



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

**3-Year Capital Budget 2016 - 2018**

24<sup>th</sup> November 2015

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# **1. Chief-Executive's Report**

## **Context**

The Draft Capital Budget for the period 2016 – 2018 herein is prepared having regard to the amount of capital funding that is already confirmed from external or internal sources and, as is the case in the majority of the 2017 and 2018 predictions, is based on estimates. The outturn on the 2014 capital expenditure was €26,642,831 with the 2015 budget amounting to €31,405,384.

Efforts are continuing to maximise opportunities in accessing funding for the various capital programmes. In addition to Departmental or National agency allocations, the targeting of funding under Cross-Border, including trans-European funding is continuing. In this regard, I can confirm that the Council will participate in continuing to make such submissions as appropriate and relevant as we enter into the period of the European funding programme for 2016 - 2020.

Some of the primary areas of expenditure in 2016 will be:

- In 2016 the Council expects substantial further spend on key roads infrastructure including N56 Donegal to Glenties, N56 Mountcharles to Inver, N15 Blackburn Bridge, N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan and N56 Kilty Roundabout (with some subject to approval and allocation). A further estimated €3m will be spent on pavement improvements on the National Road Network.
- Substantial funding has been applied for across a range of piers and harbours in respect of 2016. These will be subject to co-financing requirements on approval.
- A range of reserves established by the former Town Councils in Bundoran and Letterkenny will see various capital works in these areas during 2016 and across a number of Council directorates.
- The conclusion of a design concept and initiation of a work Programme to complete a new Council Chamber will take place in 2016, in addition to the fitting out of the former Lifford Army Barracks for office accommodation.
- A county wide programme of capital works to support community, economic and tourism development objectives will take place in 2016 as part of the Councils ongoing commitment in the area.
- The Council will continue to carry out work to improve and, where required, ameliorate issues in unfinished housing estates during 2016.

### **Co-funding from Own Resources**

The principal sources of generating the local contributions needed to co-fund external Capital Investment are:

1. The Development Contribution Scheme (DCS)
2. Loans
3. Transfers from Revenue

The level of income available from the DCS Fund can only be applied to new works in any given year to an equivalent value of cash collected in the same year. Similarly, the availability of transfers from Revenue as a source of co-funding Capital Investment remains limited as the members will be aware from our annual Revenue Budget discussions and meetings. The Council's ability to service new borrowings in respect of Capital Works is, as always, determined by the extent of the Council's capacity to fund repayments from the Revenue Account and will of necessity have regard to existing commitments.

Notwithstanding the considerable co-funding constraints outlined, I will continue to seek to ensure that the Council is best placed at any given time to be in a position to draw down potential Capital Investment for the good of the County and its citizens.

Having regard to the importance of the Development Contribution Scheme as a means to leverage other external funds, it is proposed, following further analysis, to hold another workshop of Council to consider the detail of the new Development Contribution Scheme in advance of proceeding to public consultation.

### **Irish Water**

Irish Water, as a separate utility, has by statute taken up the role of 'Water Authority' in respect of the vast majority of water functions previously carried out by the Local Authority sector in the Water Service Area. In this context Irish Water is also now responsible for the financing of, and the progressing of, the Water Service Capital Programme in the County since 2014.

### **Proposals for the 3 year Capital Programme 2016 – 2018**

A three year Capital programme in the sum of €128,643,713 is presented for the period 2016 – 2018 broken down per Programme Group as detailed in the Statutory Tables.

The Statutory Tables reflect the gross estimated expenditure for the period 2016 – 2018 (noting my earlier comments relating to uncertainty of availability of capital funding generally in respect of 2017 and 2018).

For reasons outlined and as previously alluded to it is only the first year of the three year programme that can be presented in a more detailed manner. The detailed proposals for this earlier element of the programme are presented broken down per

Directorate / Spend Heading. Each Director of Service has provided an analysis of proposed spend by project which is included in the detail of this report. The following table provides an overview summary.

<b>Directorate/Spend-Heading</b>	<b>Estimated Expenditure 2016 (€)</b>
<b>Housing, Corporate &amp; Cultural Services</b>	
Social Housing Investment Programme	8,800,000
Improving the Social Housing Stock	607,740
Voluntary Housing	751,000
Housing Grants	1,500,000
Library / Cultural Services	109,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,767,740</b>
<b>Roads &amp; Transportation</b>	
National Primary & National Secondary	24,130,000
General Road Improvements - Development Charges Schemes	1,168,000
Public Lighting Improvements	500,000
Former Town Council Funded Projects	2,512,763
Marine	1,290,000
Facilities Maintenance and Improvement	1,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,600,763</b>
<b>Community, Enterprise &amp; Planning Services</b>	
Unfinished Housing Estates	1,265,000
Community Development & Enterprise	3,530,000
Designated Urban Centre Grant Scheme	1,340,786
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,135,786</b>
<b>Water &amp; Environment Services</b>	
Rural Water Programme	600,000
Environmental Services	350,000
Waste Management (Ballynacarrick Landfill)	400,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,350,000</b>
<b>Finance, Information Systems &amp; Emergency Services</b>	
Fire Service	178,850
Civil Defence	20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>198,850</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>50,053,139</b>

The total estimated Capital spend as indicated of €50,053,139 in 2016 is conditional on a range of factors and assumptions including the allocation of grants, level of DCS collectable, loan sanction approval from DECLG and availability of matching finance.

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**Seamus Neely**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

## ***2. Head-of-Finance's Report***

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

"In considering the question of resources likely to be available to it, the local authority shall so consider-

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

The Council continues to apply a stringent approach to the management of existing capital projects, with a continued focus on managing projects within available, identified and confirmed budget lines. The objective of this is to ensure that no unfunded capital balances arise and is supported by resource prioritisation in Finance under the updated workforce plan.

Available budgets from all external sources (Departmental allocations, other grants etc.) and all internal sources (own resources, DCS etc.) are reflected in the reports. DCS, in line with audit requirements, is reflected on a cash-collection basis, i.e. the best estimate available for collection in 2016 is the figure utilised in the attached service reports where appropriate.

Similarly, it should be noted that proposals can also include current best estimates as to funding make up and sources, in instances where confirmation is still awaited on a definitive funding package for a project area. It should be noted that projects will only proceed on confirmation of a complete funding package.

The current uncertainty of availability of capital funding in the medium to long term generally and the evolving changes in the Local Government sector structures and functions, means that only 2016 is presented in specific detail, with the remaining two years being a best estimate, reflecting our uncertainty as to the level of funding available for those years.

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**Garry Martin CPFA**  
**DIRECTOR OF SERVICE**  
**FINANCE, INFORMATION SYSTEMS & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

### **3. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services**

The Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services Directorate continues to manage a wide ranging capital programme which will be presented under the following headings:

#### **Section 1: Libraries/Cultural-Services Division**

#### **Section 2: Local Authority Housing**

Notwithstanding the limitations on resources which are likely to be available during the period 2016-2018, a planned programme of investment has been prepared to maximise our opportunity to qualify for external funds/grants while limiting the demand for co-funding from internal resources.

The proposals under each of the section headings, over the next three years, are set out below:

#### **Section 1 – Libraries/Cultural-Services Division**

##### **1.1 Projects Approved/In-Progress:**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Funder (s)</b>	<b>Details</b>
Central Library, Letterkenny	Own Resources.	Works to accommodate self-service facilities, essential renovation of the main ground floor lending area.
Regional Cultural Centre	Own Resources.	Works to enable the transfer of additional Cultural Services functions to the RCC which will reduce the long-term need for rented accommodation.

