

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

**Draft Budgeted Expenditure: €33,193,700**

**Draft Budgeted Income: €14,454,400**

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: €19,008,900**

**Draft Budgeted Income: € 8,096,400**

**(Pages 7-10 of Blue Pages)**

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

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

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

Based on Census 2002 data 89% of households in the county enjoyed piped water supply and 11% had private sources. 31,600 (83%) of those receiving piped water were supplied directly from public mains. The balance 6,500 (17%) were supplied through Group Water Supply schemes. The corresponding figures for wastewater facilities indicate a much higher dependence on private systems. 15,600 (37%) households were connected to public schemes; 26,800 (63%) reported individual septic tanks,

Water is extracted from eighty eight separate water sources throughout the county and delivered to consumers through forty three public water supply schemes and over 140 group schemes. The above numbers cover schemes serving at least 50 persons.

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. [population equivalent], and fifty six public schemes treating less than 500 p.e..

The Water Services Bill, which is currently before 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 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 impacted on water services operations during 2006. The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and new Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations have given a renewed focus to safety in the workplace. The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) are active in the realm of Local Authority work. The launch of the Office of Environmental Enforcement within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has resulted in increased monitoring of our activities. Both these agencies can be expected to continue to interact with the council during 2007 and beyond.

## **1.1.2 PROGRESS IN 2006**

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

Almost 25 million cubic metres of drinking water were produced during the year, of which 23.9 million came from council operated public sources and approximately one million from sources serving private supplies. The Council purchased approximately 161,000 cubic metres water from Northern Ireland during 2005. The 2006 figure will be similar. As regional schemes are expanded smaller less efficient waterworks have been taken out of production. Examples of such schemes where production has ceased include Carndonagh White River, Fahan, Lifford Old & Newtoncunningham. Extension of the Fullerton Pollan Dam supply has provided a higher quality water to consumers in this way. A new groundwater source was also developed in Ballyshannon which has improved the quality of supply.

Work continued during the year on developing workplace safety statements for a number of water treatment plants and pumphouses. A programme of dam safety inspections and training was initiated in 2005. The first round comprising eight dams was completed during 2006 and a second round of inspections for a further twelve was initiated. Remedial works identified in the first round are planned or underway.

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

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 environmental health officers of the Health Service Executive play a major role in the programme. Council laboratory staff and external laboratories have been required to play an increased role since 2005 in order to meet the demands of the Drinking Water Directive, as HSE laboratories cannot complete all the required testing. The EPA

publishes a report on the quality of drinking water annually, based on the results of the county monitoring programme. Their report for 2005 is not yet published.

Overall compliance with required standards in Public Water Supplies was reported as 95.1% in 2004. There has been a slight slippage in 2005, due to a variety of causes. One-off failure of chlorination equipment occurred at a number of plants, resulting in a decrease in microbiological compliance standards. Chlorine residual meters are being installed at all plants to give an early warning of such incidents in the future. The results showed improvement in some parameters (Bromate, Aluminium and pH compliance), but other parameters showed a dis-improvement (colour, ammonium, iron, manganese and turbidity). Our laboratory was praised by the EPA for actions to reduce Bromate non-compliance in supplies.

The results for Group Schemes show a higher incidence of non-compliance than experienced on public schemes, though an improvement is recorded over the 2004 results.

#### **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. Housing development has continued throughout the county and as a result water supplies and wastewater treatment plants are operating at levels in excess of their design capacity in certain cases.

#### **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 during 2006 due to unexpected loadings from industrial sources. Efforts to eliminate these rogue discharges are ongoing. Additional sludge handling facilities were developed on an emergency basis at the plant during the year. Waste water treatment has been developed in conjunction with private development at Killygordon and Convoy.

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, as a proliferation of small treatment plants may be unsustainable in terms of smooth operation and maintenance in the years ahead.

#### **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 area of operation and maintenance. The Partnership model has worked well in facilitating this dialogue. Schemes that have commenced on this basis include Donegal Bay Wastewater Management Scheme (Group A).

### **1.1.3 PLANS FOR 2007 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 2007. Projects such as Water Conservation and Complete Information System are providing data and systems to better manage scarce water resources in the county. However, stepping up to ongoing operation, updating and maintenance of these systems beyond the life of the project is a major challenge to the Council, given our limited financial resource base.

The government's Water Pricing Policy is being implemented through the Non-Domestic Metering Programme. All non-domestic customers must now be metered and charged for water services. This is expected to be completed during the year 2007.

Developing documented procedures and work practices in compliance with Safety, Health & Welfare at Work legislation will be an ongoing priority during 2007. It is intended to recruit an adviser to the service to assist in this specialist area. In parallel with this exercise operational procedures will be reviewed at water and wastewater treatment plants and documented systems developed in meet the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency. The dam safety programme will continue, addressing defects identified during inspections.

A new wastewater treatment plant at Ardara is expected to come into operation early in 2007. Minor improvements at other wastewater treatment plants will continue in advance of major schemes.

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. A cross-services committee has been established to review the implications of, and implementation of, the County Development Plan in respect of multiple housing development. Planning service is taking the lead on this work.

#### **1.1.4 FUNDING**

##### ***1.1.4.1 Operational Costs***

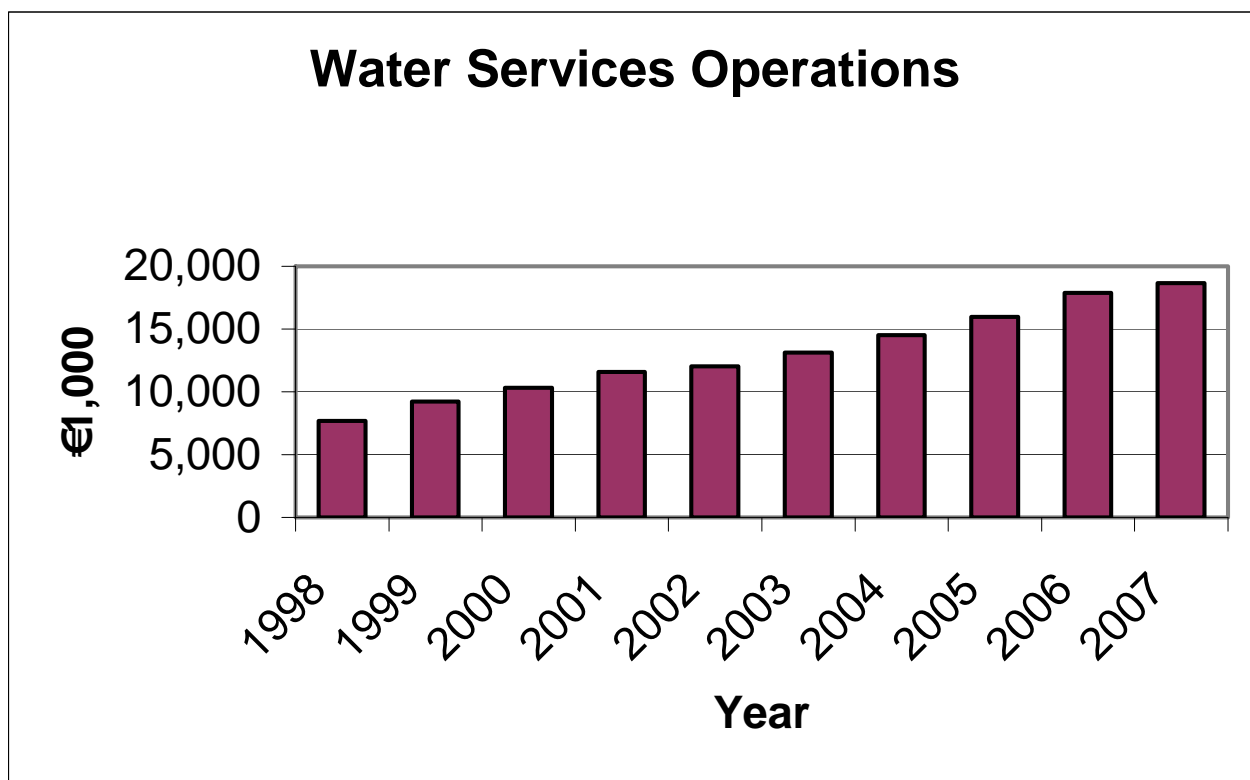
Operation and maintenance expenditure is funded from revenues. A contribution is received annually through the Local Government Fund. Income from water charges and own resources makes up the balance.

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. A Design Build Operate contract was prepared by our consultants for competitive tendering. A contractor has been appointed and is presently executing the Design/Build phase, i.e. the identification of non-domestic consumers and the installation of meters. This will be followed by a 10-year Operate and Maintain phase that includes meter reading. The metering data will be converted to billing in the council's Agresso system and charges will be collected by our Revenue Collection system.

The Draft Budget for 2007 includes a provision of €13,888,400 for the operation and maintenance of Water Supplies, Waste Water Systems and Public Conveniences. This represents an increase of €971,800 on the adopted estimate for 2006. The details are as follows:

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>€</b>
Maintenance of Water Supply Schemes	10,406,900
Maintenance of Waste Water Schemes	3,216,800
Maintenance of Public Conveniences	264,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,888,400</b>

Expenditure on Water Services has been increasing consistently over the past years, from just under €8m in 1998 to and estimated €19,121,900 in 2007.



#### **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. The contractor is likely to have this task completed towards the end of 2007. It will then be possible to charge the actual cost of the water supply to non-domestic users on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2008. In the meantime, transitional arrangements are proposed for 2007.

Depending on how UFW is accounted for the following table indicates the appropriate charges based on the 2004 expenditure outturn.

