



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

3-Year Capital Budget 2023 - 2025

22 November 2022

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1. Chief-Executive's Report

Introduction and Context

I submit for your consideration the Three-Year Capital Programme for the period 2023 – 2025. The capital programme is prepared having regard to the amount of capital funding that is already confirmed from external or internal sources and, as is the case in the majority of the 2024 and 2025 projections, is based on best estimates available at this time.

In that context, the Three-Year Capital Programme estimates that Donegal County Council's total capital expenditure for 2023 will be of the order of €292,113,149, with capital expenditure for the three-year period estimated to approach €937,283,449.

In recent years, the opportunity to engage in larger scale capital investment in the County has increased significantly, aided in no small part by the additional funding opportunities that have been sought and secured from sources at national government level, and on a cross-border and trans-European basis.

Total capital expenditure in 2021 amounted to €97,481,202, with the 2022 capital budget amounting to €192,109,943. The following table provides a clear indication as to the rate at which Donegal County Council's capital expenditure has been increasing in recent years.

Programme Group	2016 €	2017 €	2018 €	2019 €	2020 €	2021 €	Totals €
Housing & Building	13,448,988	15,188,742	22,635,385	24,402,796	32,386,107	22,588,269	130,650,287
Road Transportation & Safety	27,809,784	19,684,065	45,536,378	49,042,390	46,088,886	53,063,395	241,224,898
Water Supply and Sewerage	484,177	418,990	267,250	334,157	264,702	356,222	2,125,498
Development Incentives & Control	7,868,190	909,586	2,966,018	1,291,515	1,271,201	2,715,669	17,022,179
Environmental Protection	852,714	1,308,492	1,845,966	2,477,825	2,816,029	4,702,701	14,003,727
Recreation & Amenity	3,322,180	4,819,171	7,358,488	7,679,830	8,822,166	10,233,957	42,235,792
Agriculture, Education, Health & Safety	1,064,250	565,612	577,593	505,571	635,841	1,152,662	4,501,529
Miscellaneous Services	1,547,540	1,111,989	1,801,113	3,081,720	2,730,848	2,668,327	12,941,537
Totals	56,397,824	44,006,647	82,988,191	88,815,804	95,015,779	97,481,202	464,705,447

As always, the Council will continue to focus on efforts to maximise funding opportunities for capital investment in the County. Donegal County Council is well positioned to develop, compete for, and deliver capital investment projects, of all scales, large and small, that can respond to the challenges of Brexit, mitigate the worst effects of the global pandemic, and accelerate economic recovery in the County and in the northwest region. As has been stated previously, the scale of the Council's ambition remains steadfast in the face of these challenges.

Like many opportunities arising for capital and infrastructure development, such projects will require a significant contribution from Donegal County Council in terms of co-financing and project development/management. Whereas this is a challenge that must be managed, it is essential that every effort be made to seize the opportunities that now present for large-scale infrastructural developments, which are impactful over the longer term, and have the potential to enhance the economic, social and community fabric of the County for the benefit of the County's citizens and businesses.

Some of the primary areas of expenditure in 2023 will be:

- The commencement of 250 social housing units in 2023 with an estimated cost of €40m during Year 1
- The projected acquisition of 200 Turnkey Housing Units in 2023 at a projected cost of €45.9m
- Under the Social Housing Investment Programme, the acquisition of 10 units during 2023 at an estimated cost of €1.8m
- Further interventions in the Social Housing area through the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme, Capital Assistance Schemes through Approved Housing Bodies, Voids Programme and Extensions & Adaptation Works
- Continuing to implement the Countywide Footpath Programme, under which a total fund of €6.2m has been set aside, with specific works being agreed at Municipal District level
- Advancement of the Ten-T project in 2023 on the N13, N14 and N15
- Continued investment in improvement projects along the N56 roadway and other national roads
- Investment in Greenway infrastructure, with a dedicated management team tasked with developing further project proposals to shovel-ready stage
- Continuing investment through the Marine Capital programme for piers and harbours (including under the BALAMI programme)
- Continued investment in the Regeneration and Development of strategic Towns across the County through the URDF and RRDF programmes
- A continuing programme of investment in strategic economic infrastructure supporting the community and tourism sections and including iconic attractions
- Continued investment through EU sourced funds and across multi-sectoral areas
- The continuation of a multi-annual programme to maintain the Council's capacity in the areas of Information and Communications Technology
- The further progression of Taking-in-Charge of estates and in the completion of works to remediate unfinished housing estates
- Investment in environmental areas including landfill remediation, recycling, beach improvement and leisure centres
- Investing in climate action and climate mitigation measures across all sections of the Council where opportunities arise

Co-funding from Own Resources

The principal sources of generating the local contributions required to co-fund external capital investment are:

1. Loan Financing
2. The Development Contribution Scheme (DCS)
3. Transfers from Revenue
4. Use of Reserves

The level of income available from the DCS Fund can only be applied to the extent that it has been collected (i.e., cash received, not as accrued/levied). Similarly, the availability of transfers from Revenue, as a source of co-funding for capital investment, remains limited – as Members will be aware from the annual Revenue Budget discussions and meetings. Additionally, the judicious use of limited Capital Reserves, established in many cases from operating surpluses on the Revenue Account, provides additional capacity in limited but targeted areas. The Council's ability to service new borrowings in respect of capital works is, as always, determined by the extent of the Council's capacity to fund repayments from the Revenue Account, and must take account of existing commitments.

In May 2022, the Council approved loan financing in the sum of €20m for the purpose of co-financing the capital programme. To date, €16m has been drawn down and secured at a fixed rate over 20 years. The remaining €4m relates to the Public Lighting programme and will be drawn down in advance of works commencing.

The adopted Revenue Budget for 2023 allows for a further €10m in borrowing to co-finance the capital programme. It is intended that a report will be presented to Council in January 2023 seeking approval for this additional loan financing. Creating the capacity to borrow €30m through Council own resources is an important step in delivering the Council's ambitious capital programme. However, additional borrowing capacity and/or concessions with respect to the level of grant funding or rate of co-financing will be required to fully deliver the capital programme in the years ahead.

Notwithstanding the considerable co-funding constraints outlined, the Council will continue to seek to ensure that it is best placed at any given time to be able to take advantage of potential capital funding opportunities that arise.

Proposals for the 3-Year Capital Programme 2023 – 2025

A Three-Year Capital Programme in the sum of €937,283,449 is presented for the period 2023 – 2025, broken down per Programme Group as detailed in the Statutory Tables.

The Statutory Tables reflect the gross estimated expenditure for the period 2023 – 2025 (noting my earlier comments relating to the unknown detail of capital funding generally in respect of 2024 and 2025).

As previously stated, it is only the first year of the three-year programme that can be presented in detail. Each Director of Service has provided an analysis of proposed expenditure for their respective directorate, which is included in the detail of this report. The table that follows this introduction provides an overview summary of capital expenditure per directorate for 2023.

The total estimated capital expenditure of €292,113,149 as indicated for 2023 is conditional on a range of factors and assumptions, including the allocation of grants, level of DCS collectable, loan sanction approval from DHPLG, and availability of co-financing.

The work of the Council in the years ahead, in terms of capital investment in a post-Brexit and post-Covid environment, will be extremely important to the County and its

citizens. The Council will remain ambitious in terms of developing and competing for capital investment opportunities and maximising sources of external funding for worthwhile and impactful projects. The Three-Year Capital Programme 2023 – 2025 reflects that level of ambition, and I would like to thank the Elected Members for their vision and for their role in guiding and supporting the projects and proposals that are contained within this programme.

Liam Ward.

Liam Ward
Deputy Chief Executive

Donegal County Council Capital Expenditure Programme per Directorate 2023

Directorate/Spend-Heading	Estimated Expenditure 2023 (€)
Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services	
Social Housing Investment Programme	88,650,000
Land Acquisition	15,000,000
Improving the Social Housing Stock	4,750,000
Voluntary Housing	5,000,000
Housing Grants	3,000,000
Traveller Accommodation	390,000
Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme	15,000,000
Library / Cultural Services	800,000
Total	132,590,000
Roads & Transportation	
National Primary & National Secondary	41,529,098
General Road Improvements including Development Charges Schemes	250,000
Footpath & Lighting	600,000
Roads Specific Capital	2,500,000
Bridge Works	900,000
Greenway Projects	18,050,000
Marine Capital	26,365,000
Total	90,194,098
Community, Enterprise & Planning Services	
Unfinished Housing Estates	300,000
Takeover of Housing Estates	1,500,000
RDP/Leader	1,627,643
Town & Village Renewal	1,158,332
CLÁR Scheme	988,888
Outdoor Infrastructure Scheme	1,740,200
Peace IV	3,200,000
Fort Dunree	856,000
Bundoran Destination Towns	250,000
URDF/RRDF (Letterkenny 2040, Killybegs 2040, Burtonport & Arranmore)	8,065,176
Riverine Project	8,380,000
Letterkenny Urban Adventure Sports Project	714,000
Other Community Development	884,812
Total	29,665,051
Water & Environment Services	
Rural Water Programme	2,000,000
Leisure Centres	1,675,000
Public Conveniences	100,000
Beach and Coastal Improvement Programme	218,000
Waste Management	1,830,000
CFRAMS	1,600,000
Other	261,000
Total	7,684,000
Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services	
Inishowen innovation Hub, Buncrana	1,000,000
Alpha Project Letterkenny	3,285,000
Beta Business Centre	5,920,000
Development at The Common, Lifford	1,540,000
Information Systems Infrastructure	735,000
Total	12,480,000
Roads Management Office*	19,500,000
Overall Total	292,113,149

2. Head-of-Finance's Report

In preparing the Three-year Capital Programme, the Council is required, as per Section 135(3) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended), to ensure that:

"In considering the question of resources likely to be available to it, the local authority shall so consider [the Three-Year Capital Programme] -

- (a) on the basis of a realistic and prudent assessment of the [financial] position [of the local authority], and
- (b) on the basis of the information available to it at the time and having regard to the measures proposed by the authority to raise funding itself."

The Council continues to apply a rigorous approach to the management of capital projects and programmes, with a continued focus on managing projects within approved and defined budget lines. The objective of this is to ensure that no unfunded capital balances arise.

Available budgets from external sources (department allocations, other grants, etc.) and from internal sources (reserves, Development Charges, etc.) are detailed within this report. Development Charges, in line with audit requirements, are reflected on a cash-collected basis i.e., the Development Charge figures quoted in this report reflect the best available estimates of the actual cash that is expected to be collected from this source during the three-year period 2023 to 2025.

Similarly, it should be noted that proposals may also rely on the current best estimates as to the funding elements and sources anticipated to be available during the period 2023 – 2025, especially in instances where confirmation is still awaited on a definitive funding package for a particular project or programme. It should be noted that projects will only proceed on confirmation of a complete funding package.

There is always a level of uncertainty as to the degree of availability of capital funding in the medium to long term. This means that only projects and programmes for 2023 can be presented in detail. Therefore, in general, the level of capital activity and funding available for the years 2024 and 2025 is presented on the basis of best estimates as to the level of funding that is anticipated to be available for those years.



Richard Gibson FCCA
Head of Finance

3. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

Section 3.1 – Local Authority Housing

3.1.1 - Housing Construction Programme 2023 – 2025

The table hereunder sets out the projects planned for delivery at this time, on Council owned lands, over the period 2023 – 2025. Our land acquisition programme will add to these numbers in the latter part of the Programme.

Social Housing Developments on Council Land (2023 – 2025)

Location	No. of Units
<u>Construction 2023</u>	
Donegal Town (Phase 3)	24
Trusk Road, Ballybofey	19
Lifford	29
Raphoe	11
The Meadows, Bunrana	1
Crana Crescent, Bunrana	16
Bundoran	42
Dungloe (Chapel Road)	45
Nas Mor, Letterkenny	18
Kilmacrennan Road, Letterkenny	34
Killylastin, Letterkenny	11
<i>Subtotal 2023:</i>	250
<u>Construction 2024</u>	
Killybegs	17
Bunrana Phase II	56
Dunfanaghy	30
Stranorlar Fire Station	5
Lifford Common	60
Creeslough	3
Barrick Hill, Carndonagh	50
Carrigart	8
<i>Subtotal 2024:</i>	229
<u>Construction 2025</u>	
Laghey	4
Glenties Fire Station	3
Ballintra	8
St. Johnston	26
Letterkenny	90
<i>Sub:</i>	131
Overall Total (2023-2025)	610

The table below sets out an indicative three-year budget for in-house design and construction projects on Council land over the coming three-year period.

Projected Three Year Capital Budget (Construction on Council Land) 2023 - 2025

	2023	2024	2025	Total
Construction Prog	€40,000,000	€48,000,000	€45,000,000	€133,000,000

3.1.2 – Land Acquisition.

The Council has identified land acquisition as a key component of our delivery strategy. Work is continuing at pace to secure such lands with a number of proposals at various stages in the process. Progress is being made, and the projected land purchase costs, at this time, for the next three years is set out in the table below.

Projected Land Acquisition Costs 2023 – 2025

	2023	2024	2025	Total
Land	€15,000,000	€10,000,000	€7,000,000	€32,000,000

3.1.3 – Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition

The turnkey acquisition model is progressing in towns throughout the county and delivery of high-quality housing in significant numbers will be provided. This is one of the key mechanisms being used to meet the social housing need under the current Social Housing Investment Programme. Projected costs associated with turnkey acquisitions over the period 2023 – 2025 are shown below:

Year	Projected Turnkey Acquisitions	Projected Spend
2023	200	€45,890,000
2024	253	€58,415,000
2025	138	€31,625,000
Total	591	€135,930,000

3.1.4 – House Acquisition Programme (Single Units)

While the Housing for All strategy has a renewed focus on new builds, there is also scope for delivery via other delivery mechanisms. In this regard, projections for single house acquisitions over the forthcoming three-year period, are included below.

Projected Budget: Single House Acquisitions 2023 – 2025.

Year	Projected House Acquisitions	Projected Spend
2023	10	€1,800,000
2024	20	€3,600,000
2025	30	€5,400,000
Total	60	€10,800,000

3.1.5 – Specific Instance Properties (SIs)

During the forthcoming three-year period, the Council plans to advance a number of specific instance properties in the Council, and this is reflected in the projected budget below.

Projected Budget: SIs 2023 - 2025

	2023	2024	2025	Total
Specific Instance	€960,000	€1,600,000	€1,200,000	€3,760,000

3.1.6 – Approved Housing Body Sector

The projections in respect of delivery to be provided by the AHB sector through the Capital Assistance Scheme and Capital Advanced Leasing Facility are set out below.

Projected Funding to the AHB's 2023 - 2025

	2023	2024	2025	Total
Capital Assistance Scheme	€5,000,000	€4,000,000	€2,000,000	€11,000,000

3.1.7 – Improving the Social Housing Stock

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage provides funding under a number of programmes for Local Authorities to refurbish and improve the social housing stock. The detail of these programmes is set out below:

a) Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme

This programme was introduced in 2021 to retrofit social housing units to a B2/Cost Optimal standard. Since its introduction, the Council has secured funding of €4.98m under the Programme, which will see a total of 202 units in nine estates throughout the Country retrofitted by the end of this year. The works carried out covered insulation works, windows and doors replacements, heat pump and BER Certificate, both pre and post works. The Council will continue to engage early with the Department each year going forward to ensure that we can maximise funding to provide more energy-efficient homes for our tenants.

b) Returning Void/Vacant Properties to Productive Use

The Council has been successful again this year in making bids to the Department for funding under the Voids Programme, which was introduced in 2014. By the end of 2022, the Council will have refurbished over 1,180 vacant properties to a high standard of re-letting under the Programme. Over €9m will have been sourced under the programme by year end, with the balance funded from the Council's own resources. The Council will continue to source funding from the Department under this Programme. The expenditure and income associated with the operation of this programme is accounted for in the Revenue Account.

c) Extensions and Adaptation Works

The Council carries out small-scale adaptation works, including extensions, to its social housing stock on an ongoing basis as needs arise. In most cases, this is for tenants with special needs and/or disabilities, with approximately 50 households benefiting from works carried out under this programme on an annual basis. An annual spend of €750,000 is anticipated in this regard. The Council can recoup 90% of the expenditure from the Department, with the balance being funded from the Council's own resources.

Improving the Social Housing Stock	2023	2024	2025	Total
Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme	€4,000,000	€4,500,000	€5,000,000	€13,500,000
Extensions / Adaptations	€750,000	€750,000	€750,000	€2,250,000

3.1.8 – Assistance to Persons Improving Houses

Financial assistance is available to private homeowners to improve their homes under the Housing Adaptation Grant, Mobility Aids Grant, and Housing Aid for Older People Grant schemes. The Department provides 80% funding towards these grant schemes with the balance funded from the Council's own resources. Expenditure of €9.9m is projected in this regard for the period 2023 to 2025.

Assistance to Persons Improving Houses	2023	2024	2025	Total
Grants for older people & people with disabilities	€3,000,000	€3,300,000	€3,600,000	€9,900,000

3.1.9 – Traveller Accommodation

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024 was adopted by Council on 30th September 2019, and a mid-term review concluded in September 2022. The programme outlines key objectives and targets for each year in the delivery of Traveller-specific projects.

