

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2015
Annual Report 2015



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



Foreword

The Council's Annual Report for 2015 is a great opportunity to reflect on and take stock of activities in the context of achieving positive outcomes for the people of Donegal. It is also a great opportunity to present information so that the work done by the Council and its partners is published and shared.

During 2015 the extensive programme of change introduced through the local government reform agenda bedded down. This enabled new opportunities to enhance the role of the Council in economic, social and community development as well as the introduction of new and innovative approaches in how the Council delivers service.

The Council's Corporate Plan, which was adopted in 2015, sets out the organisation's purpose, ambition, and priorities for the next five years. It outlines the Council's commitments in terms of economic development and job creation; infrastructural requirements; services and supports; arts, culture, environment, heritage & language; community development. The Corporate Plan also outlines the Council's organisational capacity and in essence provides a blueprint for its activities over the next few years.

The Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) for Donegal was prepared during 2015. This LECP, which is consistent with the Council's Corporate Plan sets out the goals, objectives, and actions needed to promote and support economic, social and community development in the County over the next 6 years.

A number of other key strategic milestones were met in 2015 including the unveiling of the Donegal Film Office website, the launch of the Donegal Tourism brochure and app and the production and launch of the Donegal Prospectus and video promoting Donegal as a great place to live, work and do business.

The Local Enterprise Office continued to deliver key programmes during 2015 to support businesses throughout the County including the Donegal Food Coast Initiative and the launch of a strategic action plan for Creative Entrepreneurship.

The Council led the winning consortium in a bid for the Roads Management Office Shared Service and a new dedicated office was set up in the County in 2015. This office will lead the way in supporting local authorities in their role as Roads Authorities responding to the overall priorities, policies and objectives at a national level.

This annual report sets out details of the many and varied activities and achievements of the Council in 2015. Much of what the Council does can only be achieved by working in partnership with various partner organisations and key stakeholders and we would like to take this opportunity to thank each of them for their ongoing co-operation.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the elected members and the management and staff of the Council for their commitment, effort, and dedication.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
Cathaoirleach

Seamus Neely
Chief Executive

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Members of Donegal County Council

Municipal District of Donegal

		
Cllr John Campbell	Cllr Tom Conaghan	Cllr Noel Andrew Jordan
Independent	Independent	Sinn Féin
		
Cllr Niamh Kennedy	Cllr Sean McEniff	Cllr Barry O'Neill
Independent	Fianna Fáil	Fine Gael

Municipal District of Glenties

		
Cllr Enda Bonner	Cllr Maire Therese Gallagher	Cllr Michael Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig
Fianna Fáil	Sinn Féin	Independent
		
Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill	Cllr John Seamais O'Fearraigh	Cllr Terence Slowey
Fianna Fáil	Sinn Féin	Fine Gael

Municipal District of Inishowen

				
Cllr Paul Canning Fianna Fáil	Cllr Nicholas Crossan Independent	Cllr Albert Doherty Sinn Féin	Cllr. Rena Donaghey Fianna Fáil	Cllr Martin Farren Labour
				
Cllr Martin McDermott Fianna Fáil	Cllr Bernard McGuinness Fine Gael	Cllr Jack Murray Sinn Féin	Cllr John Ryan Fine Gael	

Municipal District of Letterkenny

				
Cllr Liam Blaney Fianna Fáil	Cllr Ciaran Brogan Fianna Fáil	Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh Fine Gael	Cllr Michael McBride Independent	Cllr James Pat McDaid Fianna Fáil
				
Cllr Ian McGarvey Independent	Cllr Gerry McMonagle Sinn Féin	Cllr John O'Donnell Independent	Cllr Mick Quinn Sinn Féin	Cllr Dessie Shiels Independent

Municipal District of Stranorlar



Cllr Gerry Crawford

Fianna Fáil



Cllr Gary Doherty

Sinn Féin



Cllr Liam Doherty

Sinn Féin



Cllr Martin Harley

Fine Gael



Cllr Frank
McBrearty

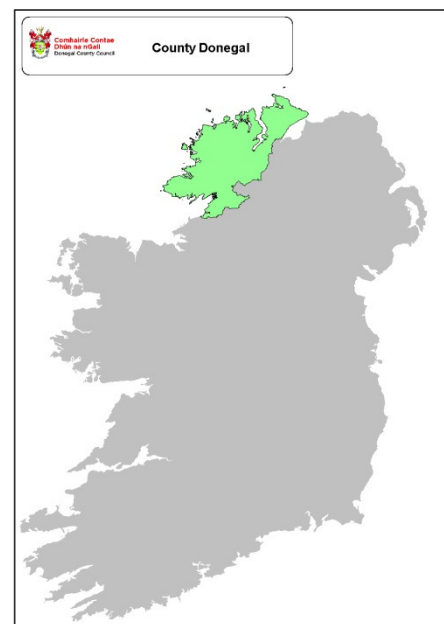
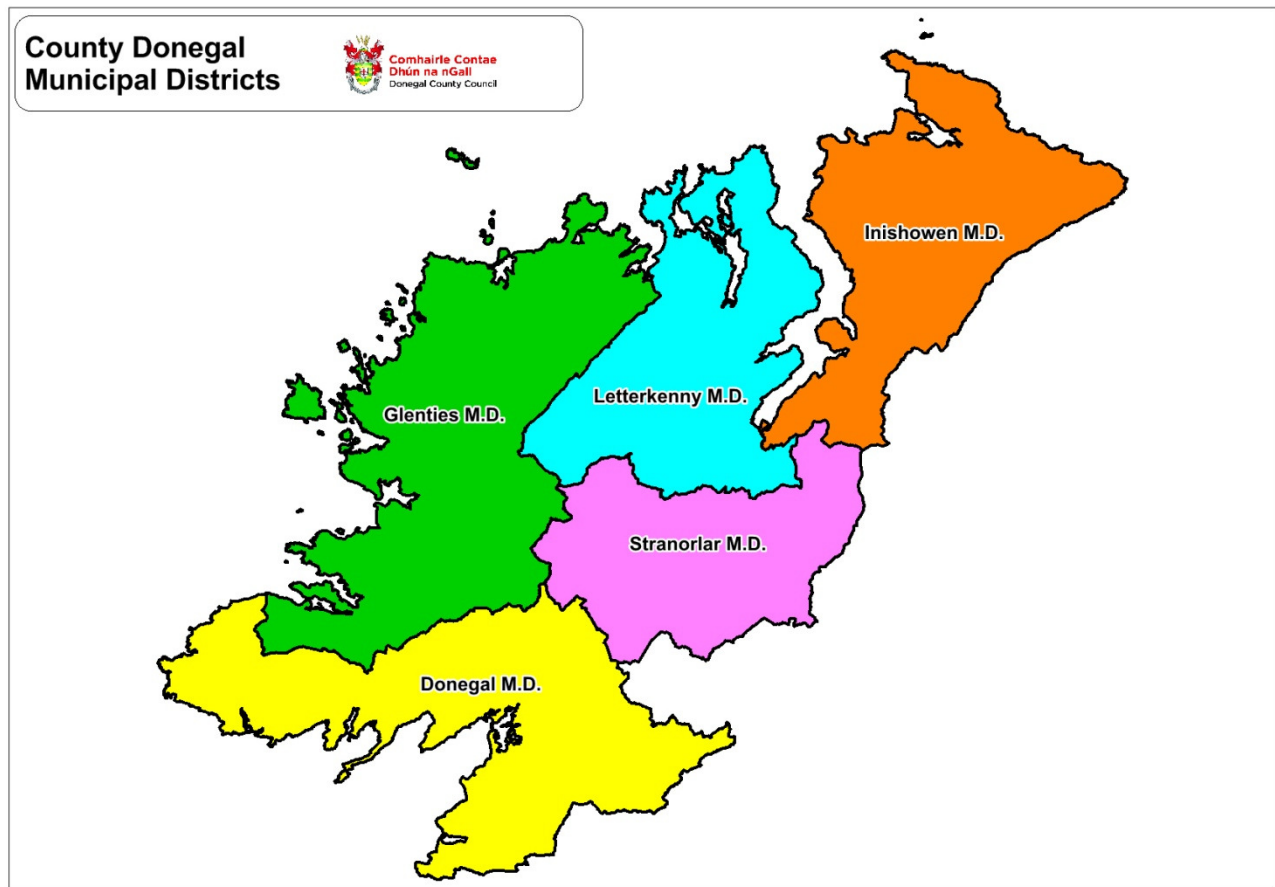
Independent



Cllr Patrick
McGowan

Fianna Fáil

Municipal Districts of County Donegal



Donegal County Council Management Structure

There are five directorates in Donegal County Council. Each directorate is headed by a Director of Service and provides a range of functions and services.



Council Meetings 2015

There were 12 full meetings of the Council in 2015 comprising of 8 full Council Meetings (including one budget meeting) and 4 adjourned meetings.

There were 3 special meetings of the Council to review and confirm representation from Donegal County Council to the Donegal ETB, agree Road Traffic Bye-Laws 2015 and discuss the severe weather event.

The Corporate Policy Group held 7 meetings.

Each Municipal District of Donegal, Stranorlar, Inishowen, Glenties & Letterkenny met 11 times in 2015.

Strategic Policy Committees

There are five Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs).

Community, Social and Cultural SPC

Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher
Chairperson

The Community, Social and Cultural SPC met four times in 2015 and reviewed the following policies and issues:

- 2016 Commemorations / Steering Committee
- Walking & Trails Development
- Corporate Plan (2015-2019)
- Cultural Services Strategic Plan
- EU Unit Work Programme
- Sports Bursary Fund 2015/2016
- Strategic Development Fund – Proposed Policy Changes

Economic, Enterprise & Planning Policy SPC

Cllr. Paul Canning
Chairperson

The Economic, Enterprise and Planning Policy SPC held three meetings in 2015 and the following topics were discussed:

- Corporate Plan (2015 – 2019)
- Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)
- Draft Landscape Character Assessment
- Review of Development Contribution Scheme
- Proposed Variation (No. 3) to the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 (as varied)
- Tourism update
- Casual Trading
- Tier 2 Local Area Plan

Environment & Emergency Services SPC

Cllr. John O'Donnell
Chairperson

The Environment and Emergency Services SPC met four times in 2015 and considered the following:

- Regional Waste Management Plan
- Beach management
- Litter management
- Water Framework Directive
- TidyTowns

Housing & Corporate Services SPC

Cllr. Frank McBrearty,
Chairperson

The Housing & Corporate Services SPC held five meetings and one workshop during 2015 and reviewed policies and procedures in relation to the following topics:

- Tenants Handbook
- Policy on House Purchase
- Tenant Purchase Scheme

- Corporate Plan 2015 - 2019
- Review of Standard Costings under Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme for Older People and People with a Disability.
- Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme

Roads & Transportation SPC

Cllr John Ryan,
Chairperson

The Roads and Transportation SPC met on 4 occasions during 2015 and agreed a 5 Year Plan of topics that the SPC would consider during its tenure. During 2015 the Roads and Transportation SPC developed and agreed a policy for the Take Over of Roads which was then referred for the consideration of the elected Council towards the end of the year. The SPC also considered the following:

- Pavement Condition Ratings
- Roads Funding Distribution
- N2/A5 (Dublin to Derry/Donegal)
- Review of School Safety Programme/Policy
- Procurement Policy
- LIS & CIS Funding
- Road Surfacing Options
- Japanese Knotweed

Civic Receptions 2015

Donegal County Council hosted 5 civic receptions in 2015 to recognise the following outstanding achievements:

Lifford Players Drama Group

On 25 May 2015, the Lifford Players Drama Group were honoured at a civic reception to commemorate their 60th anniversary & their many achievements in amateur drama.



Hugh Gallagher

Multi-talented veteran athlete and former Donegal Person of the Year Hugh Gallagher was honoured for his remarkable achievements in athletics at a civic reception in the County House Lifford on 2 June 2015.



Termon Ladies Football Team

The Termon Ladies Football Team was honoured for its incredible string of local and

national successes since its formation back in 1992 including the coveted All Ireland Ladies Gaelic Football Championship title in 2014. A civic reception to honour the Termon Ladies Football Team took place on 2 June 2015 in the County House, Lifford.



Letterkenny Tidy Towns Committee

On 7 December 2015 the Letterkenny Tidy Towns Committee were honored for winning the Super Valu Tidy Towns Competition 2015. This was a joint reception with Letterkenny Municipal District. Letterkenny was named best of the 862 towns and villages throughout the country that entered the 2015 competition. It was also declared Ireland's Tidiest Large Urban Centre.



Jason Quigley

Described as one of Donegal's most illustrious sporting sons, Jason Quigley was honoured with a civic reception in the County House Lifford on 7 December 2015. Jason was honoured for winning a Gold Medal in the

European Amateur Boxing Championship (Middleweight Division) and for his achievements in Boxing.



Community, Enterprise & Planning

Fund Management

A total of €740,000 under the Strategic Development Fund was allocated to 212 projects/groups across the five Municipal Districts during 2015.

In addition, allocations benefitting community groups / projects throughout the county totalling €236,000 were made by the 37 Elected Members from the Members Development Fund in 2015.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC continued to oversee the implementation of the SICAP, the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme, which runs until December 2017 and focuses on empowering disadvantaged communities, lifelong learning and employment.

The LCDC is also the Local Action Group for County Donegal within the new RDP LEADER 2014-2020 programme. The committee will be supported by four implementing partners namely Inishowen Development Partnership, Donegal Local Development Company, Comhar na nOileán and Údarás na Gaeltachta. An allocation of €12.9m is available for the county and it will be directed by the Local Development Strategy which is being developed by the LCDC.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The Economic Development Committee and the Local Community Development Committee worked in partnership to prepare a draft 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to be submitted to the full Council for consideration in January 2016. The purpose of the plan is to identify and implement actions to strengthen and develop the economic and community

2015 Highlights

- **212** Projects benefitted from **€740,000** Strategic Development Fund
- **€236,000** allocated to community initiatives from the Members Development Fund
- Donegal Age Friendly Strategy launched
- Over **400** groups registered with Donegal PPN
- **58** groups awarded **€32,223** Diaspora Tourism funding
- Donegal Film Office website launched
- Donegal, a great place to live, work and do business prospectus and DVD unveiled
- **€264,575** awarded to **22** small businesses with potential to create **93** new jobs
- **1,342** persons engaged in LEO mentoring or training & management development programmes
- **700** attendees at Donegal Business Week
- **70** Donegal applications for IBYE competition
- **11** businesses participated in Lean for Micro resulting in over **€58,700** savings per company
- Strategic Action Plan for Creative Entrepreneurship in Donegal launched
- **1,755** Planning applications received in 2015
- **€2** million invested in **17** unfinished housing estates
- **67** housing developments progressed to public notification stage for taking in charge

dimensions of the County and to reflect and support the implementation of existing and proposed National and Regional spatial, community and economic strategies.

Interreg IVA Programme

Works continued on three major projects which secured funding under Interreg IVA namely Sail West, Pettigo-Tullyhommon and Sliabh Liag. Funding in excess of €3.3m was received for these projects in 2015.

PEACE IV Programme

The PEACE IV Programme 2014 – 2020 is a unique cross-border initiative financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of the European Union and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland.

