



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



Annual Report

2022

Foreword

We are delighted to present Donegal County Council's Annual Report for 2022, which highlights our achievements over the past 12 months and outlines the vast scope of activities, services and supports undertaken by Donegal County Council in support of the communities we serve.

Over the past 3 years we have shown our collective capacity to adapt, innovate and maintain services in the face of uncertainty and adversity. 2022 brought its own challenges, especially for businesses, with significantly higher energy costs, the cost-of-living crisis, high inflation generally, and the continuing global economic impact of the war in Ukraine.

We acknowledge the outstanding work of all volunteers and agencies involved in the Donegal Community Ukrainian Response Forum, set up in March 2022 to provide a co-ordinated response to support refugees arriving from Ukraine, all of which play a pivotal role in welcoming Ukrainian refugees to our county.

Despite the continued challenging environment in 2022, Donegal County Council delivered on a vast range of key infrastructural projects as outlined in this report.

Significant progress was made in the design and delivery of social housing throughout Donegal, with new schemes completed in Bunrana and Dunfanaghy. Turnkey acquisitions were completed in both Donegal Town and Ballyshannon. A dedicated land acquisition team was established to identify and acquire lands throughout the county for social housing with a focus on achieving the objectives of "Housing for All" - a new Housing Plan for Ireland.

2022 saw the completion and opening of Swan Park in Bunrana, which was extensively damaged in the devastating floods that occurred in 2017. The project was awarded €1.7m through the Rural Regeneration Fund with €500,000 in co-funding provided by the Council.

The review of the County Development Plan 2018-2024 commenced in 2022 including consideration of plans for Bundoran, Ballybofey/Stranorlar and Bunrana, and the advancing of a plan for Letterkenny which is a designated Regional Growth Centre.

A Capital Projects Delivery Unit was set up in 2022 with responsibility for managing and delivering a number of county-wide major capital projects through the detailed design and construction stages, including the Fort Dunree Tourism Project, the Burtonport Harbour to Arranmore Island Regeneration Project and the Strabane/Lifford Riverine Project.

With climate change a defining issue of our time, climate adaptation and mitigation are embedded in the work and services that this Council delivers on a daily basis. The North-West Regional Development Group, comprising of Donegal County Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council, have committed to work together as detailed within the North-West Regional Energy Strategy with the ambition of decarbonising our energy systems and aiming for net zero carbon emissions by 2045. To this end, the North-West Regional Energy Agency is currently in the process of being established and will act as a one stop shop for citizens, businesses and communities who wish to transition to a low carbon economy and avail of EU and National supports which are available, including through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).



Minister Heather Humphries TD Officially Opening Swan Park

With the lifting of restrictions, a highlight for 2022 was the ability to once again host Civic/Mayor's receptions to recognise an individual's, group's or organisation's achievements and contribution to society at local, national or international level. 2022 saw Irish Golfing Legend Paul McGinley honoured with the Freedom of the County at a special Civic Reception on the 15th August, 2022 in the Rosapenna Hotel & Golf Resort in Downings, in recognition of his golfing achievements and for his enormous contribution to promoting Donegal as a golfing destination. This reception coincided with the Irish Legends Golf Tournament of which Donegal County Council was the official partner and a Festival of Golf was hosted by the Council alongside this tournament.

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge in this year's report an enormous tragedy that unfolded in Creeslough on Friday 7th October, 2022, an afternoon that shocked the entire nation and further afield. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families of those who have lost loved ones and with the entire Creeslough Community.

We pay tribute to our emergency services and to the council staff who led the rescue and recovery in difficult and challenging circumstances, and indeed all who helped in any way. This tragedy has shown the huge strength, resilience and unity of how a community can come together to help and support one another in the face of disaster.

We acknowledge that the effects of this tragedy will be felt for many years to come and as a Council we pledge our continued support to the Creeslough Community in the years ahead.

As we emerge from the challenges experienced in the last number of years, we acknowledge the importance of continuing to lead out on partnerships at a local level, renewing and building on relationships between citizens and public services and building on the community capacity that has been developed.

Our Corporate Plan commits us to continuing our work with all partners to strive to meet Donegal's existing, changing and future needs and deliver our shared vision for the county. We look forward to the continued development of our county in 2023 for the betterment of present and future generations.

We would like to thank the elected members, management and staff of the Council whose commitment and dedication is instrumental in "Working to building a strong sustainable and inclusive society in Donegal with a competitive and innovative economy and prosperous communities, fostering a culturally-rich and excellent quality of life for all."



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John G. McLaughlin".

John G. McLaughlin
Chief Executive



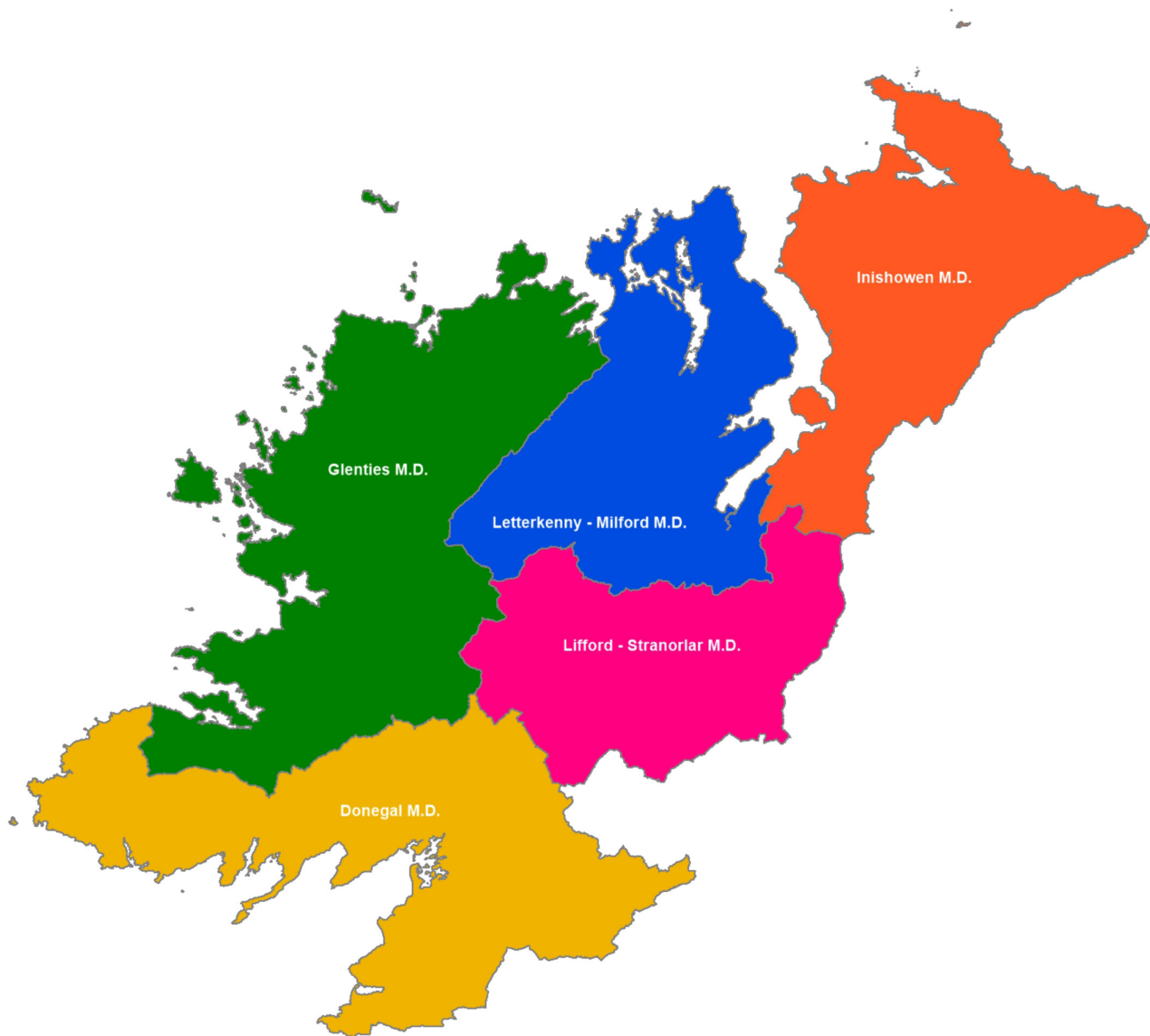
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liam Blaney".

Cllr Liam Blaney
Cathaoirleach

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Municipal Districts of Donegal County Council



Members of Donegal County Council

Municipal District of Donegal



Cllr Tom Conaghan
Independent



Cllr Noel Jordan
Sinn Féin



Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Independent



Cllr Michael McMahon
Sinn Féin



Cllr Micheál Naughton
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Barry Sweeney
Fine Gael

Municipal District of Glenties



Cllr Marie Therese
Gallagher
Sinn Féin



Cllr Micheál Cholm
Mac Giolla Easbuig
Independent



Cllr Michael McClafferty
Independent



Cllr Noreen McGarvey
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Anthony Molloy
Fianna Fáil



Cllr John Shéamuis Ó
Fearraigh
Sinn Féin

Municipal District of Inishowen



Cllr Paul Canning
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Independent



Cllr Terry Crossan
Sinn Féin



Cllr Albert Doherty
Sinn Féin



Cllr Rena Donaghey
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Martin Farren
Labour



Cllr Martin McDermott
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Johnny McGuinness
Fine Gael



Cllr Jack Murray
Sinn Féin

Municipal District of Lifford/Stranorlar



Cllr Gerry Crawford
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Gary Doherty
Sinn Féin



Cllr Liam Doherty
Sinn Féin



Cllr Martin Harley
Fine Gael



Cllr Frank McBrearty Jr.
Independent



Cllr Patrick McGowan
Fianna Fáil

Municipal District of Letterkenny/Milford



Cllr Liam Blaney
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Kevin Bradley
Non-Party



Cllr Donal Coyle
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
Fine Gael



Cllr Michael McBride
Independent



Cllr Ian McGarvey
Independent



Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Sinn Féin



Cllr John O'Donnell
Independent



Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
Fianna Fáil

Donegal County Council Management Structure



Council Meetings 2022



2022 saw the continuance of meetings held with a mixture of hybrid and physical meetings with some held in traditional venues and others held in the Aura Leisure Centre. Post pandemic, in the last quarter of 2022, Plenary Council meetings returned to the Council Chamber in the Council's Headquarters in Lifford.

| Meeting Group | Number of Meetings | Meeting Group | Number of Meetings |
|--|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| Council Meetings | 20 | Donegal Health Committee | 1 |
| Corporate Policy Group | 8 | Brexit Committee | 0 |
| Donegal MD | 11 | Mica Redress Committee | 3 |
| Glenties MD | 11 | Donegal Youth Advisory Board | 0 |
| Inishowen MD | 10 | Coiste na Gaeilge | 3 |
| Letterkenny/Milford MD | 12 | LCDC/LAG | 10 |
| Lifford /Stranorlar MD | 7 | Value for Money Committee | 1 |
| Climate Action & Environment SPC | 4 | Donegal County Council Joint Policing Committee | 4 |
| Community, Social & Cultural SPC | 3 | Audit Committee | 4 |
| Roads & Transportation SPC | 4 | Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee | 1 |
| Housing & Corporate SPC | 4 | Fisheries Committee | 3 |
| Planning SPC | 4 | Islands Committee | 4 |
| Economic Development, Enterprise & Emergency SPC | 3 | Donegal Heritage Forum | 4 |
| Emergency Response Committee | 3 | Working Group on Constitutional Change | 1 |
| Agricultural Committee | 4 | | |
| Total | | 147 | |

Civic Honours & Receptions 2022



Freedom of the County for Paul McGinley

Irish Golfing Legend Paul McGinley was honoured with the Freedom of the County at a special Civic Reception on 15 August in the Rosapenna Hotel & Golf Resort in Downings, in recognition of his golfing achievements on the European and PGA tour, his winning captaincy of the 2014 European Ryder cup Team and for his enormous contribution to promoting Donegal as a golfing destination.

Mayor's Reception - Coláiste Ailigh, Letterkenny

On the 16th May, 2022, the Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District held a Mayor's Reception for Coláiste Ailigh, Letterkenny, "in recognition of their promotion of the Irish language in this Municipal council area since its foundation and to celebrate their 21st Anniversary and the many successes the school has enjoyed in the sports, the arts and academic achievements."



Mayor's Reception: Patrick Doherty & Martin Orr, Letterkenny Pantomime

On 10th May, 2022, the Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District held a Mayor's Reception for Patrick Doherty & Martin Orr "in recognition of the contribution to the success of Letterkenny Pantomime over many years and in acknowledgement of the huge financial contribution the pantomime has made to local groups and charities in the Letterkenny Municipal District area."



Mayor's Reception: Letterkenny Cricket Club

On 12th July, 2022, the Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District held a Mayor's Reception for the Letterkenny Cricket Club "in recognition of the success of the Club in competition during 2021 and their contribution to cricket in the Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District."



Mayor's Reception: Susan McCauley, Cara House


On 11th October, 2022, the Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District held a Mayor's Reception for Susan McCauley of Cara House "in recognition of her contribution and dedication as coordinator of Cara House Family Resource Centre."



Community Development & Planning Services

Empowering our Communities/Driving Growth

2022 Highlights



€5.4m total funding secured for the project **“Killybegs 2040”**

with enhanced funding support

of **€4m** secured from the **Rural Regeneration & Development Fund**

€7.63m indicative allocation awarded under **PEACEPLUS**

€318,923 allocated to projects under the **Community Activities Programme**



€6.3m secured for the **“Ramelton Re-Imagined”** project under the **Rural Regeneration & Development Fund**

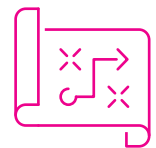
€10.4m announced for the new **LEADER Programme 2023-2027**

€14.5m (project uplift) secured for **“Letterkenny 2040 Phase 1”** under the **Urban Regeneration & Development Fund**



215 projects benefitted from **€740,000** under the **Development Fund Initiative**

2,105 planning development applications received



€12.47m secured for **Fort Dunree**

€236,000 allocated to circa **317** **community groups/projects** from **Members Development Fund**



Community Development

Fund Management (Internal Funds)

Members Development Fund

541 allocations benefitting 317 community groups/projects throughout the county were made from the Members Development Fund which had a budget of €236,000 for 2022.

Development Fund Initiative

A total of €740,000 was allocated to 215 projects/groups across the five Municipal Districts during 2022.

Donegal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Donegal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) comprises both public and private sector members (see appendices for full membership) and met ten times in 2022.

Review of the Local Economic & Community Plan (Monitoring & Evaluation)

The new guidelines on the development of Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP) launched mid November 2021. The guidelines provide an outline of the process to be carried out to develop a fully integrated LECP at a local level. While the guidelines provide the basic framework for the LECP, they also recognise that each Local Authority area is different and will require different interventions to support their development. In this context, the guidelines aim to support a more flexible approach to LECP development and implementation.

Consultants have been appointed to complete Stage 1 of the LECP Process which includes a review of the previous LECP, and preparation of a Socio-economic Statement and High-Level Goals based on the Socio-economic analysis. The LECP will continue to be progressed during 2023 with a view to adoption before year end.

Rural Development/LEADER Programme

Donegal LCDC delivers the LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme. The LCDC also acts as the Local Action Group (LAG) working in partnership with Donegal County Council as Lead Financial Partner, and with our four implementing partners, Donegal Local Development Company, Inishowen Development Partnership, Údarás na Gaeltachta and Comhar na nOileán.

Donegal LCDC, in its role as the LAG, approved the full allocation of LEADER funding awarded to the county for the 2014-2020 programme to projects recommended by the Evaluation Committees of the local Implementing Partners. The total allocation to Donegal for the 2014 - 2020 programme was €13,413,875. Project funding of €10,063,586 was received with €3,228,467 for administration and animation of the programme by our Implementing Partners. A total of 231 projects in Donegal were approved by the Donegal LAG for the programme in period 2014-2020.

In March 2021 the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD announced details of the €70m Transitional LEADER Programme. €45m funding for the Transitional LEADER Programme came into effect from 1st April 2021 and €20m for the EURI (European Union Recovery Instrument) Programme which came into effect from 30th July 2021 following approval by the EU Commission.

The Transitional Programme ran from April to December 2022 with Donegal LAG being allocated a total fund of €3,815,464 broken down as follows:

| Transitional Project Budget | Transitional Administration Budget | EURI Projects Budget | EURI Administration Budget |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| €1,981,106 | €660,369 | €880,492 | €293,497 |

Donegal LCDC, in its role as the LAG approved the full allocation of both Transitional & EURI Programme funds by the end of December 2022 with a total of 62 projects being approved, 13 of which were approved under the EURI Programme.

*Atlantic Coastal Cruises*

LEADER Food and Co-operation Projects

The Department announced the closure of the LEADER Food Initiative on 15th December 2021. LAGs and Implementing Partners had the opportunity to apply to the Department for funding to develop projects under the Food Initiative where there was €15m available nationally.

Donegal LCDC approved a total of 6 LEADER Food Initiative Projects with a total value of €452,632.99.

The Department announced the closure of the LEADER Co-operation measure on 13th December 2022. LAGs and Implementing Partners had the opportunity to apply to the Department for funding to develop projects in co-operation with partners in other parts of Ireland or across the EU under the LEADER Co-operation heading where there was €13m nationally.

Donegal LCDC approved 18 Projects (7 of which were preparatory co-operation projects and the remaining 11 being full co-operation projects) under the Co-operation measure, with a total value of €927,378.09.

New LEADER Programme 2023-2027

In October 2022 the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphries TD announced details of the new €180m LEADER Programme for 2023-2027 with €10.4m being allocated to Donegal.

Donegal LCDC agreed to submit an Expression of Interest to act as the Local Action Group (LAG) working in partnership with Donegal County Council as Lead Financial Partner, and with our four implementing partners, Donegal Local Development Company, Inishowen Development Partnership, Údarás na Gaeltachta and Comhar na nOileán.

*Dungloe River Walk*

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Donegal LCDC continues to manage and oversee the implementation of the Social Inclusion, Community Activation Programme (SICAP). 2022 was the fifth year of the five-year SICAP programme running from 2018-2022. In July 2021 The Department of Rural and Community Development extended the programme for a further 12 months to 31st December 2023. The SICAP Programme had a budget of €2,008,917 per year across the lifetime of the programme, however a budget increase was allocated in 2022 bringing the total budget for the three SICAP Lots in Donegal to €2,266,823 for 2022.

Two Local Community Development Companies deliver the SICAP Programme on behalf of the Donegal LCDC across the three Lots in Donegal as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Lot 33-1 Donegal Inishowen | Inishowen Development Partnership |
| Lot 33-2 Donegal Gaeltacht | Donegal Local Development CLG |
| Lot 33-3 Donegal | Donegal Local Development CLG |

Donegal LCDC will continue to work to ensure the implementation of these plans and programmes at a local level and to ensure the effective co-ordination of funding programmes for the benefit of local communities in the county.

In 2022 the SICAP Programme was also extended to include delivery of supports to Ukrainian Refugees with an additional budget allocation of €222,933 to the Programme Implementers for provision of supports.



Community Activities Programme

Donegal Local Community Development Committee received a fund of €318,923 for the Community Activities Programme from the Department of Community & Rural Development.

The Community Activities Fund was designed to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas with non-pay running costs and to carry out necessary repairs and improvements.

Operating/Running Costs from 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022 were eligible for funding under this scheme. The Donegal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) administered the Programme in the county on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development. The application process opened on 3rd January with applications being received until closing date of 24th February 2022.

42% percent of the funding was awarded as 225 small grants of €500-€1,000 with the balance being awarded as 25 large grants of €5,000 - €10,000 to Community Groups throughout the county.



Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland Fund Round 3

Healthy Ireland is a government led initiative aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of everyone living in Ireland.

The Healthy Ireland Round 3 Programme, with an approved budget of €374,100, was completed on 31st March 2022. The programme resulted in a partnership comprised of Donegal LCDC, Children and Young People’s Services Committees (CYPSC), the HSE, project partners, relevant agencies and local communities. The establishment of this collaboration in 2019 laid the foundations for a strong alliance, conducive to delivering the Programme of Work.

Healthy Donegal throughout the programme identified and, where possible, took collective action on issues that are important to Donegal, with benefits rippling down to individuals and communities at a local level. As we navigated the path of the Covid-19 Pandemic the issue of health and wellbeing was brought to the forefront of all our lives like never before. Donegal LCDC helped to create and sustain a healthy place for our community in Donegal through the development and implementation of this Healthy Ireland programme and beyond.

Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4

The Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4 Programme commenced in June 2022 and represents a more evidenced-based, outcomes led approach, with a longer 3-year timeframe and projects prioritised based on local data/need and in consultation with our local community and local stakeholders. The grant period for Round 4 will run from 1 June 2022 to 31 December 2025. Donegal LCDC has been approved for a budget of €75,000 for 2023 and an indicative budget of €40,000 per annum for 2024-2025.

In 2022 Donegal LCDC supported local activities delivered under the Healthy Ireland Programme through the provision of the Healthy Donegal Small Grants Scheme 2022. The Scheme comprised of approximately €17,000 in total and offered small grants to assist Local Community Groups, Voluntary Groups and Sporting Organisations in the development of locally based community projects and group activities aimed at improving social inclusion, health and wellbeing. A selection of projects awarded the Healthy Donegal Small Grants Scheme 2022, including Drimarone Development CLG, Donegal Gay Walking Club, Barrack Hill Town Park Committee, and An Machaire le Cheile (pictured above).



Donegal County Council staff take the 100km Walking Challenge - supported by Healthy Ireland

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme

The Minister of State for Public Health, Wellbeing and National Drugs Strategy, Frank Feighan TD visited Gaoth Dobhair and Buncrana on Friday 25th November 2022 to launch the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Initiative. Sláintecare Healthy Communities is a cross-Government initiative to deliver increased health and wellbeing services to 19 community areas across Ireland.

The launch of the Donegal Sláintecare Healthy Communities is the successful culmination of close collaboration between the Department of Health, Donegal County Council, HSE Community Healthcare Organisations - Area 1 (HSE CHO1) and local partners Inishowen Development Company, (IDP), Ionad Naomh Padraig Family Resource Centre, Finn Valley Family Resource Centre and Donegal Local Development Company (DLDC).



Donegal County Council is undertaking six capital projects with funding received from the Department of Health under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Enhancement Works Programme with a total value of €498,814. The projects which were agreed by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) are divided between the two Sláintecare sites - Gaeltacht (pictured above) and Inishowen (pictured below)

The acquisition of a special lightweight wheelchair, which will be located at the Sliabh Sneacht Centre, Drumfries, will allow those with mobility issues to enjoy the trail.

Seed Funding of €75,000 for each of the pilot areas has been made available to support the delivery of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme in 2022. The seed funding is used for initiatives, projects, or research in the programme areas that the Local Development Officer and the Local Authority identify from community engagement.

The enhancement funding in the Gaeltacht area is currently being used to redevelop a playground facility in Dungloe, to enhance the Muckish Greenway project, and to help deliver Scioból na bhfear, Men's Shed on Tory Island. The Inishowen programme area will see the upgrade of the Barrack Hill Town Park, Carndonagh, the Merville playground and the resurfacing of the Tip O' Neill walking trail outside Buncrana.



PEACE IV Programme

During 2022, the €5.5m PEACE IV Action Plan for Donegal continued to build on the positive work done in Donegal, the border region and Northern Ireland over the last two decades through the delivery of projects, interventions and initiatives that play an important role in reinforcing progress towards a more peaceful and cohesive society.

The PEACE IV Programme focuses on a range of areas to make significant and lasting changes across the following three thematic areas:

- Children and Young People
- Building Positive Relations
- Shared Spaces and Services

In Donegal, thirty projects have been delivered with over 5,000 participants engaging in a variety of Projects and Programmes.

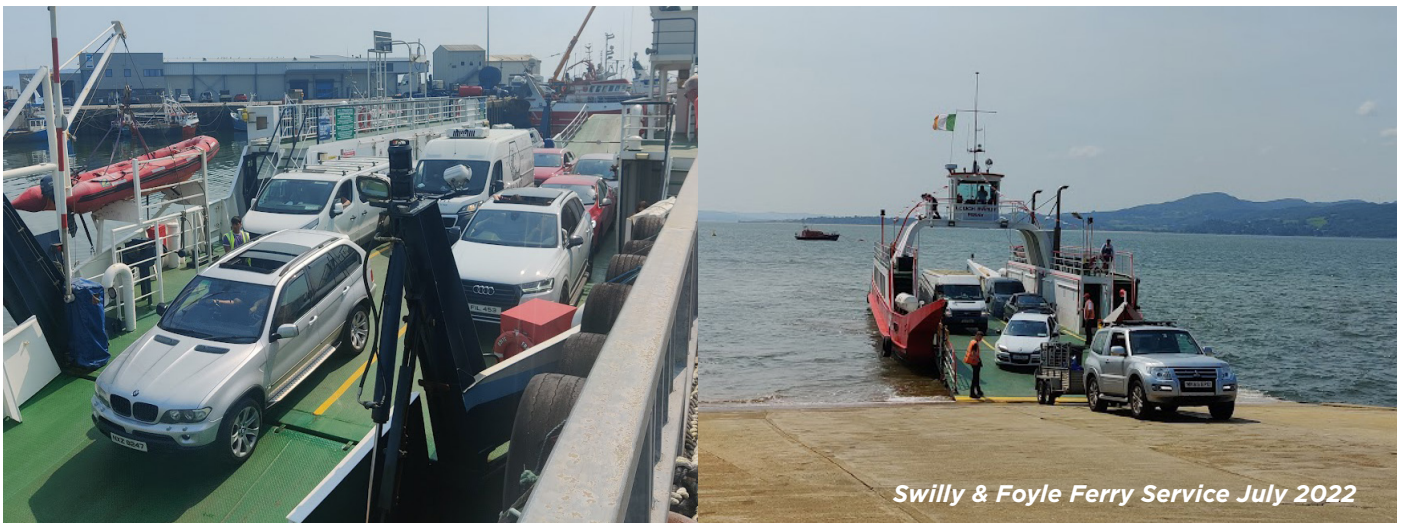
Several projects were completed in 2022 including the Sensory Garden in Buncrana and a Community Playground in Rosstown. The Shared Spaces Peace IV programme will continue to run into mid-2023.



Official Opening of Rosstown Playground

Ferry Services

In 2022 the Council made financial contributions towards the operation of two ferry services namely Greencastle-Magilligan (Foyle Ferry) and Buncrana-Rathmullan (Swilly Ferry).



Swilly & Foyle Ferry Service July 2022

PEACEPLUS Partnership Programme 2022 – 2027

PEACEPLUS is a new European Union funding programme designed to support peace and prosperity across Donegal, the border region and Northern Ireland and builds upon the work of the previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. Donegal County Council has been awarded an indicative allocation of €7,635,396 under this fund.

During 2022, Donegal County Council established a PEACEPLUS Partnership as a sub-structure of the Local Community Development Committee. The principal role of this Committee is to oversee the design and implementation of a co-designed process which will be used to inform the development of an overarching PEACEPLUS Action Plan.

The PEACEPLUS Partnership was established from the following sectors:

| Elected Members (Pillar 1) (6) | Statutory Bodies (Pillar 2) (5) | Social Partners (Pillar 3) (7) | Social Partners (Pillar 4) PPN (10) |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 elected members with 1 from each Municipal District - Chief Executive or his nominee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Údarás na Gaeltachta - Health Service Executive - An Garda Síochána - Tusla - Donegal Education & Training Board | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inishowen Development Partnership - Donegal Local Development CLG - Irish Business & Employers Confederation - Farming community - Trade Unions - Environment - Comhar na nOileán (Islands) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minority Ethnic - Older People - Youth - Traveller - Women - LGBTQI - Minority Faith (3) - Disability |

Three thematic strands have been selected upon which to design the content of the PEACEPLUS Action Plans. These are:

- Local Community Regeneration and Transformation
- Thriving and Peaceful Communities
- Building Respect for All Cultural Identities

PEACEPLUS Action Plans will be implemented through a model based proactive local community engagement and collaboration process. Actions within the localised plans will span the range of social, environmental and economic interventions. These programmes will also increase social inclusion and promote civil leadership and make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation.



Social Inclusion

The Council continued to support various social inclusion initiatives in 2022 including Social Inclusion Week, Pride of Place and the co-ordination of a wide range of various social inclusion projects right across the county.

The Social Inclusion Unit continued to co-ordinate the implementation of the Donegal Age Friendly Strategy.

Black and Ethnic Minority Strategy

The first Strategy for Black and Minority Ethnic Inclusion was launched in March 2022. Implementation has begun on the Strategy which will see a range of actions delivered to aid the inclusion of black and minority ethnic groups into our communities.