A number of Traveller accommodation specific projects and other separate small-scale projects are planned for the incoming year, including works at the Canal Road Group Housing Scheme. These projects are in addition to a range of other accommodation solutions provided on an ongoing basis to meet the needs of the Traveller community through the Social Housing Investment Programme.

Traveller Accommodation	2023	2024	2025	Total
	€390,000	€280,000	€150,000	€820,000

3.1.10 – Defective Concrete Blocks

The Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme for private homeowners opened for applications at the end of June 2020 and a new enhanced Scheme is to be introduced by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in 2023. Grants payable under the scheme are fully recoupable from the Department.

Social houses are also affected by Defective Concrete Blocks. In this regard during 2022, the Department approved the establishment a Project Team to focus on the remediation of social housing units affected by defective concrete blocks. The team has been set up and will be expanded as works commence. It is anticipated that the Council will receive approval shortly to commence the process of remediating affected vacant social units. Anticipated expenditure is outlined below.

Remedial Works Programme	2023	2024	2025	Total
Defective Concrete Blocks – Social Houses	€15,000,000	€30,000,000	€60,000,000	€105,000,000

Section 3.2 –Cultural Services Division

3.2.1 - Projects Planned

Donegal Town Library

The Council has been successful in securing part-funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development towards the overall cost of designing and delivering a library in Donegal Town. The Council is continuing to progress a public procurement process to identify a successful bidder to deliver this project.

Archives Centre

The potential to develop an Archives Centre to properly preserve and make archives publicly available is being considered by the Council. The Prior School, on the site of the former Lifford Army Barracks, is potentially suitable for this and it is proposed to develop plans accordingly. Following preparation of a conservation report in 2021, an application was submitted to the Historic Structures Fund for €24,500 (with the Council providing 20% match funding) which was successful. This funding covered asbestos and bat surveys and allowed for remedial works to render the building waterproof. A feasibility study will be carried out next, following which additional external funding sources will be explored to develop the Prior School as the County Archives Centre. The reuse of the historic Prior Endowed School will assist in the conservation of this proposed protected structure in the ownership of Donegal County Council and is consistent with Donegal County Council’s responsibilities in addressing climate change.

Cultural buildings

The Council was successful in obtaining capital funding of €100K (with DCC providing 10% co-financing) from the Department of Rural and Community Development for small-scale works to upgrade libraries. Work at the Central Library took place during 2022. It is hoped this funding stream will continue to be made available for further library works and the Council aims to maximise applications to support a maintenance and refurbishment works programme.

It is expected that further investment in improvement works in other cultural buildings will be made by the Council during the lifetime of this capital programme. Some of these works relate to ventilation, insulation, and energy saving, as well as to general repairs and maintenance, working towards having planned preventive maintenance rather than reactive as at present. In addition, there will be investment to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and to improve health & safety standards and accessibility.

Historic graveyards

At least 50 historic graveyards are in the care of Donegal County Council. These graveyards are social and cultural assets and of interest to the Donegal community at home and abroad. The Council, taking a cross-directorate approach, proposes to explore internal and external funding sources during the next three years to enable conservation plans and appropriate works to be carried out. These historic graveyards are archaeological monuments in the guardianship of Donegal County Council and protected under the National Monuments Acts. The proposed research and conservation works will assist Donegal County Council in meeting its statutory obligations.

Public Art

In July 2019, the Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht announced new, significant measures aimed at increasing funding through the Per Cent for Art Scheme, effective from January 2020.

The scheme is connected to capital budgets for public infrastructure (such as flood relief programmes, housing, etc) increased bands and limits. This means significant increased funding is available to commission artists across all art forms and will ensure that the investment in public art projects will be closer to one per cent.

Previously the maximum available to commissioners no matter the value of the capital project was €64,000; it is now €500,000. The Council will apply for this funding alongside applications for capital projects.

Cultural Capital Scheme 2019-2022 (Dept of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media)

Awards of capital grants for eleven arts and culture organisations were announced in August 2021 for the upgrading and development of facilities. Two of the eleven successful applications are Donegal-based: An Grianán Theatre in Letterkenny and the Abbey Arts Centre in Ballyshannon, with €290K and €88K approved respectively. The

terms of the Scheme require 50% co-funding from the Council, bringing the total value of the investment to €756k.

Works were delayed due to the pandemic and hence will continue to be rolled out during the lifetime of this new plan.

This latest funding will support the continued development, improvement, and investment in Donegal's cultural infrastructure. The previous capital funding scheme, 2016-2018, invested in An Grianán Theatre, the Abbey Arts Centre, the County Museum, and LATCH (the Old Courthouse in Lifford).

Capital funding projections for the three-year period 2023 – 2025 are as follows:

	2023	2024	2025
Libraries & other Cultural Services buildings	€800,000	€1,800,000	€2,800,000

4. Roads & Transportation

4.1 – National Roads Major Capital Projects

The National Roads Office (NRO), based in the Donegal Town Public Services Centre, continues to successfully manage a major programme of key road improvements and essential network management across the wider TII North and Western regions. All costs associated with staffing and operation of the Donegal NRO are funded by TII.

All projects are fully funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland, except for the Ten-T priority improvement project and TEN-T N13 Bridgend to County Boundary Route Improvement which are currently part funded by the EU CEF (Connecting Europe Facility). The immediate government funding profile for the TII over the next 4 years is set out in the National Development Plan 2021 to 2030.

All National Road projects are planned and designed with full cognisance of evolving national policies, including, but not restricted to, national climate action and sustainable development policies.

4.1.1 - TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal

General

The TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project (TEN-T PRIP) involves three priority sections of the National Road Network in Donegal.

- Section 1 N15/N13 Ballybofey – Stranorlar Urban
- Section 2 N56/N13/N14 Letterkenny to Manorcunningham, including N13 Lurgybrack, dual carriageway upgrade to Manorcunningham Roundabout, and N56 link road over R. Swilly to Creamery Roundabout on N56/Ramelton Road.
- Section 3 N14 Manorcunningham to Lifford/Strabane

A number of significant interim milestones have been reached in 2022. These include:

- Submission of the Draft Preliminary Business Case to TII SPU (July 2022),
- Submission of the Draft EIAR/NIS (work-in-progress) to TII Environment (August 2022)
- TII Phase 3 Peer Review (05th September 2022)

Phase 3 Ten-T PRIP: Project Appraisal and Business case

The Preliminary Business Case was issued to TII SPU in July, and, at the end of October, details were received with respect to their internal and external expert review. The project team must now review, consider, and revert on any matters raised by TII. On completion, we aim to be able to issue the updated document to TII with all other Phase 3 deliverables in the coming months. The Business Case will then be issued to the Department of Transport (DoT). It will be subject to a number of checks and high-level reviews by the DoT and DPER before a government decision is required.

As previously reported, a key element in the Preliminary Business Case was the development of the scheme budget estimate. Exceptional inflation volatility across the sector made developing a robust estimate difficult in late 2021 and early 2022. A draft budget estimate was completed and 'approved in principle' by the end of Q1 2022, and this enabled the required Cost Benefit Analysis to be run. That analysis showed that the project offers clear cost benefits. Given continuing inflationary pressures, it is likely that a revised total scheme budget estimate will be sought in advance of Departmental review. This will now be progressed immediately.

Phase 3 Ten-T PRIP: Environmental Assessments (EIAR/NIS)

Following on from the TII Peer Review of the project documentation, final co-ordination, edits, refinements, and proofing of remaining Phase 3 deliverables, including EIAR/NIS/CPO, will continue up to the end of 2022. This process must include continual review and potential updating across all documentation to meet any significant changes in standards or policy.

TEN-T Estimated Expenditure Profile 2023 – 2025			
Years	2023	2024	2025
Projected Expenditure	€2.2m	€3.0m	€4.4m

Table 4.1 Ten-T Estimated Expenditure Profile to 2025

The projected expenditure profile allows for the completion of statutory processes and oral hearing between 2023 and 2024. The start of the process is subject to Government, Department and TII approvals. The completion of the process is subject to Statutory Process, Oral Hearing, and potential Judicial Review. Initiation of procurement process, essential advance works such as Archaeology, and some land acquisition may still be possible as early as 2025. The method and order of delivery of this project and its respective sections have not been determined. Importantly, CEF funding for 2022 and 2023 will help support financially as well as to raise the project profile nationally. It is critical that continued funding is secured to enable the project to continue to progress forward.

4.1.2 - N14/N15 to A5 Link and A5 Western Transport Corridor

The N14/N15 to A5 Link structure and associated elements are now progressed and integrated fully into the TEN-T PRIP CPO, EIAR and Design Report. Donegal NRO continues to liaise and consult fully with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Northern Ireland regarding design, program, and planning, as well as transboundary impacts and assessments.

In respect to the A5 Western Transport Corridor, the Planning Appeals Commission NI have recently advised that the public inquiry will re-open at 10.30am on Wednesday, 25th January 2023 in the Strule Arts Centre, Townhall Square, Omagh.

4.1.3 - Current National Roads Major Capital Projects at Construction

Major recent works on the N56 in the west of the County are now substantially complete, with N56 Dungloe to Cloughbolie closed out earlier this year and the N56 Letterilly to Glenties (Kilraine) Phase 1 nearing completion by the end of 2022.

4.1.4 - Current National Roads Major Capital Projects at Design Stage

TEN-T N13 Bridgend to County Boundary – Northern Ireland Border (Derry)

The N13 Bridgend to County Boundary Route Improvement Project focuses on a 1.2 km long section of the N13 National Primary Route through the village of Bridgend and onto the border with Northern Ireland (Derry), where it connects to the A2 Buncrana Road.

This project continues to progress through Phase 2 (Options Selection) of the TII Project Management Guidelines. The project team is on schedule to develop and present an Emerging Preferred Route Corridor Option at a final Phase 2, Non-Statutory Public Consultation in Q1 2023, bringing Phase 2 to completion before commencing Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) in 2023.

Donegal NRO has been successful in securing €1.1m in co-financing for continued design and development of this project from the European Commission's Climate Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA), under the current Connecting Europe Facility Programme (CEF II).

N56 Letterilly to Glenties (Kilraine) Phase 2

This project consists of 2.6km of online improvement of the N56 from Glenties to Kilraine which will also incorporate active travel facilities. Procurement of a works contractor is expected in Q1 of 2023 with construction to commence late in 2023.

N56 Doonwell to Drumbrick

This realignment project involves upgrade of this legacy section of the N56 between Termon and Kilmacreannan. It will also provide active travel facilities building on the successful recent active travel sections developed south of Kilmacrenan to Letterkenny. This project continues to make good progress through the planning and design processes.

N15 Corcam Bends

The scheme will continue to progress through scheme development processes in 2023. It is currently at Phase 1.

4.1.5 - Current National Roads Major Capital Pipeline Projects

The following 'pipeline' projects are a sample of those currently being promoted for TII funding:

Selected Pipeline Projects
N13 Stranorlar to Letterkenny (9km)
N13 Manorcunningham to Bridgend (21km)
N56 Inver to Killybegs (Five points) (14km)
N15 Stranorlar to Lifford (19km)
N56 Dungloe to Gweedore (15km)

Table 4.3 Pipeline Projects (non-exhaustive list)

4.2 National Road Safety Projects

Safety projects on national roads are identified initially through TII HD15 Network Safety Ranking and NRA HD17 Road Safety Inspection.

Six projects continue to be progressed under HD15/17 in 2022. Following on from new project appraisal requirements, further delays arising out of Covid-19 have led to slower than planned progress on some of these projects. Progress in 2023 is dependent on funding and approvals, including project appraisal under the Public Spending Code.

4.2.1 Safety Schemes at Construction

N56 DL_157.5 Four Lane Road Safety Improvement Scheme

This significant and complex scheme addresses essential safety, drainage, and pavement requirements on Donegal's busiest road. The scheme also provides substantial new and improved active travel facilities in line with national modal shift policies.

The construction contract was awarded, and construction commenced in June 2021. The project program and progress has been substantially affected by external factors particularly the inflationary impacts and material supply arising out of the War in Ukraine. These issues have been acknowledged nationally with the Government's Inflation Cooperation Agreement of March 2022.

The current contractor program projects completion around the end of Q1 2023. The remaining works in 2023 relate substantively with the R. Swilly Boardwalk Structure and will also include additional new signalisation and associated works at the Polestar Roundabout. It is expected that most of the road work elements, unassociated with the structure and with the exception of final surfacing and sections of new central barrier, will be completed prior to Christmas 2022. The project is fully funded by TII.

4.2.2 - Safety Schemes at Design

N14 Tullyrap

Design and draft tender documentation are complete. This scheme is now on hold pending confirmation of the Major TEN-T road project. Immediate interventions are proposed under the N14 Feddyglass RSIS and pavement project programmed for 2023.

N14 Feddyglass RSIS and Pavement Project

The N14 Feddyglass project is being progressed to address issues identified following Road Safety Inspections and includes forward-visibility / stopping-sight-distance improvements, verge strengthening, curve widening, and improved delineation as well as legacy issues at Tullyrap. This project is currently at detailed design stage and is programmed to progress to procurement in Q1 2023 and onto construction by Q3 2023 subject to TII funding.

N15 McGroary's Brae

This 0.9km legacy section of TEN-T national road has a high gradient and narrow cross-section with no hard shoulder. The immediate interim proposal is to provide a new hard shoulder to the existing carriageway over approximately 1km to provide route consistency benefits as well as aiding function, safety, and capacity. It is hoped that this project may commence in 2023 subject to funding and TII approval.

N15 Lough Mourne

This project entails completion of 100m of new hard shoulder and clear zone construction. A consistent cross section will have safety and operational benefits for all road users. Negotiations and particular local issues have not enabled a negotiated settlement on land, and it is now intended to progress a CPO in Q4 2022.

4.2.3 - NRO Safety Schemes at Feasibility and Options Stage

There are three safety schemes at feasibility assessment stage; these are:

- N15 Lough Eske
- N15 Laghey
- N3 Lissacholly

Draft reports are currently under consideration by TII and it is anticipated these feasibility assessments will advance towards conclusion in Q4 2022.

4.3 - Greenways and National Road Active Travel

4.3.1 Greenways

There is currently a number of TII funded Greenway projects being delivered across Donegal. Details of these projects and their allocations are provided in Section 4.12 below.

4.3.2 National Roads Active Travel

In 2022, a number of sections within the Donegal national road network were highlighted where significant active travel /cycle routes already have and can be further developed. These 'Donegal Climate Action Projects (CAP)'s' have a particular emphasis on active travel connection to local amenities, schools, sports centres, community centres and tourist destinations as well as providing links to urban active travel and greenway developments. Donegal has already made significant strides in planning and development of these generally in tandem with essential road improvements. There are five overarching sections (CAP 1 to 5) identified at this time, many of which with multiple subsections at various stages of design, planning or construction. A pipeline of active travel projects will continue to be developed around these core CAP's.

Allocations have been sought to commence 3no. stand-alone Active Travel projects in 2023 as follows.

- N56 Letterkenny Urban (Polestar Rdbt to Mountaintop Rdbt)
- N15 Cappry (Cappry to Ballybofey Speed Limits)
- N56 Ardara to Glenties

Funding for these projects has not yet been granted and is subject to approval from TII.

Consideration is also being given to the potential for applications to be made for active travel schemes between Portnablagh and Dunfanaghy, and Bruckless and Dunkineely.

4.4 – National Road Pavement Strengthening Design and Construction

4.4.1 Pavement Asset Repair and Renewal Programme (PARR) 2022

Three PARR Projects with a combined length of 14.2km, and a combined construction cost of €6.5 million, have been successfully delivered during 2022, with all surfacing works completed onsite by mid-September.

Name	Length	Construction Cost	Project Status
N15 Ballyshannon to Ardgillow Surface Course Replacement	5.5km	€2,485,277	Complete
N15 Bundoran Bypass Surface Course Replacement	4.3km	€1,807,023	Complete
N56 Crolla to Meenacung	4.4km	€2,271,521	Complete

Table 4.4 Completed PARR Projects 2022

4.4.2 Pavement 2023 to 2025

TII and Donegal NRO has reviewed and rationalised our agreed 3-Year Donegal PARR Programme in Q2 2023 (See Table 4.5 over). The revised programme identifies

proposed PARR Projects to be completed in Donegal over the next 4-5 years. These projects have a combined length of 41km and an estimated construction cost of approx. €26 million. Donegal NRO continues to work in partnership with TII to prioritise proposed PARR projects on a rolling 3-year programme.

