluntary committees who were successful in the National Tidy Competition. Awards and prize money were presented by the Cathaoirleach. In addition, prize money was paid to all groups that took part in the national competition.

### ***Mobile Litter Units***

Two mobile litter units were deployed throughout the year carrying out litter clearance at public areas such as roadsides, picnic areas, beaches and particularly at recycling banks.

### ***Litter Wardens***

The Council's Litter Wardens continue to enforce the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act and Waste Management Act. This includes the detection of various breaches ranging from small-scale littering to large-scale illegal dumping. The Council recruited 3 additional full-time wardens in 2005, bringing the total to 6. The Wardens work is managed by the Area Manager. However, they also assist the Waste Regulation Officer, in relation to various matters, such as enforcing and monitoring compliance with waste permits, setting up vehicle checkpoints and checking compliance with the farm plastics regulations.

Monitoring of litter pollution in Co. Donegal using the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System was commenced in 2005. Surveys were carried out by the Litter Wardens, in accordance with this system.

### ***Blue Flag Beaches & Beach Cleaning***

Donegal retained 11 of its Blue Flags in 2005. These were in respect of the following beaches:

Murvagh	Marblehill	Fintra	Carrickfinn
Culdaff	Rossnowlagh	Killahoey	Shroove
Lisfannon	Magherawarden (Portsalon)		*Bundoran.

(\* Bundoran Town Council is responsible for this beach)

The beach at Narin-Portnoo did not retain its Blue Flag this year. This is due to development on the dunes in the beach hinterland, which the International Jury considered not to be in the spirit of the Blue Flag programme. The Council are seeking clarification on the matter and will endeavour to regain the Blue Flag in 2006. It should be noted that the water quality at this beach continues to meet the strict standards required for Blue Flag compliance.

A cross border pilot project on Beach Management is being pursued by the Community & Enterprise Directorate based on Rosstown beach in Donegal and Benone beach in Derry. We anticipate feedback from this project to guide development of beaches in the county.

### ***Water Safety***

Lifeguards are employed by Donegal County Council and these cover all Blue Flag beaches and some other well used locations, including Rathmullan and Downings. Lifesaving equipment is also provided. A contribution is made to local search and rescue groups in the county.

### ***1.2.2.3 Pollution Control***

2005 saw the second year of the new drinking water regulations, with the addition this year of 18 schemes, primarily group water schemes, for audit monitoring at the request of the EPA. This continued to place a significant burden on Laboratory resources, as the service offered by the HSE, (formerly NWHB) was further restricted through capacity issues in their Galway laboratory. This has meant having to expand the service availed of at commercial external laboratories at significant cost and has also placed extra demands of Laboratory staff in terms of sampling and analysis. Further requirements in the service provided by the Laboratory in this area in 2006 will place additional workload on the Laboratory staff.

The laboratory staff carried out sampling and testing of a small number of Rural Water Schemes in the County, in the early part of the year, on behalf of the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government as part of an ongoing service contract. This project and its associated funding have now finished. Sampling and analysis of wells, mostly for well grant purposes, was also undertaken in 2005 and will continue in the coming year.

Monitoring of influent and effluent at sewage treatment works was conducted and results reported to the EPA. Infrastructure constraints at many of these works limit the extent of monitoring achievable. Discharges to air and water were monitored at quarries & landfill sites and all industrial discharges covered by the licensing requirements of the Water Pollution Act 1977/90 were monitored by the service.

Lake waters were also monitored as part of an EPA requirement covering approximately 40 lakes per year on a 4-year programme. Designated salmonoid river monitoring is part of the routine work carried out by the service. Other rivers not designated but considered significant are also monitored. A significant increase in monitoring work was required in 2005 due to the increased activity of the EPA's Office of Enforcement in following up on declining river water quality, recorded during the Agency's routine river monitoring programme. This also necessitated the carrying out of Farm Survey work in certain catchment areas.

The Laboratory continues to monitor sensitive locations under the Phosphate Regulations and the Dangerous Substances Regulations. These monitoring programmes are part of an ongoing process and require additional Laboratory Services resources to be made available for the foreseeable future.

The Laboratory will provide a licensing role under the Solvent Regulations over the coming years, as users of organic solvents, such as Dry Cleaners and Vehicle Refinishers, in particular, will have to register their installations with the Council by October 2007.

#### ***1.2.2.4: Water Framework Directive***

The EC Water Framework Directive (WFD), which came into force on 22 December 2000, is widely regarded as the most important piece of European water legislation to date. It establishes a new, integrated, approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of Europe's rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwaters. It proposes a system of water quality management based on natural river catchments. All Member States have expressed a commitment to implement the Directive in a way that achieves the best possible balance between the protection and improvement of the water environment and the interests of those who depend on it for their prosperity and quality of life.

The Directive provides for a new, strengthened system for the protection and improvement of water quality and dependent ecosystems. It aims at maintaining "high status" of waters where it exists, preventing any deterioration in the existing status of waters, and achieving at least "good status" in relation to all waters by 2015. The status of waters will be determined by reference to chemical and biological criteria (which together form an assessment of ecological status) in the case of surface waters, and chemical and quantitative criteria in the case of groundwaters. The Directive sets a demanding timescale for implementation.

Implementation of the Directive on the island of Ireland provides the opportunity to co-operate, North and South, on the sustainable management of the shared water environment. As a first step the Department of the Environment in the North and the Department of the Environment, Heritage

and Local Government in the South have delineated three international river basin districts, (IRBDs). An objective of the Directive is to promote common approaches, standards and measures for water management across Member States of the European Community and to provide for the monitoring of water status on a systematic and comparable basis throughout the Community. It also aims at ensuring that water management is co-ordinated on the basis of whole river basins i.e. by reference to the natural, environmental unit rather than by reference to administrative or legal boundaries, which often fragment river basins.

For rivers and lakes, the whole island of Ireland is designated as a single Ecoregion (Ecoregion 17) under the WFD. All coastal and transitional waters surrounding the island of Ireland are included in one Ecoregion (Ecoregion 1), which also includes waters in Scotland, England and Wales.

***Overall Objective:***

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen inter-regional capacity for environmental monitoring and management capacity at river basin district level, to improve public awareness and participation in water management issues and to protect and enhance the aquatic environment and dependant ecosystems. Achievement of this objective will provide a sound basis to draw up river basin plans within the identified international river basin districts.

***Study Area:***

The study area comprises the Neagh Bann International River Basin District, (IRBD) the North Western IRBD and the North Eastern RBD), together with all remaining areas that comprise the INTERREG 3A area (Counties Donegal Londonderry, Antrim, Tyrone, Fermanagh, Armagh, Down, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, and Louth). The study is now called the NS SHARE project.

### ***NS SHARE:***

The project acronym comes from North South **SH**aring **A**quatic **RE**sources. Donegal County Council was invited by the two government departments to act as the lead authority for the implementation of the project. We have been awarded funding under the INTERREG IIIA programme in the amount of €7.47 million. Progress to date is as follows:

1. INTERREG funding secured;
2. A Steering Group has been established representing EHS(DoE NI), EPA, GSI, DoEHLG and DCC and has met at regular intervals in 2005;
3. The further Characterisation report deadline was met;
4. The spend profile for the project has been achieved.
5. A very successful symposium involving technical staff from County Councils, The EPA, The EHS(DoENI) and DoEHLG was held in Letterkenny
6. A website for the project has been developed
7. A workshop involving officials from the Republic of Ireland Northern Ireland and Great Britain is scheduled to be held in Letterkenny early in 2006

### ***River Basin District Advisory Council:***

The Water Policy Regulations require the establishment by the local authorities in each river basin district of a River Basin District Advisory Council as a permanent forum for direct dialogue and interaction between interested parties and the relevant public authorities. The terms of reference of the councils, as set out in article 16 of the Regulations, are:

"to consider matters relating to the preparation of river basin management plans and other matters relevant to the protection and use of the aquatic environment and water resources in the district and to advise and make recommendations on these matters to the relevant public authorities".

### **Establishment and Membership**

The first generation of Advisory Councils will be established as soon as possible and should all be in place in 2005. Subsequent Advisory Councils will be established as soon as possible after local elections and will remain in place until the retirement of the members of the local authorities in accordance with section 17 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (No. 37 of 2001).

The membership of the Advisory Council will comprise -

- Persons appointed by the relevant local authorities in each river basin district, and
- Co-opted members who have knowledge, qualifications or experience of relevance to the river basin district.

Regard will be had to the need for a spread of relevant interests, balance between divergent interests and the range of interests that can be accommodated.

Donegal County Council is the lead authority for the North West River Basin District and is co-ordinating the establishment of the Advisory Council. The NW RBD covers counties Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and Longford.

### **Members appointed by Local Authorities**

Each local authority in a river basin district will appoint two persons as members of the Advisory Council. Each of the appointees must be either an elected member of the local authority or a sectoral representative from one of the Strategic Policy Committees of the authority. It is envisaged that all members appointed to the Advisory Council will retain membership for the lifetime of the Advisory Council but where an appointee ceases to be a member for any reason the relevant local authority will appoint a new member.

### **Co-opted Members from Sectoral Interests**

Advisory Councils are required to co-opt additional members who are representative of interested parties or who have knowledge, qualifications or experience of relevance to its functions in order to facilitate a wide representation of community and sectoral interests. In this context "interested parties" in relation to a river basin district are defined as including persons who -

- (a) are carrying on any business which relies upon the water environment in the district, or
- (b) are carrying on any activities which have or are likely to have an impact on water status in the district, or
- (c) have an interest in the protection of the water environment in the district whether as users of the water environment or otherwise.

The Regulations require that the co-opted members should as far as is practicable include persons, or representatives of persons, who are involved in -

- (a) agriculture,
- (b) business or economic activities,
- (c) angling or other recreational activities which relate to the use of water,
- (d) social or community activities,
- (e) academic, professional or research activities related to water, and
- (f) A body that has the objective of protecting water quality or aquatic ecosystems.

It is envisaged that those co-opted will be individuals, or representatives of groups or associations, that are active, or have a relevance, in a locality - or preferably a number of localities - in the river basin district. It will be expected that co-opted members will retain membership for the lifetime of the Advisory Council but where a co-opted member ceases to be a member for one reason or another the Advisory Council may co-opt a new member.

## 1.2.3 PLANS FOR 2006 AND FUTURE YEARS

### *1.2.3.1 Waste Management*

#### *Recycling*

The kerbside collection of dry recyclables will continue to be extended by waste collectors in 2006. A third collection service is planned for 2006 where householders will be offered a collection for their biodegradable wastes. These organic materials will be diverted from landfill and composted at a central facility.

The council opened its new Civic Amenity Site at Stranorlar on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2005. This is designed and constructed to the highest standards and provides the people of the Finn Valley area with an integrated recycling facility dealing with the full range of materials from bottles and cans to bulky household goods. It will accept household hazardous wastes such as fluorescent tubes, waste oil and paint.

It is planned to develop new Civic Amenity Sites at Laghey and Letterkenny in 2006 and to progress the planning of CAS at Milford and Dungloe. The introduction of charges at all CAS is being considered for 2006.

Potential community recycling projects will be encouraged and developed in 2006. These will include further waste management projects for Tory Island, following the successful expansion of the waste collection service for the island.

Efforts will continue to source additional bring bank sites. This is especially necessary in the larger towns in the County, most notably Letterkenny.

#### *Regulation*

The activities of WCP and WP holders will be subject to ongoing monitoring by Council staff to ensure compliance with legislation and the permit conditions. In particular, auditing will be carried out on the volume of waste collected compared to that which is disposed of at the Council's landfill site. The review of waste collection permits, which commenced in 2004, will also continue.