##### **1.2 Projects Planned:**

Donegal Town Library	Dept / Own Resources.	The Department's Library Buildings Capital Programme may open for applications in 2016. Should the Council approve the submission of an application in line with its' adopted priority list in Cultural Connections, the proposal for Donegal Town Library should be developed. Match funding will be required and full plans drawn up.
Public Art - Ards Sculpture Park	External funds External TBC/ Own Resources.	The Public Art Office has developed plans for a unique Sculpture Park in Ards Forest Park. An application will be prepared for potential funders, with match funding, if required, to come from the Per Cent for Art Scheme. A front runner installation was placed in Ards in 2014.
Archives	Own Resources.	The Council's plans for the redevelopment of the former barracks in Lifford includes for an Archives Centre. Donegal County Council is custodian of

		invaluable archives that date from at least the early 18 <sup>th</sup> century. There has been a dramatic increase in the level of, and demand for, preservation and access to archives in County Donegal in recent years.
Donegal Diaspora Centre Phase 1	Own Resources Phase 1/External Funding Phase 2	It is proposed to provide access to all Council history-related services from a single location at the site of the old workhouse in Letterkenny where the County Museum is based. This would be redeveloped to accommodate a unique local and visitor centre. The centre will be a focal point for the Donegal Diaspora.

### **Libraries/Cultural-Services Division 2016-2018 (Projects Approved/In-Progress)**

Category	Description	Projected Cost Per Annum			Proposed Sources of funding 2016 - 2018	
		2016 €	2017 €	2018 €	Council €	External €
<b>Cultural Services Division</b>	Central Library enhancement	59,000	59,000		100%	0
	RCC works	50,000	50,000		100%	0

## **Section 2 – Local Authority Housing**

### **Social Housing Investment Programme**

Budget 2015 marked a significant change in the trajectory of social housing funding, with provision increased in 2015 by some €210m to €800m and a commitment to multi-annual funding envelopes for social housing over the period to 2017. This will support the ambitious national targets of the Social Housing Strategy which, in turn, must translate into ambitious local targets for each authority. Funding of proposals in respect of capital delivery will be allocated based on the housing need and the merits of the proposals submitted.

In 2015, Donegal County Council set out its proposals under the Department's Capital Programme for 2015, 2016 and 2017. An ambitious plan had been developed for direct local authority construction and acquisition, with an overall output of 610 units over the course of the strategy from 2015-2020. This included for 80 units to be delivered by the Community and Voluntary Sector.

The initial 3 year plan set a target for the delivery of 186 units for the sum of €30 million, with the following three year programme developed and submitted to the Department:

2015 – 20 Units - €3.9m  
2016 – 40 Units - €8.8m  
2017 – 126 Units - €17.3m

The above programme is currently on target for delivery with 1 no Specific Instance Rural Cottage constructed and 19 units to be purchased in 2015.

A range of housing scheme projects is being developed and is on target for delivery for 2016 and 2017 as planned. The current delivery target for 2018 is to commence 202 units at an estimated expenditure of €15m.

As the programme develops, some units may 'fall out' due to various issues (land/part 8/department approval) and an annual house-purchase of 10 units per annum will replace some schemes where only a small number of units are required as a more cost effective solution. A review will be undertaken in 2017 to ensure that the programme can be modified to adapt to challenges faced and to ensure the delivery of the total output target of 610 units by the end of 2020.

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

There are a number of programmes under which improvements to the Social Housing stock are carried out as set out below:

#### *Fabric Up-Grade Programme*

This Council has carried out improvement works to over 350 dwellings in 2015, with assistance from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government, to the value of approximately €800,000 under the above programme. This will bring the total number of housing units subject to improvements under this scheme to over 1,000.

An application for funding will be submitted to enable the Council to continue this Programme in 2016 thereby making significant improvements to the energy efficiency of its stock.

#### *Returning Vacant Properties to Productive Use*

In 2015, this Council obtained approval to carry out works to 43 units with the assistance of grant aid in the sum of €386,782 and works on these units have now been completed.

In September the DECLG requested Councils to make a further bid for funding and this Council was successful in receiving approval for 112 additional units with grant assistance to the value of €954,991. Work on these units is now underway and will be completed before the end of the year.

The expenditure and income associated with the operation of this programme is accounted for in the Revenue Account.

### Once-off Adaptation Works

Following a submission to the DECLG, this Council received an allocation of €211,676 to carry out small scale adaptation works, including extensions to its social housing stock. In most cases, this is for tenants with special needs and/or disabilities, with approximately 60 households benefiting from works carried out under this programme on an annual basis.

### Long Term Vacant/Derelict Social Housing Units

The DECLG is examining the introduction of a targeted programme to fund the remediation/return of long term vacant/derelict social housing units which have not been repaired to date due to the cost involved i.e. in excess of €30,000 per unit. This Council has made an application for 16 units at a total cost of €607,740 although no decision is expected until 2016.

### **Traveller Accommodation**

Year on year, this Council has through the support of the Traveller Accommodation Unit in the Department been in a position to provide an extensive range of both new accommodation and improvements to existing accommodation for members of the Travelling Community. A range of Traveller-specific projects was completed in 2015, including the provision of a demountable dwelling on a permanent halting site and completion of a two-storey extension for a family to alleviate an overcrowding situation. These are in addition to the accommodation solutions provided to meet the needs of the Traveller Community through the Social Housing Investment Programme. No funding for additional Traveller-specific projects has been provided to date in 2015 although indications are that funding will be allocated in the latter part of 2015 or early 2016 for a number of such projects and this Council will continue to seek to avail of any such opportunities that arise.

In line with commitments in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018, the Council will exceed the 7 family units committed to for 2015.

### **Voluntary Housing**

Over the years, Donegal County Council has proactively engaged with the Approved Housing Body Sector and the Health Service Executive in the context of the provision of accommodation under this programme to meet the needs of the elderly and persons with special needs together with the provision of accommodation for families under the Loan Subsidy Scheme.

Through extensive inter-agency work with the Health Service Executive, Schemes under the Capital Assistance Programme are now specifically targeted to the provision of special needs accommodation where the traditional forms of social housing supports will not deliver on this need. A total of 11 units will be delivered under this programme in 2015 with a further 65 units planned for the following 3 years as set out below:

2016: 15 units - €0.751m  
2017: 25 units - €1.500m  
2018: 25 units - €1.500m

In addition to the provision of accommodation under the Capital Assistance Scheme, this Council is actively engaging with the Approved Housing Body Sector in the context of the delivering of a further 90 units (approx.) under the Capital Advance Leasing Facility/Payment & Availability Agreement Scheme.

### **Assistance to Persons Improving Houses**

At the end of October, 2015, €243,926 (91 applications) was paid out, with works to a value of €109,799 (27 applications) under way. Commitments in respect of Grants, which had already been approved but not commenced at the end of October, amounted to a further €177,434 (62 applications), bringing the total committed expenditure, at the end of October, with respect to 2015 Grant Applications to €531,159. There are a further 131 applications in the system at various stages of processing at an estimated value of €417,392.

A review of the standard costing is currently being considered by the Housing & Corporate Strategic Policy Committee and this will likely have an impact on the level of expenditure in the future

The targeted provision over the next three years is as follows:

2016: 275 grants - €1.500m  
2017: 300 grants - €1.650m  
2018: 300 grants - €1.650m

## **4. Roads & Transportation**

### **National Roads Major Capital Projects**

#### N13/N14/N15 TEN – T Network

The Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) are a planned set of transport networks across Europe. The TEN-T Regulation, which defines the objective of increasing the benefits for road users by ensuring safe, secure and high-quality standards for road users and freight transport, targets a gradual development of the transport network, with the Core TEN-T Network a priority (to be completed by 2030), followed by the completion of the Comprehensive TEN-T Network by 2050.

In Ireland, the Core Network currently consists of the route from Belfast, Northern Ireland to Dublin and continues to both Cork/Ringaskiddy and Limerick/Foynes. At a regional and national level, the Comprehensive Network will feed into the Core Network. It is the intention that, by 2050, the majority of Europe's citizens and businesses will be no more than 30 minutes travel time from this feeder network.

In County Donegal, the Ten-T Comprehensive Network runs from the Leitrim County Boundary in the South of the County, on the outskirts of Bundoran, to the County Border with Derry in the Northeast of the County at Bridgend, on the outskirts of Derry City, and the route from Letterkenny to Lifford. The route has an overall length of approx 100 km and involves sections of the N13, N14, N15 and N56.