Estimated Year for Construction	Approx. Length (m)	Temporary Scheme Name	PARR Priority	Approx. Allocation Required
2023	2,500	N14 Tullyrap to Ballyholey	1	€1,500,000
2023	1,600	N56 Creeslough Village to Graveyard	2	€1,400,000
2023	3,300	N56 Mountain Top to Illistrin Surface Course Replacement	3	€1,225,000
2023	2,100	N56 North of Termon	4	€1,300,000
2024	4,330	N15 Laghy to Drumnacroil	5	€2,150,000
2024	3,800	N56 Ardara East to Frosses Junction at Kilraine (5.4km-1.6km)	6	€2,300,000
2024	1,015	N56 Dungloe	7	€1,250,000
2024	1,800	N15 Castliffin Village	8	€1,800,000
2024	2,500	N15 Liscooley to Castliffin	9	€1,575,000
2025	3,500	N13 Lurgybrack to Listillion	10	€1,700,000
2025	5,000	N15 McGroarys Bray to Derg Line	11	€2,400,000
2025	2,400	N15 Stranorlar to Treanamullin / Corcam	12	€2,200,000
2026	2,000	N15 Castliffin to Cloughfinn	13	€980,000
2026	740	N56 Inver Bridge to Ardaghey Junction	14	€525,000
2026	2,800	N56 Keelmore to Castliffin	15	€1,750,000

Table 4.5 Extract from Projected Pavement Program showing 2023 to 2025

4.5 – National Roads - Estimated Capital Spending for 2023, 2024 and 2025

The table below sets out the predicated capital spend for 2023. The capital allocation is estimated for 2024 and 2024. The general reduction estimated is due to completion of a number of major projects on site in 2022 and uncertainty around approval/funding of new projects.

SCHEME	2023 €m	2024 €m	2025 €m
TII Support Grant (NRO and DCC RDO)	2.8	3.0	3.2
National Roads Capital Projects (Design and Construction)	10.0	5.0	10.0
National Road Pavement Strengthening (NS and NP)	5.5	9.0	6.0
National Road Safety Projects (HD15/HD17)	3.0	5.0	5.0
Greenways/Active Travel	1.2	1.5	1.5
Bridge Management (Maintenance, Refurbishment and Rehabilitation)	1.0	2.0	2.0
ANNUAL TOTALS	23.5	25.5	27.7

Table 4.6 Expected capital spend 2023 to 2025

4.6 – Non-National Roads Projects

Generally, Non-National Roads, Road Safety, and Bridges projects are funded through the Department of Transport. While some projects may be regarded as capital, these are accounted for in the Annual Revenue Budget.

Applications for Department of Transport (DoT) Specific Grant projects and Strategic Grant projects have become more challenging in recent years. In 2020, a five-year programme was approved by Plenary Council and was submitted to DoT for funding consideration. Over the last 2 years some DoT Specific Grant funding was allocated towards some of said projects and the Council will continue to progress these projects through the project development stages towards construction stage, as resources permit. The Council continues to engage with the Department of Transport (DoT) on suitable opportunities to co-fund these specific projects through other grant allocations, to assist in the delivery of its ambitious capital works programme.

Active Travel projects now attract approximately €5m per annum, with low-cost 'quick win' solutions delivered in the early years of the programme. The design/planning stages for the more complex projects are now well underway and will facilitate the delivery of larger scale cycle infrastructure and modal shift opportunities including the reassignment of existing road space to alternative transport modes. The NTA active travel projects are focused in urban areas.

Progress continues on a number of large strategic Road Infrastructural Projects, with the status of same summarised below:

- R263 Fintra Bridge and Realignment Project
 - CPO approved by ABP in 2022
 - Detailed design and tender documentation to complete in Q4 2022
 - DCC Valuer appointed and land assessment and valuations underway
 - Await DOT approval to issue notice to treat and to proceed to tender and anticipate land purchase in 2023 and main contract construction to commence in 2024.
- Letterkenny Southern Network Project
 - Strategic Assessment Report was approved in 2022
 - Consultant appointed to progress Phases 1 and 2 in accordance with the Project Management Guidelines Project with potential investment of €5m investment for next three years.

The table below sets out the proposed expenditure for Non-National Roads Projects for 2023-2025:

Expenditure Heading	2023 €	2024 €	2025 €	Total €
Bridge Maintenance	900,000	900,000	900,000	2,700,000
Specific Capital Projects	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	7,500,000
Strategic Capital Projects (LKSNP/Fintra Bridge)	2,100,000	6,000,000	3,650,000	11,750,000
Active Travel Projects	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	15,000,000
Total	10,500,000	14,400,000	12,050,000	36,950,000

4.7 – Public Lighting

Currently, the Council has 19,044 public lights. The Council manages and maintains its full inventory of lighting stock through its public lighting management information system.

Public Lighting is a significant energy user, using 50% of the Council's total power usage to light our route network. The Government energy targets require the Council to reduce its energy usage by 50%, from a baseline in 2016, which equates to a reduction of 3m kwh.

To deliver on this energy deduction, the Council embarked on a programme of upgrading public lighting from traditional SOX/SON lamps to energy-efficient LED lamps through various projects funded through revenue budget, TII grants and loan funding, through the support of Elected Members.

Progress on Energy Reduction:

2016: 15,000 public lights @ 6m kwh power usage with 0% LED

2022: 19,044 public lights @ 5m kwh power usage with 70% LED

Despite a 25% increase in the Council's lighting stock, a 17% reduction has been achieved in the energy usage. Of the current total energy usage of 5m kwh, 70% LED use circa 2m kwh while the remaining 30% non-LED (Sox/Sons) use 3m kwh. As the RMO regional LED upgrade contract (€5m) rolls out and completes in 2023, this will result in additional significant reduction to the Council's public lighting energy consumption, with final power usage for 19,044 lights set to reduce to 3m kwh, delivering on the original energy target set in 2016, despite the 25% increase in lighting stock.

With increasing power cost, the savings in energy usage by end of 2023 will help the Council to meet its energy efficiency target while assisting with cost savings.

4.8 – Footpath and Lighting Programme

The Council adopted a motion in 2017 to provide funding to implement a multi-year footpath and public lighting programme utilising a combination of funds from IPBMI, State/Agency Grants, Development Charges, and other own resources. Construction started on individual improvements in 2018 and will continue through 2023. A fund in the sum of €4.2m was initially ring-fenced for this programme. A further €1m was added in 2020 and again in 2021, bringing the total fund to €6.2m.

4.9 – Piers & Harbours Capital Development

Donegal County Council owns, manages, and maintains 100 harbours along the Donegal coastline. In late 2016, Donegal County Council engaged the services of an engineering firm to undertake safety inspections of each asset throughout County Donegal. The resulting report identified a range of measures to help ensure, in as far as is practicable, that these working piers and harbours in public ownership are safe for use and fit for purpose.

Since 2017, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) has provided an annual allocation, co-funded by the Council, to address these needs, and steady progress has been made in this regard. However, the funding limit (recently raised to €200,000 per project) was insufficient to implement larger transformational projects.

Following its annual review of the condition of said facilities, the Council is satisfied that:

- 60 pier/harbour facilities require no further works in the next three-year period. This equates to circa 50% of all facilities in each MD.
- 19 pier/harbour facilities require a low level of safety enhancements and structural repairs. Works to be undertaken will include:
 - Pier & Harbour Safety Measures
 - Aids to Navigation (AtoNs)
 - Crane/Winch facilities

Progress continues on the completion of these projects under the various DAFM available funding allocations.

- 21 pier/harbour facilities require more significant capital investment but will be transformational in their outputs. In advance of the announcement of the BALAMI capital works funding opportunity in 2022, the Council commenced procurement processes to appoint consultants to undertake environmental assessments, designs, and tender documentation works, to avail of successful funding by the DAFM under the application process. The deadline for works completion and full expenditure for this programme of funding is November 2023, which is a very ambitious and challenging deadline. It is anticipated that 50% of these projects will be delivered under the BALAMI funding opportunity.

DAFM BALAMI Funding – Tranche 1 – Approved in April 2022

Location	Project Description	Tranche 1 Funding €	Progress
Greencastle (1)	Breakwater construction	9,880,590	Contractor appointment stage, FSL grant approved
Rathmullan (2)	Pier Refurbishment	3,500,000	Consultant appointed with construction planned for 2023, await FSL approval
Burtonport (3)	Leading lights upgrade	50,000	Complete in 2022
Lenane Pier (4)	Phase 2 works to boat yard/ associated	200,000	Contractor appointed and to complete by March 2023
Mevagh (5)	Phase 2 - pontoon installation	200,000	Contractor appointed with construction planned for 2023, await FSL approval
Port Pier Inver (6)	Port, Inver Bay slipway construction	300,000	Complete in 2022

Binwee	Phase 2 raising of deck	65,000	Complete in 2022
Inishboffin	New Crane 1.5t plus works	100,000	Complete in 2022
Cladnageeragh	Maintenance work and new winch	100,000	Complete in 2022
Glengad (7)	Quay wall refurbishment project	550,000	Consultant appointed with construction planned for 2023, await FSL approval
Rosbeg	Leading lights upgrade	20,000	Complete in 2022
Ballyshannon (8)	Phase 2 installation of pontoons	200,000	Contractor appointed with construction planned for 2023, await FSL approval
Ballyness	Structural repair works	50,000	Complete in 2022
Maghery	Safety Works	60,000	Complete in 2022
Burtonport (3)	Burtonport Quay Wall Refurbishment	950,000	Consultant appointed with construction planned for 2023, await FSL approval

DAFM BALAMI Funding - Tranche 2 – Applied for in September 2022

The DAFM called for a second tranche of BALAMI funding applications in August 2022. The closing date was 30th September 2022. The deadline for completion of construction for any approved projects is the 3rd of November 2023.

Following review of the criteria for funding, assessment of need, council resources, delivery time available and risk management of tranche 1 approved projects, the following applications were submitted for tranche 2 funding:

Location	Project Description	Tranche 2 Request €	Progress
Greencastle (1)	Breakwater	14,922,670	Contractor appointment stage, increased budget approved (+€5,042,080)
Bunbeg (9)	Bunbeg Pontoon Development	1,200,000	Consultant appointed – construction 2023, await FSL approval, await funding approval
Port Pier inver (6)	Crane provision	110,000	Design and construction in 2023, await funding approval
Gortnasade, Kincasslagh	Raise existing quay wall, new deck, safety measures	100,000	Design and construction in 2023, await funding approval
Stackamore, Aranmore	Provision of crane, electrical upgrade, new dispensing unit	115,000	Design and construction in 2023, await funding approval
Pollawaddy pier	Slipway repair	40,000	Design and construction in 2023, await funding approval

Moville	Upgrade works	30,000	Design and construction in 2023, await funding
Bunagee	Services to pontoon, safety measures/ relocation of ladder	30,000	Design and construction in 2023, await funding approval
Roshin	Regrade existing slipway and quay wall repairs	100,000	Design and construction in 2023, await funding approval
Ramelton	Quay wall and steps repairs and safety measures	50,000	Design and construction in 2023, await funding approval
Mullianasole	Quay wall repairs	100,000	Design and construction in 2023, await funding approval
Rosbeg	Crane provision	110,000	Design and construction in 2023, await funding approval
Portacrin, Gola	Repair of pier	75,000	Design and construction in 2023, await funding approval
Portsalon (10)	Pier refurbishment	1,500,000	Consultant to be appointed – construction 2023, await FSL approval, await funding
Rathmullan (2)	Pier refurbishment	4,000,000	Consultant appointed with construction 2023, await FSL approval, await additional funding approval (+€500,000)
Lenane (4)	Phase 2 of works - works to boat yard / associated	300,000	Await additional funding approval (+€100,000)
Ballyshannon (8)	Phase 2 installation of pontoons	250,000	Await FSL approval. Await additional funding approval (+€50,000)
Burtonport Quay Wall (3)	Burtonport Quay Wall Refurbishment	1,500,000	Await FSL approval, Await additional funding approval (+€550,000)
Glengad Quay Wall (7)	Quay wall refurbishment project	900,000	Await FSL approval, Await additional funding approval (+€350,000)

As the Greencastle Breakwater contract as tendered exceeded the tranche 1 funding provided, the DAFM advised the Council to resubmit the application immediately (and under the Tranche 2 funding process) for the additional funding shortfall and same was subsequently approved in advance of any other projects submitted.

While the DAFM advised that a full application be submitted for those previously approved projects where the Council is seeking additional funding for the aforementioned reasons, the tranche 1 funding is guaranteed and is not affected by the decision of the tranche 2 assessment process.

- Total Tranche 1 funding approved was €16,225,590.
- Total Tranche 2 funding application (in excess of that approved under tranche 1) is €10,152,080
- Total Tranche 3 funding application (if extension of deadline to end of 2024) is €5,900,000

In total, Donegal County Council is working on projects with an overall construction value of €32,277,670. The Council must match fund the total funding allocated under the BALAMI funding at a rate of 10% to 15% depending on the level of funding provided.

In addition, the Council must fully fund the cost of staff, consultants engaged on the more complex projects and all fees associated with environmental assessments, all costs associated with the preparation and processing of foreshore leases and associated studies, and all fees and legal costs.

DAFM BALAMI Funding – Tranche 3 for post November 2023 delivery

The Council is progressing (subject to available resources) with the environmental assessments, planning reviews, appointment of consultants/design and preparation and submission of Foreshore Lease Approvals during 2022/2023 for a number of projects identified for any additional tranche requests in late 2023, should the DAFM extend the deadline for the funding programme or for any new funding programmes. The total construction value of said projects is estimated at €5.9M.

Location	Project Description	Tranche 3 Project Estimate
Port Pier Inver (6)	Pier Extension	€2,750,000
Teelin (11)	Pontoon Development	€500,000
Burtonport (3)	Phase 3 - Slipway and Pontoon Development	€1,500,000
Killaut Pier	Pontoon Development	€150,000
Rutland (12)	Pontoon Development	€300,000
Mevagh Slipway (5)	Mevagh Slipway	€400,000
Rathmullan (2)	Pontoon Development	€300,000

Other Capital Projects

The Council continues to work in collaboration with An Roinn with respect to specific Gaeltacht and Island Piers and Harbours, with an allocation of funding received for Magheraroarty and Tory Island in 2022. Works will progress over 2022/2023, subject to available resources.

MD	Location	Funding Allocation	Project
GMD	Magheraroarty Pier (13)	€101,000	Magheraroarty Pier / Breakwater – Tender for consultant to undertake specialist marine testing and modelling to assess impact on marine environment of any proposals
GMD	Tory Island (14)	€6,000	Tory Slipway project – assessment
GMD	Tory Island (14)	€14,320	Tory Helipad lights repair

It is noted that in 2021/2022 efforts were made to source funding for carparking at Piers & Harbours to alleviate parking demands and illegal parking causing risk to health and safety, in particular regarding access/egress to and from the harbour slipways. The DAFM will not fund such infrastructure.

The remainder of the pier & harbour locations which require works will be submitted (in 2024/2025) to the DAFM, under its Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme and Marine Leisure Programme, which provides funding for minor capital works projects each year. The maximum project cost permitted has recently increased to €200,000. The Department will provide up to 75% of the necessary funding, with the Council providing the balance.

Future Capital Works Projects

Sources of funding for the remaining projects have yet to be identified, as some do not meet the criteria under the BALAMI funding or are in excess of the funding provided under DAFM annual programme.

MD	Pier No.	Pier Name	Project Type	Project details	Budget Estimates
G	63	Portnablagh (15)	Structural Refurbishment /development	Significant stone structure requires underpinning /grouting and improved shelter however does not fit under current funding options	€1,500,000
G	107	Aranmore, Ferry Terminal (16)	Structural Refurbishment /development	Slipway widening and extension to improve accessibility and safety and wave wall refurbishment	€800,000
I	11	Portmore, Malin Head (17)	Structural Refurbishment /development	Pier in good condition; access to beach could be improved for improved leisure amenity however does not fit under current funding options	€2,250,000
I	24	Buncrana (18)	Pontoon Project		€300,000
LM	61	Downings (19)	Pontoon Project		€500,000
D	147	Donegal Town (20)	Pontoon Project		€1,500,000
D	142	Inver Village (21)	Pontoon Project		€300,000

4.10 – Roads Projects Funded from Development Charges

The total estimated amount of General Development Charges that will be provided for the Roads Directorate is currently estimated at €250,000 annually for the period 2023 to 2025. These estimates will be the subject of further review in advance of each respective budget year and will take account of the payment trend of DCS at that time to update the expected available budget accordingly.

The projects to be built under available Development Charges will be prioritised by the Municipal Districts.

In addition to general DCS, the Council collects Specific Development Charges for specified works required to facilitate specific developments, and these charges will be spent on the projects for which they are levied.

4.11 – Projects Funded from Private Works Contributions

From time to time, monies are made available to the Roads Department to undertake specified works on the public road network. An example of this would include funding for the repair of roads damaged by third parties (e.g., EIR, Water Services, etc.).

Projects of this nature are reported as capital projects. However, they tend to be of low value, short duration, and impossible to predict in advance with any certainty. Such projects are mentioned here for completeness but will not form part of the Roads Capital Budget.

4.12 – Greenways Projects

North West Greenway Network

In 2015, Derry City & Strabane District Council (DCSDC) in partnership with Donegal County Council (DCC), Transport NI, and Sustrans, established the Active & Sustainable Travel Forum (ASTF) and the Forum's North West Greenways Action Plan forms the basis of a strategic and co-ordinated plan for the development of a network of greenways throughout the North West.