In Donegal, the indicative budget is €5,427,756 and is broken down into the following key objectives and actions:

Action	Indicative Budget
Children & Young People (aged 0-24)	1,140,554
Shared Spaces Projects	1,927,216
Building Positive Relations (Action Plans)	2,359,987
Total Indicative Budget	5,427,757

EU Funding and Policy Unit

During 2015 this Unit continued to successfully expand its activities and to explore opportunities presented by the region's eligibility to compete in National and European funding programmes.

The Unit continued to actively explore the opening bids of the 2014-2020 INTERREG and other transnational programmes to develop projects that align with the long-term objectives and priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan and the Local Economic and Community Plan. The three core areas of work within the EU unit are external funding, networks and partnership and policy work.

2015 funding applications include:

- Cool Route (Interreg VB) – project examines the business potential of establishing a cruising route along the Northern Periphery Area.

- Wildsea Europe (COSME) – launched in July 2015 this project examines the viability of establishing a sustainable tourism route (water sports and outdoor activities).
- Eight other project applications were prepared and submitted for consideration with decisions expected in early 2016.

Networks and Partnerships:

The EU Unit participated in the 'Conference for the Atlantic Arc Cities' in September; 'Implementing the Atlantic Action Plan & Measuring the Ocean Economy' conference in Galway in November and an EU funding seminar in Derry. The Unit facilitates the Councils involvement in a number of partnerships including Assembly of European Regions (AER), FEDETON (European destinations for Nautical Tourism), Irish Regions Office, Northern and Western Regional Assembly, NWRCEB and ICBAN.

Social Inclusion / Community Development

Age Friendly

Donegal is an Age Friendly county and our Age Friendly Strategy, launched in May 2015, is being coordinated and implemented by an alliance of statutory and voluntary partners. The overall aim of the Age Friendly Strategy is to make County Donegal a great place to grow old.



Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Donegal PPN is a network for groups across the county who are involved in community, social inclusion, and environmental activities. It provides an opportunity for the public to take a more active and formal role in the policy making activities of the Council. There are currently over 400 community and voluntary organisations registered as members.

Outdoor Gym

Funding of €58,037 was received under the Sports Nation Initiative for the development of an outdoor gym at the Fishing Greens in Buncrana.

Tourism Development & Promotion

The Council supported a broad range of activities & organisations including Donegal Tourism Ltd, Donegal Diaspora, the Film Office, local tourism projects and a major tourism conference.

Donegal Diaspora Project

The Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative is a three-way partnership between Fáilte Ireland, IPB Insurance and Donegal County Council and is about mobilising local communities to harness Diaspora links for the benefit of local tourism. In 2015, Donegal County Council awarded funding of €32,223 to a total of 58 community groups.

The Donegal Diaspora Project continued with its work in collaborating with the global community through various events including a Diaspora conference, the Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Awards, and the Golden Bridges Awards.

Donegal Tourism Brochure Launch

The brand new Donegal Tourism brochure, highlighting all that Donegal has to offer, was launched in March 2015 by Mr. Gay Byrne in the magnificent setting of Glenveagh Castle. The 58-page brochure beautifully captures many images that display the diversity and majesty of Donegal. It sets out an array of activities, places of interest and services that are available to potential visitors.



Donegal twinning with Nottingham for St. Patrick's Day Parade

County Donegal was invited by Nottingham's St Patrick's Day Festival and Parade Committee and Nottingham City Council to celebrate the St Patrick's Day Festivities. Attendees from Donegal included Donegal County Council elected representatives and staff members, tourism representatives and two local food producers: O'Donnell's Bakery and Simply Inish who are members of the Food Coast Network. As a direct result of this visit, a number of clubs based in Nottingham have and will be making a visit to Donegal.

Donegal Film Office

The Donegal Film Office launched its website www.donegalfilmoffice.ie in 2015 to promote Donegal as a great film location.

Economic Development

Economic Development Committee

The Economic Development Committee met three times in 2015.

Donegal, a great place to live, work and do business

A high-quality DVD and prospectus to promote Donegal as a great place to live, work and do business were launched in 2015.



Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Grant Aid

The Local Enterprise Office approved grant aid of €264,575 to 22 projects which had the potential to create 93 new jobs. The annual employment survey (preliminary figures) of Local Enterprise Office grant-aided businesses shows a net gain of over 140 jobs in 2015.

Mentoring / Training

1,342 persons received mentoring or engaged in training and management development programmes delivered by the Local Enterprise Office, 692 (or 51.5%) were females. Programmes included Public Procurement, Management Development for Female Owner Managers, ACCELERATE Programme, Start Your Own Business and Start Your Own Food Business, Young Entrepreneurs Programme, Lean for Micros, Digital Marketing Diploma, The Food Academy and a range of programmes and workshops in the Food sector.

Best Young Entrepreneur Programme

The Local Enterprise Office received over 70 applications for the county heat of Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur with the winning applicants being Christopher Duffy, Duffy Potatoes, Bunrana (Best New Start-Up and Overall County Winner), Aisling Cunningham, Powder and Pout, Carndonagh, (Best Existing Business) and Niall McGonigle, NTech, Bundoran (Best New Idea). Niall won through at regional level and represented the county in the national final in Google in Dublin.

Business Week

Business Week ran from March 23rd to 27th, had over 700 attendees and featured a live broadcast of Down to Business with Newstalk's Bobby Kerr. The highlight of Business Week was the final of the Donegal Business Awards on Friday. The overall winner was Rick LeVert and Libby Carton, Kinnegar Brewing, which went on to represent the county at national level and made it through to the final eight businesses on the final night.

Lean for Micro

The Local Enterprise Office piloted the Lean for Micro management development programme in 2015. Funded by Donegal County Council, 11 businesses took part in the Programme which resulted in very positive outputs with average savings of over €58,700 per company (total savings of €646,000) and an average increase in output/capacity of 24%.

Trading Online Vouchers

The Local Enterprise Office approved 35 Trading Online Vouchers to 35 businesses in the county. These vouchers fund the costs of a business enhancing its online presence and selling capabilities. The Voucher is at a rate of 50% to a maximum of €2,500 and is funded by the Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources.

Creative Entrepreneurship

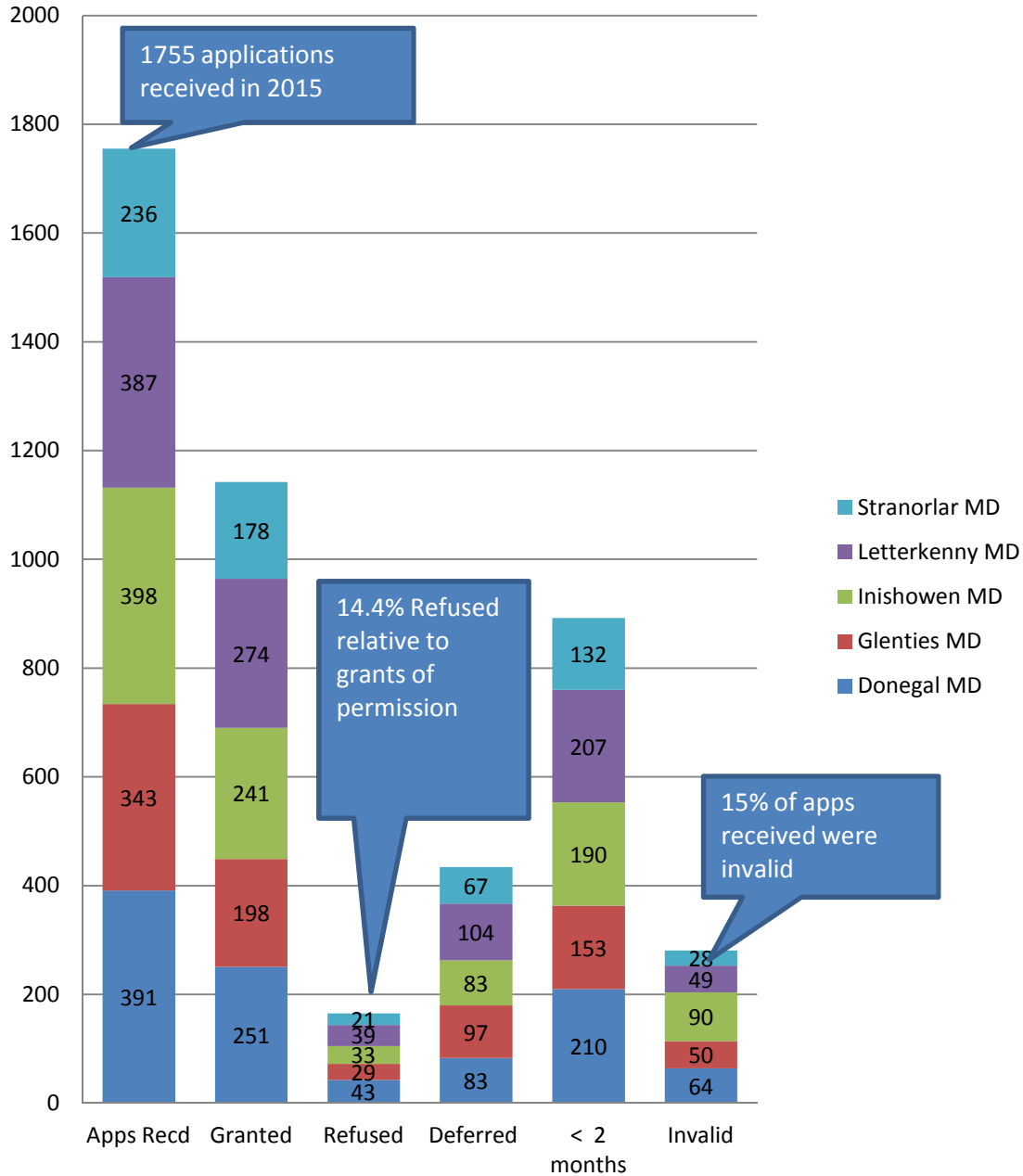
In May, the Local Enterprise Office launched the Strategic Action Plan for Creative Entrepreneurship for Donegal and began the roll out of the actions in June with the establishment of an advisory committee (the Creative Partnership), the piloting of sub-county regional networks in Donegal Town, Carndonagh, Bunbeg and Letterkenny and the creation of two new development programmes which will be implemented in early 2016.

Planning Services

Planning Applications

Planning application numbers continued to grow modestly as follows:

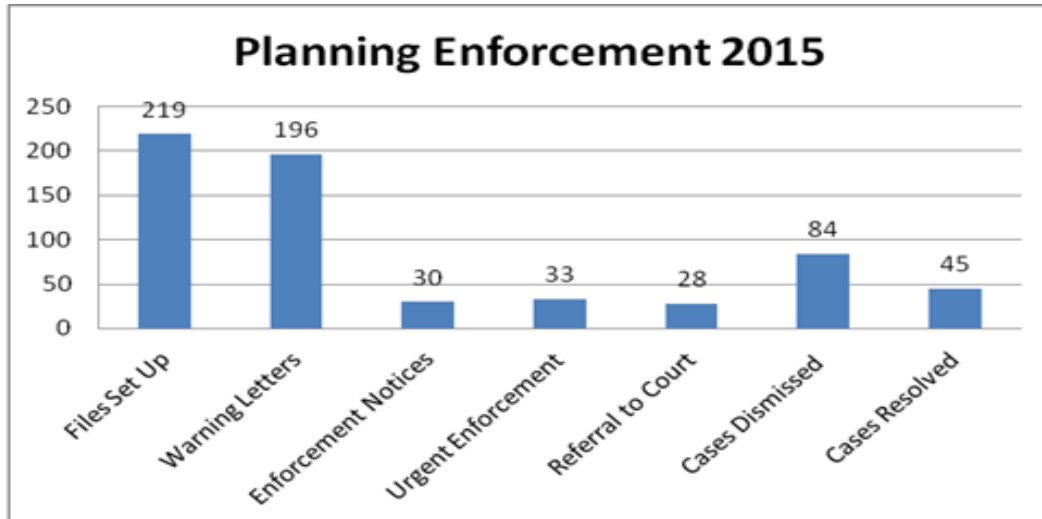
Profile of Planning applications 2015



Enforcement

Enforcement case loads formed a significant element of the demands on the Planning Service with a greater emphasis being placed

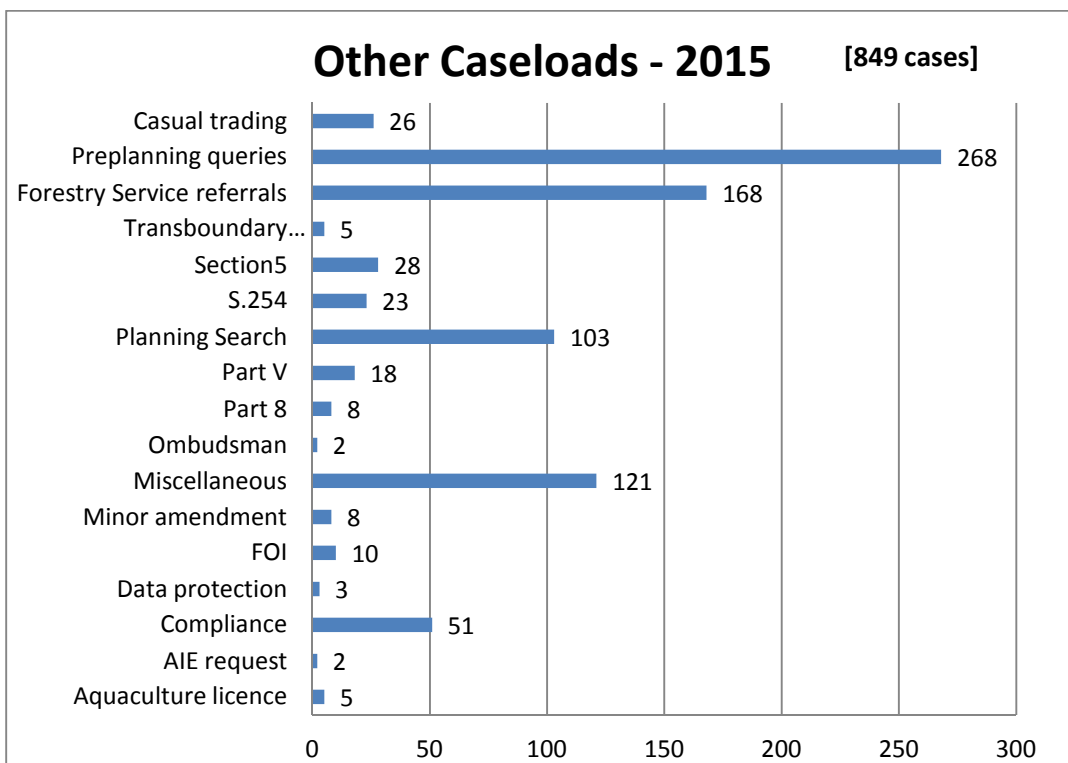
nationally on ensuring compliance with development standards and accordance with the provisions of the Planning & Development Acts. The case load in 2015 consisted of:



Other Cases

Approximately 849 other cases were dealt with during 2015 including pre-planning enquiries,

planning search requests and forestry service referrals. The range and volume of other case types are depicted below:



Unfinished Housing Developments

The concerted effort to resolve many of the more significant unfinished housing estate problems involved the delivery of solutions using funding of approximately €2million. This investment saw remedial work being

undertaken on 17 developments with commitments to continue this programme into 2016.