An allocation of €500,000 was provided to Donegal County Council in 2016 to carry out a Needs Study on the TEN-T network in the county. The aim of this study was to identify an optimal future National Primary road and TEN-T comprehensive network in Donegal and to outline a prioritisation and delivery programme that offered value for money. Consultants have been appointed to carry out this study.

The appraisal-led approach was based on multi-criteria assessment (MCA), including cost benefit analysis consistent with the Department of Finance's Common Appraisal Framework, as outlined in NRA Project Appraisal Guidelines. The appraisal criteria adopted flowed from the agreed objectives of the study and were grouped under the following headings;

- Economy.
- Safety.
- Environment.
- Accessibility.
- Integration.

This evidence based/quantitative study is to provide a long term planning framework for the network, and will define the vision for the TEN-T Comprehensive network in Donegal and outline a proposed programme of interventions to be undertaken.

Work has commenced on the Needs Study, following agreement on the consultancy brief. It is anticipated that following amendments suggested by TII and further discussions with same that the Study will be finalised by the end of Q4 2016. Based on the findings of the report, it will then be possible to select the first section or sections of the Comprehensive Network in Donegal that will be brought forward through Feasibility Appraisal, in line with the NRA Project Management Guidelines, with a view to commencing design. An allocation of €800,000 has been requested to advance the TEN –T project in 2016.

#### N14/N15 to A5 Link

This scheme is a cross-border project to provide a link between the N15 at Lifford and the proposed A5 Western Transport Corridor (A5 WTC) in Strabane. The Environmental Impact - Statement / Environmental Statement was published on both sides of the border in July 2011. The scheme was approved by An Bord Pleanála in May 2012.

Following a legal challenge the Orders relating to the A5 WTC scheme were quashed in the High Court in Belfast in April 2013, after the judge found that an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Directive should have been carried out in relation to Special Areas of Conservation. The decision of the court means that the A5 WTC project has been delayed while further assessment work is completed.

The Statutory Process for the Northern Ireland element of the N14/N15 to A5 Link project cannot be completed until such time as the A5 WTC project has been approved.

It is expected that a small allocation of €30,000 will be provided in 2016 to complete the Statutory Process should the Statutory Process in connection with the A5 WTC be completed in 2016.

#### N56 Dungloe to Glenties

This scheme was chosen as a pilot scheme for the new Type 3 Single Carriageway. All necessary statutory approvals are in place, the project is approx 29.1 km in length and it is proposed to construct the project in five phases. Construction of the 3.5km phase from Cloghbolie to Boyoughter was substantially completed in 2012. Construction of the next phase from Boyoughter to Kilkenny (4.9 km) commenced in 2016 with an 18 month construction period. An estimated €4,900,000 will be expended on the construction of this project in 2016. Land acquisition for all phases of the project is continuing and an allocation of €1,500,000 has been sought for 2016. This project was included in the Government's recently published document 'Building on Recovery Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2016 – 2021' so funding is expected to be allocated annually until all five phases of the project have been completed

#### N56 Mountcharles to Inver

Tender Documents were completed early in 2013 for the construction contract. However, funding was not available to progress with the tender process. Construction of the project is now to be funded over a number of phases. Detailed

design and tender documents will be finalised for a 2km section from Mountcharles to Drumbeigh in 2016. It is hoped that this phase will proceed to construction in 2016 and an allocation of €4,000,000 has been requested in this regard (including an allocation of €500,000 to finalise land acquisition). This project was included in the Government's recently published document 'Building on Recovery Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2016 2021' so funding is expected to be allocated annually until the overall project have been completed.

#### N15 Blackburn Bridge

Part 8 planning was completed for this scheme in 2011. It is proposed to construct the project in two Phases. The Compulsory Purchase Order for Phase 1 has been approved and land acquisition commenced late in 2013. Construction on this project commenced in Mid 2016 and is due for completion by end of Q3 2016. An estimated €3,500,000 will be expended on this project in 2016.

#### N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan

Part 8 planning was completed for this scheme in 2012. However, an amendment to the design in close proximity to the Leanann River SAC at Kilmacrennan has meant that an Appropriate Assessment (AA) under the EU Habitats Directive was necessary. The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) have been approved by an ABP in 2014. An allocation of €700,000 has been provided in 2016 to commence the Land acquisition and to complete the Tender documents which will be completed at the end of 2016 and submitted to TII seeking approval to seek tenders and proceed to construction in mid 2016. An allocation of €4,650,000 has been requested in this regard. Progression of the tender process is dependent on the availability of the required funding.

#### N56 Letterkenny Relief Road Phase 1 (Kiltoy Roundabout)

The N56 Kiltoy Roundabout is part of the N56 Letterkenny Relief Road and will address the sub-standard existing junction arrangement between the N56 and the Kiltoy / Lisnennan Roads.

The proposed project involves the design and construction of approximately 1km of new National Secondary Road, including a Roundabout and associated link roads. Part 8 Planning for the Scheme is in place and almost all of the lands required have been purchased by agreement. Consultants are being appointed to complete the contract documents with a view to seeking tenders and proceeding to construction by the end of Q2 2016. TII has indicated that funding for the construction contract will be provided in 2016 and an allocation of €1,000,000 has been requested in this regard.

#### Bridge Management

An allocation from TII of €750,000 will be required in 2016 for the rehabilitation, strengthening and widening of approximately 10 bridges on various national routes around the County.

## National Pavement Strengthening Design and Contracts 2016

The NRA continues to fund pavement improvements on the National Networks. The allocation for 2016 is expected to be approx. €3.00m.

Maintenance and resurfacing works under HD 28 will also be funded by the TII in 2016. The scope and value of this has not yet been determined.

## National Safety Projects 2016

Since 2014 Safety Assessment of the National Primary Network is carried out based on a National 'Network Level' analysis in accordance with the EU Directive on Road Infrastructure Safety Management. The principal measures which generate capital improvement works are the NRA HD15 Network Safety Ranking, which is a process of using collision data to rank the safety of the national road network and to identify high collision locations and NRA HD17 Road Safety Inspection under which visual Road Safety Inspections are performed on existing national roads to identify safety issues and defects that require maintenance. Both these assessments are carried out on a countrywide basis and specific improvements are identified annually. Funding is allocated to individual projects on a priority basis once design solutions have been agreed between the Local Authority and the TII. At present Donegal County Council are assessing High Collision Locations identified under the HD15 process with a view to submitting Feasibility Reports for potential NRA funding for construction in 2016. Two larger scale schemes identified under this process (N56 Four Lane Road, Letterkenny and the Corcam Bends outside Stranorlar on the N15) are being assessed by the National Roads Office Safety Design Team.

## **National Roads - Estimated Capital Spending for 2016, 2017 and 2018**

The table below sets out the expected capital spend for 2016. The capital allocation is estimated for 2017 and 2018 only for projects where funding is committed.

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2016 €m</b>	<b>2017 €m</b>	<b>2018 €m</b>
N14/N15 toA5 Link	0.030		
N15 Blackburn Bridge	3.500	1.500	0.250
N13/N14/N15 TEN-T Improvement	0.800	*	*
N56 Dungloe to Glenties (Land)	1.500	0.800	
N56 Boyoughter to Kilkenny	4.900	4.200	
N56 Mountcharles - Inver	0.500		
N56 Mountcharles - Drumbeigh	3.500	2.000	0.250
N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan	4.650	4.300	0.250
N56 Kilty Roundabout	1.000	0.800	
National Primary Pavement	2.000	1.000	
N56 Pavement Strengthening	1.000	1.000	
Bridges/Bridge Manager	0.750	0.750	
<b>YEARLY TOTALS</b>	<b>24.130</b>	<b>16.350</b>	<b>0.750</b>

\*The outcome of the TEN-T Study in 2016 will inform the likely funding in 2017 and 2018.

## **Non-National Roads Projects**

Generally all non national roads projects are funded through the Dept of Transport and while some may be regarded as capital, all of the projects are accounted for in the Annual Council Revenue Budget.