In line with the aims and vision set out within the North West Greenway plan, partners Derry City & Strabane District Council, Donegal County Council, Transport NI (TNI) and Sustrans secured funding approval for a project costing €14,861,188, with 85% of the funding coming from the EU's INTERREG VA 2014-2020 programme (administered by SEUPB) and 15% matching funding provided by the two governments. This has enabled the partners to progress with design, development & delivery of the cross-border greenway routes to achieve a rise in modal shift.

The objectives of the North West Greenway Network are aligned to the key messages associated with the funding:

- a. Increase modal shift – move away from a car-dependent culture
- b. Contribute to the region's overall sustainability by providing health, social, economic, and environmental benefits
- c. Create and promote a strong unifying brand
- d. Support local authorities in promoting access & infrastructural improvements
- e. Develop a connected region
- f. Promote health, wellbeing, and the wider societal benefits of cycling/walking

The project lifespan was initially from 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2021. An extension of time has been approved with closeout no later than December 2023. Three separate projects were included in the NWGN and the status of each project is as follows:

- Route 1 – 32.5km: Derry-Buncrana
- Route 2 – 10.5km: Muff-Derry
- Route 3 – 3.5km: Strabane to Lifford

From a Donegal perspective, both Route 2 (2.3km) and Route 3 (2.5km) have been successfully completed. Due to the complexities of route 1, it was agreed that it could not be delivered within the deadline of the programme and will now progress under TII funding.

In lieu of route 1, SEUPB has agreed to the delivery of 2 no substitute and connected Greenway projects, located at Lifford – Castlefinn and an extension of the completed Muff Greenway towards Quigley’s Point. Planning processes for both projects were completed in 2022, with land purchase, detailed design, tender documentation preparation all ongoing in Q4 2022. It is proposed to tender both projects for construction in early 2023 with delivery of the completed Greenways by the end of the year. Both councils remain committed to delivering the kms of greenway required to meet the NWGN Project objectives. This is an ambitious programme and will require the support of the elected members, landowners and the local communities.

Donegal County Council co-funding of approximately €2 million will be required to complete this project as per the terms of the offer, while SEUPB has provided additional funding of the order of €4.5M, in support of the shortfall arising from increased construction costs associated with current inflation and supply chain issues.

TII Greenways Projects

Donegal County Council is progressing a number of projects, as supported through TII funding allocations.

NAME	Estimated Construction Cost	Current Phase	2023 Funding Application	Status
Inishowen - Buncrana - Carndonagh	€21,000,000	Phase 1: Concept & Feasibility	€600,000	Phase 0 Gateway Statement has been approved by TII. Consultant tender process to be re-commenced due to changes in TII / Government requirements published under new guidelines and post original procurement. Tender to commence Q4 2022 for Phases 1 to 4.

Barnesmore Gap Greenway	€19,600,000	Phase 1: Concept & Feasibility	€350,000	Phase 0 Gateway Statement has been approved by TII. Tender process underway for procurement of Design Consultant for Phase 1 to 4
Burtonport to Letterkenny G/way	€56,000,000	Phase 1: Concept & Feasibility	€500,000	Phase 0 Gateway Statement has been approved by TII. Tender process underway for procurement of Design Consultant for Phase 1 to 4
Inishowen G/way - Bridgend to Buncrana & Newtowncunningham	€23,000,000	Phase 3: Design & Environmental Evaluation	€500,000	Phases 0-2 completed. Draft EIAR/NIS/CPO prepared for publication. Code of Practice to be implemented will delay publication. Draft gate 3 documents prepared in advance of TII peer review.
New Project - Carrigans to Lifford	€13,000,000	Phase 0: Scope & Pre-Appraisal	€200,000	Project to follow on from SEUPB NWGN project to be constructed in 2023. Project SAR to be prepared in 2023 for TII Phase 0 Gateway approval. Tender process for procurement of Design Consultant for Phase 1 to 4 to commence Q3 2023.
New project - Inishowen - Three Trees to Carndonagh	€27,000,000	Phase 0: Scope & Pre-Appraisal	€200,000	Project to follow on from SEUPB NWGN project to be constructed in 2023. Project SAR to be prepared in 2023 for TII Phase 0 Gateway approval. Tender process for procurement of Design Consultant for Phase 1 to 4 to commence Q3 2023.
New Project - Castlefinn to Ballybofey	€10,400,000	Phase 0: Scope & Pre-Appraisal	€50,000	Project to follow on from SEUPB NWGN project to be constructed in 2023. Project SAR to be prepared in 2023 for TII Phase 0 Gateway approval. Tender process for procurement of Design Consultant for Phase 1 to 4 to commence Q4 2023.
	€170,000,000		€2,400,000	

Progress will be dependent on approval of funding by TII under 2023 allocation.

5. Water & Environment Services

5.1 – Water Services

5.1.1 – Irish Water

The Water Services (No. 2) Act of 2013 transferred responsibility for policy and funding for public water services from local authorities to Irish Water. The responsibility for investment programmes, including the prioritisation of projects, transferred to Irish Water.

The Council's capital & design division continues to play a key role in the rollout of projects locally on behalf of Irish Water, under the terms of the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water. There has been an extensive programme of major water and wastewater projects progressed through planning, design, and construction stages in Donegal as part of the current Irish Water Capital Investment Plan since 2014.

The Master Cooperation Agreement between the Council and Irish Water is expected to be finalised by the end of 2022. This will replace the current Service Level Agreement.

Minor capital upgrade/replacement requirements to wastewater treatment infrastructure have been identified at a number of locations throughout Donegal by the Elected Members and Water Services staff in recent years. This was highlighted as requiring investment during the County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024 process. These needs include essential upgrades required to wastewater treatment plants that impact negatively on bathing water quality, and increase risk as regards the retention of our highly valued Blue Flag beaches. The programme also includes investment required in advance of the rollout of the Irish Water Capital Investment Plan (2020-2024), and essential upgrades of prioritised housing estate wastewater treatment plants.

5.1.2 - Eligibility Criteria for Group Water Schemes takeover by Irish Water

The Irish Water takeover process requires that all technical, legal, and financial requirements meet the standards set out by Irish Water.

5.1.3 - Resourcing

Under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme, funding is available to assist group water schemes in the takeover process.

Donegal County Council's Rural Water Team has been engaging with group water scheme committees and Elected Members in order to progress the takeover of group water schemes where requests have been received.

5.1.4 - Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2023-2025

The Rural Water programme has provided a very effective and beneficial means of delivering improvements to water services at a local level over the past decade. The primary focus over the last number of years has been to improve water quality and supply to private group scheme consumers, and to bring the schemes into compliance with the Drinking Water Directive.

Donegal County Council received an allocation of €2,724,826 in October 2019 in relation to projects under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme. Progress has been made on a wide variety of projects during 2021. However, ongoing restrictions relating to Covid-19 have impacted on the delivery of works on the ground. A new multi-annual programme is expected for the period to 2023-2025 and the work done by DCC since 2019 will support a strong application for that programme.

The following table sets out the projected allocation for County Donegal under the Rural Water Programme for 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Rural Water Programme	Expenditure Projections		
	2023	2024	2025
	€1.5m	€2.5m	€2.5m

5.2 – Environmental Services

5.2.1 – Landfill Restoration Programme

Donegal County Council was granted waste licences by the EPA for six landfill facilities under the Waste Management Act 1996. All six facilities are now closed. The waste licences granted required the Council to carry out engineered restoration works at all six facilities within a certain timescale following their closure. Five of these facilities had been restored, with the Balbane Landfill Facility remaining outstanding. Details of the Balbane works, and further infrastructural works to reduce operational costs are detailed in the following sections.

5.2.2 – Balbane Landfill Facility

A contract to restore this facility by means of the construction of an engineered cap and an Integrated Constructed Wetland commenced in 2021 and was substantially completed in 2022. The total final cost of the scheme was €2.97m, which has been fully funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications. A retention payment will be due to the works contractor towards the end of 2024.

Total Project Cost Estimate €2m	Expenditure Projections for Period		
	2023	2024	
	€0.2m	€0.09m	

5.2.3 – Ballynacarrick Landfill Site

Leachate from Ballynacarrick landfill is currently transported to Letterkenny Wastewater Treatment works for treatment. It is proposed to develop an Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) at Ballynacarrick Landfill site as a lower-cost alternative. The design, tender and construction of an ICW, with associated land acquisition, is currently estimated to cost €4.4m. Department funding is awarded annually for these types of landfill works. It is anticipated that, in addition to the funding received in 2020, 2021 and 2022, further funding is expected to be provided in 2023-2025. It is envisaged that the vast majority of the cost of the project will be Department grant funded.

Total Project Cost Estimate €4.4m	Expenditure Projections for Period		
	2023	2024	2025
	€1.5m	€2.0m	€0.9m

5.2.4 – Other Landfill Works

Hydro-geological studies have been completed at all six licensed landfills in recent years, as required by the EPA. These studies have given rise to a programme of further investigation and remedial works at all six sites. A cost of €150,000 over three years is estimated. Minor capital upgrades/replacements are an ongoing feature of landfill maintenance at all sites, with an estimated €50,000 being required annually.

Local Authorities, the EPA, and the WERLAs have also engaged in a process to complete risk assessments in relation to historic landfill sites (Section 22 Sites) across the country. DCC received funding for works at a historic site in Dungloe in 2021 from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and it is anticipated that further funding will be allocated in the coming years.

The estimated cost of progressing the above listed works is summarised in the table below. Delivery of the projects will depend on securing funding from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, and will require some co-financing from Donegal County Council.

Landfill Works	Annual Funding Allocations Sought		
	2023	2024	2025
Hydro-geological Costs	€50,000	€50,000	€50,000
Minor Capital Replacement	€50,000	€50,000	€50,000
Section 22 Sites	€100,000	€50,000	€50,000
Total Annual Cost Estimate	€200,000	€150,000	€150,000

5.2.5 – Rural Group Sewerage Schemes

Donegal County Council has sought funding to address the large number of private housing developments which are served by developer provided infrastructure (DPI) but has been allowed to fall into disrepair and abandonment. Most of these developments are beyond the extremities of existing sewerage networks or are located in rural areas in which such a network is never likely to be provided. These abandoned systems are contributing significant pollution loads to receiving waters and are seriously compromising the local authority’s capacity to meet its obligations under the Third Cycle River Basin Management Plan.

In keeping with the Council’s Climate Adaptation and Mitigation strategies, a focus will be placed on the resolution of these sewage treatment deficits using sustainable, low-energy demanding, nature-based solutions such as Integrated Constructed Wetlands, where sufficient land is available.

Rural Group Sewerage Schemes	Expenditure Projections		
	2023	2024	2025
	€0.5m	€1.0m	€1.0m

5.3 Recycling Centres

The Council-owned Recycling Centres at Letterkenny, Milford, Stranorlar, Carndonagh, Laghey and Dungloe are managed and operated by a contractor on behalf of the Council.

Extensive capital infrastructure has been advanced at the six centres, each of which has an area where recyclables may be recycled free-of-charge and an area where charges apply. Items such as glass, cans, textiles, batteries, and electrical goods are all accepted free-of-charge.

At the Letterkenny Recycling Centre, recyclables from the six recycling centres around the County are sorted and mechanically baled. A covered-in structure is proposed to enhance the facility, which will allow work to continue during inclement weather conditions, enhance the working conditions for staff on site, and improve the quality of materials that are stored on site. Facilities shall also be provided for the acceptance of waste paints and the introduction of a paint reuse scheme.

Annual capital maintenance works is programmed at each of the recycling centres countywide.

Total Project Cost Estimate €95,000/annum	Funding Allocation Sought
	2023-2025
	€95,000 per year

5.4 Bring Banks

The Council has progressed capital works at over 73 Bring Banks sites throughout the County where members of the public may recycle glass, cans, and textiles.

An incremental programme of upgrading the Bring Bank facilities in County Donegal is ongoing. Depending on the site, upgrading works can include the installation of fencing around the site, construction of a plinth, signage, and the installation of CCTV. The annual cost of this work countywide is estimated to be in the region of €40,000 for 2023 and €25,00 for subsequent years. In addition, it is planned to create a new bring bank location in Gaoth Dobhair. These works are estimated to cost €55,000.

Bring Banks plastic receptacles are subject to high levels of wear and tear, and the banks and internal cables are monitored regularly. They need to be maintained to a high standard and are replaced by Donegal County Council where required. The cost of purchasing a new bring bank is €500. There are 479 bring banks throughout County Donegal. A programme of replacing 15% of banks annually is needed in order to maintain these facilities and sustain their use by the public. An annual provision of €36,000 over the period 2023 – 2025 is required.

The above capital programmes for recycling centres and bring banks will require funding from the Council. Opportunities to reduce the financial burden on the Council will be pursued if new grants arise.

Bring Banks	Annual Funding Allocations Sought		
	2023	2024	2025
Bank replacement	€36,000	€36,000	€36,000
Gaoth Dobhair Bring Banks	€55,000		
Incremental Upgrade Works	€40,000	€25,000	€25,000
Annual Cost Estimate	€131,000	€61,000	€61,000

5.5 – Donegal Air Quality Monitoring Programme

The Environment and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee reviewed the rollout of the National Ambient (Air Quality) Monitoring Programme in recent years.

- The review concluded that where information on local air quality and its impact on the environment and health is available to the public, it helps to change the attitude of those still choosing to burn smoky coal or other specified fuels.
- The introduction of the Solid Fuel Regulations at the end of October 2022 effectively extends the low smoke zone from specified agglomerations (including Letterkenny in Co. Donegal) to all areas in the country.
- The proposed installation of five live PM10/PM 2.5 monitors would enable the public to check results online at any time on the Council's web site
- According to the Asthma Society of Ireland, there are 13,000 Asthma sufferers in Donegal; fine particulate matter from the burning of smoky coal is one of the known triggers of Asthma attacks.

Donegal is served by several Air Quality Real-Time Indicator Monitors throughout the County. The EPA have installed a Tier 1 Monitor at Malin Head, while two real-time air quality monitoring sites were commissioned in partnership with the EPA in 2019, a Tier 2 monitor in Letterkenny and a Tier 3 monitor in Bunrana. Further air quality monitoring sites will be rolled out in Donegal Town, Ballybofey and Dungloe in 2023. It is anticipated that the Council will continue to expand its air quality monitoring network in 2023 and in subsequent years.

The estimated cost of this air quality monitoring programme for the three years 2023 – 2025 is €105,000 and is to be funded through a combination of Department and own-resource funding.

Donegal Air Quality Monitoring Programme	Annual Funding Requirements		
	2023	2024	2025
	€35,000	€35,000	€35,000

5.6 – Public Convenience Capital Investment Programme

There is a variety of public-convenience services provided across the County at 55 locations. This ranges from:

- 28 permanent Council-owned structures (some of which are open on a seasonal basis), which are maintained by a combination of Council staff and community groups
- 5 permanent privately-owned facilities operated with Council subvention
- 19 temporary beach services during the bathing season
- 3 number year-round temporary services at key Community & Enterprise promoted locations

A review of the type of public conveniences that are appropriate for different situations throughout the County was carried out through the Environment and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee in recent years.

A summary of the recommendations from the review includes:

- Development of a capital investment programme to carry out essential improvements at prioritised existing public conveniences
- Improved accessibility at public conveniences
- Enhancement of public convenience services provided through increased engagement with community groups and business community
- The Environment section is also working closely with the DCC Regeneration Team to include enhanced accessible public conveniences in their programme countywide

The estimated cost of the public convenience capital investment programme for the three years 2023 – 2025 is summarised in the following table.

Public Conveniences Upgrade Cost Estimate €100,000/annum	Annual Funding Allocations		
	2023	2024	2025
	€100,000	€100,000	€100,000

5.7 – Coastal and Beach Improvement

The Donegal mainland coastline is 1,134km long, and constitutes over 17% of the total national coastline. Donegal County Council actively maintains and promotes 21 Designated Bathing Areas (DBAs) under varying National and International initiatives. These DBAs alone require considerable maintenance and investment.

An increasing number of visitors are enjoying our coastline each year. This coastal tourism is promoted by the Wild Atlantic Way campaign, with specific locations being promoted through initiatives such as the international Blue Flag and Green Coast beach awards. There is a need to meet the requirements and expectations of visitors to our coastline to complete their experience.

A review of facilities and services at our 21 designated bathing areas was undertaken by DCC in recent years and was considered by the Climate Action and Environment Strategic Policy Committee. Of the 21 designated beaches, 14 beaches have had infrastructural improvements in recent years to improve accessibility for visitors of all abilities. A further seven beaches now require investment to enhance access. The cost estimate for these works is €135,000 per annum. The work undertaken in this area will be crucial in continuing to complement the 'staycationing' initiatives described in Division D of the 2023 Revenue Budget Preambles (the tourism infrastructure, business and marketing activation scheme).

The Coastal Erosion programme includes the completion of the Glenties MD Coastal Erosion Study in 2023, and ongoing monitoring in subsequent years. A further €30,000 per annum is programmed for a number of localised Soft-Engineering Coastal Erosion projects throughout the County.

The following table summarises the anticipated funding that will be required to address the findings and recommendations of this review.

