

2018

Annual Report



“

serving
our customers,
supporting
our businesses
and **welcoming**
our visitors

”



Foreword

There is no doubt that 2018 will be remembered as the year when Donegal, basking in the glorious summer sunshine, was showcased to the world, as the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open took place for the first time ever in Ballyliffin Golf Club.

Over 95,000 visitors attended over the five days, a record number for this tournament, while an estimated global audience of almost half a billion people tuned in to watch the tournament and see for themselves the stunning landscape and sea views of Ballyliffin, Inishowen and indeed Donegal. The work done by the management, staff and members of Ballyliffin Golf Club was applauded by the Council in September when they were honoured at a Civic Reception in the County House.

Our commitment to supporting the development of the tourism sector continued in 2018 with the completion of works at two flagship tourism projects in Malin Head and Sliabh Liag. These projects are an essential component in developing the tourism product in Donegal and maximising the potential of the Wild Atlantic Way in driving visitor numbers to the county.

In February the new National Planning Framework designated Letterkenny as a regional centre for growth and recognised the Letterkenny, Derry and Strabane City Region. This indicates strong momentum at Government level to realise the ambition and potential of the region and reflects the concerted and collaborative approach we have taken with Derry City and Strabane District Council through both the North West Regional Development Group and the North West Strategic Growth Partnership.

The new Donegal County Development Plan 2018 -2024 came into effect in May following two years of extensive public consultation and engagement and is a key policy framework that will guide future development. Work on the new Letterkenny Local Area Plan also began with a pre-consultation process where over 700 people were engaged with a view to establishing the strategic context for the plan.

Significant progress was made in the design and delivery of social housing throughout Donegal with new housing schemes completed in Manorcunningham, Newtowncunningham and Carndonagh while works were also well underway in housing schemes in Stranorlar and Crievesmith, Letterkenny. The Council continued to deliver an ambitious Social Housing Programme combining construction and acquisition to provide high quality social housing to meet the need in the county.

The Council's Housing Construction Programme is projected to deliver 298 social housing units over the next two to three years representing an investment of almost €53m and the new Turnkey Acquisition programme is anticipated to deliver 300 to 400 social housing units in towns and villages across Donegal over the next few years. In addition, €25m has been spent purchasing 208 properties under the Single House Acquisition Programme since 2015 and this approach is set to continue.

The Donegal Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018 – 2022 was adopted in January and the first national day of creativity for children and young people Cruinniú na nÓg took place in June with 16 events taking place in Donegal.

Investment in our national roads infrastructure continued with TII investing €47m in Donegal in 2018. Work on the N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan Road Realignment Scheme and the N56 Mountcharles to Inver got underway and works continued on the N56 Dungloe to Glenties with the Kilkenny to Letterilly under construction.

Investment continued in water and wastewater treatment facilities with construction work at Wastewater Treatment Plants in Bundoran, Killybegs, Glencolmille and Convoy completed while new Water Treatment Plants were commissioned in Owenteskna and Gortahork and approximately 40km of new watermain was installed.

Cllr. John Ryan retired from Donegal County Council in 2018 and we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge his great contribution to the work of the Council during his years of service and in particular in his role in the Inishowen Municipal District. We wish John all the best for the future.

Developing sustainable, inclusive and prosperous communities in Donegal cannot be done in isolation and each year we are indebted to the many individuals, organisations, agencies and groups that work with us to help achieve these positive outcomes for the people of Donegal both at home and abroad. Working in partnership has been and will continue to be the cornerstone of all that we do and we would like to sincerely thank all our partners for their ongoing co-operation, support and assistance.

We would also like to thank the elected members, management and staff of Donegal County Council for their continued commitment, enthusiasm and dedication which is instrumental in making the Council such a vibrant, progressive and responsive organisation.



Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill
Cathaoirleach



Seamus Neely
Chief Executive

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Members of Donegal County Council

Municipal District of Donegal



Cllr John Campbell

Independent



Cllr Tom Conaghan

Independent



Cllr Noel Andrew Jordan

Sinn Fein



Cllr Niamh Kennedy

Independent



Cllr Michael Naughton

Fianna Fáil



Cllr Barry O'Neill

Fine Gael

Municipal District of Glenties



Cllr Enda Bonner

Fianna Fail



Cllr Maire Therese Gallagher

Sinn Fein



Cllr Michael Cholm Mac
Giolla Easbuig

Independent



Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill

Fianna Fail



Cllr John Seamais
O'Fearraigh

Sinn Fein



Cllr Terence Slowey

Fine Gael

Members of Donegal County Council

Municipal District of Inishowen



Cllr Paul Canning
Fianna Fail



Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Independent



Cllr Albert Doherty
Sinn Fein



Cllr Rena Donaghey
Fianna Fail



Cllr Martin Farren
Labour



Cllr Martin McDermott
Fianna Fail



Cllr Bernard McGuinness
Fine Gael



Cllr Jack Murray
Sinn Fein



Cllr John Ryan
Fine Gael
Retired 28 May 2018



Cllr Mickey Doherty
Fine Gael
From 22 July 2018

Municipal District of Letterkenny



Cllr Liam Blaney
Fianna Fail



Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Fianna Fail



Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
Fine Gael



Cllr Michael McBride
Independent



Cllr James Pat McDaid
Fianna Fail



Cllr Ian McGarvey
Independent



Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Sinn Fein



Cllr John O'Donnell
Independent



Cllr Dessie Shiels
Independent



Cllr Adrian Glackin
Sinn Féin

Municipal District of Stranorlar



Cllr Gerry Crawford
Fianna Fail



Cllr Gary Doherty
Sinn Fein



Cllr Liam Doherty
Sinn Fein



Cllr Martin Harley
Fine Gael



Cllr Frank McBrearty
Independent



Cllr Patrick McGowan
Fianna Fail

Municipal Districts of County Donegal



Donegal County Council Management Structure

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



Council Meetings 2018

There were 13 meetings of the Plenary Council in 2018 and each Municipal District met as follows:

- Donegal - 12 times
- Glenties - 11 times
- Inishowen - 11 times
- Letterkenny - 10 times
- Stranorlar - 8 times.
- Donegal County Museum Collection, Loan and Disposal Policies
- Donegal County Museum Disaster Plan
- Peace IV Programme.

The Corporate Policy Group held 6 meetings.

Strategic Policy Committees

There are five Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs).

Community, Social & Cultural SPC

Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher

Chairperson

The Community, Social and Cultural SPC met 5 times and reviewed the following policies and issues:

- EU Funding
- Creative Ireland
- Members Development Fund – Policy Review
- Community Development Funding
- 2018 Community Enhancement Programme
- 2018 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Economic, Enterprise & Planning Policy SPC

Cllr. Paul Canning

Chairperson

The Economic, Enterprise and Planning Policy SPC held 5 meetings and the following topics were discussed:

- Draft County Development Plan Update
- Local Area Plan Update
- Conservation Grants
- Update on establishment of Economic Development Directorate
- Verbal update on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.
- Update on Planree v Donegal County Council
- Update on the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund applications
- Proposed Additions to the Record of Protected Structures
- Update on the National Planning Framework
- Update on Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy

- 2018 Work Programme
- Letterkenny Local Area Plan
- Presentation from ICBAN
- Planning Enforcement presentation
- Letterkenny Plan update.

Environment & Emergency Services SPC

Cllr. John O'Donnell

Chairperson

The Environment and Emergency Services SPC met 4 times and the following policies were discussed:

- Draft Policy for the Provision of Public Conveniences in Donegal
- Draft Policy Proposal for the Promotion of Blue Flag Beaches in County Donegal
- Climate Change Adaption Strategy
- Presentation of Donegal Clean and Green Awards 2017
- Launch of Donegal Clean and Green Awards 2018, Donegal Tidy Town Start-up Fund 2018, Donegal Tidy Towns Improvement Project Fund 2018
- Catchment Care Interreg Project
- Civil Defence Long Term Recognition Award
- Special Meeting to address the 'RTE Investigates' TV Programme
- Exercise Neptune – Regional Inter-Agency Major Emergency Exercise
- Invasive Species Pilot Project 2018
- Inishowen Rivers Trust and Cloughaneely Anglers Association Plan
- Regional Energy Strategy

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:

- Housing Grants
- Housing Capital Programme
- Refugee Resettlement Programme
- Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme
- Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Enhanced ICT services for Elected Members
- Polling Scheme.

Roads & Transportation SPC

Cllr John Ryan

Chairperson

The Roads and Transportation SPC met on 4 occasions during 2018 and was briefed on and considered many topics including:

- Update on N2/A5 (Dublin to Derry/Donegal)
- Ten-T Route Development
- Distribution of Roads Monies
- Review of Car parking
- Local Improvement Schemes
- 3 year Footpath and Public Lighting programme
- Impact on IW on Roads
- Winter Maintenance
- Speed Limits
- Public Lighting
- Dredging
- NPF (National Planning Framework)
- Community Involvement Schemes
- Northwest Greenways Project
- Brexit
- Noise Action Plan
- Traffic management arrangements for Construction Projects
- Invasive species
- National & Non-National Road Allocation

Civic Honours 2018

Freedom of County for Danny McDaid

Donegal's two time Olympian athlete Danny McDaid was honoured with the Freedom of the County at a special Civic Reception on 28 May 2018 in the County House, Lifford. Danny represented Ireland in the Olympics on two separate occasions – in Munich in 1972 and in Montreal in 1976.



Ballyliffin Golf Club

Ballyliffin Golf Club was honoured with a civic reception on 24 September in recognition of their success in hosting the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open in July. Almost 95,000 visited Ballyliffin over the course of the tournament with Ballyliffin showcased to a global audience of almost half a billion people.



Altan

On 21 May Cathaoirleach and elected members of Donegal County Council honoured Altan for their contribution to traditional Irish music and being global ambassadors for Donegal for the past 30 years. Altan is one of the most internationally acclaimed Irish folk groups and has collaborated with music greats such as Dolly Parton, Enya, the Chieftains, Donal Lunny, Steve Cooney and Alison Krauss and many others.



Manus Kelly and Donall Barrett

Motor sports heroes Manus Kelly and Donall Barrett were honoured at a Civic Reception in the County House in Lifford on 16 April 2018 in recognition of their achievements in winning the Donegal International Rally in 2016 and 2017 together with the National Rally Championship in 2015.



Civic Honours 2018

Niall MacEachmharcaigh

Well known Donegal writer, director and actor Niall Mac Eachmharcaigh was honoured at a special reception in the Dungloe Public Service Centre on Friday 20 April for his outstanding achievements. Niall Mac Eachmharcaigh is best known for playing the part of John Joe Daly in TG4's Irish-language drama, Ros na Rún.



Gerry Lane and Hugh McBride

A Mayors reception was hosted on 23 April in Letterkenny Public Service Centre to honour Gerry Lane and Hugh McBride in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the people of Letterkenny, the municipal district and the county. Gerry Lane was honoured in recognition of his work as a consultant in Emergency Medicine in Letterkenny University Hospital and for his contribution to National Road Safety. Hugh McBride was honoured in recognition of his work in the Donegal Psychiatric Services.



Margaret Toner and Johnny McCollum

Margaret Toner and Johnny McCollum were honoured with a Mayors reception in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the community of Letterkenny on 29 May. Margaret Toner was recognised for her work at the Letterkenny CDP and for her contribution to the community over many years. Johnny McCollum was recognised for his role in the Letterkenny Reunion Group and for his involvement with many community initiatives in Letterkenny over a long period of time.



Special Olympians

The achievement of four Special Olympians, their coaches and parents was recognised by the Glenties Municipal District Committee on 13 November with a special reception in the Dungloe Public Service Centre. The four athletes, Ronán Ó Coirbín (Gaoth Dobhair), Peter Doogan (Gortahork), Patrick Gallagher (Annagry) and Paul McFadden (Gaoth Dobhair) competed and won medals at the Special Olympics in Dublin in June 2018.



Community Development & Planning Services

2018 Highlights

1,993

Planning
Development
Applications
received

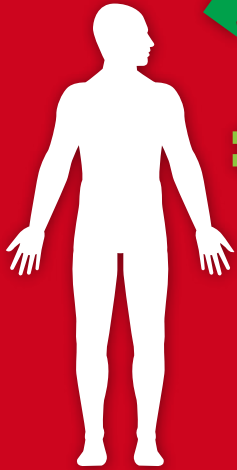


€2.89M

approved under Rural Development /

LEADER programme

47th
International
Pan Celtic Festival
held in Letterkenny



€250k

secured under the

**Healthy Ireland
Initiative**



€453,000

was spent on unfinished
housing developments

177 Projects benefitted from €740,000 under the Development Fund Initiative.

€236,000 allocated to 464 community initiatives from Members Development Fund.

€600K allocated to projects under Community Enhancement Scheme.

€1.8m secured for 25 projects under the CLAR / Town & Village Programme.

County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024 adopted.

14 structures were added to the Record of Protected Structures.

Community Development



Fund Management

Development Fund Initiative

€740,000 was allocated to 177 projects/groups across the five Municipal Districts under the Development Fund Initiative in 2018 while 464 community groups/projects benefitted from the €236,000 Members Development Fund.

Donegal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Donegal LCDC continued to monitor and evaluate the Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2022 developing a monitoring and evaluation framework and system to capture and measure the key outputs, outcomes and impacts of 105 projects.

Rural Development/LEADER Programme

Donegal LCDC is the Local Action Group (LAG) responsible for the administration of the €12.9m Rural Development/LEADER Programme 2014-2020 in Donegal. The LCDC/LAG approved €2.89m for projects in 2018 bringing the total number of projects allocated funding since the start of the programme to 102.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Donegal LCDC continues to manage and oversee the implementation of the five year Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) which has just over €2m budget for each year of the programme. Inishowen Development Partnership and Donegal Local Development CLG deliver the SICAP Programme on behalf of the Donegal LCDC.

Community Enhancement Programme 2018 & Men's Shed Programme 2018

Donegal LCDC administers the Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development. This programme provides funding towards enhancing the facilities available to communities. €600,000 was allocated to community projects including just over €40,000 for Men's Sheds initiatives.

Healthy Ireland Initiative Phases 1 (€138,000) & 2 (€112,100)

€138K was secured under phase 1 of the Healthy Ireland initiative with 11 actions delivered including the outdoor gym at Letterkenny Town Park. A further €112K was secured under phase 2 with a range of initiatives being delivered by Donegal County Council, the Children and Young Peoples Services Committee and the HSE.

PEACE IV Programme

19 interventions under the €5.5million Donegal PEACE IV Action Plan continued to be delivered as follows:

- €1.2m to Children and Young People;
- €2m to Shared Spaces and Services;
- €2.4m to building positive relations at local level.

Social Inclusion / Community Development

Various social inclusion initiatives were supported including: Social Inclusion Week, the Age Friendly Strategy and the



Ceol le Cheile Intergenerational Choir performing in An Grianan Theatre

Social Inclusion Measures Coordinating Group (SIM). The Unit continued to provide administrative support to the Joint Policing Committee (JPC), Public Participation Network (PPN) and the Youth Council, facilitating the county-wide youth council elections which took place in schools throughout the county in late 2018.

