



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

**3-Year Capital Budget 2020 - 2022**

18<sup>th</sup> November 2019

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# 1. Chief-Executive's Report

## Introduction and Context

I submit for your consideration the Draft Capital Budget for the period 2020 – 2022. The Draft Capital Budget 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 2021 and 2022 projections, is based on best estimates available at this time.

In that context, the Draft Capital Budget estimates that Donegal County Council's total capital expenditure for 2020 will be of the order of €157,001,777, with capital expenditure for the three-year period estimated to exceed €0.5bn.

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

Total capital expenditure in 2018 amounted to €82,988,191, with the 2019 capital budget amounting to €116,114,670. The following table provides a clear indication as to the rate at which Donegal County Council's capital expenditure has been increasing in recent years.

<b>Programme Group</b>	<b>2014 €</b>	<b>2015 €</b>	<b>2016 €</b>	<b>2017 €</b>	<b>2018 €</b>	<b>Totals €</b>
<b>Housing &amp; Building</b>	4,957,572	6,765,167	13,448,988	15,188,742	22,635,385	<b>62,995,853</b>
<b>Road Transportation &amp; Safety</b>	9,900,288	17,244,148	27,809,784	19,684,065	45,536,378	<b>120,174,663</b>
<b>Water Supply and Sewerage</b>	2,310,558	1,089,361	484,177	418,990	267,250	<b>4,570,336</b>
<b>Development Incentives &amp; Control</b>	468,706	676,591	7,868,190	909,586	2,966,018	<b>12,889,091</b>
<b>Environmental Protection</b>	415,791	(156,866)	852,714	1,308,492	1,845,966	<b>4,266,097</b>
<b>Recreation &amp; Amenity</b>	5,917,473	6,849,481	3,322,180	4,819,171	7,358,488	<b>28,266,793</b>
<b>Agriculture, Education, Health &amp; Safety</b>	1,180,916	762,117	1,064,250	565,612	577,593	<b>4,150,488</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Services</b>	2,135,468	1,831,314	1,547,540	1,111,989	1,801,113	<b>8,427,424</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27,286,771</b>	<b>35,061,313</b>	<b>56,397,824</b>	<b>44,006,647</b>	<b>82,988,191</b>	<b>245,740,745</b>

As always, the Council will continue to focus on efforts to maximise relevant funding opportunities for the various capital programmes. This includes the pursuit of funding opportunities arising under the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF) and the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF), under which significant amounts of funding have already been secured for large-scale transformative projects in Letterkenny, Killybegs and Burtonport/Arranmore. Like many opportunities arising for capital and infrastructure development, such projects will require a significant contribution from Donegal County Council in terms of co-financing and project

development/management. Whereas this is a challenge that must be managed, it is essential that every effort be made to seize the opportunities that now present for infrastructural developments of scale, which are impactful over the longer term, and have the potential to enhance the economic, social and community fabric of the County for the benefit of the County's citizens and businesses.

Some of the primary areas of expenditure in 2020 will be:

- The commencement of 122 social housing units in 2020 with an estimated cost of €21m during Year 1
- The projected acquisition of 130 Turnkey Housing Units in 2020 at a projected cost of €25.6m
- Under the Social Housing Investment Programme, the acquisition of 30 units during 2020 at an estimated cost of €4.2m
- Further interventions in the Social Housing area through the Buy and Renew Initiative, Capital Assistance schemes through Approved Housing Bodies, Voids Programme and Adaptation Works.
- Continuing to implement the Countywide Footpath Programme, under which a total fund of €4.2m has been set aside, with specific works being agreed at Municipal District level
- Advancement of the Ten-T project in 2020 on the N13, N14 and N15
- The further progression of the N56 Dungloe-Glenties and N56 Mountcharles to Inver schemes.
- Continuing investment through the Marine Capital programme for piers and harbours.
- A continuing programme of investment in strategic economic infrastructure supporting the community and tourism sections and including iconic attractions
- Continued investment through EU sourced funds and across multi-sectoral areas
- The continuation of a multi-annual programme to maintain the Council's capacity in the areas of Information and Communications Technology
- The further progression of Taking-in-Charge of estates and in the completion of works to remediate unfinished housing estates
- Investment in environmental areas including landfill remediation, recycling, beach improvement and leisure centres

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

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

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

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 for capital investment, remains limited – as Members will be aware from the annual Revenue Budget discussions and meetings. Additionally, the judicious use of limited Capital Reserves, generally established through operational surpluses through the Revenue Account, provides additional capacity in limited, but targeted areas. The Council's ability to service new borrowings in respect of capital works is, as always, determined by the extent of the Council's capacity to fund repayments from the Revenue Account, and must take account of existing commitments.

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 take advantage of potential capital funding opportunities that arise.

### **Proposals for the 3 year Capital Programme 2019 – 2021**

A Three-Year Capital Programme in the sum of €524,308,867 is presented for the period 2020 – 2022 broken down per Programme Group as detailed in the Statutory Tables.

The Statutory Tables reflect the gross estimated expenditure for the period 2020 – 2022 (noting my earlier comments relating to the uncertainty of availability of capital funding generally in respect of 2021 and 2022).

As previously stated, it is only the first year of the three-year programme that can be presented in detail. Each Director of Service has provided an analysis of proposed expenditure for their respective directorate, which is included in the detail of this report. The table that follows this introduction provides an overview summary of capital expenditure per directorate for 2020.

The total estimated capital expenditure of €157,001,777 as indicated for 2020 is conditional on a range of factors and assumptions, including the allocation of grants, level of DCS collectable, loan sanction approval from DHPLG, and availability of co-financing.



**Seamus Neely**  
**Chief Executive**

## Donegal County Council Capital Expenditure per Directorate 2020

Directorate/Spend-Heading	Estimated Expenditure 2020 €
<b>Housing, Corporate &amp; Cultural Services</b>	
Social Housing Investment Programme	52,300,000
Improving the Social Housing Stock	1,750,000
Voluntary Housing	2,600,000
Housing Grants	2,000,000
Traveller Accommodation	200,000
Library / Cultural Services	500,000
Facilities Maintenance and Improvement	500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,850,000</b>
<b>Roads &amp; Transportation</b>	
National Primary & National Secondary	48,900,000
General Road Improvements including Development Charges Schemes	250,000
Footpath & Lighting	2,900,000
Bridge Works	500,000
Marine	500,000
Greenways	1,750,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,800,000</b>
<b>Community &amp; Planning Services</b>	
Unfinished Housing Estates	500,000
Takeover of Housing Estates	2,300,000
RDP/Leader	4,697,475
Town & Village Renewal	2,995,250
Designated Urban Grant Scheme (DUGS)	2,000,000
Peace IV	2,750,000
URDF/RRDF	1,869,655
Riverine Project	750,000
Outdoor Infrastructure Scheme	404,575
Other	438,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,704,955</b>
<b>Water &amp; Environment Services</b>	
Rural Water Programme	1,500,000
Leisure Centres	550,000
Beach Management	138,000
Public Conveniences	100,000
Waste Management	965,000
CFRAMS	250,000
Other	160,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,663,000</b>
<b>Economic Development, Information Systems &amp; Emergency Services</b>	
Tourism (TIDE)	120,822
Alpha Project Letterkenny	300,000
Buncrana Digital Hub	1,000,000
Information Systems Infrastructure	963,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,383,822</b>
<b>Roads Management Office</b>	<b>17,600,000</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>157,001,777</b>

## **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 (as amended), to ensure that;

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

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

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

Available budgets from external sources (department allocations, other grants, etc.) and from internal sources (reserves, Development Charges, etc.) are detailed within this report. Development Charges, in line with audit requirements, are reflected on a cash-collected basis; i.e. the Development Charge figures quoted in this report reflect the best available estimates of the actual cash that is expected to be collected from this source during the three-year period 2020 to 2022.

Similarly, it should be noted that proposals may also rely on the current best estimates as to the funding elements and sources anticipated to be available during the period 2020 – 2022, especially in instances where confirmation is still awaited on a definitive funding package for a particular project or programme. It should be noted that projects will only proceed on confirmation of a complete funding package.

There is always a level of uncertainty as to the degree of availability of capital funding in the medium to long term. This means that only projects and programmes for 2020 can be presented in detail. Therefore, in general, the level of capital activity and funding available for the years 2021 and 2022 is presented on the basis of best estimates as to the level of funding that is anticipated to be available for those years.



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**Richard Gibson FCCA**  
**A/Head of Finance**

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

#### **Section 3.1 – Local Authority Housing**

##### **3.1.1 Housing Construction Programme 2020-2022**

Donegal County Council will progress the design and construction of the following social housing developments over the period 2020-2022:

<b>Construction Stage 2020</b>	<b>No. of Units</b>
Killybegs	9
Malin	8
Donegal Town	34
Long Lane Letterkenny	29
St. Johnston	6
Buncrana Phase I	21
Raphoe	11
Dunfanaghy	4
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Design Stage 2020 / Construction 2021 &amp; 2022</b>	<b>Indicative No. of Units</b>
Donegal Town Phase III	23
Bundoran	39
Buncrana Phase II	30
Trusk Road, Ballybofey	18
Lifford	31
Ramelton (Acquisition & Upgrade)	18
Crana Crescent, Buncrana	14
Kilmacrennan Road, Letterkenny	37
Ballyshannon	35
Dungloe	35
Carrigart	8
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>288</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>410</b>

*Projects are subject to Part VIII & DHPLG approval*

The foregoing social housing developments are currently in the capital design/construction programme. This programme will be supplemented by additional schemes during the lifetime of the Capital Plan. The table below sets out indicative budgets for the delivery of these schemes.

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Construction Programme</b>	€21,000,000	€21,500,000	€40,700,000

### **3.1.2 Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition**

The turnkey acquisition model will continue to deliver a significant number of high quality housing units in a timely manner. It is one of the key mechanisms being used to meet the social housing need under the current Social Housing Investment Programme.

The Council is continuing to progress the acquisition of social housing developments via the turnkey mechanism under the Competitive Dialogue Procurement Process which was initiated in 2018. This process sought 2, 3 and 4 bed units in 17 towns around the County. Valid submissions remain for 13 towns as follows:

Ballybofey/Stranorlar	Gweedore	Carndonagh
Convoy	Falcarragh	Moville
Letterkenny	Donegal Town	Buncrana
Carrigart	Ballyshannon	Newtowncunningham
Milford		

The Council has already acquired two turnkey developments for social housing purposes, consisting of 21 units at Stranorlar and 34 units at Letterkenny. Two further projects are currently progressing on-site, subject to contract, at Newtowncunningham (19 units) and Letterkenny (30 units), having been approved by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

Projected acquisitions over the period 2020 – 2022 are listed below.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Projected Turnkey Acquisitions</b>	<b>Projected Spend</b>
2020	130	€25,600,000
2021	75	€15,000,000
2022	125	€24,500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>€65,100,000</b>

### 3.1.3 House Acquisition Programme (Single Units)

In 2018, the Council completed the acquisition of a total of 51 housing units at a cost of €7,140,000. By the end of 2019, it is expected that an additional 50 units will be completed at a cost of approximately €7,000,000.

This brings the total cost of single house acquisitions to approximately €28,000,000 for 214 houses since 2014. A further 43 properties are sale-agreed, are progressing through the conveyance process, and represent a further investment of €6,000,000.

This programme will continue under the Social Housing Investment Programme 2016-2021, subject to departmental sanction. It is anticipated that the programme will continue post 2021. However, it is expected that the target will reduce in line with increased new build activity. Projections are outlined below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Projected Acquisitions</b>	<b>Estimated cost</b>
2020	30	€4,200,000
2021	30	€4,200,000
2022	15	€2,100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>€10,500,000</b>

### 3.1.4 Specific Instance Properties (SI's)

The Housing Capital Section is working in conjunction with the Area Housing Teams to progress the design of a number of Specific Instance houses, on foot of applications received. It is expected that a programme of construction works will commence in 2020 and will run for the duration of the three-year capital programme.