Beach and Coastal Improvement Programme	Annual Funding Allocations Sought		
	2023	2024	2025
Beach Access / Infrastructure Improvements	€135,000	€135,000	€135,000
Coastal Erosion Study (Glenties MD) & Ongoing Monitoring	€35,000	€30,000	€30,000
Coastal Erosion Projects (Localised Soft-Engineering)	€30,000	€30,000	€30,000
Total Annual Cost Estimate	€200,000	€195,000	€195,000

The work programme is to be resourced through a combination of DCC and Department funding.

5.8 – Leisure Centres

5.8.1 – Buncrana Leisure Centre

The proposed refurbishment of Buncrana Community Leisure Centre continues to be progressed by Donegal County Council, in collaboration with the Buncrana Community Leisure Centre Committee.

A design team for the project was appointed by DCC in 2021 and consisted of consultants for both the Architect-led Design Team (Lot 1) and Quantity Surveying and Project Management Team (Lot 2). *Stage (i) Preliminary Design* of this appointment has now been substantially completed, at a cost of €68k plus VAT. The outputs from *Stage (i)* include a further development of the project brief with stakeholders, initial architectural proposals including a 3D animated walk-through and a detailed cost plan for the project. A public consultation was held in Q2 2022, concluding with a successful open day attended by the local community and Elected Members. The Elected members and Oireachtas members have been updated and a brochure outlining the current position of the project has been produced.

The next stage of the consultants' design work, *Stage (ii), Part (i) and Part (ii)*, is programmed to continue in Q1-Q3 2023, and will result in the securing of statutory approvals and Environmental assessments for the project. This work will cost €102k plus VAT.

The final *Stage (ii)* design works, *Part (iii)*, includes completion of detailed tender documents, and will cost a further €204k plus VAT.

Options for the funding of the construction of the project, in addition to the Department's Swimming Pool Allocation (€3.8m, already secured), are currently being actively explored by DCC. These options include RRDF funding as part of the Repowering Buncrana project.

Projected expenditure for the period 2023-2025, which is based on preliminary estimates, is included in the table that follows.

5.8.2 – Ballyshannon Leisure Centre

Funding of €300,000 for Energy Efficiency measures at Ballyshannon Leisure Centre has been secured from the Department via the Sports Capital grant, with works planned to be completed in 2023.

5.8.3 – Leisure Centre Capital Maintenance Programme

There is an emerging need for capital maintenance and replacement works at each of the existing leisure centres in the County. This is necessary to protect the initial investment and to maintain each facility to a required standard to attract and retain customers. Capital replacement requirements will be informed by periodic structural and fabric assessments of the various facilities. This programme is currently estimated to require an annual investment of €500k. This programme will depend on funding from Donegal County Council and external sources where available.

5.8.4 – Leisure Centre Energy Efficiency Programme

An invest-to-save programme is being developed by DCC for improved energy performance systems at the existing leisure centres to address climate action targets and the significantly increasing energy & fuel costs. This programme will require an estimated €500k per annum for the period 2023-2025. This programme will depend on funding being available from own resources and external sources where available also.

Leisure Centres	Annual Funding Allocations Sought		
	2023	2024	2025
Buncrana Leisure Centre	€375,000	€3,500,000	€4,300,000
Ballyshannon Leisure Centre	€300,000		
LC Capital Maintenance Prog	€500,000	€500,000	€500,000
LC Energy Efficiency Prog	€500,000	€500,000	€500,000
Total Annual Cost Estimate	€1,675,000	€4,500,000	€5,300,000

5.9 – Flood Relief Schemes

In May 2018, Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Kevin Moran, T.D. launched 29 Flood Risk Management Plans for all the main river basins, identifying an initial total of 118 flood relief projects to protect the main flood risk areas throughout the country. This number increased to 119 with the addition of the Burnfoot project, following a Cost Review Report completed in May 2018, which was commissioned in the aftermath the 2017 flood. These Plans and projects are a key part of the overall flood risk management strategy set out in the National Development Plan 2017 – 2028, involving total investment of almost €1 billion over the ten-year timeframe of that plan. As it is not possible to implement all of the 119 projects at the one time, a total of 57 projects have been prioritised, following discussions with local authorities, for the initial tranche of investment and delivery based on the level of risk and number of properties to be protected.

In total, fifteen flood relief projects have been identified for County Donegal as part of the 119 projects. Six of the Donegal projects have been identified to be progressed in a first phase of implementation. These projects include Lifford, Castlefin, Burnfoot, Downings, Glenties, and Kerrykeel. In November 2019, the OPW approved the progression of three further flood relief schemes in Donegal – in Ballybofey and Stranorlar, Buncrana and Ramelton. In addition to these six, there is an ongoing flood relief project at design stage for Raphoe. The OPW and the Council are working closely to progress these projects, with the OPW leading on the delivery of Lifford and Raphoe, and the Council leading on the remaining eight projects. Initial public consultation processes have been completed for the FRSs in Ballybofey and Stranorlar, Buncrana, and Ramelton in 2021, in addition to the consultations that took place on the other schemes in 2020. A wide variety of survey, modelling, and optioneering works have been ongoing across all schemes. A dedicated website, www.countydonegalfrs.ie, has been established and provides a portal to information on all schemes. Quarterly newsletters are published, and quarterly briefing notes are provided for elected members on all schemes.

As a minimum, each scheme must consider climate change through the Climate Change Adaptation Plan required as a deliverable under the brief. In summary, the plan requires that the Consultant assess and consider the potential impacts of climate change in the development and design of the options for a preferred Scheme. This includes the consideration of Potential Future Schemes (flood relief schemes) that may be necessary to provide the required Standard of Protection (SoP) under various future scenarios (which include sea level rises, increased fluvial flows and

urbanisation). The plan also includes the identification of the potential amendments or additions to the options for a preferred Scheme under current conditions (referred to as Adaptation Options) that may be necessary over time to maintain the defined SoP, or in other ways mitigate potential future risk, in a cost-efficient and locally acceptable manner.

Green measures, such as Nature-based Catchment Measures, have been very much to the fore in Climate Change Adaptation drafts to date. These include consideration of leaky dams, gravel riffles, hedge plant and many more nature-based interventions which would be implemented over the lifespan of schemes to reduce flows from the catchment and dampen the impacts of climate change.

The OPW has provided funding to DCC since 2019 for the continued appointment of two dedicated members of staff to manage the delivery of these capital projects in collaboration with the OPW. DCC will initially manage eight projects which will take several years to complete. It is anticipated that the OPW will release further projects to the Council in the coming years.

Flood Relief Schemes	Anticipated Expenditure		
	2023	2024	2025
Estimate costs	€1,600,000	€1,750,000	€23,000,000

5.10 – North West Regional Energy Agency

Donegal County Council is currently leading the establishment of a Regional Energy Agency for the North West City Region (Donegal County and Derry City and Strabane District Council areas). Both Local Authorities have jointly agreed a strategy of reaching net-zero carbon by 2045, with the NW Regional Energy Agency (Agency) seen as the main delivery vehicle. The Agency will be a standalone Company and will become operational in 2023.

The Agency has recently secured a range of external funding to advance the Agency’s Work Programmes, which will target capital improvements in domestic and public buildings initially. Funding sources include NWRDG, EU LIFE Programme, EU City Facility and the Shared Island NW Decarb Project.

NW Regional Energy Agency	Annual Funding Allocations Sought		
	2023	2024	2025
NWRDG	€50,000	€50,000	€50,000
EU LIFE Programme	€180,000	€180,000	€180,000
EU City Facility	€60,000	€1,500,000	€1,500,000
Shared Island NW Decarb Project	€312,000	€1,600,000	€1,600,000
Total Annual Cost Estimate	€602,000	€3,330,000	€3,330,000

6. Community Development & Planning Services

The Community Development & Planning Services Directorate continues to manage a wide-ranging capital programme which will be presented under the following headings:

Section 6.1: Community Development Division.

Section 6.2: Planning Services Division.

Section 6.3: Major Projects Division.

The planned programme of investment set out below aims to maximise the opportunities to source external funding while limiting the demand for co-funding from internal resources where possible.

6.1 – Community Development Division

6.1.1 – Projects in Progress

Project Name	Funder(s)	Details
Rural Development Programme (RDP/LEADER)	EU/Dept	€13.4m was the total allocation to the Donegal Local Action Group (LAG) for the programme period 2014–2020. €10.06m of the funding was for project costs which were fully allocated by the LAG by December 2020. A LEADER Transitional Programme April 2021–December 2022 is ongoing. €2.8m has been allocated to Donegal LAG for the period of the transitional programme. €2,658,049 has been awarded to projects by October 2022. The LAG is on course to be fully allocated by year end.
2017/2018 Town & Village Renewal Scheme	Dept/Own Resources	Works at Arranmore will be progressed in consultation with the Department of Rural & Community Development in 2023.
2019 Town & Village Renewal Scheme	Dept/Own Resources	Seven towns and villages across the County were awarded funding under the 2019 Town & Village Renewal Scheme. Projects have been completed in Rossnowlagh, Glencolmcille, Dunfanaghy, Maghery, Killea and Clonmany. A few outstanding elements of the project in Raphoe will be undertaken in early 2023.
2020 Town & Village Renewal Scheme (Main Scheme)	Dept/Own Resources	Four towns were awarded funding under Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020 (Main Scheme): Ardara, Bruckless, Carrick and Crossroads. These works are ongoing and will be completed in early 2023. Total funding (inclusive of 10% co-funding) amounts to €444,444.
2021 Town & Village Renewal Scheme (Main Scheme)	Dept/Own Resources	Three towns were awarded funding under Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2021 (Main Scheme): Churchill, Merville and Newtowncunningham. Work on these projects is ongoing with all projects due to be completed in 2023. Countywide funding was also approved under the Relocation Marketing Campaign.

		Funding under the Project Development Measure was approved for a project in Dunlewey which is ongoing and will be progressed further in 2023. Total funding (inclusive of 10% co-funding) amounts to €488,888.
2022 Town & Village Renewal Scheme (Streetscape Enhancement Measure)	Dept/Own Resources	An application submitted to the Dept. of Rural and Community Development in October 2022 for the town of Lifford under the 2022 Town & Village Renewal Scheme Streetscape Enhancement Measure was successful with funding of €100,000 allocated to the project.
Tullan Strand, Bundoran	Own Resources	Development of access and public amenities at Tullan Strand.
Malin Head (Phase 3)	Fáilte Ireland/Own Resources	The development and implementation of a Visitor Management Plan for the Malin Head Signature Discovery Point got underway in 2019 and is currently being finalised. The plan will shape future development in Malin Head in the years ahead. The preparation of planning applications to develop the plan in phases have been frustrated due to delays with landowner negotiations. The Council is committed to progressing the construction of Phase 1 subject securing planning permission and pending the availability of funding.
Bundoran (Destination Towns)	Fáilte Ireland/Own Resources	Fáilte Ireland launched its national 'Developed & Emerging Tourism Destinations Investment Scheme' in March 2019 with the aim of boosting the attractiveness and tourism appeal of towns across the country. Donegal County Council submitted an application to Fáilte Ireland seeking funding of €500,000 for a project in Bundoran in September 2019. Confirmation was received in May 2020 that the application was successful. Total funding (inclusive of match funding) amounts to €669,313. Work on the project is ongoing with the project to be fully completed by June 2024.
Local Authority Weatherproofing and Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme	Faillte Ireland/Own Resources	Donegal County Council received confirmation on 3 rd January 2022 that an application for funding under the Local Authority Weatherproofing and Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme in Letterkenny was successful with €137,000 approved for the project adjacent to An Grianán Theatre. Part 8 planning process is ongoing and subject to detailed design, the procurement of a contractor to undertake the construction phase of the project will commence in early 2023.
Platforms for Growth, Platform 2, 'Facility Centres for Water Sports Activities'	Fáilte Ireland/Own Resources	The second Platform for Growth, launched in January 2020, a closed call scheme for Local Authorities only, focused on developing water sports activity centres across the country. The aim of this funding call was to provide facilities with a hub in each locality from which multiple water sport operators can base themselves. These best-in-class facilities will include changing facilities, showers, toilets, secure storage, and

		<p>enclosed spaces for inductions to take place. Donegal County Council submitted funding applications at 3 No. locations across the county; Tullan Strand - Bundoran, Downings & Marble Hill.</p> <p>When Failte Ireland announced the successful applications in April 2021, the projects in Bundoran and Downings obtained approval.</p> <p>Both projects will be progressed further in 2023 with applications for planning approval and other statutory consents being sought in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Total funding available from Failte Ireland is €1,700,000 inclusive of VAT.</p>
<p>2019 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (Measure 3)</p>	<p>Dept/Own Resources</p>	<p>Donegal County Council received €568,580 to lead the ASCENT project. Errigal mountain was chosen as the site for the project with three areas of activity: partner learning & expertise exchange; management planning and intervention design; and training and solution trialling. Part 8 planning approval for habitat restoration including an upland path was obtained in March 2019. Trialling works on short sections of the new path took place in June 2019. An application for funding of €500,000 to construct 3km of an upland path on Errigal mountain was successful under the 2019 Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Measure 3. Total funding (inclusive of 20% co-funding) is €625,000. Construction works on the 3km upland path is ongoing and due to be complete in Q1 of 2023.</p>
<p>2020 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (Measure 1)</p>	<p>Dept/Own Resources</p>	<p>5 No. projects were awarded funding under the 2020 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Measure 1: Bealach na Gaeltachta, Lehardan Harbour Walk, Trusk Lough Trail, Tip O' Neill Trail/Urris Loops and Mountain Top Walk. Construction is complete on the Tip O' Neill Trail/Urris Loops and Mountain Top Walk while the Trusk Lough Trail project is substantially complete. Design and tendering works on all remaining projects are ongoing with construction to be completed by Q1 of 2023. Total funding (inclusive of 10% co-funding) is €111,111.</p>
<p>2020 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (Measure 3)</p>	<p>Dept/Own Resources</p>	<p>Funding applications were submitted under the 2020 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Measures 2 & 3 on 30th November 2020. Funding of €500,000.00 was announced in March 2021 for the Burtonport to Letterkenny Greenway Phase 1, Part 2: The Muckish Railway Walk Enhancement. Work on Part 1 of the Muckish Railway Walk Enhancement, comprising a 2km section, funded under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2018 Measure 2 was completed in 2021. The procurement of a bridge consultant together with the detailed design of the works is ongoing with the procurement of a contractor to undertake Part 2 including the bridge replacement taking place thereafter. It is anticipated that Part 2 will be completed by Q3 of 2023. Total funding (inclusive of 10% co-funding) is €555,555.</p>

2021 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (Measure 1)	Dept/Own Resources	7 No. projects were awarded funding under the 2021 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Measure 1 projects announced in October 2021 were: Great Arch Trail Fanad, Creevy/Ballyshannon, Dungorman/Castlefin, Pedestrian Counter Units Countywide, Standing Man – Glenalla, Ray, Rathmullan, Bealacht na Gaeltachta & Rann na Feirste. Design and tendering work on all projects progressed in 2022 with construction to be completed by Q2 of 2023. Total funding (inclusive of 10% co-funding) is €155,555.
2021 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (Measure 2 & 3)	Dept/Own Resources	2 No. projects were awarded funding under the 2021 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Measures 2 & 3, which were announced in late November 2021. Funding of €200,000 was approved for the Letterkenny to Burtonport Greenway Phase IV Part 4, The Muckish Railway Walk Enhancement under Measure 2 while funding of €269,681.63 was approved for the Sliabh Liag Cliff Experience under Measure 3. Engagement with landowners, site surveying, design and tendering works have progressed in 2022 with construction to commence in Q1 of 2023 and completion by Q3/Q4 of 2023. Total funding (inclusive of 10% match funding) is €521,868.
2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (Measure 1)	Dept/Own Resources	5 No. projects were awarded funding under the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Measure 1 which were announced in August 2022: Anney Bay Path, Kincasslagh Tower, Kirkstown, Rossylongan Estate Walks and Slí na Finne (Bealach na Gaeltachta). All projects will be progressed in partnership with relevant stakeholders with construction to be completed in 2023. Total funding (inclusive of 10% co-funding) is €166,666.
2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme Project Development Measure	Dept/Own Resources	2 No. projects were awarded funding under the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Project Development Measure which were announced in August 2022: Fintragh to Largy Coastal Path & Proposed Pontoon/Bunagee Jetty in Culdaff. Both projects will be progressed in partnership with relevant stakeholders in 2023. Total funding (inclusive of 10% co-funding) is €111,111.
2021 CLÁR Scheme (Measure 2 Community Recreation Areas)	Dept/Own Resources	3 No. projects received funding in August 2021 under CLAR Scheme Measure 2 namely: Culdaff Development Association, Comhairle Paroiste Glencolmcille & Fintown Railway - Cumann Traenach na Gaeltachta Láir. Total funding (inclusive of 10% match funding) amounts to €166,666. The project in Culdaff is complete while the projects in Glencolmcille & Fintown will be progressed further in 2023.
2021 CLÁR Scheme Measure 3(a)	Dept/Own Resources	2 No. projects received funding in August 2021 under CLAR Scheme Measure 3(a) namely: Bruckless Community Park and Ray Community Centre. Total funding allocated (inclusive of 10% match funding) amounts to €111,111. These projects are ongoing and will be completed in Q1 of 2023.