Cois na h'Abhainn, Malin - Public Road Frontage (before)



Gerard's Way, Carndonagh [before]



Cois na h'Abhainn, Malin - Public Road Frontage [after]



Gerard's Way, Carndonagh [after]

Taking-in-Charge of Housing Developments

67 developments were progressed to public notification stage for their Taking in Charge. It is anticipated that this process will be completed in early 2016 with an ongoing programme of taking in charge continuing over the next number of years.

Policy

The Central Planning Unit has been focused on the development of strategy and policy frameworks guiding community and economic development whilst also protecting and promoting the environmental and heritage assets of the county. In 2015 the following

programmes were completed or significantly progressed:

- Publication of Draft Landscape Character Assessment;
- Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP);
- Commencement of Local Area Plans for Tier 2 Towns;
- Heritage Office Annual Report 2015;
- Donegal County Heritage Plan.



Chief Executive Seamus Neely (right) with Michael O'hEanaigh, former Director of Community, Culture & Development Planning, Denis Kelly, Senior Executive Planner, and Claire McCallan, Conservation Architect examining a copy the DAHG publication 'An Introduction to the Architectural heritage of County Donegal' which was launched in 2015.

**Report from Liam Ward,
Director of Service**

Corporate, Housing & Culture

Housing Services

The overall aim of our housing policy is to enable every household to have an affordable dwelling of good quality, suited to its needs, in a good environment and, as far as possible, at a tenure of its choice.

The types of assistance provided during 2015 ranged from a combination of allocation of tenancies under the Council's own Social Housing Programme, Voluntary Housing Programme, Long Term Leasing Initiative, RAS (Rental Accommodation Scheme) and HAP (Housing Assistance Payment) and the provision of grant assistance under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for people with a disability, the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme and the Housing Aid for Older People Grant Scheme. Other activities included the continuation of the refurbishment programmes in a number of local authority housing estates.

Housing Need

At the end of 2015, there were 2,566 persons identified as being in need of Social housing in County Donegal. The net need, when persons already in receipt of school housing support are taken into account was 2,093.

The Council continues to strive to meet the needs of applicants using a combination of allocation of existing/proposed social housing stock, leased properties, voluntary housing accommodation, accommodation acquired under the Rental Accommodation Scheme and the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme.

Allocations

There was a total of 27 dwellings allocated in 2015 consisting of individual rural cottages, scheme dwellings and

2015 Highlights

- **2,566** persons in need of social housing with a net need of **2,093**
- **541** Housing Assistant Payment transfers
- **27** dwellings allocated and a further **294** households accommodated under RAS
- **3,883** rented Council houses in **301** housing estates and a further **933** individual houses
- **€3.316** million spent on routine maintenance and casual vacancies
- Improvement works to over **350** dwellings
- **210** vacant properties refurbished
- **87,300** calls to the Customer Service Centre
- **6,795** animals inspected in **6** local abattoirs by veterinary inspectors
- **7,945** individual dog licences issued
- **346** dogs reunited with owners or re-homed through the Donegal Dog Shelter
- Over **330,000** books lent across the countywide Library network
- Almost **1,500** children joined the Summer Reading Programme
- **9,000** visitors, **1,400** queries and **133** events at Europe Direct Information Centres
- Extensive festival programme including Seachtain na Gaeilge, Bealtaine, Wainfest, Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks, Lughnasa International Friel Festival & Culture Night
- READ DL programme nominated for a LAMA Award
- Arts Service supported the staging of **7** new theatre productions
- **3** new solo exhibitions by Donegal artists Omar Yashruti, Orla McHardy and Marie Barrett at the Regional Cultural Centre
- County Museum played host to the Bell and Shrine of St. Conall Cael
- Donegal History and Heritage Pack produced

individual purchases. In addition, there were 243 casual vacancies allocated during 2015, with 23 of these being succession tenancies.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

HAP is a new social housing support introduced in accordance with the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. HAP involves the transfer of responsibility for the provision of rental assistance to those with a long-term housing need from the Department of Social Protection (DSP) to Local Authorities. Rent Supplement will still be available from the Community Welfare Officers to households with a short term need i.e. unemployed or a household who has been in rent supplement at any time over the previous 12 months. HAP encourages recipients to take up full employment while still receiving housing support. Over time it will lead to improving the quality of accommodation as properties will be inspected by the Council.

Following the enactment of the necessary legislation the Council commenced HAP on the 25th May 2015 and 541 HAP transfers were completed by the end of the year.

In addition, a further 294 households were accommodated under RAS.

Maintenance

At the end of 2015, the Council had 3,883 rented houses in over 301 individual Housing Estates. There were, in addition, 933 individual houses provided as specific instance or rural cottages or in some cases individual houses purchased within estates. A total of €3.316m was spent on routine maintenance and casual vacancies.

A detailed review of the Council's Maintenance Policy was carried out during 2015 following which a revised policy was adopted.

The revised policy will be incorporated into an updated Tenants Handbook for publication in 2016.

Breakdown of Housing Units

Local Authority Standard Units	4,606
Demountables	33
Long Term Lease (Private)	177

Total	4,816
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Improving the Social Housing Stock

The Council carried out improvements to the social housing stock under a number of programmes as set out below:

- Fabric Up-Grade Programme**
 Improvement works to over 350 dwellings were carried out in 2015, with assistance from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government, to the value of approximately €800,000. A total of almost 1,200 units has now had improvements carried out under this programme.
 - Returning Vacant Properties to Productive Use**
 The Council returned 210 vacant properties to productive use in 2015 with grant aid in the sum of €1,003,576.
- Through a targeted approach, the Council reduced the number of vacant stock in 2015 from 165 at the start of the year to 138 at year end.
- Once off Adaptation Works**
 The Council spent €327,000 carrying out small-scale adaptation works to 45 units of its social housing stock in 2015. In most cases, this was for tenants with special needs and/or disabilities. While the Council only received an initial allocation of €211,676 from the Department under the programme, as a result of progress made this was increased to €294,669 at year end.
 - General Refurbishment Programme**
 Under a general refurbishment programme, work was carried out to over 30 units in the sum of €136,732.

Estate Management

Estate Management forms an important part in the overall context of housing management. The Council presently has five Housing Assessment Officers engaged in this role. In addition to salary provision, over €67,000 was

made available for estate management initiatives.

- 2 Temporary Individual halts
- 6 HAP

Housing Grants

The Council operates three grants which are funded jointly by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (80%) and Donegal County Council (20%). A comprehensive review of grant levels under the various grant schemes was completed in November 2015 following which the Housing & Corporate SPC agreed significantly increased revised standard costings taking effect from 1st December 2015

Grant Type	No of Grants Paid	Value
Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability	42	€134,588
Mobility Aids Housing Grant	13	€18,500
Housing Aid for Older People	67	€159,584

Traveller Accommodation

Year on year, this Council has, through the support of the Traveller Accommodation Unit in the Department, been in a position to provide an extensive range of both new accommodation and improvements to existing accommodation for members of the Travelling community. A range of Traveller-specific projects was completed in 2015 including the provision of a demountable dwelling on a permanent halt and completion of a two-story extension for a family to alleviate an overcrowding situation. These are in addition to the accommodation solutions provided to meet the needs of the Traveller community through the Social Housing Investment Programme. A further significant factor in the provision of accommodation to members of the Donegal Traveller community was the introduction of HAP with a number of families set up within the scheme.

The accommodation needs of 19 Traveller families were met in 2015 as follows:

- 8 Standard Scheme Housing
- 1 Group Housing (adaptation works)
- 1 Long Term Lease
- 1 Demountable Dwelling

Voluntary Housing

Over the years, Donegal County Council has proactively engaged with the Approved Housing Body Sector and the Health Service Executive to provide accommodation under this programme to meet the needs of the elderly and persons with special needs.

Through extensive inter-agency work with the Health Service Executive, Schemes under the Capital Assistance Programme are now specifically targeted to provide special needs accommodation where the traditional forms of social housing supports will not address the specific need. A total of 11 units were delivered under this programme in 2015 with works under way on a further 6 units.

Social Leasing Programme

Under the Social Leasing Programme, suitable properties can be leased to the local authority for a ten year period. A total of 176 units has been leased under this programme to date, with 6 units being provided in 2015.

In addition to Private Long Term Leasing, this Council is actively engaging with the Approved Housing Body Sector in the context of delivering leased units under the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)/Payment & Availability Agreement Scheme. In 2015, 5 units were delivered under CALF and 17 units provided under Payment & Availability Agreements bringing the total number leased by the sector to 56 units.

Customer Contact Centre

The Customer Contact Centre handled 87,300 calls during 2015 with the busiest day having a record 487 calls. Over 38% (33,000) of the callers had their queries dealt with at the initial point of contact.

Over 55% of the calls were answered within 20 seconds with an overall average answer time of 45 seconds.

Human Resources

Recruitment

Donegal County Council has endured a very significant reduction in staffing numbers in recent years. Despite this, the Council has continued to deliver the full range of services. This has been achieved through revised management and staffing arrangements and greater flexibility from employees at all levels in the organisation, resulting in a significant productivity dividend for the Council.

During 2015, the Council recruited additional staff for the first time in a number of years since the introduction of the moratorium on recruitment. The Council continued to manage staff issues in partnership and consultation with staff representative bodies.

Training & Development

The Council once again provided a comprehensive Training Programme to all staff, with particular emphasis on Health & Safety. The Council also continued to invest significantly in Staff Development through the Staff Education Scheme, and assistance was provided for Diploma, Degree & Master of Arts Courses. Staff capability has also been enhanced via a renewed approach to staff reassignment and mobility over the last few years. Performance Management continues to be rolled out across the organisation and this will be developed further during 2016.

Staff Welfare

The Staff Welfare Officer dealt with an extensive number of queries in relation to superannuation and pensions, leave entitlements, illness, bereavement, and other queries of a more personal nature relating to work and home-life. As part of the Staff Welfare service, a dedicated Employee Assistance Programme was delivered. Its services were free to individual staff members and their immediate family members. Various other supports were provided via the Staff Welfare Service, including for example retirement planning and mediation.

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, the Council provides the regulatory control service in low throughput abattoirs, on-farm poultry slaughtering plants and meat processing establishments in the county.

Ten premises were under supervision in 2015. Veterinary Inspectors inspected 6,795 animals in 6 local abattoirs. A further 183 official control inspections were completed over all the premises with 198 control samples taken.

Animal Control

In 2015, 11 general dog licences, 7 lifetime dog licences and 7,945 individual dog licences were issued.

Seven premises were inspected under the Dog Breeding Establishment Act. 346 dogs were either reunited with their owners or re-homed through the Council's Dog Shelter. Fifty-two stray horses were reported to the Council in 2015 with ten impounded.



Cultural Services

The protection, presentation, and promotion of traditional and contemporary culture is a key area of work for the Council. The mission of the Council's dedicated Cultural Services Division is to enrich life, enhance our sense of identity, increase cultural and social opportunities and conserve cultural inheritance for present and future generations

by developing Library, Arts, and Heritage Services.

2015 was another successful year for Cultural Services.

Library Service

Over 330,000 books were lent across the countywide Library network which for the first time provided for free e-books, e-audio books, and e-magazines, alongside existing online services such as e-newspapers and online reference sources. Two RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) self-service kiosks were installed at the Central Library and are in constant use by adults and children alike.

Almost 1500 children joined the Summer Reading Programme, one aspect of the year-round reading development programme, which also includes the Battle of the Books, Bookwork Babies, Ag léamh le chéile, and many other tailored activities. Nationally, the Right to Read programme was launched in September, and will involve all library authorities, including Donegal, in a co-ordinated approach to literacy and reading development, in partnership with other local agencies and communities.

Europe Direct Information Centres

The Europe Direct Information Centres, delivered through the Public Library Service had a busy year in 2015 with 9000 visitors, 1400 queries, and 133 events. The Library Service launched an ENFOpoint for the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and seeks to make environmental information services easily available.



Festivals



Launch of Bealtaine 2015

The extensive festival programme included highlights such as Seachtain na Gaeilge (International Irish Language Festival), the Bealtaine Festival (Celebrating Creativity in Older People), Wainfest (Arts and Books Festival for children), Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival (5,000 people), Lughnasa International Friel Festival, Culture Night (4,400 visits to 22 cultural facilities), Irish Aerial Dance Festival, the Ballyshannon Carnival Project (now in its 15th year), Travellers Pride Week and Earagail Arts Festival, which amongst other events worked with Fáilte Ireland animating Donegal's Wild Atlantic Way with a bilingual programme of artistic and cultural events.



Wainfest 2015

READ DL

Community engagement and development is a significant part of the work of Cultural Services. In 2015 the READ DL programme, which is a grassroots reading movement to get as many people reading the same author at the same time, was nominated for a LAMA Award. The Library Service also collated a catalogue of books on mental health topics. This project was delivered in partnership with Jigsaw Donegal and was supported by the HSE and The National Office for Suicide

Prevention. Topics such as stress management, anxiety, depression, loneliness, eating disorders, and addiction are included in the collection.

Arts Service

One of the most important roles of the Arts Service is that of encouraging the creation and presentation of new artistic work in the county and the service worked in partnership with others to support the staging of seven new theatre productions. The Arts Service also assisted Little John Nee to record and release his debut CD, *Songs of the Lough Swilly Delta* which was launched by an Cathaoirleach Cllr. John Campbell in the Regional Cultural Centre. The CD features many songs which were commissioned or assisted by the Council from 1999-2014.

The international EDGES Partnership (Donegal, East Iceland & Vesterålen, Norway) continued with a busy programme in 2015 and included an application to Creative Europe for a series of Artist Residencies in the partner regions between 2016-18.

The Council is strongly committed to its continued support and relationship with both An Grianán Theatre and Earagail Arts Festival whose nationally regarded work both in terms of creative programming and the commissioning of new work, continues to form a significant part of the cultural landscape of County Donegal. During 2015, essential building work was carried out with the theatre roof replaced, and a new emergency egress created.

Regional Cultural Centre

The Regional Cultural Centre is one of the finest arts facilities in Ireland and continued to commission and show major Irish and international art exhibitions in 2015. Highlights included three new solo exhibitions by Donegal artists, Omar Yashruti, Orla McHardy and Marie Barrett, the latter two curated by Arts Council supported curator-in-residence Éilis Lavelle. In addition there were three major group exhibitions in 2015 including Artists, Still, We Work and Remote Group Show. The Regional Cultural Centre continued its music development programme in partnership with the Donegal Music Education Partnership and Earagail Arts

Festival in 2015 and presented a year-long programme of almost 30 national and international classical, folk and indie music concerts.

Donegal County Museum & County Archive Service

Through the Museum Service and the Archive Service, Donegal County Council preserves and celebrates the collective memory of the county and its communities by collecting, cataloguing, preserving, displaying and interpreting artefacts and records relating to the history of Donegal. In 2015, the Museum worked closely with the British Museum to facilitate the loan of the Bell and Shrine of St. Conall Cael which are considered to be among the highlights of the British Museum's collections and had never before been on public display in Ireland. The Bell and Shrine, and in particular its display in Portnoo, grabbed the attention of the media including RTE, TG4, UTV, and PBS in the USA.

The Archives Service co-operated in the making of several television historical documentaries including *Tríod an Líonsa*, *Stetsons & Stiletos* and *Ireland's Rising*.