Launch of Black and Ethnic Minority Inclusion Strategy

The term of the tenth Donegal Youth Council concluded in September 2022, although interrupted by Covid-19 the Youth Council delivered several actions dealing with social media, body image and mental health. Donegal County Council, working with Foróige and the HSE, delivered an election process in schools and youth settings in the final quarter of 2022 to elect the 2022-2024 Donegal Youth Council.

Sports Bursary Awards

A total of 76 athletes received funding under the Sports Bursary Awards in 2022. Awards were presented under the following categories, Senior Olympic/International, Developmental & Veteran.

Donegal Sports Star Awards

January 2022 marked the 46th Donegal Sports Star Awards Ceremony organised by the Donegal Sports Star Committee. This year's event was held virtually, given the success of last year's ceremony during the Covid-19 pandemic. Donegal County Council has a long association with this event being the main sponsor all the way back to 1977 and is delighted to be involved in an event that honours the sporting achievements of so many within our county.



Winners of the 2022 Donegal Sports Star Awards

Donegal Joint Policing Committee

Donegal Joint Policing Committee (JPC) is a partnership between Government (represented by Council members and executives, and Oireachtas members) our local communities (represented through Donegal PPN) and An Garda Síochána.

The JPC continued to support the Donegal Garda Youth Awards in 2022. These awards celebrate outstanding young people between the ages of 13 and 21 years in the county with awards being presented in four different categories.

At the Awards Ceremony held in County House, Lifford, the Award Winners were announced and presented with their Awards by Judge Éiteáin Cunningham, Chairperson of the Donegal Garda Youth Awards Adjudication Committee.

The winners represented the Donegal Division at the National Youth Awards which took place in November 2022 with two of the County Award winners being awarded a National Award in their category. This is the fourth successive year category winners from Donegal went on to win a National Award.

| Individual Award | Special Achievement | Group Award | Community Safety Award |
|------------------|---------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Josh Marley | Manus Doherty | Transition Year Scoil Mhuire Bunrana & Crana College Bunrana | Allan McCarron & Cormac Brady |



Winners of the Donegal Garda Youth Awards

Rannóg na Gaeilge (Irish Language Office)

The Council's Rannóg na Gaeilge continues to perform three overall functions.

- Carry out a supervisory and consultation role in relation to the implementation of Irish language obligations, commitments, regulations, and standards as provided for under the Official Languages Act 2003 (as amended 2021).
- Provide a wide range of support services and activities to other directorates of the Council, including daily translations, simultaneous translations at a range of Council meetings and committees, and co-operation in helping to increase and improve the number and quality of services in the Irish language from the Council.
- Enjoy involvement in the organisation, development and/or promotion of Irish language events, schemes, and plans throughout the county and in the North-West including as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge, Social Inclusion Week, National Heritage Week, the North-West Cross-Border Irish Language Research Project, Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme, Comhairle na nÓg, and other community events and activities through Irish.



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2022

Capital Projects

Town & Village Renewal Schemes (2017-2022)

| Town & Village Renewal Scheme | Details |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 2017 - 2020 | In consultation with the Dept. of Rural & Community Development, works on the remaining towns & villages approved under the schemes continued to be progressed in 2022 and are to be completed in 2023. |
| 2021 | All works in Churchill, Moville & Newtowncunningham will be completed in 2023. |
| 2022 | Funding under the Town & Village Main Scheme confirmed in late 2022 for projects in Carndonagh, Convoy, Dungloe & Manorcunningham. Lifford secured funding under the Streetscape Enhancement Measure in late 2022 as did Drumboe, Stranorlar under the Project Development Measure. All projects to be progressed in 2023. |

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (2018-2022)

| Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme | Details |
|--|---|
| 2018 (Measure 2) | Great Arch Fanad completed in 2022 |
| 2019 (Measure 1) | Works on the few remaining approved projects were progressed in 2022 will be completed in 2023. |
| 2019 (Measure 3) | Work on the Construction of an upland path on Errigal continued to be progressed in 2022 and is due for completion in 2023. |
| 2020 - 2022 (Measure 1) | All works on the remaining projects approved progressed in 2022 and are due to be completed in early 2023. |
| 2020 (Measure 3) 2021 (Measure 2) | The next phases of work on the Muckish Railway Walk Enhancement Project (Creeslough to Falcarragh) were progressed in 2022 and are due to be completed by the end of 2023. |
| 2021 (Measure 3) | Works on the Sliabh Liag Cliff Experience Project were progressed in 2022 and will be completed by the end of 2023. |
| 2022 (Measure 1,2 & 3) | Funding was confirmed in 2022 for several Measure 1 projects. Measure 2 and Measure 3 projects to receive funding included the Moville Shore Walk and the Carrigart to Downings Walkway. A few projects received Project Development Measure Funding also and will be progressed in 2023. |

CLÁR Scheme

| CLÁR Scheme | Details |
|--|---|
| 2021 CLÁR Scheme (Measure 2 Community Recreation Areas) | 3 No. projects received funding in August 2021 under CLÁR Scheme Measure 2 namely: Culdaff Development Association, Comhairle Paróiste Glencolmcille. The project in Culdaff is complete while the projects in Glencolmcille & Fintown will be progressed further in 2023. |
| 2021 CLÁR Scheme Measure 3(a) | 2 No. projects that received funding in 2021 under CLÁR Scheme Measure 3(a) namely: Bruckless Community Park and Ray Community Centre were progressed in 2022 and will be completed in 2023. |
| 2022 CLÁR Scheme (Measure 1) (Developing Community Facilities & Amenities) | 14 No. projects received funding in 2022 under CLÁR Scheme Measure 1 namely: An Machaire Le Cheile, Muileann Coirce Leitir CTR, Rosnakill Tourism & Activity Centre, Killea Community Park Centre, Gairdin na gCeadfaí, Arranmore Community Gym, Glenmaquin Nature Based Playspace, Outdoor Gym & Calisthenics Stations in The Bath Green Moville, The Termon Complex Pettigo, Desertegney Youth Club incl. Dunree Football Club, Rosses Park Community Walk Dungloe, CLG Ard an Ratha, Moville Green Carpark & Pobal Eascarrach - Ballina Resource Centre. |



Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021

A total of 94 projects received funding under the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021. The eligible works undertaken included upgrade work to residential and commercial building facades, building lighting, and the provision of street furniture and canopies. The scheme had a positive effect in transforming the selected towns and villages into more vibrant and attractive places to live, work and visit.

The five towns selected under the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021 were:

- Castlefinn
- Laghey
- Burnfoot
- Falcarragh
- Milford



Malin Head Visitor Management Plan

The implementation of a Visitor Management Plan for Malin Head continued throughout 2022 with development due to commence in phases from 2023, dependent on the allocation of funding. Negotiations continue with landowners and the local community with a view to submitting a planning application in 2023 for the development of Phase 1. Proposed works in Phase 1 include a boardwalk to Dunaldragh, a viewing platform, interaction points, lift and viewing platform at the existing tower, and development of a carpark.

Bundoran as a Tourist Destination

Work on the 'Developed & Emerging Tourist Destinations Investment Scheme' Bundoran continued in 2022 and will be progressed into 2023 with the project expected to be completed by mid-2024. Tullan Strand Beach access project to be developed in conjunction with the 'Developed & Emerging Tourist Destinations Investment Scheme'

Platform for Growth – Fáilte Ireland

The development of facility centres for water sports activities in Bundoran and Downings funded under Fáilte Ireland's "Platforms for Growth" continued to be progressed in 2022 through the development and statutory consent stages with total funding for both projects of €1.7m.

Outdoor Recreation Strategy

Community Development are leading out on the delivery of the Donegal Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2029. The strategy is action focused and time bound from 2023-2029 with a Vision to 2040, building on a comprehensive and documented data audit of the existing, proposed, and potential future for outdoor and associated recreational amenities in Donegal. The purpose of the Strategy is to identify the key priorities and actions in sustainably managing and developing outdoor recreation in the county.



Stranorlar Multi-Use Sports Facility Improvement Project

The Council continued to progress the Stranorlar Multi-Use Sports Facility Improvement project in 2022 and submitted a planning application to An Bord Pleanála. The project will be progressed through the development and statutory consent stage in 2023.

Development of Community Park, Stranorlar

The Council is finalising the acquisition of land at Drumboe, Stranorlar to be in a position to submit a 'shovel-ready' project when further national funding calls are announced.

Urban Adventure Sports Project

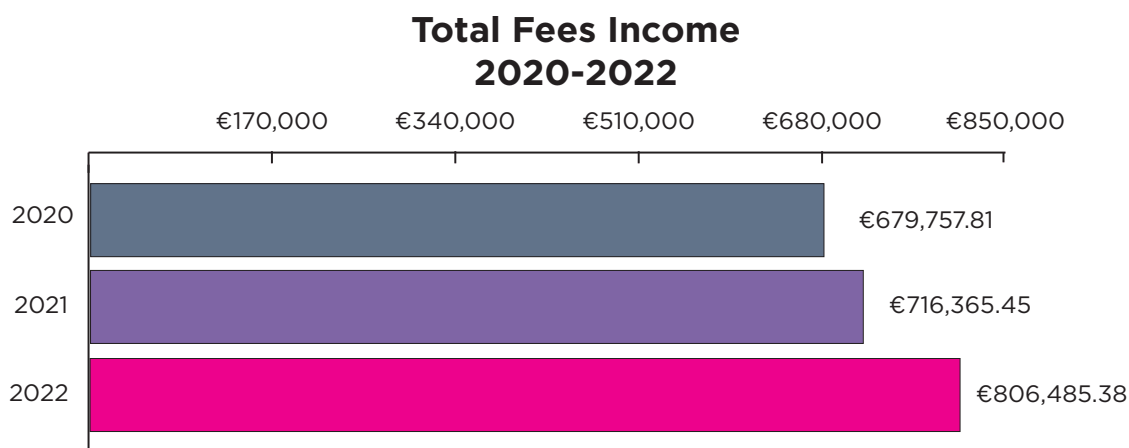
Funding of €357,000 was received in August 2022 from the Northern & Western Regional Assembly for the development of the Urban Adventure Sports Project in the Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park in Letterkenny. Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project will be completed in 2023. Match funding of €357,000 is to be provided by Donegal County Council bringing the maximum available budget to €714,000.

Planning Services

Overview

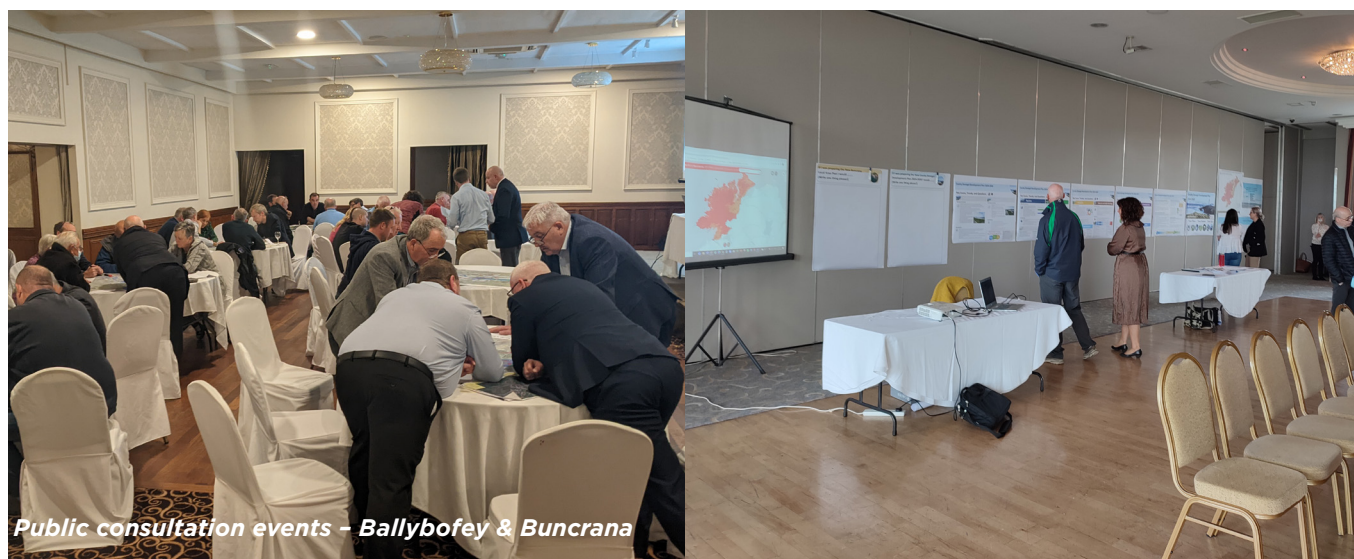
A total of 2,105 planning applications were received in 2022, including decisions that enabled the approval of over 1,600 housing units during the year. The heightened complexity of cases can be exemplified by the increase in planning fees income since 2020 to over €800,000. The continued high level of reported enforcement cases (300 no.) demonstrates the heightened level of activity in the sector during 2022 and, in conjunction with the growing level of commitments in the planning policy work-programme, indicate the significance of the level of service to the community. New and emerging statutory obligations arising from changes to planning legislation and national policy during 2022 will demand continued commitment from the service and this will require a reassessment of the Planning Service functions given the approval of the publication of a new Planning Act in late 2022 following the review of legislation by the Attorney General.

Work continued in relation to the delivery of Outdoor Dining licensing and on the review of the Casual Trading byelaws with the preparation of designated trading areas in over 30 locations in the county. As in previous years the funding initiatives, the Structures At Risk, and, Historic Towns Initiative (amongst others) resulted in the allocation of €523,532 to local projects in the county.



Central Planning Unit (Forward Planning)

The 2022 work-programme saw the commencement of the review of the County Development Plan 2018-2024 including consideration of plans for Bundoran, Ballybofey/Stranorlar and Buncrana. The preparation and engagement with Councillors for the County Plan review process continued in 2022 through consideration of a range of key policy areas. Advancing the draft Letterkenny Plan to public consultation has been a key area of work to establish an effective local area plan for the designated Regional Centre along with delivering a programme of workshops with Councillors in relation to the implementation of the County Plan.

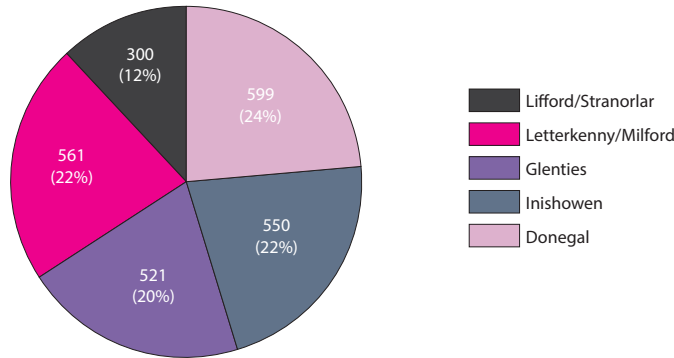


Public consultation events - Ballybofey & Buncrana

Across all the functions within the planning service there was approximately 4,800 engagements with citizens of the county, including 2,531 calls from across the county relating to the development management service.

2022 Customer Calls Responded to Relating to Planning Applications

Total: 2531



Conservation Service

The Conservation Office continues to administer grants and provide advice and support on the county's built heritage. Cross directorial work builds on the past success of the Council's Historic Towns Initiative projects. The heritage-led regeneration approach that places community engagement, built heritage and conservation at its core, won a further three national awards for its Historic Towns Initiatives in 2022. The Ballyshannon Historic Towns Initiative won the Community & Heritage Award at the KPMG - Irish Independent Property Industry Excellence Awards, the Ramelton Historic Towns Initiative won both the Heritage & Built Environment Award at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards, as well as the Urban Design Award and highly commended award under the Sustainability category at the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland national awards.



The Ramelton Historic Towns Initiative was also one of three projects from Ireland and Britain to be shortlisted from 70 projects for the Sustainable Heritage Award at the inaugural Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) Heritage Awards.



Regeneration & Development Unit

Overview

The Regeneration & Development Team works to attract investments from the range of funding programs available to develop high quality urban and rural settlements within the county and which contribute to regeneration and compact growth. The agreed work programme of the team has two principle delivery areas: (1) Strategic Towns across the County (Rural Regeneration & Development Fund), and, (2) Letterkenny as a Regional Growth Centre (Urban Regeneration & Development Fund).

Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF)

Burtonport Harbour (Phase 1) and Arranmore Island ('Harbour to Island Regeneration')

This project provides for the transformation of the Harbour environment and infrastructure in Burtonport together with a shore front recreation, outdoor amenity and amphitheatre styled event space on Arranmore Island. The construction of the Arranmore Island Shore Front Amenity Development was completed and officially opened on Friday 22nd July 2022 in the presence of Leas-Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council Cllr. Michael Naughton and representatives of Comharchumann Oileán Árainn Mhór CTR.

Donegal based Contractors McDermott & Trearty Construction Ltd were appointed to deliver the Phase 1 redevelopment of Burtonport Harbour. Works also progressed to site this year and were approximately 90% complete by year end.

This project has a value of €4.1m and the project has received RRDF funding support in the sum of €3.1m. It was formally handed over to the Capital Project Delivery Unit on 29th July 2022.

Burtonport Harbour Redevelopment (Phase 2)

Throughout 2022 the Team worked to complete the due diligence stage on this project to secure the formal letter of offer and Gateway 2 Approval to proceed to Tender. This Project was formally handed over to the Capital Projects Delivery Unit on 16th September 2022 for progression to capital stage. The detailed design stage is presently being completed in conjunction with MH Associates.

Killybegs 2040

Killybegs 2040 is a town centre regeneration project proposing a Digital Hub, Tourist Information Centre, integrated civic space and acquisition of a key regeneration site. In May 2022 the Team secured enhanced funding support of €4m for the project from the RRDF and the project received approval to proceed with an uplift in overall value of €5.4m. Throughout 2022 the Team worked with McCabe Architects to complete the detailed stage of the project and progress the project to capital stage. This project was formally handed over to the Capital Project Delivery Unit on 16th September 2022 and has now progressed to site.



The Ballybofey & Stranorlar “SEED” Project

The ‘SEED’ project in Ballybofey & Stranorlar proposes a public realm, car parking and enterprise development in the Town Centre. This project has a capital value of €9,756,969 and RRDF funding support has been awarded in the sum of €8,781,272. Throughout 2022 the Team worked to complete the due diligence stage on this project to secure the formal letter of offer and Gateway 2 Approval to proceed to Tender. This Project was formally handed over to the Capital Projects Delivery Unit on 12th October 2022 for progression to detailed design and capital stage.

The Carndonagh “Tus Nua” Regeneration Project

Throughout 2022 the Team worked to complete the due diligence stage on this project to secure the formal letter of offer and Gateway 2 Approval to proceed to Tender. This Project was formally handed over to the Capital Projects Delivery Unit on 7th October 2022 for progression to detailed design and capital stage.

Repowering Buncrana

Funding of €1.17m was secured under the RRDF for the “Repowering Buncrana” regeneration Project. Due diligence has been completed on this project and a formal letter of offer together with an associated Funding Agreement was received on 10th May 2022. A successful public information event in respect of this project was held in the Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana on Monday 23rd May 2022. The project will now progress to procurement of the required consultancy services before commencement of the planning and statutory consents stages of this project enabled by the funding award.

Ramelton Re-Imagined

This project aims to deliver a shovel ready scheme for the restoration and transformation of the town centre public realm. The team worked with the major multi-disciplinary design practice BDP to deliver a planning scheme for the project utilising Category 2 funding from the RRDF in the sum of €186,869.

The project was then submitted to the Fourth Call for Category 1 projects of the RRDF by the 29th April 2022 deadline, seeking capital monies to deliver the project.

On 10th November 2022 the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphries TD announced that €6.3m had been awarded under the Fourth Call for Category 1 Projects of the RRDF for the “Ramelton Re-Imagined” Regeneration Project. Work is now continuing to complete the detailed design and preparation of a tender package for this project, together with arrangements for handover to the Capital Project Delivery Unit for onward delivery.



Artists Impression of “The BING” Ramelton, a key space within the proposed new public realm

Rathmullan (Community & Heritage) Regeneration Project

This project is a major community led, and heritage informed, transformational scheme that will implement a series of inter-related interventions designed to repurpose under-utilised and culturally significant architecture, heritage assets and landmark opportunities within the current village environment. It is focused around The Battery Fort, Rathmullan Abbey and a new community hub proposal.

Throughout 2022 the Team continued to work with Rathmullan - The Way Forward Group and Robin Lee Architects to prepare a planning scheme for this project. A presentation on the Draft Design was made to the Elected Members at workshop on 2nd June 2022 and an informal public consultation event took place later the same day from 3pm to 8pm in the St. Vincent de Paul Centre, Rathmullan.

The project is a partnership with Rathmullan - The Way Forward CLG and it is intended at the time of writing to bring this Pat VIII before the Special Meeting of the Council on 13th February 2023 for consideration by Members and if successful to then position the project for application to future calls of the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF) for category 1 (capital) projects.



Architects Design Report - The proposed 'Community Hub' in Rathmullan

Milford Town Centre First Plan

The Department of Rural and Community Development announced that Milford was successful in securing €100,000 as part of the 1st Phase of the Town Centre Masterplan Initiative launched by Minister Heather Humphries TD subsequently.

In 2022 the Regeneration & Development Team was tasked with leading on the delivery of a Town Centre First Masterplan for the Town.

In Q4 of 2022 tenders were sought for architect led full integrated design team, PSDP and Masterplanning Consultancy Services to prepare a Town Centre First Plan for Milford together with a statutory planning consent scheme for a selected priority project, or projects, which will emerge from the Town Centre First Plan. The date for the receipt of tenders closed on 7th December 2022 at 5pm with the intention that the tender assessment and award process and subsequent launch arrangements for this project will occur across the early weeks of 2023.

Regeneration Strategies

Ballybofey-Stranorlar Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan

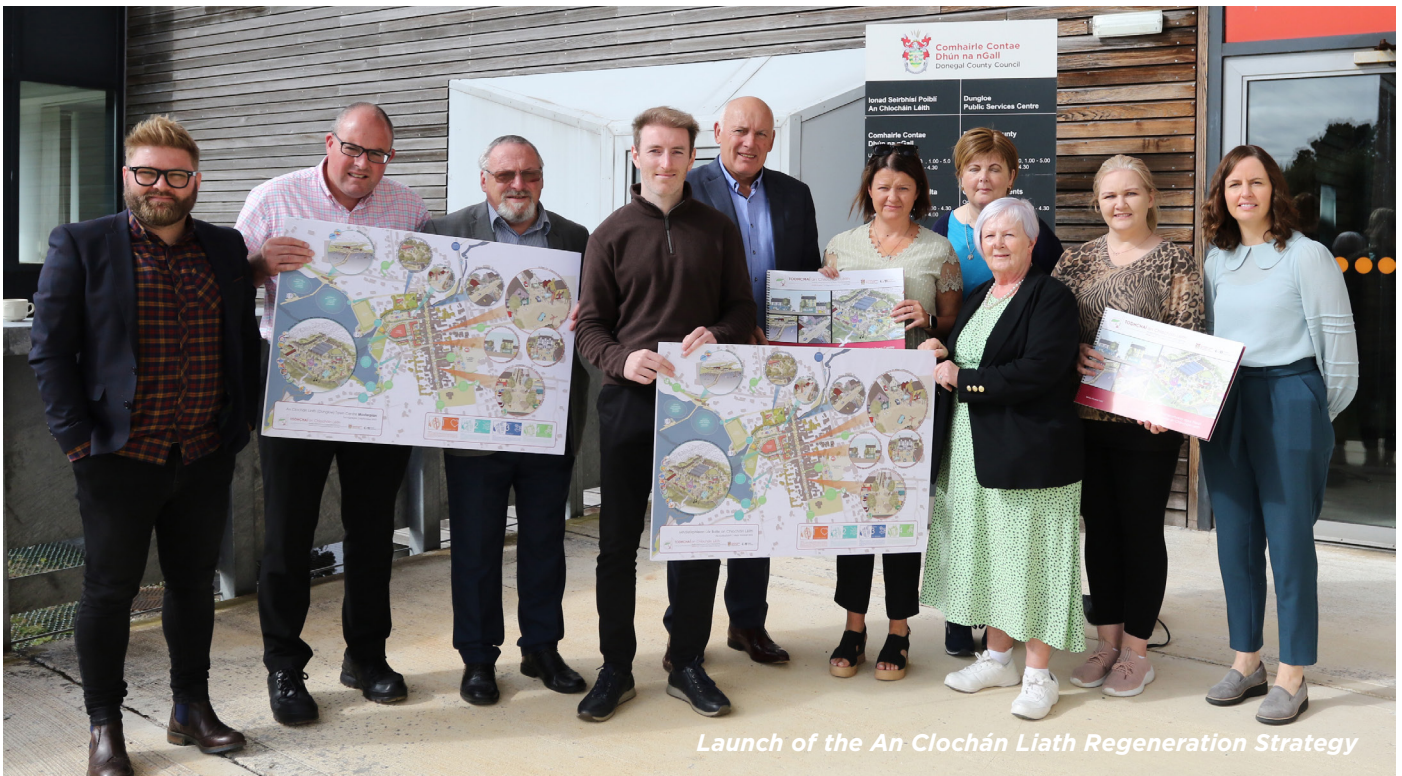
The Ballybofey-Stranorlar Regeneration Strategy was endorsed by the Committee of the Ballybofey And Stranorlar Integrated Community Company (BASICC), as project partners, on 7th February 2022 and subsequently endorsed by the Lifford-Stranorlar MD on 25th May 2022. The Strategy was launched on 27th May 2022 and is available on the Council's website.

Ballyshannon Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan

The Ballyshannon Town Centre Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan was formally published, launched and circulated to Members on the 20th April 2022. The Strategy was commissioned and funded by Donegal County Council and its delivery was led by GM Design Associates with the support and input of the Council's Regeneration and Development Team. The Strategy & Action Plan, and associated Town Centre Masterplan, is available on the Council's website.

An Clochán Liath (Dungloe) Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan

The An Clochán Liath (Dungloe) Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan was formally published, launched and circulated to Members in September 2022. The Strategy was commissioned and funded by Donegal County Council and its delivery was led by GM Design Associates with the support and input of the Council's Regeneration and Development Team. The Strategy & Action Plan, and associated Town Centre Masterplan, is available on the Council's website.



Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF)

Work continued to progress the Letterkenny 2040 urban regeneration programme through its first three strands funded under the Council’s successful URDF Call 1 application. This included the completion and launch of the Letterkenny 2040 Regeneration Strategy for Letterkenny town centre on 5th December 2022. The official launch marked the transition of the programme into implementation phase.



The official launch of the Letterkenny 2040 Regeneration Strategy

The 1st phase of LK Green Connect was successfully handed over to the Capital Projects Delivery Team for advancement to construction phase. In addition a CPO in respect of the Letterkenny 2040 Strategic Urban Regeneration Site, located between Pearse Road and Ramelton Road, was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála. Acquisition pathways were also supported via approval of Donegal County Council in February 2022 in relation to Part VIII proposed development for Phase 1 of the strategic site in respect of Alpha/Beta enterprise buildings and associated public realm. This project was subsequently successfully handed over to the Capital Projects Delivery Team during 2022 for advancement to detailed design and construction phase.

During 2022, steps have been taken to progress the Council’s successful application to URDF Call 2 (Letterkenny 2040 Phase 1: To Re-energise and Connect the Historic Town Centre) through funding approval processes set out under the Public Spending Code. The project comprises 5 inter-related regeneration projects in Letterkenny town centre focused on the transition of the historic town centre to a vibrant, accessible and liveable place.



The Letterkenny 2040 Draft Masterplan & Site Layout

The 5 sub-projects include:

| A - The Cathedral Quarter – Making a Creative District | B - Enabling Renewal at Lower Main Street | C- Revival at the Courthouse | D - Enabling a Regional Transport Hub | E - LK Green Connect |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A re-imagined public space at Market Square - Church Lane shared surface scheme - A 1,500sqm Creative Design Hub with green urban parkland - A repurposed vacant building as a Tourist Office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic land assembly and acquisition package | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New enterprise space blended with a tourist attraction in the Historic Courthouse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic land acquisition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic land acquisition for walking and cycling infrastructure |

In August 2022, the project secured approval of Preliminary Business Case together with funding uplift of €14.5m URDF support and €4.8m match funding from Donegal County Council (total project value €19.3m). In July 2022, a 'Detailed Project Brief and Procurement Strategy' was submitted to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for review leading to approval to proceed as regards design services and acquisition interests.

A Part VIII proposed development for the re-imagining of Market Square was published for consultation in July 2022. Donegal County Council approved the proposed development in October 2022. In addition, a significant level of engagement with landowners took place throughout 2022 as regards land acquisition interests of the Council's URDF Call 2 project.