Ceol le Cheile – Intergenerational Choir

The Social Inclusion Unit ran a hugely successful project 'Ceol le Cheile', an intergenerational choir made up of 80 older people,

children and young people with the aim of promoting social inclusion and developing stronger intergenerational relationships.

Pan Celtic Festival / Ulster Dancing Championships

The 47th International Pan Celtic Festival was held in Letterkenny from the 3rd to the 8th April and will return to Letterkenny in 2019. The 2018 Ulster Dancing Championships supported by the Council took place in Letterkenny from the 1st-4th November, attracting in the region of 10,000 visitors and will return to Letterkenny in 2019.



Opening night of Pan Celtic Festival in Letterkenny

Rannóg na Gaeilge

A wide range of activities carried out by the Council's Irish Office (Rannóg na Gaeilge) continued including: preparing, co-ordinating and implementing a County-Wide Irish Language Plan, Lionra Leitir Ceanainn, the Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme, Seachtain na Gaeilge and staff Irish language training.

Tourism Flagship Projects – Sliabh Liag and Malin Head

Capital works continued on the Council's flagship tourism projects in Sliabh Liag and Malin Head. Malin Head Phase II was completed in 2018 with the opening of a new visitors toilet block with phase III set to be completed in 2019 at a cost of €250k. Works at Sliabh Liag were substantially completed by the end of 2018 with the completion of the mountain path works.

CLAR / Town & Village Programme 2018

25 projects secured funding of over €1.8m under the CLAR / Town & Village Programme 2018.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Funding of €30K was secured for Inch Car Park Extension and €17.5k for the Ballyshannon Cycle loops.

Letterkenny Gateway

Work progressed on the development of the Social Enterprise Centre, part funded under the Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme (2014-2020), for the Letterkenny Gateway with a grant allocation of €2 million. An Integrated Design Team was

appointed and the project will be progressed through planning and construction in 2019 with a targeted completion date of December 2020.

EU Funded ASCENT Project

Work on the EU funded ASCENT project continued and will be completed in 2019. This project focuses on Errigal mountain with a management plan and designs/planning for an upland path to be finalised in 2019.

Air Access / Ferry Services

Support for air access to the region continued in the form of financial contributions being made to Ireland West and Donegal International airports. The Council also made financial contributions towards the operation of two ferry services namely Greencastle-Magilligan (Foyle Ferry) and Bunrana-Rathmullan (Swilly Ferry).

North West Region Development Group / North West Strategic Growth Partnership

Work continued in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council under the auspices of the North West Region Development Group and the North West Strategic Growth Partnership, in driving forward the strategic growth priorities for the region under three key pillars: (1) Economic Growth & Investment; (2) Physical & Environmental Development and (3) Social & Community Cohesion and Wellbeing.



Presentation to Rory McIlroy as ambassador of Dubai Duty Free Irish Open at Ballyliffin

Planning Services

Central Planning Unit (CPU)



Marking adoption of Donegal County Development Plan 2018 – 2024

Statutory Plans

The CPU completed two major projects; the County Development Plan, 2018-2024 (adopted in May) and the Seven Strategic Towns Local Area Plans 2018-2024 (adopted in July).

The CPU commenced and made significant progress on the preparation of a new Local Area Plan for Letterkenny. This included an intensive pre-consultation programme during the months of May and June at which approximately 700 people engaged, with the events focusing primarily on the preferred strategic direction of the town finishing up with a final briefing for the MD Members at the end of the year.

Preliminary work commenced on new Local Area Plans for Buncrana and Bundoran.

Funding Applications

Applications for funding to the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) were developed.

Built Heritage

Two conservation grant schemes: the Structures at Risk Fund and the Built Heritage Investment Scheme were administered and 14 structures were added to the Record of Protected Structures.

Other activities

Other activities included:

- Contributing to the Council's responses to the emerging national (National Planning Framework) and regional (Draft Regional and Spatial and Economic Strategy) planning frameworks and, similarly, participating in work arising from the North-West Strategic Growth Partnership agenda.
- Reviews of both the Vacant Sites and Derelict Sites legislative provisions with a view to identifying and deploying the most appropriate application of these provisions to the regeneration agenda of the Council.
- Ongoing liaison with the National Roads Design Office.
- Ongoing participation in a number of projects being led out by other Council divisions.

Hericoast project

The EU funded Hericoast project continued with the hosting an interregional workshop in April involving over fifty participants including five Mayors representing municipalities from the partner regions across Europe. Regular workshops were held with stakeholders and the production of an Action Plan with two key actions to be implemented during phase two of the project.

IMPROVE project

The service is also a partner on the IMPROVE project working with local community groups seeking to develop methods of public participation and engagement with Planning using a living-labs approach. The project has partners in Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Northern Ireland.

Enforcement Unit

Total Live Cases Year End

2016	2017	2018
2188	842	826

Case Statistics

	2016	2017	2018
New Cases	208	239	306
Warning Letters	127	251	366
Enforcement Notices	61	136	207
Referral to Court	24	15	34
Closures	135	378	329

Housing Estate Improvement Works/ Unfinished Housing Estates

Work continued on the remaining unfinished estates which received funding under the Government's Site Resolution Fund, Public Safety Initiative and National Taking in Charge Initiative.

€453,000 was spent on unfinished housing developments (UFHDs) and this was made up of funding from Department and supplementary security bond monies. In addition to those developments formally categorised as UFHDs, the planning authority also utilised security bonds and own resources to carry out remedial work within other estates to assist in their taking in charge.

Taking in Charge - Residential Housing Estates

The taking in charge of residential estates was progressed and the Council received funding under the Government's National Taking in Charge Initiative. This funding was awarded for two different types of residential developments:

- €334,020 to estates connected to the public foul network and €80,000 of this was spent in 2018 with the remaining funds to be spent in early 2019, and
- €625,653 for estates serviced by developer provided infrastructure and €100,000 was spent in 2018 with the remaining funding to be spent in 2019.



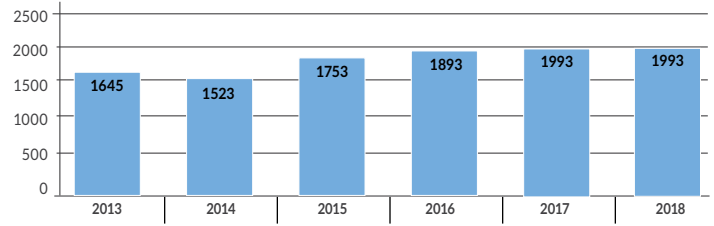
Launching the Hericoast App

Development Applications Unit

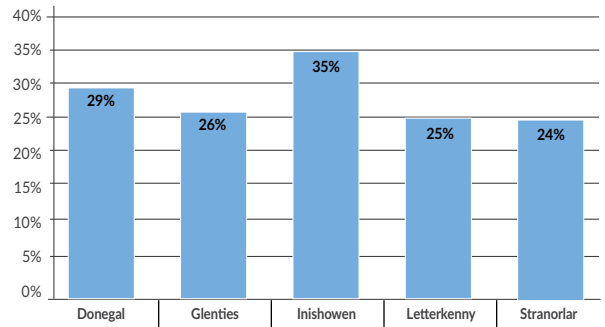
The profile of application types continues to show a steady number of residential type applications but also indicates a significant number of commercial applications being considered by the Planning Service.

The data masks the increasing complexity of cases, particularly in the area of habitat assessment, which has resulted in applications requiring a higher threshold of consideration than may have been the case previously. Roughly 30% of all applications have been the subject of requests for further information during 2018 highlighting not just the complexity of cases but also an increasing need for workshops with agents and architects in relation to the emerging issues that have to be considered as part of the assessment of many applications. A commitment has been made to ensure that this process is started during the first quarter of 2019.

Total Applications received 2013-2018



Deferrals 2018



Delegates participating in the Hericoast project meeting in April



Corporate, Housing & Culture

2018 Highlights

over
€5
million

spent on
**maintaining,
improving
and upgrading**
our housing
stock.

11,300

children and families
attended **150 events** during
Wainfest 2018



Donal MacPolin's



artwork

of traditional boats acquired by
Donegal County Archives



328 dogs

reunited with owners or re-homed
through the Donegal Dog Shelter

over
€1.2
million

→ paid out in
grants to assist
people with
**disabilities and
older people.**

2,431 households in need of social housing, with a net need of 813 households.

4,836 local authority rented units, and 168 leased units.

303 new tenancies bringing total number of tenants to 4,869.

Housing schemes completed at Manorcunningham, Newtowncunningham and Carndonagh.

County Museum assisted the National Museum of Ireland following discovery of four
Late Bronze Age gold rings in the townland of Tullydonnell.

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 housing assistance provided ranged from a combination of allocating tenancies under the Social Housing Programme (New Build, Turnkey, and Acquisitions), the Voluntary Housing Programme, the Social Leasing Programme, and the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), as well as transfers and approval of supports via the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP).

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

Grant assistance was provided to older people and people with disabilities under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme, the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme and the Housing Aid for Older People Grant Scheme. Housing Loan options continued to be available for first time buyers seeking to house themselves, and offered assistance under the new Rebuilding Ireland Loan Scheme which was introduced with effect from 1st February 2018.

Housing need

The Housing Needs Assessment undertaken at 11th June, 2018 identified that there were 2,431 households approved for Social Housing Support in County Donegal. 1,618 of these were already in receipt of social housing support, and were seeking transfers from existing Council houses or from HAP tenancies. Therefore the net need in the County was 813.

The Council continues to strive to meet the needs of applicants using a combination of allocating existing or new social housing stock, leased properties, accommodation acquired under RAS and HAP, as well as accommodation obtained via Approved Housing Bodies.

Tenancies

303 new local authority tenancies were created bringing the total number of local authority tenants to 4,869 at the end of the year.

1,729 tenancies were in place under the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme by the end of the year and a further 245 households accommodated under RAS.

Maintenance and improvement of housing stock

At the end of 2018, the Council had responsibility for 5,004 units. Over €5 million was spent on maintaining and improving



New Social Housing Scheme in Newtowncunningham





Construction of new housing scheme in Letterkenny

our stock and estates during the year including routine maintenance and repairs, bringing vacant dwellings back to productive use, improving the energy efficiency of dwellings, as well as other specific remedial and refurbishment works.

Breakdown of Housing Units

Local Authority owned units	4,836
Long Term Leased units (Private)	168
Total	5,004

In addition to expenditure of over €2.4 million on routine maintenance and repairs, the Council carried out improvements to the Social Housing stock under a number of programmes in 2018 as set out below:

Fabric up-grade programme

Over 2,000 units have now had improvements carried out under this programme, which is aimed at improving the energy efficiency of dwellings. Work continues in this regard, with the most recent contract for an additional 437 units commencing in December 2018. It is intended to have Phase 1 (Insulation works) completed during 2019. Over €3.5 million has been spent to date under this Programme.

Returning vacant properties to productive use

The Council spent over €2 million returning 193 vacant properties to productive use. This included funding assistance of €1.1 million from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local

Government under the Voids and the Long Term Derelict Voids Programmes.

Once off adaptation works and extensions

The Council spent over €500K carrying out small scale adaptation works to 27 units and extensions to 8 units of our social housing stock. In most cases, this was for tenants with special needs and/or disabilities.

Specific refurbishment/remedial works

Another €239,093 was spent on specific remedial / refurbishment works, in estates throughout the county.

Estate management

The Council has five Housing Assessment / Tenant Liaison Officers involved in Estate Management and almost €52,000 was made available for estate management initiatives.

Capital Assistance Scheme

The Council continued to engage with the Approved Housing Body Sector and the Health Service Executive in providing accommodation under this programme to meet the needs of the elderly and persons with special needs and the programme is specifically targeted to meet special needs accommodation where the traditional forms of social housing supports is not suitable. 5 units were delivered under this programme with proposals in place for a further 50 units.

Social Leasing Programme

Under the Social Leasing Programme, suitable properties can be leased to the local authority for a ten year period. 168 units have been leased under this programme to date.

The Council is also engaging with the Approved Housing Body Sector to provide leased units under the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)/Payment & Availability Agreement Scheme and 26 units were delivered under these schemes, bringing the total number leased by the Approved Housing Body Sector to 104 units.

Traveller accommodation

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 - 2018 concluded and a new programme for 2019 - 2023 is being prepared. The previous programme met and exceeded the objectives and delivery of accommodation through a range of varying measures. The introduction of HAP had a major impact with a significant number of Traveller families availing of the scheme. The accommodation needs of over 70 Traveller families have been met over the duration of the Programme and successful major refurbishment works have been completed on two halting sites. The Programme also set out to review the position in terms of transient accommodation in the County and this review has been completed in consultation with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

The accommodation needs of 24 Traveller families were met in 2018 as follows:

- 10 Standard Scheme Housing
- 12 HAP
- 2 Voluntary Housing

Homeless supports

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

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

A Service Level Agreement for Tenancy Support & Sustainment Services was put in place with Galway Simon Community with effect from 1st April 2018. The overall objective is to provide a resettlement service to persons exiting emergency or short term accommodation, and to support households that are at risk of becoming homeless, to assist them to occupy (or continue to occupy) accommodation and progress from homelessness or potential homelessness towards independent sustainable living. The Service does not duplicate, replace or overlap with other relevant services, but will assist in accessing such services.



As requested by the Department of Justice and Equality the Council acted as the lead agency supporting the resettlement of Programme Refugees in Donegal. The Department's Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) works through Local Authorities and local agencies to facilitate the integration and resettlement of refugees. The Resettlement Programme is steered and monitored by the Donegal Interagency Resettlement Working Group that includes representatives from statutory, community and voluntary agencies. 133 persons have been welcomed and housed in Donegal under the Programme.

Housing grants

Donegal County Council operates three grant schemes which are funded jointly by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government (80%) and Donegal County Council (20%). The schemes are to assist people with disabilities and older people to help them to live more comfortably or independently in their own homes. €1,259,529 was paid out in grants in respect of 269 dwellings.

Inspection of private rented dwellings

The inspection programme of private rented dwellings to assess compliance with the statutory requirements for rented accommodation as outlined in the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations, 2008 – 2017, continued during the year. A total of 1,115 inspections were carried out during the year on 749 properties, and the Council has been following up with landlords to with a view to having improvements carried out to private rented dwellings.

Customer Service Centre

The Customer Service Centre handles all incoming contact received from the public via the Council's telephone number 074 91 53900 and online services (info@donegalcoco.ie, Report It, Fix Your Street, Facebook, Twitter). The Centre dealt with almost 97,000 bilingual (Irish and English) calls in 2018; 78% of the calls were answered within 20 seconds with an overall average answer time of under 30 seconds. The Centre also handled almost 7,000 online contacts to the Council in 2018.