## **Public Lighting**

The Council has approximately 15,000 public lights. Much of the lighting stock is old with many of the fittings both corroded and energy inefficient. A number of lights in the past few years have had to be replaced as they were badly rusted. The whole stock needs an assessment and significant upgrading. There has been no meaningful investment in the existing stock for 15 to 20 years with the last Public Lighting Improvement Programme occurring in the mid 1990's. An estimate to complete the upgrade of the existing stock is in the order of €7m - €10m. The Revenue Budget 2016 provides an amount of €500,000 by way of a loan to begin a small programme to upgrade the worst lights. Public Bodies are expected to reduce energy consumption by 33% from 2009-2020. It is intended that any new upgrades will use good quality energy efficient lights and be installed to meet modern lighting standards and control systems. The amount to be provided in 2017 and 2018 and indeed through to 2020 has not yet been determined.

## **Tory Helipad – An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta**

The Tory Helipad is in the final stages of construction. The Council is assisting the Department of an Gaeltacht on this project. It is expected that the Council will take over responsibility for the Helipad after it is completed.

## **Marine Capital Development Report 2016 - 2018**

Capital Projects for Piers and Harbours normally require co-funding of 25% from Council Own Resources. Budget 2016 has a very limited provision of €100,000 for new matching monies. It is anticipated that each case would be discussed if the 75% Department funding is made available and the Budget 2016 does not provide for match monies.

The following is a list of facilities where development is warranted, where designs have been completed in some cases and are now ready to proceed to tender stage:

- Rannagh Pier (Glenties MD also an Island Pier)
- Rathmullan Pier Refurbishment (Letterkenny MD)
- Portsalon Pier Re furbishment (Letterkenny MD)
- Inver Pier Extension (Donegal MD)
- Buncrana and Leenan Piers – Design (Inishowen MD)
- Magheraroarty Pier – Design of Breakwater (Glenties MD)

Rannagh Pier is situated on Arainn Mhor (Arranmore Island), off the western coast of Donegal and is accessed by ferry from Burtonport. Both fishing and leisure vessels use the pier here. However, it has very limited water depths and restricted

room for berthing. More critically, the pier deck is low and is submerged during high tides. A swell continually rolls in from the Atlantic and makes berthing and unloading of catches often quite difficult. It is proposed to construct a new pier, which would provide adequate water depth and sufficient berthing to unload equipment and fish catches. It is proposed to apply for funding to construct the Rannagh Pier project on a phased basis over a number of years as it contains two separate elements (pier & breakwater)

Rathmullan Pier is located in Lough Swilly at Rathmullan Town, approximately 10km north east of Letterkenny. The pier provides berthage for vessels at a 43m long pierhead and has a low water depth of 7.9m. It is a valued facility as it can accommodate very large vessels. The pierhead, which was constructed in 1957 is accessed by a 120m viaduct, which dates back to 1934. A small private marina and a slipway are located adjacent to the pier. A roll on roll off car ferry operates from the slipway at Rathmullan to Bunrana during the summer months. As the pier is constructed from structural concrete and is approaching the end of its design life it is proposed to replace many of the structural concrete elements of the pier and viaduct.

Portsalon Pier is located on the eastern side of Fanad Head on Lough Swilly. The pier is in very poor condition, particularly the dog-leg section, which has suffered extensive damage to the South Eastern side of the pier. The proposed remedial work will provide a new sheet piled permanent face to the exposed side of the dogleg and a new reinforced concrete wall on the inner face of the dogleg. The proposed remedial work will also comprise the demolition of the existing wave wall and construction of a new wave wall of increased height. A new deck slab and steps will also be provided.

Inver Pier is situated on the north-western shoreline of Inver Bay, west of Donegal Town. Because of the layout and level of the existing pier, users have difficulties utilising the pier fully. The pier deck is awash on the highest tides, while at low water the berths dry out. It is proposed to construct a 50m L shaped extension, which would provide adequate water depth and sufficient permanent sheltered berthing.

The provision of a new lifeboat berth in Bunrana would reduce the need for dredging in the harbour. Dredging can cost in excess of €50,000 annually. RNLI has indicated that they may be prepared to partially fund design works. A new Shannon class lifeboat has been delivered there this year at a cost of €2.0m.

Leenan Pier is situated on the western side of the Inishowen peninsula at the entrance to Lough Swilly. It is an extremely exposed pier with a continuous swell and is completely unsuitable for permanent berthing. Fishing boats have to make a 3 hour trip to Fahan Marina for shelter in advance of any stormy conditions. An extension/ breakwater or slipway facility would provide safer berthing and enable smaller boats to be brought ashore when conditions are unsuitable.

Magheraroarty pier is located on the North coast of Co. Donegal and is the main pier serving the Tory Island ferry. Sand has been depositing at Magheraroarty pier

since the construction of the pier in the 1970s. In 2002 an L-shaped extension was added to the pier and this has increased the build-up of sand at the base of the pier. To date, annual maintenance dredging is required to remove sediment from the basin. The dredged material is then returned to the adjacent beach, replenishing areas which have been eroded. It is believed construction of a breakwater would eliminate the need for annual dredging and it is therefore proposed to design a suitable breakwater that could also act to facilitate a safe haven at Magheraroarty.

### Marine Leisure

In addition and in support of other marine leisure activities ongoing by the Council and others, it is recommended by the Marine Service that funding is sought in 2016 for the provision of marina type facilities at Ballyshannon, Mulroy Bay and also at a location in the Glenties MD.

Ballyshannon is considered to be a suitable location for a leisure and marina type facility due to its sheltered location within the Erne Estuary. Current use of the pier here is mainly by locals and angling parties, however it is believed that this could be extended to provide marine leisure activities for the large numbers of visitors that frequent the area during the summer months.

Mulroy Bay is a well sheltered inlet between the Rosguil and Fanad peninsula however there are no suitable facilities to cater for leisure craft and particularly visiting boats that could stop off while sailing around the Donegal coast. It is recommended that a facility be provided at Mevagh that could provide berthing for leisure craft and visiting yachts as it is a safe haven and well located within this popular bay.

Burtonport, Kincassalgh and Maghera are locations on the North West coast of Donegal that are seeing increased leisure activity, however the existing facilities that were provided for commercial fishing are not exactly suited to leisure activity and therefore require some adaptation. All of these provide safe havens for visiting boats seeking shelter although Maghera is difficult to access. It is recommended that facilities be put in place here to facilitate the increased leisure activity at these locations.

### Greencastle Harbour Project

The construction of the Breakwater at Greencastle has been suspended for the past few years due to the economic downturn which has meant that funding could not be provided. The next phase of the project is to complete the construction of the breakwater at an estimated cost of €10million. This will require €2.5million in match monies from the Council. This capital report does not make any provision for these match monies and would require a special decision and provision from the Council at a later date.

## Marine Development

The following tables outline the programme of works that the Marine Service expect to progress this year.