In September 2022, a Part VIII proposed development was published for consultation for the 'Eat Out' Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Project at the existing public space located to the front of An Grianan Theatre. Donegal County Council approved the project in November 2022. The Team continued in 2022 to work in conjunction with Community Development to progress the project through detailed design and anticipate the project to move to site in Q2 2023.

In addition, design work commenced during 2022 to prepare a Part VIII proposed development in respect of Letterkenny Cultural Corridor forming part of the wider LK Green Connect walking and cycling infrastructure project and to enhance the physical connections between the Regional Cultural Centre, Donegal County Museum and An Grianán Theatre. Significant progress was made on the emerging design in 2022 and publication of this Part VIII is targeted for Q2 2023.



3D Visual of Market Square & The Eat Out Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Project as approved Part VIII

Capital Projects Delivery Unit

Overview

The Capital Projects Delivery Unit (CPDU) was setup during 2022 and is responsible for managing and delivering a number of county-wide major capital projects through the detailed design and construction stages. CPDU projects include Tourism, Regeneration and Enterprise projects.

Fort Dunree

A design team has been appointed to develop the Fort Dunree Project, which has secured €12.47m of funding, to improve and amplify the unique and distinctive mix of physical assets at the site. This design team has completed Stage 1 (Preliminary Design) of the design process which involved completing surveys, analysing background information, and developing design options. Stage 2 (Developed Design) has commenced where the design team will identify the preferred option and develop the design suitable for a planning submission.

Riverine Community Park

Funding to deliver the Riverine Community Park was increased from €8.96m to €11.77m in 2022 to cover increased costs due to inflation. Funding conditions require the project to be fully delivered by the end of 2023. The detailed design and tender documents for the Lifford Park were complete in 2022 and a tender was issued for the construction contract. Statutory consents are outstanding for the project and necessary before appointing a contractor, this may jeopardise the delivery of the project by the end of 2023.

Burtonport Harbour to Arranmore Island Regeneration

Works have progressed well on both elements of the project. Joseph McMenamin & Sons (Stranorlar) Ltd. have been issued with a Certificate of Substantial Completion in June 2022, with the official opening by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphries TD, taking place in July 2022, after which the facility became fully operational and open to the public. The construction contract had a value of €1.45m and was delivered within budget.

The Burtonport Phase 1 element of the scheme is also nearing completion with a certificate of substantial completion anticipated to be issued in March 2023. All elements of the scheme are currently fully operational and open to the public. The construction contract has a value of €1.02m and will be delivered within budget.



Official opening of the Shorefront Amenity Development on Arranmore Island

Burtonport Harbour to Arranmore Island Regeneration - Phase 2

The Burtonport Harbour to Island Regeneration (Phase 2) project proposes a ferry terminal building and enterprise space in the new harbour environment in Burtonport, which has a capital value of €2,060,752 and RRDF funding support has been awarded in the sum of €1,854,677.

MH Associates, integrated design team, are currently at an advanced stage of progressing detailed design, and it is anticipated that the design and tender documentation will be complete by end of March 2023. Depending on approval from the RRDF, it is hoped to open a tendering process to appoint a competent contractor in Q2 of 2023, with works commencing on site in Q3 of 2023, and a completion date of Q2 2024.



Design Concept of Burtonport Harbour to Arranmore Island Regeneration - Phase 2

Killybegs 2040

A tendering process was opened in Q2 of 2022 for the appointment of a competent contractor to complete the works. The successful tenderer was McDermott and Treaty Construction Ltd. and they were awarded the contract in Q3 of 2022. The ‘Turning the Sod’ event took place in October 2022 by Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue TD. Works commenced on site in Q4 of 2022 and are currently progressing with an anticipated completion date of December 2023.

Discussions in relation to land acquisition are progressing and the CPO for the ‘Coal Yard’ site and adjacent lands has been published. It is anticipated that these lands will become available for temporary carparking in March/April of 2023.



Sod Turning of Killybegs 2040 Town Centre Regeneration Project

Tús Nua Regeneration Project

The Carndonagh Tús Nua Regeneration Project is based on a partnership with *Spraoi agus Spórt* and will see the delivery of a Co-working Hub, Fablab, Creative Hub and public realm infrastructure. This project has a capital value of €9,542,852 and RRDF funding support has been awarded in the sum of €8,218,982.

Tendering processes were opened in Q4 2022 to appoint both the Integrated Design Team and Land Valuation Services for the scheme. Land Valuation Services tenders have been returned and assessed, with the successful tenderer, Donal O’Buachalla & Co Limited T/A Avison Young, being appointed.

Initial negotiations with landowners have now commenced.

Tenders for the Integrated Design Team have been returned and are currently being assessed. It is anticipated that this appointment will be made in Q1 of 2023 with consultation and design works commencing immediately upon appointment, and detailed designs/tender documentation to be complete by Q4 of 2023.



The SEED Project

The SEED Project in Ballybofey & Stranorlar proposes a public realm, car parking and enterprise development in the town center. This project has a capital value of €9,756,969 and RRDF funding support has been awarded in the sum of €8,781,272.

Tendering processes were opened in Q4 2022 to appoint both the Integrated Design Team and Land Valuation Services for the scheme. Land Valuation Services tenders have been returned and assessed, with the successful tenderer, Donal O’Buachalla & Co Limited T/A Avison Young, being appointed. Initial negotiations with landowners are due to commence in Q1 of 2023.

Tenders for the Integrated Design Team have been returned and are currently being assessed. It is anticipated that this appointment will be made in Q1 of 2023 with consultation and design works commencing immediately upon appointment, and detailed designs/tender documentation to be complete by Q4 of 2023.

LK Connect - Linear Park

A tendering process was opened in Q3 of 2021 for the appointment of a competent contractor to complete the works. The successful tenderer was ACS Civils Ltd, and they were awarded the contract in Q2 of 2022. Works subsequently commenced on site in Q2 of 2022 and are currently progressing and are at an advanced stage. It is anticipated that certificate of substantial completion will be issued in April 2023. The works contract has a value of €780k and is currently within budget.



Progress on LK Connect - Linear Park

Building Control & Taking in Charge of Residential Estates

Building Control

It is a requirement of the Building Control Regulations that a person who intends to carry out works or to make a material change of use as regards a building shall give notice, in the form of a Commencement Notice, to the Building Control Authority, of their intention to commence works.

In 2022 there were 556 Commencement Notices received. These represented 686 building projects of which there were 531 new units. The Building Control Department carried out site inspections on 70 of these buildings for the intention of monitoring and enforcing compliance with the Building Regulations. This represented 13.2% of the new buildings notified to the Building Control Authority as having commenced in the year. 132 of these units were in “multi-unit developments”.

As a comparison, in 2021 there were 565 Commencement Notices received. These represented 772 building projects of which there were 634 new units. 148 of these were in “multi-unit developments.”

In 2022 the Building Control Department received 87 Disability Access Certificate applications. This compares with 99 applications in 2021, 58 in 2020 and 53 in 2019.

Taking in Charge

The Council continued the taking in charge of residential estates throughout 2022. A significant number of estates have been sent to Irish Water seeking their consent to proceed to take in charge the water services infrastructure which will subsequently transfer to them.

In total, 37 estates were considered at Municipal District meetings during 2022 with the approval of Elected Members being sought to have them taken in charge, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning Act. This brings the number of estates taken in charge since 2019 to 80.

The Planning Authority utilised security bonds and its own resources to carry out the remedial work within these and other estates to assist in their taking in charge. Where appropriate, funding was also leveraged from Irish Water for completing a number of site resolution plans.



Throughout 2023, the planning authority will continue to maximise the number of estates taken in charge, while also aiming to deliver on the capital projects that have been allocated funding to date under the Multi-annual Developer Provided Infrastructure Resolution Programme.





Site resolution works being carried out on footpaths and roads to allow them be taken in charge

Corporate, Housing & Cultural Services

Empowering our Communities/Driving Growth/Delivering Services

  **647** households benefitted from housing grants to assist people with disabilities and older people to the value of

€3.6m

 Housing Stock of almost **5,200 properties** with a spend of **€9.6m** on maintaining and improving our stock

100,000 bilingual (Irish and English) calls from our customers and over **10,000 online contacts**



163 homes provided for new social housing tenancies. **85 new houses** completed and **78 vacant houses** renovated/refurbished

Veterinary Services issued

- 10 general dog licenses
- 118 lifetime dog licenses
- 6281 individual dog licenses

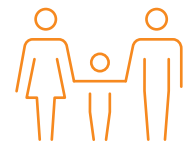
Facebook broadened its reach with more than **139,000 profile visits**, **54,000 interactions** and reached more than **720,000 users**

2022 Highlights



114 properties upgraded via the **Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme** at a cost of almost **€3.7m**

2,587 households approved for Social Housing Support with a net need of **910 households**



HR Department held **40 Competitions** attracting **1,844 applicants** resulting in **235 appointments**

Visitor numbers to public libraries increased to **239,000 visits**, over **148,000 items borrowed**, and online resources accessed more than **101,000 times**

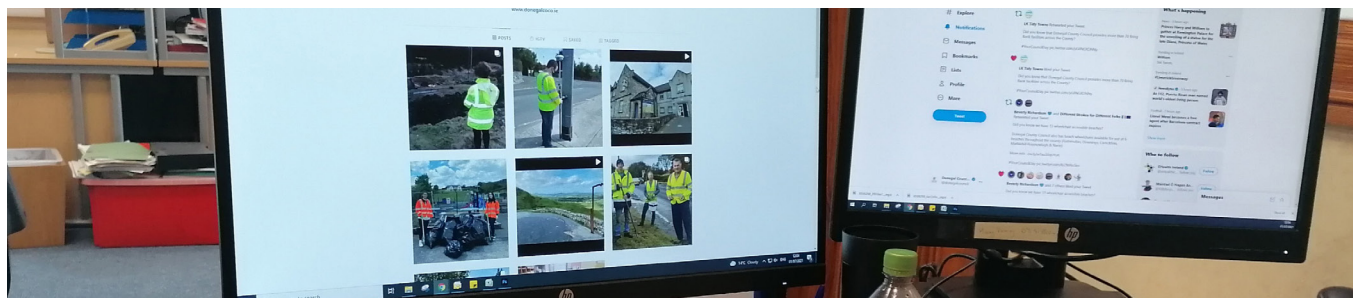


Corporate Services

Customer Service Centre

Donegal County Council's Customer Service Centre provides a single point of contact for our customers through multiple channels of communication, including phone, email, online and social media, where our customers can direct their queries and source information about the Council and its services.

The Customer Service Centre remained very busy in 2022 having dealt with over 100,000 bilingual (Irish and English) calls from our customers and over 10,000 online contacts



Communications Office

The Communications Office continued to proactively promote the services, supports and activities of the Council, managing the Council's online presence including website and social media sites, providing a media enquiry service and issuing official Donegal County Council comment to the media.

Media Relations

The Communications Office continues to work closely with local print, broadcast and online media in conveying important messages from the Council to the general public. 208 press releases and news alerts were issued and approximately 500 queries from local and national media outlets were dealt with. There was also more than 70 Public Service Announcements issued via radio.

In 2022 the Communications Office in conjunction with the Council's Information Systems Developers began working on a workflow management system to log and record press queries which was fully operational by the end of the year.

Social Media & Online Presence

Meta (Facebook & Instagram)

Donegal County Council's Facebook page continued to broaden its reach over the course of 2022, with more than 139,000 profile visits, 54,000 interactions, and a reach of more than 720,000 users.

2022 also marked the first full calendar year for Donegal County Council on Instagram where our profile amassed over 1,000 followers and was viewed by more than 3,500 unique individuals.

Twitter

Donegal County Council posted 2,517 tweets in 2022 that were received by an audience of over 1 million. The integration of the MapAlerter service into Twitter now allows for the Council to issue Weather Warnings, Grit Notices and Water Outages automatically, and has also streamlined the issuing of Roads Service alerts to a single point of contact.

Streaming of Online Meetings

In 2022 the Communications Office in conjunction with the Council's Information Systems section began streaming full council meetings on Facebook from the Aura Leisure Centre, Letterkenny, and by the end of 2022 had implemented a specialised streaming set up in the Council Chamber, Lifford to allow for the operation of a multi-channel video and audio feed to the Council's own dedicated broadcast microsite.

Website

In 2022 the Council's website (donegalcoco.ie) was viewed in 371,252 sessions by 193,235 users. The average time spent on the site was 1 minute and 48 seconds, with a total number of page views of 750,380. The site was also visited by 159 countries including Kazakhstan, Papua New Guinea and St. Kitts & Nevis.

Human Resources

Recruitment

A total of 40 competitions were held in 2022 to fill vacancies across a range of areas. These competitions were widely promoted attracting 1,844 applicants, resulting in 235 appointments. The competitions included a range of opportunities including new temporary posts for specified projects and areas of activity supported by external funding, seasonal work and to fill vacant posts in the Council's management and staffing structure that arose during the year. In line with Public Health advice and restrictions around Covid-19, the Recruitment Section of the Human Resources Department continued using online platforms to meet the needs of the various campaigns.

To ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults, in 2022, the Recruitment Section vetted and re-vetted 69 people consisting of both employees and external service providers e.g: workshop facilitators.

In 2022, the Recruitment Section worked collaboratively with the ETB on developing a tailored Traineeship Programme that will provide the critical skills required for General Operatives and Construction Workers within the county. This will be piloted in Donegal in the coming year with potential for rollout on a national basis.

The Recruitment Section continues to explore new pathways to employment for graduates with a number employed through the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) Graduate Recruitment Programme and various Industrial Placements. Initial discussion has also taken place with AHEAD on Donegal County Council's participation in the Willing Able Mentoring Programme (WAM) which aims to promote access to the labour market for graduates with disabilities and build the capacity of employers to integrate disability into the mainstream workplace.

Training and Development

The Council's Training Department in partnership with the Stranorlar Regional Training Centre delivered a range of courses for staff in 2022 with a particular emphasis on Health and Safety, Technical skills, Health & Wellbeing, and Management & Supervisory Skills. The Training Department also continued to support the rollout of the Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme in 2022, working in partnership with the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG).

The Council's Staff Education Scheme continued to provide support to staff who wished to undertake further education. Staff availed of this scheme in courses such as Financial Management, Business and Management, Construction Project Management, Library and Information Management, Occupational Health & Safety and Local Government Studies.

The Stranorlar Regional Training Centre has LASNTG, SOLAS, City & Guilds and ITSSAR accreditations to deliver training. Training has been provided to staff across a range of areas, including Health & Safety,

Plant and Machinery, and specialised roads, water, and wastewater courses. New and reviewed courses continued to be rolled out and delivered during 2022 in collaboration with IT Carlow and IT Sligo. The QQI Firefighting skills accredited programmes continues to be delivered to the new recruits of the Donegal Fire Service.

Staff Welfare

The Staff Welfare Office continued to provide assistance to staff throughout 2022 and ensured employees had access to guidance and support related to the challenges presented by Covid-19. The Council continued to provide access to the Employee Assistance Programme, which is a free and confidential service available to all employees and their immediate family members.

In 2022, the superannuation section of the Human Resources Department processed 46 applications for pensions including retirements, preserved pension benefits, dependent pensions, Firefighters gratuities and lump sum payments. On 31st December 2022, there were 661 persons in receipt of pension benefits from the Council.

Arising from the launch of the Council's Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2024 in November 2021 the Council's Health and Wellbeing Team ran various programs and events throughout 2022. Our aim is to ensure that we all have an opportunity for optimal health and wellbeing so that we can participate fully in our work, family, and community life.

Veterinary Service

Donegal County Council's Veterinary Service provides a statutory, advisory and administrative role on matters relating to veterinary public health, responsible animal ownership and responsible animal management.

Veterinary Public Health

Under service contract to the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, Donegal County Council provides the official control service in low throughput abattoirs, registered and approved poultry slaughtering establishments, and meat processing establishments in the county. Fourteen establishments were under supervision in 2022. Veterinary Inspectors inspected 20,371 animals in 5 local abattoirs as well carrying out ante and post-mortem sessions on 178 occasions in poultry establishments. A further 298 official control inspections were completed over all the establishments with 202 control samples taken.

Animal Control

In 2022 10 general dog licences, 118 lifetime dog licences and 6,281 individual dog licences were issued. Six inspections were carried out under the Dog Breeding Establishment Act. 254 dogs were either reunited with their owners or re-homed through the Donegal County Council Dog Shelter. No stray horses were reported to the Veterinary Service in 2022.

Housing Services

Overview

The overall aim of our housing policy is to facilitate the provision of suitable, cost effective, quality accommodation and housing supports for people who need it.

The types of housing assistance provided during the year ranged from a combination of allocating tenancies under the Social Housing Programme (New Build, Turnkey, and Acquisitions), the Social Leasing Programme, and the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), transfers and approval of supports via the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP). Assistance was also provided in conjunction with Approved Housing Bodies (AHB).

The Council continued to manage and maintain tenancies and dwellings and provide support to our tenants including the refurbishment and upgrading of dwellings and estates via a range of initiatives and programmes.

Grant assistance was provided to older people and people with disabilities under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme, the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme and the Housing Aid for Older People Grant Scheme. Housing Loan options continued to be available for first time buyers under the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme.

Housing Need

The Housing Needs Assessment, undertaken at 1st November 2022, identified that there were 2,587 households approved for Social Housing Support in County Donegal. 1,677 of these were already in receipt of social housing support and were seeking transfers from existing Council houses or from HAP tenancies. Therefore, the net need in the county was 910.

The Council continues to strive to meet the accommodation needs of housing applicants through a combination of different means including allocating existing or new social housing stock, leased properties, accommodation acquired under RAS and HAP, as well as accommodation provided in conjunction with Approved Housing Bodies.

Housing Stock / Tenancies

At the end of 2022, the Council had responsibility for a housing stock of almost 5,200 properties. In 2022, over €9.6m was spent on maintaining and improving our stock and the upkeep of our estates during the year. In addition to routine maintenance and repairs, this expenditure involved refurbishing vacant dwellings for re-letting, as well as various planned maintenance programmes such as the external painting programme, the energy efficiency works programme, and other specific remedial and refurbishment works.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Local Authority owned units | 5,017 |
| Long Term Leased units (Private) | 157 |
| Total | 5,174 |



Social Housing development opened in Donegal Town on 22.02.22

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme

A newly revised Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme commenced in 2021 which requires local authorities to move to a 'deeper retrofit' programme. Works eligible under the Programme include attic/cavity wall insulation or external wall insulation where required, window and door replacement, heat pump installation and ancillary and associated works. In 2022, 141 units were completed under this Programme at a cost of almost €3.7m.



Before and After an Energy Efficiency Retrofit

Returning Vacant Properties To Productive Use

The Council spent almost €1.7m returning 78 vacant properties to productive use. This included funding assistance of €858,000 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in addition to the Council's own resources.

Once Off Adaptation Works And Extensions

During the year, the Council spent over €650,000 carrying out small scale adaptation works to 74 units and extensions to 4 units of our social housing stock. These works assisted tenants with a disability to have necessary adaptations carried out in order to make their homes more suitable for their needs.

Specific Refurbishment/Remedial Works

In 2022, 273 new local authority tenancies were created during the year. In addition, there were 1,792 tenancies in place under the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP) by the end of the year and a further 197 households accommodated under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS). Over €68,043 was also spent on specific remedial/refurbishment works, in Council owned estates throughout the county.

Estate Management

The Council has five Housing Assessment/Tenant Liaison Officers involved in Estate Management and €52,750 was made available for estate management initiatives during the year, including the Best Kept Housing Estate.

Capital Assistance Scheme

The Council continued to engage with the Approved Housing Body Sector (AHB) and the Health Service Executive (HSE) in providing accommodation under this programme to meet the needs of the elderly and persons with special needs. The programme is specifically targeted to provide special needs accommodation where the traditional forms of social housing supports are not suitable.

Social Leasing Programme

Under the Social Leasing Programme, suitable properties can be leased to the Local Authority under a long term lease agreement. There were 157 such units under lease at the end of 2022.

The Council is also engaging with the Approved Housing Body Sector to provide leased units under the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) Payment and Availability Agreement Scheme. At the end of 2022, the total number of leased units by the Approved Housing Body Sector in Donegal is 210.

Traveller Accommodation

The Council are entering the final 18 months of the current Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019–2024. The Council continues to meet and exceed accommodation targets and objectives as set out in the programme on a yearly basis in consultation with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

A number of additional Traveller-specific accommodation projects were completed throughout 2022 and a range of other accommodation solutions were provided through standard lettings, HAP and lease schemes. In addition, mobile home and caravan replacements were provided in specific emergency cases.

The significant Traveller accommodation project delivered in 2022 was the completion of accommodation units at the Canal Road Group Housing scheme in Letterkenny. A programme for delivery of specific Traveller accommodation projects for 2023 has already commenced. It is anticipated that targets and objectives as set out in the Traveller Accommodation Programme for 2023 will again be delivered. This year will also see the implementation of the new revised nationwide pilot caravan loan scheme in all local authorities including Donegal.



Homeless Supports

An interagency Homeless Action Team meets regularly to ensure that the appropriate support plans are in place for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

In 2022, 149 households were assisted with temporary or emergency homeless accommodation and assistance was provided through the other local statutory and voluntary agencies including the St. Colmcille Hostel in Letterkenny.

A Service Level Agreement for Tenancy Support and Sustainment Services is in place with North-West Simon Community. The overall objective is to provide a resettlement service to persons exiting emergency or short term accommodation, and to support households that are at risk of becoming homeless. The Service does not duplicate, replace or overlap with other relevant services, but will assist in accessing such services.

The implementation of the National Housing First Programme continued in 2022 and provides secure accommodation to persons who have experienced long term homelessness. Under the Programme, clients are provided with intensive housing and health supports to assist them in maintaining their tenancy and their well-being.

Housing Grants

Donegal County Council operates a number of grant schemes to assist people with disabilities and older people to live more comfortably or independently in their own homes. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage fund 80% of the eligible works with the Council funding the balance of 20%. In 2022, 647 households benefited from these schemes and the total cost of the works was €3.6m. In addition, the Council administers the Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme, on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.



Exterior improvements under the Council's Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme

Housing Loans

The Council administers the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme (this replaced the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme in January 2022). The Scheme assists first-time buyers who are unable to source loan funding from other financial institutions. In 2022, seven loans were approved in principle in the sum of €550,000. In the same period, a total of six loans (which were approved under the old scheme) were drawn down to the value of €607,490.

Inspection of private rented dwellings

The inspection programme of private rented dwellings to assess compliance with the statutory requirements for rented accommodation as outlined in the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations, 2021, continued during the year. These regulations set out the minimum standards which rented housing units must meet. Covid-19 pandemic restrictions eased during 2022 and on-site inspections resumed.

A total of 1,705 inspections were carried out during the year on 1,651 dwellings and the Council has been following up with landlords with a view to having improvements carried out to private rented dwellings as required under the Regulations. During 2022, 1,504 Improvement Letters and 9 Improvement Notices were issued.

Letters of compliance were issued to property owners in respect of 399 properties which achieved the required standard.



Finished interior of house in Brookfield, Donegal Town



Housing Development at Rockytown, Buncrana

Housing Capital

The Housing Capital Division continued to work to deliver social housing throughout 2022. Impacts of the global pandemic, the war in Ukraine, due diligence exercises to ensure the quality of building materials, and significant inflationary costs in the construction market were experienced during 2022 however progress was made, and delivery maximised insofar as possible.

Social housing schemes were completed in Rockytown, Buncrana providing 21 social housing units under Phase 1 of the development of the Council's landbank at this location, as well as a further 4 units completed in Dunfanaghy. In addition, construction works on 2 Specific Instance (SI's) were completed in Loughanure and Annagry. Turnkey acquisitions were completed, providing a total of 43 units in both Donegal Town (38 units) and Ballyshannon (5 units). The Council also worked with an Approved Housing Body to provide 15 units at Dungloe.

The construction of further housing developments under the Council's Housing Construction Programme continued to progress on-site in Raphoe and works commenced on projects in Donegal Town, Ballybofey and Lifford. Many additional schemes are at various stages of design, tender and approval throughout the county and this programme will continue to deliver social housing and apartments in the short term.

During 2022, a dedicated land acquisition team was established to identify and acquire lands throughout the county for social housing purposes. Significant progress has been made by the team with various parcels of land now sale agreed. These new parcels of land will ensure the continued and future delivery of housing across the five Municipal Districts. An advertisement seeking expressions of interest for parcels of land, derelict sites/buildings with the potential to deliver social housing remains open on the Council's website.



Development at Rockview, Ballyshannon



Ongoing works as part of Phase 3 construction works at Railway Park, Donegal Town

The Council's turnkey acquisition process also continued during 2022 as outlined previously. Further projects are planned in Ballybofey, Gweedore and Convoy as well as projects in Letterkenny as part of a specific turnkey acquisition programme for Letterkenny.

Additional staff resources were allocated to the Housing Capital team under Housing For All during 2022. New staff members were added to the engineering, administrative and architectural teams to assist in the delivery of housing capital projects.

The focus remains on achieving the objectives of Housing for All, a new Housing Plan for Ireland, and ambitious proposals to deliver housing will continue in the coming years. A renewed focus to acquire single houses and properties with tenants in-situ has been outlined by the Department as part of efforts to address and mitigate across homelessness. The Council will progress acquisitions in line with recently adopted policies and in keeping with due diligence processes.



Ongoing construction works at Trusk Road, Ballybofey which will provide 19 units for older people

Cultural Division

Creative Ireland Programme

Creative initiatives supported during 2022 included projects awarded funding through the Culture & Creativity Grant Scheme, an exhibition on Traveller culture, identity, and ethnicity, and a countywide intergenerational creative knitting initiative.



Sharing the joy of reading at the Cruinniú na nÓg Read, Make, Play event in Central Library (Photograph: John Soffe)

Other highlights included Cruinniú na nÓg, an award of €65,094 for the development of Donegal Creative Coast through the Creative Communities Economic Action Fund, and funding awarded through the Shared Island Initiative for projects exploring cross-border collaboration.



Sharing stories in relation to migration and emigration at the Out of the West event funded by the Culture and Creativity Grant scheme (Photograph: courtesy of event organiser)

During 2022 the Donegal Culture and Creativity team reviewed the 2018–2022 strategy and, in consultation with stakeholders, developed the Donegal Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023–2027.

€250,255 was allocated to the 2022 programme.



Yarns a cross-border fashion and textile conference to celebrate the shared textile heritage of the region and assist creative entrepreneurs in the fashion and textile industry in the Northwest (Photograph: Joe Dunne)

Library Service

Visitor numbers to public libraries increased to 239,000 visits, over 148,000 items were borrowed, and online resources were accessed more than 101,000 times.

A new library management system, Spydus, was introduced. The Library Service also welcomed a new Donegal Library App. The App enables users to manage their library accounts from their mobile phone.



Using the new library App, Solus in Central Library (Photograph: Denzil Browne)

The Library Service continued to develop work programmes and to develop stock and online resources, with particular emphasis on its Irish language collection. Programmes included Europe Direct, Right to Read, Healthy Ireland at your Library and Ireland Reads. The extensive festival and events programme included Seachtain Na Gaeilge, Bealtaine, Wainfest and Science Week.



Ladies learning the art of willow making during Bealtaine (Photograph: Library Staff)

Funding was received from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Dormant Accounts Fund for Library Supports for Marginalised and Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities. The projects funded were:

1. Provision of Touch Type Read Spell Literacy Programme (TTRS) licences
2. Sensory Pod for Bundoran Community Library



New sensory pod located at Bundoran Community Library (Photograph: Library Staff)

Arts Service

22nd Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival

Marking a welcome return to live performances, the 22nd Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival took place from September 30th-October 16th. A particular highlight was Scéal Loch Finne, a multidisciplinary project and performance event curated by Glenties musician and folklorist Rónán Galvin, responding to the popular legend of An Fear Ghamhain Crom (pictured right), the source of many of the placenames in the area of Baile na Finne.



Culture Night

Culture Night highlights included Inishowen Carnival's Caibleadh spectacle at Letterkenny Town Park and the Turas Úr artists collective's illuminated sculpture installation at Letterkenny Workhouse Garden, while the County Museum and the Regional Cultural Centre hosted programmes of exhibitions, living history, music and film animation events.

An Grianán Theatre & Abbey Arts Centre

Among the highlights of An Grianán Theatre's year was the visit in August of the Abbey and Lyric theatres' co-production of Brian Friel's "Translations", directed by Carndonagh native Caitríona McLaughlin and the return of Teach Damhsa in November with their internationally acclaimed dance work, Mám.

The Abbey Arts Centre hosted the prestigious Amateur Drama Council of Ireland (ADCI) All Ireland Confined Drama Finals in April. Other highlights included a performance by the Irish Chamber Orchestra in June and the Allingham Arts Festival in November which featured renowned Irish actor Ian McElhinney (Derry Girls, Game of Thrones) in conversation with Sinéad Crowley.