Construction of new housing scheme in Stranorlar

Housing Capital

Donegal County Council is committed to meeting the targets and objectives set out in Rebuilding Ireland and continues to work closely with the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government as the main funder of the social housing capital programmes.

Significant progress was made during the year in the design and delivery of social housing throughout Donegal. A number of delivery mechanisms are being used to help meet the social housing need and the Council is successfully combining acquisition and construction in the provision of high quality social housing.

Housing schemes at Manorcunningham, Newtowncunningham and Carndonagh were completed.

Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition

Two separate procurement processes seeking social housing through turnkey acquisition have been conducted over the past two years. 21 houses at Stranorlar, made up of 18 no. 3 bedroom houses and 3 no. 4 bedroom houses were completed and 16 houses were completed at Crievesmith, Letterkenny.

The turnkey procurement process which was advertised in the early part of 2018 sought submissions for a total of 17 towns around the county. There was ongoing engagement with those who made a proposal and it is expected that a number of projects will be progressed in 2019.

All proposals are subject to approval from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

House Acquisition Programme

The Council acquired 43 houses under the House Acquisition Programme representing total investment of over €6m. This programme is carried out on a county-wide basis.

Social Housing Design & Construction

Through the course of the year, the Council continued to design and construct social housing in line with departmental guidance. At the heart of the design of these homes, are the tenants who will occupy them. All houses are designed to be highly energy efficient with low running costs, meeting the specific needs and requirements of tenants where necessary and are delivered to high specifications and standards in line with the building regulations.

It is expected that projects will be on site in 2019 in Killybegs, Bunrana, Raphoe, Long Lane Letterkenny, Donegal Town, Malin and St. Johnston. A number of other schemes are progressing through the design process as follows, Dunfanaghy, Donegal Town, Bundoran, Bunrana and Oran Hill Letterkenny.

The Council continued to pursue the acquisition of land for the development of social housing to supplement the existing programme units.



Construction of a turnkey social housing development in Letterkenny

Human Resources

Recruitment

48 competitions were held to fill vacancies across a range of areas. The competitions were held for new temporary posts for specified projects and areas of activity supported by external funding and for seasonal work and to fill vacant posts in the Council's management and staffing structure that arose during the year.

Training and Development

The Council's Staff Education Scheme continues to provide support to staff who wish to undertake further education and staff are currently availing of this scheme in courses such as Finance, Construction, Marketing and Engineering.

The Stranorlar Regional Training Centre (SRTC) saw an 11% increase in the number of persons accessing a range of training in 2018 when compared with 2017. Training has been provided to staff across a range of areas, including Health & Safety, Plant and Machinery, and specialised roads, water and wastewater courses. A number of new and reviewed courses were rolled out in collaboration with IT Carlow and IT Sligo. The QQI Fire fighting skills accredited programme was delivered to the new recruits of the Donegal Fire Service.

Staff Welfare

The Staff Welfare Office continues to provide support and assistance to staff. The Council provides access to the Employee Assistance Programme, which is a free and confidential service available to all employees and their immediate family members.

A pre-retirement planning course offering advice and information to staff was delivered.

The superannuation section of the Human Resources Department processed 31 applications for pensions including retirements, preserved pension benefits, dependant pensions, firefighter gratuities and lump sum payments. MyPay now provide services to local authorities in the areas of payroll and superannuation, through a single shared services arrangement, based in Portlaoise.



Stranorlar Regional Training Centre

Facilities Management

The Council has retained ISO 50001 certification for its Energy Management System with a number of external audits having been carried out by Certification Europe in 2018

A number of energy efficiency projects were implemented by the Facilities Management team including:

- LED lighting upgrades completed in Carndonagh and Dungloe PSCs
- SEAI grant funding secured under the Better Energy Communities Programme for LED lighting upgrades in Letterkenny and Milford PSCs, County Museum and Central Library and the Finn Valley Leisure Centre.
- Insulation in the boiler houses in each of the PSCs and County House upgraded.
- Engaged with the OP@W (optimising power at work) programme, to deliver energy awareness campaigns to staff in the Donegal Town & Dungloe PSCs and County House, Lifford.

- Installation of energy efficient hand-dryers reducing energy consumption and waste generated from paper towels.
- Installation of an innovative wireless intelligent heating control system in Carndonagh PSC under NPA SECURE project, incorporating individual room stats and wireless radiator valves delivering savings of over 10% in oil consumption.
- Led out on grant applications to SEAI under their Better Energy Communities programme which has seen a number of energy efficiency projects completed in community buildings such as the CAKE Centre, Killygordon, Carnone Church Hall, Pobal Iascarragh in Falcarragh and Cappry Rovers football club.

Facilities Management continued the roll out a number of maintenance contracts to ensure the ongoing care, maintenance, and repair of the Council's 5 Public Services Centres and the Lifford Complex.



Recipients of grant-aid under SEAI Better Energy Communities

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. Eleven premises were under supervision in 2018. Veterinary Inspectors inspected 13,659 animals in 6 local abattoirs. A further 254 official control inspections were completed over all the premises with 178 control samples taken.

Animal Control

Thirteen general dog licences, 23 lifetime dog licences and 8204 individual dog licences were issued. Nine inspections were carried out under the Dog Breeding Establishment Act. 328 dogs were either reunited with their owners or re-homed through the Donegal County Council Dog Shelter. Seven stray horses were reported to the Council in 2018 with seven impounded.



Waiting for a new home at Donegal Dog Shelter

Cultural Division

Creative Ireland Programme

Donegal Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018 – 2022 was passed by Donegal County Council in January. The following was delivered:

- Over €113K was spent on projects and initiatives including Audit of Columban cultural heritage and 3D photogrammetry of Turas Cholm Cille, grant scheme for European Year of Cultural Heritage, grant scheme for Bliain na Gaeilge, Wainfest arts and book festival for children, Donegal Bay & Bluestacks Festival, Heritage Week, Culture Night, reprint of Babbling Babies multilingual nursery rhyme & action songbook, A Stitch in Time framework document for future thatch grant scheme, Rathmullan Abbey timber restoration, conservation report on St John's Point lookout post, Ceol le Chéile intergenerational choir, Diaspora conference, digitisation of the Joseph Murray collection 1917-1975, reprint of booklet on Malin Head, County Donegal Book of Honour, The Great War 1914-1918, and Cruinniú na nÓg.
- The first national day of creativity for children and young people Cruinniú na nÓg took place on Saturday 23 June with the aim of celebrating and encouraging participation in culture and creativity. 16 events were delivered in 13 venues.
- Nine Donegal schools involved in the Creative Schools pilot programme and two Donegal 'clusters' are participating in

the Creative Clusters pilot programme where each school has access to a specialist facilitator, artist or creative expertise in their chosen area of interest or theme.

- Donegal County Council is a partner in one of the 30 successful applications under the National Creativity Fund and Garraí an Ghiorria will give opportunities to professional artists and local drama groups to focus on Irish language drama.

Library Service

There were over 380,000 visits to Donegal Libraries in 2018.

The Library Service extended its network of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) self-service kiosks to include Carndonagh, Ballyshannon, Gaoth Dobhair, Na Rosa, Lifford, Raphoe and Milford libraries.

Healthy Ireland at your Library

Libraries in Donegal provide access to a collection of books and access to a range of online resources and a range of health related events were organised to raise awareness of the programme.

Work Matters at your Library

Work Matters Donegal was launched in March with five libraries



Young people taking part in Cruinniú na nÓg

providing hot desks where patrons can access IT and printing facilities. The programme also acts as a point of referral for services such as LEO, INTREO, ETB and CIS.

Wainfest Children's Arts and Book Festival

This year's Wainfest festival ran from October 6 - 14 and was the biggest festival to date with 11,300 children and families attending 150 events countywide. The festival was shortlisted for the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award in the Best Library Service Category.

Right to Read Programme

Right to Read highlights included the launch of Babbling Babies Nursery Rhyme and Action Song Book with partners in Donegal CYPSC; the launch and promotion of the Sammy the Caterpillar – guide for parents/guardians and the library collection with Donegal Youth Service and the HSE; as well as Read DL and Family Time at Your Library.

Arts Service

The Arts Service continued to support the creation of new artwork in Donegal, including touring shows and new productions

by Inishowen Carnival Group, Blue Wall Theatre, Donegal Drama Circle and Dark Daughter Productions.

Carnival Ballyshannon

Under the title Fionn Uisce Clear Water, the Carnival Ballyshannon project celebrated the ESB's continuous generation since the early 1950s, of clean energy at it's Cathaleen's Fall hydro electric power station. The spectacular Carnival Parade Finalé included a special lighting-up of Cathaleen's Fall by the ESB and the flying of a wonderful fire sculpture of the Salmon of Knowledge over the River Erne, by LUXe landscape theatre company. Close to 2000 people gathered to watch the spectacle on the night.

The EDGES International Cultural Partnership

The EDGES International Cultural Partnership continued to facilitate the movement of artists between Donegal, Norway and Iceland, with St. Johnston painter Ann Quinn completing a residency at Andennes, Vesterålen, in April and Newtowncunningham photographer and herbalist Jacqui Reed travelling to East Iceland to complete a residency at Skriduklaustur Arts Centre, Egilsstaðir, in June.



Launching Wainfest 2018 in Inishowen Maritime Museum



Swan Lake/Loch na hEala in An Grianan Theatre

Lughnasa International Friel Festival

The third Lughnasa International Friel Festival took place in Donegal, Derry and Omagh, from August 9 - 19. Highlights included six promenade performances of Brian Friel's play 'Faith Healer' in community halls in Edeninfagh, Glenties, Inishkeel and Ardara, and a series of outdoor performances of excerpts from 'The Odyssey' – the Greek classic greatly admired by Friel - at Narin Beach, Carrickfinn, Machaire Rabhartaigh, Killahoey and Lisfannon. Performers and playwrights included Maxine Peake, Tamsin Greig, Rory Kinnear, Natasha McElhone, Charlie Bonner and Jez Butterworth.

Earagail Arts Festival

The Earagail Arts Festival celebrated its 30th year. The Festival promoted 125 performances in 29 venues across 14 towns, villages and islands over 20 days and nights, between July 7 and 29.

An Grianán Theatre

An Grianán Theatre hosted two major home-grown, internationally successful productions in early 2018 – 'Swan Lake/Loch na hEala', as re-imagined by Michael Keegan Dolan's Teac Dańsa company and Druid Theatre Company's outstanding production of 'Waiting for Godot' by Samuel Beckett, both of which were enthusiastically received.

An Grianán was proactive in developing new work with local artists, such as 'The Barber of Moville' by Ronan Carr which toured to barber shops throughout the county as part of the Bealtaine Festival, and John Ruddy's stage version of his history books, 'Manny Man Does the History of Ireland', presented to great success as part of the Earagail Arts Festival in Letterkenny and Malin.

Regional Cultural Centre

Exhibition programme

The Regional Cultural Centre programme featured a number of large-scale, one-person, shows by Irish artists including Kate Nolan's Lacuna and Malcom McClay's Swimming to Inishkeel, both featuring a mixture of photography, video and sculpture. The main summer exhibition was Remains, by award winning artist Willie Doherty, as part of a series of art & photography exhibitions based around the civil rights movement.

The 3rd Remote Photo festival, dedicated to photographers creating work in remote or rural contexts, featured recent work from twelve leading Irish-based photographers exploring the physical, social, psychological and imagined spaces of the borderlands in Ireland.

A series of solo shows were held, including shows by a German based contemporary painter Selena Mowat; Donegal-based artists Eoghan Arnold, Ian Gordon, Cathal McGinley, Deborah Stockdale, Philip McFadden and Patrick Sweeney; and various community and group shows, including a civil rights show *The Lost Moment*, curated by the Guardian newspaper art critic Sean O'Hagan.

Music programme

The RCC continued its music development programme and presented a series of concerts for Spring and Autumn programmes and a number of festivals including Letterkenny Trad Week, *Distorted Perspectives* and Donegal International Folk & Roots Weekend as part of the Earagail Arts Festival.

Positive Mental Health

One of the RCC's priorities in 2018 was to promote positive mental health and mental health awareness through art projects such as *Juck's Men's Mental Health Exhibition*, *Jigsaw's Kids Art Show* and *Lived Lives: Conversations about Suicide in the Northwest*. *Lived Lives* was a powerful community project and exhibition by Donegal-born artist Dr. Seamus McGuinness and UCD clinical researcher Dr. Kevin Malone, which addressed the stigma around suicide and depression by working with bereaved families and school and community groups.

Donegal County Museum

Decade of Centenaries

Throughout 2018 the Museum organised a series of events to commemorate the Decade of Centenaries. These included the exhibition, *A Long Farewell – Emigration of Donegal Women 1845-1950*, designed and developed by Donegal County Museum and the Archives Service and a seminar to celebrate the Representation of the People Act, 1918.

Late Bronze Age gold rings

In June, the Museum assisted the National Museum of Ireland following the discovery of four Late Bronze Age gold rings in the townland of Tullydonnell.



The Tullydonnell Gold Rings, Courtesy of the National Museum of Ireland



Manny Man at An Grianan Theatre

CINE Project

The Museum continued its work on the CINE project, a collaborative digital heritage project between partners from Norway, Iceland, Ireland and Scotland and funded by the Northern and Arctic Periphery Programme (ERDF). Museum staff attended two partner meetings in Iceland and Scotland and organised a series of events and workshops in Killybegs and Letterkenny on photogrammetry, artefact digitisation and virtual reality.

Additional programme

The Museum organised events during the Pan Celtic Festival, the Bealtaine Festival, Heritage Week, Culture Night, Wainfest and Social Inclusion Week. The Museum also worked closely with the Donegal Education Centre to bring the Archaeology Box to schools. Museum staff engaged with over 700 pupils throughout the county.

Archives Service**Projects**

Donegal County Archives Service partnered with the genealogy company Find My Past to digitise the Poor Law Union collection. Also digitised were the Joseph Murray War of Independence papers. The popular booklet Malin Head: An Enchanting Place, A Colourful Past was reprinted.

Festivals and events

The Archives Service took part in festivals including Bealtaine, Seachtain na Gaeilge and Culture Night. The Archives exhibition A Trek through Time was displayed at Central Library for the Pan Celtic festival, in Glenties for the MacGill Summer School,

for the Donegal Global Irish Festival in Maghery and in An tSeán Bheairic and Milford Library for Heritage Week. The archivist gave a presentation at the Women's Seminar (for Vótáil 100) in the County Museum.

Collaborations

The Archives Service collaborated with the County Museum on the major exhibition and accompanying booklet A Long Farewell: Emigration of Donegal Women.

The Archives, with the Library and County Museum, collaborated with the Royal and Prior School and Deelee College on their Peace IV project, which included a local history training session with transition year students.

Acquisition

Acquisitions of significance included Donal MacPolin's artwork of traditional boats; Rutland Island maps; Murray Stewart and Lough Veagh Estate papers; and the professional photographic collection of Ann Doherty.