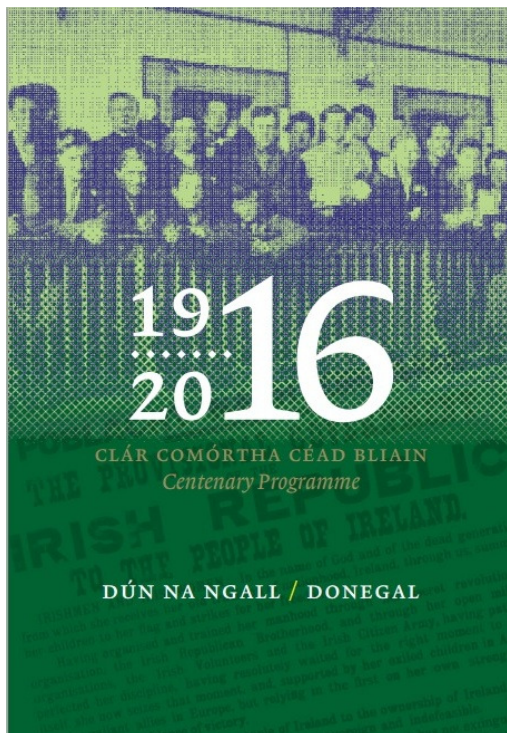
Admiring the Bell and Shrine of St. Conall Cael during it's visit to the County Museum

Cultural Services staff are directly involved in national strategy and training and in 2015 contributed to the development of Culture 2025. Papers based on Donegal's collections, experiences, and learning, were presented at the Archives and Records Association Conference and at the National Gallery of Ireland, amongst others. More locally, we took an active involvement in the development of the Local Economic & Community Plan, the Council's Corporate Plan, the Donegal Age Friendly Strategy,

Connecting for Life Donegal, and the Strategic Action Plan for Creative Entrepreneurship for Donegal.

Donegal 2016

2015 was a busy year planning for the commemorative events of 1916 with 7 public consultation events hosted, and the Divisional Manager taking up the role of County Coordinator.



Donegal's initial programme was launched on October 8th and had considerably expanded by year end. The County Museum received funding from the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht towards the development of an exhibition to commemorate the centenary and the Archives Office received funding from the Heritage Council towards the research, compilation and printing of 5000 copies of the

Report from Joe Peoples, Director of Service

Donegal History and Heritage Pack County Donegal in 1916: From the Edge which will be launched and distributed in early 2016.

Cultural Services is a dynamic and important element of the core work of Donegal County Council and acknowledges the continuing and invaluable support from its many and varied external funders and partners, without whose assistance, the projects and programmes described above, would not have been possible.

Brian Friel (1929 – 2015)

With sadness, we acknowledge the passing of Brian Friel. A complex dramatist, a great humanitarian, a gentle champion of our work and Dad of our colleague David.

Through his beautiful and extraordinary writing, he brought Ireland and particularly our beloved Donegal to the world.



The late Brian Friel

Finance, Information Systems & 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 Aran Mór Island and on Toraigh Island and by Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service who provide the operational service to defined parts of the County, primarily in the vicinity of Bridgend and Lifford. Donegal County Council also provides the operational service to parts of counties Leitrim and Sligo.

There were 797 incidents in the County in 2015 that required a fire brigade response. This was an increase of 10.80% when compared to 2014. These incidents covered a spectrum of activities that include fires, road traffic collisions, flooding and other special services. Donegal brigades mobilised on 886 occasions which include for mobilisations into counties Fermanagh, Leitrim, and Sligo.

During November and December 2015 the fire service responded to various incidents resulting from Storms Abigail and Desmond and which saw substation flooding events at numerous locations across the county.

To maintain operational readiness, the Fire Service continued to develop and roll out its training programmes. This has resulted in the change over to Standard Operational Guidance based training at the twice monthly drill in each Retained Fire Station.

2015 Highlights

- **15** retained Fire Brigades and **2** voluntary brigades
- **797** incidents requiring Fire Brigade response in 2015
- Councils IT infrastructure serves **106** locations throughout the county
- Go Visit Donegal app launched
- Donegal Digital Action Plan developed
- **6,000** Facebook likes and **4,700** Twitter followers
- **26,000** payments to suppliers for goods and services
- **5,467** commercial properties in Donegal
- **€31.2m** rate demands issued and **€24.7m** collected, €8.2m written off
- **5,333** housing rent accounts and a total rent of **€10.85m** collected
- **€2m** NPPR charges collected in 2015
- Donegal Civil Defence has **91** volunteers, **37** females and **54** males
- Donegal Civil Defence provided assistance to **49** non-emergency community events providing **2,772** voluntary man-hours
- Donegal was selected as **1** of the **8** counties nationwide for the roll out of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (Drones)

The fire safety functions include the processing of applications for fire safety certificates, inspections of buildings including inspections under section 24 of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003 and licensing applications under the Dangerous Substances Act, 1972.

There was an increase of 23.18% in the number of applications for Fire Safety Certificates in 2015.



Donegal Fire Service

The three-year programme to enhance the welfare facilities at Ballyshannon, Bundoran and Glencolmcille fire stations continued in 2015 and is expected to conclude in 2016.

Major Emergency Planning

The Council continued to participate with its partner Principal Response agencies and with other agencies in the planning and training activities organised by the North West Regional Working Group. Co-operation, co-ordination, and response arrangements between the various agencies continues to evolve and develop as was evidenced by the participation in *Exercise Recovery* which was held in the Donegal in 2015.

Civil Defence

Donegal Civil Defence, with its 91 volunteers (37 female, 54 male), provided support to the Primary Response Agencies and assisted local communities in non-emergency activities.

In 2015, Civil Defence provided community assistance to 49 Non-Emergency events, where they provided 2772 voluntary man-hours with ambulance and first aid cover and water safety duties to a variety of events that included, Community Festivals, Sporting Events, Donegal Team Homecoming, and the Darkness into Light Event.

Civil Defence also assisted the HSE with patient transfers on 6 separate occasions in 2015 and assisted An Garda Síochána in the

8-Day search for a missing person in the Teelin area of Donegal where searchers, boats and transport were provided by Civil Defence.

During November and December Civil Defence responded to various incidents resulting from Storms Abigail and Desmond including pumping flood waters, sandbagging, rescuing persons from trapped cars, rescuing livestock and evacuation of public venues.

€20,000 was received for the purchase of a 4 WD Land Cruiser Ambulance and Donegal was selected as 1 of the 8 counties nationwide for the roll out of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (Drones).

Civil Defence continued to develop and roll out its training programmes in areas including Cardiac First Response and Occupational First Aid, Emergency First Responder, Search Operator Training, Swift water and Flood First Responders and Radiation Monitoring.

The County Training Exercise took place in Stranorlar on Sunday 1 November with 56 volunteers attending.



Civil Defence during Storm Desmond

Information Systems

The Council's information technology infrastructure serves 106 locations countywide and is one of the largest Local Authority networks in Ireland.

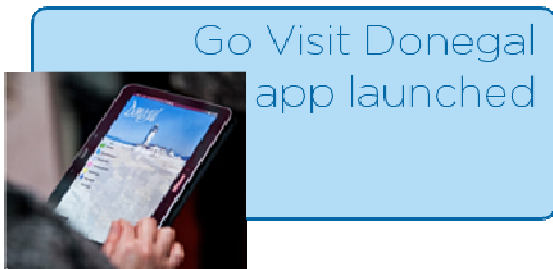
The infrastructure comprises

- 77 Servers,

- 1,200 Desktop & Notebook computers
- 600 Printers/Scanners/Plotters
- 17 PABX Telephone Systems
- 900 Telephone Handsets

In addition to this ICT infrastructure, a wide range of Council business systems is managed on a daily basis.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2019 provided a valuable local context for I.S. operational planning which was geared to supporting its strategic objectives and priorities. New system implementations included systems for Parking Fines Management, Housing Maintenance, Fleet Management and Electronic Meetings. A County Tourism Mobile app was developed to compliment the www.govisitdonegal.com website.



The Council's Web Mapping Portal continues to expand and delivers mapping on a wide variety of themes such as winter weather, public services, and festivals.

Information Systems supported the establishment of the National Roads Management Office with assistance in creating and maintaining an online presence, as well as facilitating their operational network and communications needs.

Participation continued, via the ERNACT

www.ernact.eu

network, in co-operative EU projects and in seeking funding for proposals in support of the internal ICT agenda as well as the wider telecommunications and digital economy strategies for County Donegal. The IMPROVE project was launched in Letterkenny in June



with a focus on improved public services, and a specific local emphasis on supporting the Pre-Planning process.

The Donegal Digital Action Plan was developed in 2015 and identifies a range of actions to assist job creation assisted by Digital Technologies. This cross-agency initiative is supported by Enterprise Ireland, IDA, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Fáilte Ireland, ERNACT, Letterkenny Institute of Technology, Pramerica Systems Ireland, and is co-ordinated by the Donegal County Council Head of Information Systems.

Communications Office

The role of the Councils Communications Office is to proactively engage with the media so as to ensure effective communication with the public.

The Communications Office provides an enquiry service for the media, issues official comment to the media, promotes the services and activities of the Council through a range of platforms and facilitates interaction between the organisation and the media. In 2015 over 240 press releases and news updates were issued to the media on the extensive range of services and activities undertaken by the Council and approximately 600 press queries were processed.

With over 6,000 Page Likes on Facebook and an average weekly reach of 10,000 for our posts, 4,700 followers on Twitter, the Councils social media, and online platforms continued to play an important role in engaging with our consumers.

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.

2015 also saw the Communications Office take the lead role in co-ordinating, preparing and publishing the Councils Corporate Plan 2015 -2019 which sets out the strategic direction for the organisation over the lifetime of the Council.

Management Accounts

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

Annual Revenue Budget

The 2015 Revenue Budget was adopted by the Elected Members on the 18th November 2014 in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) and within the period prescribed by the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government.

Capital Programme

The 2015 – 2017 Capital Budget was prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) and was considered by the Elected Members at the Council Meeting on 30 March 2015.

The Management Accounts Section 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 the Council's submission under the Public Spend Code, which was completed by the deadline of 30th September 2015.

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

Financial Accounts & Financial Information Systems

This division of the Council retained a critical role across a range of financial management functions for the organisation in 2015.

Annual Financial Statement & Audit

During Q1 2015, the 2014 Annual accounts of the Council were prepared. These were presented to the Council for consideration in April 2015. The Local Government Audit Service completed the Audit of these accounts during Q2 2015 and, following consideration by the Audit Committee, were reported on to the Council in July 2015.

Financial Accounting

Services provided during 2015 included required statutory deduction and reporting requirements across various taxation areas in addition to internal application of processes to ensure that all areas of both accounts payable and payroll were managed and delivered in a manner reflecting the needs of all stakeholders.

Transactional activities

In excess of 26,000 payments to suppliers in respect of goods and services provided to the Council were transacted during 2015, as well as more than 40,000 payments on the Council's payroll system, cumulatively representing payments in excess of €165,000,000 during 2015.

The division also provided a range of critical functions including provision of legal advice on relevant activities, develop special projects in areas involving Irish Water, My pay, Core, Fixed Assets & Treasury management.



Debtors Management

The systematic billing and collection of various income streams are critical to the Council to ensure that adequate cash is on hand throughout the year to continue to pay for goods and services. Accruals in excess of €45 million during 2015 fell for collection to the Debtors management section.

Commercial Rates

5,467 commercial properties in the county were issued a rate demand from the Council. Rates are a property tax that is payable on a commercial property.

The total value of the demands that issued in 2015 was €31,235,516. An amount of €24,716,771 was collected and an amount of €8,221,746 was written off. The amount written off includes over €4m that was not due to be collected as the commercial property was not occupied during the year.

The rates that are collected in the County each year are used to fund the Council's annual budget to provide and maintain the services in the county. In 2015, 22% of the Council's annual budget was funded from commercial rates and rents collected.

Housing Rents

The Council operates a differential rent scheme and the rent payable is based on the income of the household. In 2015, the total rent collected was €10,850,526.

The Council monitor and follow up on customer accounts on an ongoing basis and encourages tenants to pay their rent by Household budget, which deducts the rent payment at source. Other methods of payments, such as direct debit and standing order are also encouraged. The Council has offices in our Municipal Districts to facilitate payments at our cash offices and to facilitate tenants to meet with staff in relation to their rent account.

Housing Loans

The Council has currently 557 active loan accounts. The total annual amount due for these loans in 2015 was €2,029,202. The average annual monthly repayment was €299.68.

A number of borrowers have experienced financial difficulties in making their monthly repayment. In these cases, the Council can offer borrowers options under the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP). Such options include reducing the monthly payment for a period of time. If it is deemed that the mortgage will never be sustainable, and subject to certain conditions, the Council can offer the borrower the Local Authority Mortgage to Rent Scheme. In these cases, the borrower surrenders the property to the Council and becomes a tenant. An arrangement is made, in accordance with the Scheme, to deal with the outstanding debt.

NPPR

The Non Principal Private Residence (NPPR) charge was introduced in 2009 and is payable on a property that is not the owner's principal private residence. The charge was replaced in 2013 by the Local Property Tax.

However, the NPPR charge is still payable for the years 2009 – 2013 if it was due and not paid in these years. In 2015, the number of properties that were registered for the charge was 17,196. The current charge for all of the five years, including late penalty fees is €7,230. In 2015, almost €2m was collected in respect of this charge.

Value for Money, Purchasing & Procurement

The Council continued to review expenditure on goods and services across a broad range of headings, both to monitor initiatives already taken and identify further opportunities for achieving cost savings and greater value for money. This was supported by the oversight and direction of the Council's Value for Money (VFM) Committee.

As part of the ongoing reform of public procurement nationally, the Council is increasingly using national contracts and framework agreements. Usage of such national arrangements ensures compliance with public procurement rules and regulations, and in most cases, provides better value for money than would be achieved by the Council acting on its own.

Training was also provided to staff on the revised arrangements for public works

contracts which are due to come into effect in April 2016.

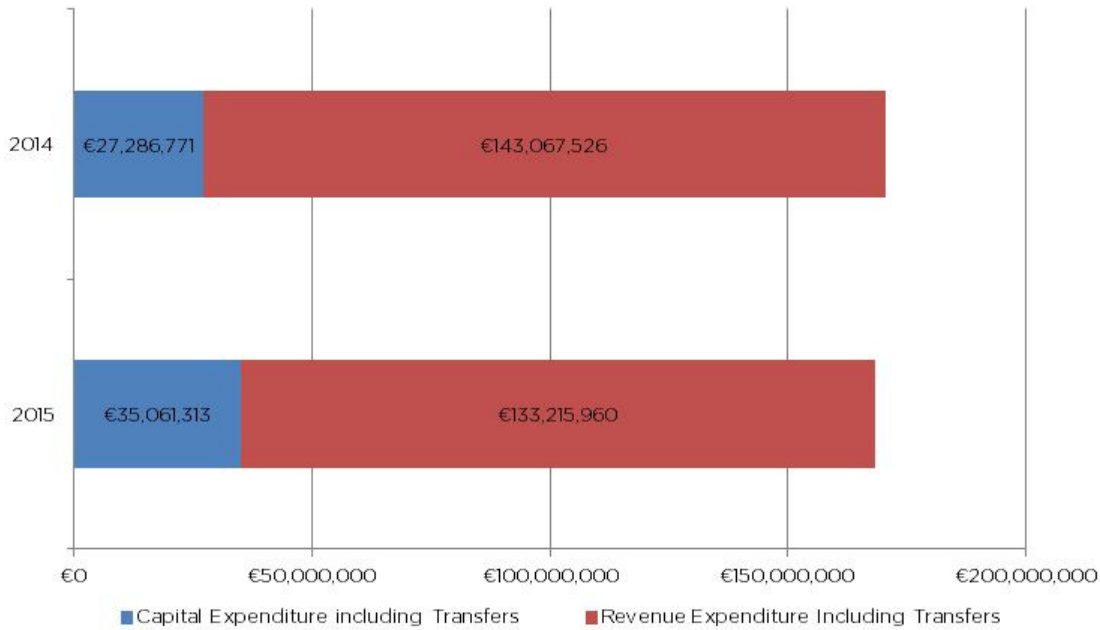
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AT 31st DECEMBER 2015
(Unaudited)**

	2015	2014
	€	€
Fixed Assets and Work In Progress	3,469,161,654	3,464,219,250
Long Term Debtors	76,726,118	80,452,123
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	<u>27,658,289</u>	<u>28,442,621</u>
Long Term Creditors	<u>(143,129,167)</u>	<u>148,437,710</u>
Net Assets	<u><u>3,430,416,894</u></u>	<u><u>3,424,676,283</u></u>
Financed by:		
Work in Progress and Capitalisation Account	3,468,754,151	3,462,832,615
Specific Revenue Reserve	3,374,679	3,374,679
General Revenue Reserve	(14,345,654)	(14,966,588)
Other Balances	(27,366,282)	(26,564,422)
Total Reserves	<u><u>3,430,416,894</u></u>	<u><u>3,424,676,283</u></u>

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2015 (Unaudited)**

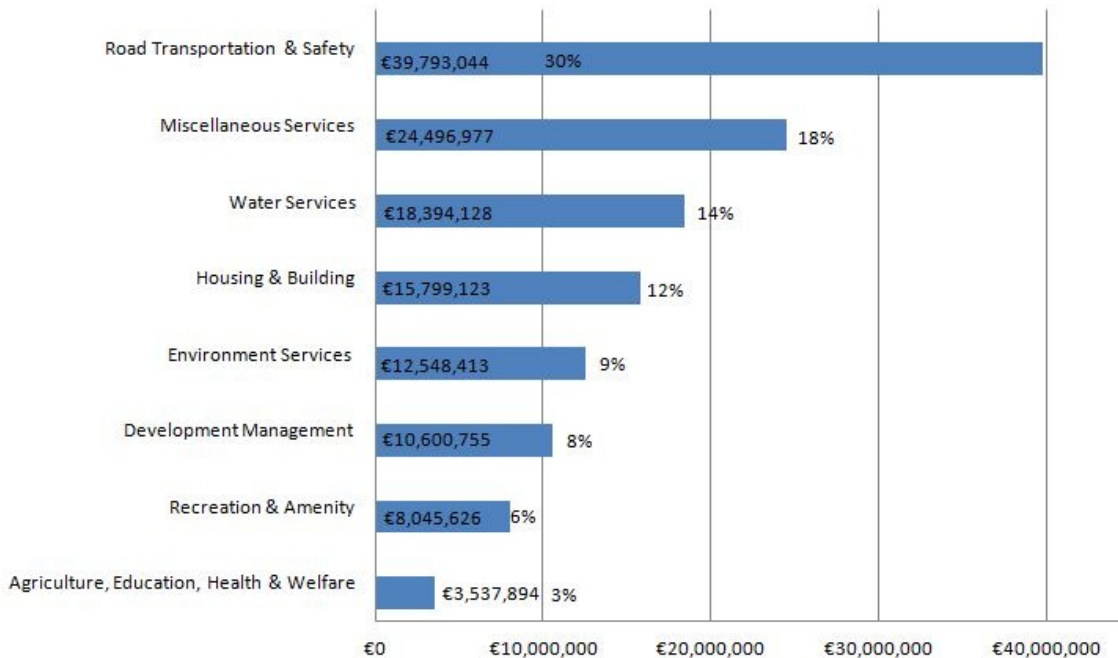
	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Cost
	2015	2015	2015
	€	€	€
Housing & Building	15,532,959	17,670,308	(2,137,349)
Roads Transportation & Safety	39,528,552	24,860,894	14,667,658
Water Services	18,283,567	17,798,845	484,722
Development Management	10,256,357	2,071,623	8,184,733
Environmental Services	11,595,799	1,368,804	10,226,994
Recreation & Amenity	7,363,759	1,002,619	6,361,139
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,900,777	1,460,388	1,440,389
Miscellaneous Services	22,449,017	11,107,161	11,341,857
Total Expenditure/Income	127,910,785	77,340,642	
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates, Local Government Fund & PRD			50,570,143
Rates Income			31,022,480
Local Government Fund - Grant Income			22,720,760
Pension Related Deduction (PRD)			2,390,307
Net Transfers (to) Reserves			(4,942,469)
Overall Surplus for Year			620,934
General Reserve @ 1st January 2015			(14,966,588)
General Reserve @ 31st December 2015			(14,345,654)

Total Expenditure 2014 – 2015 Revenue & Capital (€'000)



Note: These figures are inclusive of transfers to/from reserves

Revenue Expenditure 2015 by Division (€'000)



Note: These figures are inclusive of transfers to/from reserves

**Report from Garry Martin,
Director of Service**

Roads & Housing Capital

Municipal District Roads Division

The overall budget for the Municipal District Roads Division in 2015 was €34m. This budget funded a variety of essential maintenance works on our road network including general maintenance, surface restoration, pavement strengthening, bridge maintenance, winter gritting, low-cost safety works, parks maintenance, street sweeping and car parking.



Night time surface restoration works at Drumlonagher roundabout, Donegal Town to minimise traffic disruption.

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTaS) provided funding of €14.15m for Restoration Maintenance and Restoration Improvement on our non-national road network. This funding allowed us to resurface and/or strengthen approximately 310km of our network.

The Wild Atlantic Way has been a great success story for the country and the Council, supported by Fáilte Ireland, continued the development of this

2015 Highlights

- **310km** of non-national road network resurfaced / strengthened
- **930km** of road network routinely gritted each winter
- **€225,000** spent on the ongoing maintenance of **9** regional bridges and **€264,500** on strengthening **10** local bridges
- Donegal County Council was awarded the Road Safety Award 2015 & the Donegal Road Safe Show received the 2015 RSA Leading Lights in Road Safety award
- Speed limit reductions in **30** Council housing estates
- New Energy Management System (EnMS) introduced
- Roads Management Office Shared Service set up in Donegal and Cork
- New **6** Year Housing Capital Programme agreed
- Construction started on **€8** million N15 Blackburn Bridge Realignment Scheme
- Construction started on **€10** million N56 Gweebarra Bends Project
- Approval and **€3** million funding authorised to construct Cockhill Bridge, Buncrana
- Approval and funding authorised to construct Multilantyboyle Bridge, Glenties
- Approval and **€2** million funding authorised to construct N56 Kilty Roundabout, Letterkenny
- **ISO 9001** Accreditation and Certification received by National Roads Office

facility throughout 2015. Photo points were installed at each of the WAW Discovery Points located along the route. The Council also resurfaced 24km of this route during the year.

The Council's Winter Gritting Programme is one of the most extensive in the country and 930 km (14%) of our road network is routinely gritted each winter. The cost of winter gritting for the calendar year 2015 was approximately €1.6m.

The Council was also successful during 2015 in securing funding commitments from Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport (DTT&S) for two bridge projects, Mullantiboyle Bridge at Glenties and the Cockhill Bridge at Bunrana.

Funding was also secured for the completion of the Woodlands road widening project on the R245 between Letterkenny and Ramelton.

Non-native Invasive Species

The non-native invasive species Japanese Knotweed is becoming an increasing problem across the country. The Council initiated a pilot project in 2015 to test various options for the treatment of Japanese Knotweed. It is hoped that this pilot will inform a county-wide eradication programme to commence during 2016.

Severe Weather Incident

Donegal was badly hit by flooding in mid-November and at the start of December 2015. The Council's road maintenance crews were deployed during these periods to close roads, set up diversion routes, arrange for sand & sand bags and to clear mud and debris from our roads after the flood waters subsided.

Central Technical Services Division

The Central Technical Services Division is made up of 4 departments – Facilities Management, Road Design, Machinery Yard & Stores and Housing Construction (incorporating the Architectural Services Department).

2015 was another successful year in the ongoing maintenance of the County's bridges with a total of €225,000 on 9 regional road bridges and €264,500 on bridge strengthening spent on the 10 local bridges (including uniting / grouting, concrete repairs, full replacement as required). A structural

assessment was also undertaken at Logue's Bridge, Ballybofey.



Straths Bridge, Inishowen – on completion

Road Safety

The Road Design Safety team completed the assessment and design of many low-cost accident schemes to improve road safety and HD15 schemes on the National Roads were further developed while the Road Safety Officer continued to provide support to the Donegal Road Safety Working Group (DRSWG) and organized the now annual Road Safe Show in October to audiences numbering approximately 3,000 pupils.



Donegal Road Safe Show reaching 3,000 young people in 2015

In 2015, Donegal Daily committed to supporting the Donegal Road Safety Working Group to continue to highlight road safety as a matter of priority on their website in a bid to help get the road safety messages across to the general public. A similar arrangement was agreed with the Donegal Sports Hub website. CLG Dhún na nGall and DRSWG again linked up to promote road safety with road safety awareness signs placed at O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny and McCumhaill Park, Ballybofey promoting Road Safety. Finn Harps FC

continued to support Road Safety through the Primary School Road Safety Art competition.

Donegal County Council was awarded the "Road Safety Award 2015 in the Excellence in Business Awards by the Public Sector Magazine".

The 'Leading Lights in Road Safety' Awards is one of the most important events of the year, as the Road Safety Authority acknowledges those who have helped achieve safer roads. The 2015 RSA Leading Light award in the Public Service Category was awarded to the Donegal Road Safe Show.

Reduction of Speed Limits in Housing Estates

In 2015, the Road Design team rolled out a pilot project for the reduction of speed limits in 30 Council estates across the Municipal Districts with new signage and appropriate bye-laws. The remainder of the estates (Council owned) will be completed by April 2017 along with the full review of the road network speed limits following the introduction of the DTTaS guidelines in 2015.

Social Housing Programme 2015-2020

The Social Housing Programme 2015-2020 was announced in late 2014 and by the end of 2015, the Housing Capital Team had developed a comprehensive strategy and detailed programme to deliver same. A second in-house technical team was employed through an interview process to assist the existing team in the development of projects for the various stages of Departmental Approval. The programme includes the delivery of 170 units from 2015-2017 for a budget allocation of €31.5m. The overall plan allows (subject to approvals from the DoEHLG) for the delivery of over 500 units with an overall expenditure of €85m by 2020.



Specific Instance Rural Cottage at Monclink completed in 2015

Machinery Yard

The Machinery Yard purchased some new plant in 2015, in accordance with the Council approved 2015-2017 Plant Purchase and Reconditioning Programme and continued to provide a fit for purpose fleet of both owned and hired vehicles to the Councils Roads area team, the Housing Services team and Irish Water during 2015, facilitating the ongoing maintenance, repair and operation of the Council's assets.

The Stores published an intranet stock list and PPE procurement application form to provide information on product availability to customers and continued to utilise the national framework agreements for the supply of a wide variety of products to ensure the best value for money for the Council.



Donegal County Council fleet

Facilities Management

Facilities Management rolled out a number of contracts to ensure the ongoing care,

maintenance, and repair of the Council's 5 Public Services Centres and the Lifford Complex. The team also closed out the purchase of the Lifford Barracks and commenced work on the options for the development of a new Council Chamber to accommodate the increase in the size of the Plenary Council.

In addition to the management of these facilities, the Facilities Manager, with assistance from the Housing Capital Manager, embarked on the development of an energy management system (EnMS) in order to comply with the "National Energy Efficiency Action Plan" with the outcome of certification under ISO 50001 by mid-2016. The ISO 50001 standard insists that organisations use an EnMS to establish the policies and procedures to systematically track, analyse, and improve energy efficiency. The standard is based upon the Plan-Do-Check-Act management system.

ISO 50001 provides a framework of requirements for organisations to:

- Develop a policy for more efficient use of energy
- Fix targets and objectives to meet the policy
- Use data to better understand and make decisions about energy use
- Measure the results
- Review how well the policy works, and
- Continually improve energy management.

It is proposed to seek certification for the Council's Energy Management System to ISO 50001 in June/July 2016.

National Roads Construction & Design

Construction

N15 Blackburn Bridge Realignment Scheme Phase 1.

This scheme to upgrade 2.5 km of substandard alignment on the N15 from the bottom of McGroary's Brae towards Ballybofey/Stranorlar to a standard single carriage alignment complete with hard shoulders commenced construction in July

2015. The construction period is 52 weeks and the Contractor is Wills Bros. Ltd. This section of the N15 is part of the TEN – T (Trans European Network) within the County, and the completed scheme will enhance road safety and improve journey times.



Blackburn Bridge Realignment Scheme – construction in progress

N56 Ballyoughter to Kilkenny LVNS.

This scheme to upgrade 5.0 km of substandard alignment on the N56 in an area known as the 'Gweebarra Bends' to a single carriageway alignment with hard strips commenced construction in June 2015. The construction period is 80 weeks and the Contractor is Wills Bros. Ltd. This project forms phase 2 of the N56 Dungloe – Glenties Realignment Scheme which is approx. 29km in length and which for construction purposes is divided into 5 phases. The overall scheme is included in DPER's recently published Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan- 'Building on Recovery' and is scheduled to have all 5 phases completed by 2021. The scheme forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way and its development will have a significant positive economic impact on West Donegal.

Pavement Improvement Schemes

Six schemes were completed on the National Routes in 2015;

- N15 Coneyburrow – Lifford
- N15 Liscooley
- N56 Duncans Bridge (Donegal Town – Killybegs Road)
- N56 Glenties
- N56 Kilconnell (Kilmacrennan – Termon Road)
- N56 Turrishill, Mountcharles.
- Bridge Refurbishment/ Improvement Schemes.
- Road Signing/Lining & Safety Schemes.



Realignment at the Gweebarra Bends on N56 in progress

Design

TEN –T Improvements

TEN-T is a multi-billion programme of European Investment in all forms of transport. The TEN-T policy aims to close the gaps between Member States transport networks and remove bottlenecks that still hamper the smooth functioning of the Internal Market.

The TII provided an allocation to Donegal in 2015 to begin the process of developing the TEN –T network in the County. The initial phase of this project involved the commissioning of a Consultant to carry out a Corridor Needs Study on the Ten-T Network from the end point of the N15 Blackburn Bridge Alignment Scheme (currently at Construction Stage) to the Derry Border at Bridgend via the N13 and from Letterkenny to Lifford via N56 and N14.

The outcome of the study is to identify the improvement schemes necessary to improve the route to TEN-T requirements and to prioritise the sequence in which these schemes are to be progressed. The study was largely completed in 2015 and a further allocation is expected in 2016 to further develop the project.

N56 Mountcharles – Drumbeigh Realignment Scheme

This scheme proposes to upgrade 2.5 km of substandard alignment between Mountcharles and the Frosses junction at Drumbeigh to a standard single carriageway alignment complete with hard shoulders. Contract Documents are complete and progression to tender and construction is subject to funding

becoming available. This project forms phase 1 of the N56 Mountcharles– Inver Realignment Scheme which is approx. 5km in length and which for construction purposes is divided into 2 phases. The overall scheme is included in DPER’s recently published Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan- ‘Building on Recovery’ and is scheduled to be completed by 2021. The scheme forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way and its development will have a significant positive economic impact on West Donegal.

N56 Coolboy – Kilmacrennan

This scheme proposes to upgrade 3.3 km of substandard alignment between Illistrin and Kilmacrennan and encompassing a section known as the ‘Blue Banks’ to a standard single carriageway with hard strips. Contract Documents are complete and progression to tender and construction is subject to funding becoming available. The scheme forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way and its development will have a significant positive economic impact on North and West Donegal.

N56 Kiltroy Roundabout

This scheme proposes to rationalise the existing 2 priority junction layout with a roundabout to increase capacity and promote better traffic flow at this location. The proposed roundabout will function as the Northern tie in for the proposed Letterkenny Relief Road. The detailed design was advanced in 2015 and construction funding is committed for 2016.

N56 Kilkenny to Letterlilly LVNS

This scheme forms phase 3 of the N56 Dungloe to Glenties LVNS referred to above and measures approx 3.3 km in length. Detailed Design is complete and progression of the scheme to tender and construction is subject to further funding becoming available.

Advance design work was completed on a number of proposed pavement improvement, bridge refurbishment and safety schemes to avail of expected funding in 2016.

The National Roads Office (NRO) based in Donegal PSC with a staff compliment of 26 received ISO 9001;2008 accreditation and certification in 2015.



Eamon Canney, Senior Engineer, National Roads Office, Seamus Neely, Chief Executive and Mr. Michael Nolan, CEO, Transport Infrastructure Ireland receiving ISO9001 Certification awarded to the National Roads Office in Donegal Town

Roads Management Office

In late 2014 Donegal County Council led the winning consortium of Donegal, Cork, Kerry and Tipperary County Councils with Cork City Council in the bid for the Roads Management Office Shared Service.

Its role is to support Local Authorities in their role as Roads Authorities responding to the overall priorities, policies and objectives of the government through the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport. Supports are based on three fundamental components: Processes, People, and Technology.

These, in turn, are supported by funding:

- People: Fostering collaborative working in relation to road management across the sector and with other agencies.
- Processes: Developing and supporting sector-wide policies and process that are consistent with best international practice in road asset management.
- Technology: Developing and improving value for money (VFM) supports for stakeholders around road management.

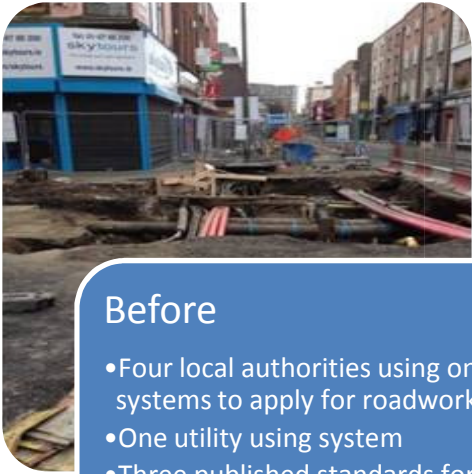
The work of the RMO is developmental in nature and subject to review by the RMO board and stakeholders including local authorities, government departments and agencies as well as the utility industry.

During 2015 the office set up two offices in Cork and Milford and has worked closely with the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport and Local Authorities as well as other agencies and utilities.

The developments during 2015 are best illustrated by considering the position before and after under the two main deliverables that formed the offices objectives for 2015:

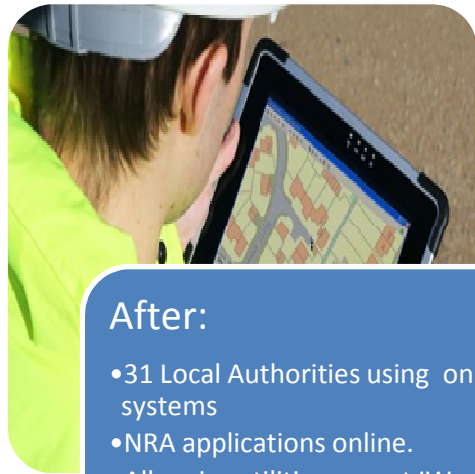
Road Licensing:

A significant impediment to infrastructure rollout (water, broadband, gas) nationally was identified under the Action Plan for Jobs. This involved local authorities using paper-based systems for road works applications along with significant variability across local authorities to the treatment of utilities (in relation to charges, conditions, response time etc).



Before

- Four local authorities using online systems to apply for roadworks
- One utility using system
- Three published standards for management of road openings
- 31 versions of standard conditions
- Limited or multiple insurance checking
- Limited or no tracking of applications
- Poor tracking of timelines



After:

- 31 Local Authorities using online systems
- NRA applications online.
- All major utilities except IW using system
- One national standard for the management of road openings
- Universal conditions being agreed
- Insurance checked centrally
Approximately 200 licences per week being processed
- Licences being tracked

Pavement Asset Management:

Providing an evidential basis for funding our road network along with designing methodologies for local authorities to obtain best value for money in their investment programme is a key deliverable for the RMO. During 2015 the office has worked with DTTaS and local authorities to roll out the MapRoad system along with supporting guidelines and systems.



Before

- Paper based system in most local authorities for recording information for the department
- Variability in records being submitted to DTTAS via excel and other formats
- Poor consistency in tracking of road works completed
- Difficulties measuring compliance
- Variable standards for mechanical surveys
- Limited information with regard to road condition rating.

After

- Returns being put through MapRoad system by LAs over €150M or work recorded
- 2016-2019 programme online
- Standard recording approach
- Increasing information available online in relation to works completed
- Over 65000km of road surveyed
- Procurement frameworks for pavement consultants and pavement condition rating
- Model for pavement management planning agreed for piloting
- Working groups on Footways and Drainage operating

**Report from John McLaughlin,
Director of Service**

Water & Environment

Water & Environment Service is responsible for:

- Delivery of water services
- Waste management
- Water pollution control and River Basin Management
- Environmental education and awareness
- Litter management
- Managing beaches and sports & leisure facilities

Delivery of Water Services

Drinking Water Supplies

Under the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water (IW) the Council continued to operate 32 Public Water Supplies (PWS) producing 23.4 million cubic meters of drinking water serving a population of approximately 159,700. The Council purchased a further 104,390 cubic meters of water from Northern Ireland Water. In addition to the 32 PWS schemes, there are also 7 public Group Water Supply schemes (GWS).

The Domestic Water Meter Surveying Programme identified almost 81,000 domestic connections to piped water mains in the county. 10,835 non-domestic connections were identified for billing purposes at the end of 2015, of which some 9,820 are metered.

Production of drinking water in Donegal in 2015 was as follows:

Municipal District	Drinking Water (cubic metres)
Inishowen MD	5,537,415
Donegal MD	5,339,950
Glenties MD	4,259,915
Letterkenny MD	5,459,670
Stranorlar MD	2,763,780
Total	23,360,730

2015 Highlights

- **32** Public Water Supplies producing **23.4** million cubic meters of drinking water serving a population of approximately **159,700**
- **89** municipal wastewater scheme discharges, **39** subject to discharge licenses and **50** subject to Certificates of Authorisation
- **12** major capital schemes and **33** minor capital schemes proceeding
- Regional Waste Management Plan published in 2015
- **6** Recycling Centres at Carndonagh, Dungloe, Milford, Laghey, Letterkenny and Stranorlar
- **330** Bring Banks at **72** sites for glass and cans resulting in over **2700** tonnes of glass in 2015
- **194** schools took part in the green schools programme & **154** Green Flags awarded
- Donegal was awarded **13** Blue Flag Awards in 2015
- **6** beaches achieved Designated Bathing Water standard
- Green Coast Awards were awarded to **5** beaches
- **13** beaches are wheelchair accessible

The extensive water distribution and storage network throughout the county is monitored for unaccounted for water (UfW). In 2015 the UfW figure for Donegal was 42.54%. In the absence of universal metering, this is based partly on estimated consumption per household. These base assumptions are being reviewed by IW and will change for 2016.

A significant number of private water supplies operate across the county as follows:

- 4 private GWSs sufficiently large to merit regulatory reporting to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- 16 smaller private GWSs are monitored but not reported.
- 18 wholly private water supplies monitored and reported to the EPA, and
- 20 smaller supplies monitored but not reported.

A number of individual households continue to obtain their water supply from private wells. The Council operates an annual subsidy scheme on behalf of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government as a contribution towards operational costs for GWSs and a well grant scheme for development of individual potable drinking water wells.

Drinking Water Quality

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the supervisory authority for Irish Water in relation to publicly operated water services and for Donegal County Council in relation to private supplies.

The Drinking Water Monitoring Programme carried out by the HSE on behalf of the Council, monitors the quality of public and private supplies at consumers taps. Three types of testing are carried out – microbiological, chemical and indicator. An ‘overall compliance’ measure is derived from all three.

Microbiological compliance level in Donegal Public Water Supplies was 100% in 2015. Overall compliance level (including chemical and indicator parameters) was 98.7%. Private supplies monitored achieved an average microbiological compliance of 88% with an overall compliance of 92.2%.

The EPA publishes a list of Remedial Action Schemes (RAL) to focus attention on non-compliant schemes and to encourage remedial works to remedy problems. There were eleven RAL schemes in Donegal in 2015. Irish Water is developing interventions to deal with the problems.

Wastewater Schemes

89 municipal wastewater scheme discharges have been identified for authorisation by the EPA. Discharges from larger schemes are licensed whereas smaller scheme discharges are subject to Certificates of Authorisation.

39 scheme discharges in Donegal are candidates for discharge licenses. 35 have been issued to date - 12 in 2015. The remaining 50 discharges are candidates for Certificates of Authorisation. All of these Certificates of Authorisation have been issued.

Wastewater Discharges Quality Compliance

The Council monitors all wastewater discharges and the monitoring programme was fully delivered in 2015. Compliance of the licensed discharges is tested against the Discharge Licence requirements and also against the Urban Waste Water Directive requirements. The newer more modern plants achieved compliance in 2015, but a significant number of older plants were non-compliant, reflecting the need for investment in wastewater treatment.

ANSWER Project

The Council was a partner on the EU INTERREG funded ANSWER Project to provide scientific evidence on the effectiveness and sustainability of using short rotation coppice willow for the treatment of organic effluents. The project delivered a 14Ha irrigated willow plantation adjacent to Bridgend Sewerage Scheme providing additional treatment for effluent leaving that treatment works. Whilst weather related, discharge to the willows in excess of 90% was achieved in some months during 2015. Data from this and other trial sites will assist policy makers, regulators and potential users of the technologies.

Water Services Capital

12 major capital schemes and 33 minor capital schemes are proceeding through the IW Capital Programme in 2015 as follows:

- Construction of wastewater treatment plants progressed in 2015 for Glenties, Dungloe and St Johnston. Completion

of these schemes is expected in 2016.

- Tender documents were prepared for Letterkenny wastewater network improvements.
- A Design Build Operate (DBO) Contract was signed for Donegal Bay Group B in 2015 to provide wastewater infrastructure for Bundoran, Convoy, Glencolmcille and Killybegs.
- Appointments were made for design services under the Towns & Villages Programme to progress wastewater infrastructure for the following centres: Bridgend, Buncrana, Carrigart, Kilmacrennan, Milford, Mountcharles, Ramelton, Rathmullan and Stranorlar.
- 6 separate appointments were made for consultancy services for design, tender and contract administration on major drinking water improvement projects covering the Letterkenny Regional Water Supply Scheme, Creeslough Water Treatment Plant, East Inishowen Water Supply Scheme, Gortahork Water Treatment Plant, Owenteskna Water Treatment Plant, Lettermacaward Regional Water Supply Scheme, Killybegs Regional Water Supply Scheme and Ballyshannon Regional Water Supply Scheme.
- Planned works will include construction of 5 new water treatment plants, 2 expanded water treatment plants, at least 10 water pumping stations and approximately 110km of new water supply pipelines.
- Planning permission was applied for in relation to a number of facilities and was granted for new water treatment plants for Letterkenny and Creeslough.
- Approximately 4.5km of water main pipeline was replaced during 2015 in conjunction with the Roads Authority.

Waste Management

Donegal County Council is one of nine Local Authorities making up the Connacht-Ulster Waste Region. A Regional Waste Management Plan was published in 2015. This plan sets out the aims and objectives of waste management in the Region until 2021.

Waste Collection

Kerbside waste collection services throughout the county are provided by private waste collectors for dry recyclable household and commercial waste. There are 105 waste collectors authorised by the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) to collect waste in Co. Donegal. The Council actively regulates their operations in conjunction with national agencies.

Waste Disposal

There are no active waste disposal facilities operating in Donegal. Waste Collectors take the waste to facilities elsewhere in the country.

The Council continues to manage six licensed landfills in the county namely Ballynacarrick, Churchtown, Drumaboden, Balbane, Muckish and Glenalla. All are closed and are monitored for compliance with EPA licence requirements.

Four sites (Muckish, Glenalla, Drumaboden and Ballynacarrick) have been fully remediated. Remediation works were ongoing at the Churchtown site during 2015 developing an on-site treatment facility for leachate using willows and an integrated constructed wetland. These works are being carried out under the ANSWER project. Leachate at Drumaboden is treated on site while leachate from the other three sites is taken to the wastewater treatment works at Letterkenny for full treatment.

Waste Recycling

The Council operates six Recycling Centres at Carndonagh, Dungloe, Milford, Laghey, Letterkenny and Stranorlar under contract to Bryson Recycling. These sites provide a service to the public to recover a range of

waste items, as well as the disposal of household waste in accordance with the incoming Pay by Weight and Brown Bin obligations.

The Council also operates 330 Bring Banks at 72 sites around the county, which allow for the collection of glass and cans and resulted in the collection over 2,700 tonnes of glass in 2015.

The Council also provides 6 collection points for Hazardous Household wastes and separately, working in conjunction with WEEE Ireland, organises collection days for waste electrical and electronic equipment.



There are 84 Waste Facilities registered by Donegal County Council to recover waste in the county. These include facilities where private sector operators provide an opportunity to the public for the recycling and disposal of wastes in accordance with the consent of the Council.

Regulation

The Council regulates waste management activities under the Waste Management Act 1996 in conjunction with national regulatory bodies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO). The Council conducted a series of on-site inspections of all the household waste collectors and skip hire operators on a number of occasions in 2015, in order to ensure the compliance of these waste operators to their obligations under the Act.

The NWCPO is the national body with the responsibility for granting or revoking waste collection permits, as well as collating all data that might arise from these activities. The

Council remains the enforcement authority in the event that a waste collector is deemed to be non-compliant.

The Council is responsible for the granting and revocation of Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration. Data collection for these activities will be transferred to the NWCPO commencing January 2016. The Council remains responsible for the enforcement of relevant legislation governing these facilities.

In October 2015 the Council in conjunction with Leitrim County Council successfully bid to operate the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA) on behalf of the Connacht-Ulster waste region. This office will implement policies and actions that will allow for better coordination and cooperation of waste enforcement activities in the Region and Co. Donegal.

Pollution Control

The Councils Central Laboratory undertakes a range of programmes aimed at environmental protection and pollution control. This includes:

- Monitoring wastewater discharges
- Licencing and monitoring commercial / industrial discharges to sewers and to waters
- Monitoring of rivers and lakes throughout the county
- Septic tank inspections
- Farm inspections
- Bathing water monitoring
- Responding to environmental complaints.