<p>2022 CLÁR Scheme (Measure 1) (Developing Community Facilities & Amenities)</p>	<p>Dept/Own Resources</p>	<p>14 No. projects received funding in June/September 2022 under CLAR Scheme Measure 1 namely: An Machaire Le Cheile, Muileann Coirce Leitir CTR, Rosnakill Tourism & Activity Centre, Killea Community Park Centre, Gairdin na gCeadfaí, Arranmore Community Gym, Glenmaquin Nature Based Playspace, Outdoor Gym & Calisthenics Stations in The Bath Green Movice, The Termon Complex Pettigo, Desertegney Youth Club incl. Dunree Football Club, Rosses Park Community Walk Dungloe, CLG Ard an Ratha, Movice Green Carpark & Pobal Eascarrach – Ballina Resource Centre. Total funding allocated (inclusive of 10% match funding) amounts to €766,666. These projects will be completed in consultation with the relevant stakeholders in 2023.</p>
<p>Letterkenny Urban Adventure Sports Project</p>	<p>Northern & Western Regional Assembly/Own Resources</p>	<p>Donegal County Council was granted Part 8 planning approval for the Letterkenny Urban Adventure Sport project in March 2020. Enabling works on the project funded by Sport Ireland under the Dormant Accounts Fund, administered by Donegal Sports Partnership were completed in January 2022. The Northern & Western Regional Assembly under the Designated Urban Centre Grants Scheme approved funding of €357,000 in early August 2022 to deliver the various elements of the projects to include a 'Pump Track' and a 'Performance Space'. Total funding (inclusive of 50% match funding) is €714,000. Detailed design of both elements of the project is ongoing with the project to be fully complete by June 2023.</p>
<p>Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme</p>	<p>Dept. of Health (DOH)</p>	<p>Six capital projects are being funded under this programme, 3 in each of the pilot programme areas. The projects are set out below:</p> <p><u>Inishowen</u> Enhancement of Walking Trails at Drumfries – Meendoran (€44,667) is nearing completion. Barrack Hill Playground Project (€124,204) is due to commence construction soon. Movice Playground Project €81,027 is due to commence construction soon.</p> <p><u>Gaeltacht</u> Dungloe Foreshore Playground Project (€79,442) is due to be complete in November 2022. Muckish Railway Walk Enhancement (€73,638) will be progressed further in 2023. Scioból na bhfear, Tory Island. (€95,834) Total funding secured €498,812.</p>
<p>Peace IV</p>	<p>SEUPB (Peace IV)</p>	<p>The Donegal Peace IV Action Plan was approved to the value of €5.5m. This Plan sets out the types of activities to be supported under three main headings: 'Children & Young People', 'Building Positive Relations', and 'Shared Spaces & Services'.</p>

		<p><u>Shared Spaces & Services Projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multi-use Sports Facility to be completed in 2023 → €3,200,000. ▪ Reimagining Perceived Single Identity Spaces to be completed in 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clar Orange Hall → €45,000 ○ Convoy Presbyterian Church → €40,000 ○ Killymard LOL → €45,000
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6.1.2 – Projects Planned

Project Name	Funder(s)	Details
Playgrounds	External/ Own Resources	Refurbishment of equipment at eight existing playgrounds is planned during the period 2023-2025. Proposed expenditure will total €810,000 (2023: €300,000; 2024: €240,000; 2025: €270,000)
2022 Town & Village Renewal Scheme (Main Scheme)	Dept/Own Resources	4 No. towns and villages applications were submitted to the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2022 (Main Scheme) in July 2022, namely Carndonagh, Convoy, Dungloe & Manorcunningham as well as a countywide community consultation project. Applications were also submitted under the Project Development Measure for projects in Carrick and Ballybofey/Stranorlar and a further application under the Marketing Campaign Measure entitled 'Donegal Remote Working' was submitted. It is understood that the Dept. will announce funding for successful projects in Q4 2022. Total funding sought (inclusive of 10% co-funding) amounts to €1,179,765.
2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) (Measures 2 & 3)	Dept/Own Resources	4 No. funding applications were submitted to the Department in May 2022 under the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Measures 2 & 3. Measure 2 applications; Boardwalk at Loch Bhún an Inbhir (€222,222), Moville Shore Walk (€222,222) & Carrigart to Downings Walkway (€222,462); Measure 3 application; Carrigart to Downings Walkway (€559,667). It is understood that the Dept. will announce funding for successful projects in Q4 2022. Total funding sought (inclusive of 10% co-funding) amounts to €1,226,573.
Drumboe Park	DRCD / Own Resources	In March 2019, Part 8 planning approval was obtained for the development of a public park, comprising play areas, public conveniences, and walking trails in Drumboe, Stranorlar. The Council is currently progressing the acquisition of these lands and has submitted an application for funding of €50,000 to the Department of Rural & Community Development under the Project Development Measure of the 2022 Town & Village Renewal Scheme to further progress proposals to a shovel ready stage. It is envisaged that the acquisition of the lands will be finalised in Q1 of 2023 while it is understood that the Dept. will announce funding for successful projects in the Project Development Measure in Q4 of 2022.

6.1.3 – Development of an Outdoor Recreation Strategy

Community Development are leading on the delivery of the Donegal Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2029. The strategy is action focused and time bound from 2023-2029 with a Vision to 2040 building on a comprehensive and documented data audit of the existing, proposed, and potential future for outdoor and associated recreational amenity in Donegal.

The purpose of the Strategy is to identify the key priorities and actions in sustainably managing and developing outdoor recreation in the County and will consider key thematic areas in relation to outdoor recreation including but not limited to: landscape, seascape, landowners, the community, local and regional stakeholders, businesses, health and wellbeing, accessibility, walking and cycling, paths and trails, maritime, natural and built heritage, tourism, conservation and associated infrastructure.

Emerging actions arising from the Strategy could potentially be aligned to funding programmes such as the Project Ireland 2040 RRDF, EU funding ORIS, Town & Village Renewal, CLAR, Leader Programmes etc. The Donegal Outdoor Recreation Strategy will align with the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy – which looks at land, water, air activity, as well as with Donegal County Councils emerging Local Economic Community Plan and County Development Plan and will consider Sport Ireland Trails and the role of the Donegal Sports Partnership. Ultimately the Strategy will provide a clear framework that identifies a range of potential connections, improvements, and initiatives to consolidate and enhance outdoor recreation in the County and identify a number of strategic actions/phases to be implemented over the lifetime of the Strategy. It is anticipated that several specific policy documents will follow, exploring particular themes in more detail e.g., Walking Strategy, Greenway Strategy, Water Based Activities, Play Strategy.

Section 6.2 – Planning Division

6.2.1 – Projects in Progress

Project Name	Funder(s)	Details
Letterkenny 2040 (First Award)	DHPLG(URDF)/ Own Resources	<p>Under the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF), the Council was successful in 2018 in securing funding for the first phase of the urban regeneration project 'Letterkenny 2040'. The total value of this phase of the project inclusive of approved project cost uplifts is €2,826,110 comprising funding award from the URDF of €2,119,583 with a match funding obligation of €706,528.</p> <p>There are three approved strands to this phase: (i) A Regeneration Strategy for the Master-Planning of the town centre area; (ii) the acquisition of a key intervention site and; (iii) the delivery of public realm works (Phase 1 of LK Green Connect), and all strands are at an advanced stage of delivery. Strand (iii) in</p>

		<p>respect of delivery of public realm (Phase 1 of LK Green Connect) has been handed over to the Major Projects Division for delivery on site.</p> <p>The Paul Hogarth Company were appointed to prepare the Regeneration Strategy for Letterkenny 2040 and this process commenced on 14th January 2021. Following three phases of public consultation, the final Regeneration Strategy has been endorsed by Members of Letterkenny-Milford MD. Final write up and publication is underway, and an official launch event is scheduled for 5th December 2022. As a result, this project strand will be complete by year end 2022 with a value of €330,000.</p> <p>The Donegal County Council (Letterkenny Strategic Urban Regeneration Site) CPO 2021 was published on 4th November 2021 and submitted to An Bord Pleanala for confirmation on 8th November 2021. On 25th August 2022, An Bord Pleanala confirmed that the single objection received to the CPO has been withdrawn and advised that it is now open to the Local Authority to confirm the CPO. As a result, completion of the necessary legislative steps to confirm the CPO are being progressed without delay to enable Donegal County Council to take possession of the lands. The value of this strand is €1,568,148.</p>
<p>Letterkenny 2040 (Second Award)</p>		<p>On Friday 12th March 2021 the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien announced that €13m had been awarded under the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF) for the URDF application Letterkenny 2040 (Phase 1)</p> <p>'Re-energise and Connect the Historic Town Centre'. This application had been submitted on 28th May 2020 with overall value of €18.1m (URDF and Donegal County Council match funding obligation). Further to the preparation and submission to DHLGH of Detailed Project Brief and Procurement Strategy and associated review of project costs, the total value of the project is €22.9m comprising €17.1m in URDF support and with Donegal County Council match funding obligation of €5.8m.</p> <p>The project proposes an ambitious, transformative, and strategic step in Letterkenny's longer-term regeneration goal to transform the core of the town as a liveable 'place for People and Public Life'. It includes an exciting blend of five inter-related sub-projects which work together in combination to deliver integrated urban regeneration at a strategic level with actions and interventions across: urban regeneration, liveability, vacancy, public space, employment, enterprise, tourism and vibrancy. The sub-projects of the application are:</p> <p>A. The Cathedral Quarter – Making a Creative District. A re-imagined public space at Market Square</p>

		<p>A revitalized and accessible Church Lane through delivery of a shared surface scheme A 1,500 sqm Creative Design Hub with green urban parkland A repurposed vacant building as a Tourist Office.</p> <p>B. Enabling Renewal at Lower Main Street. Strategic land assembly and acquisition package.</p> <p>C. Revival at the Courthouse. New enterprise space blended with a tourist attraction in the historic courthouse presenting 'Donegal: People and Place'.</p> <p>D. Enabling a Regional Transport Hub. Strategic land acquisition.</p> <p>E. LK Green Connect. Connecting origins, destinations, and targets inc. strategic land acquisition.</p> <p>Following receipt of Preliminary Approval Letter from DHLGH on 25th August 2021, the project continues to be progressed in order to satisfy funding approval obligations under the Public Spending Code (PSC). In this regard, a Preliminary Business Case was submitted to DHLGH on 8th March 2022 and subsequently secured approval on 11th August 2022 resulting in approval at Decision Gate 1 under the PSC and approval in principle for Donegal County Council to progress to 'Design, Planning and Procurement Strategy' as part of the Final Business Case.</p> <p>Subsequently, a Detailed Project Brief and Procurement Strategy was prepared and submitted to DHLGH on 29th July 2022 and remains under review by the DHLGH Technical Team Inspectorate. In the interim, steps are being taken in parallel to further advance sub-projects to readiness in anticipation of approval of Detailed Project Brief and Procurement Strategy.</p>
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6.2.2 – Projects Planned

Project Name	Funder(s)	Details
Back to Ballyshannon	to DRCD (RRDF)/Own Resources	<p>Back to Ballyshannon – A transformational project to re-energise, reimagine and sustain the social, cultural, historical, physical, and economic fabric of Ballyshannon’s historic town centre.</p> <p>The project was submitted to the DRCD (RRDF) on 28th February 2020 under a call for Category 2 projects and was announced as a successful project by Minister Michael Ring TD On 25th June 2020. The project has a value of €247,500 with RRDF funding approved in the sum of €185,625. It will enable</p>

		<p>project development towards a 'shovel ready' Category 1 project and this work has commenced.</p> <p>In 2021 the Team completed a feasibility study of acquisition options including potential end users, archaeological and conservation constraints, compliance with Fire Regulations and Disability Access requirements which informed a preferred acquisition option. In 2022 this acquisition option has progressed to 'sale agreed', legal and conveyancing services have advanced and at the time of writing it is anticipated that contracts will be signed, and the acquisition closed by end November 2022.</p> <p>Design work has completed on a draft planning scheme for a Regeneration Project in the Town Centre including the acquisition property which was brought to public consultation on 25th October 2022. The scheme will now be progressed towards publication and the statutory consent process.</p>
Ramelton Historic Town Centre	DRCD (RRDF)/Own Resources	<p>Ramelton Historic Town Centre is a Restorative & Transformational Public Realm Scheme. This project was submitted to the DRCD (RRDF) on 28th February 2020 as a Category 2 project and was one of the successful projects announced by Minister Michael Ring TD On 25th June 2020. The project has a value of €249,159 with RRDF funding of €186,869. This category 2 funding will enable project development towards a 'shovel ready' Category 1 project and the project was formally launched on 28th June 2021 with the appointment of BDP to deliver the project from concept to shovel ready status. A Part 8 planning scheme for this project was published on Tuesday 1st February 2022 and a Chief Executives Report on the proposed development was brought before the Elected Members at a Plenary Meeting of the Council on Wednesday 6th April, 2022 and it was decided to proceed with the development as proposed. The Regeneration and Development Team subsequently completed the submission of a Category 1 capital funding application to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund for the capital delivery of this project by the 12-noon deadline on Friday 29th April 2022. The submitted project has a total project value of €7,949,868 and remains under assessment. Meanwhile, work continues to advance on the Detailed Design of Project together with preparation of a completed Tender Package, which is scheduled for completion in October of this year.</p>
Repowering Buncrana	DRCD(RRDF)/Own Resources	<p>On 6th January 2022 the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys announced that €1.17m had been awarded under the Third Call for Category 2 Projects of the RRDF for the "Repowering Buncrana" regeneration Project.</p>

		<p>Due diligence has been completed on this project and a formal letter of Offer together with an associated Funding Agreement was received on 10th May 2022. The Funding Agreement was subsequently accepted and formally returned to the Department on 18th May 2022. The project will now progress to procurement of the required consultancy services before commencement of the planning and statutory consents stages of this project enabled by the funding award. A successful public information event in respect of this project was held in the Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana on Monday 23rd May 2022.</p> <p>Specifically under this Category 2 application, RRDF support is awarded to procure Architect Led Full Integrated Design Team for the preliminary design, planning scheme design and detailed design of the 'Repowering Buncrana' regeneration project together with support to acquire the former Garda Barracks, St Oran's Road and other limited acquisition of land to cater for necessary enabling works. This category 2 funding will enable the advancement of the final project to a shovel-ready status resulting in a further future Category 1 capital project application.</p> <p>The project has a Cat.2 value of €1,355,865 with RRDF funding support in the sum of €271,173.</p>
A Heritage Led Regeneration Project – Rathmullan	DRCD (RRDF)/Trust Funding/Own Resources	<p>This project proposes to build on the significant work done to date by the 'Way Forward Group' in Rathmullan in progressing a 'future use feasibility study' for the Napoleonic Gun Battery in conjunction with Pasparakis Friel.</p> <p>In 2021 the Team explored and confirmed the scope of a broader transformational heritage led regeneration project for Rathmullan which might meet the RRDF eligibility criteria. The project now requires progression through pre-planning, planning and detailed design/contract work. A tender to procure fully integrated design team services to advance the project was conducted in April and May of 2021 and Robin Lee Architecture were then appointed as the successful consultancy service in November 2021. A draft planning scheme was successfully brought to public consultation in July 2022 and the project is now progressing towards publication of a Part 8 planning scheme in November 2022 with a view to achieving project readiness for future capital funding calls under the RRDF.</p> <p>This stage of the project is being funded from own resources and co-funding from The Way Forward Group enabled by The Tomar Trust.</p>
Milford Town Centre First (TCF) Plan	DRCD	<p>In late 2021 the Department of Rural and Community Development sought nominations for towns to be considered as part of the 1st Phase of the Town Centre Masterplan Initiative. Minister</p>

		Heather Humphries TD subsequently announced that Milford was successful in securing €100,000 under the call. The Regeneration & Development Team is now leading on the delivery of a Town Centre First Masterplan for the Town. Work has commenced to agree the collaborative delivery arrangements with Elected Members, Community partners in accordance with the vision of the Town Centre First Policy, and to progress to tender stage for consultancy services. It is anticipated that the successful consultancy service(s) will be appointed, and the project will be formally launched before year end with a scheduled completion date of mid-2023.
Rural Regeneration & Development Projects	DRCD (RRDF)/Own Resources	It is anticipated that further calls under the RRDF will open in 2023 (Category 1 & 2). Further applications will be developed and submitted to this Fund when calls open in line with Delivery Area 2 of the Work Programme (as set out by the Chief Executive in report to Council and CPG in January 2019).
Urban Regeneration & Development Projects	DHLHG (URDF)/Own Resources	Work will continue in 2023 on the further development and delivery of the five sub-projects which were successful in the second URDF award and these projects will be brought through planning, acquisition, detailed design and capital delivery in accordance with their delivery programmes towards 2027. It is anticipated that further calls under the URDF will open in Q1/Q2 of 2023 and further applications will be developed and submitted to this Fund when calls open in line with Delivery Area 1 of the Work Programme (as set out by the Chief Executive in report to Council and CPG in January 2019) and the emerging project priorities from the Regeneration Strategy.

6.2.3 – Development Charges / Development-Contribution Scheme

In accordance with Circular Letter Finance 08/2008, the estimate of development contributions (DCS & Specific Charges) to be collected in 2023 (based on receipts to date in 2022) is circa €1.8m.