### **Marine Capital Budget 2016 - 2018**

<b>2016 Projects</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Total Cost €</b>	<b>Lead Funding Agency</b>	<b>Counter funding</b>
Projects for which funding will be applied for this year	Access to Aids to Navigation. Donegal Co. Council is the local lighthouse authority and is responsible for the maintenance and upgrading of approximately 200 navigation aids along our coast. Access to these is difficult and is mainly carried out from a boat. It is intended to seek funding over the coming years to enhance the access and improve safety to these beacons.	100,000	75,000	25,000
	Extension of pier at Bunagee. Construction of the breakwater has resulted in the loss of a berth at the existing pier. It is proposed to construct a small extension incorporating the newly constructed breakwater to replace the berth that has been lost.	150,000	112,500	37,500
	Inishboffin Seawall. An area around the slipway and boat yard is continually eroding so much so that the slipway and boatyard have been undermined. A sea wall is required here to protect this facility from further erosion.	150,000	112,500	37,500
	Repair to rock armour breakwater at boatyard in Glengad (damaged by recent storms)	30,000	22,500	7,500
	Ballywhoriskey - pile repairs/dredging	60,000	45,000	15,000
	Leabgarrow Pier - Undermining & Steps	20,000	15,000	5,000
	Portsalon - Fit fenders to side of pier	10,000	7,500	2,500
	Carntullagh - Redeck Slipway	20,000	15,000	5,000
	Gola Island - Crane	60,000	45,000	15,000
	Cladnageeragh - Crane	60,000	45,000	15,000
	Binwee Pier - Ladder & Wall	20,000	15,000	5,000
	Gortnasade - Slipway undermining	20,000	15,000	5,000
	Creevy Pier - Redeck and pointing	30,000	22,500	7,500
	Port Tormore - Strenghtening Works	50,000	37,500	12,500
	Muckross - Strenghtening Works	60,000	45,000	15,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>840,000</b>	<b>630,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>

## **Large Scale Projects**

Full design documentation is required for the following projects:

- Provision of a new lifeboat berth at Buncrana
- Magheraroarty Breakwater
- Extension of the pier at Leenan
- Extension to Bunagee Pier
- Extension to the pier at Gola Island

<b>2016 Projects</b>		<b>Total Cost €</b>	<b>Lead Funding Agency</b>	<b>Counter funding</b>
Projects requiring funding for consultancy fees to allow grant applications to be made	Consultancy fees for design of lifeboat berth at Buncrana	80,000	40,000 (RNLI)	40,000
	Consultancy fees for design of Groyne at Magheraroarty	70,000	52,500	17,500
	Bunagee Pier Extension	100,000	75,000	25,000
	Leenan Pier	100,000	75,000	25,000
	Gola Island Pier	100,000	75,000	25,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>317,500</b>	<b>132,500</b>

## **Marine Capital Budget 2016 – 2018 Contd. (One project to be selected for construction within the 3 year period)**

<b>2016 Projects</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Total Cost €</b>	<b>Lead Funding Agency</b>	<b>Counter funding</b>
Projects ready for construction phase in 2016	Rannagh Pier	2,300,000	1,725,000	575,000
	Rathmullan Pier Refurbishment	2,600,000	1,950,000	650,000
	Portsalon Pier Refurbishment	1,400,000	1,050,000	350,000
	Inver Pier	2,200,000	1,650,000	550,000
Projects requiring design & statutory approvals in 2016	Groyne at Magheraroarty	1,000,000	750,000	250,000
	Lifeboat Berth at Buncrana	500,000	375,000	125,000
	Bunagee Pier Extension	1,000,000	750,000	250,000
	Leenan Pier	1,000,000	750,000	250,000
	Gola Island Pier	1,000,000	750,000	250,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,000,000</b>	<b>9,750,000</b>	<b>3,250,000</b>

## **Roads Projects Funded from Development Charges**

The total estimated amount of General Development Charges that will be provided for the Roads Directorate is currently estimated at €500,000 for 2016 and €250,000 for each of 2017 and 2018. The estimates for 2017 and 2018 will be the

subject of further review in advance of each respective Budget year and will take into account payment trend of DCS at that time to update the expected available Budget accordingly.

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

In addition to general DCS, the Council collected Specific Development Charges for specified works associated required to facilitate particular developments and approx. €668,000 of these charges remain to be expended. It is expected that the relevant works associated with these charges will be completed in 2016.

<b>Capital Spending for Next 3 Years</b>	<b>Estimated Expenditure (€m)</b>		
	<b>2016 €m</b>	<b>2017 €m</b>	<b>2018 €m</b>
Specific Development Charges	0.668	0	0
Roads Development Charges Schemes	0.500	0.250	0.250
<b>Yearly Total</b>	<b>1.168</b>	<b>0.250</b>	<b>0.250</b>

### **Projects Funded by Former Town Councils**

Prior to the dissolution of the former Bundoran & Letterkenny Town Councils in May 2014, the elected councillors had agreed to fund a number of specified projects. The projects and the funding allocated are listed in the following table. It is expected that these projects will require further discussion with Elected Members as to the scope of works and some will require design and Part 8 Planning. This may result in some of the projects extending beyond 2016.

<b>Project *</b>	<b>Funding (€m)</b>		
	<b>2016 €</b>	<b>2017 €</b>	<b>2018 €</b>
EASTEND STORM WATER	177,115		
BUNDORAN MAIN STREET	100,000		
BUNDORAN SEAFRONT CAR PARK	100,000		
BUNDORAN APPROACH RD. IMPROVEMENTS	53,163		
BUNDORAN WEST END WALK IMP- FORMER TC	266,730		
TULLAN STRAND ACCESS	252,395		
BUNDORAN DISABILITY FOOTPATHS	32,617		
T/O TULLAN STRAND RD H/ESTATES	70,000		
ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE LETTERKENNY TOWN	760,743		
JOE BONNER ROAD LETTERKENNY	500,000		
STORM CULVERT CIRCULAR ROAD LKENNY	200,000		
<b>Yearly Total</b>	<b>2,512,763</b>		

\*To be delivered by various Council Directorates

## **Projects Funded from Private Works Contributions**

From time to time monies are made available to the Roads Department to undertake specified works on the public road network. Examples of this are;

- Funding for improvements on the access routes to Sliabh Liag as part of the overall development project;
- Funding for the repairs to roads damaged from third parties (e.g. Eircom, Water Services, etc.)

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

## **Corporate Buildings**

The Council has agreed to utilise the Training Room as an interim Chamber for holding meetings of the new 37 member Council. The Council has formed a sub-group of elected members to review and help decide the permanent arrangements. The sub-group has decided that it wishes to explore all options around utilizing the existing chamber in the first instance and that is now being worked on. The Council Chamber improvements will ultimately be funded from a capital account previously set aside for refurbishment/expansion of County House Phase Two.

The Council is in the final stage of the acquisition of vacated Army Barracks in Lifford and it is hoped to complete the purchase in the coming weeks and then begin work on refurbishment to make it suitable for our purposes. It is estimated that the refurbishment and fit-out and wiring will be in the region of €500,000 - €800,000.

Lifford Barracks is being funded from a Capital Account previously set aside for this purpose. Once refurbishments works are completed, the provision of suitable accommodation at Lifford Barracks will facilitate the relocation of approximately 70 staff, thus enabling the removal of existing temporary prefab accommodation deemed unfit for purpose and will also negate the need for continued long term extensions of existing leases, thus consolidating the Council's office provision at headquarters in a cost effective manner.

It is also proposed to seek a long term solution to the file/archive storage and management issue which currently exists across all directorates. While this will provide for a significant improvement in the management of the audit processes, efficiencies in file retrieval and compliance with file disposal legislation, it will also facilitate the relocation of many office stored files to said purpose specific location, thus enhancing the working environment of staff across the County.

## **5. Community, Enterprise & Planning Services**

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

### **Section 1: Community & Enterprise Division.**

### **Section 2: Planning Division.**

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

### **Section 1 – Community & Enterprise Division.**

#### **1.1 Projects Approved/In Progress:**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Funder(s)</b>	<b>Details</b>
Rural Development Prog (RDP/LEADER).	EU/Dept.	€12,913,877 to be allocated by the Local Action Group in Donegal (the LCDC) in the period 2016-2020.
Sliabh Liag Strategic Development Project.	SEUPB INTERREG IVA/ Failte Ireland/ Own Resources.	A major flagship tourism project for Sliabh Liag which includes the development of visitor amenities and access improvements. Capital works commenced in 2012 and will be completed in 2016. Works to be completed in 2016 include the mountain path and the installation of interpretative equipment.
Donegal Craft Village.	External Sources.	In the period 2016-2018 works to include: construction of additional units, extension to car park and opening of direct access from the regional road subject to securing external funding.
Tullan Strand, Bundoran.	Own Resources.	Development of access to Tullan Strand.