Advice and Support

Researchers were assisted by letter, phone, email, social media and at the Archives Service research room. The Archives Service managed Donegal County Council's deposited non-current records and made recommendations regarding local authority records.

Publicising and publishing the Archives 2018

Articles written by the archivist included one on Letterkenny workhouse for the Donegal Annual, a review for Archives and Records Association (ARA) Journal, and an article on Fanad district nurses for the ARA newsletter.



Children from Scoil Naomh Duigh National School Annagry viewing archives during Seachtain na Gaeilge

The Archives Service facebook page has now over 2000 friends and it was used to publicise archives collections and events throughout the year.

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 Heritage Plan in partnership with the County Heritage Forum (www.donegalcoco.ie/heritage).

2018 was the European Year of Cultural Heritage and the Heritage Officer was part of an Irish heritage delegation that visited the European Commission. Donegal County Council designed and delivered a European Year of Cultural Heritage grants scheme that awarded 15 grants of €1,500 each. Heritage Week was a tremendous success with over 120 events taking place and the popular Heritage Week Event Guide produced.

As part of the implementation of the County Donegal Heritage Plan, the Heritage Office commissioned an Audit of Columban Cultural Heritage, 3D photogrammetry of Turas Cholmcille, a condition survey of historic graveyards in the guardianship of Donegal County Council, conservation reports on St. Colmcille's Chapel in Gartan and the WWII Look-Out Post at St. John's Point, and a thatch conservation framework document.

Eighty people attended the free Traditional Shopfronts & Vernacular Signage seminar and the Heritage Office co-organised the Learning Through The Landscape CPD Course for Primary Teachers and five Creative Habitats Workshops for children. About 100 people attended the launch of the Scéaltaí booklet on the 1930s Schools' Folklore Collection, the fourth in the Donegal Heritage Series published by the Heritage Office. The annual Local Authority Tidy Towns Pollinator Award was co-sponsored and Bunrana Tidy Towns was a regional award winner for a second year in a row.

The Heritage Officer represented Donegal County Council at the national launch of the Culture and Creativity Strategy for County Donegal and was part of a heritage delegation that presented to the Joint Committee on Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in Leinster House, Dublin. County Heritage Officers also visited County Donegal for their Heritage Training and Development Programme on the theme of vernacular architecture conservation.

Donegal County Council received a donation of 44 framed drawings of traditional boats of Ireland by Donal Mac Polin and Gabriel Montgomery historic maps (1780s) from Burtonport Heritage Group.



Speakers at the Traditional Shopfronts & Vernacular Signage Seminar



Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services

2018 Highlights

45 

grants totalling almost

€600k

to 44 projects

600

attended 26 events during

**Enterprise
Week 2018**



 **899**

incidents requiring
Fire Brigade response

**Councils IT
infrastructure
serves**

106

locations
countrywide

Donegal County Council's
Facebook Page reaches over

 **5 MILLION**

25 secondary schools and 988 students on the Schools Enterprise Programme.

36 projects approved grant aid of €777k with the potential of 97 new jobs.

Homes of Donegal Fundraising Committee, Paul McGinley and Martin O'Malley 2018 Tip O'Neill Award recipients.

4 vouchers secured for Donegal under WiFi4EU scheme.

Civil Defence provided 4018 voluntary man-hours to over 40 non-emergency events.

174 Fire Safety Certificate applications received and 226 inspections under annual licensing programme.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

While the lack of clarity regarding BREXIT cast a lot of uncertainty over the future business environment and opportunities the client portfolio of the Local Enterprise Office in Donegal had one of the highest net job increases in the country in 2018 with a net increase of 213 jobs. Significantly almost 74% of these same firms see BREXIT as posing major challenges to their future development.

There has been greater focus at local and national level on developing appropriate supports and responses to the possible outcomes and challenges that may arise from BREXIT and the Local Enterprise Office Donegal has engaged in these in support of its client base within the county. All of the LEOs supports have over the past 18 months been positioned to address where possible any BREXIT issue emerging within a firm.

LEO delivered services and programmes under four main areas:

- The promotion of Entrepreneurship and Enterprise,
- The promotion of enterprise supports – financial and non-financial to small and micro businesses.
- The delivery of EU projects – Co-Innovate, NICHE, EIS and Enterprise Europe Network, and
- The delivery of actions under the Donegal Diaspora project.

Promotion of entrepreneurship and enterprise

A range of positive pro-active events, workshops and publications were delivered including Local Enterprise Week 2018 (March 5-9th), the second-level Schools Enterprise Programme, Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE), the delivery of Start our Own Business Programmes (SYOB) and the "DONEGAL - We Make Things" publication. Some of the outputs included:

- 25 Secondary Schools and 988 students on the Schools Enterprise Programme.
- 48 applications and 18 participants to county IBYE competition with two regional winners.
- Regional winner and national finalist in National Enterprise Awards.
- Successful Enterprise Week hosted with the other Enterprise stakeholders with 26 events and over 600 attendees.
- 6 SYOB programmes with 98 participants.

Enterprise Supports

This is the key role and function of the LEO and includes direct supports to local firms such as one-to-one business advice, mentoring, training, management development programmes, facilitated networks, sector specific initiatives such as the Food



Speakers at the Beyond Local seminar

Coast and Creative Coast, Technical Assistance (grants) for Micro Exporters (TAMES), Trading Online Vouchers(TOVs) , Feasibility, Priming and Expansion grants. Outputs included:

- 36 projects approved grant aid of €777,243 with the potential of 97 new jobs.
- 45 grant payments totalling €599,982 to 44 projects.
- Net Jobs created of +203.
- 93 mentoring assignments completed.
- 85 programmes and workshops with attendance of 1,522 (724M/798F).
- 47 Trading Online Vouchers (TOVs) approved.
- 8 loan approvals secured from Micro Finance Ireland for small businesses in Donegal.
- 3 year review of the Creative Coast project completed and new three year action plan drafted.
- Facilitation of 3 networks within Creative Coast and delivery of two key training programmes.
- New website, quarterly e-zine produced, one best practice trip, membership promotion and training workshops under the Food Coast.

European projects

Under the CO-Innovate Programme firms engaged in the programme received business reviews and audits.

The first stage of the NICHE Food Innovation programme was completed with funding secured for a further 12

months to implement the Action Plan. This project is focused on delivering supports to food businesses in the area of Innovation.

The first stage of the EIS project was also completed with the finalisation of an action plan. This project is focused on the internationalisation of SMEs and provided very insightful lessons that will assist in a new pilot internationalisation programme for Donegal firms in 2019.

The Donegal LEO continued to lead out on the delivery of the Enterprise Europe Network Programme (EEN) through the 31 LEOs. The “Beyond Local” Conference was held in April aimed at encouraging firms to look at international markets for their future business expansion and an engineering meet-the-buyer event – EENGINEX, in CombiLift, Monaghan on November at which 82 engineering firms from across the island, both north and south attended and at which over 600 meetings were held. Initial indications from the review of the event indicate sales of excess of €700,000 having been secured.

Donegal Diaspora

Engagement through the Donegal Diaspora project continued with the following activities delivered:

- Diaspora Conference in May in Lough Eske Castle – “Culture and the Importance of Belonging to Place” with key national and international speakers providing insights on belonging to a place where we can express our identity.



The Food Coast

Launching www.donegalfoodcoast.ie





Recipients of Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Award with family of the late Tip O'Neill and committee members

- Tip O'Neill Diaspora Awards weekend held in September with three recipients: Homes of Donegal Committee, Boston, Golfer Paul McGinley and Former Governor of Maryland Martin O'Malley. Each recipient led a workshop over the weekend and the Tip O'Neill golf challenge was once again hosted in Ballyliffin.
- Donegal Global Festival run over two weekends in October, funded by the Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Fáilte Ireland and focused on re-establishing links with our diaspora in Scotland through music, heritage and sport.
- Trade and Investment mission to Philadelphia and Boston in November in conjunction with Derry City & Strabane District Council including participation in the Golden Bridges Conference.
- Publication of quarterly newsletter distributed to diaspora at home and abroad.

EU Unit

The EU unit continued to explore opportunities to attract external funding, working closely with the Council's Directorates to deliver on the strategic objectives of the organisation.

The EU Unit continues to publish the EU newsletter which provides regular updates on all activities news and projects underway and planned. This newsletter is available on the www.donegalcoco.ie.

Networks/Collaboration

A key role of the EU unit is to seek to develop networks of benefit to Donegal County Council. Donegal County Council continues to work with the following EU networks on areas of mutual interest, including for example:

- AER – Assembly of European Regions
- IRO – Irish Regions Office
- ALDA – Association of Local Democracy Agencies
- CORAL – Communities of Regions for Assisted Living
- ICBAN – Irish Central Border Area Network
- NWRDG – North West Regional Development Group
- NWRA – Northern and Western Regional Assembly
- CPMR – Conference of Peripheral Marine Regions

Projects

The following summarises the number and diversity of projects currently ongoing:

Current Projects:

Funding Programme	Project	Budget (€)
COSME – EASME Transnational Tourism products	Hiking Europe focuses on unveiling local heritage in a sustainable manner. The Donegal project includes Bealach na Gaeltachta and Island walks.	Total project budget: €329,832 Donegal budget: €50,105
Northern Periphery & Arctic (NPA) Programme Interreg VB	ASCENT tests sustainable environmental management techniques to upland areas with a pilot site of Errigal in Donegal. SECURE aims to transfer and implement innovative energy solutions for housing and public infrastructure. Water pro – addressing water pollution issues and effects of climate change.	Total project budget: €1,500,000 Donegal budget: €255,000 Total project budget: €1,474,000 Donegal budget: €252,000
Interreg Europe Programme	HERICOAST seeks to address Coastal and fluvial heritage through improved regional policies for heritage management in landscapes.	Total project budget: €2,045,089.25 Donegal budget: €285,659
Interreg Europe Programme	Niche project – research and innovation for food sector companies	Total project budget: €1,694,331 Donegal budget: €354,850

Recently Approved:

Interreg VA Cross Border programme 2014-2020	<p>CatchmentCARE project (Total value: €15m) <i>The aim of the project is to improve freshwater quality in cross-border river basins in the Finn, Arney and Blackwater catchments.</i></p> <p>Bryden Centre for Advanced Marine and Bio-Energy Research (formerly The CAMBER - Centre for Advanced Marine and Bio-Energy Research Project (Total value: €9.3m) <i>The project will support industry-led applied/pre-commercial collaborative research focused on two specific forms of renewable energy - Marine renewable energy and Bio-energy</i></p> <p>Co-Innovate Project (Total value: €16.6mn) <i>The aim of the Co-Innovate project is to enhance the innovation capacity of SMEs. The LEO (Local Enterprise Offices) of local authorities including Donegal County Council will be delivering on the first three elements of the five stage interventions.</i></p>
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Recently Approved:

<p>Interreg VA Cross Border programme</p> <p>2014-2020</p>	<p>NorthWest Greenways Project (Total value: €14.86mn) <i>Project aims to create a cross border network of new greenways and cycle networks to reduce car journeys. The three routes are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Derry via Pennyburn and Bridgend crossing to Buncrana/Letterkenny ◦ Muff village to Derry via Muff Border crossing and Culmore ◦ Strabane to Lifford via Lifford Bridge
<p>Interreg VB Atlantic Area programme</p> <p>2014-2020</p>	<p>EUROVELO 1 project seeks to create a necklace of cycling routes from Portugal to Norway. This project will attract additional funding for the marketing and promotion of cycleways, and connect existing cycleways in an EU context.</p> <p>CAPITEN project (NEA) seeks to develop centres of excellence across Europe in the water and marine based leisure sports sector.</p> <p>Tides of Time project, approved in October 2018, seeks to create a new European network and voyage of maritime history and heritage.</p> <p>The Trailgazers project, approved in October 2018, seeks to assess the economic impact and return from investment in walks and trails infrastructure across Europe.</p>
<p>COSME – EASME Transnational Tourism</p>	<p>Wildsea Atlantic Ocean Heritage Route is a programme connecting world class diving sites along Europes Atlantic coastline, including destinations in Portugal, Ireland and Scotland promoting Europes North Atlantic coastline as a first choice destination for divers and eco-tourists.</p>

Information Systems

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

The infrastructure comprises;

- 92 Servers
- 1,196 Desktop & Notebook computers
- 434 Printers/Scanners/Plotters
- 29 Print Management Multi-Function Devices
- 17 PABX Telephone Systems
- 910 Telephone Handsets
- 123 Tablets Devices

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

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 included a property asset management system, a map based system for public alerts and information, as well as enhanced Geographic Information and spatial data management systems.

A major upgrade of the Council's corporate software platform began with the establishment of a Microsoft o365 tenancy. This project will continue in 2019 and beyond, and will provide Council staff with a modern set of software systems and tools to assist work delivery and increase efficiency.

Participation continued, via the ERNACT (www.ernact.eu) network, in co-operative EU projects. The EMERGREEN project was launched in Letterkenny in October with a focus on the introduction of emerging technologies to support green and sustainable rural communities.

Donegal Digital

The Donegal Digital Project was further developed and is driving a range of innovative economic development



activities 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.

Planning permission was secured for the Inishowen Digital Innovation Hub on the site of the former Town Council



Offices in Buncrana. This €1.5m project will provide a range of innovation, technology transfer and digital enterprise support services to potential start-ups and existing businesses in the region. The Innovation Hub will support job creation by providing office accommodation for small digital enterprises as well as multinational organisations. Architects were appointed to complete a detailed design of the building which will allow construction work to commence in 2019.

The Information Systems Department continues to work with relevant Government Departments and Telecommunications Companies to assist the roll-out of high-speed broadband throughout Donegal. Fibre to the premises high speed broadband continues to roll out strongly throughout the county as a result of the OpenEir rural fibre programme and the SIRO urban project.

In line with government policy, work by the Broadband Development Officer continued with the objective of supporting the expeditious roll-out of the National Broadband Plan in Donegal, and in delivering associated elements of the Council's Digital Strategy.

The Information Systems Department was successful in funding applications to the Department of Rural and Community Affairs Digital Innovation Programme to address a mobile phone black-spot in south Donegal, as well as the establishment of a trial IOT network in the county.

Information Systems was also successful in obtaining a maximum 4 vouchers for County Donegal under the European Commission WiFi4EU scheme. This will allow the provision of widely available public WiFi access throughout Donegal.


Communications Office

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

Social Media


The Council's social media presence continued to grow with the number of Likes on Donegal County Council's Facebook page increasing 3,964 in 2018 to 19,472 and its reach rising to over 5 million marking a 30% increase on the 2017 figure. The number of engaged users also grew to 326,913 an increase of 13% on the previous year.