Actors Andy Doherty (Doalty), Suzie Seweify (Sarah) and Ruby Campbell (Bridget) Brian Friel's Translations, seen at An Grianán Theatre in August. (Photograph: Ros Kavanagh)

34th Earagail Arts Festival

The Festival's innovative partnership with Gaoth Dobhair based Aniar productions saw a series of high profile concerts at An Grianán Theatre being recorded for broadcast by TG4 in early 2023. Among the artists featured were the Sí Fiddlers, Paula and Melanie Houton, Diane Cannon and Theresa Kavanagh, The Henry Girls and Ye Vagabonds. The six part series, entitled Féile Ealaíne an Earagail, was presented by Gaoth Dobhair musician Cathal Ó Curráin and traditional singer Sibéal Ní Chasaide.

Pictured below Na Sí Fiddlers take the curtain call after their performance at An Grianán Theatre during Earagail Arts Festival. The concert was recorded by Gaoth Dobhair based Aniar TV for the TG4 series, Féile Ealaíne an Earagail, broadcast in 2023. Picture Below, Left to Right: Aisling Byrne, Claire Friel, Denise Boyle, Tara Connaghan, Bríd Harper, Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, Theresa Kavanagh, Clodagh Warnock, Fiona Gavin (guest), Rosiin McGrory and Eimear McColgan



Investing in New Artistic Work

Having been postponed from the previous year due to Covid-19, the world premiere of Vincent Kennedy's new orchestral suite, "Colmcille", took place in March. Performed by the Donegal Youth Orchestra, Youth Choir and guests, the work was commissioned jointly by Donegal County Council and Donegal ETB as part of the Colmcille 1500 commemorative programme. Due to popular demand, a further performance of the work took place in July as part of Earagail Arts Festival.

Regional Cultural Centre

40 Concerts

The Regional Cultural Centre (RCC) enjoyed a successful year of concerts after Covid-19 restrictions were lifted in February, hosting groups from Ireland, Italy, the USA, Scotland, England, Germany, Norway, Netherlands and France.



18 Exhibitions

Over 11,000 people visited RCC produced exhibitions. Exhibitions showcased international artists alongside developing many Donegal artists of promise.



Cultural Development

In 2022 the RCC Director founded Donegal Visual Artist Network to support artists with monthly workshops and career guidance. This network now has over 100 members.

RCC and Donegal Film Office have worked closely to support and improve the local film economy. The RCC supported two Donegal filmmakers in getting €500,000 commissions from Channel 4 and Netflix.

The RCC continues to support music development throughout the county with over 600 students receiving music lessons from the RCC based Donegal Music Partnership.

The RCC continued to work with a large number of local and intercultural community groups hosting over 500 Workshops and Classes with over 30 Community Groups.

Donegal County Museum

Museum Programme

The Museum programme included exhibitions such as “The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives”; “A Common Humanity: Full Circle, the Ann Doherty Collection”, both in association with the Archives Service, and “Still Here, Still Proud” with the Donegal Travellers Project.

The programme also included events during Bealtaine, Earagail Arts Festival, Heritage Week, Culture Night, Social Inclusion Week and Wainfest. The Museum also participated in the SMARCTIC EU project which included the installation of solar panels at the rear of the Museum.



Tinsmithing workshop at the “Still Here, Still Proud” exhibition



Solar panels, Donegal County Museum



Launch of the exhibition “The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives”, May 2022

Decade of Centenaries

The Culture Division delivered a series of projects exploring the history of the Decade of Centenaries. These projects included an event to mark the Battle of Pettigo and Belleek, an Artist in Residence, living history tours, archive digitisation, a virtual workhouse, children’s events and a publication, “The Workhouses of Donegal”. These projects were supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 Initiative.



Commemoration of the Battle of Pettigo and Belleek



Actors in Workhouse Living History Tours

Archives Service

With funding by the national Decade of Centenaries programme the Archives and Museum published a book of six essays by Dr Ben Rogers, Historian in Residence, entitled *Experiencing the Irish Revolution in Donegal, 1919-1925* (pictured right).


The Lord George Hill & Knight photograph album, Murray Stewart estate rentals, Daniel Doherty (emigrant) archive and Rural and Urban District Council minutes were digitised.

The Archives and Museum received a grant from the Heritage Council's Heritage Stewardship Fund to list, digitise and exhibit the collection of renowned international photojournalist Ann Doherty.

Acquisitions in 2022 included school records, emigration letters, Dunree lighthouse papers and papers of County Donegal History Society founder Chris McDonagh.

Presentations in 2022 included to the Letterkenny Literary Festival, Irish Society for Archives and the Junior Cycle for Teachers Support Service. The archivist contributed articles to local and national history publications including one on the Gweedore Hotel for *History Ireland*.

Réabhlóid na hÉireann i nDún na nGall, 1919 - 1925



Councillor Warrick (Dunmagh) then proposed that this meeting of Sir Conant Colman be adjourned until Mr. Griffiths and Mr. De Valera to close up the ranks of our Boile and to bring their differences in the interests of the Country for which they have done so much rather than that those noble Irishmen and Warrick who were associated with them should be split into different camps to the detriment of our best and enemies. That copies of this resolution be telegraphed to Mr. Griffiths, Mr. De Valera, and that further copies be transmitted to the Deas Deputies of the County Councillor O'Donnell (J.F.), Donegal Co. Reports of Committees The Report of the undesignated Committee was adopted. Donegal - Meeting held 13th Dec 1925

Aistí
an Dr Ben Rogers, Staráí Cónaithe
Músaem agus Carlann Chontae Dhún na nGall,
Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall



Daniel Doherty meeting with President Eamon de Valera on the latter's visit to Boston, USA, 1964, from the Daniel Doherty Collection



Malin Well Old Church was supported by the Historic Structures Fund (Photograph: Joseph Gallagher)

County Donegal Heritage Office

In 2022 the Heritage Office began preparation of the new strategic County Donegal Heritage Plan.

Our award-winning Thatch Repair Grant Scheme supported 17 projects and a desktop study of the locations of historic thatched structures was commissioned. Funding of €20,000 was secured from The Heritage Council for the appointment of a part-time Community Archaeologist and €336,000 was secured from the National Monuments Service for eight projects under the Community Monuments Fund co-managed by the Heritage Office and County Museum.



Celebrating a double success for County Donegal's Historic Towns Initiatives

County Heritage Plan implementation included initiation of a three-year project on the occupations and experiences of Donegal people working in Scotland, research on mapping Brian Friel's Ballybeg, historic graveyard conservation, 'Wild About Nature' workshops and support for Local Authority Pollinator Awards. Funding of €55,860 was secured from the National Parks and Wildlife Service for ongoing wetlands survey and a survey of breeding snipe in partnership with BirdWatch Ireland. Heritage Week in County Donegal saw the return of in person events and was a success with recognition at the National Heritage Awards again.

Funding of €345,000 was secured from The Heritage Council for a second Ballyshannon Historic Towns Initiative co-managed by the Heritage Office and Conservation Office. Our Ramelton Historic Towns Initiative won the Heritage & Built Environment Award at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards, the Urban Design Award at the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland Awards and was shortlisted for the Sustainable Heritage Award at the inaugural Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings Heritage Awards. The Ballyshannon Historic Towns Initiative won the Community & Heritage Award at the KPMG - Irish Independent Property Industry Excellence Awards.



Thatched house in Common, Ardara that was supported under the Donegal County Council's award-winning Thatch Repair Grant Scheme. (Photograph: Joseph Gallagher)



Enjoying a light-hearted moment in front of the Ballyshannon silhouette on the former Ballyshannon Bakery Company building on The Mall, Ballyshannon (Photograph: Karen Skelly)

Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services

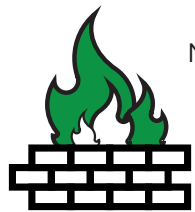
Building Organisational Capacity/Driving Growth/Delivering Services



Appointment of an Architect Led Design Team to complete designs for the

Alpha Innovation Centre and the

Beta Business Centre in Letterkenny



Donegal Fire Brigades and Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service responded to **795 incidents**

Council's **Information Technology infrastructure** serves **106 locations** countywide



Construction works commenced on the **€2.3m Island House Building** as part of the **Killybegs Town Centre Regeneration Project**

€1,090,431.99 approved via a total of **38 LEO Measure 1 grants** directly supporting **54 new local jobs**

The operational service of **Donegal Civil Defence** in 2022 was provided by **52 volunteers** and managed by the **Civil Defence Officer**

2022 Highlights



Plans progressed for a **30-acre Multi Use Park** at **The Common** in Lifford

€50,000 received from the **Department of Rural and Community Development** to promote Donegal as the ideal investment location for **remote working**



Over **300 business** participated in the **BuyDonegal** initiative with a social media campaign reaching **7.5 million** people

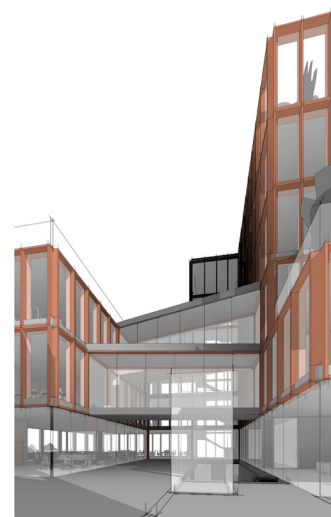
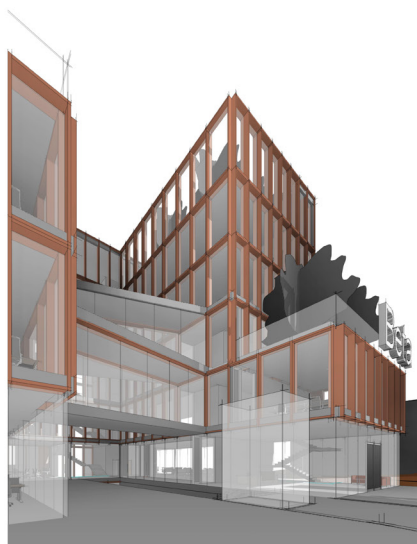
€500,000 allocated to community groups and council services for the delivery of a range of works to support the **development of tourism** in the county



Economic Development

Overview

The Economic Development Division delivers a range of initiatives to support economic development and job creation activity in the county, in conjunction with development partners in both the public and private sectors. The Division includes a number of teams including the Economic Development Unit (EDU), the Tourism Unit, the Trailgazers project and the Strategic Funding Unit.



Economic Development Unit

Lifford Lands

Plans for the development of Council owned lands at The Common in Lifford progressed in 2022, with various Council Services working together to develop the 30-acre Multi Use Park. A planning application for enabling infrastructure for the site was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in June 2022. This will allow for the development of social housing, community health services, recreational facilities and sites for economic development.

The Economic Development Division are engaging with prospective businesses and other parties in relation to the development of this site with a view to supporting business development and job creation in Lifford and the surrounding area.

Donegal 2040 Strategic Development DAC

The Economic Development Division also provides executive support to Donegal 2040 Strategic Development DAC which is a company established by the Council to oversee the development and management of key strategic economic development initiatives including:

Development of Business and Innovation Quarter in Letterkenny

Donegal 2040 Strategic Development DAC progressed the development of a Business and Innovation Quarter in Letterkenny with the appointment of an Architect Led Design Team in December 2022 to complete detailed designs for the Alpha Innovation Centre (a 7-storey digital innovation centre with 17,500 sq./ft floor area) and the Beta Business Centre (an 8-storey business and enterprise building 43,000 sq./ft floor area) with each providing state of the art workspace facilities for a range of knowledge-based businesses in the region.

Island House, Killybegs

As part of the overall Killybegs Town Centre Regeneration Project, co-funded under the RRDF, construction works on the €2.3m Island House Building in Killybegs commenced in Q4, 2022. On completion, this building will be managed by Donegal 2040 Strategic Development DAC and will accommodate a tourist information and reception centre, office rental space and community/civic space.

Burtonport Enterprise Building

As part of the overall Burtonport Harbour Redevelopment Project, co-funded under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF), detailed design on the Burtonport Enterprise Building commenced in Q3, 2022. The building is being developed to provide employment opportunities and stimulate entrepreneurship to support economic development thereby strengthening the sustainability of the rural community in the area. On completion, this building will be managed by Donegal 2040 Strategic Development DAC and in Q3 and Q4 2022, Expressions of Interest were sought, assessment meetings were held and a preferred tenant was selected.



Design Concept Image of the Burtonport Enterprise Building

Shared Island funding

Funding of almost €1m was secured for a series of new innovative projects under the Irish Government's Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Scheme in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. The Economic Development Unit will be leading out on four projects as follows:

- The North-West Regulatory Tech Cluster project is a proposal to develop an all-island national institute in Regulatory Technology ('RegTech') in the North-West. The Council is working with Derry City and Strabane District Council, Catalyst, ATU and other partners to develop campuses in both Letterkenny and Derry. The funding will support a project manager and appointment of consultants to undertake a scoping study, business case and economic appraisal as well as site identification and preliminary designs. A project manager for two Shared Island projects (Slí Cholmcille and RegTech) was appointed on 5th December 2022 to drive the process forward.
- An Innovation Plaza to develop cross-border enterprise opportunities in sectors such as renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, engineering and agri-food.
- A Regenerative Tourism project involving engagement with the region's place, past and people, seeking to attract high-yield environmentally conscious visitors.
- The Slí Cholmcille Project is a proposed 250km pilgrimage route linking key Colmcille related sites across Donegal and Derry, with the ambition to link across Northern Ireland to Scotland. Donegal County Council will work with Derry City & Strabane District Council and Slí Cholmcille CLG to undertake the feasibility assessment which will include route development, identification of capital investment, costings and designs as well as an economic appraisal and business case.



North-West City Region

Work continued with Derry City and Strabane District Council on positioning the North-West City Region as prime location for business and investment. Initiatives included:

- Completion of a new cross border 3-year Inward Investment Plan for the region and development of marketing collateral for the region.
- Ongoing development of a talent solution platform to attract investors to the region.
- Annual Golden Bridges Conference hosted in Boston on 18th November 2022 and a number of in-market events hosted in London, Dublin, Boston and Philadelphia.

Donegal Relocation Campaign

Donegal County Council tendered successfully for a relocation campaign that will begin in early 2023 and were awarded further funding of €50,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development to promote the region as the ideal investment location for remote working through to 2024. Ongoing development continued with county hubs through the Donegal Hubs forum.

Donegal Clothing Range

Donegal County Council teamed up with sportswear supplier O'Neills to launch an exciting new range of branded clothing in August 2022. The place brand was introduced to promote the region as a great place to live, work, invest, explore and study. A wide range of apparel in both adult and children's sizes are available to purchase in All Sports Donegal Town, McElhinneys of Ballybofey and Michael Murphy Sports in Letterkenny.

BuyDonegal

The Buy Donegal initiative in November and December with over 300 businesses participating and a social media campaign that reached 7.5 million people.





Remote Working Holiday Launch

Working Holiday Campaign

The inaugural Working Holiday Campaign launched in Summer 2022 providing the opportunity to work for a day for free in one of thirteen hubs across Donegal. Over 300 people signed up to avail of #WorkHoIDL and extend their stay in the county.

Caravan and Camping Initiative

In line with the recommendation of the Donegal Caravan and Camping Study a number of key actions were delivered in 2022 including a new dedicated marketing section on www.govisitdonegal.com website, a new code of conduct and the Caravan, Camping, Campervan and Motorhome (CCCMF) Grants scheme. The EDU also hosted an information event in the Silver Tassie with over 80 people in attendance, covering the KPMG Future Analytics Report into the sector, Failte Ireland standards, local best practice by Wild Atlantic Camp and the CCCMF Grant Scheme. The EDU also established Internal and External Stakeholder groups to engage with the development of the actions of the Study.

LoveDonegal Day

LoveDonegal Day 2022 took place on September 8th and reached over 11 million people on the first day and trended throughout the day on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram.

Business Concierge Service

35 queries were logged through the Business Concierge Service, including broadband issues, access to Council Services and start-ups looking for support.

A number of businesses seeking property solutions using Council owned land or property were supported to achieve their aim of starting up, relocating or expanding.

Social Media

The various Economic Development Unit social platforms continued to grow in 2022 with a collective following of over 13,000 and visits from 109 countries to donegal.ie.



Launch of Caravan and Campervan Code of Conduct



Donegal Diaspora Activity

Donegal Connect

Donegal Connect returned as an in-person event for 2022 with over 2,600 participants across three days of events.

Global Irish Festival Series

Donegal County Council secured funds in 2022 through the scheme and utilised the funds on Donegal Connect 2022 offering visitors a diverse itinerary of food, genealogy, sport, business, arts and cultural events.

Tip O'Neill Awards

The Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Awards made a highly successful return in 2022 with 180 attendees at the event in Buncrana. Four nominees received the award; Moya Doherty, Kathleen Sheerin, Dr. Susan K. Whoriskey and Ann & Mark Baiada (Joint award).

Donegal Diaspora Website/Social Media/E-Zine

A communications plan using the Diaspora website and associated Diaspora social media channels is planned to connect and disseminate with the diaspora globally. This is supplemented with Donegal Connections E-Zine that promotes ongoing Economic Development initiatives and issues monthly.



Tip O'Neill Awards

Tourism Unit

2022 continued to be a challenging year for the tourism and hospitality sector and a key focus was supporting businesses to sustain and survive during this period. Key activities included:

- Donegal Tourism Seminar: 'Adapting to Changing Times' which was attended by 80 people.
- Focused marketing campaigns including Golf in Donegal, Best of the North West, Environment Summer Campaign, GB Donegal - Derry Campaign.



Best of the Northwest

Collaboration between Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council on the delivery of a €90,000, integrated marketing campaign promoting both counties. The Campaign results were:

- Total clicks to microsite: 50,779 www.bestofnorthwestireland.com, total video views were 556,936, total interactions to the campaign were 268,316.
- There were 6,700 competition entries which will be used for future newsletters and regional offers.

Donegal Golf Digital Marketing Campaign

Inhouse design and execution of a 5-week digital golf campaign. This campaign generated 1,458,637 impressions and 693,760 reach on Facebook & Instagram platforms, as well as 2,389,441 impressions through Google Display Ads and 92,111 impressions through Google Search ads. During the campaign period there were over 10K views of the golf offers on the website which accounted for 13.38% of overall website views, with over 8.5k unique views.

The Donegal Golf Cluster continued to meet in 2022 with a view to supporting the development of the world class golf product in Donegal.

Irish Legends Golf Tournament & Donegal Festival of Golf, Rosapenna

Donegal County Council was the official partner of the Irish Legends Golf Tournament. A Donegal Festival of Golf was hosted by Donegal County Council alongside this tournament with local artists, international golfers and journalists in attendance.



Milwaukee Irish Fest

Donegal promotion at Milwaukee Irish Fest including business meetings with travel agents in Chicago in August. This was the first opportunity to attend an overseas promotion post-Covid. The Irish Fest is the largest festival of its kind in North America. In 2022, 80,000 people attended the four-day festival from August 18th to 21st.

Swan Park Halloween Event

Over 3,000 attended the Halloween event at Swan Park, Buncrana in October marking the extension of the Derry Halloween festivities into Donegal for the second time.

Minor Tourism Related Works Grant Scheme

€500,000 was allocated to community groups and council services for the delivery of a range of works to support the development of tourism in the county. 23 community based groups were awarded funding along with 20 Council led projects.



TIDE Project

Development and installation of three new maritime historical virtual reality experiences at Fanad Lighthouse, Fort Dunree and Inishowen Maritime Museum.

Local Live Performance Grant Scheme

Delivery of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media local live performance grants to support the running of live performance events. Grants were awarded to 36 festivals and events in 2022 totalling €221,633.19, administered under Local Live Performance Phase 3 & 4.

Regional Festival Grant Scheme (Fáilte Ireland)

Delivery of €49,750 through the scheme to support 30 festival and events in the county.

Trail Gazers Bid Project

Trail Gazers is a €2.56m, transnational project, working with 9 different partners located across Ireland, the UK, France, Spain and Portugal to determine the impact of investment in walking and recreational trails and explore ways to enhance this impact.

The final project outcomes included a toolkit to assist trails to become more economically and socially driven, small infrastructural development works, trail accessibility audit, launch of our footfall technology “Trails Dashboard” and the calculation of a trails multiplier for each pilot trail.

Strategic Funding Unit

The work of the Strategic Funding Unit (SFU) focused on a number of key areas in 2022 as follows:

- 10 webinars and 38 e-mail newsletters providing information on EU funding.
- The SFU worked with the North West Regional Assembly (NWRA) to develop a new Donegal County Council EU Funding Strategy.
- Continued participation in key networks such as the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and Assembly of European Regions (AER). Through network engagement the SFU has informed EU policy, secured EU funding, joined project consortia, attended and hosted EU events and developed strong partnerships in other member regions.
- The AER Summer Academy 2022 was hosted in Letterkenny celebrating the EU Year of Youth and attracted over 160 delegates from 19 EU member states over a 4 day period.
- The EU YOUTHopia project was successfully funded to host events and provide training for young people in Donegal.



Local Enterprise Office

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Donegal is the 'First Stop Shop' for people seeking advice, information and support when starting or growing a micro and small business. Services provided include business advice and mentoring, training, financial supports, enterprise promotion, networking opportunities, management programmes, supports aligned to sectors and economic challenges.

We welcomed the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Damien English TD, in October who recognised our innovative efforts in business supports.

The Local Enterprise Office supported the Red Cross with the scheme to provide Emergency Humanitarian Support to Small Businesses affected by the Explosion in Creeslough. 22 businesses were awarded €96,740 in support under the first stage of the scheme.



Key Achievements 2022

- The 2022 Annual Employment Survey of LEO clients show positive job creation with 1,464 employed in the 248 client businesses grant aided by the LEO. A total of 309 new jobs were created in 2022. When job losses are accounted for this results in a net employment gain of 135 in 2022
- Launch of our Strategic Enterprise Development Plan, "Donegal 2030: Writing our own Enterprise Future"
- A total of 38 LEO Measure 1 grants (3 Feasibility study grants, 9 Business Priming grants, 12 Business Expansion grants and 14 Export Marketing grants) were approved to the value of €1,090,431.99. This funding directly supported 54 new local jobs
- 48 Trading Online Vouchers were approved to the value of €96,844.84. This supported local businesses across all key sectors to expand and improve their online trading presence
- 6 Client Companies were transferred to Enterprise Ireland as part of the inter-agency Progression Pathway. These transfers reflect how early stage LEO support positions Companies to successfully source further investment and opportunities to grow
- 156 clients received business mentoring through one-to-one engagements
- 1,621 clients took part in training, seminars, management development programmes and networking events
- 16 clients completed a Lean project as part of the "Lean for Micro" Programme which is designed to encourage clients to adopt Lean business principles in their organisations to increase competitiveness
- 928 students from 13 second level schools participated in a Student Enterprise programme. Cathal Cannon, a Transition Year student in St. Columba's College in Stranorlar designed a Sports Injury Response App and represented Donegal in the final of the 2022 Student Enterprise Programme. Cathal secured a third-place award in the Senior Category
- LEO Donegal increased the focus on supporting small businesses prepare for the low carbon, resource efficient economy of the future with "9 Green for Micro" programme applications approved
- Through our referral process with Micro Finance Ireland, 4 client loan applications were forwarded for approval
- Local Enterprise Week 2022 with a theme of "Wind in your Sales" was held in March with 25 events for new and existing entrepreneurs taking place
- AMBITION, LEO Donegal's pilot Pre-Accelerator to inspire more Female Entrepreneurs to start a business continued with 9 Female led Teams participating in the 12 week online Programme
- Female entrepreneurs and budding businesswomen participated in a virtual event to mark National Women's Enterprise Day which took place in October
- Donegal Enterprise Awards 2022 were held in December with Silver Strand Ropes Ltd being selected as the overall winner to represent Donegal in the National Enterprise Award Finals in June 2023
- €66,000 was secured from Creative Ireland Economic Action Fund to host a YARNs conference on the Fashion & Textiles Industry and a range of other initiatives to stimulate the Creative sector in Donegal
- A review of the Food Coast Donegal was initiated together with a New Food Strategy which will be launched in 2023
- Funding was secured to employ a Full Time Facilitator for the Engineering Cluster
- Condie, Donegal Soap, Collins Designs, April Rose Murphy and Edel MacBride Knitwear were supported to attend SHOWCASE 2022 in February. Bernie Murphy represented Donegal at the National Ploughing Championship in September



Launch of Wind in Your Sales

Information Systems

Overview

Donegal County Council's Information Technology infrastructure serves 106 locations countywide and is one of the largest Local Authority networks in Ireland.

The infrastructure comprises of:

- 85 Servers
- 1,557 Desktop & Notebook Computers
- 344 Printers/Scanners/Plotters
- 29 Print Management Multi-Function Devices
- 82 Other Multi-Function Devices
- 366 Tablets
- 650 Mobile Phones
- 200 Other data devices
- 260 IP Telephone handsets

Covid-19

In common with I.T. Departments worldwide the Covid-19 pandemic placed unprecedented demands on the Council's Information Systems Department. A range of remote working solutions, telephony systems, online meeting platforms, community support systems as well as grant payment applications were put in place to support the Council's Covid-19 response. These arrangements continued for part of 2022.

The Covid-19 support work fell into the following broad categories:

- Supporting staff members working remotely to access corporate systems.
- Supporting Hybrid meetings hosted at the Aura Centre Letterkenny and County House Lifford.
- Supporting fully online meetings across the Council.
- Developing a range of support systems including the Covid-19 Community Support System as well as a range of applications to allow businesses apply for various Government Covid-19 financial supports.
- Protecting the Council's systems and data from cyber and other threats.

Information Technology Investment Programme

During 2022 the Information Systems Department developed a specification for a New Server/Storage Area Network (SAN) or Hyper-Converged Infrastructure to upgrade the current estate of virtual hosts and storage at Lifford HQ, including integrated backup and replication solutions. The new hardware and software will introduce significant improvements in performance across the compute and storage infrastructure along with enhanced security features. This solution will be rolled out in the Q3/Q4 2023.

In 2021 Information Systems began migrating Donegal County Council staff from on-premise office automation systems to cloud based Office 365. 876 migrations had been completed at the end of 2022 with the remaining 121 to be dealt with in 2023.

Systems Programme

The Council's Corporate Plan provides a valuable local context for Information Systems operational planning which is geared to supporting its strategic objectives and priorities. The Systems Programme in 2022 included a major upgrade of the Agresso Financial Management System, implementation of a new Library Management System as well as upgrades to the Housing and Electoral Register Systems. The fleet of 25 Time & Attendance Clocks in Council buildings across the county were also replaced.

IP Telephony

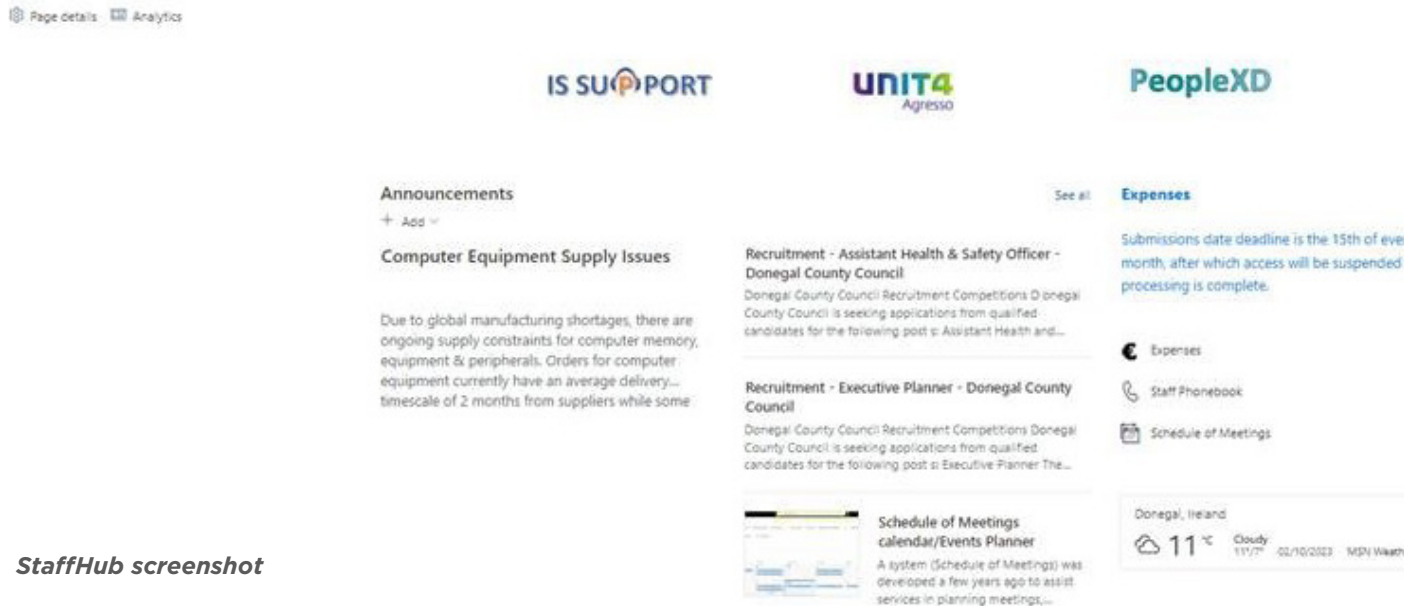
During 2022 The Council's Information Systems Department upgraded the telephony system and Contact Centre Support Solution from an Analog PBX Telephone System, which was originally installed over 20 years ago, to IP telephony system. 675 staff members have been moved to the new system, and most handsets have now been replaced with headphones and a PC workplace client.