There are currently a small number of eligible applications on hand. The current Specific Instance Housing Policy will be reviewed by the new Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), following a motion which was considered at the Plenary Council Meeting held in September 2019.

Projected expenditure for the three-year period is set out below:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Specific Instance Properties</b>	€500,000	€500,000	€500,000

### 3.1.5 Buy and Renew Initiative

Donegal County Council has identified a number of properties for consideration under the Buy & Renew Initiative, and a number of offers have recently been made. This initiative will facilitate the provision of social housing, whilst also tackling dereliction, town centre vacancies, and improving streetscapes in towns and villages.

	2020	2021	2022
Buy and Renew Initiative	€1,000,000	€2,000,000	€3,200,000

### 3.1.6 Approved Housing Body Sector

Through extensive inter-agency engagement with the Health Service Executive and the Approved Housing Body Sector, schemes under the Capital Assistance Programme are now specifically targeted towards the provision of special needs accommodation where the traditional forms of social housing supports will not deliver on this need.

Discussions are ongoing with various parties and the Department in relation to projects throughout the County, and it is anticipated that a number of projects (comprising of at least 60 units) will be delivered in Letterkenny, Dungloe, Castlefin and Donegal Town. Other potential projects are at early stages of evaluation. Projected spend over the next three years in this regard is as follows:

	2020	2021	2022
Capital Assistance Scheme	€2,600,000	€2,750,000	€1,500,000

In addition to the provision of accommodation under the Capital Assistance Scheme, the Approved Housing Body Sector is engaging with the Department and the Council in the context of delivering further units under the Capital-Advance-Leasing-Facility/Payment-&-Availability-Agreement-Scheme.

### 3.1.7 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:

#### a) Fabric Upgrade Energy Efficiency Programme

By the end of this year, the Council will have completed works to approximately 2,500 houses, with further work ongoing that will complete Phase 1 of the programme, and enable a funding application to be made for Phase 2 in 2020 in respect of windows and doors replacement. It is expected that this funding stream will continue into future years, thereby making significant improvements to the energy efficiency of the Council's housing stock. An annual spend of €1,000,000 is projected for the coming years under Phase 2.

## **b) Returning Void/Vacant Properties to Productive Use**

The Council has been proactive in sourcing monies from the Department under the voids programmes since 2014. By the end of 2019, the Council will have sourced Departmental funding of over €5 million in this regard, and has refurbished almost 1,000 vacant properties to a high standard for re-letting.

It is intended to make a further bid for funding for 2020. The expenditure and income associated with the operation of this programme is accounted for in the Revenue Account.

## **c) Extensions & Adaptation Works**

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

<b>Improving the Social Housing Stock</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Fabric Upgrade Energy Efficiency Programme	€1,000,000	€1,000,000	€1,000,000
Extensions / Adaptations	€750,000	€750,000	€750,000

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

There has been a significant increase in demand under the Housing Adaptation Grant, Mobility Aids Grant, and Housing Aid for Older People Grant schemes. The Department provides 80% funding towards the Grants Schemes. Annual expenditure of up to €2.0m is provided for in this regard for 2020 to 2022 inclusive.

<b>Assistance to Persons Improving Houses</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Grants for older people & people with disabilities.	€2,000,000	€2,000,000	€2,000,000

### **3.1.9 Traveller Accommodation**

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024 was adopted by Council on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The Programme outlines key objectives and targets for each year in the delivery of Traveller-specific projects.

Phase 1 extension works were completed at the halting site at Big Isle, Manorcunningham, in 2019 at a cost of €270,000. Phase 2 refurbishment works at the existing site are proposed for 2020.

€497,000 was spent on three Traveller-specific accommodation projects in 2019, and €201,000 was spent on Traveller projects in 2018.

Various other Traveller accommodation priority projects are proposed at Cashel, Ardara, and at the Canal Road Group Housing scheme in Letterkenny. Several other separate small scale Traveller-specific projects have also been completed throughout the year.

These projects are in addition to a range of other accommodation solutions provided on an ongoing basis to meet the needs of the Traveller Community through the Social Housing Investment Programme. Over the lifetime of the previous Traveller Accommodation Programme, in excess of 70 units of accommodation were delivered.

In line with commitments in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024, the Council will exceed the 10 units of accommodation committed to in the Programme.

### **3.1.10 MICA in houses in Donegal**

The Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government has been engaging with both Donegal County Council and Mayo County Council in relation to the development a Redress Scheme for affected homes in Donegal and Mayo. This has now advanced to the stage where the draft regulations, which will give effect to the Scheme, are with the Attorney General for review. Engagement is continuing between the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government and the local authorities in order to conclude this at the earliest possible opportunity.

The process of identifying the level of remedial works required to each property will involve a number of steps including building assessment; testing of block samples and; the preparation of a remedial works plan for affected homes in line with the new national standard, I.S 465.

The Department is also aware of the scale of mica affected social houses, and the Council has advised the Department that it will be making a submission for funding. The process of assessing the funding required will require the same process of sampling and testing under I.S 465 to be followed and the preparation of a works plan for each affected house.

## **Section 3.2 - Corporate Facilities**

### **3.2.1 Corporate Buildings**

The five Public Service Centres, Lifford Headquarters and the former Army Barracks, Lifford will have building fabric improvements carried out during the period 2020-2022. This will include energy efficiency measures to assist in meeting the National Energy Action Plan targets. The Council continues to maximise opportunities to qualify for external funds/grants, while limiting the demand on internal funding. The projected budgetary commitment for 2020 is €500,000.

## **Section 3.3 – Cultural Services Division**

### **3.3.1 - Projects Planned**

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

Works to accommodate self-service facilities, including essential redesign and renovation to meet accessibility and health & safety standards, will also continue to be implemented across our existing libraries.

	<b>2020 €</b>	<b>2021 €</b>	<b>2022 €</b>
Libraries & other Cultural Services buildings	€500,000	€2,500,000	€500,000

## **4. Roads & Transportation**

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

The National Roads Office, based in Donegal Town Public Services Centre continues the successful management of the biggest program of roadworks in the history of the County. All projects are fully funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

#### **4.1.1 TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal N13/N14/N15**

The Ten-T project in Donegal is one of the biggest and most important projects in the County's infrastructural development. It involves completing three priority sections of the National Road Network in Donegal. The three sections involved are:

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

The route selection phase of this project is substantially complete. Significant Public Consultations were held during 2018 and 2019. Route corridor options were developed and emerging preferred route corridors for each section were identified. The upcoming program deliverables and key milestones for the scheme are:

- Option Selection Report Q4 2019
- Detailed Design Q4 2020
- CPO/EIS Publication Q2 2021

This major strategic project is congruent with national and local policies and objectives, including Donegal County Council's County Development Plan, The Northern and Western Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (draft), and the Government's National Planning Framework 2040.

A continued TII allocation of approximately €2.5m for 2020 and 2021 is expected, and this follows on from expenditure in 2019 of €1.45m.

The Ten-T Project has a projected construction cost of in excess of €450m.

#### **4.1.2 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.

The Statutory Process for the Northern Ireland element of the N14/N15 to A5 Link is included in the overall statutory processes for the A5 WTC which continues to be delayed in legal challenges.

Approval to confirm the CPO for this section will be sought from TII with a view to completing land acquisition in 2020/2021. Subject to this, an allocation of €250,000 will be sought in 2020. Construction expenditure beyond 2021 will be tied into both the Ten-T and A5 WTC progression.

#### **4.1.3 N56 Dungloe to Glenties**

This significant 29.1km road project commenced construction in 2012. Since then, two phases of the scheme have been completed and another is currently ongoing. Each section completed to date has provided a vastly improved road, as well as over 10km of continuous independent cycle/footways. The road and cycleway are significant new resources, which have the potential, if marketed, to result in significant commercial/tourism gains to the area, as well as the clear social and connectivity benefits.

It is proposed to design, tender and construct the final sections of the scheme within the current capital program 'Building on Recovery Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2016 – 2021'.

It is hoped that the final two sections, N56 Dungloe to Cloughbolie and N56 Letterilly to Glenties, will be tendered and commenced on site in early 2020.

#### **4.1.4 N56 Mountcharles to Inver**

The road from Donegal Town to Killybegs is important as a tourist route and as the primary access to Killybegs port and the west of the County. Phase 1 of this project, N56 Mountcharles to Drumbeigh was completed in 2019. Phase 2 has commenced on site and is expected to be completed by the end of 2020 or early 2021.

#### **4.1.5 N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan**

The N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan project involves 3.5km of major works on a poor section of the N56 North of Kilmacrennan, including realignment of the 'Blue Banks' bends. The project follows on from the N56 Mountaintop Phases 1 and 2 completed in 2008. The scheme incorporates a new major Letterkenny trunk and distribution water main as part of the ongoing Goland to Letterkenny network upgrade. It also included a new cycle/pedestrian way which was extended to Illistrin school. This is a very welcome and significant new facility for the local people. The overall project was completed ahead of time and within budget in 2019.

### **4.2 National Road Safety Projects**

The principal measures which generate capital improvement works under road safety are the TII HD15 Network Safety Ranking, to identify high collision locations, and the 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 attention.

Six projects continue to be progressed under HD15/17. New project appraisal requirements have delayed progress, while others overlap with the current Ten-T project, with the extent of these now being subject to review.

## **National Roads Safety Projects**

<b>HD15/17 Ref</b>	<b>Current Status/Scope</b>	<b>Feasibility Report</b>	<b>Detailed Design</b>	<b>Proposed Works</b>
N56DL_157.5 Four Lane	Installation of Central Median and Pedestrian Provision	Complete	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tender Docs by Q4 2019</li> <li>• Construction 2020.</li> </ul>
N15DL_026.0 Cappry (Blackburn Br)	Localised widening, vertical alignment improvements, speed limit reduction and traffic calming, resurfacing. <i>NB: In conjunction with Pavement Project.</i>	Complete	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed 2019</li> </ul>
N15DL_019.0 Corcam	Minor realignment and surfacing.	Complete	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 8, CPO and detailed design 2020/2021</li> </ul>
N15DL_044.0 Lough Eske Junction	Junction review: Examination and assessment / appraisal of alternatives	Complete	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall review and assessment of options, Part 8 2020</li> </ul>
N14 Tullyrap (High Accident Location)	Final design and documentation Examination and assessment / appraisal of alternatives	Started	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed design to be completed Q1 2020</li> </ul>
N15 McGroary's Brae	Final design and documentation Examination and assessment / appraisal of alternatives	Started	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and documentation complete Q1 2020</li> </ul>

### **4.3 Bridge Management**

The North West Bridges Rehabilitation Programme - Contract 2 - Donegal Bridges is now complete. Assessment of National Road bridges as well as continued maintenance is ongoing. Emergency works at a retaining wall at Drumoghill are well advanced.

### **4.4 National Road Pavement Strengthening Design and Construction**

The DNRDO successfully delivered 11 pavement contracts covering 24km at a value of €9m in 2019.

The TII funded pavement program is expected to deliver similar programmes of works in 2020 and 2021.

Maintenance and resurfacing works under HD-28 also continue to be funded by the TII in 2020.

#### **4.5 National Roads - Estimated Capital Expenditure for 2019, 2020 and 2021**

The table below sets out the expected capital spend for 2020. The capital allocation is estimated for 2021 and 2022.