Key performance indicators for Council's Facebook Page:

	2016	2017	2018
No. of Likes	10,214	15,508	19,472
New Likes	4,007	5,787	4,522
Engaged Users	128,205	290,186	326,913
Total Reach	1,869,133	4,029,243	5,225,572

Donegal County Council posted 1,696 tweets in 2018 and the number of Twitter followers increased by 1,311 to 8,300 on its @DonegalCouncil account. There were 2,034,217 Twitter impressions representing an increase of 21% on the 2017 figure and 49,221 profile visits.

Key performance indicators for Council's Twitter account:

	2016	2017	2018	% Change
Followers	5,663	6,955	8300	19
Tweets Posted	1,588	1,585	1696	7
Impressions	1,231,700	1,678,400	2,034,217	21
Profile visits	40,834	54,697	49,221	-10
Mentions	2,313	4,058	6,771	67
New followers	1,115	1,292	1311	1

Website

The number of users continued to increase with 286,318 users in 2018 an increase of 15,739. The number of sessions also increased from 426,766 in 2017 to 459,343 and the number of page views continued to grow to 1,129,342.

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.

396 press releases and news alerts were issued and approximately 550 queries from local and national media outlets were dealt with. The office managed a number of packages with local media outlets for use by various Council services.



Gaoh Dobhar Fire Station

Civil Defence

Donegal Civil Defence, a volunteer based organisation, continues to support the Primary Response Agencies while also assisting where feasible, the 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 continued to be delivered weekly through 4 centres, county wide;

- Civil Defence Headquarters, Stranorlar
- Carndonagh Auxiliary Fire Station
- Donegal Town Fire Station
- Hay Hall, Carrigart.

Training

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

- 25 members in Cardiac First Responder and Defibrillator training.
- 6 members progressed from First Aid Responders to Emergency First Responder level under the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Programme.

- 8 volunteers undertook Missing Person Search training progressing to operator level.
- 36 volunteers in Swiftwater and Flood First Responder training with the introduction of Life Jacket Competency training
- 16 Auxiliary Fire Fighters trained under the Fire Services Council programme.
- Radiation Monitoring training, in conjunction with the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland
- 22 drivers completed the Severe Weather and Off Road Driving Level 1 Operator training with 7 drivers completing the Lantra OFF Road Driver, Level 11 training.
- 26 volunteers received Working with Helicopter Training with the Irish Coastguard over 3 weekends in Downings, Urris and Killybegs culminating in a joint exercise on 1st September in Mac Cumhaill Park, Ballybofey.
- 46 volunteers participated in annual Service Training day at Fanad Lighthouse on Saturday 26th May.
- Participated in Department of Agriculture training in the prevention and control of Avian Influenza.

Four Donegal Civil Defence instructors provided Cardiac First Responder and Defibrillator training to 35 Transition Year students from Mulroy College as part of a pilot project and First Aid Responder training was delivered to 49 members of staff of Donegal County Council.



Mayor Emergency Exercise in Letterkenny

Drone Unit

The capabilities of the Drone Unit were extended and provided assistance to:

- An Garda Síochána with missing person search surveying at Tullaghan and Bundoran.
- Environment Section, Donegal County Council with surveying of flooded rivers in the aftermath of the Inishowen Flooding on 3 separate occasions.

To strengthen the unit an additional 6 No. 2 operators attended the Ground School in the Phoenix Centre and undertook training to support the pilots during flight operations.

Northern Regional Intercounty Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS) Training Day

The Donegal Civil Defence Headquarters in Stranorlar hosted the first Northern Regional Intercounty Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS) Training Day, on Saturday 24 November. The Northern Regional AFS group made up of counties, Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan and 36 volunteers participated in the training gaining a greater awareness and understanding of the role of the Auxiliary Fire Service within Civil Defence and the Local Authority.

Community Assistance

Civil Defence provided 4018 voluntary man-hours to over 40 Non-Emergency events, through the provision of medical cover and water safety duties, which included Community Festivals, Sporting Events, Darkness into Light Event and the All Ireland Cycle Against Suicide.

PRA support:

Donegal Civil Defence assisted;

- Health Service Executive with Patient Transfers on 8 separate occasions.
- An Garda Síochána at 2 separate missing person searches in the Bundoran and Laghey areas

Papal Visit

On Saturday 25th August, 24 members of Donegal Civil Defence travelled to Knock Shrine in County Mayo to provide overnight duty at the Papal Visit. Duties included assisting An Garda Síochána with Traffic Management and Site Security as well as working with the Order of Malta to provide medical aid to those in need during the event.

Overseas duties:

Donegal Civil Defence was represented by the Civil Defence Officer and 12 volunteers at the Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes and this was first time ever for Donegal Civil Defence members to attend. During the pilgrimage, Civil Defence provided medical care to the sick and terminally ill, whilst also participating in the Mass and Wreath laying ceremony for the Irish, the International Mass at the Grotto, the Candlelit Procession and the Blessing of the Sick. 30 Nations took part in the 2018 pilgrimage, which included 14,000 military personnel including Civil Defence.

Development

MAPYX Mapping and tracking Software to assist in missing person searches was purchased and an additional Vehicle Storage Building was constructed for Civil Defence Vehicles with a grant of €22,000 from the Department of Defence. The Department of Defence also funded an additional 4x4 Crew Cab vehicle.

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 which provides the operational service to defined parts of the county, primarily in the vicinity of Bridgend and Lifford. Donegal County Council Fire Service also provides the operational service to parts of counties Leitrim and Sligo.

Incidents

The provisional incident data provided by the Fire Service Western Regional Communication Centre, based in Castlebar, indicates that there were 899 incidents in the county in 2018 that required a fire brigade response.

These incidents covered a spectrum of activities that include fires, road traffic collisions, flooding and other special services. Donegal brigades mobilised on 1066 occasions which includes mobilisations into counties Fermanagh, Leitrim and Sligo.

Fire Prevention

174 Fire Safety Certificate applications were received representing a decrease of 7.4% on 2017 figures. There was an increase of 22.9% in 2017 as against 2016.

226 inspections under the annual licensing programme was carried out and advice was provided on 301 Planning Applications to the Planning Authority.

The Primary Schools Programme, which involves presentations on fire safety in the home to third class pupils, continued to be rolled out.

The Fire Service continued the roll out of the Community Fire Safety Programme for households on the inhabited offshore islands including providing carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguisher and fire blankets and training in the use of the fire blankets and the fire extinguishers. Fire Detectors were previously provided. Fire safety advice is also provided.

Major Emergency Management

Donegal County Council continues to participate with its partner Principal Response Agencies, and with other Statutory and Voluntary Agencies, in planning and training activities organised by the North West Regional Working Group for Major Emergency Management.

The Principal Response Agencies in the North West Region which covers counties Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo held a Major Emergency Exercise in Letterkenny on 27 September 2018. The Exercise, which was a tabletop style exercise, was organised by



Milford Fire Brigade with new appliance

the Fire Service and simulated a severe flooding incident in the twin towns of Ballybofey and Stranorlar. 108 participants from organisations that included the following attended the exercise.

- Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo County Councils
- An Garda Síochána
- Health Service Executive
- Defence Forces
- Coast Guard
- Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
- Police Service of Northern Ireland
- Northern Ireland Infrastructure
- Derry City and Strabane District Council

The overall objective of the exercise was to strengthen and develop the co-operation and co-ordination arrangements that exist between the PRA's and their partner agencies, namely the Defence Forces, the Irish Coast Guard, the Civil Defence and the Irish Red Cross, when responding to a major emergency resulting from a severe weather event.

Training

21 training courses were organised by the Fire Service or sourced from external providers including the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) who provide fire services courses at national level.

Training courses are provided for Fire Service personnel having regard to their roles and functions within the service. Some courses are cyclic in nature and courses provided vary in duration from one day to 15 days.

Each retained brigade had two three hour drills each month. The drills, were both lecture room and activity based, covering a spectrum of training activities which, in conjunction with other training, provided the necessary skill sets required to deliver statutory operational functions.

Finance

2018 Highlights

over
€2.4m
NPPR
charges collected



17 ✓

loans approved
under Rebuilding Ireland
Home Loan Initiative

5,500

commercial rates bills totalling

€33.4m

issued to businesses in Donegal



135,000

individual payment transactions worth

€170m

€12.1m

in rent collection

from over 5,300

Council tenants

300 mini competitions & quotations procured on SupplyGov; 95 tenders on E-tenders; and 5 tenders in the Official Journal of European Union (OJEU).

Payments processed for 1,900 staff past and present amounting to over €56m.

1,846 businesses availed of the Small Business Grant Scheme at a cost of €430,000.

€2m collected from 544 borrowers who are repaying Council loans.

Management Accounts Division

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.

The 2018 Revenue Budget was adopted by the Elected Members on the 1st of December 2017, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) and within the period prescribed by the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government.

The 2018 – 2020 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 27th November 2017.

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 31st May 2018 and is published online.

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

Annual Revenue Budget 2018	€148,795,554
Three-Year Capital Budget 2018 – 2020	€298,005,952

Procurement

The Procurement Section provides training and guidance to staff engaged in public procurement. The Procurement Section

plays a key role in the development of procurement solutions that support Donegal County Council's value-for-money objectives in terms of the goods and services it purchases.

Donegal County Council advertised over 300 mini-competitions and quotations on the 'SupplyGov' portal in 2018, covering services such as Plant Hire and Minor Building Works. 95 tenders were advertised on eTenders (the electronic tendering platform administered by the Office of Government Procurement), and 5 tenders were advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).

Areas of note in 2018 included:

- The rollout of in-house and external training covering Capital Works Management Framework, eTenders, Quick Quotes, SupplyGov and general public procurement.
- The publication of guidance on www.donegalcoco.ie to assist SME's in public procurement (in line with government policy of promoting and encouraging participation by SMEs).
- Maintenance of Donegal County Council's Procurement Policy and Procedures documentation to ensure that an up-to-date policy and procedures resource is available to all staff on a consistent basis across the organisation.
- Contributing to quarterly meetings of the Council's Value for Money Committee. The Committee was established to drive efficiencies and maximise savings, where possible, across all Council operations.
- Advancing the eProcurement agenda to align with Government's e-commerce strategy, which is designed to reduce costs for buyers and suppliers alike.



Financial Accounting Division

Payroll

The Payroll Section is responsible for the payment of in excess of 1,900 staff past and present. This amounted to gross payments of in excess of €56 million in 2018, with all the associated deductions, both statutory and voluntary.

The Payroll section was responsible for preparing for, and managing, the Payroll Modernisation process for the organisation. PAYE Modernisation involves the most significant reform of the PAYE system since its introduction in 1960. From 1 January 2019 employers are required to report their employees' pay and deductions to Revenue, in real-time, as they are being paid.

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

Accounts Payable

The Accounts Payable section is responsible for processing payments totalling in excess of €170 million per year, representing over 135,000 individual transactions. The section also manages all the indirect taxes, Vat, Intra-Community Acquisitions, Relevant Contracts Tax, Professional Services Withholding Tax, and Income Tax, together with all the associated regulatory and compliance requirements.

Central Invoice Matching & Timesheet Processing

In 2017, a new Central Invoice Matching Team (CIM) was established. Since then, the CIM team has undergone specific training on tax compliance, and in the operation of the Council's financial management system (Agresso).

The Timesheet Processing (TP) function was amalgamated with the CIM Team during 2018. The TP team also received training in VAT, RCT, PSWT, etc, and in the operation of the Agresso system. Members of the CIM team are proficient in TP tasks/duties and vice-versa, in order to provide additional resilience during busy periods. Unfortunately, a business process re-engineering exercise relating to timesheet-entry had to be postponed until 2019, due to set-up and resource constraints.

Financial Accounting and the Milestone-4 Project Team Financial Accounting has primary responsibility for the following:

- Producing the Annual Financial Statements
- Managing the annual audit process
- Reporting on General Government Balances (GGB) and submitting quarterly department returns
- Tax returns (s891b)
- Tax compliance
- Providing financial/systems guidance to other Council sections



- Systems maintenance (technical upgrades)
- Accounting changes (introducing new procedures in response to accounting changes)
- Providing advice to other sections in respect of finance/ system requirements relating to new IT systems (e.g. Dog Licensing, online payments and so on)

The Milestone-4 Project Team continues to provide a wide range of supports to other Council services on the operation of the financial management system (Agresso). The MS-4 team has had a key role in the development of a new system that supports local authority submissions to the Central Bank's Credit Control Register. This implementation/development work will continue into 2019.

Bank & Treasury Management

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

Income Collection Unit



The Diamond, Lifford

Commercial Rates

In 2018, around 5,500 Commercial Rates bills totalling €33.4m were issued to businesses in County Donegal. Total cash collected in respect of Commercial Rates was €26.6 million, representing an increase of €2m on the previous year. €6.0m was written off as irrecoverable. €4.3m of this figure related to properties that were vacant and that were available for lease.

The Council adopts a very proactive approach in engaging with Commercial Rates customers. Many customers choose to sign-up to monthly payment plans that allow their liability to be discharged evenly over the course of the financial year. Customers who find themselves in arrears can avail of payment-plan options that will facilitate their overall liability reducing over an agreed extended period. Where necessary, the Council pursues legal action for the recovery of outstanding liabilities.

Small Business Grant

The Small Business Grant was first introduced in 2015. The scheme allows customers who pay their rates bill in full by 31st October to avail of a grant of 7.5%, subject to a maximum grant of €375. 1,846 customers availed of the Small Business Grant at a total cost to the Council of around €430,000.

Housing Rents

€12.1m was collected from over 5,300 Council tenants in 2018. This represents a collection performance of 89%.

Housing Loans

Almost €2m is collected annually from 544 borrowers who are repaying Council loans. A number of options are available

to borrowers who are experiencing financial difficulties in maintaining their loan repayments, and in this regard the Council is guided by the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP).

The Council continues to support home-ownership by facilitating mortgage loans for tenants purchasing council houses, and those seeking to purchase homes on the open market. The Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan is a new Government-backed mortgage, targeted specifically at first time buyers, which can be used to purchase a new or second-hand property, or for self-build. 17 such loans were granted approval. The Council also continues to progress the Shared Ownership Restructuring Scheme, which allows borrowers to restructure their existing Shared Ownership Loans.

NPPR

Over €2.4m was collected in 2018 from property owners who were liable for arrears of the Non Principal Private Residence (NPPR) charge. While this charge ceased in 2013, there remains an obligation to discharge any arrears and penalties due, prior to the property being sold or transferred. A certificate of discharge or exemption is required in order to complete the sale or transfer of relevant property. With the number of property-related transactions increasing, the NPPR Section continues to be a busy section of the Income Collection Unit, and a significant amount of income is still being collected from this source.