#### **1.2 Projects Planned:**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Funder(s)</b>	<b>Details</b>
Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme – Letterkenny.	DECLG	The Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme prioritises investment in Gateway Towns as the engine of the regional economy. An application has been submitted by the Council for funding the following developments in Letterkenny: Social Enterprise Building (€2,002,000); Town Centre Improvements (€524,200)

		and works on the Joe Bonner Link Road (€1,496,160). The proposed social enterprise building will have a floor area of approximately 1400 sq/m over a number of floors and aims to create a communal space that will house some of the key community and voluntary groupings currently based in the town.
Peace IV.	SEUPB (Peace IV).	Preparation of the Peace IV Plan scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2016. Potential projects to include: Riverine, Shared Spaces and Water Safety.
Malin Head Phase II.	External Sources/Own Resources.	Construction of toilet block, additional car parking and lay-bys. Development and implementation of a master plan for the Malin Head area.
Playgrounds.	External/Own Resources.	Refurbishment of 8 existing playgrounds over the period 2016-2018 (subject to securing external funding). Proposed expenditure (€230,000): 2016: €50,000; 2017: €75,000 2018: €105,000
Town & Village Renewal Prog.	External/Own Resources.	Proposal to enhance 3 towns/villages in the county by 2020 subject to external funding being sourced - €3,500,000
Donegal Creative Hub Network	LEO - DJEI / Own Resources	The setting up and supporting a County Network of Creative Hubs and co-working spaces for cultural and creative professionals and entrepreneurs. Overall costs in the region of €466,000 with €282,000 the projected spend in 2016 subject to funding being made available / identified.
Various EU Projects.	Various EU Programmes.	The Council is developing a funding strategy in relation to maximising opportunities under various EU programmes for the period 2016-2020. A snapshot of potential programmes/projects is set out below: <b>Interreg NW Europe Prog:</b> Project T.I.D.A.L. (renewable tidal energy); ERASMUS+ Sport Programme. <b>Interreg Northern Periphery &amp; Arctic Prog:</b> Energy Sustainable Communities Project (focus on infrastructure/housing);

		<p>Project Ascent (environmental management-Mt Errigal).</p> <p><b>Interreg Atlantic Area Prog:</b> Destination Atlantic (marine tourism-sailing); Tides of Time (maritime heritage trail); Coastal Sustainability (measuring the impact of climate change); Trail Gazers (mapping of trails &amp; services, linking to previous SPACEial project).</p> <p><b>Interreg Europe Prog:</b> HERICOAST Project (heritage &amp; cultural tourism); SCALE: Scaling Up Assisted Living in Europe (age friendly strategies).</p> <p><b>Interreg Cross Border Prog:</b> Marine Resources Innovation Centre, Killybegs (development of a centre of excellence); Centre for Clinical Research, Decision-Making, Evidence-Based Practice &amp; Patient Safety Project (Donegal Clinical Research Academy), Environment - River Restoration Catchment Management (to improve water quality in cross border river basins).</p> <p><b>SEAI Better Energy Communities:</b> LIFE+; Errigal Path.</p> <p><b>Creative Europe.</b></p> <p><b>COSME:</b> Hiking Europe Project (Bealach na Gaeltachta &amp; Island’s Walk).</p> <p><b>URBACT:</b> urban actions fund.</p>
<p>Various Tourism Product</p>	<p>Faite Ire / NRDP / Own Resources.</p>	<p>Limited internal funds will be used to match external funding from a number of sources to develop tourism related projects throughout the county including:</p> <p>Greenways – to extend existing routes inc Donegal Town to Strabane, Bundoran to Pettigo, Strabane to Burtonport &amp; Inishowen to Letterkenny;</p> <p>Development of Malin Head project as part of the Wild Atlantic Way tourism infrastructure (see above);</p> <p>Works on improving access to Errigal mountain;</p> <p>Refurbishment works to carried out on the Ballyshannon Workhouse starting with repairs to the roof.</p> <p>Development and promotion of Beltany Stone Circle in Raphoe as a tourist attraction.</p>

## **Section 2 – Planning Division.**

### Housing Estate Improvement Works/Unfinished Housing Estates

1. The Council secured funding from the DECLG of €481,000 for public safety works at a number of developments recorded as being “unfinished developments” in the Department’s National Housing Development Survey in 2013. The bulk of this work is now complete and funding spent. However, two jobs with a combined budget of €150,000 remain to be completed. Both of these have been tendered and should be on-site in the early part of 2016.
2. In late 2013, a Special Resolution Fund was announced by the Department as a mechanism to encourage the resolution of unfinished housing developments. Local Authorities were asked to assemble integrated projects for funding support to enable collaborative solutions to be found for unresolved developments that would lever additional investor/stakeholder investment and/or significant community gain. In this context the Council secured funding of €851,000 for 8 sites across the County. It is projected that additional private funding of some €650,000 will be leveraged in tandem with the Department funding. Two of the eight sites will be completed during 2016. A third site will be 50% complete. The five remaining sites are programmed to be on-site during Q1 of 2016, although some of this work may continue on into Q2.
3. A further cohort of sites will be addressed using funds realised from developers' bonds. In the region of €160,000 was spent on such estates during 2016. It is anticipated that around €500,000 from such sources will be spent in each year during 2016-2018.
4. It is recognised that a programme of work exists relating to housing estates that have made applications to the Council to be taken in charge where roads and foul effluent disposal may not be completed to a standard that would normally be required for these estates to be considered for taking in charge. A recent national assessment on standalone developer provided water services infrastructure has been undertaken by the Department and the Council is awaiting the measures that may be forthcoming as a result of this assessment. In instances where estates that are otherwise finished to a reasonably high standard except for issues with mechanical/electrical plant, the Council will continue to deal with these on a case by case basis to establish which mechanisms can be applied to bring about a resolution including engagement with developers and residents in relation to the identification of funding sources, application of bonds and private contributions.

Essential works particularly to address public health and environmental issues have been identified at a number of locations where there are no funding mechanisms available. Options to fund this are currently under review.

5. The planning authority intends serving Public Notice in a local newspaper in each Municipal District in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act listing the no. of estates in the respective MD that it proposes to take in charge thereby formally initiating the taking in charge procedures for these estates. The number of estates in this initial list for taking in charge consideration is 62 with a breakdown for each Municipal District as follows.

<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>No.of estates</b>
Inishowen	25
Letterkenny	22
Donegal	5
Stranorlar	7
Glenties	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62</b>

The making of Public Notices will commence before the end of November 2016.

### **Section 3 – Development-Charges/Development-Contribution Scheme**

#### Reporting Requirements as per the Circular Letter Finance 08/2008

In accordance with Circular Letter Fin 08/2008 dated 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2008, I set out the following information:

1. Estimate of development contributions to be collected in 2016 is €500,000 (General Charges) and €100,000 (Specific Charges) giving an overall total of €600,000.

This estimate is the remainder of all DCS monies receipted in 2016 once the Water & Sewer DCS element has been removed as these monies are to be paid to Irish Water in line with agreed protocols.

**Community, Enterprise & Planning Services Directorate Capital Table 2016-2018 (Projects Approved / In Progress).**

Description	Projected* <sup>1</sup> Cost Per Annum			Proposed Sources* <sup>1</sup> of funding 2016 - 2018	
	2016 €	2017 €	2018 €	Council €	External €
RDP/LEADER	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000		7,500,000
Sliabh Liagh	630,000			135,000	495,000
Donegal Craft Village	100,000	175,000	175,000		450,000
Tullan Strand, Bundoran	250,000	250,000		500,000	0
Unfinished Housing Developments	1,265,000	500,000	500,000	1,370,000	895,000
Totals:	<b>4,745,000</b>	<b>3,425,000</b>	<b>3,175,000</b>	<b>2,005,000</b>	<b>9,340,000</b>

**\*1 Due to the nature of external funding applications projected costs and timelines are best estimates.**

## **6. Water & Environment Services**

### **Irish Water**

As a result of the transfer of the Public Water Service function from the 1st January 2014 responsibility for policy and funding transferred from local authorities to Irish Water. This has had a significant impact for the Council's overall Capital Programme as the provision of water service infrastructure accounted for a considerable element of the capital spend annually. The responsibility for investment programmes including the prioritisation of projects has transferred to Irish Water.