This upgrade will reduce costs, provide multiple new features and enable more efficiencies in managing the Council telephony network. It will also increase the number of available communication channels for the Public to contact the Council.

System Development

The investment in Microsoft Office 365 products gave way to redevelopment of inhouse systems/solutions in a modern environment using a variety of software such as Dynamics CRM, SharePoint Online, Power Suite and MS Teams.

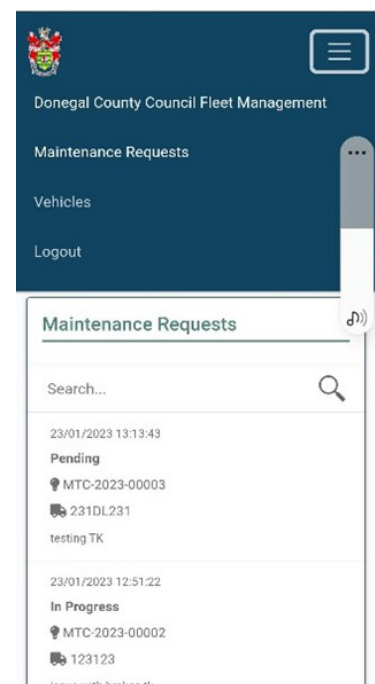
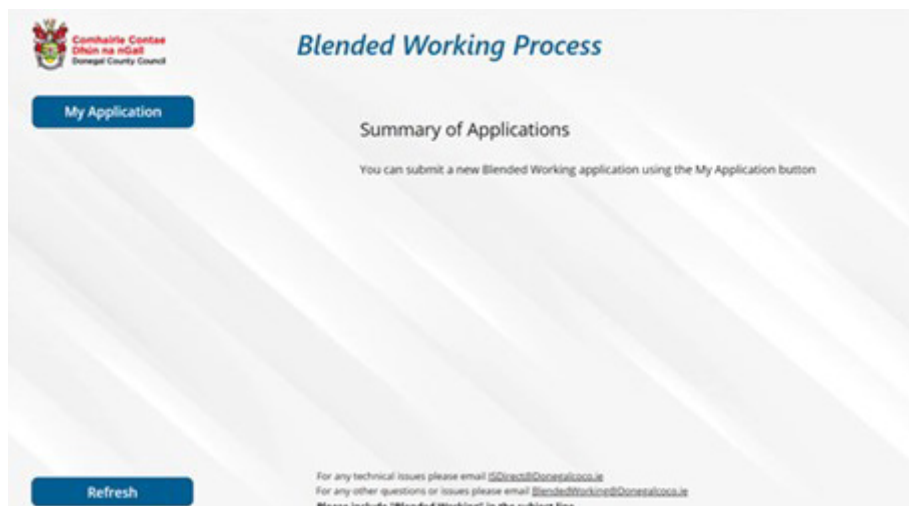
2022 saw the launch of the new StaffHub on Sharepoint online with a clean modern interface. MS Teams was adopted as the corporate online meeting solution and as such has been enabled for all Donegal County Council staff with an Office 365 licence.



StaffHub screenshot

Dynamics CRM was expanded to a variety of areas, including Housing, Machinery Yard, Finance and Environment. Dynamics CRM apps developed inhouse have enhanced the mobile aspect of several business areas.

Business apps were developed to facilitate modern working environment using Power apps and power automate.



Screenshots from the Blended Working Online Application and Fleet Hire App



ERNACT

Participation continued, via the ERNACT network, in co-operative EU projects during 2022. A range of strategically important projects were completed during 2022, including:

EMERGREEN - Emerging Technologies for Greener Communities

Donegal County Council developed the 'Donegal Coastal Stories' mobile service under this program to capture images of changing coastal dynamics.

SMARCTIC - Smart Energy Management in remote Northern, Peripheral and Arctic regions

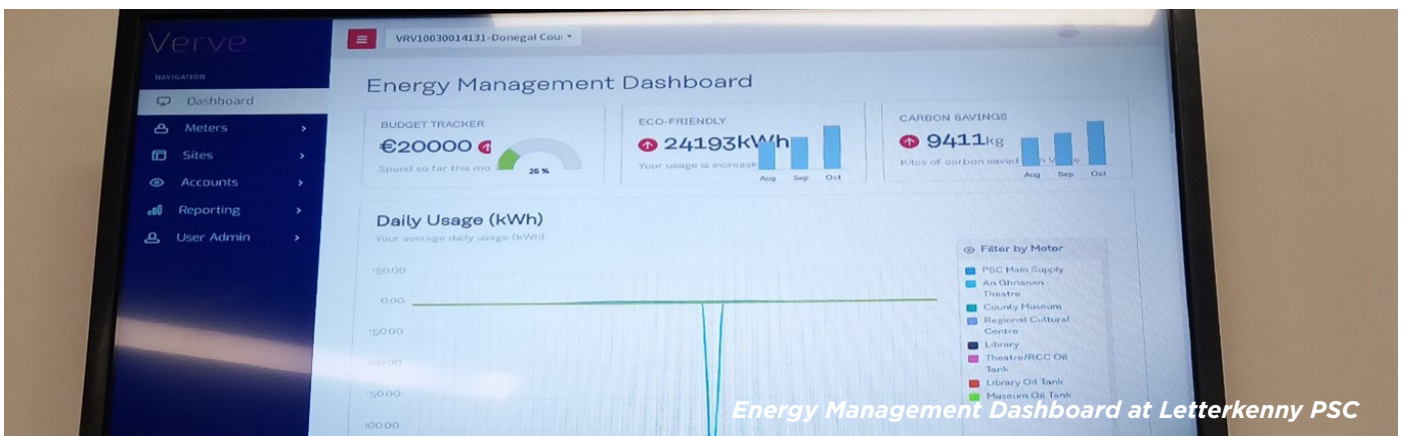
Donegal County Council participated in the Smart Energy Management in remote Northern, Peripheral and Arctic (NPA) Regions project which was completed in 2022. The EU NPA funded SMARCTIC project was targeted at the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions in housing and public infrastructures.

The following solutions were implemented in Donegal County Council:

- Sensors to measure oil consumption, electricity consumption, temperature and humidity were installed in the County Library, County Museum, Regional Cultural Centre, An Grianán Theatre and Letterkenny Public Services Centre to capture data which allows for comparative analysis of energy consumption.
- Footfall sensors were also installed at each location to gather building occupancy data. This data is captured by an Energy Management System which allows for comparative analysis of energy consumption.
- Solar Farms and batteries were installed in the Regional Cultural Center, An Grianán and the County Museum.
- Insulation upgrades in all the buildings.

ERNACT successfully secured funding for 2 projects in 2022 which will get underway in early 2023, INNOCAP and ENAIBLER with Donegal County Council as project members.

- INNOCAP is an NPA funded 3-year project looking to build the capacity of Donegal County Council in the use of disruptive technologies of IoT, VR, AR and to pilot an innovative application project aimed at supporting the Council's Climate Adaptation Plan.
- ENAIBLER is an Interreg funded 3-year project to build capacity within Donegal County Council on the use of Artificial Intelligence technologies in the Public Sector. Information Systems will identify Council services suitable for AI support and develop appropriate applications.



Webcasting Service

During 2022 the Information Systems Department continued to support the hybrid production of Council Plenary meetings in the AURA Leisure Centre. Towards the end of 2022 these meetings returned to the Council Chamber in Lifford and Donegal County Council streamed both the Annual Budget meeting and the Council meeting in November.

This broadcast included live cameras in the council chamber and remote contributions into an indexed, hybrid online experience. 2022 also saw the return to Glenties of the MacGill Summer School which was webcast integrating both online and in person contributors.

[Agenda](#)
[Map](#)
[Speakers](#)
[Twitter](#)

Agenda



| | |
|--|--|
| Start of webcast | |
| 1: Confirmation of Minutes | |
| 2: Disposal of Land - Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000(as amended) | |
| 3: Taking of decision pursuant to the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Part XI), and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 | |
| 4: Corporate | |
| 5: Water & Environment | |

Donegal Digital Project

The Council's Head of Information Systems continued to lead the inter-agency Donegal Digital Project which promotes the use of digital technologies to support economic activity, employment creation and community enhancement initiatives.

A number of strategically important projects advanced significantly in 2022 or are scheduled for completion in early 2023:

- Construction work on the Inishowen Innovation Hub (II) in Buncrana commenced in 2021 and is due for completion in May 2023. The II project involves renovation of the former Buncrana Town Council office with a modern extension to provide space for over 70 people with first class facilities and support services. During the construction period interim premises have been provided at main street Buncrana to facilitate II clients.
- Construction work commenced on the Malinbeg digital hub in 2022. This project is funded under the Department of Rural and Community Development Connected Hubs scheme with additional funding from Údarás Na Gaeltachta and Donegal County Council. This project is building on the existing mobile phone and WiFi connectivity at An Sean Scoil Malinbeg refurbishing the building and creating a co-working space with hot desks and office space on the upper floor.
- Connected Hubs funding also enabled further expansion of facilities at Broadband Connection Points (BCP) and Hub locations throughout the county. Upgraded Firewall and switches, Audio Visual Equipment, Furniture and Access controls were added at various locations including Tory Island Co-Op, gteic Carrigart, Ray Community Centre, Leghowney Community Hall, Sliabh Liag Ranger Station and Malinbeg BCP.



Construction work at Malinbeg Digital Hub

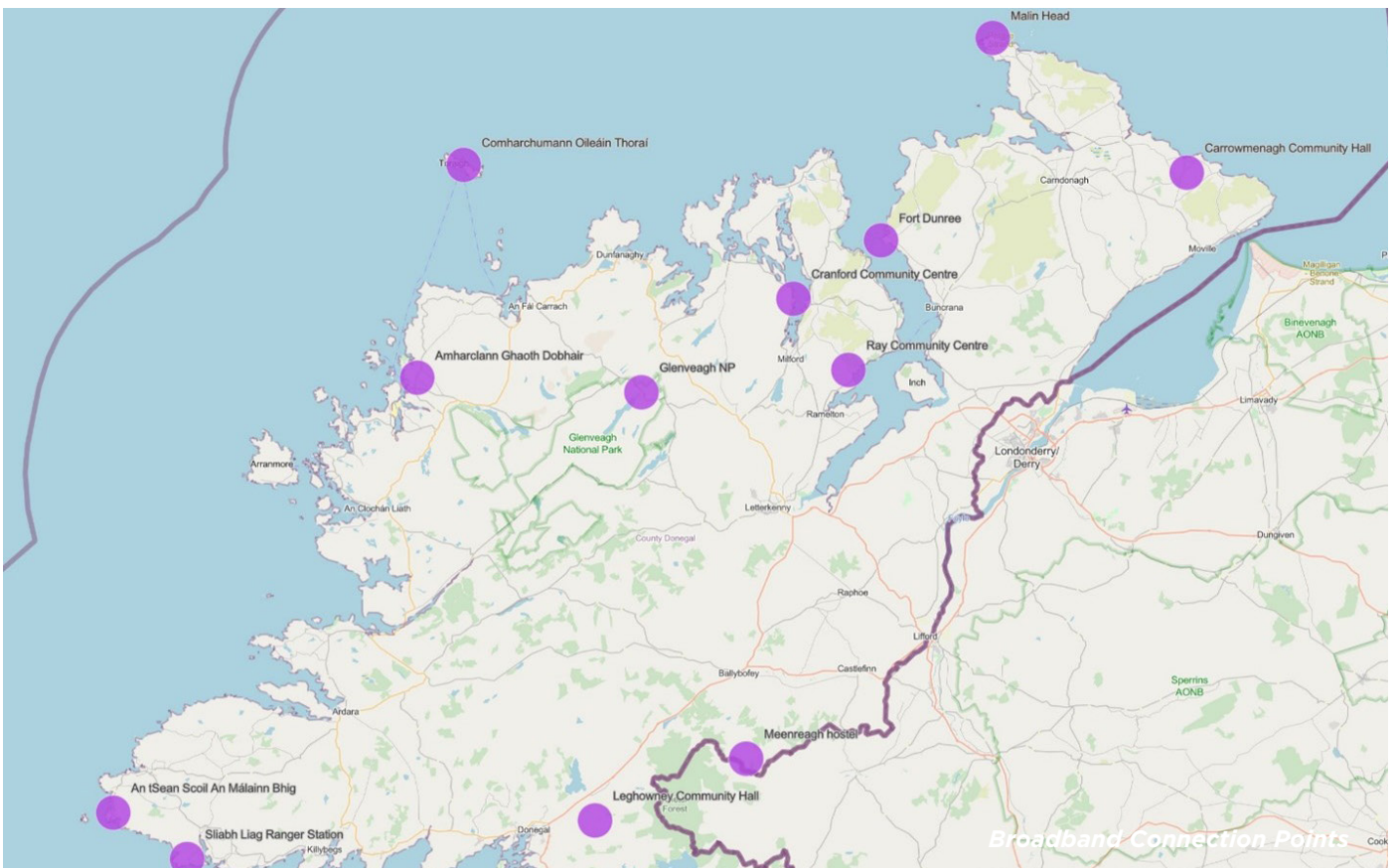


Broadband & Telecommunications

The Information Systems Department continues to work with relevant Government Departments and Telecommunications Companies to assist the roll-out of high-speed broadband throughout Donegal.

2022 saw the first part of the National Broadband Plan network built in County Donegal and made ready for customer subscriptions in the Letterkenny Deployment area. Preparatory work in 5 other Deployment Areas also commenced in 2022. Donegal County Council have assisted National Broadband Ireland (NBI) in the transfer of suitable lands to locate key National Broadband Plan Active Equipment Modules.

The 12th Broadband Connection Point in Donegal was added at Carrowmeenagh Community Centre in Inishowen during 2022.



Emergency Services

Fire Service

Donegal County Council as the Fire Authority for the County continues to discharge its operational and fire safety functions. The operational service is provided by 15 Retained Fire Brigades, by voluntary units on Arranmore Island and on Tory Island and by Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) which provides the operational service to defined parts of the county, primarily in the vicinity of Bridgend and Lifford. Donegal County Council Fire Service (the Fire Service) also provides the operational service to parts of counties Leitrim and Sligo.

Incidents

Donegal Fire Brigades and Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service responded to 795 incidents in 2022 as against 786 incidents in 2021, an increase of 1.1%

These incidents covered a spectrum of activities that include fires, road traffic collisions, flooding, and other special services. In 2022 Donegal brigades mobilised on 928 occasions while NIFRS mobilised into Donegal on 9 occasions. Data for 2022 is provisional.

On 7th October 2022 Falcarragh and Letterkenny fire brigades responded to a reported explosion and building collapse with persons involved in Creeslough. It was evident on the arrival of the first brigade at 15.47 hours that additional fire brigade resources were required and brigades from Milford, Gweedore, Stranorlar and Buncrana were mobilised. The extrication of casualties presented challenges due to building stability and the debris field resulting from the sustained damage. The Fire Service, assisted by An Garda Síochána (AGS), the National Ambulance Service and others succeeded in recovering all the casualties with the last casualty recovered at 13.00 hours on 8th October 2022. A total of 63 Fire Service personnel were involved. The Fire Service handed over the scene to AGS at 15.35 hours. The incident resulted in 10 fatalities and a number of injured. The Chief Executive and members of the Council's Senior Management Team were also in attendance.

Training

Training courses are provided for Fire Service personnel having regard to their roles and functions within the service. Some courses are cyclic in nature and courses provided vary in duration from one day to 15 days. €523,000 was spent on fire brigade training in 2022 which is exclusive of the cost of the twice monthly drills that each retained brigade does.

Each retained brigade has two 3-hour drills each month. The drills cover a spectrum of training activities which, in conjunction with other training, provides the necessary skill sets required to deliver statutory operational functions.



Taoiseach visit to Letterkenny Fire Station following Creeslough Incident



New Appliances

In 2022 the Fire Service took delivery of the three new appliances detailed below with the associated cost each of which was fully funded by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM)

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Water Tanker | €183,804.00 |
| Incident Command Unit | €73,270.00 |
| Class B Appliance | €452,294.00 |

New Equipment

The Service also took delivery of 18 battery operated Combi Tools which were also fully funded by the NDFEM at a cost of €121,450. These tools, which are primarily used for extrication at road traffic collisions and similar incidents, will facilitate earlier intervention as they operate as a stand-alone tool independent of any external power source.

Fire Prevention

175 Fire Safety Certificate applications were received in 2022 which represented an increase of 6.1% as against 2021. 125 decisions (118 granted, 1 refused and 6 invalidated) were made in 2022 which represented a reduction of 17.8% as against 2021. 175 inspections of 163 premises were carried out under the annual licensing programme.

Primary School Programme

As part of its community fire safety programme Donegal Fire Service delivers the Primary Schools Programme (PSP) each year to 3rd year classes in the county’s primary schools. To eliminate the need to deliver the programme in person a pilot project using zoom was trialled in 2021. The positive feedback encouraged the continued use of this medium for programme delivery with 57 schools participating in the PSP programme during the 2021/2022 academic year.

Major Emergency Management

Donegal County Council continues to work with its partner Principal Response Agencies and with other statutory and voluntary agencies, in major emergency related activities through the North West Regional Working and Steering Groups for Major Emergency Management.



Civil Defence

Donegal Civil Defence, a volunteer-based organisation, continues to support the Principal Response Agencies while also assisting where feasible, the local communities in non-emergency activities. In 2022, the operational service was provided by 52 volunteers and managed by the Civil Defence Officer. 2022 saw a gradual return to more 'normal business' as Covid 19 public health restrictions and guidelines were lifted.

| Activity (Covid 19 Response) (Support to the PRA's and wide community) | No. of Tasking's | Volunteer Man Hours |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Provision of transport for patients to GP appointments | 1 | 4 |
| Patient Transfers to Letterkenny, Sligo, Dublin, hospitals for cancer care treatment, renal procedures and cardiology interventions. | 5 | 64 |
| Assistance provided to the Irish Blood Transfusion Services with administration and social spacing at the blood donor clinics in Ballybofey, Carndonagh, Buncrana, Donegal Town and Letterkenny | 60 | 480 |
| Supported Agencies | Donegal Community Forum, Health Service Executive, Irish Blood Transfusion Board, MS Society, ALONE, SAOLTA. | |

Major Emergency Management

As part of the Major Emergency Management (MEM) structure, Civil Defence continues to support the Principal Response Agencies (PRAs) when the need arises. From February 16th to 20th, the Civil Defence Auxiliary Fire Services Crews assisted the Donegal Fire Service with the filling and deployment of sandbags along residential and business premises in Donegal Town, Lifford and Stranorlar in advance of and during Storm Dudley and Storm Eunice, whilst also monitoring river levels on the Rivers Foyle and Mourne.

Creeslough Incident 7th October

On Friday 7th October 15 volunteers attended the scene of an explosion in Creeslough and provided assistance to the Donegal Fire Service with debris clearance. The Civil Defence peer to peer support team provided 'humanitarian' assistance to the relatives of the injured and deceased for the duration of the incident. An additional 12 volunteers remained on standby, should additional assistance have been required.

Missing Person Search - River Finn, Twin Towns, Co Donegal

On Tuesday 15th November 2022, An Garda Síochána requested assistance from Civil Defence to assist with the multi-agency search operation being carried out on the River Finn, Ballybofey/Stranorlar. Civil Defence Swift Water Rescue Unit, Kayak Unit, Drone Pilots and Land Search teams were tasked to carry out an extensive shoreline and river search of the River Finn. The multi-agency search involved An Garda Síochána, Civil Defence, Coastguard Rescue 118 Helicopter and Donegal Mountain Rescue. Communication support was provided to the search by the Civil Defence Incident Command Unit.

Radiation Monitoring Service

A National Radiation Monitoring Exercise was held on the 22nd of October by the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) in conjunction with the Civil Defence Branch. The objectives of the exercise were to:

- To assess the effectiveness of the Radiation Monitoring Service and to inform Civil Defence Branch of issues that may need attention in the coming year.
- To assess the effectiveness of Civil Defence TETRA Radio Communications system in support of an operation at national level.

Each Civil Defence Unit was tasked with collecting soil and grass samples and a background radiation reading from two locations in their county. The selected co-ordinates of each of these locations was recorded in latitude/longitude, using the GPS radios. All background radiation readings were communicated directly from the site via CD TETRA Radio Communications system and the Civil Defence National Talk Group to the RPII.

Non-Emergency Community Support

Civil Defence assisted local communities with ambulance and medical cover at 35 non-emergency events and An Garda Síochána with their Annual Public Order training for their members. Over the course of these events, volunteers provided 1365 volunteer manhours supporting their communities

Civil Defence in partnership with the FAI and the GAA, delivered their Cardiac First Responder (CFR) and Defibrillator Programme to Deele Harps FC, and to 67 parents at GAA Clubs in the Finn Valley area to raise awareness of the importance of good CPR in the chain of survival for persons suffering a heart attack in the community.

Climb Errigal Together

Climb Errigal Together took place on April 2nd to coincide with a fundraising campaign initiated by former RTÉ journalist Charlie Bird following his diagnosis with Motor Neurone Disease. On the day, Donegal Civil Defence supported the event, through its rope rescue team, medical crews and TETRA Communications along with some of its members participating in the climb. Donegal Motor Club and Errigal Cycling Club lead out with the stewarding on the day with Donegal International Rally Clerk of the Course, Eamon McGee coordinating the event. The official launch of the event took place in the An Chúirt Hotel, Gweedore on Tuesday 15th February. Day 2 of the Climb with Charlie event was held on Sunday 3rd April, on the Slieve Snaght Mountains.

The Climb with Charlie/Climb with John event was the brainchild of the Carndonagh Easter Parade Committee, a committee that John Cunningham, Civil Defence Auxiliary Fire Service member was very much a part of for many years. John received a motor neurone disease diagnosis, some years back and despite his diagnosis, John remained a very active member of his community and Donegal Civil Defence. The event was organised to coincide with the Charlie Bird fundraising initiative, to raise money for the Irish Motor Neurone Disease. Civil Defence members from Inishowen supported this climb with medical and radio communications cover.

Civil Defence Officers Association Conference

The 3-day National Civil Defence Officers Association Conference was held in the Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny on 7th, 8th and 9th November. In attendance was, 212 delegates who heard presentations delivered by Dr. Denis McCauley, Chairperson, Irish Medical Organisation & Irish College of General Practitioners on 'Covid Response 2020 - 2021'. Ms. Michelle L. O'Toole, CCISM Researcher. RCSI SIM Centre for Simulation Education and Research delivered an excellent presentation on "Who cares for the Carers?" whilst Mr. Michael Cahill, Marketing and Theatre Programming Manager at VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art and The George Bernard Shaw Theatre spoke on, "Managing Media Communications", amongst others. Over the course of the event, 28 traders exhibited their latest equipment.

Additional Staff

Departmental sanction was approved by the LGMA to approve the appointment of assistant Civil Defence Officers to counties that required them. The Local Authority made application to the Department of Defence for funding of the position on a 70/30 basis and to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage for approval to fill such a post. The application was successful, and the post was advertised, and the position filled on 2nd February 2022.


Training

| Training Activities | No. of Tasking's |
|--|------------------|
| Weekly Auxiliary Fire Fighting (Flood Response and Wild Land Fire training) | 21 |
| Emergency First Responder Medical (EFR) Training | 22 |
| Refresher Emergency First Responder Training continued monthly for certified EFR's. | 8 |
| A successful PHECC Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course was held by the Civil Defence College during the first and second quarter of the year with a 100% pass rate for the participating students, providing the service with an additional 4 EMTs | 4 |
| Swift Water and Life Jacket Competency refresher training was delivered | 18 |
| Regional Rope Rescue Supervisor Skills training continued on a regional basis between counties Meath, Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan in | 4 |
| Induction training was delivered to 4 new recruits | 4 |
| PHECC Cardiac First Responder (CFR) Instructor | 3 |
| PHECC First Aid Responder (FAR) Instructor | 2 |
| Swift Water Instructor | 1 |
| Radio Communications Instructor | 1 |
| The Civil Defence Officer attended the Civil Defence College, Civil Defence Branch, Roscrea and received training on Child Safeguarding, Management of Flood Emergencies, and the new Volunteer and Equipment Management (VEMS) Services which is due to be rolled out in the first quarter of 2023. | |

| Funding | Amount |
|---|-------------------|
| An operational grant of €93,643.30 was provided by the Department of Defence for the overall running costs of Civil Defence for 2022. | €93,643.30 |
| The Civil Defence Branch secured funding under the Dormant Accounts Fund to complete the conversion works to the Incident Control Vehicle purchased in 2021 | €31,000 |
| Income from Non-Community Support Charges | €6,780.00 |

Finance

Building Organisational Capacity/Driving Growth/Delivering Services



**3 year
Capital
Budget**
of approximately
€796m



Annual
Revenue
Budget of
over
€162m

Payroll and Pension
Payments to
approximately
1,900 staff
past and
present
amounting
to over



€77.4m

Over **€202m** payments
processed through the
Council's **Accounts Payable
(AP)** and **Central Invoice
Matching (CIM)** sections

Almost **€1.07m** collected
under the **Non-Principal
Private Residence (NPPR)**
charge

**6,037 commercial rates
bills** totalling over **€37m**
issued to businesses with a
collection rate of **78%**
in 2022

2022 Highlights



110 Tenders published on eTenders
and **19 tender requests** in the Official
Journal of the European Union (OJEU)

€13.09m collected from **5,650** rent
accounts representing a collection rate
of **90%**



Around **50% of rates customers**
availed of the **Small Business Grant
(Early Payment Incentive Scheme)** at
a cost of approximately **€458k**

€1.6m collected from approximately
413 borrowers repaying Council
Housing Loans



**Income and Expenditure Account Statement for year ending
31st December 2022 (Unaudited)**

| | Gross Expenditure 2022 € | Income 2022 € | Net Expenditure 2022 € |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Housing & Building | 21,998,593 | 21,362,861 | 635,732 |
| Roads Transportation & Safety | 60,020,927 | 42,896,973 | 17,123,954 |
| Water Services | 19,682,334 | 19,007,230 | 675,104 |
| Development Management | 17,869,433 | 6,097,343 | 11,772,090 |
| Environmental Services | 14,499,026 | 2,080,798 | 12,418,228 |
| Recreation & Amenity | 9,233,836 | 1,076,019 | 8,157,817 |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | 2,197,817 | 604,850 | 1,592,967 |
| Miscellaneous Services | 24,027,709 | 20,673,291 | 3,354,418 |
| Total Expenditure/Income | 169,529,675 | 113,799,365 | |

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Property Tax | 55,730,310 |
| Rates | 37,293,095 |
| Local Property Tax | 26,809,500 |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Surplus/(Deficit) for year before Transfers | 8,372,285 |
| Transfers from/(to) Reserves | (7,175,274) |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year | 1,197,011 |
| General Reserve @ 1st January 2022 | (6,092,540) |

**Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)
at 31st December 2022 (Unaudited)**

| | 2022 € | 2021 € |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Operational | 791,497,908 | 788,353,217 |
| Infrastructural | 2,597,728,501 | 2,597,728,501 |
| Community | 8,529,375 | 7,020,086 |
| Non-Operational | 57,302,251 | 57,348,554 |
| | 3,455,058,036 | 3,450,450,358 |
| Work in Progress & Preliminary Expenses | 107,670,941 | 101,117,419 |
| Long Term Debtors | 45,736,002 | 49,157,867 |
| Current Assets | | |
| Stocks | 1,075,956 | 1,082,135 |
| Trade Debtors & Prepayments | 22,968,921 | 20,713,555 |
| Bank Investments | 72,000,353 | 71,700,000 |
| Cash at Bank | 492,494 | 1,633,272 |
| Cash in Transit | 403,064 | 396,327 |
| | 96,940,788 | 95,525,289 |
| Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year) | | |
| Bank Overdraft | - | - |
| Creditors & Accruals | 50,215,068 | 45,550,818 |
| Finance Leases | - | - |
| | 50,215,068 | 45,550,818 |
| Net Current Assets/(Liabilities) | 46,725,720 | 49,974,470 |
| Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year) | | |
| Loans Payable | 89,520,773 | 84,610,956 |
| Finance Leases | - | - |
| Refundable Deposits | 10,646,295 | 10,504,329 |
| Other | 2,826,128 | 2,699,149 |
| | 102,993,196 | 97,814,434 |
| Net Assets | 3,552,197,503 | 3,552,885,680 |
| Represented By | | |
| Capitalisation Account | 3,455,058,036 | 3,450,450,358 |
| Income WIP | 105,511,408 | 97,901,282 |
| General Revenue Reserve | (4,895,529) | (6,092,540) |
| Other Balances | (3,476,413) | 10,626,580 |
| Total Reserves | 3,552,197,503 | 3,552,885,680 |

Management Accounts Division

The Management Accounts Division has primary responsibility for the preparation, management and oversight of the Annual Revenue Budget and the rolling three-year Capital Budget.