6.3 – Major Projects Division

6.3.1 – Projects in Progress

Project Name	Funder(s)	Details
Platforms for Growth, Platform 1, 'Immersive Heritage & Cultural Attractions'	Fáilte Ireland/Own Resources	Donegal County Council received confirmation from Fáilte Ireland in May 2021 that the Fort Dunree application was one of four successful applications across the country with funding of €9,251,000 being made available. 25% co-funding is to be provided by Donegal County Council which brings the overall funding available to the project to circa. €12,500,000.

		The project is currently in the development phase. A Development Grant Agreement and Project Execution Plan has been finalised with Fáilte Ireland. A multi-disciplinary consultancy team has been appointed and are working towards securing planning approval during 2023.
Riverine Community Park	ERDF	<p>In June 2019, Donegal County Council, in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council received funding of €8,962,540.60 through the European Union Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (Peace IV) under Objective 3: Shared Spaces and Services, Action 3.1 Shared Spaces Capital Development. This funding was further uplifted in June 2022 to €11,773,771. This programme runs until end 2023. The project proposes to create new community park space and infrastructure at Lifford and Strabane. Works to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pavilion Building ▪ Outdoor Wetlands and Park Space ▪ Outdoor Flexible Multi-Functional Space ▪ Family Space ▪ Cross-border Pathways and Park Infrastructure (Walkways and Greenways) ▪ Safe River Access ▪ Linkages between Lifford and Strabane. <p>In addition to the delivery of the park, the project will also deliver several Community Animation Programmes to encourage participation by the public in the design of the park and ultimately in the use of constructed park.</p> <p>The project has established the Riverine Community Forum, comprising of 32 representatives from a wide variety of local community groups on both sides of the border, to help deliver the Animation Programmes and influence the design of the park.</p> <p>Planning decisions are awaited from both the NI and ROI Planning Authorities and are expected by end 2022. Detailed design has been completed and construction of the park is expected to commence in January 2023.</p>
Killybegs 2040 – A Town Centre Regeneration Project	DRCD (RRDF)/ Own Resources	<p>This project proposes the refurbishment and extension of Island House (a derelict building on the Harbour) to use as a Digital Hub and Tourist Information Centre with integrated Civic space, new pedestrian infrastructure and parking arrangements. The value of the project is €5,423,583 and funding of €4,067,311 has been confirmed from the RRDF.</p> <p>Construction commenced in October 2022 following an official sod turning ceremony by the Minister Charlie McConalogue TD on 3rd October. Construction is scheduled for completion in November 2023.</p>

Burtonport/Aranmore – Harbour to Island Regeneration	DRCD (RRDF)/ Own Resources	<p>This project includes works at Burtonport to improve traffic management, parking, and ferry access arrangements in the Harbour area together with public realm works and associated acquisition and demolition works. A Shore Front Amenity development on Aranmore Island consisting of beach access, parking, recreational facilities, and an outdoor events space is also included. The value of the project is €4,118,932 and includes funding of €3,089,199 from the RRDF.</p> <p>The Shore Front Amenity development on Árainn Mhór was completed in Q2 of 2022 and formally opened by the Minister for Rural and Community Development on 22nd July 2022.</p> <p>The Harbour redevelopment works in Burtonport commenced early in 2022 and are on schedule for completion in early 2023.</p>
The SEED project - Ballybofey & Stranorlar	DRCD (RRDF)/ Own Resources	<p>This project will deliver the restoration and redevelopment of the former Ritz cinema as an Enterprise Centre, the redevelopment of an existing public car park to create a new high quality, multi-functional civic space with enhanced pedestrian linkages and accessibility, façade enhancements to the Ballybofey Shopping Arcade and the development of replacement and additional car parking. The value of the project is €9,756,969 and funding of €8,781,272 was sought from the RRDF. Grant funding for this project was announced on 14th May 2021.</p> <p>A formal letter of offer was received on 20th August 2021 and DRCD approval to move to detailed design was confirmed in September 2022. Procurement of a specialist design consultant is expected to be completed by end Q1 2023 with detailed design to progress thereafter.</p>
The Tús Nua - Regeneration Project Carndonagh.	DRCD (RRDF)/ Own Resources	<p>This project will deliver a new multi-use hub located in a regenerated heritage building for a range of uses including: a co-working space & fabrication laboratory, office space, youth space, a community kitchen and public amenities. The project also includes a shared workspace and retail space for the designer maker industries together with enhanced public realm at the Diamond and improved pedestrian accessibility and linkages. The value of the project is €9,542,852 and funding of €8,218,982 has been confirmed from the RRDF.</p> <p>A formal letter of offer was received on 23rd July 2021 and DRCD approval to move to detailed design was confirmed in August 2022. Procurement of a specialist design consultant is expected to be completed by end 2022 with detailed design to progress in 2023. Construction of some individual project elements will be done in 2023 in advance of the main refurbishment works.</p>

Burtonport Harbour Redevelopment (Phase 2)	DRCD (RRDF)/ Own Resources	<p>This project builds upon previous RRDF support for Phase 1 Ailt an Chorráin (Burtonport)/Oileán Árinn Mhór (Aranmore Island) 'Harbour to Island' Regeneration Project. It will deliver a new Ferry Terminal Building and Enterprise Building at the Harbour. The value of the project is €2,295,290 and is being funded from the RRDF and the Council's own resources.</p> <p>This project is now at detailed design stage and will progress to construction early in 2023.</p>
Strategic Urban Regeneration Site - Letterkenny	Multiple – including URDF, BEDF and Own Resources	<p>The First Phase development of the strategic urban regeneration site in Letterkenny, estimated at €22m, will include demolition works, new Alpha and Beta innovation and enterprise proposals and associated public realm works. It is being developed in conjunction with Economic Development. Part 8 planning has been confirmed. Capital funding has been secured for the Alpha Innovation Centre. Further work is in progress to confirm the funding for the Beta Enterprise Centre and the public realm works. The procurement process to appoint an architect led design team to prepare the detailed designs and contract documents for the Alpha and Beta buildings is in progress and will be completed prior to end 2022. The demolition works will be progressed separately.</p>
Donegal Regional Salt Barn	DoT	<p>This project provides for a new regional salt barn and co-located roads depot at Ballyshannon. Land acquisition was completed early in 2022. Engagement with DoT is underway to finalise the capacity requirements of the barn and thereafter a specialist design consultant will be procured to progress the part 8 planning, detailed design and construction tender documents in 2023. Construction is expected to follow in 2024. Cost estimates for the project will not be known until the capacity requirements of the barn have been finalised.</p>

6.3.2 – Housing Estate Improvement Works and Unfinished Housing Estates

Fourteen estates remain, at varying levels of completion and occupation, on the national Unfinished Housing Developments database with several potential routes to resolution being pursued. Developers have reengaged in a number and resolutions allowing for the Taking in Charge continue to be actioned where possible.

The Council continues to work through the remaining unfinished estates which received funding under the Government's Site Resolution and Taking in Charge funding programmes. Further resolution works will continue as part of the 2023 UFHD's Work Programme with an expected spend of €300,000. Five estates remain to be completed which received funding.

6.3.3 – Taking-in-Charge – Residential Housing Estates

The Council continued to progress the taking-in-charge of residential estates throughout 2022 and will continue this process throughout 2023. Up to the end of October 2022, a further 29 estates were sent to Municipal District meetings seeking approval from Members to have them taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning Act. It is anticipated that another 10 estates, will be sent forward before the end of 2022, subject to resolution of issues such as outstanding wayleaves and agreement with Irish Water. The Council has, since 2019, submitted reports to Irish Water in respect of approximately 120 estates seeking their agreement to proceed to Taking in Charge and this work continues in relation to all the legacy estates for which applications have been received.

Discussions are advancing with Irish Water in relation to the estates which have been awarded funding under the Multi-annual Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure (DPI) Resolution Programme and it is expected that works at Dromore Park, Killygordon and Hazelwood/St. Jude's in Lifford will be completed in 2023.

The funding allocated amounts to 75% of the estimated cost of the works with the Council obliged to provide the matched funding requirements. It is anticipated that these works will form most of the work programme for 2023.

Agreement has been reached with Irish Water in relation to a number of estates with problematic sewage pumping stations, where there are insufficient planning securities or bonds to complete the resolution works required to bring the estates to an acceptable standard in line with the Memorandum of Understanding agreed between Irish Water and Local Authorities for the taking in charge of estates connected to the Irish Water controlled or owned network.

A contractor has been appointed for the works at Mountain View in Letterkenny in Q3 2022 and it is anticipated that works will be carried out in 2023 in Errigal View in Letterkenny, Greyrocks in Milford, and Ash Meadows in Stranorlar. While Irish Water will be expected to pay for the remediation of the water and wastewater services element of the works, the Council will have to fund any other elements of the works, including roads, footpaths, and street lighting.

A number of unresolved sites continue to be addressed using funds realised from developers' bonds. It is anticipated that around €300,000 from this funding source, subvented by the Council's own resources where appropriate, will continue to be spent in each year during 2023-2026.

The Council will continue to engage with relevant parties to try to arrive at acceptable resolutions for those estates which have not yet been completed but where planning bonds or securities are available for resolution works.

Community Development & Planning Services Directorate Capital Table 2023-2025
(Projects in Progress)

Description	Projected Cost* Per Annum			Proposed Sources of funding*	
	2023	2024	2025	Council	External
Projects in Progress					
RDP/LEADER	€1,627,643	€180,849			€1,808,492
2017/2018 Town & Village Renewal Scheme	€30,000			€5,000	€25,000
2019 Town & Village Renewal Scheme	€70,000			€20,000	€50,000
2020 Town & Village Renewal Scheme (Main Scheme)	€444,444			€44,444	€400,000
2021 Town & Village Renewal Scheme (Main Scheme)	€488,888			€48,888	€440,000
2022 Town & Village Renewal Scheme (Streetscape Enhancement Scheme)	€125,000			€25,000	€100,000
Tullan Strand, Bundoran	€30,000	€50,000	€220,000	€300,000	
Malin Head, (Phase III)	€100,000	€300,000	€500,000	€225,000	€675,000
Bundoran (Destination Towns)	€250,000	€419,313		€169,313	€500,000
Local Authority Weatherproofing and Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme	€156,000			€19,000	€137,000
Platform for Growth 2, 'Facility Centres for Water Sports Activities'	€100,000	€800,000	€1,100,000	€300,000	€1,700,000
2019 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (Measure 3)	€150,000			€150,000	
2020 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (Measure 1)	€100,000			€10,000	€90,000
2020 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (Measure 3)	€555,555			€55,555	€500,000
2021 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (Measure 1)	€135,000			€15,000	€120,000
2021 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (Measure 2 & 3)	€521,868			€52,187	€469,681
2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (Measure 1)	€166,666			€16,666	€150,000
2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme Project Development Measure	€111,111			€11,111	€100,000
2021 CLAR Scheme Measure 2 (Community Recreation Areas)	€111,111			€11,111	€100,000
2021CLAR Scheme Measure 3(a)	€111,111			€11,111	€100,000
2022 CLAR Scheme Measure 1 (Developing Community Facilities & Amenities)	€766,666			€76,666	€690,000
Letterkenny Urban Adventure Sports Project	€714,000			€357,000	€357,000

Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme	€498,812				€498,812
Peace IV.	€3,200,000			€1,700,000	€1,500,000
'Letterkenny 2040' (First Award)	€1,568,148			€1,176,111	€392,037
'Letterkenny 2040' (Second Award)	€2,330,324	€10,166,759	€7,369,340	€4,966,606	€14,899,817
Platforms for Growth, Platform 1, 'Immersive Heritage & Cultural Attractions'	€856,000	€2,295,000	€6,430,000	€2,395,250	€7,185,750
Riverine Community Park	€8,380,000	€120,000	€0	€2,125,000	€6,375,000
Killybegs 2040 – A Town Centre Regeneration Project	€300,000	€3,080,000	€1,320,000	€1,175,000	€3,525,000
Burtonport/Aranmore – Harbour to Island Regeneration	€200,000	€0	€0	€50,000	€150,000
The SEED Project - Ballybofey & Stranorlar	€150,000	€4,688,335	€4,688,335	€952,667	€8,574,003
The Tús Nua- Regeneration Project Cardonagh	€500,000	€4,289,552	€4,289,552	€1,257,456	€7,821,648
Burtonport Harbour Redevelopment (Phase 2)	€1,606,703	€688,587		€229,529	€2,065,761
Strategic Urban Regeneration Site - Letterkenny	€1,410,000	€15,480,000	€5,230,000	€4,424,000	€17,696,000
Donegal Regional Salt Barn					
Unfinished Housing Dev-Developers' Bonds	€300,000	€150,000	€50,000	€100,000	€400,000
Take Over of Housing Estates	€1,500,000	€1,500,000	€1,000,000	€2,200,000	€1,800,000
Totals:	€29,665,050	€44,208,395	€32,197,227	€24,674,671	€81,396,001

* Due to the nature of external funding applications, projected costs and timelines are best estimates

7. Economic Development, Emergency Services & Information Systems

7.1 – Economic Development Division

- 7.1.1 The Economic Development area is comprised of the Economic Development Division and the Local Enterprise Office (LEO)/Small Business Support Division and is part of the wider Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems Directorate.
- 7.1.2 Both the Economic Development Division and the Small Business Supports Division (LEO) will contribute to the delivery of projects under initiatives including the Regional Enterprise Development Fund & Border Enterprise Development Funds (REDF & BEDF), the Urban and Rural Regeneration Development Funds (URDF) and the Rural Regeneration Development Funds (RRDF), alongside colleague Council services.
- 7.1.3 The Economic Development Division is advancing proposals that will have implications for Capital expenditure in the following areas:
- Land and building optimisation for economic development purposes
 - Opportunity site acquisition for economic development purposes
 - Funding and investment opportunities from Central Government and State Agencies for economic development purposes
 - As appropriate, downstream Brexit investment requirements, in a Donegal context, for economic development purposes.
- 7.1.4 A number of proposals are currently being advanced, particularly from the perspective of post Brexit offerings for relocation or second site location opportunities. This includes maximising the potential of Council owned land and properties. The need for the development of Serviced Land Initiatives for Economic Development Purposes was identified by Grant Thornton in their Responding to Brexit report and the Economic Development Division is currently working with the Councils Capital Delivery Team and other Council services to develop a multiuse park at The Common, Lifford with similar proposals being considered for other locations in the county.
- 7.1.5 A new Business and Innovation Quarter is currently being developed in Letterkenny town centre with a view to enhancing greater levels of innovation and business development in the region. This will comprise of the 17,500 sq ft Alpha Innovation Centre and the 43,000 sq ft Beta Business Centre providing over 60,000 sq ft Grade A office accommodation in a prime town centre location.
- 7.1.6 The Inishowen Innovation Hub, which secured funding under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund is also progressing to completion, with construction due to be completed in 2024.

7.1.7 Economic Development Capital Investment Programme 2023 – 2025

Description	Projected Cost Per Annum *			Proposed Sources of funding 2023 – 2025 *	
	2023	2024	2025	Council	External
	€	€	€	€	€
Inishowen Innovation Hub, Buncrana	1,000,000	500,000		300,000	1,200,000
Alpha Innovation Centre **	3,285,000	3,285,000	1,530,000	4,440,000	3,660,000
Beta Business Centre **	5,920,000	5,920,000	2,960,000	2,000,000	12,800,000
Development at The Common, Lifford **	1,540,000	1,250,000		2,790,000	
Totals:	11,745,000	10,955,000	4,490,000	9,530,000	17,660,000

* Total cost of co-financing requirements is subject to final costing and procurement

** The Council's Capital Delivery Team is progressing the delivery of these capital projects in association with the Economic Development Division

7.1.8 As part of the Economic Development Division, the Strategic Funding Unit continues to proactively engage with potential external funding bodies and agencies, with the objective of matching strategic Council objectives with appropriate external funding programmes, both National and EU, to maximise funding and co-financing opportunities to enable further development in the County. New EU Funding Programmes will continue to open in 2023 and the Strategic Funding Unit will continue to engage with various programme bodies, Council Services and partner organisations with a view to ensuring that the Council is well positioned to avail of opportunities as they arise.

7.2 Information Systems

Introduction

7.2.1 Donegal County Council's Information Technology infrastructure serves 107 locations countywide and is one of the largest Local Authority networks in Ireland.

The infrastructure comprises: -

- 85 Servers
- 1,557 Desktop & Notebook Computers
- 344 Printers/Scanners/Plotters
- 29 Print Management Multi-Function Devices (managed solely by Information Systems)
- 82 Other Multi-Function Devices (managed by Reprographics Section with support from Information Systems)

- 366 Tablets
- 650 Mobile Phones
- 200 Other data devices
- 260 IP Telephone handsets

Together with this ICT infrastructure, a wide range of Council business systems and applications are managed on an ongoing basis.

- 7.2.2 In addition to operational support on the networks and applications, a comprehensive systems programme is implemented annually. The systems programme is designed to support the Council's Corporate Plan and Customer Services Action Plan. It assists business units in Donegal County Council to work more efficiently and effectively, as well as delivering improved customer service applications.