Management systems are being put in place within the laboratory in pursuit of INAB accreditation status.

Water Framework Directive / River Basin Management

Following the successful leading out on cross-border river basin management studies in recent years, Council staff are working with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government to develop sustainable structures for catchment management as required under the Water Framework

Directive. Support was provided to the Inishowen River Trust as an early project. An application for funding under the INTERREG Programme for a river catchment restoration in the River Finn catchment was progressed in 2015.

Environmental Education and Awareness

In 2015 a comprehensive awareness programme was developed and delivered by the Councils Waste Awareness Officer to identified groups including householders, businesses, schools, large organisations, the agricultural sector and community groups. This included:

- Schools environmental programme providing seminars, advice and talks on waste management practices, the green schools programme and arranging school tours of the six recycling centres throughout the county. 194 schools were registered with the green schools programme and 154 Green Flags were awarded.
- Extensive recycling publicity campaign highlighting the range of services such as bring banks, recycling centres, kerbside recycling and home composting. The Council continued to promote and participate in national campaigns such as the Stop Food Waste campaign. Anti-litter awareness campaigns are also carried out including promotion and support of National Spring Clean, community clean ups and delivering anti-litter



messages through various media.

Community clean up of Deelee River

- Working closely with tidy towns and community groups delivering advice, workshops on composting and talks on responsible waste management for groups in the county.



- Working closely with colleagues in the Connaught Ulster Waste Management Region of which Donegal is a part of. In 2015 Donegal carried out waste prevention initiatives funded through the LAPN (Local Authority Prevention Network).
- Administering the Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Grant and the local Anti-litter grant "Adopt a Road" and 19 LA 21 initiatives were funded, 24 'Adopt a Road' grants were provided and 33 'Approach Roads' grants were also provided.

- Carried out a seasonal awareness campaign for the "Smoky Coal" ban for Letterkenny, including press releases, radio advertising and talks.

Litter Management

The Council employs five litter wardens, a waste Regulation Officer and an Assistant Waste Regulation Officer to enforce the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and the Waste Management Act 1996. Their duties include investigation of cases of illegal dumping, issuing on-the-spot fines for littering offences along with written warnings and legal proceedings for offences under the Waste Management Act 1996.

911 litter and waste related complaints were received, all of which were investigated. 797 of these cases were satisfactorily dealt with and the case closed. 135 fixed penalty notices under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 were issued and where possible unpaid fines were pursued through the Courts, resulting in 7 successful prosecutions in 2015.

Managing Beaches, Sports & Leisure Facilities

Donegal was awarded thirteen Blue Flag Awards in 2015.



Six beaches also achieved Designated Bathing Water standard: Ballyhernan; Drumatinney; Lady's Bay; Port Arthur; Port na Blagh; Rathmullan; and Green Coast Awards were awarded to five beaches namely:

Ballyhernan; Dooley; Drumatinney; Magheraroarty; Port Arthur.

The Council has continued to make a significant investment in securing the retention of Blue Flags at these beaches. This involves water sampling, beach maintenance, provision of signage, toilet facilities and car parking in some cases.

Access for visitors of all abilities received particular focus in 2015. Boardwalk access and railings were developed / improved in a number of locations. Currently, 13 beaches are wheelchair accessible.

Lifeguards were employed on all Blue Flag Beaches and at Rathmullan beach over the bathing season. There is an ongoing programme of ring buoy maintenance where they are repaired/ replaced as necessary around the coastline. In addition, contributions are made to local search and rescue groups in the county. Working relations with the Irish Coastguard were strengthened to improve water safety along the coastline.

A Coastal Management Steering Committee was convened including members of the Coastguard, An Taisce, National Parks & Wildlife Service and Dept of Agriculture, Food & Marine and Council staff.

This allowed a co-ordinated approach to address issues such as aquaculture, removal of beach materials, removal of dead/stranded whales & dolphins and dealing with End of Life Vessels. Many such incidents arose and were dealt with swiftly in 2015.

Leisure Centres

The Council supports the development and operation of a number of leisure centres throughout the county. The Water and Environment Service remains involved with the recently completed Finn Valley Centre, Ballyshannon Leisure Centre and Letterkenny Aura Centre. The service is also involved in proposed refurbishment and upgrade works at Buncrana Leisure Centre

**Report from Michael McGarvey,
Director of Service**

Appendices

Council Membership of Committees and Other Bodies

Corporate Policy Group

Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr Frank Mc Brearty
Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr John Ryan
Cllr John O' Donnell
Cathaoirleach of the Day

Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

Community, Social and Cultural SPC

Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher, Chairperson
Cllr. Michael McBride
Cllr. Tom Conaghan
Cllr. Ian McGarvey
Cllr. Jack Murray
Cllr. Gerry Crawford
Cllr. Martin McDermott
Cllr. Patrick McGowan
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr. Martin Harley

Sectoral Representation

Ethna Diver – Environmental / Conservation
Paul Byrne – Business / Commercial
John C. Quinn – Trade Union
Paul Kernan - Community / Voluntary / Social Inclusion
Joe Boland - Community / Voluntary / Social Inclusion

Environment & Emergency Services SPC

Cllr. John O'Donnell, Chairperson
Cllr. Niamh Kenney
Cllr. Gerry McMonagle
Cllr. Noel Jordan
Cllr. Gerry Crawford
Cllr. James McDaid
Cllr. Rena Donaghey
Cllr. Martin Farren
Cllr John Ryan
Cllr Terence Slowey

Sectoral Representation

Trish Murphy - Environmental/Conservation
P.J McMonagle - Agriculture/Farming
J Watson - Development/Construction
Frank Trearty - Business/Commercial
Alec Carlin - Fishing/Aquaculture

Housing & Corporate Service SPC

Cllr. Frank McBrearty, Chairperson
Cllr. Micheál Colm MacGiolla Easpuig
Cllr. Mick Quinn
Cllr. Gerry McMonagle
Cllr. John S. O'Fearraigh
Cllr. Gary Doherty
Cllr. Rena Donaghey
Cllr. Seamus O'Domhaill
Cllr. Barry O'Neill

Cllr. John Campbell

Sectoral Representation

Cecil Fairman
Dessie Dorrian
John Gildea
Anne Wilkinson
Finola Brennan

Roads & Transportation SPC

Cllr John Ryan, Chairperson
Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Nicolas Crossan
Cllr Liam Doherty
Cllr Martin Farren
Cllr Frank McBrearty
Cllr Martin McDermott
Cllr Patrick McGowan
Cllr John O'Donnell
Cllr John S. O'Fearraigh

Sectoral Representation

Enda Healy - Development Conservation
George Mills - Business/Commercial
Karen McCormack - Community/Voluntary
James O'Donnell - Agriculture/Farming

Economic, Enterprise & Planning Policy SPC

Cllr Paul Canning, Chairperson
Cllr. Nicholas Crossan
Cllr. Niamh Kennedy
Cllr. Dessie Shiels
Cllr. Maire Therese Gallagher
Cllr. Gary Doherty
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr. Sean McEniff
Cllr. Paul Canning
Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. James Pat McDaid
Cllr. Liam Blaney
Cllr. Bernard McGuinness
Cllr. Martin Harley
Cllr. John Ryan

Sectoral Representation

Lisa McMonagle – Agriculture/Farming
Dermot McLaughlin – Environmental/Conservation
Barry McMenamin – Development/Construction
Peter Cutliffe – Business/Commercial
Charlie F. Kelly – Trade Union
Annette Patton / John Trearty (Alternate) – PPN
Seamus Bovaird – Fishing/Aquaculture

Donegal Local Community Development Committee

Seamus Neely – Chairperson

Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Martin Mc Dermott
Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

Local Enterprise Office
Michael Tunney

Udaras na Gaeltachta
Alan Ó' Baoid

HSE
Maire O' Leary

Education and Training Board
Anne Mc Hugh

Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Paul Hannigan

Donegal Local Development Company
Jim Slevin

Inishowen Development Partnership
Anthony Doogan

Donegal PPN
Susan Mc Loughlin
Susan Mc Cauley
Martin Mc Bride

Environment Representative
Emmett Johnston

Irish Business and Employers Federation
Jan Feenstra

Irish Congress of Trade Unions
PJ Hannon

Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers
James O' Donnell

Comhar na nOileán
Noreen Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh

Donegal County Council Economic Development Committee

Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr Frank Mc Brearty
Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr John Ryan
Cllr John O' Donnell
Cathaoirleach of the Day

Seamus Neely

IDA
John Nugent
Marie Mc Daid

Enterprise Ireland
Carole Brennan

Udaras na Gaeltachta
Alan Ó' Baoid

Education and Training Board
Mary O' Malley

Local Enterprise Office
Michael Tunney

Donegal Local Development Company
Padraic Fingleton

Inishowen Development Partnership
Andrew Ward

Comhar na nOileán Teo
Nóirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh

Irish Business Employers Federation
Paul Hannigan

County Donegal Joint Policing Committee

Cllr Seamus O' Domhnaill
Cllr James Pat Mc Daid
Cllr Martin Mc Dermott
Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr Liam Doherty
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Jack Murray
Cllr Martin Farren
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness
Cllr Frank Mc Brearty
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr John O' Donnell
Cathaoirleach as Ex Officio Member

Chief Executive
Seamus Neely

Oireachtas Members
Pearse Doherty
Padraig Mac Lochlainn
Charlie Mc Conalogue
Dinny Mc Ginley
Joe Mc Hugh
Brian O' Domhnaill
Thomas Pringle

An Garda Síochána
Terry Mc Ginn

Donegal PPN
James Trearty
Joe Boland
Deirdriú Murray
Carmel Mulhern
Lawrence Mc Manus
Lorraine Thompson
Gary Doggett

Donegal County Council Value for Money Committee

Cllr Enda Bonner
Cllr Liam Blaney
Cllr Tom Conaghan
Cllr Micheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easpuig (resigned 19/01/2015)
Cllr Noel Jordan (replaced Cllr Mac Giolla Easpuig)
Cllr Ian Mc Garvey
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
Cllr Terence Slowey
Cllr John Ryan
Cathaoirleach of the Day

Audit Committee

Cllr Enda Bonner
Cllr Frank Mc Brearty (resigned April 2015)
Cllr Ian Mc Garvey (from 25 May 2015)
Deirdre Mc Glone
Paul Carr
Micheál Mac Giolla Easpuig

Donegal Local Traveller Accommodation Committee

Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr John O' Donnell
Cllr Mick Quinn
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Traveller Representatives

Siobhan Mc Laughlin
Hugh Friel
Rose Ward

Council Officials

Liam Ward
Patrick Mc Laughlin
Fergus Mc Ateer

Coiste na Gaeilge

Stranorlar MD

Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Frank Mc Brearty

Inishowen MD

Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Paul Canning

Donegal MD

Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr John Campbell

Glenties MD

Cllr Seamus O' Domhnaill
Cllr John Seamais O' Fearraigh
Cllr Enda Bonner
Cllr Michéal Mac Giolla Easbuig

Letterkenny MD

Cllr Ian Mc Garvey
Cllr Mick Quinn

Islands Committee

Members of Letterkenny and Glenties MDs

Islands Representatives

Owey	William Boyle
Rutland	Michael Boyle (Sub Rosaleen Mc Shane)
Inis Caorach	Hughie Gallagher
Island Roy	Marie Ui Dochartaigh
Gola	Eamon S Mac Aoidh
Inishboffin	John O' Brien
Tory	Bridget Mc Garvey

Aranmore	Seamus Ó Cnaimhsí
	Noirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh
Innisfree	Paul Mc Cole
Inishinney	Seamus Rodgers
Inis Oirthir	Pádraig Mac Gairbheith
Inis Meáin	Charlie O' Donnell

Small Islands Federation
Mairín Uí Fhearraigh

Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Eamonn Mc Gill

Cultural Committee

Cllr Liam Blaney
Cllr John Campbell
Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr Tom Conaghan
Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Liam Doherty
Cllr Martin Farren
Cllr Marie T Gallagher
Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Noel Andrew Jordan
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Micheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig
Cllr Frank Mc Brearty
Cllr James Pat Mc Daid
Cllr Martin Mc Dermott
Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
Cllr Jack Murray
Cllr Seamus O' Domhnaill
Cllr John Seamais O' Fearraigh
Cllr Barry O' Neill
Cllr Mick Quinn
Cllr John Ryan
Cllr Dessie Shiels
Cllr Terence Slowey

James Mc Brearty
Anne Mc Gowan
Rosemary Dunne
Paddy Gildea
Sean Mc Bride
Frankie O' Gorman
John Mc Creadie
Conor Malone
Sean Mc Clafferty

Standing Order Sub-Committee

Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Michael Mc Bride
Cllr Mick Quinn
Cllr Terence Slowey
Cathaoirleach of the Day

Disability Strategy Group

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Donegal Youth Council Steering Committee

Members appointed 30/11/2015

Cllr James P Mc Daid
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
from Nov 2015-June 2017

2016 Centenary Committee

Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr Michael Mc Bride
Cllr Tom Conaghan
Cllr Ian Mc Garvey
Cllr Jack Murray
Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr Martin Mc Dermott
Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr Martin Harley

Donegal PPN

James Trearty
Dermot McLaughlin
Martin McBride
Louise Breslin
Anne McGowan

Eileen Burgess
Paddy Doherty
Judith McCarthy
Paul McGill

Donegal Heritage Forum

Cllr Tom Conaghan
Cllr Seamus O' Domhnaill
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Michael Mc Bride
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Paul Canning (Chair Planning SPC)

Heritage Officer

Mr Joseph Gallagher

Curator Donegal County Museum
Judith McCarthy

Conservation Officer
Claire McCallan

Central Planning Unit
Simon Harron

Environment Section

Local Development LEADER Representative
Caoimhin Mac Aoidh

State Agencies
Coillte
Jim Crowley

National Monuments Service
Paddy O'Donovan

National Parks & Wildlife Service
David Duggan

Failte Ireland
Maire Aine Gardiner

Teagasc
Carolyn Patterson

Udaras na Gaeltachta
Seamas O'Gallchoir

Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Una Cronin

Irish Farmer's Association
Nora Duffy

County Donegal Community Forum
Michael Mullen
Mura McLaughlin

An Taisce
Ethna Diver

Donegal Heritage Network
Ralph Sheppard
Martin Egan

Donegal Historical Society
Edward O'Kane

Ulster Architectural Heritage Society
Caroline Dickson

Representation on External Bodies

County Donegal Education and Training Board

Cllr James P Mc Daid
Cllr Sean Mc Eniff
Cllr Rena Donaghey
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Maire Therese Gallagher (to July 2015)
Cllr John S O' Fearraigh (from July 2015)
Cllr Martin Farren
Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Michael Mc Bride
Cllr John Campbell

Regional Health Forum West

Cllr Michael Mc Bride
Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Gerry Crawford

Northern & Western Regional Assembly –Jan 2015

Cllr Seamus O' Domhnaill
Cllr Frank Mc Brearty
Cllr Jack Murray

County Enterprise Fund

Cllr Ian Mc Garvey
Cllr Enda Bonner

Association of Irish and Local Government

Voting Delegates
Cllr Liam Blaney
Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Nicholas Crossan