Under the terms of the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water, staff in the Council's capital and design division continue to play a key role in the roll out of projects locally on behalf of Irish Water.

There is an extensive programme of major Water and Waste Water Projects being progressed through Planning, Design and Construction stages in Co Donegal as part of the Irish Water Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016) and beyond.

Group Water Take - Over is being examined and prioritised to coincide with the Irish Water major capital programme.

### **Rural Water Programme**

Over the last decade the Rural Water programme has provided a very effective and beneficial programme for delivering improvements at local level to a modest scale and at an economic cost. The programme has delivered approximately €20million over the period, which improved the water quality for 26 privately-sourced Group Water Supply Scheme. This programme was based on a public/private partnership initiative. The improvements ranged from basic network extensions to the construction of water treatment works, reservoirs, pumping stations and distribution networks. Significant watermains rehabilitation and water conservation works have also been delivered. The primary focus was to improve water quality and supply to the private group scheme consumers and bring the schemes into compliance with the Drinking Water Directive.

The focus of the programme over the last number of years has been directed principally by the Department towards water quality deficient schemes which have been cited in European Court of Justice Judgements.

Projects which have progressed through planning and statutory requirement stages in 2016 are expected to be funded under the Group Water Sector heading in 2016. The bulk of this funding will go towards the upgrade of water quality deficient Group schemes. These schemes include Tory Island, Meenabool, Townawilly and Maghera Group Water Schemes.

A total of €600,000 is expected under the Group Water Sector heading for County Donegal in 2016, based upon previous years allocations, the bulk of which will go towards the upgrade of water quality deficient Group schemes.

### **Leisure Centres**

#### **Buncrana Community Leisure Centre**

Planning permission for the proposed refurbishment of Buncrana Community Leisure Centre has been secured and contract documents are currently being prepared. Once completed the contract documents will be submitted for the approval of the Department of Transport Tourism & Sport in advance of tendering. The progression of this project is subject to the sourcing of an appropriate financial package to deliver same with a total estimated cost of €5,300,000.

### **Environmental Services Capital Programmes**

Improvement Works are being advanced on the closed Churchtown Landfill jointly funded under the ANSWER Project, which is part funded by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the INTERREG IVA Cross-border Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and the DECLG capital programme for the remediation of landfill sites. The project aims to provide scientific evidence on the effectiveness and sustainability of using short rotation coppice (SRC) willow, for the treatment of organic effluents (wastewater discharges). Expenditure in the sum of €350,000 is expected in 2016 to complete the project works.

### **Landfill Restoration Programme**

Balbane is one of six landfill facilities for which Donegal County Council was granted a waste licence under the Waste Management Act 1996. All six facilities are now closed. Donegal County Council is required under licence from the Environmental Agency (EPA) to restore all six facilities within a certain timescale following closure.

#### **Balbane Landfill Facility**

To date grant funding has been provided for each of the other five facilities which have now been restored.

The EPA now requires that works for this final restoration programme at Balbane are commenced as a matter of urgency and that funding be secured to allow the project to proceed.

Since this time the Council has been exploring the use of novel bio-technologies for restoring such facilities and the work coming to completion at Churchtown has been a great exponent of this. It incorporates the use of Willow crop and the use Integrated Constructed Wetlands as an integrated, sustainable and cost effective solution to restoring landfills, in terms of both capital investment and maintenance

costs. It is anticipated that a similar type of solution will be proposed to the EPA for Balbane Landfill Site.

The Council has sought a commitment from the DECLG for exceptional grant funding support for the final restoration of Balbane Landfill Site utilising biotechnology. The Council is committed to working with the EPA and the Department to implement practical solutions at a reasonable cost and within a reasonable timeframe. The project cost estimate for the restoration of this site was €1.12m excluding VAT in 2005 when the restoration and aftercare plan was submitted for the site.

### **Beaches and Public Convenience Capital Programme**

Ongoing work is being advanced by Donegal County Council to capture and analyse tourism infrastructure in the County, in particular identifying how areas along the Wild Atlantic Way are serviced by the type of infrastructure required for touring visitors. These services needs include public conveniences, tourism information, accommodation, viewing points and waste facilities.

## ***7. Finance, Information Systems & Emergency Services***

### **Fire Stations**

Approval in principle was given by Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (now the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) (the Department) in July 2009 to proceed to the Planning stage for new fire stations at Bundoran and Ballyshannon. Sites have been identified for both stations and the project briefs and costings have, as requested, been submitted to the Department for their consideration prior to the Council proceeding to statutory planning. The Department has not yet advised of funding availability for these projects. The costs of these projects, based on September 2010 estimates, were €1,025,560 in respect of the Bundoran station and €821,594 in respect of the Ballyshannon station.

Initial submissions to the Department to build a new station in Glencolmcille were followed by submissions to renovate the existing station. More recently a submission was made to assess the Department's willingness to fund a smaller scale, yet fit for purpose facility, given the number and scale of callouts in this brigade area. A cost of some €600,000 would be applicable to this latest proposal and a response is awaited from the Department in this regard.

As an interim measure it is intended to locate a portacabin at Ballyshannon Fire Station in 2016 and at Glencolmcille Fire Station in 2016 at an estimated cost of €18,425 per station to provide ambulation facilities together with a muster area and a breathing apparatus service area.

### **Fire Appliances**

Approval was given by the Department in 2016 for the purchase of a class B Fire Appliance. This is a joint procurement with four other local authorities with Roscommon County Council as the lead authority with responsibility for the procurement. Delivery will not occur until 2016 at the earliest. The Department has not indicated if funding for the purchase of ancillary equipment for the appliance will be limited as was the case for the approval given in 2011. Should this limitation apply it will, as before, be necessary to purchase the ancillary equipment from the Fire Service Revenue Budget.

The Department has also provided funding for the purchase of three Ford Ranger 4 x 4 jeeps, which will be used to carry signage, lighting and guarding equipment for use at road based incidents. The jeeps will be assigned to Ballyshannon, Bundoran and Glencolmcille brigades and will replace the Class B appliances that are currently used for this purpose. This will align these brigades with the other retained brigades in the County. It is expected that delivery of the jeeps at a cost of €102,000 will occur in 2016.

To date the Department has not indicated if capital funding will be made available in 2016, 2017 or in 2018 for the purchase of fire appliances and the provision of such funding at national level is no guarantee that Donegal Fire Authority will be included in the allocation. Excluding the hydraulic platform, the appliances currently used as

RTC vehicles and the appliance on Aran Mór Island Donegal Fire Service has a fleet of 20 frontline appliances that includes two spare appliances which are used to replace the front line appliances when they are undergoing maintenance. The front line appliances that include the two spares came into use between 1987 and 2013 and have an average age of 13.4 years. The fire service would ideally need a minimum of one (preferably 1.5) appliance per year to maintain the fleet at or near that average age. With no or limited input of new appliances the cost of maintaining the fleet in a fit for purpose condition will increase as the fleet ages. The increased cost will have to be covered from the Fire Authority's annual revenue budget allocation.

With funding provided by the Council it is proposed to purchase a pre owned class B appliance at an estimated cost of €40,000. Delivery was initially scheduled for 2016 but it is now likely that this will not occur until 2016. This vehicle will be used to upgrade the frontline appliance in an existing station pending Department approval to purchase a new class B appliance and delivery of same.

In addition to requesting funding from the Department for class B appliances funding has also been sought for two water tankers and an emergency tender. If funded the water tankers would be strategically located so as to provide a fire fighting water supply at wildfires, industrial / commercial fire and at incidents where the available water supply may not be adequate. The emergency tender, which is the only one in the County, came into service in 1991 and due to its age it requires a high degree of maintenance.

### **Civil Defence**

An additional parking bay area is planned for Civil Defence HQ, Stranorlar, to appropriately store and protect various vehicles used by the service. The estimated cost of this project is €20,000. Discussions have taken place with the Department of Defence in this regard and cost estimates will be submitted in late 2015 requesting grant-aid to facilitate the completion of these works.