€ per m <sup>3</sup>	No UFW charged	10% UFW	20% UFW	30% UFW	41% UFW
Water Supply	0.665	0.739	0.831	<b>0.950</b>	1.125
Waste-water	0.564	0.564	0.564	<b>0.564</b>	0.564
Combined	1.229	1.303	1.395	<b>1.514</b>	1.689
€ per 1,000 gals	<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 €1.514 per cubic metre when allowance is made for 30% UFW. The estimated cost based on 2006 outturn is 20% more, viz. €1.82 per cu m. - made up of €1.14 for water and €0.68 for waste water. In order to recover the cost of loan charges for non-domestic capital contributions to the WSIP we need to add €0.08 to these costs giving the following core charges for 2007:

	Per Cubic Meter	Per 1000 gallons
Drinking Water	€1.18	€5.36
Waste Water	€0.72	€3.27
Water and Waste Water	€1.90	€8.63

In addition the cost of the metering project must be recovered in 2007 and future years from standing charges. The annual cost when all meters are installed and maintained by contract is €850,000 for capital loan repayment, €800,000 Operation and Maintenance and €250,000 for Billing and Contract Management. This will require a standing charge in excess of €200 per annum.

As a transitional arrangement for 2007, when the contract is not fully developed, the annual charge is estimated to be around €300,000. This can be recovered on the existing meter stock of 3,159 meters by a standing charge of €100.

The charges to be applied in 2007 are, therefore, as follows:

**Charges:**

Type of Premises	Metered Charge	Fixed Charge
Non-domestic	€1.90 per cu m	€336
Field supply	€1.90 per cu m	€236
Non-domestic with a domestic unit	First 50,000 gallons/annum [or 227 cu m] free = €431 per annum €1.90/m <sup>3</sup>	€236
Minimum Charge	€236 per annum	
Standing Charge		€100/annum

In the interests of equity it is necessary to introduce a minimum charge of €236 per annum. This equates to the cost of  $\frac{1}{3}$  m<sup>3</sup> per day usage, which is less than the average domestic consumption. Also the Fixed Charge for consumers without a meter is being reduced from €436 to €336 per annum.

It is estimated that these measures will increase revenue in the Draft Budget by an amount of €0.6 million to €6.274m when compared to the income targeted in the 2006 Adopted Budget of €5.678m. Additional customer accounts targeted in the 2006 Adopted Budget were not identified and in finalising the Income figures for inclusion in the 2007 Draft Budget we are working within the existing database of consumers. As the Non Domestic Metering Programme rolls out and in conjunction with focussed efforts to collect outstanding arrears including disconnection (policy approved by Elected Members in 2006) it is expected that the Councils account database will be increasingly tidied up in 2007 with hopefully the identification of sustainable net additional consumers.

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."*

The proposal for 2007 is to base costs on the 2006 outturn and to allow for 30% Unaccounted for Water. It must be acknowledged that this council is very close to achieving "full cost recovery".

Programme Group 5

**ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COSAINN NA TIMPEALLACHTA**

Draft Budgeted Expenditure: €13,121,000  
Draft Budgeted Income: €5,995,500  
(Page 14-16 of Blue Pages)

Programme Groups 6

**RECREATION AND AMENITY  
CAITHEAMH AIMSIRE AGUS TAITNEAMHACHT**

Draft Budgeted Expenditure: €472,000  
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', 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;
- Veterinary Services;
- Emergency Services

#### ***1.2.1.1 Waste Management***

The Waste Management Plan 2000, reviewed in 2006 (Waste Management Plan 2006- 2010) provides the framework for dealing with all waste arising in the county. Diversion of waste from disposal to recycling remains a key strategy in the Plan. Targets for year 2013 include a diversion of 50% of overall household wastes from landfill and recycling of 35% of municipal waste and a 50% reduction in biodegradable wastes consigned to landfill (increasing to 65% by 2016). Further targets for hazardous waste, construction & demolition waste, packaging waste and electrical / electronic waste (WEEE) are set out in the reviewed Plan. The 2007 Draft Budget includes a provision of €484,000 under the Recycling heading.

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. Civic amenity sites are operated in Carndonagh and Stranorlar and a further site is to open during 2007 in Laghey. The cost of operating Civic Amenity sites has proven very expensive. The Recycling grant from the DoEHLG amounts to only a fraction of the operating cost. A provision of €685,000 is included in the 2007 Draft Budget to cover the Operation and Maintenance of Civic Amenity Sites.

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.

The county depends heavily on the private sector for delivery of waste management services. All household waste collection is private with companies operating in an open market subject to regulation by the Council. Every collector is now collecting mixed dry recyclables (bin or bag) and all are offering 'pay-by-use' options rather than simple annual payment. The Council meets with the collectors regularly to discuss new developments/ issues / targets in the sector. Ballynacarrick landfill site is operated by a private sector contractor selected by competitive tender. The Council is supportive of the development of composting facilities in the county by private operator and will encourage commercial caterers to divert biodegradable waste from landfill to composting. €1,469,000 is provided in the Draft Budget 2007 under the Operation and Maintenance of Landfill Sites.

#### ***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. The following provisions are included in the 2007 Draft Budget: Environment Campaign - €1,014,800, Water Safety - €494,500, Beach Cleaning - €230,000.

#### ***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 the HSE), sewage treatment works, surface water quality, landfill leachate and gases, licensed discharges to sewers or waterways, bathing waters (blue flag beaches), oil spills and pollution incidents - water, air or noise.

The staff are 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. An amount of €1,020,500 is included in the Draft Budget 2007 under the Water & Environment Laboratory heading.

## 1.2.2 PROGRESS DURING 2006

### *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 2 locations. Electrical and electronic wastes are collected at the Carndonagh and Stranorlar Civic Amenity Sites (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 collection provides an outlet for paints, medicines, etc. Subsidised home composting units remain very popular with one thousand units now being sold annually.

In 2006 the county's waste collectors continued to extend their second collection for dry recyclable materials. Over 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. With the addition of this service to the recycling facilities provided by DCC the percentage of household waste recycled in the county now stands at 24.6%.

The waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive has led to very successful recycling of these items. Households may dispose of WEEE at Council CAS or directly at shops, one for one, when purchasing a new electrical item. The national collection target for these wastes was set at 4kg/person/per year. This target has been exceeded in the county with 4.83kg/person/year being collected.

The Carndonagh CAS continues to attract large volumes of recyclable materials as does the newly established CAS in Stranorlar. Charges were agreed for these sites and introduced at the Stranorlar site in 2006. Revenue generated amounted to a fraction of operational costs. The DoEH&LG Recycling Grant amounts to approximately 18% of the Council's recycling costs and gate fees from Stranorlar CA site amounted to less than 6% of the operational cost of Civic Amenity sites.

#### *Disposal*

The Council's landfill site at Ballynacarrick, Ballintra is now the only waste disposal site accepting waste in the county. It is operated by contract. In 2006, major capital works continued at Ballynacarrick. Phase 1 of the new engineered lined cell was brought into service in stages during 2005 and 2006. There is sufficient capacity in this cell to accommodate wastes

into the first half of 2007. Works on phase 2 are now nearing completion. Restoration works progressed well at Ballynacarrick and a gas flare was introduced to burn off methane emissions. A new leachate holding tank was provided with aeration pre-treatment. The pre-treated leachate is removed for full treatment in a sewage treatment works in line with the licence requirements. Two new payment methods were introduced in 2005 for landfill customers - direct debit & swipe card. The former has proved popular and effective. This has led to continued improvement with regard to arrears during 2006. Whereas operating costs at landfill continue to increase revenue is in decline as quantities of waste are diverted for recycling. Funding the waste management programme in 2007 and in future years is a challenge for the Council. There is a provision of €1,013,100 in the 2007 Draft Budget for the Maintenance of Ballinacarrick Landfill Site.

Final restoration of landfills at Glenalla and Muckish was completed during 2006. Tenders were sought for restoration works at Drumabodan. These works will proceed in 2007.

The EPA confirmed to the Council its decision to grant a waste licence for a new landfill facility at Meenaboll. An Bord Pleanála refused permission for the proposed facility. The council has since engaged with an Bord to seek guidance on the scoping requirements for environmental studies that would ensure that all areas of concern would be fully addressed in the event of a further application for landfill facility development.

As in previous years, the Council continued to subsidise waste collection on Arranmore and Tory Island. €35,000 is included in the 2007 Draft Budget under this heading.

### ***Regulation***

All waste collectors are required to hold a valid Waste Collection Permit (WCP). 18 new WCPs were issued in 2006. In addition, 30 WCPs were reviewed and issued. There is now a total of 140 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 2006, 20 waste permits were issued, bringing the total granted to 52. Eleven waste permits were reviewed and issued, while a further 16 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. 94 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 transfrontier shipment of dry recyclable household waste has been authorised by Donegal County Council with all such loads being inspected prior to departure to Northern Ireland. Similarly there is consent to allow the transfrontier shipment of oil and batteries to Northern Ireland which are also inspected prior to shipment.

Prior to the commencement of The Waste Management (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations, 2006 Donegal County Council has received applications for registration from 24 Motor Importers. As a part of this registration process the Motor Importers are required to provide a network of Authorised Treatment Facilities to receive End-of-Life vehicles free of charge and subsequently de-pollute them. It is expected to have at least two such facilities permitted in Co. Donegal in 2007.

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.

New draft regulations regarding the banning of backyard burning have been prepared by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG). They are currently being finalised and are expected to come into operation in 2007. These are awaited to give clarity to the law on backyard burning. An amount of €125,000 is included in the Draft Budget 2007 to cover costs associated with Waste Regulation,

### ***Awareness***

In 2006, €187,500 was provided for the Awareness Programme. The provision in the 2007 Draft Budget is €207,000 an increase of €19,500. 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 & distributing information leaflets and fact sheets. The waste awareness campaign in 2006 was supported by the National "Race Against Waste" campaign and the waste Awareness Officer played an integral part with the rollout of the national campaign in 2006.

In 2006 the Waste Awareness Officer delivered the schools waste management programme to 90 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 114 schools registered with the programme and 41 Green Flags have been awarded, 9 of which were awarded in 2006.

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, National Recycling Week, 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. A Small Change for business and an Action @ Work Seminar targeting small businesses and large organisations was organised by the Waste Awareness Officer in conjunction with the Race Against Waste Team. A Youth Seminar was also hosted as part of the Race Against Waste 360 campaign. The awareness officer was invited to give waste management talks as part of a number of training schemes, these included FÁS training schemes 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.

### ***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 2006. 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. The 2007 Draft Budget includes a provision of €100,000, the same as 2006.

#### ***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. A provision of €361,800 is included in the Draft Budget for 2007, an increase of €64,800.

#### ***Litter Wardens***

The Council's six full-time 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 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. They carried out surveys under the National Litter Pollution Monitoring system. A sum of €380,000 is provided in the 2007 Draft Budget under this heading.

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

Donegal was awarded Blue Flags in respect of 11 beaches in 2006. These were in respect of the following beaches:

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

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

The beach at Narin regained its Blue Flag this year, having lost it in 2005 due to issues relating to development on the dunes in the beach hinterland. Unfortunately the beach at Killahoey lost the Blue Flag due to breaches of a number of criteria, including problems with littering. The Council has made efforts throughout the 2006 bathing season to meet all the criteria and hopes to regain the award in 2007. 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 in its second year of operation 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. An important issue arising from the project is the response of the Council to the Maritime Safety Act, 2005 which states that the County Council's functional area extends to the 12 mile limit of Ireland's territorial waters. The question of what can reasonably be done to give effect to this new provision remains open.

### ***Water Safety***

The Draft Budget 2007 includes a provision of €494,500 under this heading which is an increase of €123,000 on the 2006 figure. Lifeguards are employed by Donegal County Council and these cover all Blue Flag beaches and some other well used locations, including Rathmullan and Downings. There were difficulties in recruiting sufficient qualified lifeguards for all beaches in 2006. Lifesaving equipment is also provided. A contribution totalling €36,000 is made to local search and rescue groups in the county.

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

2006 saw the third year of the new drinking water regulations, with audit monitoring continuing to place a significant burden on Laboratory resources, as the service offered by the HSE, (formerly NWHB) remained restricted through capacity issues in their Galway laboratory. This meant having to expand the service availed of at commercial external laboratories at significant cost and has also placed extra demands on Laboratory staff in terms of sampling and analysis. A routine programme of testing for Cryptosporidium was introduced in 2006, looking at high volume & "at risk" supplies.

Sampling and analysis of wells, mostly for well grant purposes, was also undertaken in 2006.

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 were also monitored. A significant increase in monitoring work was required in 2005 due to the increased activity of the EPA's Office of Environmental Enforcement, OEE, who continue to alert the Council to any incidents of declining river water quality, recorded during the Agency's routine biological river monitoring programme. Follow up investigations by Council staff on such incidents then took place with subsequent reporting back to the EPA.

A series of Farm Surveys was carried out during 2006, in association with the Northern Regional Fishery Board and follow-up visits were conducted to monitor progress on issues at high risk sites, highlighted in the 2005 farm surveys. The continuing cooperation of the Agricultural Community in this work is greatly appreciated.

The Laboratory continued to monitor sensitive locations under the Phosphate Regulations and the Dangerous Substances Regulations in 2006.

### **1.2.3 PLANS FOR 2007 AND FUTURE YEARS**

#### ***1.2.3.1 Waste Management***

##### ***Recycling***

The kerbside collection of dry recyclables will continue to be extended and promoted by waste collectors in 2007.

Domestic biodegradable wastes will continue to be targeted with the promotion of DCC subsidised home compost bins. Commercial organic wastes will be specifically targeted in 2007 through the encouragement of hotels, hospitals, colleges, etc, to have these materials composted.

Since it opened the council's new Civic Amenity Site at Stranorlar has been very popular. The site 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 also accepts household hazardous wastes such as fluorescent tubes, waste oil and batteries. Bottles, cans, textiles and WEEE are accepted free at the site. A charging regime operates for other waste materials. A third Civic Amenity Site is currently under construction in Laghey. It is expected to open in the first half of 2007 and will provide a full range of recycling facilities for the region. Similar in design to the Stranorlar site, this will be a very modern facility. Operating Civic Amenity sites is an expensive venture. The cost of moving the materials collected on in the recycling chain is very significant. Competitive tenders will be invited for all these activities in 2007.

Funding and planning permission has been secured for a new CA site on Health Services lands at Carnamuggagh in Letterkenny. Negotiations to purchase the site from the HSE have been protracted. It is intended to explore alternatives and to move to construction as soon as land is available. The development of an additional two further CAS in Milford and Dungloe will continue to be advanced in 2007. Operational costs and funding for the programme as a whole will be subject of a review this year.

Following the successful introduction of a waste collection service for Tory Island it is intended to reduce this waste through the introduction of a number of recycling initiatives in 2007. Recycling projects for the island will include the introduction of collections for mixed dry recyclables and WEEE. It is also intended to investigate the potential for a glass crusher to be used on the island allowing for the re-use of glass wastes on the island in building and landscaping projects.

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

### ***Disposal***

Completion of construction works on phase 2 engineered landfill cell at Ballynacarrick is expected in the first half of 2007. It will accommodate approximately 120,000 tonnes. It will be commissioned in two stages with the first stage ready to accept waste early in the year. Final capping and restoration of all areas filled before 2005 will also be complete by mid-year.

The EPA licence for Ballynacarrick landfill will be reviewed during 2007 to regularise the annual tonnage in line with previous years. Final profiling and finished levels will also be considered. Restoration works at Drumabodan landfill will commence and be completed during the year. A remediation plan with time scales for restoration of Churchtown and Balbane landfills will be submitted to the EPA for approval early in the year. Tender documents will be prepared for the Churchtown site.

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

### ***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, site inspections will continue with the view to ensuring waste permitted sites operators are complying with the conditions of both waste collection and waste facility permits. The review of waste collection permits, which commenced in 2004, will also continue.

Donegal County Council will continue to conduct vehicle checkpoints and site inspections as part of co-ordinated nationwide enforcement activities. This also includes playing an active role in networks set up nationally by the EPA and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

### ***Awareness***

In 2007, the Waste Awareness Officer will develop and deliver an annual awareness campaign.

Schools are again identified as a key target area for encouraging the prevention and minimisation of waste in the reviewed Waste Management Plan 2006 - 2010. The school curriculum now has subjects such as S.E.S.E. (Social, Environmental and Scientific Education) for Primary Schools and C.S.P.E. (Civic, Social and Political Education) for the Junior cycle in Secondary schools. Environmental issues are very much an integral part of these courses and the Waste Awareness Officer provides support for teachers in these subjects.

The Awareness Officer will visit at least half of all National Schools and all Secondary Schools in Donegal, i.e. approximately 100 schools. In the Green Schools programme, a target has been set to have at least 10 more schools achieving Green flag status in 2007. 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 in particular the promotion of kerbside recycling, civic amenity sites, bring banks, and seasonal issues such as Christmas, Spring & Summer, Recycling Week 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 also be a focus on diverting Organic Waste from the Commercial Sector and the Awareness Officer plans to work closely with the Hospitality Sector in this case.

Home Composting will continue to be promoted with 4 Home Composting seminars planned for 2007. These will be organised in conjunction with community groups and the Tidy Town Associations in particular.

There will be also specific publicity promoting the use of Recycling Centres especially during National Recycling Week held in October each year when we will have an annual open day/week. The Publication of the "Green Piece" every quarter in the local newspapers will continue. The new Waste Management Plan 2006 - 2010 has identified "The Green Piece" as an

important tool in the promotion of waste prevention and minimisation among the general public.

The Awareness Officer will continue to support businesses through organising seminars for small businesses in Donegal. This work will complement the work of the Recycling Officer.

The Awareness Officer will continue to work with FÁS 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.

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

#### ***Environmental Campaign***

Provision is being made in 2007 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.

#### ***Beaches***

Increased funding is proposed in the Draft Budget 2007 for Water Safety (€123,000) and Beaches (€8,000). Risk assessments of beaches will be carried out by Irish Water Safety during the year. Improved lifeguard facilities at beaches are required to comply with Health, Safety and Welfare at Work legislation.

A cross-services committee has been put in place to focus on beach related outcomes of the pilot beach management project. The challenges include of how to upgrade beach facilities in a sustainable way, issues such as traffic on beaches, dune protection, jet-skis and other fast craft in conflict with swimmers, illegal caravans and the implications of the Maritime Safety Act 2005 are among the priority matters to be considered.

Contributions are again allowed for groups involved in search and rescue activities.

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

New Laboratory equipment provided in 2006, (ICP-MS for the determination of metals), will offset some of the outsourcing of analysis of drinking water in 2007. The programme of testing for Cryptosporidium, introduced in 2006, will be repeated for the larger supplies and extended

to other smaller supplies, which may be regarded as "at risk". The Laboratory service will also carry out development work aimed at meeting the lower threshold limits due to be applied on bromate & THM's by the end of 2008. Further demands on the service provided by the Laboratory, particularly in meeting the targets of the Water Framework Directive, will place additional workload on the Laboratory staff in 2007 and beyond.

Sampling and analysis of wells, mostly for well grant purposes, will continue in 2007 and is expected to remain at current levels, as long as the building of houses in rural areas continues at the present rate.

Monitoring of influent and effluent at sewage treatment works, with reporting to the EPA, will continue in 2007. Additional resources are being sought in this area as the urgent need to extend monitoring to Housing schemes & larger private treatment plants has been identified.

Discharges to air and water will continue to be monitored at quarries & landfill sites and all industrial discharges covered by the licensing requirements of the Water Pollution Act 1977/90 will be monitored by the service. It is planned to expand the sectors licenced, under the Water Pollution Act 1977/90, during 2007 and additional revenue from monitoring fees is expected.

The monitoring of lakes & rivers, including designated Salmonoid Rivers will be subsumed into the Water Framework Directive programme from the start of 2007. These programmes will place an additional burden on lab staff, with more than 3000 additional laboratory tests required over and above the present testing regime.

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.

Further follow-up work on farm surveys will be carried out in 2007 and advice & recommendations will be issued to ensure that infrastructure, needed to prevent pollution of water courses, can be put in place in conjunction with the grant aided building programmes being undertaken widely in the farming community in the coming year.

The Nitrates Directive came fully into force in 2006 and Local authorities have been given an enforcement role under this legislation. Laboratory staff are working with Teagasc and farming organisations to achieve the targets set out by this Directive in the most effective manner, consistent with good environmental agricultural practice. The significant increase in farm building planning applications, (as a consequence of generous grant aid), will place a

considerable burden on the Laboratory service in 2007, through the need to inspect & impose conditions on proposed installations in high risk areas.

## **1.2.4 FUNDING**

### ***1.2.4.1: Environment: Waste Management***

The Expenditure Budget for waste management in 2007 is €13,191,000 and the Income budget is €5,995,500

Grants income to assist local Authorities with the cost of recycling and enforcement is estimated to raise €188,000. Income of €14,000 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 maintain waste management charges at Civic Amenity Sites and landfill gate fees unchanged at their 2006 levels.

The running costs of CAS in 2007 is estimated at €685,000. It is proposed to raise €90,000 from gate fees at CAS. Glass, cans, textiles and WEEE will continue to be accepted 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 30,000 tonnes of waste will be accepted at landfill in 2007, excluding Council vehicles. It is proposed to maintain the landfill gate fee at €137.50 per tonne (including government levy of €15) for the year 2007. The following table sets out waste management expenditure and shows a shortfall between income and expenditure to be funded from own resources. The increasing cost of operating civic amenity sites features large in this shortfall. Provision is made to operate the new CA site at Laghey for half year only.

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Landfill Operation & Maintenance	1,469,000
Payment of Landfill Levy	456,750
Operation of Civic Amenity Sites	685,000
Loan Charges	761,300
Recycling	484,000
Environmental Awareness	207,000
Clean Up Campaign	100,000
Litter Warden (Part)	70,000
Administration and Miscellaneous	455,454
Central Management Charge	485,000
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>5,173,504</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Anti-Litter grant	15,000
Environmental Partnership Grant	9,000
Recycling Grant/Fridges	188,000
Composting Sales	14,000
Income from Civic Amenity Sites	90,000
<b>Receipts Sub-Total:</b>	<b>316,000</b>
<b>Landfill Charges - 30,000 tonnes @ €137.50</b>	<b>4,125,000</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>4,441,000</b>
<b>Balance to be funded -</b>	<b>732,504</b>

## LANDFILL CHARGES 2006 - Comparison with other Local Authorities

Price Per Tonne	LA/Company
€215.00	Cork Co. Co.
€185.00	Fingal Co. Co.
€170.00	Kerry Co. Co.
€165.00	Wexford Co. Co.
€165.00	Tipperary SR
€165.00	Kilkenny Co. Co.
€150.00	Mayo Co. Co.
€145.00	Carlow Co. Co.
€140.00	Westmeath Co. Co.
€140.00	Offaly Co. Co.
<b>€137.50</b>	<b>Donegal Co. Co.</b>
€125.00	Laois Co. Co.
€125.00	Wicklow Co. Co.
€125.00	Roscommon Co. Co.
€125.00	Tipperary NR
€125.00	Clare Co. Co.
€115.00	Limerick Co. Co.
€115.00	Cavan Co. Co.
€115.00	Monaghan Co. Co.
€110.00	KT Cullen (Co. Kildare)
€100.00	Greenstar WTS (Sligo)

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

The Expenditure provision in the Draft Budget for 2007 is €1,014,800 and the Income provision is €275,500. 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 Expenditure provision in the Draft Budget for 2007 is €1,020,500 and the Income provision is €158,500. The Laboratory raises some income from provision of contract services to Government programs.

### ***1.2.4.4: Water Safety***

A provision of €494,500 has been made in the Draft Budget 2007. This is an increase of €123,000 over the 2006 budget, which is partly due to increased wage and equipment costs. The major additional cost is the

provision of mobile welfare units, which are required under health and safety legislation for staff working at remote locations This also includes contributions to voluntary groups involved in search, rescue and recovery activities.

#### ***1.2.4.5: Beach Management***

A provision of €230,000 has been made in the Draft Budget for 2007 under this heading. This will cover expenditure necessary to meet the Blue Flag Beach criteria.

### **1.3 EMERGENCY SERVICES**

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

#### ***1.3.1 Civil Defence:***

##### **Civil Defence 2006**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2006 marked the end of an era when for the last time the Civil Defence School, Ratra House, Phoenix Park, Dublin closed its doors as a training school and as the national headquarters. In line with the decentralization program undertaken by government, the Civil Defence School has moved to Roscrea, Co Tipperary. An official stand down parade was held at Ratra house to mark the occasion, at which Donegal was represented.

The government's commitment to providing state-of-the-art services for its volunteer force was underlined on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, when the new Civil Defence headquarters was officially opened in Benamore, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, by the Minister for Defence, Mr Willie O' Dea, T.D.

In keeping with the theme of the day 'New Beginnings the Minister launched the new look Civil Defence work ware. Issue of the new uniform is expected by end of December in time for duty in 2007.

##### ***New Civil Defence Headquarters - Donegal***

Not to be outdone by national headquarters, Civil Defence in Donegal are also on the move. After many years of hard work and training in the Civil Defence Headquarters at Pearse Rd, Letterkenny, known locally as the 'bacon factory', Donegal Civil Defence are relocating their headquarters to a new purpose built building at Railway Rd, Stranorlar. Planning permission has been granted for the new building and a tender will be advertised in December. The building, which is approximately 471 sq m, is estimated to cost €1.17 million and will be largely funded from the proceeds from the sale of the existing property.

**Membership:**

Maintaining membership is essential for the future of the organisation. Donegal has succeeded in increasing membership in 2006 by 10 new volunteers, giving a total of 109. Active female membership is 55, with active male membership at 59.

There is one full time official - Ms Edel Wilson, Civil Defence Officer.

***Draft Budget 2007:***

The Expenditure included in the Draft Budget for 2007 is €114,400 and the Income included in the Draft Budget for 2007 is €80,100.

**Health & Safety - Hepatitis B**

- The Hepatitis B and Tetanus vaccinations were made available to all Civil Defence volunteers and 99 have been vaccinated.
- In December Influenza vaccination will be provided to guard against Avian Flu should the need arise to assist the Dept of Agriculture.

**Emergency Assistance:**

- Civil Defence is part of the Donegal Emergency plan and took part in joint training exercise on Avian Flu with the Local Authority, Health Service Executive, Fire Service and An Garda Síochána in Carrick-on-Shannon.
- On 26<sup>th</sup> October at Killybegs Pier a joint Major Emergency Planning exercise was organised by An Garda Síochána. This was to test the capability of the various emergency and voluntary services of the Fire & Ambulance services, Gardaí, Navy, Coastguard, Marine Casualty unit, RNLi and Civil Defence. The County's Major Emergency Plan was activated for the purposes of the exercise.
- To create public awareness for safety at sea, beaches and cliffs, Donegal Civil Defence worked with the Coast Guard and the Cliff and Sea Rescue on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July in a search and rescue exercise in Downings.

**Non-Emergency Events:**

As always 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 the various festivals, sporting activities, charitable walks, etc, throughout the year. This year 75-community events were covered, with approximately 1200 man-hours donated by volunteers to assist the community.

### **Intercounty Training:**

Training links have been established between, Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo and Donegal. To date training has been undertaken in:

- Radio Communications - Donegal.
- Level 2 and 3 of the National Powerboat Certificate - Leitrim.
- Handheld and Marine Based GPS - Sligo.
- Welfare - Food preparation and displaced People registration - Mayo

### **National Exercises- Achievements:**

- **Auxiliary Fire Fighting:** Donegal's Inishowen team was nominated as the regional representative in the National Auxiliary Fire competition held on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> September in Maynooth. Donegal finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place.
- **Water Based Activities:** Donegal had two teams in Malahide, Co. Dublin, to contest this year's National Kayaking Competition (Pat Kennedy Memorial Cup). Donegal Team B finished in runner-up position.

### **Policy Development Progress:**

- On 1st July Donegal Civil Defence adopted the new CPR protocols as laid down by the Irish Heart Foundation;
- 17<sup>th</sup> Oct the Civil Defence launched the new National Code of Conduct;
- 17<sup>th</sup> October the new look volunteer enrolment form was launched;
- Training and practice in Defibrillator use, as laid down by the American Heart Foundation and the Irish Heart Foundation, was adopted into the training programme. This extends the range of AED use to all members over 18yrs of age and allows training in the AED to be delivered to all persons aged 16yrs and over;
- 2007 will see the adoption of the Pre -Hospital Emergency Care Syllabus (PHECC) by the HSE for all Civil Defence first-aiders. The new syllabus will now be recognized as Emergency 1<sup>st</sup> Responder, Emergency Medical 1<sup>st</sup> Responder, Cardiac 1<sup>st</sup> Responder and Paramedic.

### **Young Person Project:**

In a new venture this summer Donegal Civil Defence joined with An Garda Síochána to work with a group of young people aged 10 -14yrs from the Letterkenny and surrounding areas. The group is largely made up of early school leavers and young offenders who have become involved in anti-social behavior. The aim of the project is to provide an inclusive space where the young people can avail of training and knowledge in a non-intrusive and friendly environment. Civil Defence supported the project with the provision of first aid and transport services.

### ***1.3.2 Fire Service:***

#### ***Fire Service Change Programme:***

A Review of Fire Safety and Fire Services in Ireland was commissioned by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government in 2001. Farell Grant Sparks, Consulting, were appointed to undertake the review, and the work was overseen by a Review Advisory Group. The Report, presented in March 2002 following wide consultation and input of views, provided a widely accepted vision of future developmental needs for the fire service and fire safety, and contained a wide range of recommendations, including recommendations in relation to the four key areas referred to above.

The overall mission of the Fire Services Change Programme is to bring about a significant improvement in the safety of people and property. This is in keeping with the general thrust of national policy towards a safer and healthier society.

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

The implementation of this change programme was initiated in 2006 and will continue over a 2-year period. In parallel with the change programme there will be a restructuring of Fire Service management to bring this into line with the revised management structure brought about by Better Local Government [BLG] in 2000 for the other services.

The council employs a Chief Fire Officer, who has now been regraded to the level of Senior Engineer [Divisional Manager]. Following an internal competition three existing staff have been regraded to the new grade of Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer. One officer opted for early retirement after some 20 years of service. There are three posts at Assistant Chief Fire Officer, one at Assistant Fire Officer, 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.

#### Activity in 2006:

Attendance at Fires	1,018
Road Traffic Accidents	120
Special Incidents	40
False Alarms [malicious]	48
False Alarms [bona fide]	67
Fire Safety Certs	250
Dangerous Substances licences	7
Planning Applications	397
Court attendance	35
Inspections	540

#### **Major Emergency Planning:**

A Framework for Major Emergency Management in Ireland was published in 2006. 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

#### Definition:

A Major Emergency is any event which, usually with little or no warning, causes or threatens death or injury, serious disruption of essential services, or damage to property, the environment or infrastructure beyond the normal capabilities of the principal emergency services in the area in which the event occurs, and requires the mobilisation of additional

resources and activation of specific additional procedures to ensure an effective and co-ordinated response.

Major emergency planning and development 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 Principle Response Agencies, viz, the County Council, Gardaí, and Health Services Executive. New structures are being established within the county and on a regional basis with Sligo and Leitrim to implement the new management framework.

***Draft Budget 2007:***

The Expenditure provision in the Draft Budget for 2007 is €6,148,900 and the Income provision is €734,500. It is intended to provide a level of service in 2007 which is similar to previous years.

## 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 2007 includes a provision of €11,500 under the Diseases of Animals heading, see Programme Group 8 Veterinary Services.

(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

**MISCELANEOUS  
ÉAGSÚIL**

Draft Budgeted Expenditure:	€580,300
Draft Budgeted Income:	€362,500

(Pages 23-27 of Blue Pages)

## 1.4 VETERINARY SERVICE:

### 1.4.1 Introduction

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
- EU Directives 852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004

New EU Directives (852,853 and 854) known collectively as "the Hygiene Package" came into force on 1/1/06 and Donegal County Council is currently implementing them throughout the county.

#### ***1.4.2 Domestic Meat Supply:***

The service acts to protect the public interest by the:

1. Supervision of operational hygiene in Abattoirs
2. Approval of Abattoirs and licensing of 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

	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Sheep</b>	<b>Pigs</b>
2005	3313	13205	516

#### ***1.4.3 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.

#### ***1.4.4 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 disposal of carcasses.

The council provides a dog warden service in conjunction with the ISPCA. Stray dogs are impounded, offered for re-homing, and if necessary put down. The number of dogs impounded was 1107 in 2005 compared with 1106 in 2004.

#### ***1.4.5 Draft Budgets for 2007:***

The Veterinary Service is substantially subsidised and the following gives a summary of the budget estimates for 2007.

<b><i>Item</i></b>	<b><i>Expenditure €</i></b>	<b><i>Income €</i></b>	<b><i>Net Cost to DCC</i></b>
Abattoirs	335,000	302,500	32,500
Dogs	208,300	60,000	148,300
Horses	25,000		25,000
Milk/Dairies	12,000		12,000
Diseases	11,500		11,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>591,800</b>	<b>362,500</b>	<b>229,300</b>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WATER ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICE CAPITAL PROGRAMMES AND ASSET FORMATION</b></p>
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## **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 2006 is noted, plans for 2007 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, and a further Assessment of Needs was completed in 2006. The Assessment of Needs 2006 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 Pleanala)
- Foreshore Licence Application (Department of Communications Marine and Natural Resources where EIA not prepared)
- Water Rights Proposal (An Bord Pleanala in the event of objections)
- Compulsory Purchase Order (An Bord Pleanala 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).

In 2006 the Department published Circular *L1/06 - Revision of Approval and Recoupment Procedures* and Circular *L7/06 - Further Revision of Approval Procedures*, which set out how the Department intended to substantially increase the responsibilities devolved to Sanitary Authorities in the procurement of water services schemes. In summary, for projects costing less than €5m the key approval stage is the Preliminary Report stage (including Construction stage budget and Water Services Pricing Policy approval); for projects costing greater than €5m the key approval stages are PR, Contract/ Tender documents, and Tender Report stages, except in the case of traditional style tenders where tender report approval is generally not required. The following table from Circular L7/06 summarises the stages for which projects less than €5m and greater than €5m now require Department approval.

<u>Key Approval Stage</u>	Department Approval Required [Yes/No]		
Brief for Preparation of PR (including Planning Stage Budget)	Yes		
Preliminary Report (including Construction Stage Budget & WSPP Report)	Yes		
	<i>Projects &lt; €5m</i>	<i>Projects &gt; €5m</i>	
Brief for Clients Representative	No	No	
Fee proposal	No	No	
Contract or Tender Documents	No	Yes	
Report on Tenders	No (except in exceptional circumstances)	Yes, but not for traditional style tenders covered by Paragraph 3 of this Circular.	
Final Report/ Payment Application	Yes	Yes	

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>	-	<b>306,606,000</b>

### **2.1.1.2 Progress on Major Capital Programme in 2006**

The text below describes progress made during 2006 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 was completed, and additional works were carried out in advance of new developments. Contract 2 - Wastewater Treatment Works Contract Documents were revised to include Gweedore Sewerage Scheme, as requested by the Department.
- Letterkenny Water Supply Augmentation No 2 Boreholes. Contractor appointed and DBO contract commenced.
- Lough Mourne/ Letterkenny Water Supply Scheme - Approval for Advance Works received. Tender documents for Advance works completed. Tender documents for main scheme Archaeological Excavations developed.
- Tenders for new County Laboratory invited.

#### **Inishowen Electoral Area**

- Malin Sewerage Scheme. Tenders sought and budget approval sought from the Department.
- Moville/Greencastle Sewerage Scheme advanced to preparation of Preliminary Report and Environmental Impact Assessment. Consultation process continued.
- Lagan Desert Water Supply Stage 3. Combined tenders with West Inishowen Desertegney sought.
- West Inishowen Desertegney Phase 1 contract 3. Combined tender with Lagan Desert Stage 3 sought.
- Inishowen Sludge incorporating Buncrana Wastewater Treatment Works Environmental Impact Assessment progressed.

#### **Milford Electoral Area**

- Fanad Water Supply Stage 1 was completed.
- Fanad Water Supply Stage 2. Draft Environmental Impact Assessment completed.
- Rathmullan Sewerage Scheme Environmental Impact Assessment progressed.

#### **Glenties Electoral Area**

- Gweedore Sewerage Scheme CPO documentation for pumping station sites progressed. Wastewater Treatment Works Contract Documents were revised to include Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme, as requested by the Department.

- Gortahork Water Supply Scheme (Major Scheme) - Work on Preliminary Report and Water Charging Policy Report progressed.
- Ardara Sewerage Scheme commenced construction in 2004. Commissioning and takeover underway.
- The Preliminary report for the Dungloe Sewerage Scheme was completed and submitted to the Department.
- The draft Preliminary report for the Glenties Sewerage Scheme was completed and submitted to the Department.

#### Donegal Electoral Area

- The DBO Group A (Donegal, Rossnowlagh, Ballyshannon) Wastewater Treatment Works, Main Pumping Stations, Rising Mains, Outfalls contract commenced. Civils works advanced on all sites including the completion of all outfalls.
- Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme Contract 2 Sewer Network advanced to contractor appointment stage.
- Rossnowlagh Sewerage Scheme Contract 2 Sewer Network and Pumping Stations commenced on site.

#### Stranorlar Electoral Area

- Lough Mourne/ Letterkenny Water Supply Scheme - Approval for Advance Works received. Tender documents for Advance works completed. Tender documents for main scheme Archaeological Excavations developed.
- Ballybofey Stranorlar Sewerage Scheme CCTV, Manhole Survey, and Network model completed.

### **2.1.1.3 Plans for Major Capital Programme in 2007**

#### Letterkenny Electoral Area

- Continue design and construction on Letterkenny Water Supply Augmentation No 2 Boreholes.
- 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.
- Unbundle Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme contract 2 from Gweedore Sewerage Scheme and advance the contract to tender stage subject to DEHLG approval.
- Advance solutions for the upgrading of Knocknamona Reservoir and commencement of Part 8 planning.
- Invite fit-out tenders for new County Laboratory and arrange for the re-location of staff and equipment to the new premises.

#### Inishowen Electoral Area

- Advance Malin SS to construction subject to Water Charging policy approval and adequate budget approval by DEHLG.
- Submit Merville/Greencastle SS Preliminary Report and Environmental Impact Statement for approval, and progress land acquisition and wayleaves.
- Submit Preliminary Report and Environmental Impact Assessment on Inishowen Sludge Centre for approval.
- Advance Lagan Desert Water Supply Stage 3 to construction stage subject to Water Audit approval and Water Charging Policy approval by DEHLG.
- Advance Desertegney Water Supply Stage 1 contract 3 to construction stage subject to Water Charging Policy approval by DEHLG.

#### Milford Electoral Area

- Submit Rathmullan Sewerage Scheme Preliminary Report and Environmental Impact Assessment for approval.
- 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. Also progress land acquisition for Glenvar area.

#### Glenties Electoral Area

- Complete CPO for pumping station sites on Gweedore Sewerage Scheme. Also unbundle Gweedore Sewerage Scheme from Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme contract 2 and complete Gweedore tender documents subject to DEHLG approval.