Income and Expenditure Account Statement for Year ending 31st December 2018 (Unaudited)

	Gross Expenditure 2018 €	Income 2018 €	Net Expenditure 2018 €
Housing & Building	18,425,963	19,436,103	(1,010,140)
Roads Transportation & Safety	58,133,163	41,541,285	16,591,878
Water Services	17,797,901	17,258,443	539,458
Development Management	12,972,243	4,162,838	8,809,405
Environmental Services	12,603,432	1,601,666	11,001,766
Recreation & Amenity	8,105,727	771,175	7,334,552
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,231,947	763,485	1,468,462
Miscellaneous Services	22,470,614	17,085,920	5,384,694
Total Expenditure/Income	152,740,990	102,620,915	
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from			50,120,075
Rates			33,360,538
Local Property Tax			25,119,850
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers			8,360,313
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(7,793,792)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			566,521
General Reserve @ 1st January 2018			(8,953,104)
General Reserve @ 31st December 2018			(8,386,583)

Note: These figures are inclusive of transfers to/ from reserves and Standard Rounding rules apply.

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

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

at 31st December 2018 (unaudited)

	2018 €	2017 €
Fixed Assets		
Operational	745,401,746	728,582,040
Infrastructural	2,597,728,501	2,597,728,501
Community	6,920,415	6,744,538
Non-Operational	55,734,953	55,734,953
	3,405,785,615	3,388,790,032
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	95,460,317	95,171,860
Long Term Debtors	59,488,857	62,513,693
Current Assets		
Stocks	872,832	920,907
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	23,752,252	17,844,490
Bank Investments	56,304,642	49,786,156
Cash at Bank	-	-
Cash in Transit	277,203	477,089
	81,206,929	69,028,642
Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)		
Bank Overdraft	437,333	1,037,618
Creditors & Accruals	43,442,220	37,257,766
Finance Leases	-	-
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	37,327,377	30,733,257
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)		
Loans Payable	107,278,482	115,216,897
Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable deposits	6,897,090	6,606,978
Other	1,802,101	220,979
	115,977,673	122,044,854
Net Assets	3,482,084,494	3,455,163,988
Represented by		
Capitalisation Account	3,405,785,615	3,388,790,032
Income WIP	94,700,658	95,565,359
Specific Revenue Reserve	-	-
General Revenue Reserve	(8,386,583)	(8,953,104)
Other Balances	(10,015,197)	(20,238,300)
Total Reserves	3,482,084,494	3,455,163,988

Note: 2017 figures included reflect the final audited figure for that year.

Roads & Transportation

2018 Highlights

€200,000

secured for rehabilitation of
6 bridges on regional roads and



€470,000

for strengthening works on 18 local bridges



16,000

TONNES OF SALT

secured for the Winter Service Plan

NORTH WEST GREENWAY

routes progressed to route selection
and public consultation stage.

3,350

public lights retrofitted
with LED's



12th Annual

RoadSafe RoadShow

hosted with over

3,000

second level
students attending

107 Local Improvement Schemes constructed and 15km of Community Involvement Schemes completed through 26 separate projects.

159km of road resurfaced through 144 individual projects.

Treatment of 250 individual invasive plant species infestations along public roads continued.

Construction of N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan Road Realignment Scheme (The Blue Banks) commenced.

Construction of N56 Mountcharles to Inver Phase 1 and 2 commenced.

€8m invested in resurfacing and strengthening 32km of national road network.

Central Technical Services Division

Bridge Capital Projects

Construction of the Cockhill Bridge and Roads Project was completed in mid 2018 and was a great addition to the transportation network in Inishowen.

Tirconnail Bridge in Donegal Town progressed to site with works well underway by year end.



Bridge maintenance

The Bridges team continued to play a key role in the response to the damage caused by the Inishowen flood of August 2017, designing the replacement of a further 8 collapsed structures and providing ongoing technical assistance to Donegal County Council's direct labour force during construction. Design and statutory processes for Meenamulligan Bridge commenced with work planned for 2019.

Specific Improvement Grant for Bridge Rehabilitation on Regional Roads of €200,000 was secured with works undertaken to 6 bridges. In addition, €470,000 was allocated to bridge strengthening works and this was spent on 18 local bridges including guniting / grouting, concrete repairs, full replacement as required.

Road Design

A number of road design projects were progressed with Preliminary Appraisals submitted to DTTAS and DPER for:

- Fintra Bridge and Road Realignment
- Letterkenny Southern Relief Road and Bridges
- Letterkenny Traffic Management System

A preliminary design was developed for the Glentougher road which will progress to planning in 2019. The Joe Bonner Road project saw the completion of the ground improvement works contract and settlement monitoring. Detailed design was completed to facilitate the construction of the road and services in 2019.

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 including the N15 Corcam Bends Project.

8 schemes secured funding of €297,000 under CLAR and all works were completed by year end.

Safety Scheme at Ballybofey

DTTAS approved €283,000 for all 12 low cost accident schemes applied for with works completed by year end.

The Road Safety Officer continued to provide support to the Donegal Road Safety Working Group (DRSWG) and organised the 12th annual Road Safe Show in October to approximately 3,000 second level pupils.

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

The Donegal Road Safety Working Group continued its collaborations with Donegal Daily, Donegal Sports Hub and CLG Dhún na nGall Health and Wellbeing Committee to highlight road safety issues and promote road safety awareness across the county.



Donegal County Council was awarded a "Road Safety Award" for its Safe Cycling Initiative through the Public Sector Magazine 2018 Excellence in Business Awards. This is the fourth year in succession that the Council won an award.

NW Greenway

All three Greenways routes were developed through the Route Selection and Public Consultation processes. There was significant engagement from the communities with both Route 2 (Muff) and Route 3 (Lifford) progressing well with planning approval planned for early in 2019 while plans for Route 1 to Buncrana continued to be finalised.

Machinery Yard & Stores

General Stores

The Stores team continued on its programme of improvement providing a cost effective service to its customers and continued to utilise the national framework agreements for the supply of a wide variety of products to ensure the best value for money for the Council.

It procured and delivered to site 6.5 million litres of bitumen for use in the maintenance of the road network.

Machinery Yard

The Machinery Yard 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.

Capital Plant Replacement/Refurbishment

Two 6 inch pumps and associated trailer one 8 wheel bitumen sprayer was purchased.

The following new plant was tendered for with delivery due in 2019 :

- 4 no. 9cum brine salters & 1 no. snowplough
- 4 no. 6 wheel lorries
- 1 no. 4 wheel lorry

Progress was also made on the Machinery Yard refurbishment project with phase 1 works commencing on site in December.

Salt management

16,000 tonnes of salt was managed through the TII Salt Management System and delivered to depots around the county to facilitate the delivery of the winter service plan.

Public lighting

The public lighting maintenance contractor continued with the LED upgrades across the county resulting in the overall retrofit of 3,350 of the 17,500 public lights with LEDs. Once the UMR updates have been completed, a power saving of 1,030,035 kwhr will be achieved which equates to 45% of Donegal County Council's NEEAP 2020 target.

The TII NW National Road Bypasses project 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 was tendered and works were completed.

TII approved all 7 projects applied in 2018 for at a total value of €277,807 resulting in the upgrade of 340 lights on the national network in Donegal to LED.

Piers & Harbours

A DAFM grant of €208,700 with an additional €170,927 Council match funding was spent on the refurbishment of the county's piers and harbours. 13 of the projects applied for under the annual DAFM funding included for the provision of safety signage.



Road works on N56 near Kilmacrennan

Municipal District Roads

The Municipal District Roads Department spent approximately €52m allowing for a wide range of work to be completed, including;

- General maintenance on our 6,446 km long road network and at our public parks;
- Routine gritting of 1,030 km of roads during the winter months;
- Repair work to road assets damaged during the extreme floods in August 2017;
- Construction of 107 Local Improvement Schemes across the county;
- Completion of 15km of Community Involvement Schemes through 26 separate projects;
- Strengthening of 181 km of roads through 220 separate projects;
- Resurfacing of 159 km of roads through 144 individual projects;
- Drainage enhancement works at 75 locations across the county;
- 6 separate road projects on our offshore Islands;
- Ongoing Treatment of more than 250 individual invasive plant species infestations along our public roads.



North Inishowen Roads Crew

Donegal National Roads Office



New alignment on N56 Kilkenny to Letterilly

2018 saw another year on year increase in overall levels of activity in both design and construction on National Roads. TII have invested in excess of €47m in National roads in Donegal this year. The Donegal National Roads Office has delivered substantial improvements on the National Road network through this funding and continues to progress further significant projects.

Donegal TEN-T Route Improvement

This key project involves major investment in three sections of the National Road / TEN-T Network.

The three sections involved are:

- N15/N13 Ballybofey – Stranorlar Urban
- N56/N13/N14 Letterkenny to Manorcunningham including the Dual Carriageway, Four Lane Road Letterkenny and Letterkenny Relief Road.
- N14 Manorcunningham to Lifford Realignment Scheme including the link to A5 WTC in Northern Ireland.

This project is advancing these three priority sections up to and including Statutory Processes/CPO/EIA.

Following on from the public consultation on the Project Constraints in December 2017, a shortlist of Route Option was presented to the Public in April and May 2018. These shortlisted route options were analysed in detail and an Emerging Preferred Route Option will be presented in February 2019.

N56 Dungloe to Glenties LVNS Road Scheme

The 29km N56 Dungloe to Glenties LVNS scheme continues to proceed steadily. The previous two projects removed the noteworthy Meenacarn and Gweebarra bends. The next phase from Kilkenny to Letterilly was under Construction in 2018 and will be completed in Q3 2019.

Design for the final two phases of this overall scheme from Dungloe to Cloughbolie and from Letterilly to Glenties /



New culvert installation on N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan

Kilrairie commenced and it is expected that these two schemes will breach construction in late 2019. The entire project is programmed to be completed by 2021. On the Wild Atlantic Way, it will provide significant improved local and tourist access and a separate greenway/cycleway for its entire 29km length.

N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan Road Realignment Scheme (The 'Blue Banks')

This project will remove the infamous 'Blue banks' bends on the road between Kilmacrennan and Letterkenny. It also is unique in its collaboration with Irish water to deliver a critical water main upgrade to the Lough Salt/Goldrum Letterkenny Regional Water Supply Scheme. Construction commenced in February 2018 and has proceeded apace with completion expected by Easter 2019 some 4 months ahead of schedule.



New alignment on N56 Mountcharles to Inver

N56 Mountcharles to Inver (Phase 1 and 2)

This important new road will remove a very poor section of existing N56 on what is the main access route to Killybegs Port, Sliabh Liag, Glencolmcille and the Wild Atlantic way. Construction commenced on Phase 1 from Mountcharles to Drumbeigh in March 2018 and has with completion expected by Easter 2019 some 7 months ahead of schedule. Detailed design was substantially completed on Phase 2 from Drumbeigh to Inver and construction of this phase will commence in Q3 2019.

National Road Resurfacing and Strengthening Works

TII funded resurfacing and strengthening works on 32km of the National Road Network in Donegal during 2018 with a total construction cost of over €8m. TII has committed to funding a further 17km of resurfacing and strengthening works in 2019 with an estimated construction cost of €6M, as well as design and procurement of a further 17km proposed for construction in 2020.

Safety Schemes

The N56 Four Lane Road Safety Scheme will improve safety on the primary access to Letterkenny with the delivery of the tender documents near completion. The N15 Corcam Bends between Stranorlar and Killygordon is at design/land acquisition stage as is the N14 Tullyrap and the N15 McGroarys Bray. The N15 Cappry to Ballybofey Safety Scheme is at construction with an expected completion early 2019

Network Management

The National Roads Office continues to manage contracts for the ongoing maintenance of Signs and Lining on National roads in the county.

The Bridge Management Section of the National Roads

Office has recently completed a program of significant new and improvement works on various bridges in the county. This includes a new pedestrian crossing of the River Finn in Stranorlar/Ballybofey and a new pedestrian crossing of the Mullinieran Bridge in Glenties.



Works on Mountain Road between Carndonagh and Buncrana



Works on N13 Manorcunningham

Water & Environment

2018 Highlights

More than
2,500
litter & waste investigations.

445



bring banks at
72 sites for glass
and cans

91%

compliance
achieved with

**REPAK ELT
Scheme for Tyres.**



6



recycling centres at
Carndonagh, Dungloe,
Milford, Laghey, Letterkenny
and Stranorlar

New Wastewater

Treatment Plants constructed
in Bundoran, Killybegs,
Glencolmcille and Convoy.



32 Public Water Supplies producing 24.97m cubic meters of drinking water serving a population of approximately 160,000.

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

Approximately 40km of new watermain installed to replace existing pipelines.

Over 300 community clean-ups during Big Donegal Clean Up campaign involving more than 5,000 volunteers.

100 litter fines issued, 148 warning letters & 5 prosecutions initiated.

195 schools registered with Green Schools programme and 164 Green Flags awarded.

12 beaches and Greencastle Marina awarded Blue Flags and 5 beaches awarded Green Coast status.

The Water & Environment Service is responsible for:

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

Water Services

Drinking Water Supplies

The Service Level Agreement between Irish Water and Donegal County Council continued to provide for the management of water and waste water services in County Donegal. This included the operation of 32 Public Water Supplies (PWS) producing 24.7 million cubic meters of drinking water serving a population of approximately 160,000. A further 89,851 cubic meters of water was purchased from Northern Ireland Water. Water from public water supply sources is also provided to consumers through 6 public Group Water Supply schemes (GWS).

A Lead Replacement Programme and a Pressure Management Programme was initiated on behalf of Irish Water.

The following table summarises production of drinking water in Donegal in 2018.

Municipal District	Drinking Water (cubic metres)
Inishowen MD	5,934,079
Donegal MD	5,508,033
Glenties MD	4,634,162
Letterkenny MD	5,628,057
Stranorlar MD	3,030,869
Total	24,735,200

A significant number of private water supplies operate across the county and are subject to compliance monitoring including 4 private GWS, 6 Public GWS and 27 wholly private water supplies supplying a public/commercial activity. Results of compliance monitoring for these supplies were reported to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A further 8 smaller private GWS's were monitored but reporting to the EPA is not required.

An annual subsidy scheme on behalf of the Department as a contribution towards operational costs for GWS's and a Well Grant Scheme for individual potable drinking water wells were operated.



Rathmullan Beach

Drinking Water Quality

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the supervisory authority for Irish Water (IW) in relation to public water services (PWS) whilst Donegal County Council is the supervisory authority for private supplies. Compliance Monitoring was carried out by the Health Service Executive on behalf of Donegal County Council until May 2018, after which IW's framework laboratory took on this role for PWS.

In 2018, the microbiological compliance level in Donegal Public Water Supplies was 100%, while the overall compliance level (including chemical and indicator parameters) was 99.4%. Two schemes were removed from the EPA's Remedial Action List (RAL), leaving 6 schemes remaining, all of which have works on-going to improve the water quality.

Microbiological compliance for Private supplies monitored in Donegal improved from 82% in 2017 to 96.8% in 2018, while the overall compliance level also improved from 92% to 96.4%.

Wastewater Schemes

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

37 out of 38 scheme discharges in Donegal have been granted discharge licenses to date, with Kilcar Wastewater Treatment Plant added in April 2018. The remaining 51 scheme discharges hold Certificates of Authorisation.