The introduction of kerbside recycling will result in a large volume of recyclable waste being transported into Northern Ireland. The Council will monitor this activity to ensure it is being carried out in accordance with legislation in respect of the transfrontier shipment of waste.

### ***Disposal***

It is expected that the EPA will approve the use of the new cell at Ballynacarrick in early 2006, following resolution of the quality assurance issues. The Council will commence filling the cell at the earliest possible date.

Following the evaluation of tenders, a new capital contract will be awarded for the Existing Site Restoration and Phase 2 Development at Ballynacarrick. This work will provide additional capacity of approximately 120,000 tonnes. It will also ensure compliance with the conditions of the waste licence with regard to the restoration of the areas that have already been landfilled.

The council was notified on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2005, of the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] proposed decision to grant a licence for the operation of a new landfill by the council at Meenaboll. Approval from An Bord Pleanála is expected early in 2006. On receipt of planning approval the Council will conclude the land acquisition process and go to tender for the construction contract.

As in previous years, provision is being made to continue subsidising waste management activities on Arranmore and Tory Island.

### ***Awareness***

In 2006, the Waste Awareness Officer will develop an awareness campaign. This will involve visiting at least half of all National Schools and all Secondary Schools in Donegal, i.e. approximately 100 schools. In the Green Schools programme, we have a target of having at least 10 more schools achieving Green flag status in 2006. Donegal County Council is committed to the Schools programme, as educating young people will have a direct influence on their future behaviour in relation to Waste Management.

The Awareness Officer will continue with a comprehensive publicity campaign focusing on the provision of waste management services such as kerbside recycling, seasonal issues such as Christmas, Spring & Summer, Halloween and other priorities that arise throughout the course of the year. Kerbside Recycling will be the focus of much of the campaign as it is only with the participation of householders that the service will be successful. There will be also specific publicity promoting the use of Recycling Centres. The Publication of the "Green Piece" every quarter in the local newspapers will continue.

The Awareness Officer will organise seminars for small businesses in Donegal in association with Race Against Waste. An Action at Work seminar for large organisations will be organised with the Community and Enterprise

section, through the County Development Board. This work will complement the work of the Recycling Officer.

It is intended to formalise the relationship with the FÁS, Worklink and R.E.P.S. training schemes in the future by liaising with the co-ordinators to have waste management included as an option or integral part of their training schemes.

Waste Management Workshops will continue to be held with community groups, youth groups and youth leaders. Through the Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund, Donegal County Council has supported the production of a waste guide aimed at teachers and youth leaders. This resource will be distributed in 2006 and will help teachers and leaders alike to deliver waste workshops to their own classes or groups. These guides will be forwarded to all youth groups and schools in the County. A workshop in association with Race Against Waste is planned for Youth Clubs in 2006, as part of the Race Against Waste 360 Degrees campaign.

The Race Against Waste Team has recently launched Year Three of the National Waste Awareness Campaign. This campaign is supported and promoted locally by the Waste Awareness Officer. This involves co-ordinating competitions, workshops and seminars, advertising campaigns and issuing local press statements.

#### ***1.2.3.2 Environmental Campaign, Blue Flag Beaches & Water Safety***

Provision is being made in 2006 to maintain the existing level of activity under a number of headings: the Litter Warden Service; Mobile Litter Units; Clean Up Campaign; grants and prizes for Tidy Towns; Water Safety. Increased funding is being provided to ensure the Council complies with the criteria for the Blue Flag Beach programme. Increased funding is also being provided to assist groups involved in search and rescue activities. Provision has been made for the preparation of a new Litter Management Plan.

#### ***1.2.3.3 Pollution Control***

Laboratory services will be delivered in compliance with the Council's statutory and operational requirements during 2006. Cooperation with the HSE EHOs is valued and is planned to continue. 2006 will see a further increase in workload for laboratory staff in the monitoring of waters, which are used as sources for drinking water. This will also create an extra financial burden on the service due to the use of external laboratories for certain of the analyses involved.

Projects that will receive support from the laboratory during the year include landfill development at Ballynacarrick and Meenaboll, landfill remediation at closed landfill sites and the NS SHARE project (Water Framework directive).

A new Central Laboratory will be required as the existing building will no longer be available when construction commences on the Letterkenny Waste Water Treatment Works project. The new Lab facility will provide County Donegal with the facilities & equipment necessary to meet the Scientific and Environmentally related services required in the new century. Interim arrangements, possibly including moving to a temporary premises, may have to be made during the construction phase of the new lab, depending on its timing with respect to the WWTP project.

## 1.2.4 FUNDING

### *1.2.4.1: Environment: Waste Management*

The Income and Expenditure Budget for waste management in 2006 is €4,794,300.

Grants income to assist local Authorities with the cost of recycling and enforcement is estimated to raise €70,500. A small income of €12,500 is generated from sales of home composters. Waste collection and disposal must be paid for directly by the users of the service in compliance with the Government's 'Polluter Pays Principle'. It is proposed to introduce a charge at Civic Amenity Sites as a contribution towards meeting their running costs. The balancing income for the programme comes in the form of landfill gate fees, which include a levy of €15 per tonne to be passed on to the Government.

The running costs of CAS in 2006 is estimated at €404,700. It is proposed to raise €96,300 from gate fees at CAS. It is proposed to accept glass, cans, textiles and WEEE (Waste, Electrical & Electronic Equipment) free of charge. Other recyclable household items will be charged at €5 per car and large bulky goods at €15 per vehicle.

It is anticipated that 30,700 tonnes of waste will be accepted at landfill in 2006, excluding Council vehicles. This is a reduction on the 2005 figure due to diversion of waste from landfill in accordance with the Waste Management Plan. A landfill gate fee of €150.00 per tonne is proposed for the year 2006 to cover cost of waste management. The makeup of the Landfill Charge proposed is as follows:

*At the resumed Budget Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2006 it was agreed to retain the existing gate fee of €137.50 per tonne until the Waste Management Plan is reviewed in 2006. To achieve the income of €4,605,000 targeted in the Draft Budget for 2006, tonnage anticipated can be increased to 33,500 which requires adjustment to expenditure in Levies payable to Government (+€42,000) with a reduction of (-€42,000) in Loan Charges. The draw down of loans may not proceed as originally anticipated given the likely review of the Council's Waste Management Plan following discussions with the Elected Members at the Budget meeting.*

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>Draft Budget 2006</b>	<b>Adopted Budget 2006</b>
Landfill Operation & Maintenance	1,404,000	1,404,000
Payment of Landfill Levy	460,500	502,500
Operation of Civic Amenity Sites	404,700	404,700
Loan Charges	703,300	661,300
Recycling	555,000	555,000
Environmental Awareness	187,500	187,500
Clean Up Campaign	100,000	100,000
Litter Warden (Part)	70,000	70,000
Administration and Miscellaneous	424,300	424,300
Central Management	485,000	485,000
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>4,794,300</b>	<b>4,794,300</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Anti-Litter grant	11,500	11,500
Environmental Partnership Grant	9,000	9,000
Recycling Grant	60,000	60,000
Composting Sales	12,500	12,500
Income from Civic Amenity Sites	96,300	96,300
<b>Receipts Total:</b>	<b>189,300</b>	<b>189,300</b>
<b>Balance to be funded - Landfill Charges</b>	<b>4,605,000</b>	<b>4,605,000</b>
<b>Receipts - 30,700 tonnes @ €150.00 (Draft Budget 2006)</b>	<b>4,605,000</b>	
<b><i>Receipts - 33,500 tonnes @ €137.50 (Adopted Budget 2006)</i></b>		<b>4,605,000</b>

## LANDFILL CHARGES 2005 - Comparison with other Local Authorities

Price Per Tonne	Local Authority
€ 240.00	Cork Co. Co.
€ 201.00	Wicklow Co. Co.
€ 180.00	Fingal Co. Co.
€ 180.00	Wexford Co. Co.
€ 170.00	Kerry Co. Co.
€ 165.00	Tipperary SR
€ 165.00	Kilkenny Co. Co.
€ 150.00	Mayo Co. Co.
€ 146.00	Roscommon Co. Co.
€ 145.00	Carlow Co. Co.
€ 140.00	Limerick Co. Co.
€ 140.00	Westmeath Co. Co.
€ 140.00	Tipperary NR
€ 140.00	Offaly Co. Co.
€ 140.00	Laois Co. Co.
€ 137.50	Donegal Co. Co.
€ 135.00	Clare Co. Co.
€ 130.00	Galway Co. Co.
€ 125.00	Cavan Co. Co.
€ 120.00	South Dublin Co. Co.
€ 120.00	Louth Co. Co.
€ 115.00	Monaghan Co. Co.
€ 115.00	Waterford Co. Co.

### ***1.2.4.2: Environment Campaign***

The Draft Budget for 2006 includes for expenditure of €737,500 and Receipts of €252,500. This will provide for continued level of service in respect of the Litter Wardens, Mobile Litter Units, grants and prizes for Tidy Towns.

### ***1.2.4.3: Water & Environment Laboratory***

The Draft Budget for 2006 includes for expenditure of €920,700 and Receipts of €127,000. The Laboratory raises some income from provision of contract services to Government programs.

***1.2.4.4: Water Safety***

The Draft Budget for 2006 includes a provision of €371,500 in expenditure under this heading. This includes contributions to voluntary groups involved in search, rescue and recovery activities.

***1.2.4.5: Beach Management***

The Draft Budget for 2006 includes a provision of €222,000 under expenditure to meet the Blue Flag Beach criteria.

***1.2.4.6: Leisure Centres***

The Draft Budget for 2006 includes a provision of €237,000 under expenditure to cover contributions to Ballyshannon Leisure Centre (€182,000) and Buncrana Leisure Centre (€55,000).

Programme Group 7

**AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE  
TALMHAÍOCHT, OIDEACHAS, SLÁINTE AGUS LEAS**

Draft Budgeted Expenditure: €11,500  
Draft Budgeted Income: € Nil

(Pages 20-22 of Blue Pages)

**DISEASES OF ANIMALS**

The Draft Budget for 2006 includes a provision of €11,500 under the Diseases of Animals heading.

(Note : Elements of the above programme are delivered through other Directorates of the County Council e.g. 'Higher Education Grants' and 'Superannuation' under Corporate Service and 'Piers and Harbours' under Roads and Transportation)

## Programme Group 8

### MISCELLANEOUS ÉAGSÚIL

Draft Budgeted Expenditure:	€547,900
Draft Budgeted Income:	€286,400

(Pages 23-27 of Blue Pages)

#### 1.2.5 VETERINARY SERVICE:

The aims of the Council's Veterinary Service can be summarized as follows:

*To continually ensure the highest standards of protection for the citizens of Donegal in relation to food safety, the effects of animals on the environment and zoonotic disease through the enforcement of national legislation, - in accordance with the resources at our disposal.*

In fulfilling this brief, priority will be given to the welfare of animals and the promotion of animal health.