3 Permanent Delegates
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

Local Authority Members Association

Cllr Seamus O' Domhnaill

Inishowen Development Partnership Ltd

Cllr Rena Donaghey (to June 2015)
Cllr Martin Mc Dermott (from June 2015)
Cllr Albert Doherty

Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness

Donegal Local Development Company Ltd

Cllr Sean Mc Eniff
Cllr Ian Mc Garvey
Cllr Noel Jordan

ERNACT EEIG

Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Rena Donaghey

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances

Cllr Liam Doherty 2015/2016 (15/06/2015)
Cllr Micheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig (to Jan 2015)
Cllr Nicholas Crossan (from Jan 2015)

North West Region Cross Border Group

Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness
Cllr Martin Farren
Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
Cllr John O' Donnell

ICBAN

Cllr Enda Bonner
Cllr Gary Doherty

Donegal Sports Partnership

Cllr Tom Conaghan
Cllr James Pat Mc Daid
Cllr Jack Murray
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Conference Peripheral Maritime Regions

Cllr Enda Bonner - Representative
Cllr Rena Donaghey – Substitute

LATCH

Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Frank Mc Brearty

Colmcille Heritage Trust

Ms Helena Glackin
Mr Brian Mc Dermott
Mr Don Gallagher
Mr Danny Neilis
Ms Laura Duddy

Erne Enterprise Development Company

Cllr Tom Conaghan
Cllr Barry O' Neill

Board of Fort Dunree Military Museum

Cllr Rena Donaghey
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Nicholas Crossan

Earagail Arts Festival

Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Michael Mac Giolla Easpuig
Cllr James Pat Mc Daid

Letterkenny Theatre Management Company

Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Ms Anne Mc Gowan
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
Ms Lisa Culbert

Management Committee Ballyshannon Leisure Centre

Cllr Barry O' Neill
Cllr Sean Mc Eniff
Cllr Tom Conaghan 29/09/14

Board of Bundoran Waterworld

Mr Phillip Mc Glynn
Ms Anne Mc Grath
Mr Eamon Barrett
Mr Michael Mc Fadden

Strengthening Families Advisory Board – NW Alcohol Forum

Cllr Rena Donaghey

Finn Valley Leisure Centre

Cllr Liam Doherty
Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Frank Mc Brearty to October 2015
Cllr Gary Doherty from November 2015
Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

Interreg IVA Gobbins/Sliabh Liag

Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Noel Jordan

Pettigo/Tullyhommon

Cllr Barry O' Neill
Cllr Sean Mc Eniff

Údarás na Gaeltachta

Mr David Alcorn

Comhar na nOileán Teoranta

DCC Údarás Representative - Mr David Alcorn

Association of Irish and Local Government Training 2015

Module 1 - Governance, Castlebar

26/02/2015

Attendees (5)

Module 1 - Governance, Arklow

21/02/2015

Attendees (1)

Module 2 - Economic Development, Galway

23/4/2015

Attendees (8)

Module 3 - Community Development, Sligo

16/05/2015

Attendees (2)

Module 3 - Community Development, Kilkenny,

7/5/2015

Attendees (1)

Module 4 - Finance & Housing, Roscommon

25/6/2015

Attendees (7)

Module 5 - Roads, Carrick on Shannon

27/10/2015

Attendees (3)

Module 5 - Roads, Cork

Module 6 - Septic Tanks & Water, Ballinasloe

5/11/2015

Attendees (6)

Module 6 - Septic Tanks & Water, Dublin

14/11/2015

Attendees (1)

Conference Attendance 2015

Construction 2020 Strategy - Local Government Housing Supply,

Wexford

6-8/2/2015

Attendees (1)

**Regenerating Local Spaces through
Effective Community Planning, Dublin
Castle**

26/2/2015

Attendees (1)

**Future of Local Government in Ireland
under the New System, Colmcille**

Heritage Centre, Donegal

27-28/2/2015

Attendees (4)

**AILG Annual Conference,
Carrickmacross, Monaghan**

12-13/3/2015

Attendees (7)

LAMA Spring Seminar, Tuam, Galway

10-11/4/2015

Attendees (2)

**Innocence Project, Griffith College
Dublin**

26-27/6/2015

Attendees (1)

**The Housing Debate Seminar,
Maynooth, Dublin**

10/9/2015

Attendees (1)

AILG Autumn Seminar, Clonakilty

1-2/10/2015

Attendees (7)

LAMA Autumn Seminar, Kilkenny

9-10/10/2015

Attendees (5)

Travel Abroad 2015**Conference of Peripheral Maritime
Regions**

Nantes, France 27th February 2015

Attendees (1)

Crete, Greece, 11th- 12th June 2015

Attendees (1)

Florence, Italy, 5th- 6th November 2015

Attendees (1)

**St Patrick's Day Events USA -12th –
18th March 2015**

Attendees (1)

**St Patrick's Day Events, Nottingham
England -16th-18th March 2015**

Attendees (2)

**Golden Bridges Events, Boston, USA
- 17th- 23rd October 2015**

Attendees (1)

**Lord Mayors Show- London – 13th -
14th November**

Cllr Ciaran Brogan

Attendees (1)

The total amount spent on Foreign
Travel in 2015 was €11,996.

Members' Expenses 2015

Members Monthly Allowance	€257,893
Representational Payment	€596,340
Mayor's Allowance	€30,000
Deputy Mayor's Allowance	€6,000
Entertainment Expenses	€4,096
Insurance	€5,800
Gratuity Scheme	€19,076
Strategic Policy Chairs Allowance	€30,000
Municipal District Chairs Allowance	€36,000
Non-Members' Expenses	€4,049
Conference Attendance	€10,452
Attendance at Training	€7611
Conference and Training Fees	€5,525
Other Meetings/ Ad Hoc Travel	€12,218
Foreign Travel	€3,451
Communications Expenses	€15,477
Contribution to Members Representative Associations	€16,000
Total	€1,068,532

Performance Indicators 2015

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing	A. Overall total number of dwellings provided by the LA in the period 1/1/2015 to 31/12/2015	515	
	B. Number of dwellings directly provided	26	
	B1. Number of dwellings constructed	0	
	B2. Number of dwellings purchased	26	
	C. Number of units provided under RAS	15	
	D. Number of units provided under the HAP Scheme	469	Scheme implemented May 2015.
	E. Number of units provided under the SHLI	5	
	F. The overall total number of social housing dwellings in the LA at 31/12/2015	5607	
	G. The total number of dwellings directly provided (constructed or purchased) by the LA	4653	
	H. Total number of units provided under the RAS	293	
	I. Total number of units provided under the HAP if operated	469	Scheme implemented May 2015.
	J. Total number of units provided under the SHLI	192	
	A. Percentage of the number of dwellings at H1G that were vacant on 31/12/2015	2.97 %	
	The number of dwelling units within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2015	138	
	A. Expenditure in 2015 on repair & maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA divided by H1G	€701.42	
	Expenditure on repair and maintenance of LA stock compiled on a continuous basis during 2015	€3,263,713	
Housing	A. Average time taken from date of vacation of dwelling to date when a new tenancy had commenced	44.48 wk	When units for which there was no demand, units subject to major refurbishment and units offered three or more times, are excluded, the average time from date of vacation to the first rent debit of new tenant drops from 44 weeks to 27 weeks in 2015. The number of units relet in Donegal in 2015 versus 2014 increased by approximately 20%. The number of units relet which were vacant for over 1 year increased by 76% over 2014 which in turn reflects in the number of weeks taken to relet a unit.
	B. Average cost expended on getting the units re-tenanted ready for re-letting	€8,037.29	Department monies allocated in 2015 meant that significant expenditure was incurred in bringing some longer term voids back into stock, particularly those units requiring significant works. 83 units had expenditure greater than the average whereas the remaining units had an average expenditure of approx. €3,605.00.
	A. Total number of registered tenancies with the PRTB in the LA area	6,220	

	B. Number of inspections carried out	522	
Housing			
	A. No. of adults in emergency accom. long-term as a % of the total number of homeless adults	26.67 %	
	No. of adults classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on night of the 31/12/2015	15	
	No. of adults on that date who had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously	4	
Roads			
	% Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating	22.00 %	The Performance Indicators for Donegal relating to the percentage of the Regional Road network that had ever received a PSCI rating shows 100% in the 2014 return and 23% in the 2015 return. The 2014 indicator was based on mechanical surveys that were carried out but not recorded in Map Road. The 2015 data has been compiled exclusively from Map Road and as such does not include data from the mechanical surveys.
	% Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	83.00 %	
	% Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	77.00 %	
	% Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	47.00 %	
	% Regional roads that received a PSCI rating during 2015	6.00 %	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	2.00 %	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	7.00 %	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	7.00 %	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	6.00 %	
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	8.00 %	
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	27.00 %	
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	29.00 %	
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	19.00 %	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	13.00 %	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	29.00 %	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	23.00 %	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	12.00 %	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	16.00 %	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	12.00 %	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	11.00 %	

	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	8.00 %	
	A1. Kilometres of regional roads strengthened using Road Improvement grants	18.8 km	
	A2. Regional road Improvement Grant amount	€11,138,598.00	The Grant amount shown here covers works to both the Regional & Local Road Network and not Regional roads only as stated.
	B1. Number of kilometres of regional roads resealed using Road Maintenance grants	30.1 km	
	B2. Regional road Maintenance Grant amount	€2,758,277.00	The Grant amount shown here covers works to both the Regional & Local Road Network and not Regional roads only as stated.
Motor Tax	% of motor tax transactions online	40.63 %	
Water	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance	94.90 %	
Waste	No. households in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2015	131	
	% households within the LA that the number A represents	0.23%	DCC has undertaken a PR Campaign incorporating - Radio, Newspaper, Print, DCC Website & Social Media. DCC have met with the Waste Industry re their obligations regarding Brown Bins over the last 18 months, followed by a series of inspections of their facilities. The new Household Waste Collection Regs increases the obligations on household waste collectors to provide the service, as the Regs has included a Review of Collection Permits, which introduces new conditions on the Waste Collectors.
Environmental Pollution	Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was received during 2015	1033	
	Number of pollution cases closed during 2015	912	
	Total number of cases at hand at 31/12/2015	209	The outstanding 209 open Environmental Pollution Cases in 2015 required investigations under Litter Pollution Act and Waste Management Acts with a further 133 cases now closed and action ongoing on remainder. We have ongoing reviews of environmental pollution cases, in particular the open cases.
Litter Pollution	Percentage of area unpolluted by litter	4 %	
	Percentage of area slightly polluted by litter	81 %	
	Percentage of area moderately polluted by litter	10 %	
	Percentage of area significantly polluted by litter	4 %	We have actively engaged with local communities and businesses across the county regarding Litter Pollution to raise awareness on Littering and work closely to have regular cleanups carried out. In parallel our Litter

			Wardens enforce the Litter Pollution Act where necessary. We hosted a Tidy Towns seminar in Letterkenny this year and invited all tidy towns groups in the county. Presentations were made by National Adjudicators and local business. Seminar was well attended with active participatio
	Percentage of area grossly polluted by litter	0 %	
Planning	Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	24.22 %	
	Total no. of new buildings notified to the local authority	223	
	No. of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2015 subject of at least one inspection	54	
Planning	A. Number of planning decisions subject of appeal to An Bord Pleanála determined by board in 2015	24	
	B. % of the determinations which confirmed (with or without variations) the decision made by the LA	58.33 %	
	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision with or without variation	14	
	A. Number of planning enforcement cases referred to or initiated by the LA during 2015 that were investigated	202	
	B. Number of enforcement cases that were closed during 2015	130	
	C. % cases at B dismissed re Section 15(2) or closed because statute barred or exempted development	63.85 %	
	D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	1.54 %	
	E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	34.62 %	
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2015	2078	
Planning	AFS Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per 2011 Census	€23.22	
Fire Service	AFS Programme E expenditure data divided by the Census 2011 population served by the Fire Authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase 1 Report	€47.81	DCC's position is that gross expenditure and gross population served must be used in this Performance Indicator to calculate a true and accurate picture, i.e. €6,992 206 / 164,849 = €42.41 per capita. However, the prescribed methodology insists on the use of an alternative adjusted population figure.
Fire Service	A. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of Fire	0 min	Not applicable - no full-time fire stations
	B. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of Fire	6.18 min	
	C. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of other	0 min	Not applicable - no full-time fire stations

	accidents		
	D. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of other accidents	5.92 min	
	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins	28.17 %	
	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	57.51 %	
	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins	14.32 %	
	D. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins	29.95 %	
	E. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	50.23 %	
	F. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins	19.82 %	
	Total no. of call-outs in respect of fires from 01/01/2015 - 31/12/2015	426	
Library Service	A. Number of library visits per head of population	2.15	
	B. Number of items issued to borrowers during the year	333793	
	Number of library visits during the year	346979	
Library Service	The Annual Financial Statement Programme F data / by the population of the LA area 2011 per census	€22.57	
Youth & Community	Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council//Comhairle na nÓg scheme	100 %	
	Total number of secondary schools in the LA area at 31/12/2015	27	
	No. of organisations in the County Register at 31/12/2015 and the proportion of those organisations who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	18.59	
	No. organisations in the County Register for the local authority area	468	
Corporate	Wholetime equivalent staffing number as year end	851.91	
	Percentage of working days lost due to sickness absence through medically certified leave	4.07 %	
	Percentage of working days lost due to sickness absence through self- certified leave	0.35 %	
	All ICT Expenditure in the period 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015 divided by the WTE no.	€2,649.84	
Corporate	Total page views of the LA website in 2015	1,015,860	
	Total number of social media users at 31/12/2015 following the LA on social media sites	14,463	
Finance	Cumulative balance at 31/12/2011 in the Revenue Account from the Income &	€-10,660,644	

Expenditure of the AFS		
Cumulative balance at 31/12/2012 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-15,581,989	
Cumulative balance at 31/12/2013 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-15,752,132	
Cumulative balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-14,966,588	
Cumulative balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-14,345,654	The net revenue deficit at the end of 2015, taking account of the Specific Revenue Reserve of €3,374,679, now stands at €10,970,975.
Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2015 as a percentage of Total Income from the AFS statement	-10.75 %	Total Income in 2015 = €133,474,189 (this figure excludes transfers from reserves in the sum of €362,706). % = €14,345,654 / €133,474,189 = 10.75%. However, if using the net revenue deficit: % = €10,970,975 / €133,474,189 = 8.22%.
The 2015 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€133,474,189	
Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2011	55.9 %	
Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2011	87.4 %	
Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2011	75.3 %	
Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	59.5 %	
Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	86.9 %	
Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	67.1 %	
Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	57.1 %	
Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	86.6 %	
Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	65.9 %	
Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	56.3 %	
Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	89.3 %	
Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	63.3 %	
Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	61.15 %	The Council had a target to increase the collection percentage performance to 63% which has been achieved as reported in the amended appendix 7 in the draft Annual Financial Statement for 2015. The target for 2016 is to increase collection performance to 70% which the Council is striving towards.
Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	89.8 %	In 2015, the collection percentage has increased and arrears have reduced by €86,000 when compared with 2014. This is very positive and the Council will continue to further reduce the arrears over this coming year.
Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	63.38 %	The collection performance for 2015

	Annual Financial Statement for 2015		has remained at 63% even in view of the very difficulties circumstances that borrowers are experiencing. The Council continues to work proactively with borrowers who are in arrears and offer options under the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP). In 2015, the arrears have reduced marginally when compared with 2014.
Economic Development	Number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the year	183.00	