## ***8. Statutory Tables***

(See attached)

LOCAL AUTHORITY - COMHAIRLE DHÚN NA NGALL  
CAITEACHAS AGUS IONCAM DO 2015 - 2017

CLÁRGHRÚPAÍ	CAITEACHAS		IONCAM		Kannas Chomhairle Comas Dhúin na nGall
	MEASTACHÁN	GLACTHA	MEASTACHÁN	GLACTHA	
<b>1. TITHÍOCHT &amp; TÓGÁIL</b>					
1.1. Tithíocht An Údaráis Áitiúil	€41,707,740		€41,707,740		€0
1.2. Cúnamh De Dhanas Ag Cur Tithíochta Ar Fáil Dúthá Fón	€3,751,000		€3,751,000		€0
1.3. Cúnamh De Dhanas Ag Cur Feabhasúcháin Ar Tithíochta	€4,800,000		€4,800,000		€960,000
1.8. Riarachán Agus Ighnáchtbeach	€0		€0		€0
<b>IOMLÁN-CLÁR 1</b>	<b>€50,258,740</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€50,258,740</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€960,000</b>
<b>2. IOMPAR DE BHÓTHAR &amp; SÁBHÁILTEACHT</b>					
2.2. Feabhasúcháin Bóithre	€47,406,923		€47,406,923		€5,428,843
2.3. Trácht Ar Bóithre					
2.8. Riarachán Agus Ighnáchtbeach					
<b>IOMLÁN CLÁR 2</b>	<b>€47,406,923</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€47,406,923</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€5,428,843</b>
<b>3. SOLÁTHAR UISCE &amp; SÉARACHAIS</b>					
3.1. Soláthar Uisce Poiblí					
3.2. Scéimeanna Poiblí/Séarachais					
3.3. Feistí Príobháideach	€600,000		€600,000		€0
3.8. Riarachán Agus Ighnáchtbeach					
<b>IOMLÁN-CLÁR 3</b>	<b>€600,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€600,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€0</b>
<b>4. DREASACHTAÍ FORBARTHA &amp; RIALÚCHÁN</b>					
4.1. Pleanáil Úsáide Talún					
4.2. Forbairt Thionscnáin					
4.3. Dreasachtaí agus Riail Forbartha	€2,265,000		€2,265,000		€1,370,000
4.5. Cur Cum Cinn Sainne I Measc An Phobail Áitiúil					
4.8. Riarachán Agus Ighnáchtbeach					
<b>IOMLÁN-CLÁR 4</b>	<b>€2,265,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€2,265,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€1,370,000</b>
<b>5. COSAINT CHOMHSHAOIL</b>					
5.1. Díscart Dramháin	€750,000		€750,000		€400,000
5.2. Úirteachas					
5.3. Sábháilteacht Struchtúr Agus Áiteanna					
5.4. Cosaint In Aghaidh Déiteáin	€178,850		€178,850		€76,850
5.5. Measúnú Truaillíocháin					
5.8. Riarachán Agus Ighnáchtbeach	€20,000		€20,000		€20,000
<b>IOMLÁN-CLÁR 5</b>	<b>€948,850</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€948,850</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€496,850</b>
<b>6. ÁINEAS AGUS TAITNEAMHACHT</b>					
6.1. Lámh Sainmhí					
6.2. Leabharlanna	€218,000		€218,000		€218,000
6.3. Páircanna, Spásanna Oscailte, Ionaid Áineasa					
6.4. Áineasa/Taitneamhachtaí Eile	€11,656,200		€11,656,200		€1,948,100
6.8. Riarachán Agus Ighnáchtbeach					
<b>IOMLÁN-CLÁR 6</b>	<b>€11,874,200</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€11,874,200</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€2,166,100</b>
<b>7. TALMHAÍOCHT, OIDEACHAS &amp; SLÁINTE &amp; LEASA</b>					
7.1. Talmhaíocht	€14,290,000		€14,290,000		€3,592,500
7.8. Riarachán/Ighnáchtbeach					
<b>IOMLÁN-CLÁR 7</b>	<b>€14,290,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€14,290,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€3,592,500</b>
<b>8. SEIRBHÍSÍ ILGHNÉITEACHA</b>					
8.1. Ceannach Talún Agus Forbairt					
8.2. Planda Agus Ábhair					
8.5. Riarachán Chosaint Chearta/Tomhaltóra Tomhaltóra					
8.6. Damáiste De Mheáin					
8.8. Riarachán Agus Ighnáchtbeach	€1,000,000		€1,000,000		€1,000,000
<b>IOMLÁN-CLÁR 8</b>	<b>€1,000,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€1,000,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€1,000,000</b>
<b>IOMLÁN NA GCLÁRGHRÚPAÍ UILE</b>	<b>€128,643,713</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€128,643,713</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€15,014,293</b>

**LOCAL AUTHORITY - DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL  
EXPENDITURE AND INCOME FOR FINANCIAL YEARS 2016 - 2018**

PROGRAMME GROUP AND PROGRAMME	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		DCC Contribution
	ESTIMATED	ADOPTED	ESTIMATED	ADOPTED	
<b>1. HOUSING &amp; BUILDING</b>					
1.1. Local Authority Housing	€41,707,740		€41,707,740		€0
1.2. Assistance to Persons Housing themselves	€3,751,000		€3,751,000		€0
1.3. Assistance to Persons Improving Houses	€4,800,000		€4,800,000		€960,000
1.8. Administration and Miscellaneous	€0		€0		€0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€50,258,740</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€50,258,740</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€960,000</b>
<b>2. ROAD TRANSPORTATION &amp; SAFETY</b>					
2.2. Road Improvement	€47,406,923		€47,406,923		€5,428,843
2.3. Road Traffic					
2.8. Administration & Miscellaneous					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€47,406,923</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€47,406,923</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€5,428,843</b>
<b>3. WATER SUPPLY &amp; SEWERAGE</b>					
3.1. Public Water Supply Scheme*					
3.2. Public Sewerage Scheme					
3.3. Private Installations	€600,000		€600,000		€0
3.8. Administration & Miscellaneous					
* Historical expenditure included					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€600,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€600,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€0</b>
<b>4. DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES &amp; CONTROLS</b>					
4.1. Land Use Planning					
4.2. Industrial Development					
4.3. Development Incentives & Control	€2,265,000		€2,265,000		€1,370,000
4.5. Promotion of Interest - Local Community					
4.8. Administration & Miscellaneous					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€2,265,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€2,265,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€1,370,000</b>
<b>5. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION</b>					
5.1. Waste Disposal	€750,000		€750,000		€400,000
5.2. Burial Grounds					
5.3. Safety of Structures & Places					
5.4. Fire Protection	€178,850		€178,850		€76,850
5.5. Pollution Control					
5.8. Administration & Miscellaneous	€20,000		€20,000		€20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€948,850</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€948,850</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€496,850</b>
<b>6. RECREATION &amp; AMENITY</b>					
6.1. Swimming Pools					
6.2. Libraries	€218,000		€218,000		€218,000
6.3. Parks, Open Spaces, Recreation Centres etc.					
6.4. Other Recreation & Amenity	€11,656,200		€11,656,200		€1,948,100
6.8. Administration & Miscellaneous					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€11,874,200</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€11,874,200</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€2,166,100</b>
<b>7. AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION HEALTH &amp; WELFARE</b>					
7.1. Agriculture	€14,290,000		€14,290,000		€3,592,500
7.8. Administration & Miscellaneous					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€14,290,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€14,290,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€3,592,500</b>
<b>8. MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES</b>					
8.1. Land Acquisition					
8.2. Plant & Materials					
8.5. Administration of Justice & Consumer Protection					
8.6. Property Damage					
8.8. Administration & Miscellaneous	€1,000,000		€1,000,000		€1,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€1,000,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€1,000,000</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€1,000,000</b>
<b>ALL PROGRAMME GROUPS TOTAL</b>	<b>€128,643,713</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€128,643,713</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>€15,014,293</b>