Wastewater Discharges Quality Compliance

Donegal County Council monitors all licensed and certified wastewater discharges in County Donegal, with monthly results reported to the EPA and IW along with an Annual Environmental Report. Compliance of the licensed discharges

is assessed against both the Discharge Licence requirements and the Urban Waste Water Directive. The newer, more modern, plants achieved compliance, but a number of older plants were non-compliant, reflecting the need for further investment in wastewater treatment.

Water Services Capital Projects

Wastewater Treatment Plants and associated infrastructure in Bundoran, Killybegs, Glencolmcille and Convoy were completed.

New Water Treatment Plants were commissioned in Owenteskna (Meenaneary, Carrick) and Gortahork whilst significant improvement works were completed at Water Treatment Plants at Meendoran (Clonmany) and Buncrana.

Approximately 40km of new watermain was installed to replace existing pipelines which were contributing to high burst frequencies or water quality problems.

Construction continued of new Water Treatment Plants for the Letterkenny and Creeslough/Dunfanaghy supply areas. Works also commenced on a significant upgrade at Ballybofey and Stranorlar Wastewater Treatment Plant, substantial improvements to the Letterkenny sewer network and major upgrades at Illies and Crolla Water Treatment Plants.

Contracts were also signed for construction of over 60kms watermains at various locations around the county including strategic links to and within the Letterkenny water supply area.

Detailed design and planning continued on a number of major and minor projects in water and wastewater areas which should progress to construction stage in 2019 and 2020.



Goldrum Water Treatment Plant

Pollution Control

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

- Commercial / industrial discharges to sewers (IW) and to waters,
- Rivers and lakes,
- Septic tank inspections under the National Inspection Plan,
- Bathing water monitoring, (Blue Flag, Green Coast beaches),
- Farm inspections,
- Air pollution – Decopaints & Solvents Regulations, and
- Responding to environmental complaints (water, air & noise).

Water Framework Directive / River Basin Management

The second River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021, was published in 2018 and outlined the new approach that Ireland will take as it works to protect its rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters over the next four years. Local authorities will focus primarily on:

- Ensuring full compliance with relevant existing EU legislation.
- Prevent deterioration and meet the water-related objectives for protected areas.
- Protect and restore our high status objective water bodies, e.g. the “Blue Dot Catchments Programme”.
- Assisting Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) in their work in “Priority Areas for Action”.

CatchmentCARE Project

Donegal County Council is the Lead Partner on the CatchmentCARE Project which is being funded under the Environment measure of the EU Interreg VA programme with a budget of almost €14m.

The aim of the CatchmentCARE project is to establish three water quality improvement projects in the Finn, Blackwater and Arney Catchments and install 51 boreholes across the region. This will be achieved through a combination of policy actions, catchment actions and community actions which will retain the following focus;

- Measurable impact on water quality,
- Transferable beyond the three catchments and
- Contribute to a project legacy.

Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO)

The LAWPRO is a shared service working with Local Authorities and state agencies to develop and implement River Basin Management Plans in Ireland, as required under the EU Water Framework Directive. The three strategic aims of the service are to:

- Support and coordinate public bodies and other stakeholders to achieve the objectives of the RBMP.
- Activate local communities to engage with river catchments in line with the integrated catchment management approach



- Build a foundation and momentum for long-term improvements and inform the development and implementation of the 3rd Cycle RBMP.

The programme has two teams in Donegal as follows:

- Communities Team including a Community Water Officer supporting communities and stakeholders in the delivery of local water quality projects and initiatives. The This team worked with various groups including the Cloughaneely Anglers Association, Glen Development Company, Buncrana Anglers and Inishowen River Trust, and provided funding for a number of community water projects through the Community Water Fund. The first of a series of public meetings took place in December for the Leannan Catchment.
- Catchment Assessment Team including 2 scientists and an Agricultural Scientist implementing measures within the priority Areas for Action, aimed at improving water quality, through working with local communities, landowners, business owners and public bodies, supported by the Agricultural Sustainability and Advisory Programme (Teagasc).

The Director of Water and Environment Services is Chairman of the Border Regional Operational Committee (BROC), which oversees the implementation work under the RBMP and roll out of the Programme of Measures in the region.

Waste Management



Men's Shed Event at Castlefin CPI for Reuse Month

Donegal County Council is one of 9 Local Authorities that makes up the Connacht Ulster Waste Region. A Regional Waste Management Plan is in place that sets out waste management aims and objectives until 2021.

Waste Collection

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

Waste Disposal

There are no active waste disposal facilities operating in Donegal. The Council continued to manage six licensed landfills in the county namely Ballynacarrick, Churchtown, Drumaboden, Balbane, Muckish and Glenalla. Five sites (Muckish, Glenalla, Drumaboden, Churchtown and Ballynacarrick) have been fully remediated, while work is progressing on a project to remediate Balbane Landfill.

Waste Recycling

There are 6 Recycling Centres at Carndonagh, Dungloe, Milford, Laghey, Letterkenny and Stranorlar operated under contract by Bryson Recycling Ltd. These sites provide a recycling service for a range of waste items including but not limited to paper, cardboard, plastic, oils, garden waste and polystyrene. Household waste is accepted at each of the sites.

There are 445 Bring Banks at 72 sites around the county allowing for the collection of glass and cans. Other recycling services provided by Donegal County Council include collection points for Textiles, Hazardous Household wastes and separately, working with WEEE Ireland to host collection days for waste electrical and electronic equipment.

Waste Regulation

There are three Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLAs) and Donegal sits within the Connacht Ulster WERLA.

Donegal County Council, in conjunction with Leitrim County Council, is joint lead authority for this office. The WERLAs have responsibility for coordinating waste enforcement actions within regions, setting priorities and common objectives for waste enforcement, ensuring consistent enforcement of waste legislation across the three existing waste management planning regions while still leaving local authority personnel as first responders on the ground to specific breaches of waste legislation.

Waste Permitting

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

Household food waste bins

Roll out of the household food waste bins got underway in agglomerations of greater than 500. This scheme ensures that this material can be captured at source and taken for composting or used to produce renewable energy.

Environmental Education and Awareness

A comprehensive awareness programme targeting schools, householders, businesses, the agricultural sector and community groups was delivered including:

- 195 schools registered with Green Schools Programme with 164 Green Flags awarded. Convoy Joint NS celebrated being awarded their 10th Green Flag and over 20 years in the Green Schools Programme.
- An extensive recycling publicity campaign was undertaken highlighting the range of services such as bring banks, recycling centres, kerbside recycling and home composting.
- Anti-litter awareness campaigns were also carried out including the Big Donegal Clean-Up with over 300 community clean-ups taking place involving more than 5,000 volunteers.

Litter Management

A Litter Team encompassing 10 staff continued to work closely with the community in preventing litter, and coordinating clean ups in conjunction with Tidy Towns and Community Groups resulting in:

- More than 2500 litter & waste investigations, including a number of multi agency operations.
- 1,000 mattresses diverted from landfill through the mattress amnesty.
- A highly successful dog fouling awareness campaign led by the litter wardens.
- 5 new staff recruited to strengthen waste enforcement activities.
- 100 litter fines issued, 148 warning letters and 5 prosecutions initiated for failure to pay litter fines.
- 91% compliance achieved with REPAK ELT scheme for tyres.

Anti Dumping Initiative

Over 100 tonnes of mostly historical waste was removed from scenic areas across Donegal as part of the 2018 Anti Dumping Initiative. €69,119 was secured under this initiative which focused on:

- providing community clean up assistance through resources and support,
- investment in surveillance equipment including camouflaged covert cameras and drones,
- a comprehensive communications campaign.

Air Quality Management

The EPA identified 3 sites in Donegal for air monitoring equipment under the Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive, as part of the National Ambient Air Monitoring Programme 2017 – 2022 as follows:

- Tier 1 at Malin Head to provide data to meet Ireland's air monitoring requirements under the CAFE and 4th Daughter directives.
- Tier 2 in Letterkenny (to be installed in 2019) to provide data for the development of an improved Air Quality Index for Health (AQIH) system.
- Tier 3 in Buncrana to provide local air quality data for local communities. The real-time data is available at <http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/localairqualitydata/donegal-buncrana/>. This data will provide a baseline for comparison when the smokey coal ban is extended to cover all towns & counties in Ireland.



Launching the Big Donegal Clean Up at Ballyliffin Golf Club

Beach Management

21 of the 142 Designated Bathing Areas (DBAs) nationally in 2018 were in Donegal and Donegal currently has 13 of Ireland's 81 Blue Flags, one of the world's most recognised eco-labels.

This includes 12 Blue Flag beaches at:

Donegal's Blue Flag Beaches 2018

Bundoran	Marble Hill
Carrickfinn	Murvagh
Culdaff	Narin
Downings	Portsalon
Fintra	Rossnowlagh
Killahoey	Stroove

The seasonal Marina in Greencastle also retained its Blue Flag and the following beaches were awarded Green Coast awards:

Donegal's Green Coast Award Beaches 2018

Ballyhernan
Dooley
Drumatinney
Magheroarty



A new beach wheelchair was unveiled at Marble Hill. Other beaches with a beach wheelchair are Rathmullan, Downings and Carrickfinn.

Rathmullan Pier Project

New toilet and changing facilities were officially opened on the 1 June 2018 at Rathmullan Pier.

Water Safety

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

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

Coastal Management

The Coastal Management Steering Committee which includes members of the Coastguard, An Taisce, National Parks & Wildlife Service and Dept of Agriculture, Food & Marine



Unveiling new beach wheelchair at Marble Hill

continued to share information sharing and co-ordinate responses to issues such as aquaculture, and removal of mammal carcasses from beaches.

The Council continued to monitor and promote our shared cross border coastline through collaboration with the Loughs Agency and participating in Good Beach Summits and engaged 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. A coastal erosion and flood risk study of four coastal areas within the Glenties MD got underway along with a similar study in Inishowen.

Leisure Centres

Donegal County Council supports the Finn Valley Centre, Ballyshannon Leisure Centre and Letterkenny Aura Centre. A fire alarm upgrade & full LED lighting replacement took place in Letterkenny AURA Centre, producing substantive energy savings as well as improved light quality. In Ballyshannon a mechanical and electrical refurbishment commenced and funding was secured for new family changing facilities. The Council continued to explore feasibility of reinstating the Leisure Centre in Buncrana.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy



Opening of new facilities at Rathmullan Pier

Under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 Donegal County Council is required to produce a Climate Change Adaption Plan. Work got underway in October and an organisation-wide Climate Action Adaptation Team was established.

Regional Energy Strategy

A Regional Energy Strategy project for Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council was funded through the North West Regional Development Fund. The overall aim of the project is to address the challenges of climate change in the region by ensuring a sustainable, secure and affordable energy supply for all citizen's whilst maximising the region's opportunities for economic growth and will enhance greater cross border energy integration.

Arctic Project

An application was submitted under the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme for the ARCTIC Project which proposes to develop adaption and resilience tools for monitoring climate change impacts in NPA communities.

Appendices

Council membership of committees and other bodies

Corporate Policy Group

Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr Frank McBrearty
Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr John Ryan/Cllr Michael Doherty
Cllr Jack Murray
Cllr Tom Conaghan Donegal MD Rep 2017/18
Cllr Michéal Naughton Donegal MD Rep 2018/19
Cathaoirleach of the Day

Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

Community, Social & Cultural SPC

Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher, Chairperson
Cllr Michael McBride
Cllr Tom Conaghan
Cllr Ian McGarvey
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
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 Jack Murray, Chairperson
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Jack Murray
Cllr Noel Jordan
Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr James Pat McDaid
Cllr Rena Donaghey
Cllr Martin Farren
Cllr John Ryan (resigned 31/05/18)
Cllr Michael Doherty (from 23/7/18)
Cllr Terence Slowey
Cllr. John O'Donnell

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 Easbuig
Cllr Adrian Glackin
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr John S. O'Fearraigh
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Rena Donaghey
Cllr Seamus O'Domhaill
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 (resigned 31/05/18)
Cllr Michael Doherty (from 23/07/18)
Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Nicolas Crossan
Cllr Liam Doherty
Cllr Martin Farren
Cllr Michael McBride
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 Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr Michéal Naughton
Cllr Enda Bonner
Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill
Cllr Liam Blaney
Cllr Bernard McGuinness
Cllr John Ryan (resigned 31/05/18)
Cllr Michael Doherty (from 23/7/18)

Sectoral Representation

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

Donegal Local Traveller Accommodation Committee

Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr John O' Donnell
Cllr Adrian Glackin
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Traveller Representatives

Siobhan Mc Laughlin
Hugh Friel
Rose Ward

Appendices

Council membership of committees and other bodies

Council Officials

Liam Ward
Patsy Lafferty
Fergus McAteer

Coiste na Gaeilge

Stranorlar MD

Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Martin Harley

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 Micheál Mac Giolla Easbuig

Letterkenny MD

Cllr Ian Mc Garvey
Cllr Adrian Glackin

County Donegal Joint Policing Committee

Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill
Cllr James Pat McDaid
Cllr Martin Mc Dermott
Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr Liam Doherty
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Jack Murray
Cllr Martin Farren
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness
Cllr John Campbell
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr John O' Donnell
Cathaoirleach as Ex Officio Member

Chief Executive

Seamus Neely

Oireachtas Members

Pearse Doherty
Pádraig MacLochlainn
Charlie McConalogue
Pat the Cope Gallagher
Joe McHugh
Thomas Pringle
Brian O'Domhnaill
Tony McLoughlin
Marc McSharry

An Garda Síochána

Terry McGinn
Patrick M Conway

Donegal PPN

James Trearty
Joe Boland
Deirdriú Murray/Seamus Rogers
Carmel Mulhern

Lawrence McManus

Lorraine Thompson
Gary Doggett

Audit Committee

Cllr Enda Bonner
Cllr Ian Mc Garvey
Paul Carr
Micheál MacGiolla Easbuig
Henry McGarvey

Islands Committee

Members of Letterkenny and Glenties MDs

Islands Representatives

Owey - William Boyle
Rutland - Rosaleen McShane
Inis Caorach - Hughie Gallagher
Island Roy - Marie Ui Dochartaigh
Gola - Eamon S Mac Aoidh
Inishboffin - John O'Brien
Tory - Marjorie Carol
Aranmore - Noirín Ui Mhaoldomhnaigh & Eamon Ó Cnaimhsi
Inisfree - Naul McCole
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

Diarmuid O Mordha

Donegal County Council Value for Money Committee

Cllr Enda Bonner
Cllr Liam Blaney
Cllr Tom Conaghan
Cllr Noel Jordan
Cllr Ian McGarvey
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr Terence Slowey
Cllr John Ryan/Michael Doherty
Cathaoirleach of the Day

Donegal County Council Economic Development Committee

Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr Frank McBrearty
Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr John Ryan
Cllr Jack Murray
Cathaoirleach of the Day