The 2022 Revenue Budget was adopted by the Elected Members on the 25th of November 2021, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) and within the period prescribed by the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

The 2022-2024 Capital Budget was prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) and was considered by the Elected Members at the adjourned Council Meeting of 21st February 2022.

The Management Accounts Division is also responsible for preparing and submitting quarterly EU/IMF Financial Returns and other statutory returns on a periodic basis. The Management Accounts Section coordinated Donegal County Council's submission under the Public Spend Code, which was completed by the deadline of 31st May 2022 and is published online.

Amongst other things, the Management Accounts Section also manages the Council's Insurance Book, Loan Book, Procurement Office, recoupment of costs under the terms of the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water, and the many ongoing day-to-day budgetary matters affecting the organisation at large.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Annual Revenue Budget 2022 | €162,303,721 |
| Three-Year Capital Budget 2022-2024 | €795,871,919 |

Procurement Section

The Procurement Section continues to provide support, training, and guidance to staff engaged in public procurement and plays a key role in the development of procurement solutions that support value for money purchasing. Areas of note in 2022 included:

- The appointment of legal firms to provide legal services under two separate frameworks operated by the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) for 'Debt Management Services' and 'Property, Estates and Conveyancing Services'. Both contracts came into effect on the 1st of December 2022
- The rollout of in-house and external training covering Capital Works Management Framework, eTenders, Quick Quotes, SupplyGov, and Green Public Procurement topics
- The publication of 110 tender requests by Donegal County Council staff on the eTenders platform (electronic tendering platform administered by the Office of Government Procurement)
- The publication of 19 tender requests in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) for high-value procurements
- The publication of 448 mini-competitions and quotations by Donegal County Council staff on the SupplyGov portal for Plant Hire and Minor Building Works categories
- The completion of the Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report for 2021
- Ongoing maintenance and updating of Donegal County Council Procurement Policy and Procedures to ensure that, irrespective of purchase method, the Council achieves value for money
- Reporting to the Council's Value for Money Committee, the role of which is to drive efficiencies, promote best practice, and obtain cost savings through a strong emphasis on effective public procurement practices

Financial Accounting Division

Payroll and Timesheet Processing

The Payroll Section and Timesheet Processing Team are responsible for processing payroll and pensions payments to approximately 1,900 staff past and present. This amounted to gross payments of over €77.4m in 2022, with all the associated deductions, both statutory and voluntary.

Donegal County Council's Payroll Section continues to work with 'MyPay' shared services to manage ongoing payroll processes, as well as deal with national issues common to the sector.

Accounts Payable and Central Invoice Matching

The Accounts Payable (AP) and Central Invoice Matching (CIM) sections were responsible for the processing of payments totalling over €202m in 2022. The AP section also manages all the indirect taxes, VAT, Intra-Community Acquisitions, Relevant Contracts Tax, Professional Services Withholding Tax, and Income Tax, together with all the associated regulatory and compliance requirements.

Financial Accounting

Financial Accounting has primary responsibility for the following:

- Producing the Annual Financial Statements
- Managing the annual audit process
- Reporting on General Government Balances (GGB) and submitting quarterly department returns
- Tax returns
- Providing financial/systems guidance to other Council sections
- Financial Management System maintenance (technical upgrades)
- Accounting changes (introducing new procedures in response to accounting changes)
- Providing advice to other sections in respect of finance/system requirements relating to new IT systems (e.g., purchasing cards and online payments)

Bank & Treasury Management

The Financial Accounts section manages the Council's bank accounts, cash-flow, and investments with a view to ensuring ongoing and adequate financial resources are available for the Council's activities. During the year, the section carried out ongoing reviews of investment options, and has successfully allocated its resources to achieve the highest rate of return possible, while simultaneously ensuring that the Council's assets are prudently safeguarded in recognition of, amongst other things, the Bank Resolution and Recovery Directive.

The process of transitioning to a new banking services provider commenced in 2022. This process is expected to conclude in Q2 of 2023 and has necessitated significant planning and coordination across Council services to ensure a smooth transition

Income Collection Unit

Commercial Rates

In 2022, 6,037 Commercial Rates bills totalling €37,293,095 were issued to businesses in County Donegal. Understandably, the global pandemic and the measures introduced in the interest of public health impacted on the ability of many businesses to discharge their Commercial Rates liabilities from early 2020. This has inevitably had an impact on collection performance.

There were significant other financial challenges for businesses in 2022, most notably significantly higher energy costs. Additionally, the cost-of-living crisis for customers, high inflation generally, and the continuing global economic impact of the war in Ukraine, have proven very challenging for many businesses.

Despite these challenges, €28,778,211 was collected in 2022. The collection rate for 2022 was 78%, which is an improvement on the collection rate for 2021, which was 70%. Arrears carried forward at year-end reduced by almost €300k.

Since 2020, Donegal County Council has provided several important Covid-19 supports to businesses in Donegal. In Q1 of 2022, the Council administered the last of the Commercial Rates Waivers, with a value of €1.6m benefitting 1,039 Donegal businesses. This was fully compensated by central government.

Small Business Grant (Early Payment Incentive Scheme)

In 2015 the Elected Members adopted a Small Business Grant (Early Payment Incentive Scheme) which provides a grant, subject to certain terms and conditions, to customers who discharge their Commercial Rates liability in full and have no arrears on their Commercial Rates account at the 31st of October. The scheme has been repeated each year since 2015.

The grant is applied by means of a credit to the customer's account to help offset the following year's bill. In 2022, the scheme provided a grant at a rate of 7.5% of the 2022 Commercial Rates bill, subject to a maximum grant of €375, to customers who had no arrears on their account at the 30th of October 2022. In 2022, 2,283 customers (approximately half of all customers) availed of the Scheme, at a total cost to the Council of approximately €458k.

The Property Management Section

The Property Management Section was set up to systematically record and manage the Council's land and property assets. This includes the recording of leases, lettings, rights-of-way, wayleaves, etc. A sophisticated new IT system was developed and has been in use for several years. All new property transactions (additions, disposals, etc.) are being recorded on this system. There is a large body of work required to record all historically acquired assets on the new system. This will be done incrementally in the years ahead.

Two staff are currently assigned to the Property Management Section. They have responsibility for:

- Day-to-day management of the section, including property disposals, property acquisitions, protection against claims of adverse possession, maintaining the property management database and so on
- Long-term leases of property and 11-month agistment leases
- Provision of guidance and support to other services within Council on property related issues
- Ongoing liaison with the Property Registration Authority, Council solicitors, and third-party legal representatives

Housing Rents

€13.09m was collected from approximately 5,650 rent accounts in 2022. This represents a collection performance rate of 90%.

Housing Loans

Almost €1.6m was collected in 2022 from approximately 413 borrowers who are repaying Council loans. Several options are available to borrowers who are experiencing financial difficulties in maintaining their loan repayments, and in this regard the Council is guided by the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP).

The Council continues to support home ownership by facilitating mortgage loans for tenants purchasing council houses and those seeking to purchase homes on the open market. The Local Authority Home Loan is a government-backed mortgage facility, targeted specifically at first time buyers, which can be used to purchase a new or second-hand property or for self-build.

The Council also continues to progress the Shared Ownership Restructuring Scheme, which allows borrowers to restructure their existing Shared Ownership Loans.

Non-Principal Private Residence (NPPR) Charge

Almost €1.07m was collected in 2022 from property owners who were liable for arrears of the Non-Principal Private Residence (NPPR) charge. While this charge ceased in 2013, there remains an obligation to discharge any arrears and penalties due, prior to the property being sold or transferred. A certificate of discharge or exemption is required to complete the sale or transfer of relevant property. With the number of property-related transactions increasing, the NPPR Section continues to be a busy section of the Income Collection Unit, and a significant amount of income is still being collected from this source. The phased expiry of the NPPR charge commenced in June 2021. Liability to the charge will expire in full after 31st March 2025.

Roads & Transportation

Building Organisational Capacity/Driving Growth/Delivering Services



Official opening of **Swan Park**



Buncrana

€1.7m awarded through the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF)

2022 Highlights



11,000 tonnes of salt secured for the **Winter Service Plan** with an approximate spend on Winter Maintenance of **€1.4m**

€4.7m expenditure for National Transport Authority **Active Travel Projects** delivered in 2022

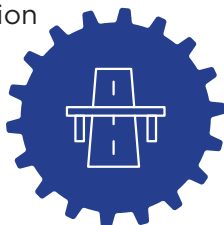


The **Muff Greenway** was completed in 2022 for the sum of **€1.07m**



223km of **surface dressing** and **193km of strengthening work** on our regional and local roads

€800,000 secured for the rehabilitation and additional works on **22 bridges** with design and planning progress on **3 additional bridges**



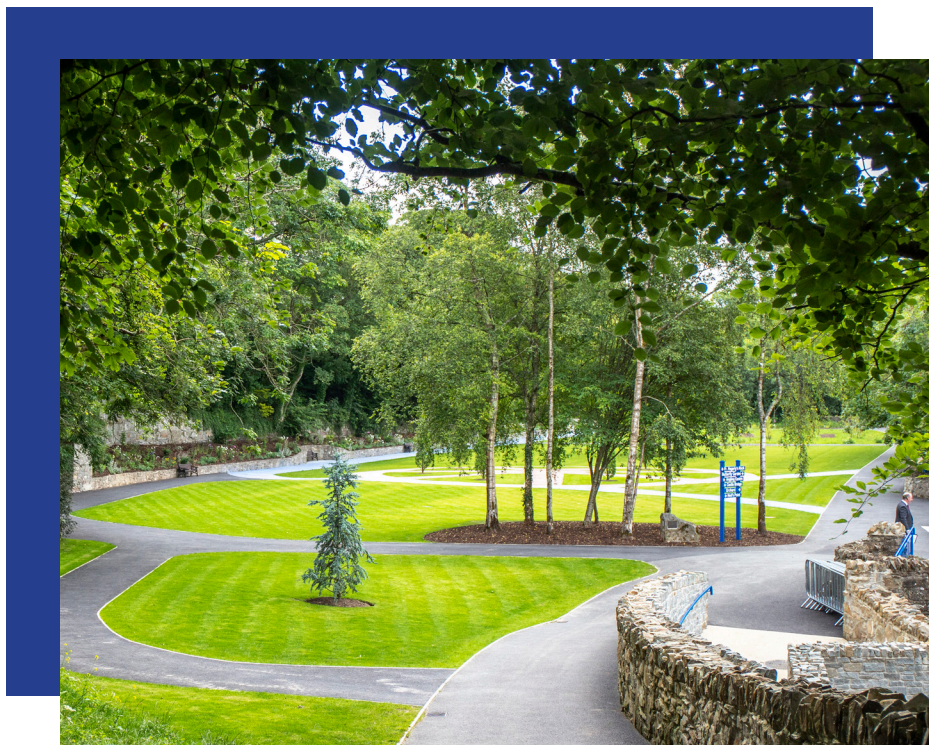
Launch of the **Public Works Operations and Maintenance Traineeship** in collaboration with Donegal ETB - **35 week full time course**



16km of **National Primary** and **National Secondary** resurfacing works with a total construction cost of over **€7m**

At year end **72%** of the Council's public lighting inventory are upgraded to **LED Lights**

€1.7m allocation for **Local Improvement Schemes** completing over **24kms** on **68 projects** with **257 beneficiaries**



Central Technical Services Division

Regional and Local Road Bridge Capital and Maintenance Projects

A number of bridge projects progressed during 2022. In Carraig Airt the deck on the main bridge in the village was replaced and the bridge was widened. The construction of a new bridge commenced in Crossroads, Killygordon as part of a National Transport Authority (NTA) Active Travel scheme to link the village with local amenities. Ground investigations were completed for Glenmore Bridge on the Laghey-Pettigo Road and for Droichead na Cláidi in Bunbeg.

In 2022, Donegal County Council was awarded Specific Improvement Grant funding for Bridge Rehabilitation on Regional Roads of €550,000 with works undertaken to 14 bridges. A further €250,000 was allocated for the specialist strengthening or replacement of another 8 bridges throughout the county. In total works were successfully completed on 22 bridges in 2022, with 3 bridge projects progressing through more complex design/Natura Impact Statement (NIS) planning processes.



Droichead An Tamhnaigh

Road Design

During 2022, An Bord Pleanála approved the CPO for the R263 Fintra Bridge and Road Realignment. Landowner accommodation works discussions, detailed design and tender documentation preparation were well advanced during the year.

Following the approval of the Letterkenny Southern Network Project Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) by the Department of Transport (DoT) in 2021 Donegal County Council proceeded with the procurement and appointment of consultants during 2022 and initial project Gateway 1 outputs were well progressed in Q4. Elected Member and Public Consultation engagement processes will commence in 2023.

The Letterkenny Traffic Management Project progressed with the installation of new sets of traffic lights on Neil T. Blaney Road and Pearse Road in 2022.

An Bord Pleanála approved the revised OPW funded Minor Works Flood Works for Ballybofey in Q4 2021 which allowed the completion of the project in 2022. Significant progress was also made on data collection, surveying and CCTV/jetting of the Ballybofey drainage system during 2022 with consultant appointment for capacity assessment to be completed in 2023 to close out the project.

During 2022, the Ballybofey-Stranorlar Western Link Network project was progressed through Phase 2 of the Project Management Guidelines.



Road Safety

The Road Safety team completed the assessment and design of many low-cost accident schemes to improve road safety which were constructed by the Roads Area teams under DoT Low Cost Accident Programme and CLÁR funding. HD15 and HD17 schemes on the National Roads were further progressed through the development phases in accordance with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) project management requirements.

The Donegal Speed Limit Bye Laws 2017 review commenced in 2022. The draft Bye Laws will be submitted to Plenary Council prior to commencement of statutory public consultation and adoption of same during 2023.

The Road Safety Officer continued to provide support to the Donegal Road Safety Working Group (DRSWG). The Road Safe Road Show made its return in 2022, following 2 years of Covid-19 restrictions and as always was professional, hard hitting and well received by more than 2,000 students who attended over the 2 shows.

Donegal County Council and the DRSWG continue to work with Finn Harps Football Club to assist with the promotion of Road Safety in Donegal with the Primary School Road Safety Art competition. iRadio continue to promote an annual initiative to engage the younger demographic through social media to record TikTok videos about road safety. In 2022 DRSWG continued its collaborations with Highland Radio, Donegal Daily, Donegal Sports Hub website and CLG Dhún na nGall Health and Wellbeing Committee to highlight road safety issues and promote road safety awareness across Donegal.

The NTA programme “Safe Routes to School” (SRTS) was introduced in 2021 and 66 schools from Donegal applied to same. The NTA Green Schools team and the Council’s NTA Active Travel team are collaborating with schools that had been selected under Round 1 to progress projects that will encourage walking and cycling to school as well as improved safety at school entrances. These Round 1 schools are St Eunan’s Raphoe, St Baithin’s NS St Johnston, Ramelton NS and Newtowncunningham NS.

An additional five schools received approval to proceed under SRTS in late 2022 which will be progressed in 2023.





Greenways

During 2022, preliminary work was progressed on a variety of Greenway projects including the Inishowen Greenway from Bunrana to Carndonagh, the Burtonport to Letterkenny Greenway and the Barnesmore Gap Greenway.

The construction of the Muff Greenway was completed in 2022. Also as part of this North-West Greenway Network two additional routes progressed through route selection, environmental assessment, land owner engagement, and Pat VIII planning approval. These routes from Lifford to Castlefinn and from Muff to Three Trees, Quigley's Point will progress to construction in 2023.

Active Travel

In 2022, the Council spent €4.7m on active travel projects, with circa €2.5m on direct provision of schemes across the county, inclusive of €525,000 on the Dore to Bunbeg project. The Letterkenny Cathedral One Way project was completed during 2022 for the sum of €1.2m and has been acclaimed by NTA as a project exemplar.

Donegal County Council's Pathfinder Project application was approved in 2022, which consists of 6 linked active travel projects in Letterkenny. A consultant was appointed to assist with delivery of same by the deadline of Q4 2025. While Pathfinder does not provide financial assistance the Council will benefit from shared learning at national level on similar active travel projects.



Public Lighting

By year-end the Council's Public Lighting inventory had increased to 19,090 lights overall, with 13,687 lights upgraded to LED representing 72% of the total inventory. The remaining circa 5,000 non-LED lights will be upgraded in 2023 under the Regional Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in 2023.

Piers & Harbours

Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure (BALAMI) funding of €25.13m was secured through Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine in 2022 supported by an additional €2.8m of Council match funding and associated fees, with 8 projects under construction in 2022, and the remaining 20 projects progressed through design/statutory processes for construction during 2023.

Machinery Yard & Stores

General Stores

The Stores team played its role in the procurement and management of stock for council use including storage and delivery of 5.5 million litres of bitumen in support of the road surfacing programme.

Machinery Yard

During 2022 the Machinery Yard continued to provide a fit for purpose fleet of both owned and hired vehicles, facilitating the ongoing maintenance, repair and operation of the Council's assets.

Capital Replacement/Refurbishment

The Council purchased a new low-loader and 3 new lorries which will assist with the Council's ongoing commitment to sustainable transport and climate action 2030 targets. A successful pilot for Electric Vehicles (EV) "home charging" was completed with units installed to provide fully charged EVs for daily work activities.



New Donegal County Council Lorries

Roads Area Services

Overview

In 2022 a total of €54m was spent by the Roads Areas Division on maintaining and improving the public road network of 6,457 km of National, Regional and Local roads in the county. Works included General Maintenance, which encompasses drainage improvements, road surface repair, verge maintenance, sign maintenance, bridge inspection/repair, street cleaning and emergency Road Traffic Collision (RTC) and flooding response. Specifically, drainage works to the value of €1.32m and Climate Adaptation works to the value of almost €950,000 were carried out in 2022.

Surface dressing works were completed on 223km of Regional and Local roads in the county, utilising €5.04m in 2022 from the Department of Transport. Road Strengthening works were carried out on 193km of Regional and Local roads in 2022. These works cost €18.3m funded by the Department of Transport.



Winter Service

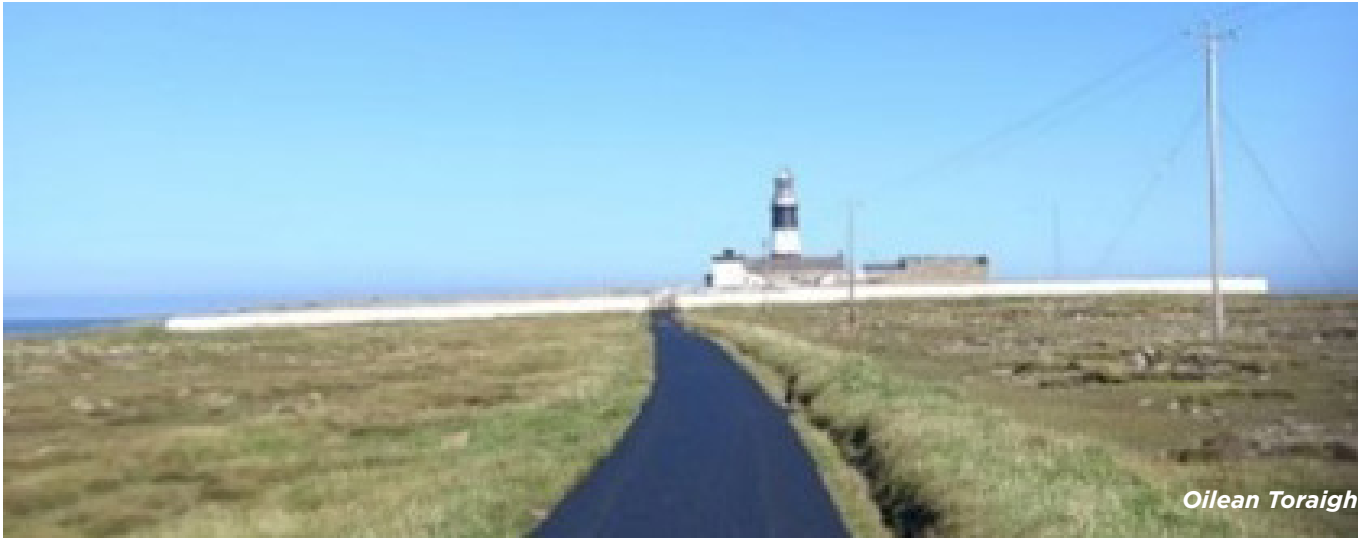
The Winter Maintenance programme of gritting 1,140 km of public roads in times of freezing weather conditions straddles the year commencing in October and finishing at the end of April. In mid-December 2022, Donegal suffered a period of extreme wintry conditions, with temperatures dropping to -6°C in areas, necessitating full time monitoring and gritting. 11,000 tonnes of salt was delivered to depots around the county to facilitate the delivery of the winter service plan. Expenditure in 2022 on Winter Maintenance was approximately €1.4m.

Community Improvement Schemes

The Community Involvement Programme enabled local communities to collaborate with Donegal County Council in the improvement of 26 road schemes to the value of €1.09m.

Local Improvement Schemes

This is a programme where the Department of Rural and Community Development fund the resurfacing of certain private roads servicing the local community that meet stringent conditions. In 2022 Donegal received the highest LIS grant allocation in the country at just over €1.7m. In total 68 roads were completed with a total length of over 24kms and with 257 beneficiaries.



Island Roads

Following adoption of a policy for the taking in charge of Island Roads the Department of Rural and Community Development agreed to fully fund resurfacing works prior to the roads being taken over, culminating in an allocation in March 2022 of €2.09m in funding for roads on Arranmore, Tory, Inisbofin and Gola Islands. The projects themselves included resurfacing drainage and other ancillary works. This allowed for repair of 14 non-county roads which will bring huge benefits to both locals and tourists visiting our Islands.

Parks Maintenance

2022 saw the completion and opening of Swan Park in Buncrana which was extensively damaged in the devastating floods that occurred in the Inishowen Peninsula in August 2017. The project was awarded €1.7m through the Rural Regeneration Fund with €500,000 in co-funding being provided by Donegal County Council. The redevelopment was overseen by a steering group which encompassed many local stakeholders, such as Buncrana Tidy Towns Committee and Buncrana Anglers Association, who worked collaboratively with Donegal County Council. The project team ensured that the park was accessible for persons of all abilities. A number of fishing stands have been developed for wheelchair users and other elements have been incorporated for those that may be visually impaired. The redeveloped park also includes an additional area of 3.5 hectares that increases the opportunity for the park to be used for a wide variety of community events and activities. Works on the park were led by Donegal County Council's local parks and roads teams with assistance from a variety of local contractors.

In 2022 the Council spent €1.03m maintaining public parks and open spaces in the County, such as Bernard McGlinchey Town Park and Ballymacool Park in Letterkenny, Moville Green, Barrack Hill in Carndonagh and the Bundoran Shorefront. The Council operates a treatment programme for Invasive Alien Plant Species along public roads and approximately 1000 individual roadside infestations of knotweed were treated in 2022.



Public Works Operations and Maintenance Traineeship

Donegal County Council and the Donegal Education and Training Board (ETB) launched a traineeship programme in 2022 with the aim of providing the construction and local authority sectors with work ready operatives.

The 35 week full-time course offers opportunities to acquire relevant health and safety industry certification as well as qualifications suitable for roles in areas such as parks and open spaces, piers and harbours, water services, road and paving construction, and general construction opportunities.

The ETB and Donegal County Council ensured a wide range of general operative training areas were built into the course.

These include:

- building garden walls and pillars
- constructing and maintaining boundaries
- construction groundwork skills including laying kerbs, flags and paviers
- using a pedestrian-controlled mower and planting and preparing areas for planting

Training will also cover:

- basic safety
- confined spaces
- first aid
- knowledge and awareness in road opening and re-instatement
- location of underground services
- manual handling
- Safe Pass
- road construction and materials
- roadworks health and safety
- surface dressing
- water hygiene.





Donegal National Roads Office

National Road Surfacing Projects

During 2022 the Donegal National Roads Office, Planned, Designed, Procured, Supervised and provided Contract Administration on 4 individual Pavement Asset Repair and Renewal (PARR) Projects on the National Roads Network in Donegal, with a total length of 16km and a total construction cost of just over €7m. This included a section of the N56 at Mín na Cuinge, the N15 north of Ballyshannon to Ardgillow and the N15 Bundoran Bypass

TII Bridge Management and Maintenance Programme

During 2022 the TII Regional Bridges Team managed the inspection and completion of routine maintenance works to National Road bridges in the county. The contract also allowed for undertaking reactive maintenance works such as repairs following vehicle impact damage to parapet walls, expansion joint replacement and repairs following flood events.





N56 Letterilly to Glenties

N56 An Clochán Liath to Glenties

The 29km N56 An Clochán Liath to Glenties Low Volume National Secondary scheme is now moving towards completion. The overall project is being delivered in six independent contracts. Five of the six schemes have been completed to date, with the remaining section to Kilraine Junction due to commence in 2023. The scheme includes a pedestrian and cycling facility over the entire length of the Scheme.

The recently completed N56 Letterilly to Glenties Scheme had significant challenges due to extensive peat which was retained insitu with significant carbon sequestration and therefore climate action benefits.

Safety Projects

During 2022, Donegal National Roads Office continued to progress and resolve referred High Collision Locations and other road safety concerns raised on the national road network. Six Road Safety Improvement Schemes (RSIS) are at the following stages;

| Scheme Name | Status 2022 |
|------------------------------------|---|
| N3 Lissacholly | Feasibility and Options |
| N15 Lough Mourne | Design/Documentation and Land acquisition |
| N15 Laghey | Initial Design |
| N15 Laghey Interim safety measures | Construction Complete |
| N56 Four Lane Road | Construction ongoing |
| N14 Feddyglass | Design/Documentation and Land acquisition |

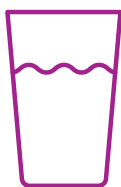
Water & Environment

Delivering Services/Driving Growth/Moving to Low Carbon Climate Resistance



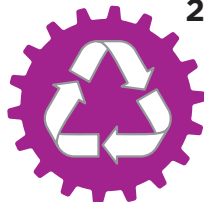
14 Blue Flags

awarded to Donegal **12 Beaches** and **2 Marinas** joint highest in the country



100% microbiological compliance level in public water supplies

Over 14 tonnes of Bulky Goods and 298 mattresses



were collected during a **2 week promotional period**

177 schools registered in the **Green Schools Programme**; **2 schools** awarded their first green flags, **31 schools** renewed their green flags

979 Wastewater samples collected and tested

Donegal Town selected as one of the **6 Green Hub Pilots**

2022 Highlights



€2.7m funding secured for the **rural water** in the county

6 of 6 landfill sites have been fully remediated



€134,967 secured under the **Anti Dumping Initiative**

500 households participated in the Anti-Dumping Initiative **Household Waste Project**



Water Services

Drinking Water Supplies

The Service Level Agreement between Uisce Éireann (UÉ) and the Council continues to provide for the management of water and waste water services in County Donegal. This includes the operation of 32 Public Water Supplies (PWS) which in 2022 produced 27.7 million cubic meters of drinking water serving a population of approximately 160,000. A further 69,098 cubic meters of water was purchased from Northern Ireland Water. Water from public water supply sources is also provided to consumers through public Group Water Supply schemes (GWS). A Lead Replacement Programme and a Pressure Management Programme were progressed on behalf of Uisce Éireann during 2022.

A significant number of regulated private water supplies operate across the county. Donegal County Council is the supervisory authority for these supplies and must report results of compliance monitoring at the consumers tap to the EPA annually. These include 5 private Group Water Supplies, 1 Public GWS with 37 wholly private water supplies supplying a public/commercial activity. Donegal County Council commenced formal inspections of private supplies in 2020 with 4 private supplies audited in 2022 (including 1 exempt supply). 4 exempt supplies were monitored in total in 2022.

Donegal County Council secured approximately €2.7m in funding for the rural water sector in the county from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government under the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 to 2021. This programme was extended due to delays experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A new three year Multi-Annual Programme is now expected in Q2 2023 and the work done by Donegal County Council since 2019 will support a strong application for this programme.

The Council operates an annual subsidy scheme on behalf of the Department as a contribution towards operational costs for GWSs, a Well Grant Scheme for individual potable drinking water wells and a grant scheme for the refurbishment or replacement of domestic wastewater treatment plants.

The following table summarises production of drinking water in Donegal in 2022:

| Municipal District | Drinking Water (cubic metres) |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Inishowen MD | 7,894,950 |
| Donegal MD | 5,752,535 |
| Glenties MD | 4,603,176 |
| Letterkenny/Milford MD | 6,468,413 |
| Lifford/Stranorlar MD | 3,051,942 |
| Total | 27,771,016 |

Drinking Water Quality

The EPA is the supervisory authority for Uisce Éireann (UÉ) in relation to Public Water Supplies (PWS) whilst Donegal County Council is the supervisory authority for private supplies, which comprise public Group Water Schemes (GWS), private Group Water Schemes and Small Private Supplies (SPS). Compliance Monitoring in the network was carried out by Uisce Éireann's framework laboratory for Public Water Supplies and by the Health Service Executive on behalf of Donegal County Council for Private Water Supplies.

In 2022, the microbiological compliance level in Donegal Public Water Supplies remained at 100%, with compliance for chemical and indicator parameters at 99.78% and 98.88% respectively. The overall compliance level with the drinking water legislation was approximately 99%. 2 supplies remain on the Remedial Action List (RAL) for Donegal at year end. Water quality issues at one of these schemes have been resolved due to increase water treatment and we are awaiting removal of the scheme from RAL by the EPA.

The overall compliance rate for all regulated private supplies was 97%. Microbiological compliance for Private GWS, Public GWS and Small Private supplies being approximately 87%, 93% and 98% respectively. During 2022, 1 public GWS, which had been served by a cross-border supply, was connected to a local PWS; 1 SPS connected to the PWS supply mid-year. A number of other supplies have installed or are in the process of installing additional water treatment, all of which should lead to improved water quality.

Wastewater Schemes

89 municipal wastewater scheme discharges have been identified for authorisation by the EPA and of these 37 out of 38 scheme discharges in Donegal have been granted discharge licenses to date, while the remaining 51 smaller scheme discharges hold Certificates of Authorisation. Donegal County Council continued to operate the majority of these plants under the Service Level Agreement with Uisce Éireann, who are the responsible Water Services Authority. 979 wastewater samples were collected and tested by Donegal Central laboratory in 2022, while a further 661 samples were collected and tested under the ambient monitoring programme, which looks at the impact of the treated wastewater discharge on the receiving environment.

Wastewater Discharges Quality Compliance

Donegal County Council continued to monitor all licensed and certified wastewater discharges in County Donegal on behalf of Uisce Éireann, with monthly results reported to Uisce Éireann and the EPA along with an Annual Environmental Report. Compliance of the licensed discharges is assessed against both the Discharge Licence requirements and the Urban Waste Water Directive. The newer, more modern, plants achieved compliance, but a number of older plants were non-compliant, reflecting the need for further investment in wastewater treatment.



Water Services Capital

Water Supply Projects

The construction contract commenced on the Lettermacaward/Killybegs Regional Water Supply Schemes involving a new water treatment plant (WTP) at Lettermacaward, a dam at Derkmore Lough, upgrade of the existing water treatment plant at Killybegs and construction of a new sludge treatment hub at Killybegs.

Design and planning progressed on contracts for the upgrade of Glenties WTP and Illies WTP.

Pipeline replacement continued under Uisce Éireann's leakage reduction programme with sections of pipeline replaced across the county in Inver, Inch Island, Donegal Town, St. Johnston, Bunbeg, Falcarragh, Letterkenny, Lunnagh and Milford. These new pipelines replaced existing pipelines which were contributing to high burst frequencies or water quality problems.

Wastewater Projects

Construction/commissioning progressed on a range of wastewater projects during 2022:

Gweedore Sewage Scheme

- Demonstration project fully operational with 40 properties connected, significant works were completed on private properties to complete all separation works and installation of pods, pumps & controls.
- Wastewater treatment plant upgrade works are ongoing with completion date of late April 2023. A weir has been installed in river and monitoring of low flow levels is ongoing.

Kerrykeel Sewage Scheme

- Construction works 95% complete - Moving into commission phase in April 2023.

Kilcar Sewage Scheme

- Construction works 80% complete - Moving into Commission Phase May 2023.

Burtonport Sewage Scheme

- Construction commenced - 30% complete.

Detailed design and planning continued on other Uisce Éireann Capital Investment projects throughout 2022.



Wastewater Upgrade Projects

At the end of 2022, two major contracts were awarded for Wastewater upgrade projects under the Donegal Towns and Villages Programme:

Contract No. 2 - Buncrana and Ballybofey/Stranorlar Networks

The project includes for the upgrade of the Buncrana and Ballybofey/Stranorlar sewer networks in order to address deficiencies in flooding, overflows and capacity.

Ballybofey/Stranorlar

Upgrading of network Pump Stations, upgrading of Storm Water Overflows, upgrading of emergency overflows from Pump Stations, and addressing network deficiencies.

Buncrana

Provision of adequate storm water holding capacity at Westbrook Pumping Station and Buncrana Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP), upgrading of Storm Water Overflows, and addressing network deficiencies.

Construction will take place during 2023 and 2024.

Contract No. 4 - Ramelton Milford and Rathmullan (RMR)

These works will principally include four new Pump Stations, two in Rathmullan and one each in Ramelton and Milford, which will deliver wastewater to a new state of the art Wastewater Treatment plant at Tirrody, Ramelton, via 19km of rising main. In addition, the existing treatment works at Milford, septic tanks in Rathmullan and holding tank in Ramelton will also all be decommissioned as part of the project.

Construction will take place during 2023 and 2024.

Contract No. 3 under the Donegal Towns and Villages Programme, encompassing Kilmaccreannan, Carrigart and Mountcharles, went to tender in late 2022.

In addition, a further Untreated Agglomeration project, serving Coolatee, is scheduled to commence construction in Q2, 2023.



Derkmore Dam

Pollution Control

The Council's Central Laboratory undertakes a range of monitoring programmes aimed at environmental protection and pollution control in the areas of Water and Air and Noise, including:

- Commercial/industrial discharges - 80 samples to sewers for UÉ and 99 inspections of licenced discharges to waters completed
- Rivers and lakes - a total of 2366 samples were collected & delivered to EPA Labs
- Septic tank inspections under the National Inspection Plan - 112 DWWTS inspected
- Bathing water monitoring, (Blue Flag and Green Coast beaches) in line with bathing water calendar
- Farm inspections - an additional 59 inspections were completed by an Agricultural Consultant on behalf of the Council in 2022, funded by Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Air pollution - enforcement of the Petroleum Vapour, Deco paints & Solvents Regulations, Solid Fuel Regulations (low smoke zone)
- Investigating 938 environmental complaints (148 water, 731 air & 59 noise) including sampling & testing of 111 no. samples.

As a new initiative in 2022, the Central Laboratory staff set up a Council stand at three public events -

- (i) the New Build & Rebuild exhibition in Letterkenny,
- (ii) the Finn Valley Agricultural Show and
- (iii) the Clonmany Agricultural Show.

A total of 541 engagements were completed focusing on desludging your septic tank, using Integrated Constructed Wetlands for treatment of soiled water, drinking water wells, how to dispose of spent sheep dip, and how the number of River Bugs helps see how to gauge river water quality.



Council stand at Agricultural Show

CatchmentCARE Project

Donegal County Council is the Lead Partner on the five-year CatchmentCARE Project which has been extended and concludes in April 2023. The project is being funded under the Environment measure of the EU INTERREG VA Programme with an approved budget of almost €14m. Detailed information regarding the Project including the partners involved can be found on the Project's website www.catchmentcare.eu.

The Project is led by Donegal County Council and is tasked with development of three water quality improvement projects in cross-border catchments at the Finn (Donegal-Tyrone), the Arney (Fermanagh-Cavan-Leitrim) and the Blackwater (Armagh-Tyrone-Monaghan) catchments, the installation of 50 groundwater monitoring stations across the region to better understand groundwater in the cross-border catchments, and the interaction between groundwater and surface water bodies.

In the Finn Catchment the Loughs Agency have led out on 'in-stream and riparian' works commencing at the Cummirk and have concentrated on securing National Park and Wildlife Service (NPWS) approval for the proposed works (Appropriate Assessments/Natura Impact Statements), and also landowner permissions.

Work also progressed on addressing a chemical export issue at the Finn with survey work and mapping of sheep dip and forestry locations. A process for sampling and analyses at 5 sites over 12 months has been procured and is ongoing.

The Groundwater Team drilled groundwater monitoring stations at Saint Columba's College, Stranorlar and at Fintown, which will be monitored both during and after the project period which helps paint the national status of ground water.

The CatchmentCARE Project through a 'Community Incentive Scheme' also supported four community groups in the Finn, including:

1. Ballybofey and Stranorlar Integrated Community Company (BASICC) - "Finn Through The Lens" project;
2. Coiste Slí an Taobh an Mhuillinn - Millside Walk at Fintown, and
3. The Finn Anti-Pollution Project - FinnAPP which is an exciting Environmental/Conservation project in the Corlacky area.
4. Finn Anglers (Cumann Iscairi, Baile na Finne) - Boatshed and Jetty and sampling for nitrates and phosphates at several locations within the Lough and its tributaries.

The Project is also progressing plans to add an irrigated willow plantation as an added level of treatment to a Council owned housing development at Liscooley.



Green Engineering work completed by the CatchmentCARE Project Cummirk section of the River Finn

Environment

Waste Management

Donegal County Council is one of 9 Local Authorities that makes up the Connacht Ulster Waste Region. A Regional Waste Management Plan is in place that sets out waste management aims and objectives. The existing three regional Waste Management Plans will be replaced by a new National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy in early 2023.

Waste Collection

Kerbside waste collection services are provided by private waste collectors. Waste collectors are authorised by the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) and compliance with conditions is monitored by the Local Authority.

Landfills

The Council continues to fulfil its extensive obligations under its six Waste Licences (Ballynacarrick, Balbane, Churchtown, Drumaboden, Glenalla and Muckish). All six licensed facilities have now been fully remediated. Commissioning of the newly completed Integrated Constructed Wetland at Balbane LS is currently underway.

Department grant funding support was again confirmed for 2023 and the planning and design of an Integrated Constructed Wetland for Ballynacarrick Landfill Site is progressing.

Historic Landfill Sites (i.e. legacy municipal landfill sites) are progressing through the Environmental Risk Assessment and Certification Process with Departmental grant funding support. Work will be finalised and an application for certification made for Dungloe Historic Landfill Site in 2023. Applications for certification for Carrick and Dunkineely were submitted in 2021.

The Council continues to operate and maintain pollution control infrastructure at the six licensed facilities together with an extensive monitoring programme in conformance with Licence requirements.

Waste Recycling

There are 6 Recycling Centres at Carndonagh, Dungloe, Milford, Laghey, Letterkenny and Stranorlar operated under contract by Bryson Recycling Ltd. These sites provide a recycling service for a range of waste items. In 2022 a new contract for the management of the 6 recycling services was awarded, new services included a wider range of materials recycled, with soft plastics and paint being accepted. In addition, new extended opening hours were implemented at certain sites.

In June and July 2022, a half price Bulky Goods Promotion was held for a 2 week period funded under the Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI). 14 tonnes of Bulky Goods were collected during this period.

There are over 450 Bring Banks at 73 sites around the county allowing for the collection of glass and cans. Other recycling services provided by Donegal County Council include collection points for Textiles.



Sample of Bulky Goods collected during the Half Price Bulky Goods Collection

Waste Regulation

There are three Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLAs) in the Republic of Ireland. Donegal sits within the Connacht Ulster WERLA and Donegal County Council, in conjunction with Leitrim County Council, is joint lead authority for this office.

The WERLAs have responsibility for coordinating waste enforcement actions within regions, setting priorities and common objectives for waste enforcement, ensuring consistent enforcement of waste legislation across the three existing waste management planning regions while still leaving local authority personnel as first responders on the ground to specific breaches of waste legislation.

Waste Permitting

The Local Authority has responsibility for granting and reviewing Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration. Staff members undertake a programme of work to ensure that high quality and fully compliant waste facilities are operational throughout the county.

Household Waste Project

In 2022 Donegal County Council Environment Section secured funding through the Anti-Dumping Initiative to deliver a project that focused on household waste.

The aim of the household waste project was to achieve greater awareness of and participation in sustainable waste management practices including waste segregation, recycling and use of the food waste receptacles. This was to be achieved through engagement, communications and awareness.

The Environment Section also wanted to use this as an opportunity to capture people's opinions towards recycling and waste management services and where possible to use this information to tackle key issues and allocate resources in the future.

During August households in Ballybofey, Buncrana, Donegal Town, Glenties and Letterkenny were visited and given the opportunity to take part in the survey.

Donegal County Council partnered with Voice of Irish Concern for the Environment (VOICE) Ireland (a member-based Irish environmental charity) who undertook the door-to-door surveys.

Each household that participated in the survey was provided with an information brochure in the form of a pocket guide full of useful information for managing household waste and recycling and tips on how to save money by avoiding food waste.

The brochure included information on recycling and waste management services, information on how to report illegal waste activities such as dumping and burning and included links to useful websites such as mywaste.ie and repairmystuff.ie.

500 households completed the survey, and the pocket guide was a great success. The guide is now available in hard copy format from all Public Service Centres and in soft copy format on the Local Authority website. It is also being used as a template by other local authorities and the project is being used as an example of best practice by the Connacht Ulster WERLA.

A POCKET GUIDE OF USEFUL INFORMATION FOR MANAGING YOUR HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING IN COUNTY DONEGAL.



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Cover of the Council's Pocket Guide for Managing Household Waste



Environmental Education and Awareness

The Council continued to deliver a comprehensive awareness programme targeting schools, householders, businesses and organisations and community groups.

177 schools were registered with the Green Schools Programme, 2 schools were awarded their first Green Flags, while 31 schools renewed their Green Flags in 2022.

National campaigns such as “Stop Food Waste” and “Reuse Month” were also supported. During Reuse Month, the Council organised in-person workshops with 7 community gardens on compost making and reuse in the garden ideas.

Reuse month also saw the launch of the successful “School Bikes Africa” campaign in partnership with Letterkenny Rotary Club and Bryson Recycling in October. 70 suitable bicycles were collected for repair and refurbishment before being shipped to Africa.

Paint Reuse

A paint reuse initiative was piloted at the Letterkenny Recycling Centre in 2022.

500kgs of paint were reused through the paint reuse initiative in Letterkenny in 2022. The success of the pilot has led to the extension of a paint reuse facility to 3 further Recycling centres at Dungloe, Stranorlar and Carndonagh. Funding for additional storage containers was provided for through the Anti-Dumping Initiative.





Litter Management

A Litter Team comprising 11 staff continues to work closely with Tidy Towns and Community Groups in preventing litter and coordinating clean ups throughout the County.

Holiday Maker Campaign

The Environment Team, with the assistance of the Tourism Unit, delivered a country wide online waste campaign targeting visitors to the county to raise awareness about responsible waste disposal and keeping our environment litter-free. The “Go Visit Donegal” social platforms were utilised in the delivery of the message.

This online campaign coincided with the launch of the Caravan & Camping Code of Conduct which took place in early July, allowing the Council to target both the Caravan & Camping audience and other visitors to the county.

Posters were distributed countywide to local shops and businesses.

Anti-Dumping Initiative

In 2022 Donegal County Council received €134,967 from the Anti-Dumping Initiative which was invested in additional equipment, including technological solutions, a bulky goods amnesty and also in addressing areas where littering and illegal dumping was occurring. This expenditure was in addition to the Council’s own resources and funding provided by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications for waste enforcement activities.



Illegal Dumping Investigated by Litter Warden 2022

Achievements

- Instigated the initiation of reviews of Waste Collection Permits and Waste Facility Permits
- Improvements in the number of food waste bins and further work planned for 2023
- Certainty coming to the sector, existing waste operators investing in their facilities with the environmental infrastructure and procedures improving and new waste businesses and companies investing in County
- 90% improvement in compliance with the tyre regulations (registration with REPAK).
- Invested resources in improvements in the data analysis from collectors and facilities, resulting in audits and closure of facilities
- Action taken under the Packaging Waste Scheme, additional companies registered, issued notices requesting information, three companies prosecuted and convicted in 2020 are now compliant.
- Developed a close cross-directorate working relationship in the Local Authority resulting in improved environmental compliance in new developments for example waste regulation and enforcement working closely with planning enforcement and regulation
- Environmental Consultants reporting huge increase in their workload (information for permit application, environmental risk assessments) as a result of the improvements made to the system
- Strengthened relationship with a lot of the stakeholders is resulting in more targeted waste enforcement
- Participation in working groups and input provided to consultation processes e.g. AR Waste Validation Working Group and sub-group for List of Waste codes.

In 2022 alone the following was achieved:

| Number | Description |
|--------|--|
| 564 | Litter and waste complaints received from the public in 2022 |
| 2507 | Routine waste inspections carried out |
| 1094 | Non-routine waste inspections |
| 4005 | Routine litter patrols/investigations |
| 392 | Air Inspections |
| 55 | PRI inspection |
| 110 | Waste Enforcement Actions |
| 48 | Fines under the Litter Pollution Act |
| 11 | Waste Enforcement Cases progressing through the court |

Donegal County Council would like to thank the members of the public who report illegal dumping and unauthorised waste activity.

It is also extremely important to recognise and thank the 5,600 volunteers in community groups and Tidy Towns Committees who work tirelessly in collaboration with the Council in our journey to ensuring that Donegal is the cleanest and greenest county in Ireland.

Air Quality Management Monitoring

New Solid Fuel Regulations - Pilot Enforcement Initiative

The Council was successful in an application for funding for a Pilot Initiative from the DECC under the Solid Fuels Pilot Enforcement Grant in 2022.

The Pilot Initiative took place from October – December 2022 to coincide with the introduction of the New Solid Fuel Regulations on the 1st November 2022. The pilot focussed on raising awareness, retail visits, surveillance, coal sampling and air quality monitoring.

Air quality monitors have been in place and continue to operate at suitable sites in both Letterkenny and Buncrana, with the latter showing good results for PM10 and PM2.5, key indicators of air pollution from the burning of smoky coal. In the case of Letterkenny, the onset of the burning season gave rise to large spikes in these indicator parameters, confirming that the burning of smoky coal in the “ban area” remains a challenge.

Flood Relief Schemes

The Donegal County Council Flood Relief Schemes (FRS) Unit are project managing the development of schemes in 7 locations; Burnfoot, Castlefinn, Glenties, Na Dúnaibh, Ballybofey and Stranorlar, Buncrana and Luddan, and Ramelton.

Donegal Bundle 1 FRS

The Engineering and Environmental Consultants with responsibility for Burnfoot, Castlefinn, Glenties and Na Dúnaibh, progressed hydrological assessment and hydraulic modelling of all schemes in 2022.

Following on from this, Option Assessment of flood mitigation measures was complete for both Burnfoot and Castlefinn with Public Information Days for each scheme being held in-person in November 2022. A planning permission submission for the preferred options for both schemes is expected in Summer 2023. Due to its coastal location, Na Dúnaibh has been subject to further assessment for climate change susceptibility and this has required additional time. The preferred options for Na Dúnaibh and Glenties will be displayed in late spring/early summer 2023.



Public Information Day for Burnfoot in An Grianan Hotel, November 2022

Donegal Bundle 2 FRS

The schemes in the remaining towns include Buncrana, Ballybofey and Stranorlar, and Ramelton. Hydrological assessment is complete and hydraulic modelling of the baseline conditions is in the final stages at present. Option Assessment will run through the summer of 2023. A Ground Investigation (GI) contract was awarded for Ballybofey and Stranorlar, with the focus being the Ballybofey embankment. This is the first step in the process of assessment of these embankments and will be a key driver for their adoption as part of the eventual scheme.

The FRS Unit continued to support the OPW on their delivery of Lifford and Kerrykeel FRS during 2022. The Unit has led liaison efforts between adjacent projects such as the Riverine Community Park and Ten-T within Donegal County Council and also driven coordination with colleagues across the border working on the A5 Western Transport Corridor to ensure joined up delivery on all projects.

The Unit also worked closely with the Inishowen Rivers Trust and KPM Soils through 2022 on the delivery of the Public Service Innovation Funded KNOT project (Knotweed, Novel Organic Treatment) which was a large-scale pilot of knotweed treatment using engineered mulch and leachate. A monitoring programme is in place to assess results.



Launch of KNOT, with team members from DCC, LAWPRO, OPW and IRT

Beach Management

In 2022 Donegal was awarded 14 Blue Flags with 12 at beaches and 2 for marinas at Greencastle and Rathmullan. This was the joint highest number of Blue Flags awarded in the country along with Kerry. The beaches awarded Blue Flags were at Bundoran, Carrickfinn, Culdaff, Downings, Fintra, Killahoey, Marble Hill, Murvagh, Narin, Portsalon, Rossnowlagh and Stroove.

Four beaches also received Green Coast awards at Ballyhiernan, Dooley, Drumnatinney and Magheroarty.

Litter is an ongoing challenge at our beaches, the mobile litter units together with the Litter Wardens, Lifeguards and the voluntary sector work tirelessly to maintain our beaches.

The voluntary sector deserve acknowledgement for their extraordinary contribution to maintaining our beaches and coastline.

Beach wheelchairs were also proving very popular at Rathmullan, Marble Hill, Downings, Carrickfinn, Rossnowlagh, Narin, Fintra and Bundoran in 2022 with Culdaff coming on stream in early 2023.



Beach Wheelchair launch at Bundoran

Water Safety

Donegal County Council initiated a comprehensive recruitment campaign for Beach Lifeguards ahead of the 2022 and 2023 Bathing Water Seasons.

Additional measures were taken in the latter part of 2022 ahead of the 2023 Bathing Water Season and this included liaising with universities and student unions across the country and in Northern Ireland.

Information packs were issued to all the main leisure centres in counties Donegal, Derry and Tyrone. The three main water safety organisations Water Safety Ireland, Irish Coast Guard and the Royal Life Saving Society also displayed an information poster on their social media outlets.

Coastal Climate Change Adaptation

In response to the challenges around climate change, the Council is progressing several coastal adaptation projects.

- Coastal Flooding and Erosion Risk Management (CFERM); Studies of four sites within the Glenties Municipal District (Narin/Gweebarra, Maghera, Inishfree Bay/Braade and Magheraarty/Drumnatinney).
- Coastal Monitoring for five sites in Inishowen at Rockstown Harbour, Tullagh Strand, Pollan Strand (Ballyliffin), Five Finger Strand and Binbane, following CFERM
- Supporting coastal communities, working with nature to adapt to coastal change at Carrickfinn, Drumnatinney, Magheraarty, Dooley, Maghera and Lisfannon.
- Addressing invasive species threatening native biodiversity and the integrity of our coast. Projects include sea buckthorn eradication on the Rathmullan and Porthsalon foreshore and introduced grazing of invasive species at Culdaff.

National Biodiversity Action Plan Local Authorities Funding Scheme 2021-2022

Approximately 0.5Ha of the dunes at Marble Hill have become colonised by non-native, invasive species which poses a threat to the native vegetation of the sand dunes.

Donegal County Council successfully applied for funding to the National Biodiversity Action Plan Local Authorities Funding Scheme 2021 to address the issue. In conjunction with National Parks and Wildlife Services, a contractor was employed to address the invasive species at Marble Hill.

Method of controlling the invasive species affecting include Mechanical control (sawing and hand pulling) and Chemical control (use of herbicides)

Sand dunes are a natural line of coastal defence which are of increasing importance as we experience rising sea levels and more frequent extreme weather events. Giving nature a helping hand at Marble Hill will ensure the integrity of the dunes into the future.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Following the adoption of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 to 2024, the Climate Adaptation Steering Group was established to develop implementation plans for the actions contained in the strategy. The steering group is chaired by the Director of Water and Environment Services and includes members from across the Council's executive. As a result of the work of the steering group climate adaptation is being embedded in the work and services that the Council delivers on a day to day basis via short, medium and long term plans.



Chipping and removal off-site of larger items of invasive species

North West Regional Energy Agency (NWREA)

Background

The North-West City Region consists of Donegal County Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council. The two Local Authorities have committed to work together, as detailed within the North-West Regional Energy Strategy, with the ambition of decarbonising their energy systems and aiming for net zero carbon emissions by 2045.

Climate Action Plan 2023

Nationally, the Climate Action Plan 2023 aims to halve our emissions by 2030 and reach net zero no later than 2050.

Climate Action Plan 2023 sets out how Ireland can accelerate the actions that are required to respond to the climate crisis, putting climate solutions at the centre of Ireland’s social and economic development.

The two Local Authorities have jointly agreed that the next stage in the implementation of the Strategy is the establishment of a North-West Regional Energy Agency.

The North-West Regional Energy Agency will draw experience from other successful energy agencies and aims to successfully attract investment and the provision of local supports for the region.

Role of an Energy Agency

The Regional Energy Agency will act as a ‘one stop shop’ for citizens, businesses or communities who want to transition to a low carbon economy and avail of supports which are available, including through Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

Progress Update

Progress in the development and implementation of the ‘Energy Agency’ is ongoing with the Company being established and registered with the Companies Registration Office (CRO). A cross-border Board of Directors will be in place before the ‘Agency’ begins trading.

Recruitment is currently underway for a number of key positions including a Manager; a Project Officer and Admin support (part of the Learner Engagement and Attendance Project (LEAP)).

An Interim Office has been secured with the intention to develop a permanent home for the ‘Agency’ at the Former Army Barracks, Lifford.

Funding

Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council have been jointly successful in attracting funding including:

| NW Regional Development Group | Shared Island Fund, Department of Department of the Taoiseach | EU City Facility |
|---|--|--|
| - (Phase 1) £45,000 secured in Feb 2021 - (Phase 2) £90,000 secured in Sept 2022 | - €312,500 secured for the North-West Decarb - Exemplar Decarbonised Public Buildings & Transportation Project. | - €60,000 grant secured to develop an ‘Investment Concept’ for return to the EU by May 2023 |
| EU LIFE Programme | Share-RES | OwnYourSECAP |
| - LEAP Project which will provide €540,000 for the NWREA over 3 years, commencing in November 2022. | - This project will fund a Community Officer and provide linkage with the Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC’s). Approval was received in December 2022 for €252,850. | - This project in conjunction with Tipperary Energy Agency and their EU Partners, will provide advice and mentoring to select Local Authorities, on developing our Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan (SECAP). |

Appendices

Council Membership of Committees & Other Bodies

Corporate Policy Group

Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr John O' Donnell
Cllr Johnny Mc Guinness
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cathaoirleach of the Day

Planning SPC

Cllr Paul Canning, Chairperson
Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Noreen Mc Garvey
Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty
Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Terry Crossan
Cllr Tom Conaghan
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

Planning SPC - Sectoral Reps

Agriculture/Farming – James O' Donnell
Environment – Anne Mc Gowan
Development/Construction – Barry Mc Menamin
Business/ Commercial – Bernard Gallagher
Social Inclusion - Vacant

Roads & Transportation SPC

Cllr John O' Donnell, Chairperson
Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty
Cllr Johnny Mc Guinness
Cllr Liam Blaney
Cllr John Sheamus Ó Fearraigh
Cllr Liam Doherty
Cllr Micheál Naughton
Cllr Anthony Molloy
Cllr Noel Jordan
Cllr Michael Mc Bride

Roads & Transportation SPC - Sectoral Reps

Agriculture/Farming – Gareth Whitmore
Development/Construction - Bernard O' Donnell
Business Commercial – George Mills
Community/Voluntary – Vincent Callaghan
Fishing/Aquaculture - Vacant

Housing & Corporate SPC

Cllr Johnny McGuinness, Chairperson
Cllr Donal Coyle
Cllr Rena Donaghey
Cllr Martin Mc Dermott
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr John S Ó Fearraigh
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
Cllr Terry Crossan
Cllr Kevin Bradley

Housing & Corporate SPC - Sectoral Reps

Agriculture/Farming - Vacant
Development/Construction – John Gildea
Business/ Commercial - Vacant
Trade Union – Anne Wilkinson
Social Inclusion – Hugh Friel

Community Social & Cultural SPC

Cllr Marie T Gallagher, Chairperson
Cllr Michael Mc Bride
Cllr Donal Coyle
Cllr Ian Mc Garvey
Cllr Jack Murray
Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr Martin Harley

Community Social & Cultural SPC - Sectoral Reps

Environment – Ethna Diver
Business/ Commercial - David Roche
Trade Union – John C Quinn
Social Inclusion – Paul Kernan
Community & Voluntary – Mary Shields

Climate Action & Environment SPC

Cllr Gary Doherty, Chairperson
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr Noel Jordan
Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
Cllr Rena Donaghey
Cllr Barry Sweeney
Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Kevin Bradley

Climate Action & Environment SPC - Sectoral Reps

Agriculture/Farming – Francis Burns
Environment – Trish Murphy
Development/Construction – Vacant
Business/ Commercial – Vacant
Fishing/Aquaculture - Vacant

Economic Development, Enterprise & Emergency SPC

Cllr Ciaran Brogan, Chairperson
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
Cllr Michael Mc Mahon
Cllr Terry Crossan
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Anthony Molloy
Cllr Micheál Naughton
Cllr Barry Sweeney
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
Cllr Martin Farren
Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Johnny Mc Guinness

Economic Development, Enterprise & Emergency SPC - Sectoral Reps

Agriculture/Farming – George Starrett
Environment – Jimmy Scott
Development/Construction – Michael Kelly
Business/ Commercial – Phillip Mc Glynn
Trade Union – Martin O' Rourke
Community /Voluntary – Jerry Early
Fishing/Aquaculture - Vacant

Mica Redress Committee

Cllr Martin Mc Dermott
Cllr Liam Blaney
Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Terry Crossan
Cllr Liam Doherty
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
Cllr Frank Mc Brearty
Cllr John O' Donnell
Cllr Martin Farren
Cllr Johnny Mc Guinness
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Brexit Committee

Cllr Michéal Naughton
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Ciaran Brogan (SPC Chair)
Cllr Paul Canning (SPC Chair)
Cllr Gary Doherty (SPC Chair)
Cllr Marie T Gallagher (SPC Chair)
Cllr John O' Donnell (SPC Chair)
Cllr Johnny Mc Guinness (SPC Chair)
Cathaoirleach of the Day

Fisheries Committee

Cllr Noreen Mc Garvey
Cllr Martin Mc Dermott
Cllr Liam Blaney
Cllr Noel Jordan
Cllr John S Ó Fearraigh
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Martin Farren
Cllr Johnny Mc Guinness
Cllr Barry Sweeney

Fisheries Committee - Sectoral Reps

John Menarry/Kevin Byrne - NIFA & NIFO
 Norah Parke - Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
 Jerry Earley - Islands Rep
 Kenny Ward - Fish Processors Rep
 Eddie Kelly - Crab/Lobster Sector
 John O' Brien - National Salmon Commission
 Michael O' Donnell - Fish Retail Sector
 Milton Matthews - Inland Fisheries Ireland
 Catherine Mc Manus - Salmon Fish Farming Rep
 Gerry Gallagher - Shell Fish Farming Rep
 Vacant - Shell Fish Producers/Processors

Agriculture Committee

Cllr Liam Blaney
 Cllr Anthony Molloy
 Cllr Michéal Naughton
 Cllr Liam Doherty
 Cllr Noel Jordan
 Cllr Tom Conaghan
 Cllr Ian Mc Garvey
 Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty
 Cllr Johnny Mc Guinness

Agriculture Committee - Sectoral Reps

Brendan Mc Laughlin - IFA
 Pheilim Molloy - INHFA
 Henry O' Donnell (Deputy)- INHFA
 Harry Mallon - ICMSA
 John Barron - ICSA
 Lawrence McManus - ICSA
 Martin Mc Cullough - Teagasc
 Barry Caslin - Teagasc
 Maureen Mc Laughlin - ICSA
 Gary O' Donnell - Dept. of Agriculture
 Aidan O' Donnell - Dept. of Agriculture
 Johnny Meehan - Donegal Beefplan
 Eoin Gallagher - ACA

Emergency Response Committee

Cllr Donal Coyle
 Cllr Albert Doherty
 Cllr Noreen Mc Garvey
 Cllr Micheál Naughton
 Cllr Gary Doherty
 Cathaoirleach of the Day

Donegal Health Committee

Cllr Rena Donaghey
 Cllr Donal Coyle
 Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
 Cllr Albert Doherty
 Cllr Noel Jordan
 Cllr Michael Mc Mahon
 Cllr Terry Crossan
 Cllr Niamh Kennedy
 Cllr Michael Mc Bride
 Cllr Ian Mc Garvey
 Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
 Cllr Johnny Mc Guinness

Donegal Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Cllr Ciaran Brogan
 Cllr Paul Canning
 Cllr Terry Crossan
 Cllr Michael Mc Mahon
 Cllr Micheál Cholm Mc Giolla Easbuig
 Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Traveller Reps

Hugh Friel
 Siobhan McLaughlin
 Rose Mc Donagh

Coiste na Gaeilge

Cllr Anthony Molloy
 Cllr Noreen Mc Garvey
 Cllr Donal Coyle
 Cllr Terry Crossan
 Cllr John Sheamus O' Fearraigh
 Cllr Albert Doherty
 Cllr Noel Jordan
 Cllr Niamh Kennedy
 Cllr Micheál Cholm Mc Giolla Easbuig
 Vacancy
 Vacancy

County Donegal Joint Policing Committee

Cllr Gerry Crawford
 Cllr Donal Coyle
 Cllr Paul Canning
 Cllr Michéal Naughton
 Cllr Noreen Mc Garvey
 Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
 Cllr Terry Crossan
 Cllr Michael Mc Mahon
 Cllr Liam Doherty
 Cllr Kevin Bradley
 Cllr Nicholas Crossan
 Cllr Michael Mc Bride
 Cllr Niamh Kennedy
 Cllr Barry Sweeney
 Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty
 Cathaoirleach as Ex Officio Member

Oireachtas Members

Pearse Doherty, TD
 Charlie McConalogue, TD
 Joe McHugh, TD
 Pdraig MacLochlainn TD
 Thomas Pringle, TD
 Marc McSharry, TD
 Senator Niall Blaney
 Senator Eileen Flynn

County Donegal Joint Policing Committee - Sectoral Reps

Chief Superintendent Terry Mc Ginn - An Garda Síochána
 Sergeant Patrick M Conway - An Garda Síochána
 James Trearty - PPN Rep
 Margaret Toner - PPN Rep
 Joe Boland - PPN Rep
 Dermot McLaughlin (RIP) - PPN Rep
 Jimmy Scott - PPN Rep
 Mary Mc Gowan - PPN Rep
 Billy Banda - PPN Rep

Audit Committee

Cllr Martin Mc Dermott
 Cllr Noel Jordan

Audit Committee - Sectoral Reps

Henry Mc Garvey
 Micheál Mac Giolla Easbuig
 Paul Carr

Islands Committee

Members of Glenties MD and the Milford Electoral Area

Islands Committee - Sectoral Reps

Owey - William Boyle
 Iniscaorach - Hughie Gallagher
 Island Roy - Maire Ui Dochartaigh
 Inishinney - Seamus Rodgers
 Inishboffin - John O' Brien
 Tory - Marjorie Carol
 Aranmore - John Mc Cafferty
 Aranmore - Nóirín Ui Mhaoldomhnaigh
 Gola - Eamonn Seosamh Mac Aoidh
 Rutland/Inis Mhic a Doirn - Rosaleen Mc Shane/Laird Dinsmore
 Inis Oirthir - Dinny Mc Cullough
 Inishmeane - Charlie O' Domhnaill
 Comharchumann na nOileán Beag - Mairín Ui Fhearraigh
 An Roinn Ealaíon Oidhreachta & Gaeltachta - Brid Ni Chonaghaile

Donegal County Council Value for Money Committee

Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
 Cllr Gerry Crawford
 Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
 Cllr Noel Jordan
 Cllr Liam Doherty
 Cllr Terry Crossan
 Cllr Ian Mc Garvey
 Cllr Barry Sweeney
 Cathaoirleach of the Day

Disability Strategy Committee

Cllr Paul Canning
 Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
 Cllr Anthony Molloy
 Cllr Noel Jordan
 Cllr Micheál C Mac Giolla Easbuig

Working Group on Local Government & Constitutional Change

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
 Cllr Albert Doherty
 Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
 Cllr Michael Mc Mahon
 Cllr Ian Mc Garvey
 Cllr Niamh Kennedy
 Cllr Nicholas Crossan
 Cllr Paul Canning
 Cllr Rena Donaghey
 Cllr Noreen Mc Garvey

Donegal Local and Community Development Committee - Sectoral Reps

Micheál Mac Giolla Easbuig – Údarás na Gaeltachta
 Anne Mc Ateer – Health Service Executive
 Anne Mc Hugh – Education & Training Board
 Paul Hannigan – Atlantic Technological University
 Shauna McClenaghan – Inishowen Development Partnership
 Padraic Fingleton – Donegal Local Development Company
 Charlene Logue – PPN Rep
 Joe Boland – PPN Rep
 Andrew McNulty – PPN Rep
 Siobhan Mc Laughlin – PPN Rep
 Aengus Kennedy – PPN Rep
 Liam Mc Elhinney – ICTU
 James O’ Donnell – Farmers Rep ICMSA
 Maire Uí Mhaoláin – Comhar na nOileáin Teo

Peace IV Partnership Board

Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher
 Cllr Paul Canning
 Cllr Frank Mc Brearty

Peace IV Partnership Board - Sectoral Reps

An Garda Síochána – Sergeant Siobhán Mollahan
 HSE – Anna Mc Ateer
 LCDC – Charlene Logue
 ETB – Martina Needham
 IDP – Shauna Mc Clenaghan
 IBEC – Declan Thomas
 ICTU – John Quinn
 Farmers Rep – James O’ Donnell
 TUSLA – Marie Crawley
 Tyrone, Derry & Donegal Action – Ian Mc Cracken
 PPN – Billy Banda
 PPN – Siobhan Mc Laughlin
 PPN – Peter Ogle
 PPN – Brid Mc Gonagle

Cultural Committee

Cllr Liam Blaney
 Cllr Kevin Bradley
 Cllr Ciaran Brogan
 Cllr Paul Canning
 Cllr Tom Conaghan
 Cllr Donal Coyle
 Cllr Gerry Crawford
 Cllr Nicholas Crossan
 Cllr Terry Crossan
 Cllr Albert Doherty
 Cllr Gary Doherty
 Cllr Liam Doherty
 Cllr Rena Donaghey
 Cllr Martin Farren
 Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher
 Cllr Martin Harley
 Cllr Noel Jordan
 Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
 Cllr Niamh Kennedy
 Cllr Micheál C Mac Giolla Easbuig
 Cllr Michael Mc Bride
 Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty
 Cllr Martin Mc Dermott

Cultural Committee (Continued)

Cllr Noreen Mc Garvey
 Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
 Cllr Johnny Mc Guinness
 Cllr Michael Mc Mahon
 Cllr Gerry Mac Monagle
 Cllr Anthony Molloy
 Cllr Jack Murray
 Cllr Micheál Naughton
 Cllr John S Ó Fearraigh
 Cllr Barry Sweeney
 Frank O’ Donnell
 Joe Birney
 Sean Mc Clafferty
 Joe Monaghan

Drumboe 100th Anniversary Commemoration Committee

Cllr Liam Blaney – Cathaoirleach of the Day
 Cllr Martin Harley
 Cllr Niamh Kennedy
 Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
 Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
 Cllr Anthony Molloy
 Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
 Cllr Paul Canning

Donegal Youth Council Expert Advisory Committee

Cllr Noreen Mc Garvey
 Cllr John S O’ Fearraigh

Donegal Youth Council Expert Advisory Committee - Sectoral Reps

HSE – Anne Mc Ateer
 HSE – Lisa O’ Hagan
 TUSLA – Anne Meehan
 An Garda Síochána – Anne Marie Mc Grath
 An Garda Síochána – Patrick Mc Glynn
 Donegal Education Centre – Sean Groarty
 ETB – Paddy Muldoon
 ETB – Sandra Buchanan
 Foróige – Claire Gavigan
 Foróige – Kate Jones
 Foróige – Kerry Gallagher
 Foróige – Maura Gallagher
 Foróige – Michael Mc Devitt
 Foróige – Susan Mc Loughlin
 Donegal Youth Service – Lorraine Thompson
 Involve – Martin Mongan
 Jigsaw – Damien Coyle
 Active Donegal – Myles Sweeney
 Spraoi agus Sport – Helen Nolan
 Marginalised Intercultural Youth – Fatima Byrne
 Donegal Intercultural Platform Rep

PEACE PLUS Partnership

Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
 Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty
 Cllr Barry Sweeney
 Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
 Cllr Paul Canning

Donegal Heritage Forum

Cllr Noreen Mc Garvey
 Cllr Donal Coyle
 Cllr Liam Doherty
 Cllr Barry Sweeney
 Cllr Johnny Mc Guinness
 Cllr Paul Canning (Chair Planning SPC)
 Heritage Officer – Joseph Gallagher
 Curator Donegal County Museum – Judith Mc Carthy
 Conservation Officer – Colette Beattie
 Environment Section – To be confirmed

Donegal Heritage Forum - Sectoral Reps

Leader Rep – Padraic Fingleton
 Coillte – To be confirmed
 National Monuments Service – Paddy O’ Donovan
 National Parks & Wildlife – Ger O’ Donnell
 Fáilte Ireland – Joan Crawford
 Teagasc – Carolyn Patterson
 Údarás na Gaeltachta – Séamas Ó Gallchóir
 LYIT – Marie Kelly
 IFA – Michael Chance
 PPN Heritage Linkage Group – Michael Mullen
 PPN Heritage Linkage Group – Molly Reynolds
 An Taisce – Ethna Diver
 Donegal Heritage Network – Ralph Sheppard
 Donegal Heritage Network – Martin Egan
 Donegal Historical Society – Edward O’ Kane (RIP)
 Ulster Architectural Heritage Society – Caroline Dickson

Working Group - Creeslough

Cllr Liam Blaney
 Cllr Anthony Molloy
 Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty
 Cllr John Sheamus O’ Fearraigh

Board of Donegal 2040 Strategic Development Company

Cllr Paul Canning
 Cllr Ciaran Brogan
 Cllr Niamh Kennedy
 Cllr Gary Doherty
 Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty

Representation on External Bodies 2022

County Donegal Education and Training Board

Cllr Noreen Mc Garvey
Cllr Donal Coyle
Cllr Rena Donaghey
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Noel Jordan
Cllr John S O' Fearraigh
Cllr Michael Mc Bride
Cllr Ian Mc Garvey
Cllr Martin Farren
Cllr Barry Sweeny
Cllr Martin Harley

Regional Health Forum West

Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
Cllr Tom Conaghan

Northern & Western Regional Assembly

Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
Cllr Jack Murray
Cllr Frank Mc Brearty

County Enterprise Fund

Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
Cllr Michael Mc Mahon

Association of Irish and Local Government

Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

Local Authority Members Association

Cllr Liam Blaney (2019 - 2022)
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh (2022 - 2024)

Inishowen Development Partnership

Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Rena Donaghey
Cllr Johnny Mc Guinness
Cllr Albert Doherty

Donegal Local Development Company Ltd

Cllr Noel Jordan
Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
Cllr John O' Donnell

ERNACT EEIG

Cllr Rena Donaghey
Cllr Jack Murray

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances

Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty (2019 - 2022)
Cllr Michael Mc Bride (2022 - 2024)

North West Regional Development Group

Cllr Johnny Mc Guinness
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
Cllr Ciaran Brogan

ICBAN

Cllr Micheál Naughton
Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Frank Mc Brearty

Donegal Sports Partnership

Cllr Anthony Molloy
Cllr Michael Mc Mahon

Conference Peripheral Maritime Regions

Cllr John Sheamus O' Fearraigh (2021 - 2024)

LATCH

Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Martin Harley

Colmcille Heritage Trust

Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
Cllr Donal Coyle
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
Cllr Michael Mc Bride
Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty

Erne Enterprise Development Company

Cllr Michael Mc Mahon
Cllr Micheál Naughton

Board of Fort Dunree Military Museum

Cllr Rena Donaghey
Cllr Nicholas Crossan

Earagail Arts Festival

Cllr Martin Mc Dermott
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Ian Mc Garvey

Letterkenny Theatre Management Company

Cllr Donal Coyle
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
Cllr John O' Donnell
Iarla Mc Gowan

Management Committee Ballyshannon Leisure Centre

Cllr Michael Mc Mahon
Cllr Micheál Naughton
Cllr Barry Sweeny

Board of Bundoran Waterworld

Cllr Micheál Naughton
Cllr Barry Sweeny
Cllr Michael Mc Mahon
1 nominee to be confirmed

Letterkenny Sports Complex Development Ltd

Referred to the Letterkenny Municipal District

Strengthening Families Advisory Board - NW Alcohol Forum

Cllr Martin Harley

Finn Valley Leisure Centre

Cllr Liam Doherty
Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

Údarás na Gaeltachta

Cllr John Sheamus O' Fearraigh to November 2022
Cllr Anthony Molloy from November 2022

Comhar na nOileán Teoranta

Cllr Anthony Molloy

Donegal Tourism Associate Members Committee

Cllr Micheál Naughton
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr John O' Donnell
Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty
Cllr Martin Mc Dermot
Cathaoirleach of the Day

Board of Donegal Tourism

Cathaoirleach of the Day

A5-N2 Cross Border Committee

Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Johnny Mc Guinness
Cllr Paul Canning

Western Inter-County Rail Committee

Cllr Michael Mc Mahon
Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr Johnny Mc Guinness
Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Attendance of Members at Conferences & Other Events Paid in 2022

Training

AILG Module 1 - 17th February 2022 (Westmeath)

Cllr Noreen McGarvey
Cllr Kevin Bradley
Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Donal Coyle
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr John O'Donnell
Cllr Patrick McGowan
Cllr Anthony Molloy

AILG Module 1 - 19th February 2022 (Cork)

Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly

AILG Annual Training Conference 23/03/2022 (Buncrana)

Cllr Michael McMahan
Cllr Noreen McGarvey
Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr Tom Conaghan
Cllr Barry Sweeney
Cllr Michael McClafferty
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Rena Donaghey
Cllr Martin Farren
Cllr Martin McDermott
Cllr Johnny McGuinness
Cllr Jack Murray
Cllr Liam Blaney
Cllr Kevin Bradley
Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Donal Coyle
Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr John O'Donnell
Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Frank McBrearty

LAMA Spring Seminar 11th&12th April 2022 - (Kilkenny)

Cllr Michael McClafferty
Cllr Donal Coyle
Cllr John O'Donnell
Cllr Liam Blaney

AILG Module 2 - 14/05/2022 (Monaghan)

Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty

AILG Module 3 - 16/06/2022 (Roscommon)

Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Donal Coyle
Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
Cllr Patrick McGowan

AILG Module 4 - 23/07/2022 (Bundoran)

Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Michael McClafferty
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Donal Coyle
Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
Cllr Michael McMahan
Cllr Barry Sweeney

AILG Autumn Seminar - 14th & 15th September 2022 (Trim, Co. Meath)

Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr Kevin Bradley
Cllr Donal Coyle
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty
Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
Cllr John O' Donnell
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

AILG Module 5 - 22/10/2022 (Kerry)/(Sligo)

Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Kevin Bradley
Cllr John O'Donnell
Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr Patrick McGowan
Cllr Barry Sweeney

AILG Module 6 - 26/11/2022 (Meath)

Cllr Kevin Bradley
Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty
Cllr Patrick McGowan
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr John O'Donnell

LAMA Autumn Seminar 9-11th November 2022 (Monaghan)

Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Donal Mandy Kelly
Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr Donal Coyle
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr Patrick McGowan
Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr John O'Donnell
Cllr Johnny McGuinness

AILG WoMeNs Regional Caucus Training & Development - 1st June 2022 (Sligo)

Cllr Niamh Kennedy

Conferences

Annual Planning Conference - 7th & 8th April 2022 (Kilkenny)

Cllr John O' Donnell

Other Travel

ICBAN - Various Locations

Cllr Patrick McGowan 16/03/22 (Cavan)
Cllr Gary Doherty - 15/06/2022 (Sligo)

NWCBBWG - Derry

Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle 11/03/22
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle 01/04/22
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle 28/09/22

National Garda Youth Awards - 11/11/2022 (Portlaoise)

Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

TII Delegation - 8th December, Dublin

Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr Anthony Molloy
Cllr Michel Naughton
Cllr John O'Donnell

Donegal Local Development Company Ltd

Cllr Noel Jordan -26/02/2019
Cllr Noel Jordan - 29/03/2019
Cllr Noel Jordan - 26/09/2019
Cllr Noel Jordan - 29/10/2019
Cllr Noel Jordan - 28/11/2019
Cllr Noel Jordan - 27/01/2022
Cllr Noel Jordan - 31/03/2022
Cllr Noel Jordan - 28/04/2022
Cllr Noel Jordan - 30/06/2022
Cllr Noel Jordan - 28/07/2022
Cllr Noel Jordan - 29/09/2022

Ballyshannon/Bundoran Fire Station Delegation (Dublin)

Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Micheal Naughton

IPB Meeting 6th May 2022 (Dublin)

Cllr Michael McClafferty

Policing Authority Meeting - 18th & 19th September 2022 (Dublin)

Cllr Gerry McMonagle

Innovators 35 Event 19th May 2022 (Gweedore)

Cllr Jack Murray

NW Regional Development Group

Cllr Johnny McGuinness - 01/03/22
 Cllr Johnny McGuinness - 01/04/22
 Cllr Johnny McGuinness - 23/08/22
 Cllr Johnny McGuinness - 28/09/22

Travel Abroad

Commemoration of Blitz of Clydebank, Glasgow 19th -22nd November 2021

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Islington & Irish Embassy - London (Recognition of the Contribution of Irish in Islington) 1st & 2nd March 2022

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

IABN Ambassador Awards - Philadelphia 3rd - 5th March 2022

Cllr Jack Murray

St. Patricks Day Events in the USA - 12th - 22nd March 2022

Cllr Jack Murray
 Cllr Martin Mc Dermott

St Patrick's Day Events Rudolstadt, Germany - 16th -21st March 2022

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
 Cllr Gerry McMonagle

CPMR - Politico Bureau Meeting, Barcelona - 24th & 25th March 2022

Cllr John S O'Fearraigh

Global Irish Festival Launch, New York - 20th & 21st April 2022

Cllr Jack Murray

General Assembly of the Arc Commission, San Sebastian, Spain - 24th - 25th May 2022

Cllr John S O'Fearraigh

Red Hugh O'Donnell Commemoration Event - Simancas, Spain - 9th - 13th September 2022

Cllr Martin Harley

Donegal Association London, Event - 20th May 2022

Cllr Jack Murray

CPMR Political Bureau Meeting, Helsingborg, Sweden - 14th - 16th June 2022

Cllr John S O' Fearraigh

Irish Language Conference, Stornaway, Scotland - 29th - 31st August 2022

Cllr Terry Crossan
 Cllr Micheal C Mac Giolla Easbuig

London Irish Vintage Club Day, London - 3rd - 5th September 2022

Cllr Liam Blaney

CPMR Fisheries Working Group Meeting, Brussels - 5th - 6th October 2022

Cllr John S O' Fearraigh

Donegal Association New York 14th - 17th October

Cllr Liam Blaney

CPMR General Assembly Meeting, Crete, Greece - 26th - 29th October 2022

Cllr John S O' Fearraigh

Golden Bridges Events, Boston USA - 14th - 19th November 2022

Cllr Liam Blaney

| Members and Related Expenses 2022 | |
|---|----------------------|
| Annual Allowance | €205,201.23 |
| Local Representation Allowance | €130,296.80 |
| Representational Payment | €1,028,342.12 |
| Cathaoirleach's Allowance | €27,366.96 |
| Leas-Chathaoirleach's Allowance | €5,473.29 |
| Municipal District Chair Allowance | €37,577.10 |
| Insurance | €7,436.27 |
| Members Gratuity Scheme | €15,653.47 |
| Strategic Policy Committee Chairs Allowance | €33,644.40 |
| Conference Attendance - Travel & Subsistence | €574.96 |
| Attendance at Training Events -Travel & Subsistence | €20,681.96 |
| Other Travel - Travel & Subsistence | €5,982.58 |
| Conference & Training Fees | €10,880.00 |
| Travel outside Ireland | €28,034.12 |
| Contribution to Members Representative Associations | €20,000 |
| Expense of Non-Councillors on Committees | €253.93 |
| Total | €1,577,399.19 |

Performance Indicators 2022

| Topic | Indicator | Value |
|---------|---|----------|
| Housing | No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 1/1/2022 | 4,974 |
| | No. of dwellings added to the LA owned stock during 2022 (whether constructed or acquired) | 83 |
| | No. of LA owned dwellings sold in 2022 | 10 |
| | No. of LA owned dwellings demolished in 2022 | 0 |
| | No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 31/12/2022 | 5,047 |
| | No. of LA owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved scheme | 2 |
| | The percentage of the total number of LA owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2022 | 3.43% |
| | The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2022 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2022 | 36.90 wk |
| | The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2022, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2022 | €17,369 |
| | Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2022 | 1651 |
| | Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2022 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations | 91% |
| | Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2022 (including those originally deemed non-compliant) | 399 |
| | The number of inspections (including re-inspections) undertaken by the local authority in 2022. | 1,705 |
| | Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a % of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2022 | 69% |
| | The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2022 as recorded on the PASS system | 45 |
| Roads | The % of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2022 | 98% |
| | The % of Local Primary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2022 | 95% |
| | The % of Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2022 | 85% |
| | The % of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2022 | 70% |
| | The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2022 | 2% |
| | The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2022 | 27% |
| | The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2022 | 45% |
| | The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2022 | 26% |
| | The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2022 | 4% |
| | The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2022 | 21% |
| | The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2022 | 43% |
| | The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2022 | 32% |
| | The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2022 | 8% |

| Topic | Indicator | Value |
|--|--|-------------|
| Roads | The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2022 | 25% |
| | The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2022 | 45% |
| | The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2022 | 21% |
| | The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2022 | 23% |
| | The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2022 | 14% |
| | The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2022 | 25% |
| | The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2022 | 17% |
| | Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2022 | 20 km |
| | The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2022 | €5,247,919 |
| | Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2022 | 25 km |
| | The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2022 | €638,372 |
| | Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2022 | 185 km |
| | The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2022 | €15,317,818 |
| | Kilometres of local road resealed during 2022 | 214 km |
| The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2022 | €4,870,409 | |
| Motor Tax | The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2022 | 79% |
| Waste | The number of households, which availed of a 3 bin service offered by a licensed operator at 31/12/2022 | 14,003 |
| | The % of households within the local authority that the number above represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500) | 77% |
| Environmental Pollution | Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2022 | 1,502 |
| | Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 | 1,499 |
| | Total number of cases on hands at 31/12/2022 | 109 |
| Litter Pollution | The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2022 was unpolluted or litter free | 51% |
| | The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2022 was slightly polluted | 44% |
| | The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2022 was moderately polluted | 6% |
| | The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2022 was significantly polluted | 0% |
| | The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2022 was grossly polluted | 0% |
| Green Flag Status | The % of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31st December 2022 | 33% |

| Topic | Indicator | Value |
|-----------------|---|----------|
| Planning | Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority | 13% |
| | Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2022 | 39 |
| | Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2022 | 51% |
| | A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 that were investigated | 300 |
| | B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2022 | 191 |
| | C. % of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development | 62% |
| | D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations | 0% |
| | E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings | 38% |
| | F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2022 | 1,218 |
| | Cost per capita of Planning Service | €31.17 |
| | The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt | 32% |
| | The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant | 68% |
| Fire Service | Cost per capita of Fire Service | €45.44 |
| | Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire | 5.75 min |
| | Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents | 5.79 min |
| | % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes | 30% |
| | % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes | 53% |
| | % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes | 17% |
| | % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes | 35% |
| | % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes | 48% |
| | % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes | 17% |
| Library Service | Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the LA area per the 2022 Census | 1.44 |
| | Number of items issued to borrowers in the year | 252,186 |
| | Cost per capita of operating Library Service | €27.24 |

| Topic | Indicator | Value |
|--|--|-------------|
| Youth & Community | Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme | 81% |
| | Number of organisations included in the County Register and the proportion who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN | 17% |
| | Total number of organisations included in the County Register for the local authority area as at 31/12/2022 | 638 |
| | Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2022 | 25 |
| | Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN | 111 |
| Corporate | The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2022 | 1,010 |
| | Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2022 | 4.05% |
| | Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2022 | 0.14% |
| | All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022, divided by the WTE no. | €3,709 |
| | Total page views of the local authority's websites in 2022 | 1,850,363 |
| | Total number of followers at end 2022 of the LA's social media accounts | 205,765 |
| Finance | Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2021 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS | €-6,092,540 |
| | Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2022 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS | €-4,895,529 |
| | Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2022 as a percentage of Total Income in 2022 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS | -2.75% |
| | Revenue expenditure per capita in 2022 | €1,019 |
| | Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2021 | 70% |
| | Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2022 | 78% |
| | Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2021 | 92% |
| | Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2022 | 90% |
| | Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2021 | 64% |
| Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2022 | 59% | |
| Economic Development | The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/202 to 31/12/2022 per 100,000 of population | 81 |
| | The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2022 per 100,000 of population | 29 |
| | The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2022 per 100,000 of population | 14 |
| | The no. of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 | 156 |
| | Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy? | Yes |
| | Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer? | Yes |