Donegal County Council exercises a range of powers and responsibilities in relation to animal and food Acts and various E.U. and National Instruments/Protocols and Directives which have the objective of:

- Protecting the domestic meat supply
- Protecting the domestic milk supply
- Control and protection of dogs
- Diseases of Animals Act.
- Control of sheep scab
- Provisions re. Class A diseases
- Protection of the environment, welfare of animals, zoonotic diseases
- Other miscellaneous items

The service is staffed as follow:

- 2 full time Veterinary Inspectors
- 4 Part time temporary Veterinary Inspectors
- 1 Grade 4 Clerical Officer
- 1 part time General Operative (kennel person)
- 2 Dog Wardens (ISPCA)

The legal instruments which support this work include the following:

- Food Safety Authority of Ireland Act 1998
- Abattoir Act, 1988 and Regulations
- Diseases of Animals (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) (Specified Risk Material) Orders 1997
- EC (Protection of Animals at Time of Slaughter) Regulations 1995
- EC (Fresh Poultry Meat) Regulations, 1996
- EC (Fresh Meat) Regulations, 1997
- EU Directive 92 / 116
- EC Meat Product Regulations, 1995
- EC Minced Meat and Meat Preparations Regulations, 1996
- EC Meat Products and Other Products of Animal Origin Amendment Regulations, 1997

***Domestic Meat Supply:***

The service acts to protect the public interest by the:

1. Supervision of operational hygiene in Abattoirs
2. Annual Licensing - Abattoirs and Slaughtermen
3. Spot checks
4. Microbiological Checks
5. Animal welfare
6. Cleanliness
7. Post Mortem Inspections / Health Mark
8. Refrigeration, Handling and Transport

Animals slaughtered under Donegal County Council supervision

	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs
2003	6620	22203	2113
2004	6956	23023	930

***Protecting the domestic milk supply:***

Under the Milk and Dairies Act 1935/1956, and also S.I. No.9 of 1996 - EC (Hygienic Production and placing on the Market of Raw Milk, Heat Treated Milk and Milk Based Products) Regulations 1996 and 2003, the council ensures the registration and supervision of the "on farm" production of the liquid milk supply.

### ***Dog Control:***

Under the following relevant Legislation:

- Control of Dogs Act, 1986/1992
- Dog Licensing requirement
- Empowers dog warden or Gardai to seize dogs
- Empowers Local Authority to dispose of unwanted dogs
- Special requirements re. dangerous dogs and/or burial of carcasses.

The council provides a dog warden service in conjunction with the ISPCA. Stray dogs are impounded, offered for sale, and if necessary put down. The number of dogs impounded was 1106 in 2004 compared with 1170 in 2003.

### ***Budgets for 2006:***

The Veterinary Service is substantially subsidised and the following give a summary of the budget estimates for 2006.

<b><i>Item</i></b>	<b><i>Expenditure</i></b>	<b><i>Receipts</i></b>	<b><i>Net Cost to DCC</i></b>
Abattoirs	328,5000	306,400	22,100
Dogs	182,400	62,500	119,900
Horses	25,000		25,000
Milk/Dairies	12,000		12,000
Diseases	11,500		11,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>559,400</b>	<b>368,900</b>	<b>190,500</b>

### **1.3 EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Fire service and Civil Defence deliver emergency services on behalf of the County Council.

#### **1.3.1 Fire Service:**

The council employs a Chief Fire Officer, three Assistant Chief Fire Officers and three Assistant Fire Officers, as well as three clerical/admin staff at its Lettekenny HQ. These officers deal with operational management of the fire brigades and also fire prevention programmes. As part of their duties the officers provide a roster on call service for fire emergency situations, and they also provide continuous training for the retained fire-fighters through an approved training programme. Among their other duties are making inspections, reporting on planning applications and attending the courts in respect of licensing of premises used by the public, and business premises handling dangerous chemicals. They are actively involved in the implementation of the Fire Services Act 1981 and in processing Fire Safety Certificates for buildings which will have a public utility under the Building Control Act, 1990.

The brigades, which comprise approx. 150 firefighters, are based at 16 stations throughout the county, including Aranmore. Three border brigade areas are covered for first call by Northern Ireland brigades at Derry, Strabane and Irvinestown. There are some volunteer fire fighters also on Aranmore and on Tory Island supplied with County Council equipment, whilst Carrigart Fire Brigade provides an independent voluntary service in their own area.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our first female fire-fighter, Kathleen Gallagher who joined the Falcarragh brigade in November, 2005.

The Fire Service responded to approximately 750 incidents in 2005, and these were mostly domestic fires, road traffic accidents and gorse fires. This compares with 1300 callouts in 2004. The reduction in call-outs, and especially in fatalities countrywide, is encouraging and indicates that investment in **Fire Prevention** and in the new computerised call-out system, CAMP, is paying off.

#### **Change Programme:**

The Minister, Mr Dick Roche, launched the Fire Services Change Programme [FSCP] in February, 2005.

The FSCP is a dedicated programme to implement the key changes in fire services in Ireland arising from the Farrell Grant Sparks report, "Review of Fire Safety and Fire Services in Ireland".

The Programme addresses four key areas, or modules, identified by FGS:

- Risk-Based Approach to Emergency Cover
- Community Fire Safety
- Competency-Based Approach to Recruitment, Retention and Career Progression
- Safety, Health & Welfare Enhancement

An implementation framework has been set up representing all of the stakeholders with a view to rolling out these changes during the next few years.

### **Major Emergency Planning:**

A Framework for Major Emergency Planning in Ireland is being developed by an inter-departmental committee. This will broaden our response in the area of major emergency to wider set of measures:

- Hazard Analysis/Risk Assessment
- Mitigation/Risk Management
- Planning and Preparedness
- Co-ordinated Response
- Recovery

Major emergency response will be regionally based and the framework, which replaces the 1984 Framework for Co-ordinated Response to Major Emergencies, sets out in detail the respective roles of the main agencies, viz, the County Council, Gardai, and Health Services Executive.

### ***Draft Budget 2006:***

The Draft Budget for 2006 includes €5,186,800 in expenditure and €734,500 in Receipts. It is intended to provide a level of service in 2006 which is similar to previous years.

### ***1.3.2 Civil Defence:***

The Government, in the White Paper on Defence dated the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2000, addressed Civil Defence in the context of its current roles and activities. The White Paper committed the Government to providing the necessary infrastructure and training to enable Civil Defence to continue to develop its capacity to respond to emergencies as a high quality second line emergency service and facilitate community support activities while preserving the voluntary nature and ethos of the organization.

The legislation was enacted in the form of the Civil Defence Act 2002. The first piece of Civil Defence legislation to be passed through the Oireachtas in over 50 years and marked a major milestone in the history of the organisation.

The Civil Defence Act 2002 allows for the Civil Defence Board to develop policy and advise the Minister for Defence on policy issues relating to Civil Defence matters and to propose initiatives in that regard. Donegal Civil Defence has developed a Code of Conduct policy in 2003, which has been adopted nationally as the template for a National Policy in 2004.

To this end Minister Willie O' Dea, T.D., officially launched the first Strategic Plan of the Civil Defence Board, on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2005 at a ceremony in the Civil Defence School, Ratra House, Dublin. The plan, having input from all the Local Authorities, outlines the aims and objectives of the organisation for 2005-2007.

The main programme of activities undertaken within Donegal Civil Defence could broadly be described as;

- First Aid / Casualty
- Search and Rescue
- Auxiliary Fire Fighting
- Kayaking/ Boating Techniques
- Radiation Monitoring
- Radio Communications
- Welfare Provision

**Policy:**

Significant progress has been made this year on policy issues;

- Volunteer Protection policy has been drafted and implemented.
- The Local Authority, Dignity at Work Policy has been adopted and provides for the practical guidance to Civil Defence volunteers on issues of harassment, sexual harassment, and bullying during their work.

**Resources:**

Membership in Donegal has increased by 12 volunteers to 121 in 2005.

A special once-off grant was awarded by the Civil Defence Board to each local authority for the purchase of Civil Defence equipment. Donegal Civil Defence purchased a Fire tender and Nissan Patrol for conversion to a 4WD ambulance.

**Emergency Assistance:**

Civil Defence assisted the Gardaí, Foyle Search and Rescue and the PSNI in the cross border search for a missing Burt man in June 2004. Civil Defence is part of the Donegal Emergency plan and took part in joint table exercises with the Local Authority, Health Service Executive, Fire Service and An Gardaí Siochanna.

**Non - Emergency Events:**

Volunteers give considerable time and energy to assisting the community and the Gardaí in the provision of First Aid, Stewarding and Traffic/Crowd Control at various festivals, sporting activities, charitable walks, etc., throughout the year. 72 community events were covered between May and November, and approximately 900 volunteer-hours were provided in assisting the community. For example Civil Defence were a continuous presence at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, and also assisted at the historic visit of the New Zealand All Blacks to Ramelton on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

**Health & Safety:**

Certain Civil Defence activities may carry the risk to exposure to the Hepatitis B virus. The use of barrier devices where exposure to body fluids is possible is considered essential. The Hepatitis B and Tetanus vaccinations were made available to all Civil Defence volunteers.

**Training:**

The following training programmes were provided for volunteers:

First Aid/Casualty	Technical/Urban Rescue
Auxiliary Fire Fighting	Kayak/Boating Techniques
Radiation Monitoring	Radio Communications
Welfare Provision.	

**Competition Success:**

**May** - Multi Skilled team came second in the National Exercise in Monaghan.

**September:** 1<sup>st</sup> County AFS Pump Drill competition was held at the Public Services Center, Letterkenny on 18<sup>th</sup> September. Teams from Letterkenny, Carndonagh and Carrigart contested the event. Carrigart won the overall competition with Carndonagh finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

**October 7<sup>th</sup>:** Carndonagh and Carrigart AFS competed in the Regional Competition at Carrick-on-Shannon. Carrigart finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> place and Carndonagh securing 2<sup>nd</sup> Place.

**October 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Carndonagh and Carrigart AFS competed in the National Competition at Virginia, Co Cavan. Carndonagh finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place and Carrigart secured 3<sup>rd</sup> position.

**National Kayak Competition:**

Donegal was privileged to host the National Civil Defence Kayak (Pat Kennedy Memorial Cup) Competition.

The competition originated in 1998, following the tragic death of South Tipperary, Civil Defence member, Pat Kennedy, aged 28 years, during kayak training. Donegal being the current holders of the cup were invited to host the 2005 competition. The competition, held on Lough Eske attracted teams from Clare, Dublin, Galway, Meath, Monaghan, Louth and South Tipperary. Monaghan won the competition with Meath County securing runner up position.

**National Recognition:**

Special Olympic medals were awarded to Civil Defence Officers and Volunteers around the country in recognition of their contribution to the Special Olympics 2003. The Civil Defence Officer and 42 volunteers from Donegal were awarded medals for their dedication to the service during this time.

Mr. Columba Gallagher, Donegal was appointed to the Civil Defence Board as the Regional Volunteer representative.

***Draft Budget 2006:***

The Draft Budget for Civil Defence in 2006 includes an expenditure provision of €111,000 and income of €77,700 under this heading.

## **2. CAPITAL PROGRAMMES AND ASSET FORMATION**

Capital Works in the Water, Environment & Emergency Service are delivered under the following programmes:

- The Water Services Investment Programme
- The Rural Water Programme
- Miscellaneous Schemes Programme
- The Waste Management Programme
- Fire Stations and Fire Appliances

These programmes are described below. Their component sub programmes are introduced, progress during 2005 is noted, plans for 2006 and future years are outlined, and matters related to funding are discussed.

### **2.1 WATER SERVICES INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

The Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) is a major programme of works designed to address water services infrastructural deficits. It is a rolling three year programme that is updated annually. It was initially developed in the year 2000 in response to deficits identified in the Assessment of Needs study carried out in 1999. A follow up Assessment of Needs study was completed in 2003/ 2004, which will be the basis for further schemes being included on the programme by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government.

The Water Services Investment Programme 2005-2007 announced in December 2005 for County Donegal is estimated to cost €335 million. It is presented under the following three sub-programme headings:

- Major Capital Programme (including Rural Towns and Villages Initiative)
- Serviced Land Initiative Programme,
- Water Conservation Programme,
- Asset Management Study, and
- North South SHARE Project.