IDA

John Nugent
Marie McDaid

Enterprise Ireland

Carole Brennan

Údarás na Gaeltachta

Micheál Mac Giolla Easbuig

Education and Training Board

Vinny McGroary

Appendices

Council membership of committees and other bodies

Local Enterprise Office
Michael Tunney

Donegal Local Development Company
Padraic Fingleton

Inishowen Development Partnership
Andrew Ward

Comhar na nOileán Teo
Nóirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh

IBEC
Declan Thomas

Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Paul Hannigan

Health Service Executive
Peter Walker

Community
Andrew McNulty
Louise Breslin

Faite Ireland
Joan Crawford

Department of Social Protection
Claire O'Neill

Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Michael Gallagher

Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce
Toni Forrester

Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine
Kevin Moriarty

Donegal Local and Community Development Committee
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Martin Mc Dermott
Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher
Seamus Neely, C.E
Michael Tunney, L.E.O

Údarás na Gaeltachta
Micheál Mac Giolla Easbuig

HSE
Peter Walker

Education and Training Board
Anne McHugh

Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Paul Hannigan

Donegal Local Development Company
Jim Slevin/Padraic Fingleton

Inishowen Development Partnership
Fionan Bradley

Public Partnership Network
Susan McLoughlin

Susan McCauley
Martin McBride

Environment Representative
Angus Kennedy

Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Liam McElhinney

Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers
James O'Donnell

Comhar na nOileán
Máire Uí Mhaoláin/David Alcorn

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 McBrearty
Cllr James Pat McDaid
Cllr Martin McDermott
Cllr Bernard McGuinness
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr Jack Murray
Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill
Cllr John Seamais O'Fearraigh
Cllr Barry O'Neill
Cllr Adrian Glackin
Cllr John Ryan/Michael Doherty
Cllr Dessie Shiels
Cllr Terence Slowey

Anne McGowan
Rosemary Dunne
Paddy Gildea
Sean Mc Bride
Frankie O Gorman
John McCreadie
Conor Malone
Sean McClafferty

Standing Order Sub Committee

Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Michael McBride
Cllr Adrian Glackin
Cllr Terence Slowey
Cathaoirleach of the Day

Disability Strategy Group
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Appendices

Council membership of committees and other bodies

Donegal Youth Steering Committee

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr Micheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig

OTHER COMMITTEES:

Donegal Heritage Forum

Cllr Tom Conaghan
Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Michael McBride
Cllr Patrick McGowan
Cllr Paul Canning

Heritage Officer
Joseph Gallagher

Curator Donegal County Museum
Judith McCarthy

Conservation Officer
Colette Beattie

Central Planning Unit
Sinead McCauley

Environment Section
TBC

Local Development
LEADER Representative
Padraic Fingleton

State Agencies

Coillte
TBC

National Monuments Service
Paddy O'Donovan

National Parks & Wildlife Service
Ger O' Donnell

Faillte Ireland
Maire Aine Gardiner

Teagasc
Carolyn Patterson

Údarás na Gaeltachta
Séamas Ó'Gallchóir

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

Representation on External Bodies 2018

County Donegal Education and Training Board

Cllr Liam Blaney
Cllr Martin McDermott
Cllr Rena Donaghey
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr John Sheamais O'Fearraigh
Cllr Martin Farren
Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Michael McBride
Cllr John Campbell

Regional Health Forum West

Cllr Michael McBride
Cllr Bernard McGuinness
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Gerry Crawford

Northern & Western Regional Assembly

Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill
Cllr Frank McBrearty
Cllr Jack Murray

County Enterprise Fund

Cllr Ian McGarvey
Cllr Enda Bonner

Association of Irish and Local Government

Voting Delegates
Cllr Liam Blaney
Cllr Patrick McGowan
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
3 Permanent Delegates
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Patrick McGowan
Cllr Gerry McMonagle

Appendices

Representation on External Bodies 2018

Local Authority Members Association

Cllr Michael McBride June 2017- June 2018
Cllr Terence Slowey June 2018 – June 2019

Inishowen Development Partnership Ltd

Cllr Rena Donaghey
Cllr Martin McDermott
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Bernard McGuinness

Donegal Local Development Company Ltd

Cllr Patrick McGowan
Cllr Ian McGarvey
Cllr Noel Jordan

ERNACT EEIG

Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Rena Donaghey

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances

Cllr Gerry Crawford June 2017 – June 2018
Cllr Michael McBride June 2018 – June 2019

NWRBCG

Cllr Bernard McGuinness
Cllr Martin Farren
Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr John O'Donnell

ICBAN

Cllr Enda Bonner
Cllr Gary Doherty

Donegal Sports Partnership

Cllr Tom Conaghan
Cllr James Pat McDaid
Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Conference Peripheral Maritime Regions

Cllr John S O'Fearraigh - Representative (June 2017/2018)
Cllr Albert Doherty – Substitute (June 2017/2018)
Cllr John Campbell – Representative (June 2018 /2019)
Cllr Niamh Kennedy – Substitute (June 2018/2019)

LATCH

Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Liam Doherty

Colmcille Heritage Trust

Helena Glackin
Brian Mc Dermott
Don Gallagher
Danny Neilis
Laura Duddy

Erne Enterprise Development Company

Cllr Tom Conaghan
Cllr Barry O'Neill

Board of Fort Dunree Military Museum

Cllr Rena Donaghey

Cllr Albert Doherty
Cllr Nicholas Crossan

Earagail Arts Festival

Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr James Pat McDaid

Letterkenny Theatre Management Company

Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
Anne McGowan
Lisa Culbert

Management Committee Ballyshannon Leisure Centre

Cllr Barry O'Neill
Cllr Michéal Naughton
Cllr Tom Conaghan

Board of Bundoran Waterworld

Phillip McGlynn
Anne McGrath
Eamon Barrett
Michael McFadden

Strengthening Families Advisory Board – NW Alcohol Forum

Cllr Rena Donaghey/ Cllr Patrick McGowan

Finn Valley Leisure Centre

Cllr Liam Doherty
Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Patrick McGowan

Interreg IVA Gobbins/Sliabh Liag

Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Noel Jordan

Pettigo/Tullyhommon Project

Cllr Barry O'Neill
Cllr Michéal Naughton

Údarás na Gaeltachta

Cllr John S O'Fearraigh

Comhar na nOileán Teoranta

David Alcorn

PEACE IV Partnership

Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr Frank McBrearty

Associate Membership Donegal Tourism

Cllr Michéal Naughton
Cllr Noel Jordan
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Martin Harley

Attendance at Conferences 2018

Colmcille Winter School, Gartan
23-24 February 2018
Cllr Liam Blaney
Cllr Adrian Glackin
Cllr John Sheamais O'Fearraigh

Appendices

Representation on External Bodies 2018

Smart Towns and Villages Seminar, Mohill
22 October 2018
Cllr Niamh Kennedy

Celtic Conferences, Clonakilty, Co Cork
26-28 October 2018
Cllr Terence Slowey
Cllr Frank McBrearty

Celtic Conferences, Carlingford, Co Louth
14-16 December 2018
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Patrick McGowan

Attendance at Training Events 2018

AILG Module 1, Cavan
13 February 2018
Cllr Gary Doherty

AILG Module 1, Carlow
17 February 2018
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Martin McDermott
Cllr James McDaid

AILG Module 1, Mullingar
22 February 2018
Cllr Patrick McGowan
Cllr Gerry Crawford

LAMA Spring Seminar, Donegal Town
6-7 April 2018
Cllr Michael McBride
Cllr Noel Jordan
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Terence Slowey
Cllr Tom Conaghan
Cllr Michéal Naughton

AILG Spring Seminar, Dungarvan
12-13 April 2018
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Jack Murray
Cllr James McDaid
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill
Cllr Terence Slowey
Cllr John Ryan
Cllr John O'Donnell
Cllr Patrick McGowan

AILG Module 2, Westport
19 May 2018
Cllr Terence Slowey
Cllr Paul Canning
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr John Ryan
Cllr James McDaid
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Patrick McGowan

AILG Module 3, Dundalk
23 June 2018
Cllr Terence Slowey
Cllr Patrick McGowan

AILG Module 3, Bundoran
28 June 2018
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

AILG Module 4, Carrick On Shannon
11 September 2018
Cllr Gary Doherty

LAMA Autumn Seminar, Kerry
28-29 September 2018
Cllr Terence Slowey
Cllr John O'Donnell
Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr Mickey Doherty
Cllr Jack Murray
Cllr Gary Doherty
Cllr Martin Mc Dermott
Cllr Patrick McGowan
Cllr Gerry Crawford

AILG Module 5, Sligo
13 October 2018
Cllr Terence Slowey

AILG Autumn Seminar, Monaghan
25-26 October 2018
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Michéal Naughton
Cllr Terence Slowey
Cllr Michael McBride
Cllr Frank McBrearty

AILG Module 6, Leixlip
17 November 2018
Cllr Terence Slowey
Cllr Martin Harley
Cllr Gary Doherty

AILG Module 6, Cavan
22 November 2018
Cllr Nicholas Crossan
Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr Patrick McGowan

Appendices

Representation on External Bodies 2018

Travel Abroad 2018

CPMR - Patras Greece
7-9 March
Cllr John S O'Fearraigh

St Patrick's Day Events - USA
10-20 March
Cllr Noel Jordan

St Patrick's Day Events - Rudolstadt, Germany
15-20 March
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr M McBride

US Tourism Promotional Campaign
12-20 August
Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill

Conference Political Maritime Regions - Maderia
17-20 October
Cllr John Campbell

Eurovelo - Atlantic on Bike Workshop - Faro
16-18 October
Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill

Philadelphia /Boston - Golden Bridges
12-16 November
Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill

Members and Related Expenses 2018

Annual Allowance	€261,664.63
Representational Payment	€681,209.06
Cathaoirleach's Allowance	€29,896.62
Leas - Chathaoirleach's Allowance	€5,979.22
Entertainment Expenses	€5,300.00
Insurance	€7,918.02
Gratuity Scheme	€51,540.91
Chairs Strategic Policy Committees	€29,145.16
Municipal District Chairs Allowance	€35,879.32
Municipal Allowance - All Members	€36,857.54
Expenses of Non-Councillors on Committees	€4,196.00
Conference Attendance (Home) Travel & Subsistence	€1,161.79
Attendance at Training Events	€18,014.29
Other Travel	€3,662.95
Conference & Training Fees	€8,220.00
Foreign Travel	€14,390.80
Communication Expenses	€12,336.00
Contribution to Member's Representative Associations	€17,755.00
Total	€1,225,127.31

Gratuities 2018

Thomas Pringle - €36,628.89

Val Murray (former Ballyshannon Town Council) - €2,284.15

Elizabeth McIntyre (former Bundoran Town Council) - €12,627.87

Performance Indicators 2018

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing:	No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 1/1/2018	4698
	No. of dwellings added to the LA owned stock during 2018 (whether constructed or acquired)	118
	No. of LA owned dwellings sold in 2018	26
	No. of LA owned dwellings demolished in 2018	0
	No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 31/12/2018	4790
	No. of LA owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved scheme	7
	The percentage of the total number of LA owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2018	3.85%
	The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2018 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2018	39.92 wk
	The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2018, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2018	€13,477.94
	Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at end of June 2018	6920
	Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2018	759
	Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2018 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	88.14%
	Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant during 2018	227
	The number of dwellings inspected in 2018 that were found not to be compliant with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations	669
	Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a % of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2018	27.27%
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2018 as recorded on the PASS system	11
	Roads:	The % of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2018
The % of Local Primary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2018		96%
The % of Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2018		93%
The % of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2018		66%
The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2018		8%
The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2018		24%
The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2018		28%
The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2018		39%
The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2018		7%
The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2018		28%
The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2018		36%
The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2018		27%
The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2018		13%
The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2018		26%
The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2018	43%	

Performance Indicators 2018

Topic	Indicator	Value
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2018	14%
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2018	29%
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2018	13%
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2018	16%
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2018	13%
	Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2018	38.9 km
	The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2018	€5,489,882
	Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2018	25.2 km
	The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2018	€813,161
	Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2018	232.9 km
	The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2018	€12,438,043
	Kilometres of local road resealed during 2018	105.5 km
	The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2018	€2,159,957
Motor Tax:	The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2018	54.69%
Water:	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements in respect of the monitoring of the quality of private drinking water supplies during 2018	1.00%
Waste:	The number of households, based on the 2016 Census, who are situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2018	1636
	The % of households within the local authority (also as per the 2016 Census) that the number at A represents	2.81%
Environmental	Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2018	1012
Pollution:	Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2018	1474
	Total number of cases on hands at 31/12/2018	213
Litter Pollution:	The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2018 was unpolluted or litter free	66%
	The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2018 was slightly polluted	27%
	The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2018 was moderately polluted	6%
	The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2018 was significantly polluted	1%
	The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2018 was grossly polluted	0%

Performance Indicators 2018

Topic	Indicator	Value
Green Flag Status:	The % of schools that have been awarded green flag status	52.22%
Planning:	Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	18.75%
	Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2018	26
	% of the determinations which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the LA	73.08%
	Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018 that were investigated	306
	Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2018	330
	% of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	59.09%
	% of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	3.94%
	% Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	36.97%
	Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2018	811
Planning:	Cost per capita of Planning Service	€27.16
	The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2018 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	45.33%
	The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2018 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	48.00%
Fire Service:	Cost per capita of Fire Service	€49.87
	Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	
	Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	5.7min
	Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	
	Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	5.81 min
	% of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes	28.83 %
	% of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	49.64%
	% of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	21.53%
	% of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	32.78%

Performance Indicators 2018

Topic	Indicator	Value
	% of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	52.98%
	% of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	14.24%
Library Service:	Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the LA area per the 2016 Census	2.39
	Number of items issued to borrowers in the year	237,678
	Cost per capita of operating Library Service	€24.66
Youth and Community:	Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	70.37%
	Number of organisations included in the County Register and the proportion who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	17.83
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register for the local authority area as at 31/12/2018	516
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2018	29
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	92
Corporate:	The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2018	927.54
	Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2018	3.97%
	Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2018	0.34%
	All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018, divided by the WTE no.	€2,783.52
	Total page views of the local authority's websites in 2018	1,861,460
	Total number of followers at end 2018 of the LA's social media accounts	92,443
Finance:	Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-14966588
	Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-14345654
	Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2016 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-9717139
	Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2017 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-8953104
	Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2018 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-8386583

Performance Indicators 2018

Topic	Indicator	Value
	Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2018 as a percentage of Total Income in 2018 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	-5.21%
	Revenue expenditure per capita in 2018	€959.48
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	56.3%
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	62.8%
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	68.0%
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017	74.3%
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018	76%
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	89.3%
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	89.8%
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	89.0%
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017	89.2%
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018	89%
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	63.3%
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	63.4%
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	66.0%
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017	67.9%
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018	68%
Economic	The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018	203.0
Development:	The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2018	47
	The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2018	23
	The no. of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018	93
	Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes
	Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes