

# Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2016

## Annual Report 2016



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

## Foreword

2016 was a special year in the history of our state as we commemorated the centenary of the 1916 Rising. These commemorations provided us with a once-in-a-century opportunity to shape and actively engage in a diverse range of historical, cultural and artistic activities. The level of interest from all parts of the County was reflected in the range and quality of projects delivered as part of the Donegal Commemorative Programme.

Our commitment to improving our energy performance was reinforced this year when we received ISO 50001 accreditation for our Energy Management System. Achieving this international standard was the culmination of many months of work by the management and staff of the Council and we are only the second local authority in Ireland to achieve this accreditation for all Council services.

Two years of intensive planning came to fruition in late 2016 when the inaugural meeting of the North West Strategic Growth Partnership was held. This Partnership, which is jointly led by Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council, is made up of senior representatives from Government departments from the Republic and Northern Ireland and is the first grouping of its kind on the island of Ireland.

This Partnership provides for joined-up planning and collaborative resourcing of growth for the North West region and

works collectively to build on the work being carried out by the North West Regional Development Group.

The Council's continued commitment to supporting the development of our tourism sector received a massive boost when Donegal was named at the Coolest Place on the Planet to visit by the National Geographic Traveller Magazine and as well as 'Ireland's Hidden Gem' title by readers of the 'Irish Independent Travel' Magazine.

A number of key strategic milestones were met in 2016 including the opening of the Mullantiboyle Bridge in Glenties, the completion of works on the N15 Blackburn Bridge Scheme Phase 1 and the completion of the N56 Boyoughter to Kilkenny LVNS scheme.

We continued to work in close partnership with Irish Water on delivering a significant capital programme for Donegal representing one of the largest capital investments by Irish Water outside of Dublin.

An ambitious Social Housing programme that will see the housing needs of our communities being addressed in an inclusive and sustainable way continued to be progressed through the various stages of the development process.

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Cllr. Sean McEniff one of the longest serving members of Donegal

County Council and the former Bundoran Town Council. His service to Donegal and in particular his beloved Bundoran spanned six decades and his loss will be felt by all of us in Donegal County Council.

This Annual Report profiles much of the work of this Council and sets out details of the many and varied activities and achievements in 2016. Much of what we do can only be achieved by working in partnership with our various stakeholders and we would like to take this opportunity to thank each of them for their on-going support and co-operation.

We would also like to thank the elected members, management and

staff of the Council. It is their dedication, their commitment and their hard work that makes the Council such a vibrant and progressive organisation.

We look forward to continuing to work together to serve our communities, support our businesses and welcome our visitors.

Cllr. Terence Slowey  
Cathaoirleach

Seamus Neely  
Chief Executive

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# Members of Donegal County Council

## Municipal District of Donegal

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

## Municipal District of Glenties

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

## Municipal District of Inishowen

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

## Municipal District of Letterkenny

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

## Municipal District of Stranorlar



Cllr Gerry Crawford

Fianna Fáil



Cllr Gary Doherty

Sinn Féin



Cllr Liam Doherty

Sinn Féin



Cllr Martin Harley

Fine Gael



Cllr Frank  
McBrearty

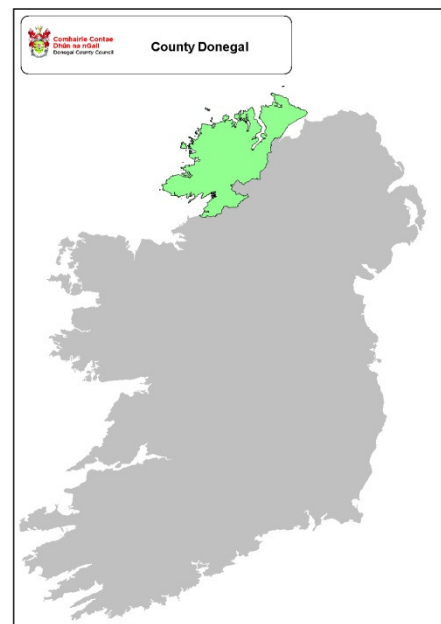
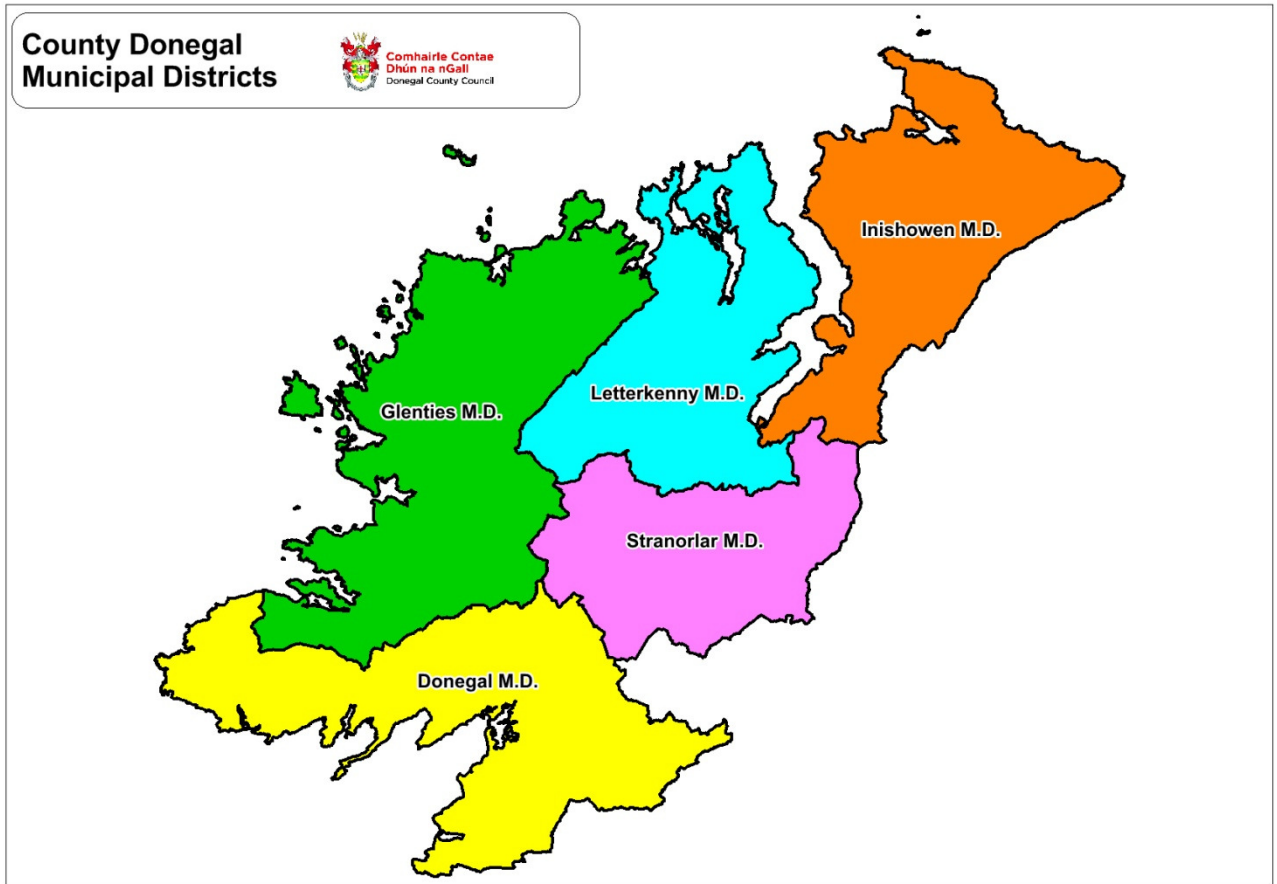
Independent



Cllr Patrick  
McGowan

Fianna Fáil

# Municipal Districts of County Donegal





## Donegal County Council Management Structure

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



## Council Meetings 2016

There were 9 full meetings of the Council in 2016 and each Municipal District met as follows:

- Donegal - 11 times
- Glenties - 10 times
- Inishowen - 11 times
- Letterkenny - 8 times
- Stranorlar - 7 times.

The Corporate Policy Group held 6 meetings.

## Strategic Policy Committees

There are five Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs).

### Community, Social and Cultural SPC

Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher  
Chairperson

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

- Cultur: Cultural Services Strategy (2016-2020).
- A Framework for Collaboration: an agreement between the Arts Council and the CCMA.
- Donegal County Archives Acquisition Policy.
- Donegal County Archives Preservation Policy.
- Peace IV Action Plan.
- LEADER/RDP Update.
- EU Funding Unit Report.

## Economic, Enterprise & Planning Policy SPC

Cllr. Paul Canning  
Chairperson

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

- Presentation on Revised Structures within Community, Enterprise and Planning Services.
- Local Enterprise Office – overview of work programme with particular focus on
  - The 3 year review of the Food Coast Initiative
  - LEAN Micro Business Programme.
- Time line for the Review of the County Development Plan.
- Review of the County Development Plan.
- Review of the Development Contribution Scheme.
- Tier 2 Local Area Plan Update.
- Ministerial Direction in relation to Variation no 2 Donegal County Development Plan 2012-2018.
- Donegal Local Economic Community Plan (LECP).

## Environment & Emergency Services SPC

Cllr. John O'Donnell  
Chairperson

The Environment and Emergency Services SPC met 4 times and considered the following:

- Regional Waste Management Plan.
- Beach management.
- Litter management.
- Water Framework Directive.
- Tidy Towns.
- Local Authority Water and Communities Office (LAWCO).

### **Housing & Corporate Services SPC**

Cllr. Frank McBrearty,  
Chairperson

The Housing & Corporate Services SPC held 2 meetings and reviewed policies and procedures in relation to the following topics:

- Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016.
- Policy on New Programme of Specific Instance (S.I.) Dwellings.
- Housing Needs Assessment.

### **Roads & Transportation SPC**

Cllr John Ryan,  
Chairperson

The Roads and Transportation SPC met on 4 occasions during 2016 and was briefed on and considered many topics including;

- Road maintenance funding.
- Road Service Indicators.
- N2/A5 (Dublin to Derry/Donegal).
- TEN-T Projects in Donegal.
- Speed Limit Review & Housing Estate Speed Limits.
- School Safety Measures.
- Rural Transport.
- Community Involvement Schemes and Local Improvement Schemes.
- Management of Invasive species.
- Donegal/ Tipperary Hedge Cutting Pilot Project.
- New arrangements for the Management of Road Openings.

## Civic Honours 2016

### Anthony Molloy

Well known Donegal man Anthony Molloy was bestowed with the Freedom of Donegal during a civic reception held in his honour on 7 June 2016 in recognition of his contribution to gaelic football in County Donegal and Ireland and his excellent work as an ambassador among the Donegal Diaspora. He is the seventh person to receive the Freedom of Donegal.



### Finn Harps Football Club

On the 16 May 2016 the Finn Harps Football Club were honoured with a civic reception in recognition of the clubs promotion to the premier division of the League of Ireland and their outstanding contribution to the community through their many programmes and initiatives.



### Professor William C Campbell

A native of Ramelton, Professor William C Campbell was honoured with a civic reception on 26 September 2016 in recognition of his outstanding achievement in jointly winning the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. He was awarded the Nobel Prize along with Satoshi Omura of Japan and Tu Youyou of China for their discoveries that have revolutionised the treatment of some of the most devastating parasitic diseases including River Blindness and Lymphatic Filariasis.



## Dr Peter Fitzgerald

Cathaoirleach Cllr Ciaran Brogan hosted a reception in honour of Dr. Peter FitzGerald, founder of Randox Laboratories in recognition of his many accomplishments including his contribution to the medical diagnostics sector, and his work in the area of research and development. Randox's decision to establish in Donegal was also acknowledged as a massive boost to the county.



## Caroline Faulkner

Ms. Caroline Faulkner outgoing Senior Managing Director and Chief Information Officer for Pramerica Systems Ireland was honoured by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Ciaran Brogan at a special reception in the Letterkenny Public Service Centre on the 29 March 2016. Tribute was paid to Caroline and to Pramerica acknowledging their contribution to the county not only from a jobs perspective but also in recognition of the many charitable works that they have undertaken.

## Sister Mary Dolores Sweeney

A reception to honour Sister Mary Dolores Sweeney was held in the Dungloe Public Services centre on the 13 December 2016 in recognition of her outstanding achievements and commitment to the people of Sierra Leone and also to acknowledge the fact that she had been awarded the Presidential Distinguished Service Award. This had been presented to her in recognition of her hard work, dedication and continued efforts in improving the lives of others.



## Visit of the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall

On the 26 May 2016 the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Ciaran Brogan welcomed the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall to the county at a reception in the Letterkenny Institute of Technology. Invited guests from various sectors in the county including youth, sport, arts, culture, heritage, agriculture/aquaculture, community/voluntary, business, tourism and the Gaeltacht were in attendance. It provided an opportunity to demonstrate at first hand the excellent examples of cross-border collaboration and how this approach had contributed to

positive and productive relationships in a number of important areas.



# Community, Enterprise & Planning

## Community Development

### Fund Management

A total of €740,000 was allocated from the Development Fund Initiative to 150 projects and groups across the five Municipal Districts during 2016.

A further €236,000 was allocated under the Members Development fund to 431 community groups and projects.

### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC met regularly throughout the year and had overall responsibility for the implementation of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) in Donegal. The programme runs until December 2017 and focuses on empowering disadvantaged communities, lifelong learning and employment.

### RDP LEADER 2014-2020 Programme

The LCDC is also the Local Action Group for County Donegal within the new RDP LEADER 2014-2020 programme and the Local Development Strategy, adopted by the LCDC in 2016, will direct the allocation of €12.9m under this programme. LEADER contracts for the delivery of this programme were agreed with four implementing parties namely Inishowen Development Partnership, Donegal Local Development Company, Comhar na nOileán and Údarás na Gaeltachta.

## 2016 Highlights

150 Projects benefitted from €740,000 Strategic Development Fund

€236,000 allocated to 431 community initiatives from Members Development Fund

Local Development Strategy adopted delivering €12.9m under LEADER Programme in Donegal

Donegal PEACE IV Action Plan worth €5.5m submitted to SEUPB for approval

Local Economic & Community Plan adopted

Over €2.7m secured for Donegal County Council through a range of EU funded projects

LEO approved €450,000 to 20 projects with potential to create more than 90 new jobs

Over 1,100 persons engaged in LEO mentoring or training & management development programmes

500 attend 19 events during Donegal Enterprise Week

Chris Matthews received 2016 Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Award

18 businesses from North West Region participated in Trade Mission to Boston

1,893 Planning applications received

208 New Enforcement cases pursued

Over €1m secured to Take in Charge 40 estates

## PEACE IV Programme

The Peace IV Partnership is a sub structure of the LCDC and is responsible for the development and implementation of the Peace IV Action Plan in Donegal. The Donegal Peace IV Action Plan with a budget of €5.5m was submitted to the SEUPB for approval in 2016. This plan sets out the types of activities to be supported under three main headings: 'Children & Young People', 'Shared Spaces & Services' and 'Building Positive Relations'.

## Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The six-year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) was adopted by the full Council in 2016.

The purpose of the plan is to identify and implement actions to strengthen and develop the economic and community dimensions of the county and to reflect and support the implementation of existing and proposed national and regional spatial, community and economic strategies.

## EU Funding and Policy Unit

The EU Unit continued to target external funding opportunities and a range of EU funded projects are currently being delivered. Applications for a variety of projects have been submitted and are being assessed.

<b>EU Unit Approved/Active Projects:</b>			
<b>Programme</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>DCC Budget</b>
Interreg Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme	SECURE	Smarter energy communities	€253,009
	ASCENT	Mt. Errigal - environmental management	€568,580
	WaterPro	Water protection.	€252,000
	Cool Route	Investigating business potential of yacht cruising routes.	€196,605
Interreg Europe Programme	HERICOAST	Heritage & cultural tourism.	€322,256
	NICHE	Innovation in the food industry.	€354,850
Creative Europe: COSME	Hiking Europe Project	Bealach na Gaeltachta & Island's Walk.	€50,105
	WILDSEA Europe	Marine tourism/conservation.	€33,600
EU: COSME	Enterprise Europe Network	Assist local businesses with exporting opportunities.	€600,000 (estimated over 3 yrs)
ERDF/ALDA	LADDER	Global development awareness raising.	€154,550



		<b>Total Funding allocated to Donegal under these Projects</b>	<b>€2,785,555</b>
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<b>Projects Planned (Applications Submitted):</b>			
<b>Programme</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Budgets (where available)</b>
Interreg Atlantic Area Programme	Trail Gazers	Mapping of trails.	€ 2.33 M
	CAPITEN	Marine tourism - sailing.	€ 2.9 M
	Tides of Time	Maritime heritage trail.	€ 2.9 M
	Atlantic on Bike	Marketing & promotion of cycle ways.	€ 4.8 M
	RECoNET 2020	Reconnecting Natura 2000 Network to 2020	€ 2.127 M
Interreg Cross Border Programme	North West Greenways Network	Development of Sustainable transport route on cross border basis	€ 18 M
	CatchmentCARE	To improve water quality in cross border river basins.	€ 15 M
	CAMBER	Marine resources innovation centre, Killybegs.	€ 14 M
	Co-Innovate	Enhance innovation capacity of SME's.	€ 23 M
		<b>Total overall funding applied for across all Project Partners</b>	<b>€ 85.057 M</b>

## Social Inclusion / Community Development

The Council continued to support various social inclusion initiatives in 2016 including: Social Inclusion Week, the Age Friendly Strategy and the Social Inclusion Measures Coordinating Group (SIM). It also continued to provide administrative support to the Public Participation Network (PPN) and the Youth Council.



*Ardara Older Persons Event*

## Tourism Development & Promotion

The Council supported a broad range of tourism related activities and events including:

- Donegal Tourism Ltd;
- Donegal Film Office ([www.donegalfilmoffice.ie](http://www.donegalfilmoffice.ie));
- Tourism marketing initiatives including: Holiday World Shows (Belfast & Dublin), Glasgow promotion and Connect 16 Irish Showcase;
- Marine Tourism Marketing initiatives including: Northern Boat Show, Liverpool Seafest Maritime Festival, Galway, Marine Tourism Seminar, Donegal Town and Dive 16 in Birmingham.
- Continued support for flagship tourism projects

including: Sliabh Liag, Malin Head and Fanad Lighthouse.

- Support for locally held events such as the Ulster Dancing Championships held in Ballybofey in June & November and the All Ireland Coastal Rowing Championships held in Donegal.



*Team Donegal at Connect 16*

## Air Access / Ferry Services

The Council supported air access to the region with financial contributions to Ireland West and Donegal International airports. The Council also procured two ferry services namely Greencastle-Magilligan (Foyle Ferry) and Bunrana-Rathmullan (Swilly Ferry).

## Letterkenny Gateway

The Council secured €2million under the Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme (2014-2020) for the Letterkenny Gateway.

## Enterprise and Economic Development

### Local Enterprise Office

#### Grant Aid

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) approved grant aid of over €450,000 to 20 projects which had the potential to create more than 90 new jobs. 2016 saw a net gain of 183 jobs in LEO assisted businesses.

#### Mentoring / Training

Over 1,100 persons engaged in 56 training and management development programmes organised by the LEO or received mentoring. Programmes included: Management Development for Female Owner Managers, Start Your Own Business, Digital Marketing, HR Programme, LEAN, Strategic Marketing and Branding, Creative Business Development and Investment Programme, the Food Academy and a range of workshops in the Food sector.

Business workshops on the following topics were run: Intellectual Property, Public Procurement, Digital Marketing, Sales and Selling, Customer Service, and Writing a Business Plan.

The Food Coast Strategy was reviewed and 2017 will see a renewed focus on the Food Coast Brand, Food Coast Network and developing a Food Series.

The roll out of the Strategic Action Plan for Creative Entrepreneurship for Donegal continued and two new business development programmes were delivered. The first, a business

and investment programme from which six participants were successful in being approved investment and the second which was run in conjunction with the Design and Crafts Council of Ireland and focused on greater commercialisation with creative businesses. Two showcase events were held, one during Enterprise Week and one during the Errigal Arts Festival.



Creative Showcase Event

#### Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Programme

Over 80 applications were received for the county heat of Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur and the winning applicants were Brendan Toner, Audit International, Letterkenny for Best Existing Business and Overall County Winner, Rebecca Fleury, Smart Steps, Convoy, for Best New Start-Up Business and Gillian Doyle, Cerebreon Technologies, Portnoo, for Best New Idea.



*IBYE 2016 Bootcamp*

### **Enterprise Week**

Donegal Enterprise Week 2016 ran from 7 - 11 March and had over 500 attendees with 19 individual events. The week featured keynote speakers Geoff Ramm, Alastair Dobson and Padraig O Ceidigh and the highlight of the week was the final of the Donegal Business Awards on the Friday. The overall winner was Richard Finney, The Counter with the other category winners being Joe Bonner Metal Crafts Ltd and Get Brain Fit.

### **Lean for Micro**

The Local Enterprise Office piloted the Lean for Micro management development programme in 2015 and delivered a "follow-on" programme to six of the participating businesses with additional savings of some €200,000 being achieved.

### **Trading Online Vouchers**

The Local Enterprise Office approved 25 Trading Online Vouchers to 25 businesses. These vouchers fund the costs of a business enhancing its online presence and selling capabilities. The Voucher is at a rate of 50% to a maximum of €2,500 and is funded by the Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources.

### **European Programmes**

The LEO was involved in the delivery of two European projects and was successful in applying for a further two projects.

### **Enterprise Europe Network**

Enterprise Europe Network is a national project involving the lead partner, Enterprise Ireland, the Chambers of Commerce in Dublin and Cork and the Local Enterprise Office in Donegal. It provides access to a network of over 600 enterprise support agencies in over 60 countries to assist businesses of every size in identifying and accessing international market opportunities. The Donegal Local Enterprise Office continued to lead out on the delivery of this project to all of the 31 LEO's across Ireland.

### **NICHE**

NICHE is a project aimed at increasing the level of innovation in businesses involved at all levels of the food value chain. The lead partner is the Western Region of Romania and there are seven partners in the project from Finland, Estonia, Poland, NI and Greece. The project launch conference was held in Donegal in October and in advance of this Donegal LEO produced and published a series of 22 Good Practice case studies in the area of food innovation.

### **Co-Innovate**

This cross border programme is being led by Inter Trade Ireland working with Scottish Enterprise, Highland and Islands, Enterprise NI and the six border LEOs. The project, which will run for five years, aims at increasing the number of small and micro

businesses engaging in formal innovation with the ultimate outcome being at least 19 businesses or groups of businesses being capable of applying on the next round of Horizon 2020 funding.

### **International SMEs Everywhere (ISME)**

This EU INTERREG project is led by Hampshire County Council and has a range of 10 partners from 9 countries across Europe. Its overall aim is to identify best practice, at both business and regional level, in the area of internationalisation of small businesses and the way in which internationalisation can be driven through competitiveness.

### **Donegal Diaspora**

2016 was a period of transition in the management of the Donegal Diaspora project with the project now being managed within the Enterprise and Economic Development Unit.



*Chris Matthews recipient of 2016 Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Award*

The following events were organised:

- The fifth annual Donegal-Irish Diaspora Conference was held on the 19 - 20 May 2016 and was addressed by a panel of distinguished

speakers from the USA, Scotland and Ireland.

- In September the Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Awards were held with the 2016 award going to journalist, political commentator and broadcaster Chris Matthews.
- A cross-border Trade and Investment mission to Massachusetts took place in November with Derry City and Strabane District Council. 18 businesses from the region participated in the mission and a new 'Gateway to Growth' joint investment brochure and promotional video was launched. The mission concluded with the Golden Bridges Conference in Boston.



*NW Delegation during Massachusetts State House Visit*

### **Economic Development Committee**

The Economic Development Committee was re-established in 2016 following a transition period.

### **North West Strategic Growth Partnership**

The North West Strategic Growth Partnership (NWSGP) led by Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council

held its inaugural meeting in December 2016. This Partnership is comprised of senior representatives from Government departments from the Republic and Northern Ireland.



*Inaugural meeting of NWSGP*

It provides joined-up planning and collaborative resourcing of growth for the North West region and works collectively to build on the work being carried out by the North West Regional Development Group.

One of the first events held in the context of this Partnership was the Driving Growth in the North West conference which looked at the regions response to the challenges and opportunities of Brexit.

### **Excellence in Local Government Award**

Donegal County Council won the Joint Local Authority Initiative award at the 2016 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards for its work with Derry City and Strabane District Council on this partnership approach which represents a new approach to cross border regional development and co-operation.

### **Planning Services**

2016 proved to be another busy year for the Planning Service with significant progress made on introducing a new customer focused approach to the delivery of the service through the Municipal District structures.

### **Central Planning Unit**

A key element of the Central Planning Unit's work was the formal statutory launch of the review of the County Development Plan 2012-2018, and completion of the first phase of public consultation and consultation with elected members.

The Tier 2 Local Area Plan project was also progressed with a second public consultation phase in the early part of the year and a number of members' workshops at Municipal District level in the latter part of the year.

A revised Development Contribution Scheme 2016-2021 was adopted in September 2016 and this became operational on 10 October 2016.

Two conservation grant schemes, the Structures at Risk Fund and the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, was administered.

Significant funding of €279,408 was secured from INTERREG Europe for the HERICOAST project which was officially launched in April 2016. This is an interregional cooperation project aiming to improve the management of coastal natural and cultural heritage policies.



The Planning Service is also a partner in the IMPROVE project working with local community groups to develop public participation and engagement methods using a living-labs approach.

The project has partners in Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Derry and they are collaborating on a number of initiatives relating to the delivery of co-produced public services.



### Enforcement Unit

The Enforcement Unit investigated a significant number of newly reported cases.

<b>Enforcement Data - 2016</b>	
New cases opened	208
Warning Letters issued	127
Enforcement Notices issued	50
Urgent Notices Issued	11
Referrals for Court action	24
Cases Dismissed on investigation	77
Cases resolved	58

### Unfinished Estates & Site Resolution

Works to 7 unfinished housing developments in Donegal under the Special Resolution Funding and Public Safety Funding were completed.

Site resolution initiatives on a number of other housing developments were progressed through engagement and negotiation with relevant stakeholders including developers, residents, receivers, liquidators and financial institutions.

Security bonds were also pursued with financial institutions and banks in order to access funding to complete public infrastructure within unfinished developments.

### Taking In Charge Process

In November 2016, the Letterkenny Municipal District formally passed resolutions under the Roads and Planning Acts to Take in Charge 14 named estates in the Municipal District.

Likewise plans were well advanced to Take in Charge 15 estates in the Inishowen Municipal District.

Funding of €1,049,769 was secured from the National Taking in Charge Initiative to assist in the taking in charge of 40 estates in Donegal.

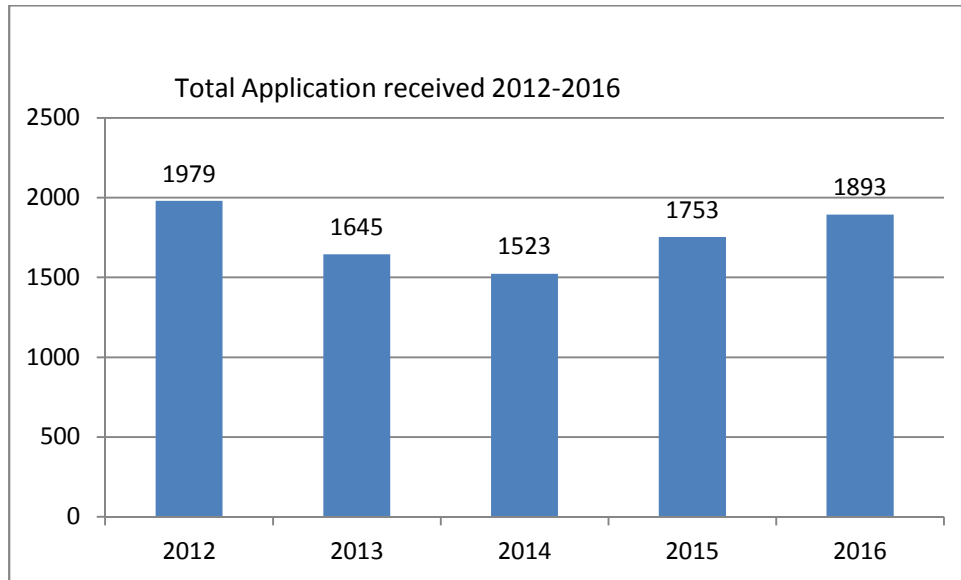
### Development Applications Unit

The delivery of the Planning Service was enhanced with the introduction of a new approach using the existing Municipal District structures allowing members of the public to have greater ease of access to the Planning Service in

each of the Public Service Centres across the county.

an increase of 20% increase over the volume of applications received in 2014.

The number of planning applications received continued to increase in 2016 with 1893 applications received representing

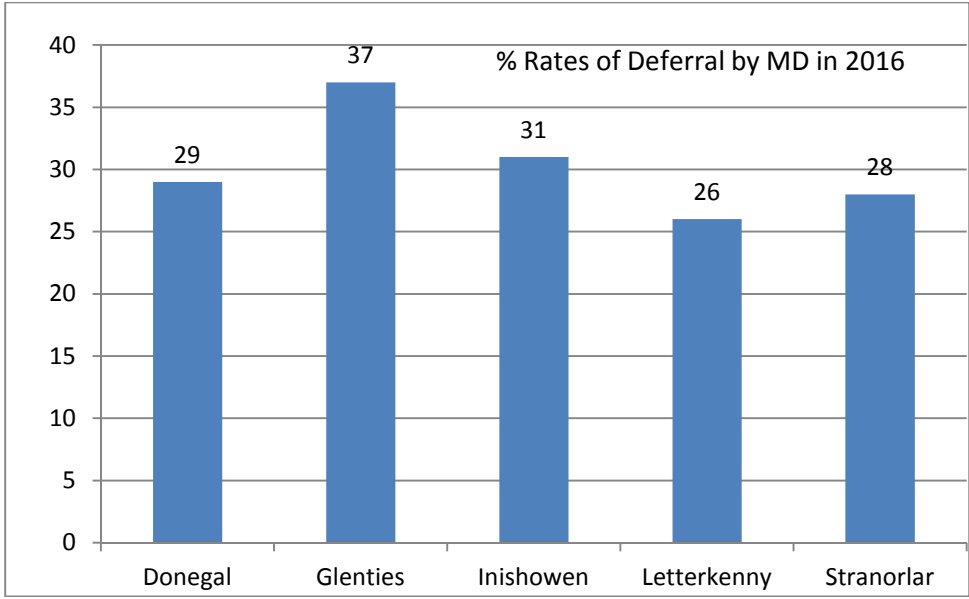


The profile of application types continues to show a steady number of residential type applications but also indicates a significant number of commercial applications being considered by the Planning Service.

have to be considered as part of the assessment of many applications. It is proposed that a series of localised workshops for Agents will be held during 2017.

The data belies the increasing complexity of cases, particularly in the area of habitat assessment that has resulted in applications requiring a higher threshold of consideration than may have been the case previously. Roughly a third of all applications have been the subject of requests for further information during 2016 that highlights not just the complexity of cases but also an increasing need for increased communication with Agents and Architects in relation to the emerging issues that





The Planning Service consistently deals with a range of other case types also including Pre-planning enquiries, Part 8 applications, forestry proposals, Section 254 licences, casual trading licences and enquiries relating to the

processing and payment of development contributions.

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

# Corporate Housing & Culture

## Housing Services

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

The types of assistance provided during 2016 ranged from a combination of tenancies under the Council's own Social Housing Programme, Voluntary Housing Programme, Long Term Leasing Initiative, RAS (Rental Accommodation Scheme) and HAP (Housing Assistance Payment) and grant assistance under the Housing Adaption Grant Scheme for people with a disability, the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme and the Housing Aid for Older People Grant Scheme.

Other activities included the continuation of the refurbishment programmes in a number of local authority housing estates.

## Housing Need

The Housing Needs Assessment undertaken at 21 September identified that there were 2,384 persons approved for Social Housing Support in Donegal, of which 1,109 were already in receipt of social housing support. Therefore the net need in the county was 1,275.

The Council continued to strive to meet the needs of applicants using a combination of allocation of existing/proposed Social housing stock, leased properties, voluntary

## 2016 Highlights

2,384 persons in need of social housing with a net need of 1,275

1,452 tenancies set up under Housing Assistant Payment scheme

270 households accommodated under Rental Accommodation Scheme

4,842 rented units including 628 single rural houses

Improvement works to over 380 dwellings

83 vacant properties refurbished

Accommodation needs of 21 Traveller families met

Acquisition of over 80 properties initiated

Development of 157 housing units progressed across the county

87,000 calls & 5,000 online contacts answered by the Customer Service Centre

468 dogs reunited with owners or rehomed through the Donegal Dog Shelter.

Ireland 2016 Commemorative Programme delivered

3,400 children attend Wainfest 2016

RCC hosted 30 classical, folk and indie music concerts

Our story, Donegal & The Easter Rising displayed in 20 venues

County Donegal in 1916 Education & Heritage Pack launched

115 events held during Heritage Week

housing accommodation, accommodation acquired under the Rental Accommodation Scheme and the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme.

### **Allocations**

There were a total of 25 dwellings allocated in 2016 consisting of individual rural cottages, scheme dwellings and individual purchases. In addition there were 149 casual vacancies allocated during 2016, with 19 of these being succession tenancies.

### **Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)**

A total of 1452 tenancies had been set up under the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme as at 31 December 2016. Together with new applications significant progress was made in the transfer of existing rent supplement customers to the HAP scheme. This is beneficial for recipients in that it enables them to take up full employment while still receiving a housing support as their rent is calculated in accordance with the Council's Differential Rent Scheme.

A programme of inspections of private rented dwellings was initiated in February to assess compliance with the statutory requirements for rented accommodation as outlined in the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations, 2008 - 2009. While the initial programme of inspections has concentrated on those properties for which a HAP payment is being made it is intended to extend this to all private rented properties over the next couple of years.

In addition, a further 270 households were accommodated under the Rental Accommodation Scheme.

### **Maintenance**

At the end of 2016, the Council had 4,842 rented units including 628 single rural houses. A total of €4.176m was spent on routine maintenance and casual vacancies.

#### **Breakdown of Housing Units**

Local Authority Standard Units	4,631
Demountables	32
Long Term Lease (Private)	179
Total	4,842

### **Improving the Social Housing Stock**

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

- **Fabric Up-Grade Programme**

Improvement works were carried out to over 380 dwellings with assistance from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government, to the value of approximately €797,268 under the Programme. A total of 1,574 units have now had improvements carried out under this programme.

- **Returning Vacant Properties to Productive Use**

The Council returned 83 vacant properties to productive use in 2016 with grant aid in the sum of €767,999.

- **Once off Adaptation Works**

The Council spent €192,485 carrying out small scale adaptation works to 28 units of its social housing stock. In most cases, this was for tenants with special needs and/or disabilities.

- **General Refurbishment Programme**

Under a general refurbishment programme, work to the value of €108,754 was carried out to over 16 units.

Grant Type	No of Grants Paid	Value
Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability	51	€351,172
Mobility Aids Housing Grant	16	€39,923
Housing Aid for Older People	107	€446,854

### **Estate Management**

Estate Management forms an important part in the overall context of Housing Management. The Council presently has five Housing Assessment Officers engaged in this role. €67,000 was made available for estate management initiatives.

### **Housing Grants**

Donegal County Council operates three grants which are funded jointly by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (80%) and Donegal County Council (20%). A comprehensive review of grant levels under the various grant schemes was completed in 2015, which significantly increased revised standard costings. When compared to 2015 the level of expenditure in this area increased by over €500,000 during 2016.

Grants activity in 2016 is listed in the following table:

### **Traveller Accommodation**

The Council in implementing accommodation targets set in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 - 2018 continues to provide an extensive range of both new accommodation and improvements to existing accommodation for members of the Travelling community. These are in addition to the accommodation solutions provided to meet the needs of the Traveller community through the Social Housing Investment Programme.

The review of Fire Safety in Traveller-specific accommodation was a significant programme completed during 2016 led by the Chief Fire Officer culminating in recommendations to improve and enhance fire safety in Traveller-specific accommodation. A substantial number of these recommendations were completed including refurbishment and upgrade works at Ballintra Halting site.

The accommodation needs of 21 Traveller families were met as follows:

- 7 Standard Scheme Housing
- 1 Long Term Lease
- 1 Voluntary Housing
- 12 HAP

### **Voluntary Housing**

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

Through extensive inter-agency work with the Health Service Executive, Schemes under the Capital Assistance Programme are now specifically targeted to providing accommodation where the traditional forms of social housing supports will not address the specific need. A total of 10 units was delivered under this programme with works under way on a further 61 units.

### **Social Leasing Programme**

Under the Social Leasing Programme, suitable properties can be leased to the local authority for a ten year period. A total of 179 units have been leased under this programme to date.

The Council actively engages with the Approved Housing Body Sector

to deliver leased units under the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)/Payment & Availability Agreement Scheme. In 2016 4 units were delivered under CALF and 16 units provided under Payment & Availability Agreements bringing the total number leased to 76 units.

## **Housing Construction**

### **House Acquisition**

The Housing Construction Division initiated the acquisition of over 80 properties representing an increase of over 300% on the previous year's acquisitions and representing total investment of €11.5m.

Glenties MD	23 properties
Inishowen MD	17 properties
Stranorlar MD	31 properties
Donegal MD	8 properties
Letterkenny MD	6 properties

This allows us to provide social housing in an effective and timely manner meeting the needs of housing applicants and families across the county.

### **Social Housing Development**

The Council's dedicated Architectural Design Team progressed a number of housing developments across the county as follows:

Social Housing Projects on Site		
Location	Status	No. of Units
Ardara Phase 1 (Special Need House)	Under construction with expected completion date February 2017	1
Ardara Phase 2	Under construction with projected completion date July 2017	8
Manorcunningham Phase 1	Under construction with projected completion date June 2017	2
Newtowncunningham	Contractor due to commence February 2017	7
Projects for Part VIII Planning Approval		
Buncrana		21
Raphoe		11
Killybegs		9
Projects for Part VIII Planning Approval		
Long Lane Letterkenny		29
Dunfanaghy		13
Projects for Part VIII Planning Approval		
Malin		8
St. Johnston		6
Projects Tender Documentation Stage		
Donegal Town		34
Manorcunningham Phase 2		8
Total		157 (units)



*Social Housing Units under construction at Ardara*

It should be noted that the above developments are subject to Departmental approval as well as requiring approval under Part VIII of the Planning and Development Acts 2000.

The Council's Architectural Design Team develops efficient and user-friendly mechanical & electrical systems as well as low maintenance solutions, suitable for all house types in various locations and configurations (e.g. detached, semi-detached, terrace). For example, the design of the new Social Housing Schemes has incorporated new measures making the homes more energy efficient with reduced running costs, without sacrificing comfort levels. At the heart of the design of these houses is the tenants who will be occupying these homes.

Measures include:

- Electric air-to-water heat pumps supplying the heating & hot water,
- High levels of insulation,
- Photovoltaic panels to produce electricity,
- Natural Ventilation,
- Highly efficient on demand extract fans,
- High performance energy efficient lighting,
- Heating zones with separate time & temperature controls,
- Hot water cylinder thermostats and advanced temperature controls to reduce peak loads and re-heat times,
- Low heating system temperatures for both underfloor heating (ground floor) & radiator systems (first floors).



*Social housing unit at Manorcunningham*

## **Customer Contact Centre**

The Customer Service Centre handled over 87,000 calls. Over 70% of the calls were answered within 20 seconds with an overall average answer time of under 30 seconds. The Centre also handled almost 5,000 online contacts received via the Council's website and email address.

## **Veterinary Service**

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

### **Veterinary Public Health**

Under service contract to the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, Donegal County Council provides the regulatory control service in low throughput abattoirs, on-farm poultry slaughtering plants and meat processing establishments in the county.

11 premises were under supervision in 2016. Veterinary Inspectors inspected 8269 animals in 6 local abattoirs.

A further 182 official control inspections were completed over all the premises with 200 control samples taken.

### **Animal Control**

10 general dog licences, 4 lifetime dog licences and 8,796 individual dog licences were issued.

7 inspections were carried out under the Dog Breeding Establishment Act.

468 dogs were either reunited with their owners or re-homed through the Donegal County Council Dog Shelter.

21 stray horses were reported to the Council with 20 impounded.

## **Human Resources**

### **Recruitment**

Competitions were held to fill vacancies arising from the Council's Indoor and Outdoor Workforce Plans. The Workforce Plan set out the staffing numbers required to support the delivery of essential Council services, across a range of areas including, Roads, Housing, Environment, Corporate, Community & Enterprise, Planning, Marine etc.

A total of 45 competitions were held for both open and confined posts, including temporary/seasonal and full-time positions.

### **Training & Development**

The Council delivered a comprehensive Training Programme to all staff, with a particular emphasis on Health & Safety.

The Stranorlar Regional Training Centre was successful in obtaining accreditation to deliver City & Guilds Confined Spaces Training. The Centre continues to expand the range of courses delivered and the new Leak Detection facility became fully operational during the year. The outdoor plant training facility was also further developed.

The Council's Staff Education Programme continues to provide opportunities for ongoing professional development through a range of training programmes and includes support for relevant diploma, degree and post graduate courses.

Performance Management continues to be rolled out across the organisation.

### **Staff Welfare**

The Staff Welfare Officer and Superannuation team provide an important service to employees, with advice and information on superannuation, pensions, leave entitlements, wellbeing, and bereavement.

The Staff Welfare Officer provides support and assistance in relation to queries of a personal nature relating to work and home-life, and administers the Employee Assistance Programme, which is a free service to individual staff members and their immediate family members.



An Ecumenical Service in remembrance of deceased employees was held and retired colleagues and family members gathered for a retirement function in September.

## Cultural Services

### Donegal's 1916 Centenary Celebration

Ireland 2016 was a year-long programme of activity, to commemorate the events of the 1916 Rising, to reflect on our achievements as a democratic state over 100 years and to look towards Ireland's future.

The national programme included seven strands; State Ceremonial; Historical Reflection; An Teanga Bheo/The Living Language; Youth and Imagination; Cultural Expression; Community Participation; Global and Diaspora.

Donegal's Programme was the outcome of consultations with local groups, organisations and individuals. Led by the Donegal 2016 Steering Committee the programme included events and initiatives across all seven strands.

Highlights included:

- New video artwork by Willie Doherty
- County Donegal in 1916: From the Edge: History and Heritage Education Pack
- The County Donegal in 1916 exhibition
- The Community Commemorative Grant

Scheme which supported 80 projects

- The Cultural Services Division directly delivered several substantial 1916-related projects and supported many groups and individuals in their 1916 commemorative events.
- Donegal County Council commemorative sculpture - History Table: Elevation commissioned for installation on the Diamond in Lifford.



*History Table: Elevation unveiled in Lifford*

### Cultúr

Cultúr: A Strategic Vision for Cultural Services 2016-2020 was launched in June.

The strategy sets out the Council's firm commitment to cultural development and its value to the county. Culture is an important and substantial part of the work of the Council. Investment in arts, culture, heritage and language is a commitment to a healthier, more fulfilled, prosperous, successful county.



*Cathaoirleach Cllr Terence Slowey officially launching Cultúr*

Cultúr is developed under six key areas of Public Participation, Life Long learning and Social Inclusion, Supporting Arts & Arts Organisations, Conserving and promoting Cultural Inheritance, Building relationships with stakeholders and partners and Developing a sustainable, high quality Cultural Service.

Cultúr also sets out new capital developments including Donegal Town Library, the Donegal Diaspora Centre, and ArtScape Sculpture Park.

## **Library Service**

### **New Twin Towns Library**

Ballybofey library relocated to new premises at The Base Enterprise Centre, Stranorlar. The new rebranded Twin Towns Library opened on the 28 June. The new library offers more space for members to access computers, WiFi, a larger selection of books and a storytelling corner, a Teen area and free parking.

### **Free WiFi Services in Libraries**

During 2016 Donegal libraries extended free WiFi services throughout the branch Library network. This network, together with other locations in Donegal

County Council, allows visitors to connect to free WiFi services, including online library services.

### **Donegal County Library joined Libraries Ireland Service**

Following an intense period of preparation by library and IS staff Donegal went live with Sierra, a new software system for library management, in mid-July. We joined the Libraries Ireland service at the same time as a number of library authorities throughout Ireland and in doing so, offer a shared library catalogue, sharing books and other items between libraries across the country.

### **Wainfest**

Wainfest Arts and Book Festival for Children took place from the 8 - 15 October. The festival attracted over 3,400 children and offered 79 school events and 17 family events. Events took place in libraries and Taobh Tíre centres across the county as well as in the County Museum and The Regional Cultural Centre.



*Wainfest 2016*

## **Arts Service**

### **Creation of new work**

The Arts Service continued to support the creation of new artwork in Donegal, including Bread

and Roses Theatre's Waving, Not Drowning and Inishowen playwright Tara McKeivitt's Radio Short Waves project at An Grianán Theatre.

The Service supported new shows by Inishowen Carnival as well as touring and new productions by Balor Rep Theatre, Donegal Drama Circle, Shirley Anne Bonner and Dark Daughter Productions.

The Arts Service partnered with An Grianán Theatre and Earagail Arts Festival to create the community theatre show, Unified - The Musical, the story of the Unifi Textured Yarns plant in Letterkenny and the people who worked there.

## Earagail Arts Festival



The Council continued its support of Earagail Arts Festival. Almost 40,000 people enjoyed a programme of music, visual arts, theatre, literary and spectacle events, from Oileán Árinn Mhór to Malin, many designed with the animation of the Wild Atlantic Way in mind.

## An Grianán Theatre

An Grianán enjoyed a successful year with 45,000 people attending its performances. Highlights included the visit of the National Theatre's production of Frank McGuinness's Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the

Somme, which featured Donegal actors Sean McGinley and Iarla McGabhann. An Grianán also produced the Nomad theatre network's production of Tom Murphy's Bailegangáire, which enjoyed a successful nationwide tour.

## Regional Cultural Centre

### Exhibition programme

The Regional Cultural Centre, one of the finest arts facilities in Ireland, continued to commission and show major Irish and international art exhibitions.

The highlight was Loose Ends by Willie Doherty from July to September, a new commission that explored how people, events and places associated with the 1916 Easter Rising are remembered and imagined today. Doherty filmed in locations on Gola Island, Donegal and Moore Street Dublin that are connected with the Rising.



*Willie Doherty*

### Music programme

The RCC continued its music development programme in partnership with the Donegal Music Education Partnership and Earagail Arts Festival and presented a year-long programme of more than 30 national and international classical, folk and indie music concerts.

## Donegal County Museum

Throughout the year Donegal County Museum organised a programme of activity to commemorate both the national and international events of 1916 in particular the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme. This programme included exhibitions, talks, school workshops, film screenings and special events.



1916 Interactive Drama Workshop in County Museum

The Museum's touring exhibitions, *Our Story: Donegal and the Easter Rising* and *An Scéal s'againne: Dún na nGall agus Éirí Amach na Cásca* were displayed in over 20 venues throughout Donegal including libraries, schools and community centres.

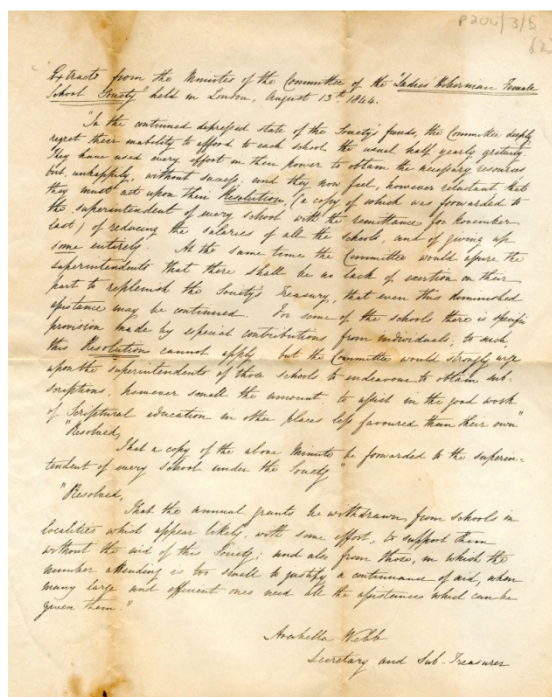
The programme was part funded by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

## Archives Service

The Archives Services collaborated with other Cultural Services in the production, distribution and presentation to schools, groups

and individuals of the education and heritage pack County Donegal in 1916. The Archives Service assisted the County Museum in its 1916 Exhibition.

Several collections were acquired, including papers of the Montgomerys and Boytons of Convoy House and Lord Leitrim, archives of Letterkenny Town Commissioners and the records of three national schools.



Ladies Hibernian School Society Convoy

The 1916 minutes of the meetings of all County Donegal's local authorities were digitised and uploading to the Council's website commenced.

The Council adopted the Acquisition Policy and the Preservation Policy.

Researchers were assisted at the Research room in Lifford, by phone, email and social media.

An extensive survey of non-current records took place.

## **County Donegal Heritage Office**

The Heritage Office raises awareness, provides advice, collects data and promotes best practice in relation to heritage, and implements the County Donegal Heritage Plan in conjunction with the County Heritage Forum ([www.donegalcoco.ie/heritage](http://www.donegalcoco.ie/heritage)).

Matching funding was secured from The Heritage Council for a traditional shopfronts guidance document, an audit of oral history collections and a maritime built heritage study.



*Traditional Shopfront*

Heritage Week was a tremendous success with over 115 events taking place. The Heritage Office compiled the very popular Heritage Week Event Guide.

The Heritage Office also launched the Material Culture of Donegal Communities Abroad booklet, supported the inaugural Tidy Towns Pollinator Awards, and hosted Lawrence's Letterkenny exhibition/walking tour.

### **Report from Joe Peoples, Director of Service**

# Finance, Information Systems & Emergency Services

## Management Accounts

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

## Annual Revenue Budget

The 2016 Revenue Budget was adopted by the Elected Members on the 18 November 2015 in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) and within the period prescribed by the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government.

## Capital Programme

The 2016 - 2018 Capital Budget was prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) and was considered by the Elected Members at the Council Meeting of 30 November 2015.

The Management Accounts Section is also responsible for preparing and submitting quarterly EU/IMF Financial Returns and other statutory returns on a periodic basis. The Management Accounts Section coordinated Donegal County Council's submission under the Public Spend Code, which was completed by the deadline of 31 May 2016 and is published online.

## 2016 Highlights

120,000 individual payment transactions worth €130m

Over €11m in rent collected from 5,400 Council tenants

Rate demand issued to 5,390 commercial properties

Almost €2m NPPR charges collected

Councils IT infrastructure serves 107 locations countywide.

10,214 Facebook likes and 5,663 Twitter followers

15 retained Fire brigades and 2 voluntary brigades

689 incidents requiring Fire Brigade response

91 volunteers with Donegal Civil Defence

Donegal Civil Defence provided assistance to 42 community events providing 3,012 voluntary man-hours.



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

Annual Revenue Budget 2016	€132,833,778
Capital Budget 2016	€50,053,139

### Value for Money, Purchasing & Procurement

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

As part of the ongoing reform of public procurement nationally, the Council is increasingly using national contracts and framework

agreements. Usage of such national arrangements ensures compliance with public procurement rules and regulations, and, in most cases, provides better value for money than would be achieved by the Council acting on its own.

## Financial Accounts & Financial Information Systems

### Payroll

The section is responsible for the payment of more than 1,700 staff, past and present. This amounted to a gross payment in excess of €52 million, with all the associated deductions both statutory and voluntary.

The section also implemented:

- Core v19 in association with HR & IS
- Significant process changes in advance of MyPay including all employees moved to Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) and rationalisation of pay groups
- MyPay including transfer of certain payroll functions to a centralised model, Significant process and procedure changes, re-introduction of certain functionality back to the local Payroll team and rationalisation of certain payroll procedures

### Accounts Payable

The section is primarily responsible for the processing of payments in excess of €130 million per year representing over 120,000 individual transactions. The section

also manages all the indirect taxes; VAT, Intra Community Acquisition, Relevant Contracts Tax, Professional Services Withholding Tax and Income Tax and all associated regulatory and compliance requirements.

The compliance and regulatory requirements continue on an upward trajectory. In 2016, the Revenue Commissioners introduced eTax Clearance, eRCT and Site Identification Number which necessitated considerable system configuration with significant process and procedural changes.

The sectoral movement to payment by EFT has necessitated substantial process changes that have significantly added to the sections workload but to date have proved very effective (e.g. fraud prevention measures) while strengthening corporate governance.

### **Financial Accounting & Financial Systems Management**

The Financial accounting element of the section encompasses Annual Financial Statements, Annual Audit, General Government Balances/EU/IMF Reporting, Tax Compliance and Advice for other Departments.

Financial Systems Management incorporates Systems support (End User), Systems maintenance (Circulars, Technical memos etc), Accounting Changes (Introducing new procedures in response to accounting changes and System advice).

The section also implemented a new pCard policy and associated system. The new Lighthouse

system went live in November. It represents the first phase of a three phase approach to increasing the organisations compliance and efficiency agenda.

### **Bank & Treasury Management**

This section allocates all income and expenditure to the appropriate Directorates down to the level of individual jobs. It also manages the Councils bank accounts and investments, ensuring adequate financial resources for the Councils ongoing activities. A new treasury policy was also put in place during 2016.

### **Income Collection Unit**

The Income Collection Unit is responsible for the Collection of Commercial Rates, Housing Rents, Housing Loans and the Non Principal Private Residence (NPPR) charge. The Unit was also acting as an agent for Irish Water in the billing and collection of non-domestic water charges, however, this work transferred directly to Irish Water on the 12 December 2016.

#### **Housing Rents**

A total of €11.151m was collected from 5,400 Council Housing tenants. The rent payable is based on the household income, details of which are requested to be submitted on an annual basis to determine if the correct level of rent is being charged.

#### **Housing Loans**

The Council continues to deal with borrowers who experience



difficulties in maintaining payments on their housing loan under the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP). A number of options are available to borrowers under this Process, such as the option to pay the interest only element of their instalment for a period. A total of €1.958m was collected in respect of the loans.

The option to surrender a property under the Local Authority Mortgage to Rent Scheme continued and a number of borrowers are availing of this option to remain in the property as a tenant, if the qualifying criteria is satisfied. An option to restructure the shared ownership loans to an annuity loan was introduced during the year and a number of borrowers have expressed an interest in availing of this option.

### **Commercial Rates**

5,390 properties were issued with a rate demand in 2016 and the Small Business Grant Scheme also continued for Commercial Rate customers. Customers who have no arrears on their account can benefit from a grant of a maximum of €250 subject to certain terms and conditions.

### **NPPR**

Movement in the property market is noted through the collection of almost €2m in respect of the NPPR charge. This charge is payable if a property was not the owner's principal private residence during the years 2009 - 2013. The charge due, to include late penalty fees for all five years is now €7,230.

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2016 (Unaudited)

	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure
	2016 €	2016 €	2016 €
Housing & Building	16,014,491	18,024,945	(2,010,454)
Roads Transportation & Safety	46,333,554	31,679,765	14,653,789
Water Services	18,235,285	17,823,308	411,977
Development Management	10,132,838	2,384,898	7,747,940
Environmental Services	11,054,495	1,633,382	9,421,113
Recreation & Amenity	7,495,312	584,956	6,910,356
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,011,606	741,581	1,270,024
Miscellaneous Services	22,076,650	13,830,420	8,246,230
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>133,354,231</b>	<b>86,703,256</b>	
<b>Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates &amp; Local Property Tax</b>			<b>46,650,975</b>
Rates			30,605,929
Local Property Tax			22,720,760
Pension Related Deduction			1,807,207
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers</b>			<b>8,482,922</b>
<b>Transfers from/(to) Reserves</b>			<b>(3,854,407)</b>
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>			<b>4,628,515</b>

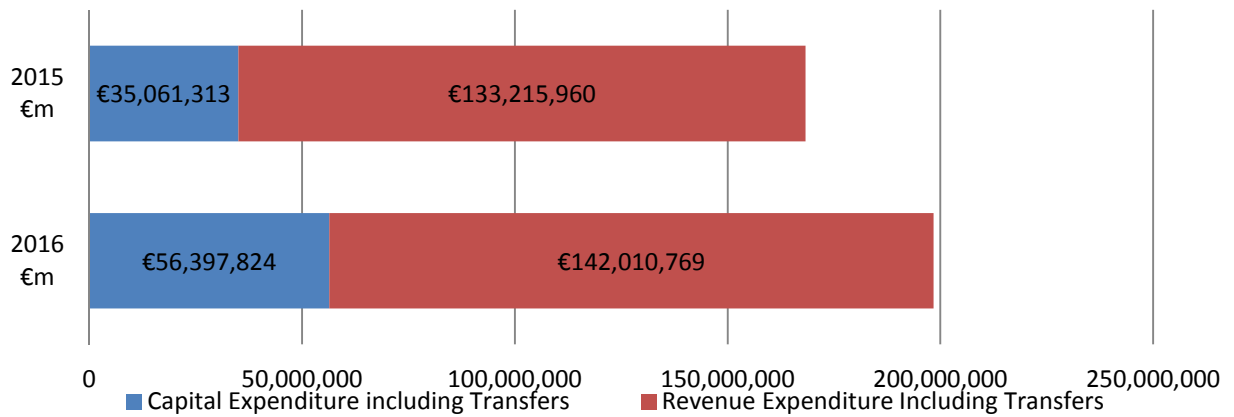
<b>General Reserve @ 1st January 2016</b>	(14,345,654)
<b>General Reserve @ 31st December 2016</b>	<b><u>(9,717,139)</u></b>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AT  
31st DECEMBER 2016 (unaudited)**

	<b>2016</b> €	<b>2015</b> €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Operational	724,843,910	721,024,798
Infrastructural	2,597,728,501	2,597,728,501
Community	6,753,662	7,027,284
Non-Operational	55,734,952	55,664,587
	<b>3,385,061,025</b>	<b>3,381,445,170</b>
<b>Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses</b>	92,762,694	87,716,484
<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	66,959,775	76,726,118
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stocks	772,789	638,529
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	20,746,642	17,868,131
Bank Investments	40,390,555	47,315,535
Cash at Bank	-	-
Cash in Transit	716,239	416,335
	<b>62,626,223</b>	<b>66,238,530</b>
<b>Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)</b>		
Bank Overdraft	2,357,705	1,932,986
Creditors & Accruals	28,570,431	36,647,255
Finance Leases	-	-
	<b>30,928,136</b>	<b>38,580,242</b>

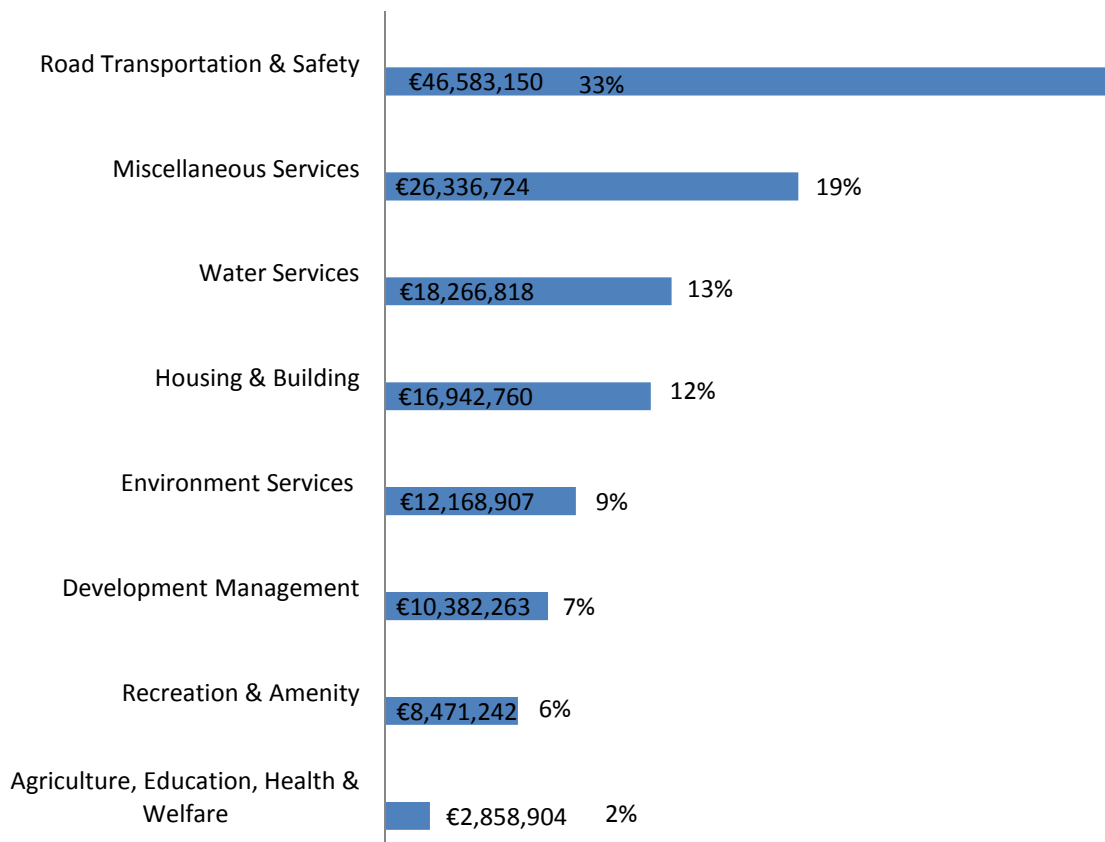
<b>Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>31,698,087</b>	<b>27,658,289</b>
<b>Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)</b>		
Loans Payable	122,997,563	130,733,747
Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable deposits	6,937,623	6,889,745
Other	136,105	5,505,676
	<b>130,071,291</b>	<b>143,129,168</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>3,446,410,290</b>	<b>3,430,416,893</b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
Capitalisation Account	3,385,061,025	3,381,445,170
Income WIP	92,497,130	87,308,980
Specific Revenue Reserve	-	3,374,679
General Revenue Reserve	(9,717,139)	(14,345,654)
Other Balances	(21,430,726)	(27,366,282)
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>3,446,410,290</b>	<b>3,430,416,893</b>

## Total Expenditure 2015 - 2016 Revenue & Capital



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

## Revenue Expenditure 2016 by Division



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

## Information Systems

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

### Infrastructure

The infrastructure comprises

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

A wide range of Council business support systems are also managed on a daily basis.

### Systems

The Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2019 provides a valuable local context for Information Systems Operational Planning which is geared to supporting its strategic objectives and priorities. New system implementations in 2016 included Library Management, Human Resources Management and Electronic Meetings. The Council's Web Mapping Portal continues to expand and delivers mapping on a wide variety of themes such as winter weather, public services and public events.

### Public WiFi

An extensive public Wifi service covering all Council buildings was rolled out in 2016. This service has proven to be very popular and is extensively used by visitors and members of the public generally.



*Launching Public Wifi Service*

### Mobile Technology

The use of mobile technology continues to evolve with smart phones introduced for engineering and supervisory staff in the Roads Directorate to assist on-site communications and decision making.

### ERNACT

Participation continued, via the ERNACT ([www.ernact.eu](http://www.ernact.eu)) network, in co-operative EU projects. The NICHE project was launched by the Local Enterprise Office in May with a focus on the transfer of best practice between European regions to increase the level of innovation in the food sector, including the use of digital technologies.

The IMPROVE NPA funded project held a successful international conference on OpenData in Letterkenny in October. The conference debated the practical use of Open Data, how Open Data can benefit society, and how Local Authorities can contribute to All-Island datasets.

### Digital Action Plan

The Donegal Digital Action Plan was further developed in 2016, and identifies a range of actions to assist job creation assisted by Digital Technologies. This cross

agency initiative is supported by Enterprise Ireland, IDA, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Fáilte Ireland, ERNACT, Letterkenny Institute of Technology, Pramerica Systems Ireland, and is co-ordinated by the Donegal County Council Head of Information Systems.

## Communications Office

The Councils Communications Office is responsible for proactively promoting the services, supports and activities of Donegal County Council, managing the Councils online presence including website and social media sites, providing a media enquiry service for the Council and issuing official Donegal County Council comment to the media.

### Social Media

Social media is an essential communications tool and is particularly important during times of service disruption or extreme weather events.

The Communications Office manages the Donegal County Council Facebook page and Twitter account and this involves preparing posts, scheduling posts, dealing with messages, visitor posts and engaging proactively with key partners through their social media platforms.

The number of Likes on the Donegal County Councils Facebook page increased by 64% in 2016 to 10,214 Likes and its reach was 1,869,133 with 128,205 engaged users.



*Councils Facebook Page*

Donegal County Council issued 1,588 tweets in 2016 and the number of Twitter followers increased by 25% to 5,663 on its @DonegalCouncil account. There were 1,231,700 Twitter impressions on this account and 40,834 profile visits.

### Website

The Communications Office provides an editorial role for the [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie) and the number of users of this site increased by 23% to 166,334 and the number of sessions increased by 24% to 348,153. The average number of unique users to the site each month was 17,446 which represents an increase of 27% on the 2015 figure.

### Media relations

The Communications Office continues to work closely with local print, broadcast and online media in conveying important messages from the Council to the general public.



In 2016 the Communications Office issued 317 press releases and news alerts, dealt with approximately 600 queries from local and national media. The office manages a number of packages with local media outlets for use by various Council services.

The Communications Office is also responsible for compiling and publishing the Council's Annual Report, managing the Councils brand/corporate identity, facilitating capacity building in the area of media relations and communications, supporting the roll-out of the staff energy awareness campaign and participating in major emergency planning.

## **Emergency Services**

### **Fire Service**

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

### **Incidents**

There were 689 incidents in the county in 2016 that required a fire brigade response. This was a reduction of 9.8% when compared to 2015. These incidents covered a

spectrum of activities that include fires, road traffic collisions, flooding and other special services. Donegal brigades mobilised on 838 occasions which includes mobilisations into counties Fermanagh, Leitrim and Sligo.

### **Capital Programme**

The three year programme to enhance the welfare facilities at Ballyshannon, Bundoran and Glencolmcille fire stations concluded in 2016 with the placing of the order for the works to Glencolmcille Fire Station.

### **Fire Prevention**

The Fire Prevention Section received 145 Fire Safety Certificate applications which represented an increase of 11.5% when compared to the previous year. In addition the Fire Prevention Section carried out 412 inspections during the same period.

The Primary Schools Programme which involves the delivery of presentations on fire safety in the home to third class pupils was rolled out to 88 primary schools.

### **Major Emergency Planning**

Donegal County Council continues to participate with its partner Principal Response Agencies and with other Agencies in the planning and training activities organised by the North West Regional Working Group. Co-operation, co-ordination, and response arrangements between the various agencies continues to evolve and develop as was evidenced by the participation in Media Liaison Officer training and Information Management training that were held during the year.

## Civil Defence

Donegal Civil Defence, a volunteer based organisation, continues to support the Primary Response Agencies (PRA) while also assisting, where feasible, local communities in Non-Emergency activities. The operational service was provided by 91 volunteers, (37 Female, 54 Male) and was managed by the Civil Defence Officer. Training continues to be delivered weekly through 4 centre's county wide; Civil Defence Headquarters, Stranorlar, Carndonagh Auxiliary Fire Station, Donegal Town Fire Station, and the Hay Hall, Carrigart.

### PRA Support

An Garda Síochána were assisted in the 3-Day search for a missing person at Tullan Strand, Bundoran and week long search for a missing person in Rathmullan where Search Teams, Kayakers, Search Dogs and Transport were provided by Civil Defence.

### Community Assistance

The Civil Defence also provided community assistance to 42 Non-Emergency events, providing 3,012 voluntary man-hours with Ambulance and First Aid Cover and Water Safety Duties to a variety of events that included Community Festivals, Sporting Events, Easter 1916 Commemorative Parades, Darkness into Light Event etc.



*1916 Commemorative Easter Parade*

### Training Activities

To maintain operational readiness Civil Defence continued to develop and roll out its training programmes in a variety of areas;

- 36 Members were upskilled in Cardiac First Response and Occupational First Aid.
- 8 Members trained in Emergency First Responder Training under the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Programme.
- 3 Additional Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) were certified by the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council.
- 10 Volunteers trained in Search Operator Training.
- 10 Swiftwater and Flood First Responders were Trained.
- All Civil Defence Volunteers received the revised CISM and Induction and Child Protection Training.
- 16 Auxiliary Fire Fighters received training under the Fire Services Council programme.

Radiation Monitoring training, in conjunction with the Radiological

Protection Institute of Ireland was delivered to Donegal Civil Defence members in November.

Civil Defence introduced the use of DRONES to their search capabilities and had 2 Civil Defence Volunteers awarded with their Small Unmanned Aircraft SUA Pilot Competency Licence by the Irish Aviation Authority.

Civil Defence continues to work with the Department of Agriculture in the prevention and control of Avian Influenza and participated in

the annual training in Sligo in October.



*Civil Defence Exercise Training*

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

# Roads & Transportation

## Municipal District Roads Division

The overall budget for the Municipal District Roads Division in 2016 was approximately €42m. This included €8.2m allocated from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTaS) and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for clean-up, repair and prevention works associated with the severe weather of late 2015 and early 2016.

The funding allowed the Roads Division to undertake a variety of essential works on our road network, including general maintenance, surface restoration, pavement strengthening, severe weather repairs, bridge maintenance, winter gritting, low cost safety works, parks maintenance, street sweeping and car parking.



*Surface dressing train in operation in Stranorlar MD*

## 2016 Highlights

**290km** of non-national road network resurfaced / strengthened.

**930km** of road network routinely gritted each winter with **€1.465m** spent in 2016.

Construction of Mullantiboyle Bridge, Glenties completed.

**€200,000** spent on the ongoing maintenance of 6 regional bridges and **€250,000** on strengthening 11 local bridges and **€311,000** on repairing severe weather damage to 8 bridges.

Council wins Excellence in Business Road Safety Award 2016 for the second year running.

Achieved ISO 50001 Energy Management System (EnMS) accreditation

**1** new Phoenix chip spreader, **2** new lorries and **3** snow ploughs purchased

**2.5km** N15 Blackburn Bridge Realignment Scheme and **5km** N56 Ballyoughter to Kilkenny LVNS scheme completed

The DTTaS provided funding of €12.56m for Restoration Maintenance and Restoration Improvement on our non-national road network. This funding allowed the Council to resurface and /or strengthen approximately 290km of our network.

The Wild Atlantic Way remains a significant asset for the country and the 2016 Resurfacing/ Strengthening Programme included 23.5km of this route.

The Council's winter gritting programme is one of the most

extensive in the country and 930km (approx. 14%) of our road network is routinely gritted each winter. The cost of winter gritting was approximately €1.465m. Following consultation with Elected Members the Roads Division also added some further sections of the road network on a trial basis for the 2016/2017 season.

Construction of the Mullantiboyle Bridge at Glenties was completed, and was officially opened by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Terence Slowey on 5 September.

Advance works were carried out on the Cockhill Bridge project at Buncrana by the Council's local roads staff and the tender process for construction of the bridge itself was started.



*Mulantiboyle Bridge Glenties MD*

Funding was secured under the Designated Urban Centre Grant Scheme for completion of the Joe Bonner link road in Letterkenny. Work commenced on the detailed design of the project and the Part 8 planning process was completed in September.



*Turning of the Sod Joe Bonner Link Road*

## **Central Technical Services Division**

Up until September 2016, the Central Technical Services Division consisted of 4 departments – Facilities Management, Road Design, Machinery Yard & Stores and Housing Construction (incorporating the Architectural Services Department). Thereafter and due to a reorganisation of Directorates, Facilities Management and Housing Construction were reassigned to the Housing & Corporate Directorate. The Piers & Harbours and Public Lighting Departments were assigned to the Central Technical Services Division.

### **Bridge Maintenance**

2016 was another successful year in the ongoing maintenance of the county's bridges with a Specific Improvement Grant for Bridge Rehabilitation on Regional Roads of €200,000 with works undertaken to 6 bridges.

€250,000 was allocated to bridge strengthening works spent on 11 local bridges (including guniting /

grouting, concrete repairs, full replacement as required).

A Severe Weather Grant for Bridges was also received with works completed on an additional 8 bridges at a total cost of €311,000.

### **Bridge Capital Projects**

In addition to works at Mullantiboyle Bridge and Cockhill Bridge referred to above the Four Masters bridge project (lead by Donegal County Council in partnership with Leitrim County Council) was successfully completed following a partial bridge collapse thus permitting the road to be reopened to the public within 8 months of its closure.



*Four Masters Bridge collapse*



*Four Masters Bridge reopened*

## **Road Design**

A number of road design projects were progressed during the year.

### **Road Safety**

The Road Design Safety team completed the assessment and design of many low-cost accident schemes to improve road safety and HD15 schemes on the National Roads were further developed. Following approval through SPC of a policy on School Safety Measures, the Road safety team delivered a school flashing lights contract with the repair and replacement of lights at 45 schools throughout the county and received CLAR funding approval for the replacement of school flashing lights at a further 22 schools during 2017.

The Road Safety Officer continued to provide support to the Donegal Road Safety Working Group (DRSWG) and organized the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Road Safe Show in October to audiences numbering approximately 3,000 pupils.

The Donegal Road Safety Working Group continued its collaborations with Donegal Daily, Donegal Sports Hub website and CLG Dhún na nGall to highlight road safety and to help get the road safety messages across to the general public.

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

Donegal County Council was awarded the "Road Safety Award 2016 in the Excellence in Business Awards by the Public Sector

Magazine". This is the second year in a row that the Council won this award.



*Excellence in Business Road Safety Award 2016*

### **Speed Limits Review**

The Road Design team continued to develop the bye laws for the county including in housing estates under the charge of the Council with a successful public consultation process completed in November with signage subsequently erected in all of the relevant Housing Estates.

### **Machinery Yard**

In accordance with the Council approved 2015-2017 Plant Purchase and Reconditioning Programme, the Machinery Yard purchased a new Phoenix chip spreader, 2 new lorries and 3 snow ploughs and continued to provide a fit for purpose fleet of both owned and hired vehicles to the Councils Roads area team, the Housing Services team and Irish Water, facilitating the ongoing maintenance, repair and operation of the Council's assets.



*2016 Chip Spreader*

Plant tenders were also progressed as follows:

- 1 no. large 5t machinery yard service van
- 1 no. 8x4 wheel single-man op. tar sprayer
- 2 no. brine manufacturing plants for installation at Laghey/Letterkenny depots
- 1 no. 6x4 tipper lorry
- 2 no 9cum brine salters

Progress was also made on some of the design elements of the Machinery Yard refurbishment project.



*2016 registered 6\*4 tipper lorry with new snow plough*

The Stores Section continued on its programme of improvement by providing a cost effective service to its customers.

In particular the Stores team managed the procurement and delivery of 5,607,406 litres of

bitumen for use in the maintenance of the road network.

The team continues to utilise the national framework agreements for the supply of a wide variety of products to ensure the best value for money for the Council.

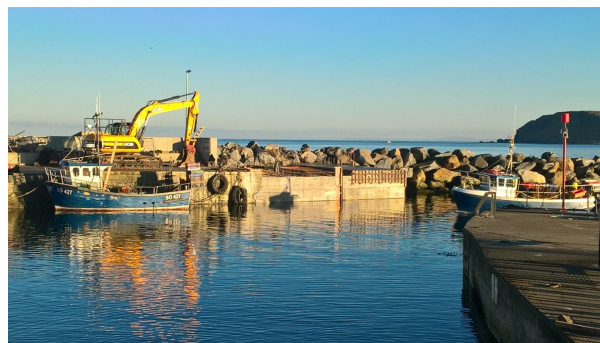
### **Public Lighting**

An inventory of all public lights was completed. The Council maintenance contractor commenced a programme of works for the repair and replacement of approximately 265 of the lighting stock across the 5 MDs, which will continue in 2017 with works to a further 600/700 public lights.

Work progressed with TII during 2016 to develop a regional national road bypasses tender for the upgrade of 1,345 public lights in the North West including lights on the N15 Bundoran Ballyshannon Bypass and on the N15 Donegal Town Bypass. A consultancy firm has been appointed to design, tender and supervise the project which should be on site during 2017.

### **Piers & Harbours**

A total of €1,064,300 was spent on the maintenance and refurbishment of the county's piers and harbours of which 25% was match funding from the Council.



*New pier extension constructed 2016*



*Bunagee (Culdaff) Sail West Project*

A tender was issued for the completion of a review of all 100 piers and harbours with assessment work to be completed in 2017.

### **Facilities Management**

Facilities Management rolled out a number of contracts to ensure the ongoing care, maintenance, and repair of the Council's 5 Public Services Centres and the Lifford Complex. The team also continued with works in relation to the development of a new Council Chamber to accommodate the increase in the size of the Plenary Council.

Under the leadership of the Roads Directorate, ISO 50001 accreditation was achieved with Donegal County Council only the second Local Authority to achieve this standard for energy management.



ISO 50001 provides a framework of requirements for organisations to:

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



*ISO 50001 Accreditation achieved*

## **National Roads Construction & Design**

### **Construction**

#### **N15 Blackburn Bridge Realignment Scheme Phase 1.**

This scheme to upgrade 2.5 km of substandard alignment on the N15 from the bottom of McGroary's Brae towards Ballybofey/Stranorlar, to a standard single carriageway alignment complete with hard shoulder was substantially completed in August.



*N15 Blackburn Bridge Realignment Scheme Phase 1*

The construction cost was €5.6 million and the Contractor was Wills Bros. Ltd. This section of the N15 is part of the TEN -T (Trans European Network) within the county, and the completed scheme has enhanced road safety and improved journey times on the N15 between Sligo & Letterkenny.

#### **N56 Boyoughter to Kilkenny LVNS**

This scheme to upgrade 5.0 km of substandard alignment on the N56 in an area known as the 'Gweebarra Bends' to a single carriageway alignment with hard strips was substantially completed in December. The construction cost was €8.1 million and the Contractor was Wills Bros. Ltd.

This project forms phase 2 of the N56 Dungloe - Glenties Realignment Scheme which is approx. 29km in length and which for construction purposes is divided into 5 phases. Two phases of the scheme have now been completed over a length of 8.3km its continued development is having a significant positive economic impact on West Donegal.

The overall scheme is included in DPER's recently published Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan- 'Building on

Recovery' and is scheduled to have all 5 phases completed by 2021. The scheme forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way.



*N56 Boyoughter to Kilkenny LVNS*

This scheme proposes to rationalise the existing 2 priority junction layout with a roundabout to increase capacity and promote better traffic flow at this location.

The proposed roundabout will function as the Northern tie in for the proposed Letterkenny Relief Road.

Construction commenced in October with a proposed completion date at end of April 2107. The contractor is SIAC Ltd.

The scheme when completed will greatly improve traffic flows at this busy junction.

### **N56 Kilty Roundabout**



*Turning of the sod at N56 Kilty Roundabout*

### **Pavement Improvement Schemes**

Seven schemes were under construction/completed on the National Routes in 2016;

- N15 Coneyburrow – Haw
- N14 Lifford Bridge to Rossgeir Junction
- N13 Letterkenny Dual Carriageway – Westbound Lanes
- N56 Dunkineely East
- N56 Knocknamona, Letterkenny
- N56 Fanaboy Lower
- N56 Killygordon to Corcam.

## **Bridge Refurbishment/Improvement Schemes**

Refurbishment and rehabilitation works were completed on 8 bridges on the National Route Network.

## **Road Signing/Lining & Safety Schemes**

A lining & delineation contract was awarded for the N13 & N14 National Primary Routes in the county and contract works commenced and are due for completion in early 2017.

## **Design**

### **TEN -T Improvements**

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

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

The study was completed in early 2016 and identified that the development of the following three Major Alignment Schemes would be of significant benefit and provide very good value for money, namely;

- N14/N56 Letterkenny to Manorcunningham Roundabout including the Letterkenny Relief Road.

- N14 Manorcunningham Roundabout to Lifford including the N14/N15 link to the A5 WTC in Northern Ireland, and the
- N15/N13 Ballybofey/ Stranorlar Bypass.

In late 2016 the Council in conjunction with TII (Transport Infrastructure Ireland) appointed Consulting Engineer to develop these proposed projects through to the finalisation of the statutory process (CPO and Approval of Environmental Statements).

The Consulting Engineer is a Joint Venture (JV) between Halcrow Barry and RPS, two of the largest and most reputable Consulting Engineers in the country. This is a very significant commission for the county and the completion of these schemes will yield very positive benefits both economically and socially.

### **N56 Mountcharles - Drumbeigh Realignment Scheme**

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

This project forms phase 1 of the N56 Mountcharles- Inver Realignment Scheme which is approximately 5km in length and which, for construction purposes, is divided into 2 phases. The overall scheme is included in DPER's recently published Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan- 'Building on Recovery' and is scheduled to be completed by 2021.

Land acquisition is 98% complete and this project is expected to proceed to tender and construction in 2017.

### N56 Coolboy – Kilmacrennan

This scheme proposes to upgrade 3.3km of substandard alignment between Illistrin and Kilmacrennan and encompassing a section known as the ‘Blue Banks’ to a standard single carriageway with hard strips. Contract documents are complete and approximately 50% of the land acquisition is finalised. Progression to tender and construction is subject to funding becoming available.

Both of these schemes form part of the Wild Atlantic Way and will have a significant positive economic impact on North and West Donegal.

### N56 Kilkenny to Letterlilly LVNS

This scheme forms phase 3 of the N56 Dungloe to Glenties LVNS referred to above and measures approx 4km in length. Detailed Design is complete as is 80% of the land acquisition. Progression of the scheme to tender and construction is scheduled for 2017.

Advance design work was completed on a number of proposed pavement improvement, bridge refurbishment and safety schemes to avail of expected funding in 2017.

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

## Roads Management Office

Donegal County Council led the winning consortium of Donegal, Cork, Kerry and Tipperary County Councils

with Cork City Council in the bid for the Roads Management Office Shared Service.

Its role is to support Local Authorities in their role as Roads Authorities responding to the overall priorities, policies and objectives of the government through the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport.

The developments during 2016 are best illustrated by considering the position before and after:

**Before**

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

**After:**

- One national standard for the management of road openings
- 31 Local Authorities using online systems with 27 on MRL.
- Online Applications to NRA.
- Irish Water Capital Projects processed online.
- Universal conditions improved.
- Insurance checked centrally by RMO
- 1000 licences per month being processed on MRL
- Licences being tracked

### Road Licensing:

The RMO has successfully implemented the National Online Road Licensing System MRL in 27 Local Authorities to date. MRL has replaced paper based and on-line applications in those Authorities. Over 250 applicant organisations use the MRL system including all Utility Companies.

The RMO provides user support to over 1200 users of the MRL system and has worked closely with DTTAS and the working group in the drafting

of the revised Guidelines for Managing Roadworks on Public Roads (The Purple Book) due for publication in early 2017.

Significant progress was made in the introduction of new MRL functionality.

Collaboration between the RMO and stakeholders relating to the future including National Broadband Plan Rollout and Irish Water forms a significant element of the RMO's work as implementation continues.

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

## Water & Environment

The Water & Environment Service is responsible for:

- Water services both on behalf of Irish Water (IW) and as a stand-alone Water Services Authority
- Waste management
- Water pollution control and River Basin Management
- Environmental Education and Awareness
- Litter management
- Managing beaches and sports & leisure facilities

### Operation of Water Services

#### Drinking Water Supplies

Under the Service Level Agreement with IW the Council continued to operate public water services in 2016. This included the operation of 32 Public Water Supplies (PWS) producing 23.7 million cubic meters of drinking water serving a population of approximately 162,000. The Council purchased a further 104,390 cubic meters of water from Northern Ireland Water. Water from public water supply sources is also provided to consumers through 7 public Group Water Supply schemes (GWS).

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

### 2016 Highlights

**32** Public Water Supplies producing **23.7** million cubic meters of drinking water serving a population of approximately **162,000**

**89** municipal wastewater scheme discharges, **38** subject to discharge licenses and **51** subject to Certificates of Authorisation.

St. Johnston WWTW substantially completed

Central Laboratory achieved INAB accreditation

Local Authorities Waters & Communities Office (LAWCO) established

**6** Recycling Centres at Carndonagh, Dungloe, Milford, Laghey, Letterkenny and Stranorlar managed by Bryson Recycling

**331** Bring Banks at **73** sites for glass and cans

Over **300** community clean-ups during Big Donegal Clean Up campaign

**998** litter and waste related complaints received and **137** fixed penalty notices issued

**195** schools took part in the green schools programme and **164** Green Flags awarded.

**13** beaches in Donegal awarded Blue Flags, **6** beaches achieved Designated Bathing Water standard and **5** beaches awarded Green Coast status

The following table reflects production of drinking water in the county in 2016.

Municipal District	Drinking Water (cubic metres)
Inishowen MD	5,618,846
Donegal MD	5,303,679
Glenties MD	4,375,225
Letterkenny MD	5,528,533
Stranorlar MD	2,939,345
Total	23,765,628

A significant number of private water supplies operate across the county. There are 4 private GWSs sufficiently large to merit regulatory reporting to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

A further 16 smaller private GWSs are monitored but reporting to the EPA is not required.

There are 18 wholly private water supplies monitored and reported to the EPA and a further 20 smaller supplies monitored but not reported.

A number of individual households continue to obtain their water supply from private wells.

The Council operates an annual subsidy scheme on behalf of the Department as a contribution towards operational costs for GWSs and a Well Grant Scheme for individual potable drinking water wells.

### **Drinking Water Quality**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the supervisory authority for Irish Water in relation to publicly operated water services

and for Donegal County Council in relation to private supplies.

The Drinking Water Monitoring Programme monitors the quality of public and private supplies at consumers' taps. 3 types of testing are carried out – microbiological, chemical and indicator. An 'overall compliance' measure is derived from all 3 testing methods.

Microbiological compliance level in Donegal Public Water Supplies was 100%. Overall compliance level (including chemical and indicator parameters) was 99%. Private supplies monitored achieved an average microbiological compliance of 86% with an overall compliance of 92%.

The Health Service Executive carries out the Drinking Water Monitoring Programme on behalf of Donegal County Council. The EPA publishes a list of Remedial Action Schemes (RAL) to focus attention on non-compliant schemes and to encourage remedial works to remedy problems. There were eleven RAL schemes in Donegal in 2016. Irish Water is developing interventions to deal with the problems.

The Council continued to work with the Irish Water and the EPA in addressing schemes where Directions have been served or schemes remaining on the RAL.

### **Wastewater Schemes**

89 municipal wastewater scheme discharges have been identified for authorisation by the EPA.

Discharges from larger schemes are subject to licenses whereas smaller

scheme discharges are subject to Certificates of Authorisation.

38 scheme discharges in Donegal are candidates for discharge licenses and 35 have been issued to date. The remaining 51 scheme discharges are candidates for Certificates of Authorisation.

All of these Certificates of Authorisation have been issued except for the Dunkineely. Dunkineely WWTW has been downgraded from requiring a discharge license facility to a Certificate of Authorisation. IW is in the process of compiling an application for the Dunkineely WWTW.

All the Discharge Licenses and Certificates of Authorisation are in the name of Irish Water.

Irish Water has acknowledged responsibility for the larger 'licensed' category, but there remains some ambiguity about ultimate responsibility for the smaller 'certificate' discharges.

### **Wastewater Discharges Quality Compliance**

Donegal County Council monitors all licensed and certified wastewater discharges.

Monitored quality results for each Licensed Discharge are reported monthly to IW and to the EPA, and each is subject of Annual Environmental Report.

The monitoring regime for discharges subject of Certificates of Authorisation is less onerous. Twice yearly sampling is required and results are not reported, but held for perusal as required.

The monitoring programme was fully delivered in 2016. Compliance of the licensed discharges is tested against the Discharge Licence requirements and also against the Urban Waste Water Directive requirements.

The newer more modern plants achieved compliance, but a significant number of older plants were non-compliant, reflecting the need for investment in wastewater treatment.

### **WaterPro**

The WaterPro project started in June. It is funded through the EU INTERREG VB Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme. It will develop sustainable systems to protect water from diffuse agriculture and mining activities.

As part of this project Donegal County Council will monitor a unique bioremediation combination of Integrated Constructed Wetlands and Short Rotation Coppice willows that treats leachate at Churchtown Landfill in Lifford. Knowledge gained from all aspects of this project will be shared and developed between partners and interested parties and stakeholders.

### **Water Services Capital**

The construction and commissioning of a new wastewater treatment plant, associated pumping stations and network improvements were completed in Glenties.

Works contracts for the construction of new water treatment plants in Gortahork and Owenteskna were also signed in



December. Construction work on St. Johnston WWTW was substantially completed. Construction works on the Group B contract commenced in mid 2016 (Bundoran, Glencolmcille, Killybegs and Convoy).

Tenders were received and evaluated for the construction of a new water treatment plant for the Letterkenny RWSS and a new treatment plant for the Creeslough/Dunfanaghy WSS as well as 6km of associated pipelines and pumping station improvements. Site investigation works were completed for a number of water services projects. The installation of 5km of water pipelines were completed in Fanad and Ballindrait.

Detailed design and planning works continued on a number of major and minor projects in both the drinking water and wastewater areas which will be moving to construction stage in 2017. Planning permission was secured on a large number of water and wastewater facilities.



Construction of Bundoran Storm Tank

## Pollution Control

The Council's Central Laboratory undertakes a range of programmes aimed at environmental protection and pollution control. They include the monitoring of wastewater discharges as outlined above.

Additional activities include:

- licencing and monitoring commercial / industrial discharges to sewers and to waters,
- monitoring of rivers and lakes,
- septic tank inspections,
- farm inspections,
- bathing water monitoring, and
- responding to environmental complaints.

INAB accreditation was granted to the laboratory in September 2016.