## **2.1.1 Major Capital Programme (including Rural Towns and Villages Initiative)**

### **2.1.1.1 Introduction**

This programme provides investment for major water and wastewater projects on a timetable largely determined by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government.

Every Major Capital Project is subject to external approvals at the following stages and cannot generally proceed beyond any stage without such approval:-

- Preliminary Report Stage (DEHLG)
- Environmental Impact Assessment Stage (An Bord Pleanála)
- Foreshore Licence Application (Department of Communications Marine and Natural Resources where EIA not prepared)
- Water Rights Proposal (An Bord Pleanála in the event of objections)
- Compulsory Purchase Order (An Bord Pleanála in the event of objections)
- Contract Document Stage (DEHLG)
- Tender Invitation Stage (DEHLG)
- Tender Approval and Construction (DEHLG)
- Final Account Stage (DEHLG)

In addition the Departments approval of Water Charging Policy (WCP) Reports is required at Preliminary Report, Contract Document, Tender Invitation, and Final Account stages. This approval determines how much of the project cost has to be recovered by the Council from non-domestic consumers and from the Councils own resources (Development Contribution Scheme).

The Major Capital Programme 2005-2007 is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1	EA	PROGRAMME ESTIMATED COSTS
<b>Water Services Investment Programme</b>	2005 - 2007	
<b>Schemes at Construction</b>		
Fanad Water Supply Stage 1	M	4,200,000
Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme	L	29,210,000
Donegal Bay Wastewater Management Scheme Group A DBO Contract (Donegal Rosstownlough DBallyshannon WWTWs and SW STC)	D	27,000,000
<b>Schemes to start in 2006</b>	-	
Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme Contract 2	D	4,900,000
Ballyshannon Water Supply Scheme	L	19,400,000
Bundoran Sewerage Scheme		27,600,000
Burtonport Sewerage Scheme	G	3,600,000
Desertegney WSS Stage 1 (Contracts 2 & 3)	I	830,000
Fanad Water Supply Stage 2	M	9,800,000
Gweedore Sewerage Scheme	G	25,200,000
Killybegs Sewerage Scheme	D	17,500,000
Killybegs Water (Sludge) Scheme	D	663,000
Letterkenny Water Supply Boreholes	L	4,600,000
Lough Mourne/Letterkenny Water Supply Scheme	L	41,000,000
Rosstownlough Sewerage Scheme Contract 2	L	4,400,000
<b>Schemes to start in 2007</b>		
Dungloe Sewerage Scheme	G	4,000,000
Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme	G	3,500,000
Glencolmcille Sewerage (Reedbed)	D	3,300,000
Glenties Sewerage Scheme	G	4,300,000
Gortahork/ Falcarragh Water Supply Scheme	G	3,300,000
Inishowen Sludge Treatment Centre	I	1,100,000
Laghey Sewerage (Reedbed)	D	1,500,000
Moville/Greencastle Sewerage	I	9,000,000
Rathmullan Sewerage Scheme	M	3,300,000
<b>Rural Towns &amp; Villages Initiative</b>		
Ardara Sewerage Scheme	G	4,500,000
Malin Town Sewerage Scheme	I	1,630,000
Lagan Water Supply - Phase 3	L	635,000
<b>Schemes to Advance through Planning</b>	-	
Ballybofey Stranorlar Sewerage Scheme	S	4,100,000
Buncrana Sewerage	I	4,800,000
Carrigart Sewerage	M	1,370,000
Castlefin Sewerage	S	1,630,000
Convoy Sewerage	S	1,120,000
Cranford Regional Water Supply Scheme	M	5,100,000
Dunfanaghy/Portnablagh Sewerage	G	1,630,000
Dunkineeley Sewerage	D	1,940,000
Frosses/Mountcharles/Inver Water Supply Schemes	D	3,500,000
Kilcar Sewerage	D	1,630,000
Lettermacaward Regional WSS	G	4,280,000
Lifford Sewerage	L	1,730,000
Milford Sewerage Scheme	M	2,000,000
Ramelton Sewerage	M	918,000
Rosses Regional Water Supply Scheme	G	3,270,000
<b>Other Projects/ Studies</b>	-	
Asset Management Study	G	120,000
North South SHARE Project	-	7,500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	306,606,000

### **2.1.1.2 Progress on Major Capital Programme in 2005**

The text below describes progress made during 2005 in each electoral area. This is followed by TABLE 2 which shows the up to date position on each scheme.

#### **Letterkenny Electoral Area**

- Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme. Contract 1 - Trunk sewer contract advanced to substantial completion. Contract 2 - Wastewater Treatment Works Compulsory Purchase of land approved by An Bord Pleanála.
- Letterkenny Water Supply Augmentation No 2 Boreholes approved by the DEHLG to go to construction.
- Letterkenny Water Supply Lough Greenan - Sustainable abstraction proposal developed.
- Lough Mourne/ Letterkenny Water Supply Scheme - Environmental Impact Assessment and CPO advanced to Oral Hearing stage; CPO objections subsequently withdrawn; Preliminary Archaeological Investigations carried out; preliminary Report for the Scheme submitted to DEHLG.

#### **Inishowen Electoral Area**

- Malin SS site investigation contract commenced.
- Moville/Greencastle SS advanced to detailed site selection stage and outfall modelling and assessment commenced. Consultation process continued.
- Inishowen Sludge Centre draft Environmental Impact Assessment completed. Draft Preliminary Report and Water Charging Policy Reports substantially completed.
- Lagan Desert Water Supply Stage 2 contract advanced to substantial completion. Stage 3 contract documents completed and submitted to the DEHLG; Water Audit Report submitted to the DEHLG.

#### **Milford Electoral Area**

- Fanad Water Supply Stage 1 contract advanced to substantial completion.
- Fanad Water Supply Stage 2 Environmental Impact Assessment, Water Abstraction Order and land acquisition progressed. Approval sought for advancement of Stage 1 Contract 2 - Glenvar area.
- Rathmullan Sewerage Scheme Draft Preliminary Report and Water Charging Policy Report completed; draft Environmental Impact Assessment completed.

### Glenties Electoral Area

- Gweedore Sewerage Scheme CPO documentation for pumping station sites progressed. WwTW site purchase finalised with Udaras na Gaeltachta.
- Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme Preliminary Report and Water Charging Policy Report substantially completed.
- Gortahork Water Supply Scheme (Major Scheme) - Work on Preliminary Report and Water Charging Policy Report progressed.
- Ardara Sewerage Scheme commenced construction in 2004. Substantial progress was made in 2005 and the Civils Contract is substantially complete.
- The draft Preliminary report for the Dungloe Sewerage Scheme was completed during 2005.
- The draft Preliminary report for the Glenties Sewerage Scheme was completed during 2005.

### Donegal Electoral Area

- The Tender Recommendation Report for DBO Group A (Donegal, Rosstown, Ballyshannon) Wastewater Treatment Works, Main Pumping Stations, Rising Mains, Outfalls was approved by the DEHLG. Contract formalities commenced.
- The Tender Recommendation report for Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme Contract 2 Sewer Network was submitted to the DEHLG.
- The Tender Recommendation Report for Rosstown Sewerage Scheme Contract 2 Sewer Network and Pumping Stations was submitted to the DEHLG.
- Ballyshannon Water Supply Scheme Advance Works - Works commenced on the Boreholes in 2005 and the work is substantially complete.

### Stranorlar Electoral Area

- Lough Mourne/ Letterkenny Water Supply Scheme - Environmental Impact Assessment and CPO advanced to Oral Hearing stage; CPO objections subsequently withdrawn; Preliminary Archaeological Investigations carried out; preliminary Report for the Scheme submitted to DEHLG.
- Ballybofey Stranorlar Sewerage Scheme CCTV, Manhole Survey, and Network model commenced, and are substantially complete.

### **2.1.1.3 Plans for Major Capital Programme in 2006**

#### Letterkenny Electoral Area

- Complete Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme Contract 1 - Network.
- Advance Letterkenny Water Supply Augmentation No 2 Boreholes to construction.
- Advance Letterkenny Water Supply Lough Greenan to construction.
- Advance Lough Mourne/ Letterkenny Water Supply Scheme Short term Upgrade works at the Lough Mourne headworks to construction. Also complete planning on the Lough Mourne/ Letterkenny Scheme.
- Advance Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme Contract 2 Wastewater Treatment Works to tender stage.

#### Inishowen Electoral Area

- Advance Malin SS to contract document stage subject to Water Charging policy approval by DEHLG.
- Submit Moville/Greencastle SS Preliminary Report and Environmental Impact Statement for approval.
- Submit Preliminary Report and Environmental Impact Assessment on Inishowen Sludge Centre to DEHLG.
- Advance Lagan Desert Water Supply Stage 3 to construction stage subject to Water Audit approval and Water Charging Policy approval by DEHLG.

#### Milford Electoral Area

- Complete Fanad Water Supply Stage 1 works.
- Submit Rathmullan Sewerage Scheme Preliminary Report and Environmental Impact Assessment to DEHLG.
- Advance Environmental Impact Assessment, Water Rights proposal and land acquisition for Fanad Regional Water Supply Stage 2.
- Submit contract documents for Fanad Regional Water Supply Scheme Stage 1 - Contract 2 Glenvar Area subject to DEHLG approval.

#### Glenties Electoral Area

- Advance Gweedore Sewerage Scheme to tender stage and submit CPO for pumping station sites.
- Submit Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme Preliminary Report and complete Planning.
- Submit Gortahork Water Supply Scheme (Major Scheme) Preliminary Report and complete planning.
- Complete M&E contract and commission Ardara Sewerage Scheme.
- Submit Dungloe Sewerage Scheme Preliminary Report to DEHLG and complete Planning.
- Submit Glenties Sewerage Scheme Preliminary Report to DEHLG and complete Planning.

### Donegal Electoral Area

- Commence construction on DBO Group A (Donegal, Rossnowlagh, Ballyshannon) Wastewater Treatment Works, Main Pumping Stations, Rising Mains, Outfalls
- Commence construction on Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme Contract 2 Sewers.
- Commence construction on Rossnowlagh Sewerage Scheme Contract 2 Sewers.
- Complete Ballyshannon Water Supply Scheme Advance Works Boreholes.
- Complete Killybegs Water Supply Sludge Preliminary Report.
- Submit contract documents on Glencolmille Sewerage Scheme and complete planning.

### Stranorlar Electoral Area

- Advance Lough Mourne/ Letterkenny Water Supply Scheme Short term Upgrade works at the Lough Mourne headworks to construction. Also complete planning on the Lough Mourne/ Letterkenny Scheme.
- Complete Ballybofey Stranorlar Sewerage Scheme CCTV, Manhole Survey, and Network model. Appoint consultants for Ballybofey Stranorlar Sewerage Scheme.
- Complete Preliminary Report for the Convoy Sewerage Scheme.
- Appoint consultants for Castlefin Sewerage Scheme.

#### **2.1.1.4 Funding**

In the past the schemes on the Major Capital Programme were 100% funded but this is no longer the case. In accordance with the Water Services Pricing Policy of the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government, Donegal County Council is now required to raise funding from its own resources to cover the following:-

- The marginal capital cost of providing capacity at water or wastewater treatment plants to serve the existing non-domestic sector.
- The marginal capital cost of providing spare capacity at water or wastewater treatment plants to serve the future non-domestic and future residential sectors.

In this context 'marginal' generally means the amount by which a domestic only plant has to be increased in size to (i) provide capacity for existing non-domestic users, and (ii) provide spare capacity for future non-domestic and future domestic users.

In line with the Departments policy and in the context of the 'polluter pays principle' the non-domestic marginal capital costs are to be recovered from the existing normal non-domestic sector by spreading the cost over a suitable period and recovering the cost as an element of the overall water service charges for non-domestic users.

The spare capacity marginal capital costs are to be recovered from development contributions and the amount of spare capacity to be provided at any plant in the future will largely be dependent on the ability of the development contribution scheme to fund the spare capacity.

The matching funding requirements for the Major Capital programme for the years 2006 to 2008 are set out in Table 3:-

<b>Table 3 - Major Capital Programme</b>		<b>MATCHING FUNDING</b>	
<b>2006-2008</b>	<b>TOTAL COMMITMENTS</b>	<b>COUNTERPART FUNDING COSTS (DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS)</b>	<b>COUNTERPART FUNDING COSTS (NON-DOMESTIC SECTOR)</b>
2006 Major Capital	€73,571,325	€4,064,454	€4,346,976
2007 Major Capital	€94,239,007	€5,424,997	€5,455,997
2008 Major Capital	€78,300,000	€4,350,000	€4,350,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€274,102,755</b>	<b>€13,839,451</b>	<b>€14,152,973</b>

From the table it can be seen that for a total 3 year committed expenditure of €274,102,755, €13,839,451 will be required from development contributions to fund spare capacity at treatment works, and €14,152,973 will be required to fund capacity at treatment works for the existing non-domestic sector - recoverable from the non-domestic sector.

## 2.1.2 SERVICED LAND INITIATIVE PROGRAMME

### 2.1.2.1 Introduction

This programme provides for investment in small to medium scale water and wastewater infrastructure to facilitate development of specific lands for which there is development demand. The schemes are 40% funded by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government. The schemes listed on the current programme 2005-2007 are those for which funding submissions were made circa 1999. Some completed schemes have been omitted from the programme by the DEHLG but all schemes are listed in Table 12. New schemes will only be considered for inclusion on the programme by the Department where it can be demonstrated that there is real developer demand and counterpart funding commitments are in place for a significant portion of the proposed works. Similarly schemes on the programme that have not yet commenced are subject to the same criteria.

The Serviced Land initiative Programme is summarised in Table 4 below.

<b>Table 4 - Serviced Land Initiative 2005-2007</b>	-	
Ballybofey Sewer & Water extensions	S	226,000
Ballymacarry Lr. Buncrana Sewerage Scheme	I	109,000
Bridgend Sewerage	I	648,000
Bundoran Sewerage Brandra Extension	D	130,000
Bundoran Watermains Upgrade Church Rd	D	515,000
Convoy - WWT Upgrade	S	130,000
Downings Wastewater Treatment	M	
Facilities Upgrade	M	195,000
Drumrooske Water Supply	D	104,000
Glencar Sewer Network Upgrade	L	65,000
Kilmacrennan Wastewater Treatment	M	104,000
Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme	L	
Sallaghagrane Ext.	L	453,000
Lifford Sewerage Scheme	L	
IDA Lands Extension	L	91,000
Milltown Buncrana Sewerage Scheme	S	171,000
St. Johnstown Sewerage Treatment	L	343,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	<b>3,264,000</b>

### ***2.1.2.2 Progress on Serviced Land Initiative Programme in 2005***

#### Letterkenny Electoral Area

- Oldtown Phase 1 - Work on this scheme was completed prior to 2003, which included a sewer extension.
- Oldtown Phase 2 - Involved construction of a pumping station, rising main and gravity sewer linking Oldtown Phase 1 to the main Letterkenny sewer network.
- Glencar Reservoir - Planning difficulties which prevented the completion of the project were resolved and work re-commenced on the scheme.
- Sallaghagranne - Construction was completed prior to 2003, which included a pumping station, rising main and gravity sewer.
- Manorcunningham - Construction was completed prior to 2003, which included a Treatment Work and sewer network.
- St. Johnston Sewerage Scheme - Part 8 Planning approval was granted for the WwTW site and the main pumping station site. Preparation of tender documents commenced. The scheme is being funded by both the SLI and Small Capital Schemes programme.
  - Inishowen Electoral Area
  - Killea - completed.
  - Lisfannon - Completed
- Newtowncunningham Sewerage Scheme - Significant works including construction of a 1200m sewer extension, a Pumping Station and rising main were completed.
- Bridgend and Burnfoot Sewerage Schemes - Strategy for short term and long term works was advanced.

#### Milford Electoral Area

- Kilmacrennan - Preliminary design was completed.

#### Glenties Electoral Area

- All SLI's within Glenties Area were completed prior to 2003

#### Donegal Electoral Area

- Drumrooske - This Scheme is now under review.
- Bundoran UDC Brandra - Being progressed in conjunction with Bundoran Town Council. This Scheme is now under review.
- Bundoran UDC Church Road - Being progressed in conjunction with Bundoran Town Council. This Scheme is now under review.

#### Stranorlar Electoral Area

- Ballybofey Navenny - Completed and handed over to operations.
- Convoy - Construction commenced. The scheme is being funded by both the SLI and Small Capital Schemes programme.

### **2.1.2.3. Plans for Serviced Land Initiative Programme in 2006**

#### Letterkenny Electoral Area

- Glencar Reservoir - Completion of works.
- St. Johnston Sewerage Scheme - Tender Invitation and commencement of construction.

#### Inishowen Electoral Area

- Killea - Implementation of works to regulate flows in the network.
- Bridgend - Land acquisition by Compulsory Purchase Order.

#### Milford Electoral Area

- Kilmacrennan - Land acquisition and Part 8 planning approval.

#### Glenties Electoral Area

- All SLI's within Glenties Area were completed prior to 2003

#### Donegal Electoral Area

- Drumrooske - Scheme to be reviewed in 2006.
- Bundoran UDC Brandra - Scheme to be reviewed in 2006.
- Bundoran UDC Church Road - Scheme to be reviewed in 2006.

#### Stranorlar Electoral Area

- Convoy - Completion of construction.

### **2.1.2.4. Funding**

The schemes on the Serviced Land Initiative programme are 40% funded by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government based on accepted tender costs. The remaining 60% has to be raised from the Councils own resources. Currently this is done by levying 'special' Development Charges on applicable developments within the catchment of the relevant SLI scheme.

The total value of commitments on the current Serviced Land Initiative Programme is €6.469m. The corresponding total amount of recoupable grants is €2.365m which leaves a total matching funding requirement of €4.104m. Between 2000 and 2003 Donegal County Council provided €0.911m in matching funding for this programme. A further €1.6m matching funding was provided in BUDGET 2004 and €0.971m matching funding in BUDGET 2005 giving a total matching funding to date of €3.482m. Therefore the current matching funding balance (shortfall) on the programme amounts to €0.623m.

The matching funding requirements including the outstanding balance for the Serviced Land Initiative Programme for the years 2006 to 2008 are set out in Table 5 :-

<b>Table 5</b>		<b>MATCHING FUNDING</b>
<b>Serviced Land Initiative 2006-2008</b>	<b>TOTAL SPEND + OUTSTANDING BALANCE</b>	<b>COUNTERPART FUNDING COSTS (SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS)</b>
2006 SLI Schemes	€407,526	€327,526
2007 SLI Schemes	€1,257,526	€837,526
2008 SLI Schemes	€307,526	€267,526
<b>TOTAL 2006-2008</b>	<b>€1,972,577</b>	<b>€1,432,577</b>

From the table it can be seen that for a total 3 year committed expenditure of €1,972,577, €1,432,577 will be required from development contributions as matching funding for the SLI programme.

Similarly for 2006 it can be seen that for an expenditure of €407,526, €327,526 will be required from development contributions as matching funding for the SLI programme.

Note that the matching funding indicated in both cases is greater than 60% due to under collection of development charges on SLI schemes that have already been constructed.

## **2.1.3. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMME**

### **2.1.3.1 *Introduction***

Donegal County Council's Water Conservation programme was revitalised by the Department's sanction in principle of a programme of expenditure amounting to €25.3m. The Department Inspector's approval of Donegal County Council's Implementation Strategy Report for Water Conservation has allowed established priority works, estimated at €4.83m, to proceed. The Implementation Strategy Report set out water conservation work progressed since June 2001, specified what was required to complete current projects and set out a programme of future work.

Although the earlier water conservation projects were advanced in-house DEHLG requirements have necessitated the procurement of the services of a Consulting Engineer to oversee and co-ordinate Stage 1 Water Conservation works on a county wide basis. The consultant was appointed in 2005 and work has commenced on the remaining Stage 1 works.

The proposed expenditure on all schemes will follow the three distinct stages now identified for all water conservation programmes viz. Stage 1 - Implementation of Water Management Systems, Stage 2 - Active Leakage Control and Stage 3 - Rehabilitation.

### **2.1.3.2 *Progress on Water Conservation in 2005***

The work carried out in 2005 focused principally on the Lough Mourne water supply network where substantial Water Conservation Stage 1 work was carried out.

Stage 1 work also continued on the Donegal River Eske Water supply networks. Emergency Water Conservation Works were also carried out in Carrigart, Cranford, Gortahork, and Ramelton.

Water Conservation Stage 3 - Pipe Replacement/ Rehabilitation Works were carried out countywide by contract and by the Council's own Water Services Maintenance staff in Inishowen (Magheramore and Binnion Clonmany, Drumaville/ McSheffreys), in Glenties (Bunninan to Mulladuff and Quay Road Dungloe), in Milford (Rathmullan and Trentagh/ Kilmacrennan), and in Donegal (Quay st to Golf Course Road Donegal Town). Tenders were also sought and contractors appointed for further works in Letterkenny (Argery Lifford), and Stranorlar (Teevickmoy).

### ***2.1.3.3 Plans for Water Conservation Programme in 2006 and future years***

Pipe Replacement/ Rehabilitation Works tendered in 2005 for Letterkenny (Argery Lifford), and Stranorlar (Teevickmoy) will be completed. In 2006 and in accordance with the requirements of the DEHLG the Consulting Engineer will focus on and oversee the implementation of water conservation stage 1 works on the priority one schemes for each electoral area as per the original funding submission to the department. Further Pipe Replacement/ Rehabilitation Works may then be prioritised for implementation. The designated priority one schemes are shown in Table 6 below.:

#### 2.1.3.4 Funding for Water Conservation Programme in 2006 and future years

As stated in the Introduction the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government had given approval in principle to a programme of expenditure amounting to €25.3m over 6 years commencing 2003. The works to be funded included Water Conservation Measures programme which is 100% funded by the Department, the Pipe Replacement Programme which was 75% funded up to April 2003 and 90% funded from May 2003. Historical work charged to Water Conservation is 0% funded by the Department and this will now be funded from historical development charges already collected. Table 7 below sets out the expenditure profile on the Water Conservation Programme for 2006-2008.

<b>Table 7</b>		<b>MATCHING FUNDING</b>
<b>Water Conservation Programme 2006-2008</b>	<b>TOTAL SPEND</b>	<b>COUNTERPART FUNDING COSTS (FUNDED FROM DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME OR SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT CHARGES)</b>
2006 Water Con Historical	€100,000	€100,000
2006 Water Con Measures	€3,428,292	€0
2006 Water Con Mains Replacement	€2,539,476	€253,950
<b>Sub-total 2006</b>	<b>€6,067,678</b>	<b>€353,950</b>
2007 Water Con Historical	€100,000	€100,000
2007 Water Con Measures	€3,428,292	€0
2007 Water Con Mains Replacement	€2,158,554	€215,855
<b>Sub-total 2007</b>	<b>€5,686,846</b>	<b>€315,855</b>
2008 Water Con Historical	€100,000	€100,000
2008 Water Con Measures	€2,374,410	€0
2008 Water Con Mains Replacement	€1,904,610	€190,458
<b>Sub-total 2008</b>	<b>€4,379,020</b>	<b>€290,458</b>
<b>TOTAL 2006-2008</b>	<b>€16,133,544</b>	<b>€960,263</b>

From the table it can be seen that for a total 3 year expenditure of €16,133,544, €960,263 will be required from development contributions to provide the required matching funding for the programme.

Similarly for 2006 it can be seen that for an expenditure of €6,067,678, €353,950 will be required from development contributions to provide the required matching funding for the programme.

## **2.1.4: NON-DOMESTIC METERING PROJECT**

### **2.1.4.1 *Introduction and Progress***

Donegal County Council is required by Government to meter all non-domestic water supply customers by the end of 2006. The National Water Service Pricing Policy requires that non-domestic customers be charged for the full cost of providing them with water and wastewater services. The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government has developed the National Water Pricing Policy Framework, which has been rolled out through the issuing of Circular Letters and Guidance Documents, the undertaking of Pilot Projects, Training and Seminars, and the inclusion of funding and project programmes in the National Development Plan. Water charging is to be transparent and equitable, without any profit-taking by the Local Authorities.

In County Donegal approximately 10,000 water service connections will require to be metered on Public Water Supply Schemes at the point of connection by the end of 2006. In addition, approximately 1,000 non-domestic Group Water Scheme customers may require to be metered.

The non-domestic water metering service will have one Primary Function and two important Secondary Functions, viz. (1) Primary Function: Revenue Collection, in accordance with the Polluter Pays Principle, as set out in the National Water Services Pricing Policy, (2a) First Secondary Function: Improve Water Operations Network Management and (2b) Second Secondary Function: Improve Customer Service.

Donegal County Council appointed Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd. and Parsons Brinckerhoff Ltd to act as Client's Representative for its non-domestic water-metering project. Following the compilation and analysis of data, detailed consultations with staff and other stakeholders, sample surveys of customers and connections, and preparation of several background reports, a Preliminary Report for the project was finalised. The Preliminary Report identified 7 service elements which are fundamental to the successful delivery of the project - Customer Data, Meters, Meter Reading, Billing, Revenue Collection, Customer Service, and Data & Information Systems.

Following further inter-service consultations it was decided that the Customer Data, Meter installation & maintenance, and Meter Reading service elements would be contracted on a Design Build Operate basis to a Private service Provider (PSP). It was further decided that the responsibility for the remaining service elements would remain with the Council.

The project will be delivered in two distinct stages with an expected life cycle as follows, (a) Design / Build Stage:12 months (end of 2006/ early 2007) and (b) Maintain / Operate Stage:10 years (to end of 2017).

#### **2.1.4.2 Funding of Non-Domestic Metering Project**

As stated in the introduction the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Governments National Water Services Pricing Policy requires that non-domestic customers be charged the full cost of providing them with water and wastewater services. In this context the full cost of the Non-domestic metering project is to be recovered from the non-domestic sector. The mechanism for doing this is through the raising of a loan, the repayments for which are recovered as an element of the overall water service charges for non-domestic users.

From Table 8 below it can be seen that the amount to be raised from 2006-2008 for the Non-Domestic Metering Project is €10,449,522 and the corresponding figure for 2006 is €3,483,174.

<b>Table 8</b>		<b>MATCHING FUNDING</b>
<b>Non Domestic Metering Project</b>	<b>TOTAL SPEND</b>	<b>FROM HFA LOANS &amp; WATER SERVICE CHARGES</b>
2006 ND Metering	€3,483,174	€3,483,174
2007 ND Metering	€3,483,174	€3,483,174
2008 ND Metering	€3,483,174	€3,483,174
<b>TOTAL 2006-2008</b>	<b>€10,449,522</b>	<b>€10,449,522</b>

## 2.2 RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

### 2.2.1 Introduction

The Census of Population and Housing 2002 indicates that approximately 6,500 households were serviced in terms of water supply through Group Water Supply (GWS) schemes. There are over six hundred group schemes in the county, of which 141 serve in excess of 50 persons. The balance are very small private group water schemes, serving small numbers of households, that don't fall within the monitoring requirement of the Drinking Water Directive.

Most GWSs are served by public water supply, though there are over fifty served from their own private source. Thirty six of these sources serve in excess of fifty persons, and therefore fall within the remit of the Drinking Water Directive.

Rural water funds were allocated under five separate sub-programme headings in year 2005, as follows:

- Design Build Operate schemes
- Connect to public mains schemes
- Takeover schemes
- New Group Schemes
- Small Public Water and Sewerage Schemes.

The first three of the above sub-programmes have as their target private group water supply schemes serving over fifty persons with quality-deficient water. A legal case was successfully taken against the Irish Government in the European Court for failure to ensure compliance of all water schemes with the Drinking Water Directive. Sentencing has been postponed and efforts are being made to achieve compliance in the intervening time. Private Group Schemes with private water sources represents by far the biggest segment of non-compliant schemes. Twenty nine such non compliant private schemes with private sources have been identified in Donegal. The range of solutions envisaged includes a) connect to public mains and remain private, b) takeover and connect to public mains and c) develop new treatment works. In respect of c) the Department is promoting a strategy of using Design, Build & Operate (DBO) schemes wherever new water treatment plants are needed. The matter of dealing with the quality deficient schemes is the top priority of the DoE&HLG.

The New Group Schemes sub-programme continues to be the largest component of the Rural Water Programme in Donegal. Through this programme households in peri-urban and rural areas can access piped water supply and sewerage services.

The Small Public Water and Sewerage sub-programme provides limited funding for minor upgrades to public water supplies and public sewerage schemes. The Department urges that priority be given to such schemes as can contribute to efforts to resolve water quality issues referred to above.

## **2.2.2 PROGRESS IN 2005**

### ***2.2.2.1 Block Grant allocation 2005***

The Block Grant allocated in February 2005 for the Rural Water Programme was €2,820,000, broken down as follows:

<u>Sub-programmes:</u>	<u>€</u>
Design Build Operate Schemes	650,000
Connect to Public Mains	0
Takeover of Group Schemes	620,000
New and Upgrade Group Schemes	900,000
Small Public Water & Sewerage Schemes	650,000

The full amounts allocated under all headings are being drawn down for year 2005. Progress reports on each heading are set out below.

### ***2.2.2.2 Water Quality Deficient Schemes (i.e. Design Build Operate schemes, Connect to public mains schemes, & Takeover schemes)***

The following is the current status of private group schemes in County Donegal with identified water quality deficient private sources.

Six schemes have been brought into full or substantial compliance. Nine schemes are to be resolved by treating and extending supply from the Owenteskna dam in south Donegal. A new groundwater supply for Tory island is being investigated. Two schemes are awaiting development of Major Capital Schemes on the Water Services Investment Programme for compliant sources. The balance of schemes can be resolved by connecting to public mains. The Council has encountered resistance from a number of groups who don't want to connect to public mains. In some cases design studies have been commissioned to assure the group members that this is the optimal solution.

### **a) Compliant Schemes**

The following schemes are now supplied with compliant drinking water. Lagacurry, Carrowmeena, Saltpans and Meentinadea GWSSs have all been resolved by connection to public mains. Desertegney GWS has also been supplied with public water from the Illies scheme. Only two households on this scheme remain on the private supply, pending completion of a major capital scheme. Bunn GWS installed their own treatment system and are now compliant.

### **b) DBO Schemes**

The Council proposed in its Rural Water Strategic Plan to use the Lough Nalughraman water source, which supplies the Owenteskna GWS, to serve future integrated Group Scheme and public supply networks in an area west of Donegal Bay. The proposal allowed that Lough Nalughraman would supply nine Group Schemes and four public schemes. The Group Schemes are Owenteskna, Cloghan, Glenballadubh, Largybrack, Largymore, Maghera, Meenaveen, Sieve/Kinakillew and Teelin. The four public water supply schemes, which were recommended for inclusion in this regional strategy, are Carrick, Kilcar, Glencolmcille and Malinmore.

Consultants were appointed to examine the proposal and their findings and recommendations are contained in a Preliminary Report for the scheme. The Report demonstrates and confirms that the Council's proposal represents the optimal solution and offers value for money for all participants, private and public. Although the scheme was originally structured as a Design Build Operate (DBO) scheme in accordance with Department policy it has now been agreed that it can be implemented using conventional contracts. The Preliminary Report was approved by the DEHLG in March 2005 and a substantial portion of Contract 1 Advance Works was subsequently implemented by direct labour in 2005. Fee negotiations are now being concluded with Consultants for the preparation of tender documents for the remaining contracts with a view to delivering further works in 2006.

### **c) Tory Island**

Hydrogeological work continued in 2005 in search of a satisfactory ground water source for this supply. Testing of new sources developed is planned for early 2006

### **d) Takeover / Connect to Public Mains Schemes**

Work progressed during the year connecting Meenalough scheme to public mains with their agreement. Completion is expected in early 2006. Contract documents are being prepared for connection of Tully GWS to Rosses Regional WS, Dooey GWS to Carrigart WS, Tober Castlethird GWS to the extended Illies WS and Tullintain GWS to the Meenacahan Meentinadea scheme, thereby delivering public water from the Killybegs source. Five

schemes have been subject of design review report but have not yet agreed to connecting to public mains. These are Meenabool, Lettercough, Meenamara, Glengad / Glentoskert and Townawilly. Two schemes, namely Tirladden and Magherabeg/Veagh GWSSs are depending on major capital schemes to resolve their water quality problems. The Dromoghill GWS was formerly considered too small for inclusion in this group. It has now been included as it serves a school and public house, and can be resolved by a major capital scheme (Lagan phase 3)

#### **2.2.2.3 New Group Schemes**

The following new group schemes commenced construction in 2005 : Creggan, Mongorry, Leiter extension, Blanketnook, Clonglash Aghilly, Meenaward Sledrin, Tirhomin, Corcashy, Castleforward, Upper Corrairie, Ardmiran GSS, Fallask and Glenmaquin. Commitments to grant were advised to Brae Road and Loughnanoran groups, both of which are expected to progress to construction shortly.

Expenditure on grants to the above new schemes and previous ongoing commitments allowed the full allocation to be drawn down.

Affordability remains a major issue with a number of schemes during the course of the year. As schemes serving the more densely populated areas progress, schemes are developed for less densely populated areas. In these circumstances the cost of the scheme has proven to be beyond the affordability of a growing number of groups. The Council has written in this regard to the DoEH&LG, and to the National Rural Water Monitoring Committee requesting that the value of the grant ceiling be increased in such cases. Supplementary grants are available to groups in CLÁR areas. The Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht has recently announced a supplementary grant for all Gaeltacht areas not already in the CLÁR scheme.

#### **2.2.2.4 Small Public Water & Sewerage Schemes**

The small capital schemes programme commenced with twenty schemes initially prioritised (1994 - 1999). This list has been expanded to thirty-seven schemes by the end of 2004. A table of twenty-two reserve schemes were prioritised by electoral area in 2002. A comprehensive listing of these schemes indicating progress to date is contained in the table below.

Additional funding was allocated in 2003 to address specific water quality issues and from this allocation, improvement works are complete or substantially complete on Lettermacaward Water Treatment Works, Ardagh Springs, Cashel/Gleneely GWSS.

Cranford WS pipeline contract, Convoy SS, Carndonagh WS and Frooses/Mountcharles WS commenced construction in 2005. Construction

on these schemes will be completed in 2006 and construction on the Cranford WS Treatment Works Upgrade will commence in 2006.

Planning has been completed on St. Johnston SS and tendering and construction are due in 2006.

Small capital water and sewerage schemes are listed below under five categories:

- 1 Small schemes programme 1994 - 1999
- 2 Small schemes additional allocations
- 3 Priority small capital schemes
- 4 Reserve small capital schemes
- 5 Specific Water Quality Grant 2003

## Small Capital Schemes Programme

NO	SCHEME	ESTIMATED COST €	STATUS
<b>Small Schemes Programme 1994 - 1999</b>			
1	Arranmore Water Supply	126,974	Completed
2	Ramelton Water Supply (Network)	111,737	Completed
3	Carrigart Water Supply (Headworks)	120,625	Completed
4	Ballyshannon SS (The Mall)	126,974	Completed
5	Malin Head Water Supply	455,797	Completed
6	Dunkineely WS	418,393	Completed
7	Cullionboy Water Supply	418,378	Completed
8	Fintown Water Supply	650,000	Commissioning Ongoing
9	Rathmullan Water Supply	467,335	Completed
10	Pettigo Water Supply	317,434	Substantially Complete
11	Bundoran SS (Magheracar)		Completed
12	Bundoran Water Supply (Sludge)		Completed
13	Letterkenny SS (Calhame)	239,048	Completed
14	Group Scheme Supplies (Lagan)		Completed
15	Dunfanaghy Creeslough WS	149,976	Completed
16	Chlorination Contracts	163,924	Completed
17	Frosses Inver Water Supply	166,413	Completed
18	Rosses Regional WS	163,025	Completed
19	Fanad East WS (Shannagh)	254,933	Completed
20	Malinmore Malinbeg WS (Carrick WS)	300,863	Completed
<b>Additional Small Schemes</b>			
21	Gortahork WS Stage 1 Mains Gortahork WS Stage 2 Treatment Gortahork WS Stage 3 Chemical Dosing	635,000	Completed Completed Completed
22	Rosses Regional (Network)	356,283	Completed
23	Glenties Watermain (EIS)	221,356	Completed

<b><i>Priority Small Schemes (Revised - see text below)</i></b>			
24	Mountcharles Water Supply	635,000	Construction Underway
30	Cranford Water Supply Raw Water Pipeline Treatment Works Upgrade	635,000	Completed Construction Commencing 2006
31	Moville Water Supply	431,695	Completed
28	Ardara Water Supply	350,000	Substantially Completed
32	Convoy Sewerage Scheme	635,000	Construction Underway
33	St. Johnston Sewerage Scheme	635,000	Construction Commencing 2006
<b><i>Specific Water Quality Grant 2003 Schemes</i></b>			
34	Lettermacaward TW Upgrade	100,000	Completed
35	Lagan Desert Groundwater 2003 Ardagh Springs Upgrade Manorcunningham Groundwater Magherabeg/Veagh Groundwater	300,000	Completed Underway Underway
36	Cashel/Gleneely WS	13,476	Completed
<b><i>Reserve Small Capital Scheme (See text below)</i></b>			
37	Carndonagh Water Supply Augmentation	635,000	Construction Underway

In a report titled "Report on the Preparation of Multi Annual Programmes for Small Capital Water and Sewerage Schemes" 70 additional small schemes were identified to the Department of the Environment and Local Government as having a high priority. At Electoral Area meetings in late 1999/early 2000 the members were asked to prioritise Small Capital Schemes for inclusion in the Multi Annual Programme of work.

The following table shows the agreed Schemes for each Electoral Area.

***Reserve Small Capital Schemes***

<b>Donegal</b>	<b>Glenties</b>	<b>Milford</b>	<b>L'kenney</b>	<b>Inishowen</b>	<b>Stranorlar</b>
Carrick Teelin WS	Rosses WS	Carrigart SS	Lifford SS	Carndonagh WS (see above)	Castlefin SS
Glen WS	Gortahork SS	Ramelton WS	Raphoe SS	Greencastle WS	Killygordon SS
Kilcar WS	Leitir macaward WS	Milford WS	Coolatee SS	Clonmany WS	Raphoe SS
Pettigo SS	Glenties WS	Carrowkeel WS		Slavery WS	

**2.2.3 PLANS FOR 2006 AND FUTURE YEARS**

***2.2.3.1 Water Quality Deficient Schemes***

It is planned to complete advance works and to commence substantial construction works by conventional contract on the Owenteskna Bundle scheme in 2006. Further raw water sampling and testing will be undertaken to inform the treatment plant design.

Commencement of construction during 2006 is planned for Tully, Dooley, Tober Castlethird and Tullintain GWSSs, subject to agreement with the groups. Works on Meenalough GWSS are scheduled for completion during the year. Regarding the other schemes currently undecided about the move to connect to public water supply, efforts will continue to convince the members of the merits of this proposal. The new Water Services Bill, currently before the Oireachtas, allows for majority voting by Groups to takeover by Local Authorities. This may resolve the issue in some cases

***2.2.3.2 New Group Schemes***

The New Group Schemes programme is demand driven, as the onus is on private groups to progress their schemes with Council assistance, and to make their own decision on affordability. Twenty three new schemes have completed the tender process as follows: Carrowhill/ Ballinlough, Tullygay, Liss Road, Cloughroe, Inishfree, Hilltown No. 2, Tenfoot, Corker Moyle/Magheradrumman, Glenkoe, Meenmore West, Craghyboyle, Golan No. 2, Shallogans, Drumnacart No.2, Ballinaboe (Clonmany), Springhill (Quigley's Point), Driminardagh, Ballyboe (Malin), Liskeran, Tullydish No. 2, Gartan and Ednamock/Drimnaherk. Some of these schemes may have affordability issues and might not proceed. A number will proceed with assistance from CLÁR and Gaeltacht grants. The combined grant value of these schemes is in excess of €1.5 million.

### **2.2.3.3 *Small Capital Schemes***

In 2006 it is proposed to continue and complete construction on Convoy SS, Frosses/MountCharles WS and Carndonagh WS. It is proposed to commence construction on the Upgrade of the Treatment Works at Cranford and the St. Johnston SS.

## 2.2.4 FUNDING

### 2.2.4.1 Block Grant for 2006

A bid for 2006 funding was submitted to the DEHLG in December 2005. €3.3 million has been sought for New Group Schemes for existing commitments and new schemes. €3.75 million has been sought for water quality deficient schemes (i.e. Design Build Operate schemes, Connect to public mains schemes, & Takeover schemes). An additional €1.3 million has been sought for Small Public Capital Schemes for existing commitments and schemes ready for construction.

At present the only Rural Water sub-Programme that requires matching funding is the Small Public Capital Schemes sub-programme. Schemes on this sub programme are 75% funded by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government up to a maximum scheme cost of €635,000. The remaining 25% has to be raised from the Councils own resources. Currently this is achieved through the general Development Contribution Scheme. The matching funding requirements for the Small Public Capital Schemes for the years 2006 to 2008 are set out in Table 9 below:

<b>Table 9</b>		<b>MATCHING FUNDING</b>
<b>Small Public Capital Schemes Programme</b>	<b>TOTAL SPEND</b>	<b>COUNTERPART FUNDING COSTS (FUNDED FROM DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS)</b>
2006 Small Schemes	€1,300,925	€325,231
2007 Small Schemes	€1,200,000	€300,000
2008 Small Schemes	€1,200,000	€300,000
<b>TOTAL 2006-200</b>	<b>€3,700,925</b>	<b>€925,231</b>

From the table it can be seen that for a total 3 year expenditure of €3,700,925, €925,231 will be required from development contributions to provide the required matching funding for the programme.

Similarly for 2006 it can be seen that for an expenditure of €1,300,925, €325,231 will be required from development contributions to provide the required matching funding for the programme.

## 2.2.5 SUBSIDIES AND WELL GRANTS

### 2.2.5.1 *Subsidies*

Subsidy grants are available through the Rural Water Programme to assist private groups operate and maintain their private schemes. Twelve such grants were approved and paid during 2005.

### 2.2.5.2 *Well Grants*

Grants are also available to individual householders to develop a private water supply - usually a well or borehole. The following table shows activity in this area during 2005.

#### Well Grant Details 2005.

<i>RECEIVED</i>	<i>REFUSED</i>	<i>APPROVED</i>	<i>PAID</i>
35	7	21	21

These grants are demand driven and can vary year on year. The amounts involved are not large, and we expect all qualifying applicants to be approved and funded in 2006.

## **2.3 WATER SERVICES MISCELLANEOUS PROGRAMMES**

### **2.3.1 Introduction**

The Water & Environment Service is engaged in the delivery of miscellaneous works under a number of sub-programmes many of which attract grant funding from external agencies or funding from other services. These works generate a demand for counterpart funding, which is financed from development charges levied for water services. The current Miscellaneous programmes are:-

#### **2.3.1.1 Capital Replacement Programme**

Operation and maintenance budgets have been inadequate to cover replacement of capital plant throughout the council's water supply and wastewater infrastructure. Non-replacement of major plant items such as pumps, motors, pipelines, electronic and chemical dosing equipment etc. have resulted in breakdown of service, failure to achieve water quality standards, and health and safety risks.

A capital replacement fund is an integral part of the financial package required in the case of Design Build Operate (DBO) contracts. It is therefore appropriate that such a fund should be established in respect of directly operated schemes. Treatment works that consistently fail to achieve standards in terms of water quality, or wastewater effluent and infrastructure that shows trends of frequent failure due to deterioration, will be targeted with a replacement programme.

A sum of €600,000 was allocated under this heading in 2005. It is proposed to make a further allocation of €600,000 under this heading for 2006.

#### **2.3.1.2 Environmental Improvements Programme**

The Environmental Improvements Programme provides matching funding for Environmental Improvement Projects which are co-ordinated by the Planning & Economic Development section of Donegal County Council and implemented by the Roads section of the Council. The funding is provided where there is a water services element to the improvement works being undertaken.

In 2005 a total sum of €102,000 was provided towards Environmental Improvement Schemes in Kilcar(Phase 2), Ardara, Falcarragh, Ballyshannon, and Rathmullan. It is proposed to make a further allocation of €102,000 under this heading for 2006.

#### **2.3.1.3 *Islands Programme***

In 2005 a total sum of €70,000 was provided as matching funding towards potential projects to be implemented by external public bodies e.g. Roinn na Gaeltachta. There was no demand for this funding in 2005 and no requests have been received in this regard for 2006. No allocation will be made under this heading for 2006 but funding will be indicated for later years in the 3 year programme.

#### **2.3.1.4 *Leisure Centres/ Public Facilities***

It is proposed to make an allocation of €430,001 under this heading for 2006 for the advancement of the design of the Ballybofey Stranorlar Leisure Centre, part funding for the construction costs and design/ project management costs associated with the extension of Ballyshannon Leisure Centre, sketch design for the Kilclooney Swimming Pool, part funding for the design/ project management costs associated with the advancement of the Buncrana Swimming Pool Refurbishment to tender document stage, and the design of a Lifeguard and WC Facility for Rathmullan.

#### **2.3.1.5 *General Water Services/ Emergency Works***

In 2005 a total sum of €300,000 was provided towards general water services works such as Merville Water Supply improvements, watermains upgrading associated with roadworks at Merville and Frosses/ Inver, upgrading of Westbrook pumping station, Countywide Groundwater Protection Scheme, matching funding for CIS (Complete Information System) project, and emergency water conservation and upgrading works not eligible for funding under the Main Capital Programmes. It is proposed to make a further allocation of €300,000 under this heading for 2006.

#### **2.3.1.6 *Schemes to Facilitate Development***

Under DEHLG National Water Services Pricing Policy it has become apparent that the Department will no longer provide 100% funding for the provision of water services infrastructure where new development is the main beneficiary. In addition the Department will generally only approve funding for schemes which have been identified on a funding programme and have been cited as being deficient from an infrastructural, water demand, water quality, or wastewater treatment perspective.

In areas of significant development demand and in advance of major scheme funding there is therefore a need to co-ordinate the implementation of infrastructure which will benefit developments in those areas either directly or indirectly, and satisfy the long term servicing needs of particular catchments, and be complementary to the Councils long term objectives.

The mechanism for doing this is through the levying of Special Development Charges on developers which will fund/ part fund the required infrastructure. In such circumstances the Council will work closely with developers to minimise costs and the Council may make a contribution to the costs on a case by case basis.

Examples of current schemes are Killygordon Sewerage Scheme (construction), River Eske Water Supply Upgrade (tender), Donegal Brookfield Sewer (tender), Donegal Mullans Doonan Sewer (planning), and Letterkenny Water Strategy/ Lough Greenan & Network Improvements (tender).

## 2.3.2 FUNDING

From Table 10-A it can be seen that the matching fund requirement for 2006-2008 for the Miscellaneous Water Services schemes programme funded by **General Development Contributions** is €6,666,001. Similarly the matching fund requirement for 2005 is €2,092,001.

Table 10 - A		MATCHING FUNDING
Miscellaneous Schemes Programme 2006-2008	TOTAL COMMITMENTS	COUNTERPART FUNDING COSTS (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION)
2006 Capital Replacement	€600,000	€600,000
2006 Islands	0	0
2006 Dams Safety Works	€300,000	€300,000
2006 Environmental Imp	€102,000	€102,000
2006 Leisure & Public Facilities	€490,001	€430,001
2006 General Water Services/ GPS/ CIS	€360,000	€360,000
2006 Upgrade and Takeover of Private Group Schemes (DCC Programme)	€300,000	€300,000
<b>2006 Sub Total</b>	<b>€2,152,001</b>	<b>€2,092,001</b>
2007 Capital Replacement	€600,000	€600,000
2007 Islands	€70,000	€70,000
2007 Dams Safety Works	€300,000	€300,000
2007 Environmental Imp	€102,000	€102,000
2007 Leisure & Public Facilities	€400,000	€430,000
2007 General Water Services/ GPS/ CIS	€360,000	€360,000
2007 Upgrade and Takeover of Private Group Schemes (DCC Programme)	€400,000	€400,000
<b>2007 Sub Total</b>	<b>€2,232,000</b>	<b>€2,262,000</b>
2008 Capital Replacement	€600,000	€600,000
2008 Islands	€70,000	€70,000
2008 Dams Safety Works	€300,000	€300,000
2008 Environmental Imp	€102,000	€102,000
2008 Leisure & Public Facilities	€350,000	€380,000
2008 General Water Services/ GPS/ CIS	€360,000	€360,000
2008 Upgrade and Takeover of Private Group Schemes (DCC Programme)	€500,000	€500,000
<b>2008 Sub Total</b>	<b>€2,282,000</b>	<b>€2,312,000</b>
<b>TOTAL 2006-2008</b>	<b>€6,666,001</b>	<b>€6,666,001</b>

From Table 10-B it can be seen that the matching fund requirement for 2006-2008 for the Miscellaneous Water Services Schemes to Facilitate

Development funded by **Special Development Contributions** is €4,680,000. Similarly the matching fund requirement for 2005 is €1,603,333.

Table 10 - B	MATCHING FUNDING	
Miscellaneous Schemes to Facilitate Development 2006-2008	TOTAL COMMITMENTS	COUNTERPART FUNDING COSTS (SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS)
2006 Development Schemes	€4,480,000	€1,603,333
2007 Development Schemes	€1,550,000	€1,633,000
2008 Development Schemes	€1,050,000	€1,443,333
TOTAL 2006-2008	€7,080,000	€4,680,000

## **2.4 WASTE MANAGEMENT CAPITAL PROGRAMMES**

### **2.4.1 Introduction**

Donegal County Council has six landfill sites licensed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Five of these are closed landfill sites at Muckish, Glenalla, Churchtown, Balbane and Drumaboden. The one operational landfill is at Ballynacarrick, Ballintra. Planning permission (Environmental Impact Assessment) and a licence has also been sought for a proposed landfill at Meenaboll.

The council maintains 57 Bring Banks throughout the county which cater for a range of recyclable materials including glass, cans, paper and clothing.

There is also a Civic Amenity Site at Carndonagh, and a newly opened Civic Amenity Site at Stranorlar which cater for a wider range of materials.

### **2.4.2 Progress In 2005**

- Ballynacarrick Phase 1 Interim cell was completed.
- Ballynacarrick Remainder Phase 1 was constructed.
- Ballynacarrick Phase 2 progressed to tender stage.
- Meenaboll progressed to Environmental Impact Assessment and Public Consultation stage.
- Rehabilitation/ remediation contracts for Muckish and Glenalla Landfill sites were completed.
- Stranorlar Civic Amenity Site was completed and handed over to Environment operations.
- Donegal (Laghy) Civic Amenity Site advanced to tender recommendation stage.
- Letterkenny Civic Amenity Site advanced to Planning stage.
- Review of County Donegals Waste Management Plan commenced.

### **2.4.3 Plans For 2006 And Future Years**

- Complete remedial works to Ballynacarrick Remainder Phase 1 and hand over to Environment Operations.
- Commence construction on Ballynacarrick Phase 2.
- Complete planning on Meenaboll and progress land acquisition.
- Invite tenders for Rehabilitation/ remediation contract for Drumabodan.
- Commence construction on Donegal (Laghy) Civic Amenity Site; complete and hand over to Environment operations.
- Complete land acquisition for, invite tenders for, and commence construction on Letterkenny Civic Amenity Site.
- Submit funding applications to DEHLG for further Civic Amenity Sites for Dungloe, Milford, and the upgrading of Carndonagh CAS.
- Completion of the review of County Donegals Waste Management Plan and Sludge Management Plan and adoption of the new Plans.

#### ***2.4.4 Funding The Waste Management Capital Programme***

The relevant Waste Management sub programmes to be funded are:-

- The Provision of Civic Amenity Sites
- The Provision of New Landfill Capacity
- The Restoration and Aftercare of Existing landfills
- Review of the Waste Management Plan

In accordance with the 'Polluter Pays Principle' the costs associated with the Waste Management Capital programmes must be provided from the Councils own resources and recovered from 'polluters'. The mechanism for doing this is through the raising of loan(s) from the Department of Environment Heritage and local Government, the repayments for which are recovered from landfill charges. Loans in the sums of €2,900,000 and €1,724,000 have already been drawn and a further loan for €3,000,000 is being processed which will almost clear the expenditure incurred to the end of 2005. Further loans will be required between 2005 and 2007 to fund Ballynacarrick Phase 2 landfill capacity, land purchase and enabling works at Meenaboll, landfill remediation at Churchtown, Drumabodan, and Balbane, and Civic Amenity Sites in all Electoral Areas, subject to the review of and adoption of the Waste Management Plan.

The schemes on the Civic Amenity Site sub programme are 75% funded by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government. The remaining 25% has to be raised from the Councils own resources. It is proposed that this matching funding be recovered from Environment loans and landfill charges.

From Table 11 below it can be seen that of a total expenditure on the Waste Management Programme between 2006-2008 of €16,793,466 the matching funding requirement is €13,831,785. Similarly for 2006 the expenditure is €7,651,916 and matching funding requirement is €6,157,212.

<b>Table 11</b>		<b>MATCHING FUNDING</b>
<b>Waste Management Programme 2006-2008</b>	<b>TOTAL SPEND</b>	<b>FROM DEHLG LOANS &amp; LANDFILL CHARGES</b>
2006 Civic Amenity Sites	€2,513,218	€1,018,515
2006 New landfill Capacity	€3,870,420	€3,870,420
2006 Restoration & Aftercare	€1,245,093	€1,245,093
<b>2006 Sub Total</b>	<b>€7,651,916</b>	<b>€6,157,212</b>
2007 Civic Amenity Sites	€2,020,000	€553,022
2007 New landfill Capacity	€1,300,000	€1,300,000
2007 Restoration & Aftercare	€2,903,776	€2,903,776
<b>2007 Sub Total</b>	<b>€6,223,776</b>	<b>€4,756,798</b>
2008 Civic Amenity Sites	€0	€0
2008 New landfill Capacity	€642,500	€642,500
2008 Restoration & Aftercare	€2,275,274	€2,275,274
<b>2008 Sub Total</b>	<b>€2,917,775</b>	<b>€2,917,775</b>
<b>TOTAL 2006-2008</b>	<b>€16,793,466</b>	<b>€13,831,785</b>

## **2.5 FIRE STATIONS AND FIRE APPLIANCES**

### **2.5.1 *Introduction***

All existing fire stations were included on the council's replacement programme as adopted in December 1999. To date new stations have been provided at Milford, Buncrana, Letterkenny, Falcarragh, Donegal Town, and Carndonagh, and Killybegs.

### **2.5.2 *Progress In 2005***

Contracts have been awarded for the construction of new stations at Glenties and Dungloe.

The Department have been requested to give approval to seek tenders for a new Station at Moville. A site has been identified and land acquisition has been agreed. Detail design has been prepared.

The Department has been advised of the Council's decision to revise our existing programme to include for separate Fire Stations at Ballyshannon and Bundoran in place of a single station at Finner. Approval of funding for this change has been sought.

Two class 'B' fire appliances are currently being procured.

### **2.5.3 *Plans For 2006 And Future Years***

Completion of the fire stations at Dungloe and Glenties Killybegs is scheduled for mid-2006. It is expected that approval to go to Tender and Construction will be given at an early date for the Fire Station at Moville.

Currently two class "B" fire Appliances (100%Government funded) are being procured.

### **2.5.4 *Funding***

Funding for the new Stations is provided by means of Capital Allocation from the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government, with the norm being 100% grant funding less the value of the Old fire Stations. 100% funding is also available for the two class'B' appliances.

## **2.6 SUMMARY OF MATCHING FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMMES AND WASTE MANAGEMENT CAPITAL PROGRAMMES BETWEEN 2006 AND 2008**

Water Services and Waste Management infrastructure is funded from a combination of Central Government Grants and Donegal County Councils own resources. Typically the Councils counterpart funding comes from loans, development charges levied by Donegal County Council (Existing Development Charges, General Development Contribution Scheme, Specific Development Contributions, Supplementary Development Contributions - as appropriate). The level of counterpart funding to be provided varies according to the particular programme and is detailed in the Funding sections of each of the capital programmes discussed above.

The matching funding requirements for the Waste Management Capital Programmes are summarised in Table 12-A below.

It can be seen from Table 12-A that of total expenditure/ commitments on Waste Management Infrastructure of €16.79m over 3 years between 2006 and 2008 there is a total matching funding requirement of €13.83m required from Loans which will in turn be funded from landfill charges.

Similarly of total expenditure/ commitments on Waste Management Infrastructure in 2006 of €7.65m there is a total matching funding requirement of €6.16m required from Loans which will in turn be funded from landfill charges.

The matching funding requirements for the Water Services Capital Programmes are summarised in Table 12-B below.

It can be seen from Table 12-B that of total expenditure/ commitments on Water Services of €338.29m over 3 years between 2006 and 2008 there is a total matching funding requirement of €29.19m required from Development Contributions (€23.08m General Development Contributions; €6.11m Special Development Contributions), and €24.60m required from Loans which will in turn be funded from Water Service charges.

Similarly of total expenditure/ commitments on Water Services in 2006 of €114.00m there is a total matching funding requirement of €8.77m required from Development Contributions (€6.835m General Development Contributions; €1.930m Special Development Contributions), and €7.83m required from Loans which will in turn be funded from Water Service charges.