- Resolve environmental issues on Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme, submit Preliminary Report and complete Planning.
- Submit Gortahork Water Supply Scheme (Major Scheme) Preliminary Report and complete planning.
- Commission and complete Ardara Sewerage Scheme.
- Progress Dungloe Sewerage Scheme to tender stage subject to Preliminary Report approval by DEHLG, and complete Planning.
- Progress Glenties Sewerage Scheme to tender stage subject to Preliminary Report approval by DEHLG, and complete Planning.
- Submit value engineering appraisal of Burtonport Sewerage Scheme to DEHLG for approval.

#### Donegal Electoral Area

- Continue 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.
- Continue construction on Rossnowlagh Sewerage Scheme Contract 2 Sewers.
- Submit Killybegs Water Supply Sludge Preliminary Report to DEHLG.
- Submit contract documents on Glencolmcille Sewerage Scheme and complete planning.
- Progress Glencolmcille Sewerage Scheme to tender stage subject to Water Charging policy approval and adequate budget approval by DEHLG.

#### Stranorlar Electoral Area

- Advance Lough Mourne/ Letterkenny Water Supply Scheme Short term Upgrade works at the Lough Mourne headworks to construction subject to Water Charging policy approval and adequate budget approval by DEHLG. Also complete planning on the Lough Mourne/ Letterkenny Scheme.
- Submit brief for Ballybofey Stranorlar Sewerage to the Department.
- Submit brief for Castlefin Stranorlar Sewerage to the Department.
- Complete Preliminary Report for the Convoy Sewerage Scheme.
- *Advance Convoy Sewerage Scheme (secondary treatment) to tender stage subject to Preliminary Report, Water Charging Policy, and adequate budget approval by DEHLG.*

#### 2.1.1.4 *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.

To date all targets set out by the Directive have been met. In 2007, the monitoring programme will begin and this will, as stated above, increase the workload on the laboratory. The provision of new, sophisticated analytical equipment in the laboratory will allow for some of this monitoring to take place in-house and simultaneously decrease the need to outsource analysis to external laboratories.

A project to develop a remotely operated sampling device for lakes has been undertaken in association with Letterkenny Institute of Technology, LYIT. The objective of this project is to develop a methodology that is cost effective both in terms of equipment and staffing levels, minimises safety at work issues and reduces the potential for alien species transfer from one water body to another.

#### ***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 **N**orth **S**outh **S**Haring **A**quatic **R**esources. 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. The project has continued to secure its allotted INTERREG funding
2. The Steering Group representing EHS(DoE NI), EPA, GSI, DoEHLG and DCC has met at regular intervals in 2006;
3. The further Characterisation report deadline was met;
4. The 2006 spend profile for the project has been substantially achieved.
5. The website for the project ([www.nsshare.com](http://www.nsshare.com)) has been enhanced with a document tracker system to allow peer review of technical papers produced by the project
6. A workshop involving officials from the Republic of Ireland Northern Ireland and Great Britain was held in Belfast early in 2006 and a workshop, involving officials from the Republic of Ireland Northern Ireland, was held in Letterkenny on Coastal and Transitional waters

7. An Advisory Council has been set up for ROI areas of both the North West and Neagh Bann IRBDS in accordance with national regulations. Both have met in 2006.
8. A Public Authorities Forum covering the ROI areas of both the North West and Neagh Bann IRBDS has been set up to provide a means of communication with all the Local Authorities in the IRBDS and other relevant statutory agencies.
9. A monitoring programme for water bodies, to begin in 2007, has been agreed.
10. The process of producing a Significant Water Management Issues report (SWMI) which is due in mid 2007 has begun. It has been agreed that in the case of the NSSHARE area this will be a joint North/South document.

***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”.

Donegal County Council is the lead authority for the North West River Basin District and has now established the Advisory Council. The Council has met several times and will continue to meet in 2007 and for the foreseeable future. The NW RBD covers counties Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and Longford.

In addition, the need to inform other relevant public agencies on progress of the project was identified and a separate *Public Authorities Forum* has been set up to ensure information on the project and input to the project is as broadly based as possible.

**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:-

Table 3 - Major Capital Programme	TOTAL COMMITMENTS	MATCHING FUNDING	
		COUNTERPART FUNDING COSTS (DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS)	COUNTERPART FUNDING COSTS (NON-DOMESTIC SECTOR)
2007 Major Capital	€41,566,000	€2,330,316	€4,035,417
2008 Major Capital	€145,086,755	€7,856,451	€7,887,450
2009 Major Capital	€87,000,000	€4,350,000	€4,350,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€273,652,755</b>	<b>€14,536,767</b>	<b>€16,272,867</b>

From the table it can be seen that for a total 3 year committed expenditure of €273,652,755, €14,536,767 will be required from development contributions to fund spare capacity at treatment works, and €16,272,867 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. Bunrana 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		
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		
Sallaghagrane Ext.	L	453,000
Lifford Sewerage Scheme		
IDA Lands Extension	L	91,000
Milltown Bunrana Sewerage Scheme	S	171,000
St. Johnstown Sewerage Treatment	L	343,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	<b>3,284,000</b>

### ***2.1.2.2 Progress on Serviced Land Initiative Programme in 2006***

#### 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 - Scheme completed in 2006.
- Sallaghagrane - 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 - Scheme options advanced in 2006. Tender documents being finalised. The scheme is being funded by both the SLI and Small Capital Schemes programme.

#### Inishowen Electoral Area

- Killea - completed.
- Lisfannon - Completed
- Newtowncunningham Sewerage Scheme - Works completed in 2005
- Bridgend and Burnfoot Sewerage Schemes - Manhole and infrastructure survey commenced at Bridgend. Discussions ongoing with developers and landowners at Burnfoot.

#### Milford Electoral Area

- Kilmacrennan - Design proposals advanced in 2006.

#### 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 substantially complete. 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 2007**

#### Letterkenny Electoral Area

- St. Johnston Sewerage Scheme - Tender Invitation and commencement of construction.

#### Inishowen Electoral Area

- Killea - Implementation of works to regulate flows in the network.
- Bridgend & Burnfoot Sewerage Scheme - Complete manhole and infrastructure survey at Bridgend. Progress Land acquisition by Compulsory Purchase Order if necessary at Bridgend and Burnfoot.

#### Milford Electoral Area

- Kilmacrennan - Progress scheme through Part 8 planning stage and tender invitation stage.

#### 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.
- Donegal Main Drainage Contract 3 stage 1 Brookfield - to commence construction in 2007 subject to DEHLG budget approval.

#### Stranorlar Electoral Area

- Convoy - Completion of construction and further network improvement works to be carried. Secondary Treatment to be funded under the Major Capital Programme.

### **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 €6.669m. The corresponding total amount of recoupable grants is €2.405m which leaves a total matching funding requirement of €4.264m. 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 €1.101m matching funding in BUDGET

2005 and €0.327 in BUDGET 2006 giving a total matching funding to date of €3.939m. Therefore the current matching funding balance (shortfall) on the programme amounts to €0.325m.

The matching funding requirements including the outstanding balance for the Serviced Land Initiative Programme for the years 2007 to 2009 are set out in Table 5 :-

<b>Table 5</b>		<b>MATCHING FUNDING</b>
<b>Serviced Land Initiative 2007-2009</b>	<b>TOTAL SPEND + OUTSTANDING BALANCE</b>	<b>COUNTERPART FUNDING COSTS (SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS)</b>
2007 SLI Schemes	€608,298	€408,298
2008 SLI Schemes	€608,298	€408,298
2009 SLI Schemes	€158,298	€138,298
<b>TOTAL 2007-2009</b>	<b>€1,374,894</b>	<b>€954,894</b>

From the table it can be seen that for a total 3 year committed expenditure of €1,374,894, €954,894 will be required from development contributions as matching funding for the SLI programme.

Similarly for 2007 it can be seen that for an expenditure of €608,298, €408,298 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%.

### **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 has now prepared strategy documents for the implementation of the remaining Stage 1 works, which have been submitted to the Department. The envisaged works will require approval of a further tranche of funding and approval is awaited.

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 2006***

The following work was carried out in 2006 on the Water Conservation Programme.

- Stage 1 metering and telemetry works was completed on the Lough Mourne water supply network and the Stage 1 final report was prepared and submitted to the DEHLG.
- Stage 1 works continued on the Donegal River Eske Water supply networks and metering/ telemetry was completed.
- Substantial Stage 2 work including pressure management was carried out on the Rosses Regional Water Supply which reduced water losses and bursts substantially in the network. The Stage 2 report was finalised and submitted to the DEHLG.
- Emergency Water Conservation Works were also completed in Carrigart/ Cranford WSS, and defective valves were replaced in Inishowen, Gortahork/ Falcarragh, and the Rosses Regional WSS.
- The Consultants engaged to complete the Stage 1 works for the entire County progressed work on mapping, District Metering Area (DMA) design, and prepared an Interim Strategic Review Report on Water Conservation in Donegal which was submitted to DEHLG.
- Very limited Water Conservation Stage 3 - Pipe Replacement/ Rehabilitation Works were carried out in 2006 due to funding restrictions by the DEHLG.

### ***2.1.3.3 Plans for Water Conservation Programme in 2007 and future years***

- Prepare tender documents for metering and telemetry contracts for the remainder of the County subject to DEHLG approval.
- Commence to develop a countywide network monitoring and management system.
- Equip and train 3 dedicated leak detection teams and commence Stage 2 - active leak detection works subject to DEHLG approval.
- Progress pipe rehabilitation/ replacement works subject to DEHLG approval.

### 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 2007-2009</b>	<b>TOTAL SPEND</b>	<b>COUNTERPART FUNDING COSTS (FUNDED FROM DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME OR SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT CHARGES)</b>
2007 Water Con Historical	€100,000	€100,000
2007 Water Con Measures	€3,428,292	€0
2007 Water Con Mains Replacement	€2,539,476	€253,950
Sub-total 2007	€6,067,768	€353,950
2008 Water Con Historical	€100,000	€100,000
2008 Water Con Measures	€3,428,292	€0
2008 Water Con Mains Replacement	€2,158,554	€215,855
Sub-total 2008	€5,686,846	€315,855
2009 Water Con Historical	€100,000	€100,000
2009 Water Con Measures	€2,374,410	€0
2009 Water Con Mains Replacement	€1,904,610	€190,458
Sub-total 2009	€4,379,020	€290,458
<b>TOTAL 2007-2009</b>	<b>€16,133,634</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***

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 may require to be metered on Public Water Supply Schemes at the point of connection in 2006 and 2007. 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.

##### **2.1.4.2 *Progress up to 2006***

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 is being delivered in two distinct stages with an expected life cycle as follows, (a) Design / Build Stage: 12 months (September 2006 to September 2007) and (b) Maintain / Operate Stage: 10 years (September 2007 to September 2017). The Design Build contract has commenced and customer surveys and meter installations are underway.

#### ***2.1.4.2 Plans for 2007***

The data collection, collation, and verification along with meter installation and commissioning will continue into 2007. Further work will also continue on the customer services aspects of the service including the development, enhancement, and implementation of customer service information systems.

#### ***2.1.4.3 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 2007-2009 for the Non-Domestic Metering Project is €6,000,000 and the corresponding figure for 2007 is €6,000,000.

<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>
2007 ND Metering	€6,000,000	€6,000,000
2008 ND Metering	-	-
2009 ND Metering	-	-
<b>TOTAL 2007-2009</b>	<b>€6,000,000</b>	<b>€6,000,000</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 DEHLG.

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. In particular insufficient funding is available to tackle European Court of Justice listed public water quality deficient schemes although the Department urges that priority be given to schemes that can contribute to efforts to resolve water quality issues on both public and private water quality deficient schemes.

## 2.2.2 PROGRESS IN 2006

### 2.2.2.1 Block Grant allocation 2006

The Block Grant allocated in March 2006 for the Rural Water Programme was €4,290,000, broken down as follows:

<u>Sub-programmes:</u>	<u>€</u>
Design Build Operate Schemes	0
Connect to Public Mains	1,000,000
Takeover of Group Schemes	1,500,000
New and Upgrade Group Schemes	1,140,000
Small Public Water & Sewerage Schemes	650,000

The full amounts allocated under all headings are being drawn down for year 2006, along with additional allocations of €1,054,000 and €400,000 received from the Department in December in respect of the New Group

Schemes and Small Schemes categories. 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.

Seven 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 tested for suitability. Three schemes are awaiting development of Major Capital Schemes on the Water Services Investment Programme to achieve compliance. 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, and the Council are endeavouring to work closely with those groups.

##### **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, via Major Capital funding. Only two households on this scheme remain on the private supply, pending completion of the Desertegney Stage 1 Contract 3 major capital scheme. Bunn GWS installed their own treatment system and are now compliant, and have plans to provide their own reservoir.

##### **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 implemented by direct labour in 2005. Further works on contract 1 Advance Works were advanced by contract in 2006 in Teelin. Tenders were also invited for contracts 5 (civil works southern area) and 4 (civil works southern area) and tender assessment is currently underway.

### **c) Tory Island**

Hydrogeological work continued in 2006 in search of a satisfactory ground water source for this supply. This involved substantial yield and quality testing and the temporary installation of a pilot treatment plant to test treatment processes.

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

In 2006 the following was achieved:- the connection of the Meenalough scheme to public mains was completed; tender documents were prepared for connection of Tully GWS to Rosses Regional WS; Lettercough, Meenamara, and Glengad / Glentoskert advanced to design stage; connection of Dooley GWS to Carrigart WS advanced to construction; connection of Tober Castlethird GWS to the extended Illies WS, and Tullintain GWS to the Meenacahan Meentinadea scheme thereby delivering public water from the Killybegs source advanced to construction; Meenabool and Townawilly have been subject of a design review but have not yet agreed to connecting to public mains and further assessment is being carried out; Tirladden and Magherabeg/Veagh GWSSs are depending on the Fanad Water Supply and Lagan Desert Phase 3 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 2006:- Carrowhill/ Ballinlough, Liss Road Sewerage Scheme, Tullygay, Golan No. 2, Liskeeran/ Meenavoy, Ednamock/ Drimnaherk, Tenfoot Road, Moyle/ Magheradrummond, Ardcrone/ Craugheyboyle, Corker, Ballyoe (Malin), Driminardagh. Approval to commence construction was also granted to Inishfree, Meenmore West, Shallogans, Springhill, and construction is expected to commence shortly.

While affordability remains a major issue for some schemes, the recent extension of CLÁR areas has benefited a number of schemes where affordability issues existed previously. Currently, of the 23 schemes listed for funding in 2006, 5 are still awaiting approval to commence construction due to insufficient funding.

#### **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.

In 2006 work continued on the Cranford WS pipeline contract, Convoy Sewerage Scheme, Carndonagh Water Supply, and Frosses/Mountcharles Water Supply pipelines. Construction also commenced on the Cranford Water Supply Water Treatment Works Upgrade.

Scheme options for St. Johnston Sewerage Scheme were also advanced in 2006 and tender documents are currently being finalised. This scheme is being funded by both the SLI and Small Capital Schemes programme.

Rationalised and Updated Small Scheme lists were sought from each Electoral Area in 2006 and the draft lists have now been received. When agreed these lists will simplify the current categories and lists which are listed below :-

- 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	Further Works Required
9	Rathmullan Water Supply	467,335	Completed
10	Pettigo Water Supply	317,434	Further Works Required
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	<u>Gortahork WSS</u> Stage 1 Mains Gortahork WS Stage 2 Treatment Gortahork WS Stage 3 Chemical Dosing	635,000	Completed Further Works Required  Completed
22	Rosses Regional (Network)	356,283	Completed
23	Glenties Watermain (EIS)	221,356	Completed

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

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 2007 AND FUTURE YEARS**

***2.2.3.1 Water Quality Deficient Schemes***

On the Owenteskna Bundle scheme it is expected that contract 1 advance works will be completed in 2007 and construction works will commence on civil works contracts 5 (southern) and 4 (northern). A contract involving telemetry will also be advanced. A pilot water treatment plant will be installed early in 2007 to test the proposed water treatment process, which will inform the design of the new water treatment works.

It is also hoped that land acquisition on Tory Island will be progressed as well as detailed proposals for the design, construction, and operation of a water treatment plant and distribution network, and with the support of the Islanders.

It is expected that construction on Tober Castlethird and Tullintain GWSSs will be completed in 2007. It is also expected that tendering of substantial pipeline and reservoir works will take place on Dooley GWSS, as well as tendering on Tully, Lettercough, and Meenamara GWSSs. 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, as well as considering any other reasonable option. 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***

Demand for new Group Water Schemes is still very strong as in many cases it is the only programme available to deliver water infrastructure in areas where currently no supply exists or infrastructural deficiencies exist.

24 new schemes have reached completion of tender stage or are at tender invitation stage, and funding is being applied for to allow these schemes to advance to construction in 2007. The 24 schemes by Electoral Area are:- Letterkenny EA (Labadish/ Drumoghill); Inishowen EA (Aught No 2, Upper Ballyargus, Lisfannon No 2, Corrownamaddy, Ballymacarthur No 2, Cruck, Carrickafoden); Milford EA (Drim, Ballygallen/ Breenagh, Legnahorey, Drumaclogher/ Fawn); Glenties EA (Meenlaragh, Sandfield, Rutland Island, Lower Keadue); Donegal EA (Cashelhill, Lissahully, Roshine, Carrickahorna); Stranorlar EA (Meenalaught, Largnalore/ Meenahorna, Cappry Lane, Carrickmagrath).

While the combined grant value of these schemes is likely to be in excess of €3.0m, some of these schemes may have affordability issues and might not proceed. However a number of these may proceed with assistance from CLÁR and Gaeltacht grants.

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

#### Existing Small Scheme Priorities, & Commitments

Tendering and commencement of construction on both network and wastewater treatment contracts for St. Johnston Sewerage Scheme is expected to take place in 2007. Completion of the Carndonagh water supply pipelines is also expected to be completed. Work on the Cranford Water Treatment Works will continue and improvements to the Gortahork and Fintown Water Supplies will be devised. The Ardara water supply will be completed with the installation of secondary chlorination, and further works will be carried out on Pettigo Water Supply. It is also hoped that works will commence on the Frosses/ Mountcharles Water Treatment Works Upgrade and other water quality deficient public water supply schemes subject to available funding.

#### New Small Schemes Priorities

In 2007 the draft Small Scheme lists requested and received from each Electoral Area in 2006 will be compiled into a simplified County list for implementation along with the current Small Scheme commitments.

## 2.2.4 FUNDING

### 2.2.4.1 Block Grant for 2007

A bid for 2007 funding was submitted to the DEHLG in December 2006. €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 annual 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>
2007 Small Schemes	€2,800,925	€700,231
2008 Small Schemes	€1,950,000	€487,500
2009 Small Schemes	€1,950,000	€487,500
<b>TOTAL 2007-2009</b>	<b>€6,700,925</b>	<b>€1,675,231</b>

From the table it can be seen that for a total 3-year expenditure of €6,700,925, €1,675,231 will be required from development contributions to provide the required matching funding for the programme.

Similarly for 2007 it can be seen that for an expenditure of €2,800,925, €700,231 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 2006.

### 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 2006.

#### Well Grant Details 2006.

<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 2007.

## **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 2006. It is proposed to make a further allocation of €600,000 under this heading for 2007.

#### **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 2006 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 2007.

#### **2.3.1.3 Islands Programme**

In 2005 and 2006 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. Although no projects required matching funding in

2006 it is expected that there will be a demand for Islands funding in 2007. It is therefore proposed to make an allocation of €50,000 under this heading for 2007.

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

- Ballybofey Stranorlar Leisure Centre - The draft Preliminary Report was completed in 2006. This will be submitted to the Department of Arts Sport Tourism in 2007 and Part 8 Planning will be progressed. Subject to Department approval work will commence on the preparation of contract and tender documents.

Any costs to-date in regard to studies, preliminary costs are either being carried on overdraft or were dealt with in the context of land sales/purchases in the area following detailed consideration of land use planning in the area.

- Ballyshannon Leisure Centre - Work on the Gym extension was substantially completed in 2006 and minor outstanding works will be completed in 2007. Funding provided in 2007 will be for historical capital works, part funding for the gym extension construction costs and associated design/ project management costs.
- Kilclooney Swimming Pool - Sketch designs will be advanced in 2007.
- Buncrana Swimming Pool Refurbishment - Submissions were invited from design teams in 2006 to prepare tender documents. In 2007 it is expected that a design team will be appointed and that completed tender documents will be submitted to the Department of Arts Sports Tourism subject to agreement being reached with Buncrana Community Leisure Centre.
- Lifeguard and WC Facility for Rathmullan - In 2007 sketch designs will be advanced for the facility.

It is proposed to make an allocation of €793,867 under this heading for 2007.

#### **2.3.1.5 *General Water Services/ Groundwater Protection Scheme/ Complete Information System/ Emergency Works***

In 2006 a total sum of €360,000 was provided towards general water services works such as historical works on the Lagan Desert scheme, provision of water services infrastructure on the Letterkenny Business Park, water services works carried out in conjunction with a housing scheme at Coteen Derrybeg, the 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 €360,000 under this heading for 2007.

### 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 (substantial completion phase 1), River Eske Water Supply Upgrade (design & construction), Donegal Brookfield Sewer (tender recommendation), Donegal Mullans Doonan Sewer (planning), Letterkenny Water Strategy South Letterkenny contract (appointment of contractor), and Letterkenny Water Strategy Lough Greenan & Network Improvements (Sustainable abstraction proposal agreed, Part 8 Planning obtained, and contractor being appointed). In 2007 further works will take place on Killygordon Sewerage Scheme, works on River Eske Water Supply upgrade will be progressed, the Lough Greenan abstraction and associated works will commence construction, the Letterkenny Water Strategy South Letterkenny contract will advance to construction, and the Donegal Brookfield Sewer will advance to construction subject to Department funding approval. It is also intended to advance further works on Letterkenny Water Strategy to Part 8 Planning stage.

## 2.3.2 FUNDING

From Table 10-A it can be seen that the matching fund requirement for 2007-2009 for the Miscellaneous Water Services schemes programme funded by **General Development Contributions** is €6,883,201. Similarly the matching fund requirement for 2007 is €2,505,867

Table 10 - A		MATCHING FUNDING
Miscellaneous Schemes Programme 2007-2009	TOTAL COMMITMENTS	COUNTERPART FUNDING COSTS (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION)
2007 Capital Replacement	€600,000	€600,000
2007 Islands	€50,000	€50,000
2007 Dams Safety Works	€300,000	€300,000
2007 Environmental Imp	€102,000	€102,000
2007 Leisure & Public Facilities	€793,867	€793,867
2007 General Water Services/ GPS/ CIS	€360,000	€360,000
2007 Upgrade and Takeover of Private Group Schemes (DCC Programme)	€300,000	€300,000
<b>2007 Sub Total</b>	<b>€2,505,867</b>	<b>€2,505,867</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	€426,667	€426,667
2008 General Water Services/ GPS/ CIS	€360,000	€360,000
2008 Upgrade and Takeover of Private Group Schemes (DCC Programme)	€400,000	€400,000
<b>2008 Sub Total</b>	<b>2,258,667</b>	<b>€2,258,667</b>
2009 Capital Replacement	€600,000	€600,000
2009 Islands	€70,000	€70,000
2009 Dams Safety Works	€300,000	€300,000
2009 Environmental Imp	€102,000	€102,000
2009 Leisure & Public Facilities	€186,667	€187,667
2009 General Water Services/ GPS/ CIS	€360,000	€360,000
2009 Upgrade and Takeover of Private Group Schemes (DCC Programme)	€500,000	€500,000
<b>2009 Sub Total</b>	<b>€2,118,667</b>	<b>€2,118,667</b>
<b>TOTAL 2007-009</b>	<b>€6,883,201</b>	<b>€6,883,201</b>

From Table 10-B it can be seen that the matching fund requirement for 2007-2009 for the Miscellaneous Water Services Schemes to Facilitate

Development funded by **Special Development Contributions** is €4,800,000. Similarly the matching fund requirement for 2007 is €1,643,333.

<b>Table 10 - B</b>		<b>MATCHING FUNDING</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Schemes to Facilitate Development 2007-2009</b>	<b>TOTAL COMMITMENTS</b>	<b>COUNTERPART FUNDING COSTS (SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS)</b>
2007 Development Schemes	€4,300,000	€1,643,333
2008 Development Schemes	€1,550,000	€1,673,333
2009 Development Schemes	€1,050,000	€1,483,334
<b>TOTAL 2007-2009</b>	<b>€6,900,000</b>	<b>€4,800,000</b>

## **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 waste licence was sought for a proposed landfill at Meenaboll, and although a waste licence was granted by the EPA, An Bord Pleanála did not accept elements contained in the EIA and consequently did not approve the proposed development. Subsequent to that decision and arising from the adoption of the Replacement Waste Management Plan 2006 the Council has initiated a scoping exercise for a landfill such as that 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 2006**

- Ballynacarrick Phase 2 progressed to construction stage.
- Scoping for a landfill such as that at Meenaboll was initiated.
- Tenders for the rehabilitation/ remediation of Drumabodan landfill were invited and the tender recommendation was completed.
- Donegal (Laghy) Civic Amenity Site advanced to construction stage.
- Planning of Dungloe and Milford Civic Amenity Sites progressed.
- Letterkenny Civic Amenity Site land negotiations progressed.
  - Sketch designs options for the upgrading of Carndonagh Civic Amenity site were prepared.
- County Donegal Replacement Waste Management Plan 2006 was adopted.

### **2.4.3 Plans For 2007 And Future Years**

- Complete construction on Ballynacarrick Phase 2.
- Assess the results of the scoping exercise with An Bord Pleanála for a landfill such as that at Meenaboll.
- Commence rehabilitation/ restoration works on Drumabodan.
- Complete construction on Donegal (Laghy) Civic Amenity Site and hand over to Environment operations.
- Complete land acquisition, planning, invite tenders, and commence construction on Letterkenny Civic Amenity Site.
- Complete planning and tendering on Milford and Dungloe Civic Amenity sites, and commence construction subject to available funding.

- Complete planning of the upgrading of the Carndonagh Civic Amenity site and commence construction subject to available funding.

#### ***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 €3,500,000 has been approved. Further loans will be required between 2006 and 2008 to fund Ballynacarrick Phase 2 landfill capacity, planning land purchase and enabling works for a new landfill, landfill remediation at Churchtown, Drumabodan, and Balbane, and Civic Amenity Sites in all Electoral Areas, all in accordance with the County Donegal Replacement Waste Management Plan 2006.

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 2007-2009 of €17,810,356 the matching funding requirement is €9,518,733. Similarly for 2007 the expenditure is €10,668,228 and matching funding requirement is €6,876,270.

<b>Table 11</b>		<b>MATCHING FUNDING</b>
<b>Waste Management Programme 2007-2009</b>	<b>TOTAL SPEND</b>	<b>FROM DEHLG LOANS &amp; LANDFILL CHARGES</b>
2007 Civic Amenity Sites	€4,670,026	€1,799,098
2007 New landfill Capacity	€3,971,215	€3,971,215
2007 Restoration & Aftercare	€2,026,987	€1,105,957
<b>2007 Sub Total</b>	<b>€10,668,228</b>	<b>€6,876,270</b>
2008 Civic Amenity Sites	€0	€0
2008 New landfill Capacity	€1,500,000	€1,500,000
2008 Restoration & Aftercare	€3,716,676	€371,668
<b>2008 Sub Total</b>	<b>€5,216,676</b>	<b>€1,871,668</b>
2009 Civic Amenity Sites	€0	€0
2009 New landfill Capacity	€642,500	€642,500
2009 Restoration & Aftercare	€1,282,952	€128,295
<b>2009 Sub Total</b>	<b>€1,925,452</b>	<b>€770,795</b>
<b>TOTAL 2007-2009</b>	<b>€17,810,356</b>	<b>€9,518,733</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, Carndonagh and Killybegs.

### **2.5.2 *Progress In 2006***

Two new stations at Glenties and Dungloe were constructed and are ready for occupation. Construction is under way on the new station at Merville and tenders are shortly to be advertised for stations at Stranorlar and Gweedore.

The Department was 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. The department has responded by seeking a Capital Appraisal in accordance with Department of Finance guidelines. A quantity surveyor has been appointed to carry out this appraisal.

### **2.5.3 *Plans For 2007 And Future Years***

Completion of the fire station at Merville is scheduled for mid-2007. It is expected that approval to go to Tender and Construction will be given at an early date for the Fire Stations at Stranorlar and Gweedore.

### **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 2007 AND 2009**

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 2007 and 2009 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 2007 of €10.67m there is a total matching funding requirement of €6.88m 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 €335.99m over 3 years between 2007 and 2009 there is a total matching funding requirement of €30.49m required from Development Contributions (€24.74m General Development Contributions; €5.75m Special Development Contributions), and €22.27m required from Loans which will in turn be funded from Water Service charges.

Similarly of total expenditure/ commitments on Water Services in 2007 of €72.60m there is a total matching funding requirement of €8.77m required from Development Contributions (€5.89m General Development Contributions; €2.05m Special Development Contributions), and €10.03m required from Loans which will in turn be funded from Water Service charges.