### **Water Framework Directive / River Basin Management**

The EPA Catchments Unit held a sub-catchments workshop in September. The purpose of the workshop was to firstly inform and discuss with LA staff and other public authorities the finding from the initial sub catchment characterisation process.

Secondly, the workshop allowed staff to add any additional data and local knowledge from Donegal to these assessments. This information was collated and used in a further characterisation process, which in turn will inform any additional actions/ investigations/assessments that may be required to ultimately determine the measures needed in catchments in the county.

### **CatchmentCARE Project**

The Stage 2 Business Plan for the proposed CatchmentCARE project was submitted to SEUPB in July for funding under the Environment measure, specific objective 2.4 of the EU Interreg VA programme.

Donegal County Council is leading the project which has 7 other partners; Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), Loughs Agency, University of Ulster, Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Council, Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) and the British Geological Survey/ Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (BGS/GSNI).

The CatchmentCARE project will address the core challenge of restoring waterbodies in border area catchments by increasing catchment resilience (biophysical, social and economic) and developing stakeholder capacity (community, government and NGOs).

### **Local Authorities Waters and Communities Office**



The Local Authorities Waters and Communities office (LAWCO) recruited 12 Community Water Officers (CWO) during the year. A CWO is located in Donegal Town PSC to assist in public participation and engagement and to engage with LA staff and communities to protect and improve catchments throughout the county. The LAWCO staff in the Border Region presented an outline of their role in the region and county to an SPC meeting in July.

The Inishowen Rivers Trust, with support from Ballinderry Rivers Trust delivered the Clean Streams Project to volunteers in the area. The Council administered the grand aid received from the Department for this project.

### **Waste Management**

Donegal County Council is one of 9 Local Authorities making up the

Connacht Ulster Waste Region. A Regional Waste Management Plan was published in 2015. This plan sets out the aims and objectives of waste management in the Region until 2021, which are therefore applicable to Co. Donegal.

### **Waste Collection**

Kerbside waste collection services throughout the county are provided by private waste collectors. There are 75 waste collectors authorised by the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) to collect waste in Co. Donegal. The Council actively regulates their operations in conjunction with national agencies.

### **Waste Disposal**

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

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

Five sites (Muckish, Glenalla, Drumaboden, Churchtown and Ballynacarrick) have been fully remediated.

Further remediation works were carried out at the Churchtown site during 2016 to augment the development of the recently constructed on-site treatment facility for leachate using willows and an integrated constructed wetland. These works were carried out under the Water Pro project (referenced above under Wastewater Discharge Quality

Compliance). This is a pilot project in the use of willows for leachate treatment. Leachate at Drumaboden is treated on site while leachate from the other three sites is taken to the wastewater treatment works at Letterkenny for full treatment.

### **Waste Recycling**

Recycling facilities continued to be provided to the public. The Council operates 6 Recycling Centres at Carndonagh, Dungloe, Milford, Laghey, Letterkenny and Stranorlar under contract to Bryson Recycling. These sites provide a recycling service for a range of waste items, as well as the disposal of household waste in accordance with the Waste Management obligations.

The Council also operates 331 Bring Banks at 73 sites around the county allowing for the collection of glass and cans.

Other waste collection services provided include 6 collection points for Hazardous Household wastes and separately, working with WEEE Ireland, collection days for waste electrical and electronic equipment.

Kerbside collection of dry recyclable household and commercial waste is operated throughout the county by private waste collectors who send the materials to premises outside the county to be recovered and processed for reuse.

The roll out of the brown bin for compostable waste is in the process of being expanded.

Waste Facilities are authorised by Donegal County Council to recover waste in the county. These include

private sector facilities providing recycling and waste disposal services.

## **Regulation**

Donegal County Council regulates waste management activities under the Waste Management Act 1996 in conjunction with national regulatory bodies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) and the Connacht Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority.

The NWCPO is the national body with the responsibility for granting or revoking waste collection permits, as well as collating all data that might arise from these activities. Donegal County Council remains the enforcement authority in the event that a waste collector is deemed to be non-compliant.

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

Donegal County Council in conjunction with Leitrim County Council operates the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA) on behalf of the Connacht Ulster waste region. This office implements policies and actions that allow for better coordination and co-operation of waste enforcement activities in the Region and Co. Donegal.

## **Environmental Education and Awareness**

The Councils' Waste Awareness Officer continued to deliver a comprehensive awareness programme targeting schools, householders, businesses, large organisations, agricultural sector and community groups.

This included the schools environmental programme which involved providing seminars, advice and talks on waste management practices, the green schools programme and arranging school tours of the 6 recycling centres throughout the county. In 2016, 195 schools registered with the green schools programme and 164 Green Flags were awarded.

An extensive recycling publicity campaign was undertaken highlighting the range of services such as bring banks, recycling centres, kerbside recycling and home composting. The Council continued to promote and participated in national campaigns such as the Stop Food Waste campaign.

Anti-litter awareness campaigns were also carried out including the Big Donegal Clean-Up with over 300 community clean-ups taking place in 2016. The National Spring Clean campaign was also supported and an anti-litter publicity campaign through various media outlets was also undertaken.



Launching Big Donegal Clean Up 2016

The Waste Awareness Officer has worked closely with tidy towns and community groups and delivered advice, workshops on composting and talks on responsible waste management.

A number of waste prevention initiatives funded through the LAPN (Local Authority Prevention Network) were delivered.

A seasonal awareness campaign for the "Smoky Coal" ban for Letterkenny was also implemented and this included press releases, radio advertising and interviews.

The following grants were administered:

- 25 Local Agenda 21 initiatives.
- 29 Adopt a Road grants.
- 21 Approach Roads grants.

### Litter Management

The Council has a team of five litter wardens and three mobile litter units which work closely with the community in preventing litter, detecting offences and coordinating clean ups in conjunction with Tidy Town groups. Part of this work involves investigation of cases of illegal dumping, issuing on-the-spot fines

for littering offences along with written warnings and legal proceedings for offences under the Waste Management Act 1996.

998 litter and waste related complaints were received, all of which were investigated. 137 fixed penalty notices, under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, were issued and 60 of those were paid.

Innovative technologies including the use of CCTV and audio devices located at Recycling Bring Banks were employed to prevent illegal dumping and littering.



Tidy Town Seminar

### Beaches

Donegal was awarded 13 Blue Flag Awards in 2016 as follows:

Murvagh	Magherawarden (Portsalon)	Lisfannon
Killahoey	Marble Hill	Shroove
Fintra	Rossnowlagh	Bundoran
Carrickfinn	Narin	Culdaff
Downings		

The following 6 beaches achieved Designated Bathing Water standard: Ballyhernan, Drumatinney, Lady's Bay, Port Arthur, Port na Blagh and Rathmullan.

Green Coast Awards were awarded for 5 beaches namely Ballyhernan, Dooley, Drumatinney, Magheraroarty and Port Arthur.

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

Access for visitors of all abilities received particular focus. Board walk access and railings were developed / improved in a number of locations. Currently thirteen beaches are wheelchair accessible.

Lifeguards were employed on all Blue Flag Beaches and at Rathmullan beach over the bathing season. There is an ongoing maintenance programme for ringbuoys where they are repaired/replaced as necessary around the coastline.

Contributions are made to local search and rescue groups in the county and working relations with the Irish Coastguard were strengthened to improve water safety along the coastline.

A Coastal Management Steering Committee was convened including members of the Coastguard, An Taisce, National Parks & Wildlife

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

The Council monitors and promotes our shared cross border coastline through involvement with the Loughs Agency and participating in Good Beach Summits.

The Council is also actively engaging with the OPW to monitor and assess coastal processes affecting our coastline in changing climate and oceanic processes, including erosion, in consultation with local stakeholders.

### **Leisure Centres**

Donegal County Council supports the development and operation of a number of leisure centres throughout the county. This includes the Finn Valley Centre, Ballyshannon Leisure Centre and Letterkenny Aura Centre. The Council is also involved in proposed refurbishment and upgrade to Bunrana Leisure Centre.

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

## Appendices

### Council membership of committees and other bodies

#### **Corporate Policy Group**

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

#### **Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)**

##### **Community, Social and Cultural SPC**

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

##### *Sectoral Representation*

Ethna Diver - Environmental /  
Conservation  
Paul Byrne - Business /  
Commercial  
John C. Quinn - Trade Union  
Paul Kernan/ Kate Morgan  
(alternate) - Community /  
Voluntary / Social Inclusion  
Joe Boland/ Martin McBride  
(alternate) - Community /  
Voluntary / Social Inclusion

##### **Environment & Emergency Services SPC**

Cllr. John O'Donnell, Chairperson  
Cllr. Niamh Kennedy  
Cllr. Gerry McMonagle  
Cllr. Noel Jordan

Cllr. Gerry Crawford  
Cllr. James Pat McDaid  
Cllr. Rena Donaghey  
Cllr. Martin Farren  
Cllr John Ryan  
Cllr Terence Slowey

##### *Sectoral Representation*

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

##### **Housing & Corporate Service SPC**

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

##### *Sectoral Representation*

Cecil Fairman - Agriculture /  
Farming  
Dessie Dorrian - Development /  
Construction  
John Gildea - Business /  
Commercial  
Anne Wilkinson - Trade Union  
Finola Brennan/ Anne McGowan  
(alternate) -  
Community/Voluntary/Social  
Inclusion

### **Roads & Transportation SPC**

Cllr John Ryan, Chairperson  
Cllr Ciaran Brogan  
Cllr Nicolas Crossan  
Cllr Liam Doherty  
Cllr Martin Farren  
Cllr Frank McBrearty (resigned  
02/03/2016)  
Cllr Michael McBride (appointed  
18/07/2016)  
Cllr Martin McDermott  
Cllr Patrick McGowan  
Cllr John O'Donnell  
Cllr John S. O'Fearraigh

#### *Sectoral Representation*

Enda Healy - Development  
Conservation  
George Mills -  
Business/Commercial  
Karen McCormack/ Louise Breslin  
(alternate) - Community/Voluntary  
James O'Donnell -  
Agriculture/Farming  
John D. O'Kane / John McLaughlin  
(alternate) - Fishing/Aquaculture

### **Economic, Enterprise & Planning Policy SPC**

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

#### *Sectoral Representation*

Lisa McMonagle -  
Agriculture/Farming

Dermot McLaughlin -  
Environmental/Conservation  
Barry McMenamin -  
Development/Construction  
Peter Cutliffe -  
Business/Commercial  
Charlie F. Kelly - Trade Union  
Annette Patton / John Treaty  
(alternate) - PPN  
Seamus Bovaird / F. Doherty  
(alternate) - Fishing/Aquaculture

### **Donegal Local Traveller Accommodation Committee**

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

#### *Traveller Representatives*

Siobhan Mc Laughlin  
Hugh Friel  
Rose Ward

#### *Council Officials*

Liam Ward  
Patsy Lafferty (appointed Nov  
2016)  
Patrick Mc Laughlin (ceased Nov  
2016)  
Fergus Mc Ateer

### **Coiste na Gaeilge**

#### *Stranorlar MD*

Cllr Gary Doherty  
Cllr Frank Mc Brearty (resigned  
02/03/16)  
Cllr Martin Harley (30/05/16)

#### *Inishowen MD*

Cllr Albert Doherty  
Cllr Paul Canning  
*Donegal MD*  
Cllr Niamh Kennedy  
Cllr John Campbell

#### *Glenties MD*



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

#### *Letterkenny MD*

Cllr Ian Mc Garvey -  
Cllr Mick Quinn

#### **County Donegal Joint Policing Committee**

Cllr Seamus O' Domhnaill  
Cllr James Pat Mc Daid  
Cllr Martin Mc Dermott  
Cllr Gerry Crawford  
Cllr Liam Doherty  
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle  
Cllr Albert Doherty  
Cllr Jack Murray  
Cllr Martin Farren  
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh  
Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness  
Cllr Frank Mc Brearty (resigned  
02/03/16)  
Cllr John Campbell (26/09/16)  
Cllr Nicholas Crossan  
Cllr Niamh Kennedy  
Cllr John O' Donnell  
Cathaoirleach as Ex Officio Member

#### *Chief Executive*

Seamus Neely

#### *Oireachtas Members*

Pearse Doherty  
Pádraig Mac Lochlainn  
Charlie Mc Conalogue  
Pat the Cope Gallagher  
Joe Mc Hugh  
Thomas Pringle  
Brian O' Domhnaill  
Tony Mc Loughlin  
Marc Mc Sharry

#### *An Garda Síochána*

Terry Mc Ginn

#### *Donegal PPN*

James Trearty  
Joe Boland

Deirdriú Murray  
Carmel Mulhern  
Lawrence Mc Manus  
Lorraine Thompson  
Gary Doggett

#### **Audit Committee**

Cllr Enda Bonner  
Cllr Ian Mc Garvey  
Deirdre Mc Glone (resigned  
November 2016)  
Paul Carr  
Micheál Mac Giolla Easbuig  
(resigned March 2016) (returned  
Nov 2016)  
Henry Mc Garvey (April 2016)

#### **Islands Committee**

Members of Letterkenny and  
Glenties MDs

#### *Islands Representatives*

Owey - William Boyle  
Rutland - Michael Boyle (Sub  
Rosaleen Mc Shane)  
Inis Caorach - Hughie Gallagher  
Island Roy - Marie Ui Dochartaigh  
Gola - Eamon S Mac Aoidh  
Inishboffin - John O' Brien  
Tory - Bridget Mc Garvey (resigned  
2016)  
Tory - Marjorie Carol (appointed  
2016)  
Aranmore - Seamus Ó Cnaimhsí  
(resigned 2016)  
Aranmore - Noirín Ui  
Mhaoldomhnaigh  
Aranmore - Eamon Ó Cnaimhsí  
(appointed 2016)  
Inisfree - Naul Mc Cole  
Inishinney - Seamus Rodgers  
Inis Oirthir - Pádraig Mac Gairbheith  
Inis Meáin - Charlie O' Donnell

#### *Small Islands Federation*

Mairín Ui Fhearraigh

*Department of the Arts, Heritage  
and the Gaeltacht*

Eamonn Mc Gill

**Donegal County Council Value for Money Committee**

Cllr Enda Bonner  
Cllr Liam Blaney  
Cllr Tom Conaghan  
Cllr Noel Jordan  
Cllr Ian Mc Garvey  
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle  
Cllr Terence Slowey  
Cllr John Ryan  
Cathaoirleach of the Day

**Donegal County Council Economic Development Committee**

Cllr Paul Canning  
Cllr Frank Mc Brearty  
Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher  
Cllr John Ryan  
Cllr John O' Donnell

Cathaoirleach of the Day

*IDA*

John Nugent

Marie Mc Daid

*Enterprise Ireland*

Carole Brennan

*Údarás na Gaeltachta*

Micheál Mac Giolla Easbuig

*Education and Training Board*

Mary O' Malley

*Local Enterprise Office*

Michael Tunney

*Donegal Local Development Company*

Padraic Fingleton

*Inishowen Development*

*Partnership*

Andrew Ward

*Comhar na nOileán Teo*  
Nóirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh

*IBEC*

Jan Feenstra

*Letterkenny Institute of Technology*

Paul Hannigan

*Health Service Executive*

Maire O' Leary (retired Nov 2016)

Peter Walker (appointed Nov 2016)

*Community*

Andrew Mc Nulty

Louise Breslin

*Failte Ireland*

Joan Crawford

*Department of Social Protection*

Lee Downey

Claire O' Neill

*Bord Iascaigh Mhara*

Michael Gallagher

**Donegal Local and Community Development Committee**

Cllr Niamh Kennedy

Cllr Martin Mc Dermott

Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

*Údarás na Gaeltachta*

Micheál Mac Giolla Easbuig

Alan O' Baoid

*HSE*

Peter Walker (appointed Nov 2016)

Maire O' Leary (resigned Nov 2016)

*Education and Training Board*

Anne Mc Hugh

*Letterkenny Institute of Technology*

Paul Hannigan

*Donegal Local Development Company*

Jim Slevin

*Inishowen Development  
Partnership*  
Anthony Doogan

*Public Partnership Network*  
Susan Mc Loughlin  
Susan Mc Cauley  
Martin Mc Bride

*Environment Representative*  
Emmett Johnston (resigned 2016)

*Irish Business and Employers  
Federation*  
Jan Feenstra

*Irish Congress of Trade Unions*  
PJ Hannon

*Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers*  
James O' Donnell

*Comhar na nOileán*  
Noreen Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh

### **Cultural Committee**

Cllr Liam Blaney  
Cllr Enda Bonner  
Cllr John Campbell  
Cllr Paul Canning  
Cllr Tom Conaghan  
Cllr Gerry Crawford  
Cllr Nicholas Crossan  
Cllr Albert Doherty  
Cllr Gary Doherty  
Cllr Liam Doherty  
Cllr Martin Farren  
Cllr Marie T Gallagher  
Cllr Martin Harley  
Cllr Noel Andrew Jordan  
Cllr Niamh Kennedy  
Cllr Micheál Cholm Mac Giolla  
Easbuig  
Cllr Frank Mc Brearty  
Cllr James Pat Mc Daid  
Cllr Martin Mc Dermott  
Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness  
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

Cllr Jack Murray  
Cllr Seamus O' Domhnaill  
Cllr John Seamais O' Fearraigh  
Cllr Barry O' Neill  
Cllr Mick Quinn  
Cllr John Ryan  
Cllr Dessie Shiels  
Cllr Terence Slowey

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

### **Standing Order Sub Committee**

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

### **Disability Strategy Group**

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

### **Donegal Youth Council Steering Committee**

Cllr James P Mc Daid  
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

### **Other Committees**

#### **Donegal Heritage Forum**

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

#### *Heritage Officer*

Mr Joseph Gallagher

*Curator Donegal County Museum*

Judith McCarthy

*Conservation Officer*

Claire McCallan

*Central Planning Unit*

Simon Harron

*Environment Section*

*Local Development / LEADER  
Representative*

Padraic Fingleton

*State Agencies*

*Coillte*

Jim Crowley

*National Monuments Service*

Paddy O'Donovan

*National Parks & Wildlife Service*

Judit Kelemen

*Failte Ireland*

Maire Aine Gardiner

*Teagasc*

Carolyn Patterson

*Udaras na Gaeltachta*

Seamas O'Gallchoir

*Letterkenny Institute of Technology*

Marie Kelly

*Irish Farmer's Association*

Michael Chance

*PPN- Heritage Link Group*

Michael Mullen  
Molly Reynolds

*An Taisce*

Ethna Diver

*Donegal Heritage Network*

Ralph Sheppard  
Martin Egan

*Donegal Historical Society*

Edward O'Kane

*Ulster Architectural Heritage  
Society*

Caroline Dickson

**2016 Centenary Committee**

Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

Cllr Michael Mc Bride

Cllr Tom Conaghan

Cllr Ian Mc Garvey

Cllr Jack Murray

Cllr Gerry Crawford

Cllr Martin Mc Dermott

Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Cllr Martin Harley

*PPN Representatives*

James Trearty

Dermot Mc Laughlin

Martin Mc Bride

Louise Breslin

Anne Mc Gowan

## **Attendance of Members at Training Events 2016**

AILG Module 1  
Monaghan  
11 February 2016  
Attendees: 5

AILG Module 2  
Letterkenny  
14 May 2016  
Attendees: 4

Ladder Training  
Letterkenny  
20 June 2016  
Attendees: 1

SICAP  
Cavan  
21 June 2016  
Attendees: 1

AILG Module 3  
Cavan  
23 June 2016  
Attendees: 6

AILG Module 3  
Dundalk  
18 June 2016  
Attendees: 2

AILG Module 4  
Galway  
6 September 2016  
Attendees: 7

AILG Module 4  
Longford  
15 September 2016  
Attendees: 4

AILG Module 5  
Sligo  
22 October 2016  
Attendees: 4

AILG Module 6

Kilkenny  
27 October 2016  
Attendees: 1

AILG Module 6  
Dublin  
19 November 2016  
Attendees: 1

SICAP  
Cavan  
21 November 2016  
Attendees: 1

AILG Module 6  
Roscommon  
24 November 2016  
Attendees: 6

AILG Annual Conference  
Buncrana  
5 - 6 May 2016  
Attendees: 18

AILG Autumn Seminar  
Gorey, Wexford  
13 - 15 October 2016  
Attendees: 8

LAMA, Autumn Seminar  
Bantry, Co.Cork  
29 September to 1 October 2016  
Attendees: 5

## **Foreign Travel 2016**

Conference Peripheral Maritime  
Regions, Haarleem, Netherlands  
17 to 20 February 2016  
Attendees: 1

St Patricks Day Events in the USA -  
12 to 21 March 2016  
Attendees: 2

Sister Cities Project - St Charles  
Missouri , USA - 26 May to 2 June  
2016

Attendees: 1

Conference Peripheral Maritime  
Regions , Azores - 1 to 6  
November 2016

Attendees: 1

Glasgow Networking Event, - 9 to  
10 November 2016

Attendees: 1

Trade and Investment Mission,  
Boston - 13 to 19 November  
2016.

Attendees: 1

### Members Expenses 2016

Members Monthly Allowance	€278,250
Representational Payment	€595,944
Mayor's Allowance	€30,000
Deputy Mayor's Allowance	€6,000
Entertainment Expenses	€10,426
Insurance	€6,512
Gratuity Scheme	€0.00
Strategic Policy Chairs Allowance	€30,000
Municipal District Chairs Allowance	€36,000
Non Members Expenses	€3,126
Conference Attendance	€3,521
Attendance at Training	€14,282
Conference and Training Fees	€7,430
Other Meetings/ Ad Hoc Travel	€5,117
Foreign Travel	€14,281
Communications Expenses	€12,473
Contribution to Members Representative Associations	€16,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>€1,069,762</b>

## Performance Indicators 2016

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing	A. Overall total number of dwellings provided by the LA during the year	<b>1018</b>	
	B. Number of dwellings directly provided	<b>46</b>	
	B1. Number of dwellings constructed	-3	0 no. constructed but 3 no. sold.
	B2. Number of dwellings purchased	49	
	C. Number of units provided under RAS	-8	20 Private RAS left the Scheme - 12 Voluntary RAS joined the Scheme (first time Voluntary RAS included)
	D. Number of units provided under the HAP Scheme	952	
	E. Number of units provided under the SHCEP	28	
	F. The overall total number of social housing dwellings in the LA at year end	<b>6878</b>	
	G. The total number of dwellings directly provided (constructed or purchased) by the LA	4692	
	H. Total number of units provided under the RAS	473	
	I. Total number of units provided under the HAP if operated	1421	
	J. Total number of units provided under the SCHEP	292	
	K. No. of single rural dwellings that are planned for demolition or sale due to dereliction	2	
	A. Percentage of the number of dwellings at H1G that were vacant at year end	<b>3.30 %</b>	
	The number of dwelling units within the overall stock that were not tenanted at year end	155	
	A. Expenditure in the year on repair & maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA divided by H1G	<b>€812.78</b>	
	Expenditure on repair and maintenance of LA stock compiled on a continuous basis during the year	€3,813,543	
Housing	A. Average time taken from date of vacation of dwelling to date when a new tenancy had commenced	<b>41.90 wk</b>	
	B. Average cost expended on getting the units re-tenanted ready for re-letting	<b>€9,865.18</b>	
	A. Total number of registered tenancies with the PRTB in the LA area at the end of June 2016	6,351	
	B. Number of inspections carried out	519	
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2016 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	85.36	
	D. Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant during 2016	18	

	The number of dwellings inspected that were found not to be compliant with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations	443	
<b>Housing</b>			
	A. No. of adults in emergency accom. long-term as a % of the total number of homeless adults	<b>23.08 %</b>	
	No. of adults classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on night of the 31/12/2016	13	
	No. of adults on that date who had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously	3	
<b>Roads</b>			
	% Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating	<b>99.00 %</b>	
	% Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	<b>94.00 %</b>	
	% Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	<b>95.00 %</b>	
	% Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	<b>68.00 %</b>	
	% Regional roads that received a PSCI rating during 2016	<b>95.00 %</b>	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	<b>2.00 %</b>	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	<b>16.00 %</b>	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	<b>44.00 %</b>	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	<b>37.00 %</b>	
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	<b>9.00 %</b>	
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	<b>26.00 %</b>	
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	<b>31.00 %</b>	
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	<b>28.00 %</b>	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	<b>15.00 %</b>	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	<b>26.00 %</b>	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	<b>37.00 %</b>	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	<b>17.00 %</b>	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	<b>28.00 %</b>	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	<b>15.00 %</b>	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	<b>16.00 %</b>	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	<b>9.00 %</b>	



	A1. Kilometres of regional roads strengthened using Road Improvement grants	<b>20.6 km</b>	
	A2. Regional road Improvement Grant amount	<b>€2,354,469.00</b>	
	B1. Number of kilometres of regional roads resealed using Road Maintenance grants	<b>23.3 km</b>	
	B2. Regional road Maintenance Grant amount (resealing)	<b>€757,533.00</b>	
	C1. Kilometres of Local roads strengthened using Road Improvement grants	<b>126.1 km</b>	
	C2. Road Improvement Grant amount spent on Local Roads (strengthening)	<b>€7,383,235.00</b>	
	D1. Number of kilometres of Local roads resealed using Road Maintenance grants	<b>119.3 km</b>	
	D2. Road Maintenance Grant amount spent on Local Roads (resealing)	<b>€2,000,734.00</b>	
Motor Tax	% of motor tax transactions online	<b>46.93 %</b>	
Water	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance	<b>92.37%</b>	
Waste	No. households in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2016 (2016 Census)	730	
	% households within the LA that the number A represents	<b>1.25%</b>	
Environmental Pollution	Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was received during 2016	<b>1189</b>	
	Number of pollution cases closed during 2016	<b>938</b>	
	Total number of cases at hand at 31/12/2016	<b>460</b>	
Litter Pollution	Percentage of area unpolluted by litter	<b>7 %</b>	
	Percentage of area slightly polluted by litter	<b>77 %</b>	
	Percentage of area moderately polluted by litter	<b>16 %</b>	
	Percentage of area significantly polluted by litter	<b>0 %</b>	
	Percentage of area grossly polluted by litter	<b>0 %</b>	
Planning	Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	<b>25.00 %</b>	
	Total no. of new buildings notified to the local authority	260	
	No. of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2016 subject of at least one inspection	65	
Planning	A. Number of planning decisions subject of appeal to An Bord Pleanála determined by	39	

	board in 2016		
	B. % of the determinations which confirmed (with or without variations) the decision made by the LA	<b>64.10 %</b>	
	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision with or without variation	25	
	A. Number of planning enforcement cases referred to or initiated by the LA during 2016 that were investigated	131	
	B. Number of enforcement cases that were closed during 2016	136	
	C. % cases at B dismissed re Section 15(2) or closed because statute barred or exempted development	<b>56.62 %</b>	
	D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	<b>3.68 %</b>	
	E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	<b>39.71 %</b>	
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2016	2073	
Planning	AFS Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per 2011 Census	<b>€22.83</b>	
Fire Service	AFS Programme E expenditure data divided by the Census 2011 population served by the Fire Authority	<b>€44.59</b>	
Fire Service	A. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of Fire	0 min	Not applicable - no full-time fire stations
	B. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of Fire	6.02 min	
	C. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of other accidents	0 min	Not applicable - no full-time fire stations
	D. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of other accidents	6.08 min	
	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins	<b>28.21 %</b>	
	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	<b>57.18 %</b>	
	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins	<b>14.62 %</b>	
	D. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins	<b>32.23 %</b>	
	E. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	<b>53.49 %</b>	
	F. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins	<b>14.29 %</b>	
	Total no. of call-outs in respect of fires during the year	390	
Library Service	A. Number of library visits per head of population	<b>2.11</b>	

	B. Number of items issued to borrowers during the year	328,145	
	Number of library visits during the year	336,685	
Library Service	The Annual Financial Statement Programme F data / by the population of the LA area 2011 per census	<b>€23.27</b>	
Youth & Community	Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council//Comhairle na nÓg scheme	<b>85.19 %</b>	
	Total number of secondary schools in the LA area at year end	27	
	No. of organisations in the County Register at 31/12/2016 and the proportion of those organisations who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	<b>18.59</b>	
	No. organisations in the County Register for the local authority area	470	
Corporate	Wholtime equivalent staffing number as year end	<b>893.11</b>	
	Percentage of working days lost due to sickness absence through medically certified leave	<b>3.85 %</b>	
	Percentage of working days lost due to sickness absence through self- certified leave	<b>0.34 %</b>	
	All ICT Expenditure in the period 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016 divided by the WTE no.	<b>€2,527.73</b>	
Corporate	Total page views of the LA website in 2016	<b>1,155,122</b>	
	Total number of social media users at 31/12/2016 following the LA on social media sites	<b>30091</b>	
Finance	A. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2012 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	<b>€-15,581,989</b>	
	B. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2013 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	<b>€-15,752,132</b>	
	C. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	<b>€-14,966,588</b>	
	D. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-14,345,654	
	E. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2016 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-9,717,139	General Revenue Deficit - Draft and Unaudited
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2016 as a percentage of Total Income from the AFS statement	<b>-6.85 %</b>	
	G. Revenue Expenditure per capita in 2016	<b>€837.69</b>	
	The 2016 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€141,837,152	Draft unaudited - includes Rates, PRD and LPT. Also includes write-back of specific revenue reserve in

			the sum of €3,374,679 on a once-off basis. Excludes transfers from capital/reserves.
	The 2016 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€133,354,231	Draft Unaudited - excludes transfers to/from reserves
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	<b>59.5 %</b>	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	<b>86.9 %</b>	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	<b>67.1 %</b>	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	<b>57.1 %</b>	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	<b>86.6 %</b>	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	<b>65.9 %</b>	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	<b>56.3 %</b>	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	<b>89.3 %</b>	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	<b>63.3 %</b>	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	<b>61.2 %</b>	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	<b>89.8 %</b>	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	<b>63.4 %</b>	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	68 %	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	89 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	66 %	
Economic Development	Number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the year	<b>170.5</b>	
	A. The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in the year	<b>25</b>	
	A. The no. of participants who received mentoring during the year	<b>26</b>	
	B. The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in the year	<b>6</b>	