Capital Investment Programme

- 7.2.3 Ongoing Revenue budgets fund maintenance and support of existing applications on an annual basis, including contributions to the Local Government Management Agency.

- 7.2.4 An upgraded networking, hardware, telephony, security and systems upgrade project got underway in 2021. It had been intended to commence the capital investment programme in 2020 but the onset of the Covid-19 crisis delayed the project due to the need to direct I.T. resources to essential Covid-19 responses. In addition, the acquisition of necessary additional I.T. staff resources to implement the programme had been delayed. During 2021 Information Systems invested heavily in upgrading the Communications and Network infrastructure replacing core routers at HQ and in the Public Services Centres as well as replacing 60 switches at HQ, Public Services Centres and many other key offices such as the Local Enterprise Centre, Stranorlar Training Centre and Letterkenny Fire Station.

During 2022, Information Systems invested in excess of €200k on implementing an IP Telephony system and Contact Centre Support Solution for the organisation with the rollout of that solution being completed within the past month. This system replaced an Analog PBX Telephone System that was originally installed over 28 years ago.

In the years 2023 – 2025 the Information Systems Department Capital Expenditure will fall into the following main categories:

- Communications and Networking Improvements (Local and Wide Area Network Upgrades)
- Replacement Compute & Storage Solutions
- Backup & Business Continuity Solutions
- Enhanced Information and Cyber Security Solutions
- Infrastructure for Blended Working
- Cloud based desktop office automation systems
- Improved Corporate Information Systems and Applications

7.2.5 Over the last number of years cyber-attacks and similar forms of criminal activity have wreaked havoc across the globe for organisations and businesses, including public authorities. The Council, in common with other public authorities, needs to keep abreast of these threats by using the best defence mechanisms available. Additionally, General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) became law in 2018, with increased obligations for bodies holding personal data, and increased fines for breaches of these enhanced obligations. The ransomware attack on the Health Service Executive in May of 2021 brought into sharp focus the need for continual investment in this area to both protect Council systems and data as well as ensuring compliance with GDPR Regulations.

7.2.6 Over the period 2023 – 2025 the ongoing systems implementation and upgrade programme will also continue. Work will be prioritised on an annual basis and will target systems and applications with significant payback for the Council in terms of operational efficiencies. In addition, systems such as automated power management for PC’s & laptops, IP Telephony and electronic meeting solutions will bring significant benefits and financial savings to the Council.

Information Systems - Estimated Capital Commitments 2023 – 2025

Work Area	2023	2024	2025
Communications & Network Infrastructure	€40,000	€40,000	€40,000
Wide Area Connectivity	€25,000	€25,000	€25,000
Core Server & Storage Infrastructure	€350,000		
Migration to Microsoft 365	€25,000		
Business Continuity & Backup Solutions	€25,000	€30,000	€40,000
Data & Cyber Security Solutions	€100,000	€100,000	€50,000
Infrastructure for Blended Working	€50,000	€50,000	€50,000
Donegal Digital Projects	€80,000	€80,000	€80,000
Cloud Services	€40,000	€50,000	€50,000
Total	€735,000	€375,000	€335,000

** The full costs of these investments over the 3-year period will be borne solely by Donegal County Council.

Information Systems - Priorities for 2023

7.2.7 The priority project for 2023 is a new Compute & Storage infrastructure for the organisation which will be tendered in Qtr. 4 2022. The current server estate and data storage infrastructure at HQ Lifford is currently on extended warranty (greater than 7 years old) and swiftly reaching end of life due to the continual growth of all data sets across the organisation. This infrastructure needs to be replaced by the end of Q3 2023 in advance of the extended warranty renewal due date.

- 7.2.8 In 2023, further investment is required in Security, Management and Monitoring Systems in order to further improve cyber security protection. This will include an investment in new Backup and Replication systems as well as improved Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery solutions. This will involve a move away from the traditional backup-to-tape environment to back up-to-disk and backup-to-cloud solutions. This requirement has been included in the Compute & Storage tender referenced above.
- 7.2.9 The migration to Microsoft 365 continued during 2022. This was a complex project incorporating the following key elements (a) migration of 900 mailboxes from on-premise to the Cloud and (b) enhancing the security of our Microsoft 365 infrastructure. The project will continue in 2023 with the rollout of Microsoft Intune to manage the estate of mobile devices, the integration of Microsoft Intune & Microsoft SCCM to efficiently manage Windows 10 updates as well as the decommissioning of the legacy Microsoft Exchange 2010/2013 hybrid infrastructure.

7.3 – Emergency Services

7.3.1 – Fire Stations

Following the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (the Department) advising in 2016 that the Department was open to considering a suitable fire station project for the south of the County from Donegal County Council, an evidence-based consultancy report was completed in mid-2018, with a subsequent recommendation from the Chief Fire Officer that a single location, two-pump station, supplemented by a hydraulic platform, and serviced by a fifteen-member crew, be submitted to the Department for funding. The Elected Members did not accept this recommended approach and resolved that the preference was for the retention of two locations and stations. This position has been made clear to the Department for some time and it is intended that discussions will continue in order to bring this matter to satisfactory conclusion at the earliest date possible.

The station priority list submitted to the Department in 2020 placed Glencolmcille Fire Station as priority No. 3 at a 2020 estimated cost of €1,570,724.

It is not anticipated that this project will progress until the fire station project in the south of the County is substantially advanced or concluded.

7.3.2 – Fire Appliances, Associated Vehicles and Buildings

The Fire Service currently has no live capital projects. However, requests are with the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) for funding for:

- 1) 3 No Class B's (one per year over the next three years)

- 2) a multi-year programme to replace fire brigade jeeps that are used to carry sign, lighting and guarding equipment
- 3) a stand-alone building at Letterkenny Fire Station to house Fire Service vehicles

In addition to the foregoing, it is intended to submit a request to the NDFEM in Q1 of 2023 for funding for a second water tanker.

7.4 – Civil Defence

The Department of Defence secured additional funding through the Dormant Accounts Fund in early 2022 to continue the upgrading of the existing vehicle fleet around the county. Following the success of the funding application submitted by Civil Defence, Donegal Civil Defence was allocated €33,000 towards the conversion works of 1 Ford Transit Van, purchased in 2021 through the Dormant Accounts fund, to a communications vehicle for the service. Following the conversion works the communications vehicle was put into service on 1st October 2022.

The current garage space at the Civil Defence Headquarters is no longer adequate to house the Civil Defence vehicle and boat fleet, therefore it is intended to submit a business case to the Civil Defence Branch in early 2023, to fund the erection of a covered parking area for the 4WD fleet.

8. Roads Management Office (RMO)

The Road Management Office (RMO) is a local authority shared service under S.149A of the 2001 Local Government Act. It operates under agreements between local authorities and is mandated in its work by the Department of Transport (DoT).

The office works closely the DoT, LGMA, and local authorities, and provides centralised supports to the sector and other stakeholders (e.g., utilities and government).

The RMO manages the MapRoad System and trains and supports local authorities, utilities, and others in the use of the system, whilst providing a level of quality assurance over data collected, and reporting as required to stakeholders and others on performance and implementation of policy interventions by DoT and the sector.

It is a centre of excellence for all aspects of road management systems, currently coordinating the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) at a national level. This project supports an annual energy saving of approximately 66GWh across the participating authorities and avoids c. 21,000 T of carbon emissions.

The RMO is funded by all local authorities, DoT, NTA and TII. Expenditure in relation to the RMO is accounted for on an 'Agent Works Recoupable' basis. As such, it is not reported in the Council's Revenue Budget. For the sake of transparency, it is reported on herein as part of the 3-Year Capital Programme.

It is anticipated that the level of expenditure over the 3-year period 2023 – 2025 will be in the order of €59.5m. This is broken down as follows:

Item	2023 Expenditure	2024 Expenditure	2025 Expenditure
Office Running Costs and Software Development	€4.5m	€4.5m	€3.5m
Supports to Public Lighting retrofit programme from Climate Action Fund	€5.0m	€10.0m	€2.0m
Administration of Centralised Billing for Road Licensing	€10.0m	€10.0m	€10.0m
Total	€19.5m	€24.5m	€15.5m

The work of the RMO is approved and overseen by a project board of the County and City Management Association (CCMA), and the objectives and tasks for the office supports a number of national strategies and policies including

- Climate Action Plan
- National Broadband Plan
- National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland
- Public Service ICT Strategy
- Public Service Data Strategy 2019 – 2023
- Road Safety Strategy

9. Statutory Tables

LOCAL AUTHORITY - COMHAIRLE DHÚN NA NGALL CAITEACHAS AGUS IONCAM DO 2023 - 2025

CLÁRGHRÚPAÍ	CAITEACHAS		IONCAM		Ranníoc Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall
	MEASTACHÁN	GLACTHA	MEASTACHÁN	GLACTHA	
1. TITHÍOCHT & TÓGÁIL					
1.1. Tithíocht An Údaráis Áitiúil	€331,240,000		€331,240,000		€225,000
1.2. Cúnamh Do Dhaoine Ag Cur Tithíochta Ar Fáil Dóibh Féin	€11,000,000		€11,000,000		
1.3. Cúnamh Do Dhaoine Ag Cur Feabhasúcháin Ar Thithe	€114,900,000		€114,900,000		€1,980,000
1.8. Riarachán Agus Ighnéitheach	€820,000		€820,000		
IOMLÁN-CLÁR 1	€457,960,000		€457,960,000		€2,205,000
2. IOMPAR DE BHÓTHAR & SÁBHÁILTEACHT					
2.2. Feabhsúchán Bóithre	€191,165,765		€191,165,765		€4,500,000
2.3. Trácht Ar Bhóithre					
2.8. Riarachán Agus Ighnéitheach	€59,500,000		€59,500,000		€0
IOMLÁN CLÁR 2	€250,665,765		€250,665,765		€4,500,000
3. SOLÁTHAR UISCE & SÉARACHAIS					
3.1. Soláthar Uisce Poiblí					
3.2. Scéimeanna Poiblí/Séarachais	€0		€0		€0
3.3. Feistiú Príobháideach	€9,000,000		€9,000,000		€0
3.8. Riarachán Agus Ighnéitheach					
IOMLÁN-CLÁR 3	€9,000,000		€9,000,000		€0
4. DREASACHTAÍ FORBARTHA & RIALÚCHÁN					
4.1. Pleanáil Úsáide Talún					
4.2. Forbairt Thionsclaíoch					
4.3. Dreasachtaí agus Rialú Forbartha	€4,500,000		€4,500,000		€2,300,000
4.5. Cur Cum Cinn Suinne I Measc An Phobail Aitiuil					
4.8. Riarachán Agus Ighnéitheach					
IOMLÁN-CLÁR 4	€4,500,000		€4,500,000		€2,300,000

**LOCAL AUTHORITY - COMHAIRLE DHÚN NA NGALL
CAITEACHAS AGUS IONCAM DO 2023 - 2025**

CLÁRGHRÚPAÍ	CAITEACHAS		IONCAM		Ranníoc Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall
	MEASTACHÁN	GLACTHA	MEASTACHÁN	GLACTHA	
5. COSAINT CHOMHSHAOIL					
5.1 Diúscairt Dramhaíola	€6,568,000		€6,568,000		€688,000
5.2 Úirleachas	€0		€0		€0
5.3 Sábháilteacht Struchtúr Agus Áiteanna	€654,000		€654,000		€654,000
5.4 Cosaint In Aghaidh Dóiteáin	€0		€0		€0
5.5 Measúnú Truailliúcháin	€26,455,000		€26,455,000		€40,000
5.8 Riarachán Agus Ilghnéitheach	€0		€0		€0
IOMLÁN-CLÁR 5	€33,677,000		€33,677,000		€1,382,000
6. ÁINEAS AGUS TAITNEAMHACHT					
6.1 Linn Snámha	€12,075,000		€12,075,000		€7,170,000
6.2 Leabharlanna	€5,400,000		€5,400,000		€5,400,000
6.3 Páirceanna, Spásanna Oscailte, Ionaid Áineasa	€0		€0		€0
6.4 Áineasa/Taitneamhachtaí Eile	€129,060,684		€129,060,684		€33,217,003
6.8 Riarachán Agus Ilghnéitheach	€0		€0		€0
IOMLÁN-CLÁR 6	€146,535,684		€146,535,684		€45,787,003
7. TALMHAÍOCHT, OIDEACHAS & SLÁINTE & LEASA					
7.1 Talmhaíocht	€33,500,000		€33,500,000		€27,640,000
7.8 Riarachán/Ilghnéitheach	€0		€0		€0
IOMLÁN-CLÁR 7	€33,500,000		€33,500,000		€27,640,000
8. SEIRBHÍSÍ ILGHNÉITHEACHA					
8.1 Ceannach Talún Agus Forbairt	€0		€0		€0
8.2 Planda Agus Ábhair	€0		€0		€0
8.5 Riaracháin Chosaint Cheartais/Tomhaltóra Tomhaltóra	€0		€0		€0
8.6 Damáiste Do Mhaoin	€0		€0		€0
8.8 Riarachán Agus Ilghnéitheach	€1,445,000		€1,445,000		€1,445,000
IOMLÁN-CLÁR 8	€1,445,000		€1,445,000		€1,445,000
IOMLÁN NA GCLÁRGHRÚPAÍ UILE	€937,283,449		€937,283,449		€85,259,003

LOCAL AUTHORITY - DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
EXPENDITURE AND INCOME FOR FINANCIAL YEARS 2023 - 2025

PROGRAMME GROUP AND PROGRAMME	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		DCC Contribution
	ESTIMATED	ADOPTED	ESTIMATED	ADOPTED	
1. HOUSING & BUILDING	€0		€0		€0
1.1. Local Authority Housing	€331,240,000		€331,240,000		€225,000
1.2. Assistance to Persons Housing themselves	€11,000,000		€11,000,000		€0
1.3. Assistance to Persons Improving Houses	€114,900,000		€114,900,000		€1,980,000
1.8. Administration and Miscellaneous	€820,000		€820,000		€0
TOTAL	€457,960,000		€457,960,000		€2,205,000
2. ROAD TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY					
2.2. Road Improvement	€191,165,765		€191,165,765		€4,500,000
2.3. Road Traffic	€0		€0		€0
2.8. Administration & Misc (RMO)	€59,500,000		€59,500,000		€0
TOTAL	€250,665,765		€250,665,765		€4,500,000
3. WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE					
3.1. Public Water Supply Scheme*	€0		€0		€0
3.2. Public Sewerage Scheme	€0		€0		€0
3.3. Private Installations	€9,000,000		€9,000,000		€0
3.8. Administration & Miscellaneous	€0		€0		€0
* Historical expenditure included					
TOTAL	€9,000,000		€9,000,000		€0
4. DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES & CONTROLS					
4.1 Land Use Planning	€0		€0		€0
4.2 Industrial Development	€0		€0		
4.3 Development Incentives & Control	€4,500,000		€4,500,000		€2,300,000
4.5 Promotion of Interest - Local Community	€0		€0		
4.8 Administration & Miscellaneous	€0		€0		
TOTAL	€4,500,000		€4,500,000		€2,300,000

LOCAL AUTHORITY - DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
EXPENDITURE AND INCOME FOR FINANCIAL YEARS 2023 - 2025

PROGRAMME GROUP AND PROGRAMME	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		DCC Contribution
	ESTIMATED	ADOPTED	ESTIMATED	ADOPTED	
5. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION					
5.1 Waste Disposal	€6,568,000		€6,568,000		€688,000
5.2 Burial Grounds	€0		€0		€0
5.3 Safety of Structures & Places	€654,000		€654,000		€654,000
5.4 Fire Protection	€0		€0		€0
5.5 Pollution Control	€26,455,000		€26,455,000		€40,000
5.8 Administration & Miscellaneous	€0		€0		€0
TOTAL	€33,677,000		€33,677,000		€1,382,000
6. RECREATION & AMENITY					
6.1 Swimming Pools	€12,075,000		€12,075,000		€7,170,000
6.2 Libraries	€5,400,000		€5,400,000		€5,400,000
6.3 Parks, Open Spaces, Recreation Centres etc.	€0		€0		€0
6.4 Other Recreation & Amenity	€129,060,684		€129,060,684		€33,217,003
6.8 Administration & Miscellaneous	€0		€0		€0
TOTAL	€146,535,684		€146,535,684		€45,787,003
7. AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION HEALTH & WELFARE					
7.1 Agriculture	€33,500,000		€33,500,000		€27,640,000
7.8 Administration & Miscellaneous	€0		€0		€0
TOTAL	€33,500,000		€33,500,000		€27,640,000
8. MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES					
8.1 Land Acquisition	€0		€0		€0
8.2 Plant & Materials	€0		€0		€0
8.5 Administration of Justice & Consumer Protection	€0		€0		€0
8.6 Property Damage	€0		€0		€0
8.8 Administration & Miscellaneous	€1,445,000		€1,445,000		€1,445,000
TOTAL	€1,445,000		€1,445,000		€1,445,000
ALL PROGRAMME GROUPS TOTAL	€937,283,449		€937,283,449		€85,259,003