<b>SCHEME</b>	<b>2020 €m</b>	<b>2021 €m</b>	<b>2022 €m</b>
TII Support Grant (NRO and DCC RDO)	2.4	2.4	2.4
National Roads Capital Projects (Design and Construction)	33.0	36.0	40.0
Invasive Species Control (current program concluded in 2019)	0.1	n/a	n/a
National Road Pavement Strengthening (NS and NP)	9.0	8.0	6.0
National Road Safety Projects (HD15/HD17)	3.4	6.5	8.0
Bridge Management (Maintenance, Refurbishment and Rehabilitation)	1.0	1.0	1.0
<b>ANNUAL TOTALS</b>	<b>48.9</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>57.4</b>

#### **4.6 Non-National Roads Projects**

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

In particular, the Council will endeavour to progress the following projects through the project development stages to completion, subject to DTTAS, TII and DPER approval, as appropriate:

- R263 Fintra Bridge and Realignment Project: Funding approved, consultant appointed, and at route selection stage
- Meenamulligan Bridge: Funding approved – construction to commence in Q1 2020
- Letterkenny Southern Relief Road (incorporating Swilly Relief Road & Bridges and the Eastern Link Road): DPER Preliminary Appraisal (Multi-analysis) and Consultant Engineer tender documents submitted to DTTAS/DPER for approval in May 2019 following significant consultation – approval of funding awaited
- Mill Bridge: design completed – no funding available at this time
- Aghilly Road Realignment: CPO purchase process nearing completion – fencing contract to be progressed subject to funding
- R250 Meenaroy Bridges and Road Realignment Projects: design option under consideration
- R240 Glentougher Improvement Project
- R232 Laghey Pettigo Improvement Project
- R250 Fintown Pavement and Infrastructure Improvement Project: public consultation completed

Applications for DTTaS Specific Grant projects have become more onerous in recent years, and it is preferable that a shortlist of projects is agreed in order to ensure that staff resources are focussed in the right areas. To this end, it is intended to engage with Councillors in the coming months to seek agreement on a shortlist.

#### **4.7 Public Lighting**

The Council currently has 18,500 public lights. The Council retains a full inventory survey, including mapping of each light, on its DeadSure public lighting management information system.

Much of the lighting stock is old, with many of the fittings both corroded and energy-inefficient. The entire stock requires assessment and significant upgrading. Upgrading falls into two main categories; the lamps themselves, and the supporting fixtures & fittings (columns, brackets, etc.).

Commencing in 2016, the Council has embarked on upgrading public lighting from traditional SOX/SON lamps to energy efficient LED lamps through various projects and funding sources.

By the end of 2019, it is expected that in excess of 4,500 lights will have been upgraded, equating to 25% of the total. Energy savings of up to 50% or more can be achieved when replacing the oldest/most-inefficient lights as UMR is updated.

The RMO is currently examining public lighting requirements for the sector as a whole and will roll out a regional contract, which Donegal County Council will avail of, to complete any outstanding retrofits. The order of magnitude to complete the upgrading of all lights in the Donegal inventory to LED is estimated in the range of €9m to €11m. Upgrading of the support infrastructure would require additional funding of €2m to €4m. Loan financing will be required to support this project, as was previously approved by Council.

#### **4.8 Footpath and Lighting Programme**

The Council adopted a motion in 2017 to provide funding to implement a three-year footpath and public lighting programme utilising a combination of funds from IPBMI, State/Agency Grants, Development Charges, and other own resources. Construction started on individual improvements in 2018 and will continue through 2020. A fund n the sum of €4.2m has been ring-fenced for this programme.

#### **4.9 Piers & Harbours Capital Development Report 2020 - 2022**

##### **4.9.1 Major Capital Schemes**

The following projects have been identified as those where development is considered warranted, but no funding source has been secured and there is no definite funding stream currently available to the Council for such large-scale projects:

## **Rathmullan Pier**

Rathmullan pier is located on Lough Swilly at Rathmullan Town, provides berthing for vessels at a 43m long pier-head, and has a low water depth of 7.9m. It is a valued facility, as it can accommodate very large vessels. The pier-head, 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. The pier is constructed from structural concrete and is approaching the end of its design life. The 'Consultant Engineer 2008 Rathmullan Pier Options Report' identified "option 3 – part repair part replace" as the most suitable option to extend the life of this facility. This is estimated to cost in the order of €2.6m.

Further to a safety review undertaken at all the Council's Piers and Harbours in 2017, Rathmullan Pier was reported to have suffered significant deterioration. A review of the 'Consultant Engineer 2008 Rathmullan Pier Options Report' will be completed in 2020, following an investigative dive survey and a structural assessment of the components of the Pier. The review shall include a recommendation for the most appropriate low-cost solution to ensure the extension of the life of this important Pier and improve its functionality for both current and future users.

## **Magheraroarty Pier**

Magheraroarty Pier is located on the north coast of Co. Donegal. It 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.

However, any such development would be subject to detailed studies and modelling, as well as all necessary statutory approvals. To progress the project, a meeting was held with An Roinn in Galway during 2019, with funding approved to procure a bathymetric survey and then to complete a Preliminary Appraisal for the project. The procurement process is under way, and a consultant will be appointed in November 2019 to undertake the bathymetric survey. Once the survey report is received, the Preliminary Appraisal will be completed and submitted for consideration in 2020. This process will assist in determining the most appropriate solution to improving access to the Pier.

## **Rannagh Pier**

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 this pier. 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 often makes berthing and unloading of catches quite difficult.

It is proposed to carry out significant remedial and improvement works (raising of the existing pier deck, improvements to facilitate unloading of equipment and fish catches, and incorporation of an extension to the existing pier) to improve the Piers functionality for the fishing community.

In order to progress this project (estimated at €2.3m), a formal application was made to An Roinn in 2018, and again in 2019, for funding of €88,000 to facilitate the completion of a foreshore lease to progress an application for a pier extension. No funding has been received to date.

### **Portsalon Pier**

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 dog-leg, and a new reinforced concrete wall on the inner face of the dog-leg, the demolition of the existing wave wall and construction of a new wave wall of increased height. A new deck slab and steps would also be provided.

An investigative dive survey will be procured in November 2019 to establish the extent of the underwater damage and deterioration, and to inform the design solution. Consideration will then be given to seeking funding for some of the smaller/lower cost elements to progress work at this location.

## **4.2.2 RRDF Applications**

### **Greencastle Harbour Project**

The construction of the breakwater at Greencastle has been suspended since 2008 due to the economic downturn. This 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 in excess of €13million. This will require €3.25m in co-financing from the Council. In addition, Derry Port and Harbour are promoting cruise liners coming to the region, and have identified Greencastle as the most suitable location for docking. The proper docking facility will require extensive capital works, and, while no specific monies are being made available in this capital report, the Council will pursue separate cross-border funding.

A submission was made to the Government, under the Mid-Term Review of the 'Capital Plan: Building on Recovery 2016-2021', for funding to be provided to finish the Greencastle project, which was suspended when the economic downturn occurred. An application for funding was submitted under the RRDF process in September 2018 for this project. This application was unsuccessful.

The Council submitted a new application to RRDF on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019, and it has not received funding. Procurement has commenced for the engagement of a consultants who shall arrange a survey (above and below water) of the existing structure, confirming that same is in good order or identifying any remedial works required. The

consultant shall review the original documentation and amend as appropriate to complete the project as per designed, or amend as required and in accordance with existing approvals. The consultant shall be appointed on confirmation of funding.

### **Burtonport Harbour Redevelopment Project**

Burtonport Harbour is situated on the west coast of Donegal and is one of the County's busiest commercial maritime facilities. In addition to significant fishing activity, it also serves as the base for the Arranmore Island ferry services. The space and facilities struggle to cope with the level of activity, particularly at peak demand times. Traffic management and inadequate parking are particular problems. Provision of additional parking facilities adjacent to, but separate from, the harbour is a key to improving the overall operational efficiency and user experience of the harbour. An application for funding was submitted under the RRDF process in September 2018 for this project. This application was not successful.

The Council continued to develop the project and the Part 8 was approved at the July 2019 Council Meeting. The Council then submitted a new RRDF Application for Phase 1 on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019. A CPO has been prepared during 2109 Q3, and will be ready to publish by the end of November 2019. A consultant architect is currently being procured to develop the phase 2 (Ferry terminal building and associated buildings); with submission of its Part 8 application now planned for the March 2020 Plenary Council Meeting. A workshop is planned for the GMD workshop in December 2019 in relation to sketch designs and project development. This application was successful and has received funding under the RRDF Fund.

#### **4.9.3 Capital Projects Pre-Funding application works**

There are a number of projects that will require specialist assessment and design prior to seeking funding. €137,500 was provided from the Piers & Harbours 'Marine Capital Fund' in 2019 to progress investigative studies to inform the design solutions and foreshore lease applications during 2019/2020 to enable projects to be submitted for the annual DAFM funding programme and for other funding sources (to be identified) for larger scale projects.

Projects for inclusion in the DAFM annual programme for the Refurbishment of structural sheet piling (over the next 5 years):

- Magheraroarty
- Greencastle
- Teelin
- Burtonport
- Malin Head – Portmore
- Bunbeg
- Kerrykeel
- Rathmullan
- Buncrana – include survey of pier scour
- Woodquarter
- Ballyworiskey – include survey of pier scour
- Portsalon pier refurbishment – dive survey inspection and report on condition and void identification

## **Leenan Pier**

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. The provision of a slipway facility would improve the functionality of this pier, providing safer berthing and enabling smaller boats to be brought ashore during poor weather conditions.

During 2019, a consultant was appointed to complete an appropriate assessment to accompany the foreshore lease application, and the Council has completed the design of the proposed slipway solution. The foreshore lease application will be submitted for approval in Q4 2019 at a cost of €20,000. This project will then be included over 3 years for annual DAFM funding to deliver the much needed slipway provision.

## **Rathmullan Pier**

The safety review undertaken at all the Council's Piers and Harbours in 2017 reported that Rathmullan Pier had suffered significant deterioration. A review of the 'Consultant Engineer 2008 Rathmullan Pier Options Report' will be completed in 2020, following an investigative dive survey and a structural assessment of the components of the Pier at a total cost of €50,000.

The review shall include a recommendation for the most appropriate low-cost solution to ensure the extension of the life of this important Pier, improving its functionality for both current and future users.

## **Buncrana Pier**

With the Ferry Service now well established at Buncrana, there is an ongoing need to dredge annually at the pier/harbour facility. Therefore, the provision of a life boat berth would not reduce the dredging requirement as previously anticipated. Should the RNLi require a new life boat berth in the future, Donegal County Council could support this. Focus is currently on the upgrade of the sheet piling supporting this facility and the dive survey will inform in relation to the condition of same.

## **Inver Pier**

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. Works were undertaken during 2017 to raise the deck and improve access.

It is now proposed to progress a slipway design to improve functionality at the Pier, to improve access for maintenance, and facilitate the removal of boats to safety in poor weather conditions. It is estimated that the slipway construction will cost approximately €500,000. Investigative and design works shall commence, and funding shall be sought through the DAFM programme over the coming years.

#### **4.9.4 DAFM Budget 2020-2022**

The Department of Agriculture Food and Marine (DAFM), under its Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme, provides funding for minor capital works projects each year. The maximum project cost permitted is €150,000. The Department will provide up to 75% of the necessary funding, with the Council providing the balance. Invitations for applications usually issue in January or February each year.

The following sets out some of the project types that have been identified as being suitable for funding applications during the period 2020 – 2022 under the annual DAFM programme. All projects require 25% Donegal County Council match funding.

#### **Pier & Harbour Safety Measures**

In late 2016, Donegal County Council engaged the services of a consulting engineer company to undertake safety inspections of 100 piers and harbours at various locations throughout County Donegal. The resulting report, which was finalised in Autumn 2017, identifies a range of measures to help ensure, in as far as is practicable, that these working piers and harbours in public ownership are safe for their various uses. It is intended to seek funding to carry out a package of commonly recommended safety upgrade works – ladders, railings, etc.

DAFM funding has been approved annually for the last 3 years and, along with works carried out under the Council's own annual routine maintenance budget, progress is being made on the safety upgrade of our facilities. It is anticipated that there will be a further 5 - 10 such applications submitted each year for the next 3 years at varying cost (average cost of €50,000 applied per pier) to continue these improvement projects.

#### **Aids to Navigation**

Donegal County Council is the local lighthouse authority in Donegal, and is responsible for the maintenance and upgrading of approximately 200 navigation aids along the coast. An application is made each year for funding to upgrade, replace or enhance some of the AtoNs required to guide mariners through the channels.

#### **Crane/Winch facilities**

There are cranes and winches located at the busier fishing piers and harbours to facilitate the loading and offloading of boats. An application is generally made each year to upgrade, replace or enhance one or two of these facilities at the County's piers and harbours.

#### **Leenan Pier**

As outlined previously, the provision of a slipway facility would improve the functionality of this pier, providing safer berthing and enabling smaller boats to be brought ashore during poor weather conditions. An application for annual DAFM funding will be made over three consecutive years for annual DAFM funding to deliver the much needed slipway provision.

#### **4.9.5 DAFM Marine Leisure Funding Programme**

The Council shall apply for funding over the next 3 years to the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine (DAFM), under its Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme - Marine Leisure & Marine Tourism Scheme, to support the marine leisure industry through the provision of pontoons at Mevagh in Mulroy Bay, Burtonport and Teelin. All projects require 25% Donegal County Council match funding

**Mulroy Bay** is a well sheltered inlet between the Rosguill and Fanad peninsulas. However there are no suitable facilities to cater for leisure craft, particularly for visiting boats that could stop off while sailing around the Donegal coast. A new pontoon facility at Mevagh would provide berthing for leisure craft and visiting yachts, as it is a safe haven and well located within this popular bay.

**Burtonport** is located on the northwest coast of Donegal, in an area which is seeing increased leisure activity. However, the existing facilities that were provided for commercial fishing are not suited to leisure activity.

It is proposed to enhance Burtonport with a pontoon berthing facility as the existing pier, which cannot facilitate the growing demand from the tourism and leisure industry. This project has been identified as Phase 3 of the Burtonport Pier Redevelopment Project. An application for this phase will be submitted under the DAFM annual funding, once the detailed design work is completed.

**Teelin** is located on the southwest coast of Co. Donegal, and not far off the route of anyone circumnavigating the Irish Coast. It provides good natural shelter from prevailing winds. It is a preferred stopover for vessels en route from Galway and Mayo. Once a vibrant fishing harbour, Teelin now shares its facilities with the tourism and leisure industry. While a pontoon was provided here in 2014 to facilitate tourists going to view the cliffs at Sliabh Liag, it is proposed to enhance this with additional pontoon berthing as the existing one cannot facilitate the growing demand from the tourism and leisure industry. An application for this project will be submitted under the DAFM annual funding, once the detailed design work is completed.

#### 4.9.6 Summary of Piers and Harbours Projects

<b>2020 – 2022 Projects</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Total Cost €</b>	<b>Lead Funding Agency</b>	<b>Co-funding (Council)</b>
Projects requiring investigations & design & statutory approvals in 2020 to 2022	Rathmullan Pier Refurbishment	2,600,000	1,950,000	650,000
	Groyne/Breakwater at Magheraroarty	2,000,000	1,500,000	500,000
	Rannagh Pier	2,300,000	1,725,000	575,000
	Portsalon Pier Refurbishment	1,400,000	1,050,000	350,000
	RRDF Greencastle Breakwater	13,000,000	9,750,000	3,250,000
	RRDF Burtonport Harbour Redevelopment – Phase 1	3,000,000	2,250,000	750,000
	RRDF Burtonport Harbour Redevelopment – Phase 2	1,500,000	1,125,000	375,000
	DAFM annual programme (2020/2021/2022)	1,200,000	900,000	300,000
	DAFM Leisure programme (2020/2021/2022)	300,000	225,000	75,000
	DAFM Leenan Pier slipway	500,000	375,000	125,000
	DAFM Inver Pier slipway	500,000	375,000	125,000
		<b>Total</b>	<b>28,300,000</b>	<b>21,225,000</b>

#### 4.10 Roads Projects Funded from Development Charges

The total estimated amount of General Development Charges that will be provided for the Roads Directorate is currently estimated at €250,000 annually for the period 2020 to 2022. The 2020 funding has already been reserved for the three-year footpath and public lighting programme discussed above. The estimates for 2021 and 2022 will be the subject of further review in advance of each respective budget year, and will take into account the 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 collects Specific Development Charges for specified works required to facilitate particular developments, and these charges will be expended on the items for which they are levied.

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

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

#### **4.12 North West Greenway Network**

In 2015, Derry City & Strabane District Council (DCSDC) in partnership with Donegal County Council (DCC), Transport NI, and Sustrans, established the Active & Sustainable Travel Forum (ASTF) and the Forum's North West Greenways Action Plan forms the basis of a strategic and co-ordinated plan for the development of a network of greenways throughout the North West. In line with the aims and vision set out within the North West Greenway plan, partners Derry City & Strabane District Council, Donegal County Council, Transport NI (TNI) and Sustrans secured funding approval for a project costing €14,861,188, with 85% of the funding coming from the EU's INTERREG VA 2014-2020 programme (administered by SEUPB) and 15% matching funding provided by the two governments. This has enabled the partners to progress with design, development & delivery of the following cross-border greenway routes to achieve a rise in modal shift:

- Route 1 – 32.5km: Derry-Buncrana: this route commences at Pennyburn in Derry and extends to Bridgend in Donegal at the border crossing and continues onto Buncrana and Letterkenny via Tooban Junction and Inch Wildlife Reserve. The route comprises a mix of shared-use space, new route development, and utilisation of disused railway lines
- Route 2 – 10.5km: Muff-Derry: links Muff in Donegal to the commuter settlement of Culmore in Co. Derry, connecting to Derry City along realigned shared routes, including a bridge over Pennyburn at Bay Road Park linking to the existing greenway network
- Route 3 – 3.5km: Strabane to Lifford – connecting the border towns utilising the existing bridge that spans the River Foyle connecting the cross-border link with the DCC owned building located on the Letterkenny Rd, formerly in use as an army barracks and on towards Murlough.

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

- a. Increase modal shift – move away from a car-dependent culture
- b. Contribute to the region's overall sustainability by providing health, social, economic and environmental benefits
- c. Create and promote a strong unifying brand

- d. Supporting the local authorities in promoting access & infrastructural improvements
- e. Developing a connected region
- f. Promoting health, wellbeing and the wider societal benefits of cycling/walking

The project lifespan is five years from 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2021. Donegal County Council elements are managed by a three-person team, in tandem with a similar project team in DCSDC. As lead partner, DCSDC is providing the overall Programme Manager. Significant land owner liaison and public consultation has taken place to date and the projects are progressing well:

- Route 1: Derry-Buncrana: target of EIS/CPO by during 2020;
- Route 2: Muff-Derry: Part 8 approved and construction to commence by 2020 Q1;
- Route 3: Strabane to Lifford: Part 8 approved and construction to commence by 2020 Q1,

Donegal County Council match funding of approximately €1.45 million will be required to complete this project as per the terms of the offer.

## **5. Water & Environment Services**

### **5.1 WATER SERVICES**

#### **5.1.1 Irish Water**

The Water Services (No. 2) Act of 2013 transferred responsibility for policy and funding for public water services from local authorities to Irish Water. This has had a significant impact for the Council's overall Capital Programme. The provision of water service infrastructure accounted for a considerable element of the Council's annual capital expenditure in previous years. The responsibility for investment programmes, including the prioritisation of projects, has transferred to Irish Water.

The Council's capital and design division continues to play a key role in the rollout of projects locally on behalf of Irish Water, under the terms of the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water. There is an extensive programme of major water and wastewater projects being progressed through planning, design and construction stages in Co Donegal as part of the current Irish Water Capital Investment Plan (2017-2021) and beyond.

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

Funding of €80,000 per annum is estimated as being required for this, with the sources being a variety of external sources.

<b>Wastewater Advance Investment by Donegal County Council</b>	<b>Estimated Funding Allocations</b>		
	2020	2019	2022
	€80,000	€80,000	€80,000

Takeover of Group Water Schemes is being examined and prioritised to coincide with the Irish Water Capital Investment Plan.

#### **5.1.2 Criteria for Group Water Schemes to be Eligible for takeover by Irish Water**

The three main criteria for group water schemes to be eligible for takeover by Irish Water are compliance with all Technical, Legal and Financial requirements. The Irish Water takeover process requires that the three aforementioned criteria are to the standards set out by Irish Water.

### **5.1.3 Resourcing**

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

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

### **5.1.4 Rural Water Programme**

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

Donegal County Council received an allocation of €2,724,826 in October 2019 in relation to projects under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme.

The following table sets out the total allocation for County Donegal under the Rural Water Programme for 2020, 2021 and 2022.

<b>Rural Water Programme</b>	<b>Expenditure Projections</b>		
	2020	2021	2022
	€1.5m	€1.0m	€0.972m

## **5.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

### **5.2.1 Landfill Restoration Programme**

Donegal County Council was granted waste licences by the EPA for six landfill facilities under the Waste Management Act 1996. All six facilities are now closed. The waste licences granted required the Council to carry out engineered restoration works at all six facilities within a certain timescale following closure. Five of these facilities have been restored, including the Churchtown site where restoration works were completed in recent years. Details of these projects, along with further infrastructural works required at a number of the other landfill sites, are outlined in the following sections.

Donegal County Council is progressing plans to advance the landfill capital infrastructural programmes outlined below on an 'Invest-to-Save' basis. This will enable landfill capital works to be progressed in a manner that optimises available external funds, and with a view to reducing leachate haulage costs and other operational costs.

### **5.2.2 Churchtown Landfill Facility**

The Council explored the innovative use of biotechnologies as part of the recently completed restoration of the landfill facility at Churchtown. The project incorporated the use of willow crop in combination with Integrated Constructed Wetlands. The outcome has been a highly successful, sustainable and cost-effective solution to restoring landfills, in terms of both capital investment and maintenance costs. The works have now being commissioned, and a Waste Licence review is underway by the EPA to regularise the discharge to the River Finn.

### **5.2.3 Balbane Landfill Facility**

The Council has secured Department funding for the final restoration of Balbane Landfill Site utilising biotechnology.

A similar type of solution, as was used successfully at Churchtown, has been provisionally approved by the EPA for the Balbane Landfill Site. Consultants were appointed in 2019 to advance the detailed design and tender stages of the project, with construction anticipated to commence in 2020.

The estimated cost to advance detailed design, tender and construction works to restore the Balbane site is €1.62m. The Council is committed to working with the EPA and the Department to implement practical solutions at a reasonable cost and within the anticipated timeframe.

<b>Total Project Cost Estimate €1.62million</b>	<b>Expenditure Projections for Period</b>		
	2020	2021	2022
	€0.36m	€1.00m	€0.12m

### **5.2.4 Other Landfill Works**

Hydro-geological studies have been completed at all six licensed landfills in recent years, as required by the EPA. These studies have given rise to a programme of further investigation and remedial works at all six sites. A cost of €220,000 over three years is estimated.

Leachate from Ballynacarrick landfill is currently transported to Letterkenny Wastewater Treatment works for treatment. It is proposed to develop an Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) at Ballynacarrick Landfill site as a lower-cost alternative. An ICW with associated leachate recirculation is estimated to cost €910,000. This capital investment is under consideration, with implementation likely to occur over a three-year period.

Minor capital upgrades/replacements are an ongoing feature of landfill maintenance at all sites, with an estimated €50,000 being required annually.

Welfare facilities are required at the Churchtown site at an estimated cost of €15,000.

Local Authorities, the EPA and the WERLAs have also engaged in a process to complete risk assessments in relation to historic landfill sites (Section 22 Sites) across the country. DCC will proactively engage in this process and shall be liaising with the DCCAE in relation to the provision of funding.

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

<b>Landfill Works</b>	<b>Annual Funding Allocations Sought</b>		
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Hydro-geological Costs	€75,000	€85,000	€60,000
Ballynacarrick ICW / Leachate Re-circulation	€375,000	€325,000	€210,000
Minor Capital Replacement	€50,000	€50,000	€50,000
Churchtown Welfare facilities	€15,000	-	-
Section 22 Sites	€90,000	€90,000	€90,000
<b>Total annual Cost Estimate</b>	<b>€595,000</b>	<b>€540,000</b>	<b>€410,000</b>

### **5.3 Recycling Centres**

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

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

At the Letterkenny Recycling Centre, recyclables from the six recycling centres around the County are sorted and mechanically baled. A covered-in structure is proposed to enhance the facility. It will allow work to continue during inclement weather conditions, enhance the working conditions for staff on site, and also improve the quality of materials that are stored on site.

<b>Total Project Cost Estimate €50,000</b>	<b>Funding Allocation Sought</b>
	<b>2020-2022</b>
	€50,000

### **5.4 Bring Banks**

Donegal County Council has progressed capital works at 74 Bring Banks sites throughout the County where members of the public may recycle their glass, cans and textiles.

An incremental programme of upgrading the Bring Bank facilities in County Donegal is ongoing. Depending on the site, upgrading works can include the installation of fencing around the site, construction of a plinth, signage, and the installation of CCTV. The annual cost of this work is estimated to be in the region of €3,000 per site.

Bring Banks are maintained to a high standard. These plastic receptacles are subject to high levels of wear and tear, and the banks and internal cables are monitored regularly. Donegal County Council replaces banks where needed. The cost of purchasing a new bring bank is €550. There are approximately 460 bring banks throughout County Donegal. A programme of replacing 20% of banks annually is needed in order to maintain these facilities and sustain their use by the public. An annual provision of €36,000 over the three years 2020 – 2022 is required.

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

<b>Bring Banks</b>	<b>Annual Funding Allocations Sought</b>		
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Bank replacement	€36,000	€36,000	€36,000
CCTV	€9,000	€9,000	€9,000
<b>Annual Cost Estimate</b>	<b>€45,000</b>	<b>€45,000</b>	<b>€45,000</b>

## **5.5 Donegal Air Quality Monitoring Programme**

The Environment and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee reviewed the rollout of the National Ambient (Air Quality) Monitoring Programme in late 2017 and early 2018.

Donegal County Council is proposing to install a number of Air Quality Real-Time Indicator Monitors throughout the County.

- The review has concluded that where information on local air quality, and its impact on the environment and health, is available to the public, it helps to change the attitude of those still choosing to burn smoky coal or other specified fuels
- The proposed installation of five live PM10/PM 2.5 monitors would enable the public to check results online at any time on the Council's web site
- According to the Asthma Society of Ireland, there are 13,000 Asthma sufferers in Donegal; smoky coal is one of the known triggers of Asthma attacks

Two real-time air quality monitoring sites were commissioned in partnership with the EPA in 2019, in Letterkenny and Bunrana. The Council plans to install further air quality monitoring sites in Donegal Town, Ballybofey and Dungloe in 2020. It is anticipated that the Council will continue to expand its air quality monitoring network in 2021 and in subsequent years.

The estimated cost of this air quality monitoring programme for the three years 2020 – 2022 is €105,000, and is to be funded through a combination of Department and Council funding.

<b>Donegal Air Quality Monitoring Programme</b>	<b>Annual Funding Requirements</b>		
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
	€35,000	€35,000	€35,000

## **5.6 Public Convenience Capital Investment Programme**

There is a variety of public-convenience services provided across the County at 52 locations. This ranges from:

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

A review of the type of public conveniences that are appropriate for different situations throughout the County was carried out through the Environment and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee in 2017 and 2018. This review has informed the infrastructural investment required in future years.

A summary of the recommendations from the review includes:

- Development of a capital investment programme to carry out essential improvements at prioritised existing public conveniences;
- Improved accessibility at public conveniences;
- A recommendation that the Council should enhance the public convenience services provided, through increased engagement with community groups and the business community.

The Rathmullan Public Conveniences were completed and opened to the public in 2018, while significant upgrade works were carried out in Dungloe during 2019.

The estimated cost of the public convenience capital investment programme for the three years 2020 – 2022 is summarised in the following table.

<b>Public Conveniences Upgrade Cost Estimate €300,000</b>	<b>Annual Funding Allocations</b>		
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
	€100,000	€100,000	€100,000

## **5.7 Coastal and Beach Improvement**

The Donegal mainland coastline is 1,134km long, and constitutes over 17% of the total national coastline. Donegal County Council actively maintains and promotes twenty-one key beaches under varying National initiatives (Blue Flag, Green Coast and Designated Bathing Waters). These twenty-one beaches alone require considerable maintenance and investment. Whereas every effort will be made to identify grant assistance, the work programme will essentially depend on Donegal County Council for funding.

Beach access is an ongoing challenge in an ever changing environment. Coastal erosion, accretion and wind-blown sand can pose year-round difficulties. Dune erosion has become a concern at many beaches and poses a threat to the Blue Flag and Green Coast status of a number of beaches if it is not addressed. This problem is due primarily to pressures from beach visitors trampling the dunes, and has repeatedly been raised by An Taisce and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Proper dedicated beach access is required at these beaches, and protection measures need to be introduced to allow the dunes to recover.

Of the twenty-one designated beaches, twelve beaches have had infrastructural improvements to improve accessibility for visitors of all abilities. A further six beaches now require investment to allow safe access. The cost estimate for these works is €90,000 per annum. The 2020 programme includes a specific requirement for €30,000 for a number of coastal erosion projects throughout the County.

<b>Coastal Erosion / Beach access</b>	<b>Annual Funding Allocations Sought</b>		
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Annual Cost</b>	€90,000	€90,000	€90,000

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

Car parking at the twenty-one beaches referred to above must be upgraded and resurfaced as necessary. This will include the provision of speed restrictions, lined parking spaces, designated disabled parking, designated emergency vehicle parking, and hatched areas for emergency vehicle access.

During the summer bathing season over forty-five beach lifeguards are hired annually to supervise and ensure the safety of visitors at fourteen key beaches. With the promotion of our coastline and increasing visitor numbers, this is a very demanding position of responsibility.

Temporary lifeguard stations have been hired to accommodate these staff. These facilities are not always satisfactory and have been highlighted in Irish Water Safety beach risk assessments. A lifeguard station must be clearly identifiable, have clear vision of the water and be fit for purpose. Only one such station has been provided, at Shrove Beach, with improvements made to the station at Carrickfinn completed in

2019. A further nine stations are needed to fulfil staff needs and public requirements. The cost estimate for these works is €18,000 annually.

The following table summarises the funding required for Beach and Coastal Improvement Programme.

<b>Beach and Coastal Improvement Programme</b>	<b>Annual Funding Allocations Sought</b>		
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
• Coastal Erosion / Beach Access	€90,000	€90,000	€90,000
• Beach Car-Park Facilities	€30,000	€30,000	€30,000
• Beach Lifeguard Facilities	€18,000	€18,000	€18,000
<b>Total annual Cost Estimate</b>	<b>€138,000</b>	<b>€138,000</b>	<b>€138,000</b>

## **5.8 Leisure Centres**

The proposed refurbishment of Buncrana Community Leisure Centre continues to be progressed by Donegal County Council and Buncrana Community Leisure Centre Committee. A report on the project was presented to Elected Members at the March 2019 Meeting which set out the most cost-effective options for the new facility.

- Option 1 - Refurbishment of the existing Buncrana Leisure Centre. The construction cost of the project is currently estimated at €7.02m excluding VAT.
- Option 2 - Demolition of the existing structure and construction of a new purpose build Leisure Centre. The construction cost of the project is currently estimated at €5.67m excluding VAT.

Option 1 was deemed to provide a less efficient leisure centre and to be cost prohibitive. Option 2 has been evaluated by Donegal County Council and BCLCC and has been deemed to provide a leisure centre which efficiently meets current day needs and presents the best value-for-money.

In Q4 2019 DCC will invite tenders for consultants to design and tender the construction of the new facility. Elected members will be advised of the updated cost estimate of the construction of the facility, and the required co-funding contribution from Donegal County Council, before progressing to construction tender stage. Projected expenditure during the period 2020 to 2022, which is based on preliminary estimates, is included in the table below.

There is an emerging need for capital replacement works at each of the existing leisure centres in the County. This is necessary to protect the initial investment and to maintain each facility to a required standard to attract and retain customers. Capital replacement requirements will be informed by periodic structural and fabric assessments of the various facilities. Information to date indicates a requirement of approximately €300,000 per annum, over the 3 year Capital period. This programme will depend on funding from Donegal County Council and external sources where available.

Leisure Centres	Annual Funding Allocations Sought		
	2020	2021	2022
<b>Buncrana Leisure Centre</b>	€250,000	€500,000	€1,200,000
<b>Capital Replacement</b>	€300,000	€300,000	€300,000
<b>Total annual Cost Estimate</b>	€550,000	€800,000	€1,500,000

## **5.9 CFRAMS Projects**

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

In total, fifteen flood relief projects have been identified for County Donegal as part of the 119 projects. Six of the Donegal projects have been identified to be progressed in a first phase of implementation. These projects include Lifford, Castlefin, Burnfoot, Downings, Glenties, and Kerrykeel. In addition to these six, there is an ongoing flood relief project at design stage for Raphoe. The OPW and the Council will be working closely to progress these projects, with OPW leading on the delivery of Lifford and Raphoe, and the Council leading on the remaining five projects.

The OPW has provided funding for DCC to appoint two dedicated members of staff to manage the projects that DCC will deliver in collaboration with the OPW. These staff members were appointed in 2019. As stated above, DCC will initially manage five projects which will take a number of years to complete. It is anticipated that the OPW will release further projects to DCC in the coming years.

CFRAMS Projects	Anticipated Expenditure		
	2020	2021	2022
<b>CFRAMS</b>	€250,000	€500,000	€1,500,000

## 6. Community Development & Planning Services

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

**Section 6.1: Community Development Division**

**Section 6.2: Planning Services Division**

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

### **Section 6.1 – Community Development Division**

#### **6.1.1 Projects in Progress**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Funder(s)</b>	<b>Details</b>
Rural Development Programme (RDP/LEADER)	EU/Dept	€12.9m is the allocation to the Local Action Group in Donegal (the LCDC) for the programme period 2014-2020. Additional funding of €500,000 was awarded by DRCD in October 2019. €3.76m remains to be spent on projects by the LAG by the end of the current programme in 2020.
Sliabh Liag Strategic Development Project	SEUPB INTERREG IVA/ Fáilte Ireland/ Own Resources	Capital works on a flagship tourism project costing €4.95m (comprising visitor amenities, access improvements, and an upland path at Sliabh Liag) commenced in 2012 and were completed in 2018. The Visitor-Centre/Transportation-Hub was officially opened on 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2019. It is proposed to initiate the procedure for making bye-laws for the management of traffic at the car parks at Sliabh Liag [in accordance with Section 101(7) of the Road Traffic Act 1961 (as amended)] in November 2019, with the intention of putting the matter before the members of the Donegal Municipal District in Q1 of 2020. Expenditure of €50k is anticipated for 2020.
Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme – Letterkenny	DECLG – administered through the Northern & Western Regional Assembly	The Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme prioritises investment in Gateway Towns as the engine of the regional economy. The Council made a successful application for funding under this scheme for Letterkenny which contains three elements: (i) Social Enterprise Building; (ii) Town Centre Improvements and (iii) works on the Joe Bonnar Link Road. This Directorate is responsible for developing the Social Enterprise Building which received €1,000,000 in grant funding with a further €4,000,000 to be provided from the Council's own resources. A design team was appointed to the project in Q2 of 2018. Part 8 Planning approval was obtained in July 2019 for a building of

		circa 1250 sq. metres over three floors to house some of the key community and voluntary groups currently based in Letterkenny and across the County. Extensive consultation with the identified groups is ongoing to finalise the detailed design of the building with procurement of a contractor to follow thereafter. It is anticipated that construction will commence in Q2 of 2020. Expenditure of €5m is anticipated over the next three years.
2017 Town & Village Renewal Scheme	Dept/Own Resources	Thirteen T&V Renewal Schemes are currently being completed; these include projects in Dunkineely, Mountcharles, Burtonport, Falcarragh, Convoy, Arranmore Island, Ballyliffin, Churchhill, Newtowncunningham, Kilcar, Carrigart/Downings, St. Johnston, and Rathmullan. The total expenditure on the thirteen projects is €1,448,750 (inclusive of match funding).
2018 Town & Village Renewal Scheme	Dept/Own Resources	Eleven towns and villages across the County were awarded funding under the 2018 Town and Village Renewal Scheme: Donegal Town, Glenties, Moville, Kerrykeel, Portsalon, Killygordan, Killybegs, Bunrana, Muff, Kilmacrennan, and Castlefin. Works are currently underway with total funding of €1.375m (inclusive of match funding).
2019 Town & Village Renewal Scheme	Dept/Own Resources	Seven towns and villages across the County have recently been awarded funding under the 2019 Town & Village Renewal Scheme. Projects have been approved in the following areas: Rosstownlough, Glencolmcille, Dunfanaghy, Maghera, Killea, Clonmany, and Raphoe. The total grant funding approved of €764,400, when combined with the match funding element, will represent a total investment of €955,500. These projects will be advanced in the coming months.
2019 CLAR Scheme Measure 1	Dept/Own Resources	Applications were submitted to the Department for funding for safety measures in respect of eight schools/projects. Two schools and three community projects across the County are set to benefit from the 2019 CLAR Scheme Measure 1: Malin Development Association, Drimarone Development Association, Carrigans Tidy Towns, Cranford N.S., and Trentagh N.S. Total funding amounts to €177,969.
2019 CLAR Scheme Measure 2	Dept/Own Resources	Applications were submitted to the Department for funding for play areas in respect of seven schools/projects, with one community project (Falcarragh Development Association) benefiting from 2019 CLAR Scheme Measure 2. Total funding amounts to €39,952.
Tullan Strand, Bundoran.	Own Resources.	Development of access and public amenities at Tullan Strand.

Malin Head Phase 3.	Fáilte Ireland/Own Resources.	The development and implementation of a Visitor Management Plan for the Malin Head Signature Discovery Point got underway in 2019, with the plan to be fully completed by the end of Q1 2020. The plan will shape future development in Malin Head in the years ahead. Total expenditure is approximately €250k.
2018 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme	Dept/Own Resources	<p>Three Measure-2 applications to the 2018 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) were allocated funding in February 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glenties Altar Trail</li> <li>• Great Arch Trail Fanad</li> <li>• Letterkenny to Burtonport Greenway (Phase 1)</li> </ul> <p>Part 8 planning approval was obtained for the Great Arch Trail and Phase 1 of the Letterkenny to Burtonport Greenway in September 2019, with construction to commence in Q1 of 2020.</p>
North West Greenways Technical Feasibility Study	North West Regional Development Group	The North West Regional Development Group allocated funding of £120k stg to DCC in May 2019 to provide expertise to survey, design and cost a series of new cross-border greenway routes. The purpose of this study, which is to run until March 2021, is to inform future business cases and funding applications.
Riverine	ERDF	<p>In 2018, Donegal County Council in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council submitted an application to the Special European Union Programmes Body under the European Union Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (Peace IV) under Objective 3: Shared Spaces and Services, Action 3.1 Shared Spaces Capital Development. In June 2019, the Peace IV Programme Steering Committee announced a grant of €8,962,540.60 towards the Riverine Community Park Project to be expended and claimed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. The project proposes to create thirty acres of new community park space and infrastructure at Lifford and Strabane. Works to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pavilion Building</li> <li>▪ Outdoor Wetlands and Park Space</li> <li>▪ Outdoor Flexible Multi-Functional Space</li> <li>▪ Family Space</li> <li>▪ Cross-border Pathways and Park Infrastructure (Walkways and Greenways)</li> <li>▪ Safe River Access</li> <li>▪ Pedestrian Footbridge</li> </ul>
Peace IV	SEUPB (Peace IV)	The Donegal Peace IV Action Plan has been approved to the value of €5.5m. This Plan sets out the types of activities to be supported under three main headings: 'Children & Young People', 'Building Positive Relations', and 'Shared Spaces & Services'. These programmes will be rolled out during 2020 and 2021.

		<p><b>Shared Spaces &amp; Services Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Multi-use Sports Facility → €1,179,075</li> <li>▪ Cross Community Garden: ICARE - Inishowen Children Autism Related Education → €50,000.</li> <li>▪ Reimagining Perceived Single Identity Spaces: Carrigans Old School Hall → €25,000 Clar Orange Hall → €45,000 Convoy Presbyterian Church → €40,000 Killymard LOL → €45,000 Rathmullan Abbey → €45,000</li> <li>▪ Outdoor Play Areas: Friends of Rosstown Beach → €100,000 Killea Community Play Park Group → €115,000 Bruckless Community Centre Ltd. → €85,000</li> </ul>
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### 6.1.2 Projects Planned

Project Name	Funder(s)	Details
Playgrounds	External/Own Resources	Refurbishment of equipment at eight existing playgrounds is planned during the period 2020-2022. Proposed expenditure (subject to securing external funding) will total €360,000:  2020: €110,000 2021: €125,000 2022: €125,000
2020 CLAR	Dept/Own Resources	Funding applications to be submitted when 2020 CLAR Scheme opens.
2020 Town & Village Renewal Scheme	Dept/Own Resources	Funding applications will be developed and submitted when the 2020 T&V Scheme opens.
2019 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)	Dept/Own Resources	Thirteen applications were submitted to the Department under the 2019 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme as follows: 9 No. Measure-1 projects for funding up to €20k; 4 No. Measure-2 projects for funding up to €200k & 1 No. Measure-3 projects for funding up to €500k. (Total funding sought is €1,983,505).
2020 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)	Dept/Own Resources	Funding applications will be developed and submitted when the 2020 ORIS Scheme opens.
Donegal Craft Village	External Sources	In the period 2020-2022, works to include: construction of additional units and a public toilet, extension to the car park, and the opening of direct access from the regional road – subject to securing external funding. A section of footpath leading to the Craft Village from the town will also be extended.

Bundoran	Fáilte Ireland/Own Resources	Fáilte Ireland launched its national 'Developed & Emerging Tourism Destinations Investment Scheme' in March 2019 with the aim of boosting the attractiveness and tourism appeal of towns across the country. Donegal County Council submitted an application to Fáilte Ireland seeking funding of €500k for a project in Bundoran in September 2019. It is expected that feedback will be received on the application before the end of 2019.
Platforms for Growth, 'Immersive Heritage & Cultural Attractions'	Fáilte Ireland/Own Resources	<p>Fáilte Ireland launched its Platforms for Growth Investment Programme 2019 on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019. It is the largest investment programme of its kind, with €150m being made available nationwide to benefit tourism, with individual grants available for large-scale visitor attractions of €2.5m upwards. Under the terms of the programme, to be eligible for an investment grant, there are five steps in the Platforms for Growth process; three steps in the Application Phase that need to be successfully completed, and two steps in the Delivery and Development Phase. Applicants must pass through these 'Stages' in order to be eligible to receive an investment grant under the scheme. Before any investment grant is made available to a successful applicant, the applicant must enter into and comply with the Investment Grant Agreement and all pre-investment requirements. Donegal County Council, as applicant, submitted Stage 1 Expression of Interest applications for five Immersive Heritage &amp; Cultural Attraction projects, at locations spread across the County, by the closing date of 12 noon on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019. All five projects successfully made it through to Stage 2 of the multi-stage application process. Stage 2 applications for the five projects listed below were submitted by the closing date of 12 noon 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019, with feedback expected by the end of November 2019 on projects successfully progressing to Stage 3 of the application process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fort Dunree</li> <li>▪ Rathmullan 'The Battery'</li> <li>▪ Ballyshannon Workhouse</li> <li>▪ Glenties 'The Laurels'</li> <li>▪ Letterkenny Courthouse</li> </ul>
ASCENT	EU – NPA	DCC received €568,580 to lead the ASCENT project. Errigal mountain was chosen as the site for the project and there have been three areas of activity: partner learning & expertise exchange; management planning and intervention design; and training and solution trialling. Part 8 planning approval for habitat restoration including an upland path was obtained in

		March 2019. Trialling works on short sections of the new path took place in June 2019. An application for funding to construct 3km of an upland path on Errigal mountain was submitted to the 2019 Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS). A management plan for Errigal mountain is being finalised.
Drumboe Park	DRCD (RRDF) / Own Resources	In March 2019, Part 8 planning approval was obtained for the development of a public park, comprising play areas, public conveniences, and walking trails in Drumboe, Stranorlar. The Council is currently progressing the acquisition of these lands in order to be in a position to submit a 'shovel-ready' project when further national funding calls are announced. It is envisaged that the acquisition of the lands will be finalised in early 2020.

### 6.1.3 Development of Greenways Strategy

The Community Development Division will continue its work in developing a Greenways Strategy for County Donegal, building on the work that has already been undertaken - including the North West Greenway Project funded through the INTERREG programme, Donegal Co. Council, and Derry City & Strabane District Council.

The development of a countywide Greenways strategy over the next 12 months will assist the prioritisation of projects to be put forward for future applications. Additional engineering/technical resources are being assigned to the Community Development Division in the coming months, with the initial scheme to be progressed being the Letterkenny to Burtonport scheme, in line with previous commitments given.

There are a number of funding programmes which the Council will target in terms of accessing the necessary resources to help deliver on the agreed schemes, as follows:

- National Greenway Development Fund
- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)
- Own Resources

## **Section 6.2 – Planning Division**

### **6.2.1 Projects in Progress**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Funder(s)</b>	<b>Details</b>
HERICOAST	EU – Interreg	A heritage & cultural tourism project with a budget of €322,256 (project substantially completed at end Sept 2019). Between Q1 and Q3 of 2020, monitoring of the action plan will be finalised, results disseminated to other partners, and a final summary report will be submitted to the Joint Secretariat.
Letterkenny 2040	DHPLG/Own Resources	<p>Under the Urban Regeneration &amp; Development Fund (URDF), the Council was successful in 2018 in securing funding for the urban regeneration project 'Letterkenny 2040'. The total value of the project is €2,590,048 and the funding award from the URDF is €1,942,536, with a match funding obligation of €647,512.</p> <p>There are three approved strands to this regeneration project: Strategic Visioning or Master-Planning of the town centre area; the acquisition of a key intervention site; and the delivery of public realm works. Work is currently ongoing across all project strands. It is envisaged that expert consultants will be procured in respect of the Strategic Visioning exercise across Q4 2019/Q1 2020, and that the process will be launched in Q1 2020, concluding in Q2 2021. The value of this strand is €330,000.</p> <p>Negotiations with landowners have commenced in respect of the key intervention site, with a view to expediting the acquisition pathway and it is envisaged that acquisition will be effected by Q4 2020. The value of this strand is €1,568,148.</p> <p>In respect of the public realm works, this strand will see the delivery of the first phase of a Linear Park in the centre of the town, commencing at the Public Services Centre/Social Enterprise Centre and travelling west across Council owned lands. Part 8 planning is in place for this first Phase (and a future phase), and first phase lands are within Council control. It is envisaged that the procurement of a landscape architect and technical investigations for detailed design will be completed in Q4 2019 allowing for the procurement of a contractor and completion of the first phase works by Q2 2021, in line with the delivery of the Social Enterprise Centre. The value of this strand is €691,900. It is envisaged that PART 8 planning permission for the remaining phases of the park, to</p>

		allow for its completion through to Pearse Rd, will be completed by Q2 2020.
Killybegs 2040 – A Town Centre Regeneration Project	DRCD (RRDF)/Own Resources	An application was made to the DRCD/RRDF in August of 2019 in respect of a town centre regeneration project in Killybegs. This project proposes the refurbishment and extension of Island House (a derelict building on the Harbour) to use as a Digital Hub and Tourist Information Centre with integrated Civic space, new pedestrian infrastructure and parking arrangements. The value of the project is €4,842,344 and funding of €3,631,758 was sought from the RRDF. Grant funding for this project was confirmed in November 2019.
Burtonport/Aranmore – Harbour to Island Regeneration	DRCD (RRDF)/Own Resources	An application was made to the DRCD/RRDF in August 2019 in respect of Harbour to Island regeneration in Burtonport and Aranmore Island. This project proposes first phase works at Burtonport which would see improved traffic management, parking and ferry access arrangements in the Harbour area together with public realm works and associated acquisition and demolition works. The improved Harbour infrastructure is linked to a Shore Front Amenity development on Aranmore Island consisting of beach access, parking, recreational facilities, and an outdoor events space. The value of the project is €4,118,932 and funding of €3,089,199 was sought from the RRDF. Grant funding for this project was confirmed in November 2019.

### 6.2.2 Projects Planned

Project Name	Funder(s)	Details
Letterkenny 2040	DPHPLG (URDF)/Own Resources	Further applications to the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF) will be made to the DHPLG in respect of project Letterkenny 2040 when further calls open. It is anticipated that further calls will open in Q4 2019 and Q2/3 2020. Applications will be made under these calls for the further development of the existing project strands and/or additional project strands.
Rural Regeneration & Development Projects	DRCD (RRDF)/Own Resources	It is anticipated that further calls under the RRDF will open in Q4 2019 and again in Q2/3 of 2020. Further applications will be developed and submitted to this Fund when calls open, with a focus on Tier-2 (Strategic Support) Towns in line with Delivery Area 2 of the Work Programme (as set out by the Chief Executive in report to Council and CPG in January 2019).

### **6.2.3 Regeneration & Development Team**

In January 2019, the establishment of a Regeneration & Development Programme and Delivery Team within the Council was proposed. The overall aim of the programme is to attract investments from the range of funding programmes available to develop high quality urban and rural settlements which contribute to Regeneration, Economic Development and Compact Growth. It was proposed that the programme of work would focus on two Delivery Areas:

- Letterkenny as Regional Growth Centre (URDF), and
- Strategic Support Towns across the County (RRDF)

Throughout 2019, work has been progressing to resource the newly formed Regeneration & Development Team and in tandem with this process the Team has been building momentum in implementing the programme of work. The Team has progressed the URDF award in respect of Letterkenny 2040 to a formal letter of offer and verification of the approved pathways for funding drawdown. This in turn has allowed for the acquisition process of the key intervention site to proceed, together with the procurement processes in respect of an external consultant for the Strategic Visioning Exercise, and the acquisition of professional services necessary to achieve final design of the Linear Park.

It is envisaged that 2020 will see significant progress on all approved strands of Letterkenny 2040, with the Team and successful consultants both launching and leading out on an innovative and engaging consultation process as part of the Strategic Visioning Exercise, together with commencement of works on the first phase of the Linear Park and acquisition of the intervention site. In parallel, the Team will continue to develop the regeneration project Letterkenny 2040 and bring forward further strands and interventions for consideration under subsequent calls of the URDF.

In April of this year, a further call was opened under the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF) and the early work of team members focused on a review of the 2018 applications under the RRDF programme. This review identified the Killybegs and Burtonport/Aranmore applications as retaining project viability under the Fund and being best prepared to advance to a 'shovel ready status'. Accordingly, the Team, working with Road Design on the Burtonport/Aranmore project, ensured that these projects were further developed by: completing the Part 8 planning process to ensure 'shovel ready' status; and, inter alia, building a strong project business case with supporting expert studies. Both projects were successfully submitted to the RRDF by the 6<sup>th</sup> August deadline with a respective project value of €4.8m and €4.1m. The Team is continuing to build momentum in respect of the work programme and is currently progressing the work of a detailed examination of the Strategic Towns on a phased basis with a view to developing a Regeneration Strategy for each Town, which will identify strategic development sites and locations for regeneration within Town Centre Environments, thereby leading to agreed projects being brought forward through the Part 8 planning process and enabling applications for funding to be made under future calls of the RRDF.

#### **6.2.4 Housing Estate Improvement Works/Unfinished Housing Estates**

The Council continues to work through the remaining unfinished estates that received funding under the government's Site Resolution Funding. The completion of the resolution works is part of the 2020 UFHD's Work Programme with an expected spend of €500,000.

The outstanding works to the provision of a pumping station to An Gleann Rua estate in Letterkenny, subject to the Public Safety Initiative monies, were completed in 2019. Other estates which received funding under this initiative, such as: Crest of the Wave, Bundoran; Cathedral Hill, Raphoe; Sessiagh Park, Castlefin; etc. will be completed during 2020.

A number of unresolved sites continue to be addressed using funds realised from developers' bonds. It is anticipated that around €300,000 from such sources will continue to be spent in each year during 2020-2022.

#### **6.2.5 Taking in Charge - Residential Housing Estates**

The Council has progressed the taking-in-charge of residential estates throughout 2019 and will continue this process throughout 2020.

The planning authority received funding under the Government's National Taking in Charge Initiative. This funding was awarded for two different types of residential developments which are:

- Estates connected to the public foul network: expenditure in 2019 is likely to be €130,000;
- Estates serviced by developer provided infrastructure: expenditure in 2019 is likely to be €190,000, with the remaining funding to be spent in 2020.

Funding was made available subject to the developments being taken in charge by the Council. The planning authority has formally taken in charge approximately 10 residential housing estates in 2019, and will continue throughout 2020 to maximise the number of estates taken in charge.

The Planning authority submitted a significant funding application in September 2019 under the Government's new Multi-Annual Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme 2019-2021. The programme is designed to enable the progressive resolution, on a priority basis, of the Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure (commonly abbreviated to DPI) component of water services infrastructure in a sustainable manner where present in residential housing estates to support their taking in charge.

The definition of a DPI estate is an estate with Stand Alone Infrastructure not connected to IW Networks such as;

- Water Treatment Plants;
- Wells;
- Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Pumped or gravity connections to IW Network are not DPI and the existing MoU/protocol between the LA and IW applies to the TIC and transfer of assets in these estates.

In summary, the Council submitted an application in respect of 12 No Category 1A estates and 26 No Category 1B estates, with 2 demonstration projects for estates in Category 3.

A summary of the funding requested is shown in the table below, with a total funding request of €4,503,563:

<b>Funding needs for 2019-2021 and beyond to resolve DPI.</b>			
<b>Funding required in 2019 (€)</b>	<b>Funding required in 2020 (€)</b>	<b>Funding required in 2021 (€)</b>	<b>Funding required beyond 2021 (€)</b>
<b>102,000</b>	<b>2,002,552</b>	<b>392,476</b>	<b>2,006,535</b>

Subject to a positive outcome to this application, the Council proposes to develop a programme of work to be undertaken over the 2020 to 2022 period, which will be resourced from Department funding, Developers Bonds and Council own resources. This programme of work will be presented to each Municipal District during the first half of 2020.

### **6.2.6 Development Charges/Development-Contribution Scheme**

In accordance with Circular Letter Finance 08/2008 I set out the following:  
The estimate of development contributions (DCS & Specific charges) to be collected in 2020 (based on receipts to date in 2019) is €1,418,671.

**Community Development & Planning Services Directorate Capital Table**  
**2020-2022 (Projects in Progress)**

Description	Projected* <sup>1</sup> Cost Per Annum			Proposed Sources* <sup>1</sup> of funding 2020 – 2022	
	2020 €	2021 €	2022 €	Council €	External €
RDP/LEADER	4,697,475	2,025,718			6,723,193
Sliabh Liag Strategic Development Project	50,000				50,000
Letterkenny (DUCGS)/Social Enterprise Building	2,000,000	2,750,000	250,000	4,000,000	1,000,000
Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2017	789,750			289,750	500,000
Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2018	1,250,000	125,000		275,000	1,100,000
Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2019	955,500			191,100	764,400
Tullan Strand, Bundoran	200,000	75,000		275,000	
Malin Head, Phase III	100,000			25,000	75,000
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2018	404,575	25,000		85,915	343,660
North West Greenway Technical Feasibility Study	88,000	32,000			120,000
Riverine	750,000	1,200,000	7,012,540.60		8,962,540.60
Peace IV 'Children & Young People', 'Building Positive Relations' & 'Shared Spaces & Services'	2,750,000	2,500,000			5,250,000
Urban Regeneration Project 'Letterkenny 2040' (URDF)	77,400	2,205,676	306,972	647,512	1,942,536
Killybegs 2040 – A Town Centre Regeneration Project	968,469	3,389,641	484,234	1,210,586	3,631,758
Burtonport/Aranmore – Harbour to Island Regeneration	823,786	2,883,253	411,893	1,029,733	3,089,199
Unfinished Housing Dev-Developers' Bonds	500,000	300,000	300,000		1,100,000
Take Over of Housing Estates	2,300,000	420,000	2,100,000	316,365	4,503,635
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>18,704,955</b>	<b>17,931,288</b>	<b>10,865,640</b>	<b>8,345,961</b>	<b>39,155,922</b>

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

## **7. Economic Development, Emergency Services & Information Systems**

### **Economic Development**

#### **7.1 Economic Division**

- 7.1.1 A newly formed Economic Division has been established alongside the existing Local Enterprise Office (LEO)/Small Business Support Division as part of a reformed Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems Directorate. This new division will incorporate the Tourism Marketing Unit and a range of Economic Development interventions including areas of Capital Investment.
- 7.1.2 Both the Economic Division and the Small Business Supports Division (LEO) will contribute to the delivery of projects under initiatives including the Regional Enterprise Development Funds (REDF), the Urban and Rural Regeneration Development Funds (URDF) and the Rural Regeneration Development Funds (RRDF) alongside colleague Council services. Decisions on applications submitted in mid 2019 have now been made in relation to the RRDF with approvals for Island House, Killybegs, and Ailt an Chorráin/Árainn Mhór.
- 7.1.3 Consideration will be given in early 2020 on how best to proceed with other proposals targeted towards RRDF funding, once details on the next round of RRDF funding is available. The Economic Development Division will also, as part of its remit in 2020, be advancing proposals with implications for Capital expenditure in the following areas:
- Land and building optimisation for economic development purposes
  - Opportunity site acquisition for economic development purposes
  - Funding and investment opportunities from Central Government and State Agencies for economic development purposes
  - As appropriate, downstream Brexit investment requirements, in a Donegal context, for economic development purposes
- 7.1.4 It is premature, as part of this year's Three Year Capital Budget proposals, to provide multi-annual detail and estimates, as these will evolve over time following the establishment of this Division.
- 7.1.5 A number of Council led applications for funding under the Enterprise Ireland led Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) are either approved or pending decision. These include the Buncrana Digital Hub, which will be progressing to construction in 2020 and the Alpha project, Letterkenny, with a December 2019 decision awaited.

### 7.1.6 Economic Development Capital Investment Programme 2020 – 2022

Description	Projected* <sup>1</sup> Cost Per Annum			Proposed Sources* <sup>1</sup> of funding 2020 – 2022	
	2020 €	2021 €	2022 €	Council €	External €
Buncrana Digital Hub	1,000,000	500,000		300,000	1,200,000
Alpha Project, Letterkenny	300,000	5,000,000	200,000	2,000,000	3,500,000
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1,300,000</b>	<b>5,500,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>2,300,000</b>	<b>4,700,000</b>

\*1 Total cost of co-financing requirements is subject to final costing and procurement

- 7.1.7 As part of the Economic Development Division, the Strategic (formerly E.U.) Funding Unit will initiate a proactive programme of engagement with potential external support bodies and agencies, with the objective of matching strategic Council objectives with appropriate external funding programmes, both National and EU, and to maximise funding and co-financing opportunities to enable further development in the County.
- 7.1.8 The Tourism Unit, within the Economic Development Division, is extremely proactive in marketing the County to a wide range of markets, namely local, regional, national and international markets via a number of mediums such as social media platforms, printed material, exhibitions and the Go Visit Donegal website.
- 7.1.9 In order to mitigate the possible impact of Brexit on the tourism industry in the County, a refocusing on all geographic market segments, and how best to both maintain and grow those areas, is being undertaken for 2020.
- 7.1.10 The Unit has also secured external funding for a number of promotional projects. This external funding assists in reducing the need to utilise the Council's internal funds to promote the County to a wider audience in projects such as Atlantic on Bike, CAPITEN, Wildsea Atlantic Ocean Heritage Route, Trailgazers, and TIDE.
- 7.1.11 TIDE, or 'Atlantic Network for Developing Historical Maritime Tourism', is a new cooperation project led by Ernact in collaboration with 4 Councils and other European entities. Donegal will work with partners from the UK, Ireland, France, Spain and Portugal to develop new types of historical maritime tourist packages based using digital transformation technologies to link cultural attractions on Europe's Atlantic. Total funding to cover all project partners is €2.4m

Description	Projected* <sup>1</sup> Cost Per Annum			Proposed Sources* <sup>1</sup> of funding 2020 – 2022	
	2020 €	2021 €	2022 €	Council €	External €
TIDE	120,822	183,342	23,821	25%	75%

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

7.1.12 The Tourism Marketing Unit, in conjunction with Donegal Tourism and sectoral interests, will combine to inform and contribute to policy and investment decisions in the tourism product development areas led by various Council services.

## **7.2 Local Enterprise Office/Small Business Supports Division**

7.2.1 The Local Enterprise Office, in the performance of its core role and functions, is funded primarily from a central budget allocation from the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, with Donegal County Council contributing to salaries and overheads.

7.2.2 In addition to providing this core range of direct and indirect supports to small business, the LEO also takes the lead role in managing and delivering a range of other initiatives and projects such as the Donegal Diaspora Initiative and, in 2019, the Donegal Connect project.

7.2.3 The Local Enterprise Office also leads on a range of specific, multi-annual interventions delivering added value programmes. A number of these will be in collaboration with initiatives to provide economic infrastructure to support business start-ups and expansions.

7.2.4 Co-funding for these initiatives will generally be provided from specific external grants, and, as required, from the Council's Annual Revenue Budget allocation.

7.2.5 Examples of projects to be developed in 2020 include the Donegal Creative Hub Network, Enterprise Europe Network, NICHE, Co Innovate and Everywhere International SME's.

## **7.3 Information Systems**

### **Introduction**

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

The infrastructure comprises:

- 91 Servers
- 1,274 Desktop & Notebook Computers
- 428 Printers/Scanners/Plotters
- 121 Tablets
- 640 Mobile Phones
- 200 Other Data devices
- 900+ Telephone handsets and 1,800 Extensions/DDI's

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

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

### ***Capital Investment Programme***

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

7.3.4 An upgraded networking, hardware, telephony, security and system modification project will be progressed commencing in 2020.

Over the period 2020 – 2022 the Information Systems Department Capital Expenditure will fall into the following main categories:

- Networking Improvements (Wide Area Network Upgrades/Government Networks Connections)
- Enhanced Storage Solutions
- Backup & Business Continuity Solutions
- Telephony Systems Replacements and Upgrades
- Hardware Replacement and Upgrades
- Enhanced Information and Cyber Security Solutions
- New Corporate Applications
- Additional Council Buildings – Network Connectivity
- Cloud Services

- 7.3.5 The Council's main Wide Area Network was largely implemented at the time of the Decentralisation Programme over 15 years ago. It is now necessary to substantially upgrade this network to provide improved internal connectivity as well as improved connectivity to Government Networks nationally. Similarly, telephony systems which were implemented in the Council at the same time now require replacement.
- 7.3.6 During the financial emergency, public bodies were directed by Government to cease upgrading software on a regular basis but to 'sweat' current software assets for as long a period as possible. As a result, the Council is now required to commence a major enhancement programme, which will now take place over the next 2-3 years to bring software products up to current versions as part of a sectoral Microsoft Enterprise Agreement.
- 7.3.7 Over the last number of years cyber attacks and similar forms of criminal activity have wreaked havoc across the globe for organisations and businesses, including public authorities. The Council, in common with other public authorities, needs to keep abreast of these threats by using the best defence mechanisms available. Additionally, General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) became law in 2018, with increased obligations for bodies holding personal data, and increased fines for breaches of these enhanced obligations. Ongoing investment in this area is now required to both protect Council systems and data as well as ensure compliance with GDPR Regulations.
- 7.3.8 Over the period 2020 – 2022 the ongoing systems implementation and upgrade programme will also continue. Work will be prioritised on an annual basis and will target systems and applications with significant payback for the Council in terms of operational efficiencies. In addition, solutions such as print management, extension of IP Telephony and electronic meeting solutions will bring significant benefits and financial savings to the Council.

### ***Information Systems - Estimated Capital Commitments 2020 – 2022***

<b>Work Area</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Communications & Network Infrastructure	€150,000	€100,000	
Wide Area Connectivity	€75,000		
IP Telephony/ Customer Contact Solution	€150,000	€75,000	
Core Server & Storage Infrastructure	€150,000	€100,000	
Business Continuity & Backup Solutions	€50,000	€50,000	
Data & Cyber Security Solutions	€100,000	€50,000	€50,000
New Management & Monitoring Systems	€100,000	€50,000	€50,000
Additional Buildings	€50,000		
Donegal Digital projects	€98,000	€80,000	
Cloud Services	€40,000	€40,000	€70,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€963,000</b>	<b>€545,000</b>	<b>€170,000</b>

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

## **Information Systems - Priorities for 2020**

- 7.3.9 A priority project is a new IP Telephone & Customer Contact Centre system that will encompass an upgrade of the Communications & Network backbone (routers & switches) countywide. Additionally, the Server Estate and Data Storage Infrastructure at HQ and in the Public Services Centres is currently on extended warranty (greater than 5 years old) and swiftly reaching end of life due to the continual growth of all data sets across the organisation. This infrastructure needs to be replaced in the next 12 – 18 months.
- 7.3.10 In 2020, significant investment is needed in Security, Management and Monitoring Systems in order to reduce the risk of a cyber attack, as well as to continually improve the security of our data. This will include an investment in new Backup and Replication systems as well as improved Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery solutions. In part, this will involve a move away from the traditional backup-to-tape environment to backup-to-disk and backup-to-cloud solutions being implemented in the coming year.

## **Donegal Digital Programme**

- 7.3.11 The I.S. Division leads on a range of projects under the Donegal Digital Programme, an initiative to maximise the use and benefits of modern information and communications technology for the betterment of our communities and business sector in County Donegal.
- 7.3.12 A range of these projects will be progressed during the 2020 – 2022 period, funded appropriately through Capital financing, annual Revenue budget allocations, or through grant-aided projects – including those led by ERNACT and in collaboration with a range of internal collaborators and external partners.
- 7.3.13 Examples of these include a Digital Innovation Hub, which will be located in the former Buncrana Town Council offices and which will provide a range of innovation, technology transfer and enterprise support services from LYIT/CoLab, IDA, Enterprise Ireland and the Local Enterprise Office to potential start-ups and to existing small businesses to help improve their processes, products, services, marketing and sales.
- 1.3.14 The DigiWest project, working with the Western Development Commission and Local Authority partners in Mayo, Sligo and Roscommon, targets the development of a network of Digital Hubs under the brand name DigiWest. The location for the project in Donegal is the BASE Centre in Stranorlar and will see the creation of a Digital Hub within the existing Enterprise Centre.
- 7.3.15 Other projects include WiFi4EU, the Development of Wi-Fi zones in towns and villages at 54 locations across the County allowing for the provision of free public Wi-Fi, Malin Beg mobile phone coverage project, a pilot IOT (Internet of Things) project and a range of projects led through ERNACT such as Emergreen NPA, Smartic NPA to utilize emerging ICT in environmental related initiatives.

## **Emergency Services**

### **7.4 Donegal County Council Fire Service**

#### **Fire Stations**

- 7.4.1 Following the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government advising in 2016 that the Department was open to considering a suitable fire station project for the south of the County from Donegal County Council, an evidence based consultancy report was completed in mid 2018, with a subsequent recommendation from the Chief Fire Officer that a single location, two pump station, supplemented by a hydraulic platform and serviced by a fifteen member crew be submitted to the Department for funding. The elected members did not accept this recommended approach and resolved that the preference was for the retention of two locations and stations. This position, along with request for a delegation to meet the Minister in this regard, has been submitted to the Department.
- 7.4.2 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. An estimated cost of some €600,000 would be applicable to this proposal and a response is awaited from the Department in this regard. It is not anticipated that this project will progress until the fire station project in the south of the County is substantially advanced or concluded.

#### **Fire Appliances & Associated Vehicles**

- 7.4.3 Subsequent to funding from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in 2017 and 2018, the following appliances were acquired and were put into service in 2019:
- A new Class B Fire Appliance, at a cost of approximately €370,000 plus V.A.T., and allocated to Gaoth Dobhair Fire Station.
  - A pre-owned Emergency Tender, at a cost of approximately €50,000 plus V.A.T., and based at Letterkenny Fire Station with a countywide remit as required.
- 7.4.4 In addition to the above, the Department has agreed to provide funding for two pre-owned Class B appliances, at a cost of approximately €95,000 plus V.A.T. Two appliances have been purchased in 2019, which are currently going out to tender for refurbishment and outfitting. Both refurbished appliances should be in service in early-to-mid 2020.
- 7.4.5 Submissions were made to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in 2019 for funding of further appliances to enhance the fire service fleet and to meet service need in the County. As a result of these submissions, the Department has agreed to provide funding for the following appliances:

- A new Water Tanker, at a cost of approximately €130,000 plus V.A.T.
  - An Incident Command Unit, at a cost of approximately €52,000 plus V.A.T.
- Both of these appliances are expected to be procured, outfitted and to go on the run in 2020.

7.4.6 A further announcement from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government is expected before the end of 2019 in relation to the allocation of new Class B Fire Appliances under a new Capital Programme. It is hoped that Donegal County Council will be awarded at least one new Class B Fire Appliance under this programme to maintain the desired average age profile of the fire service fleet.

## **7.5 Civil Defence**

7.5.1 Additional funding of €32,000 was grant aided in late 2019 by the Department of Defence to fund a Ford Ranger 4WD Vehicle to assist with severe weather response capabilities. This vehicle will be available for deployment in late 2019.

## **8. Roads Management Office (RMO)**

The Road Management Office, RMO is a local authority shared service [under Section 149(a) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended)] between local authorities and mandated by DTTAS. Donegal County Council is the lead local authority and, as such, the RMO currently makes use of Donegal County Council's financial management and other support systems.

The office was set up in late 2014 to provide services to local authorities in the following areas:

- Pavement Management
- Road Licensing
- Software development and supports (in conjunction with the LGMA)

In 2017, its role was extended by the National Public Lighting (PL) Steering Group to:

- Develop a National PL inventory,
- Develop Template Maintenance Contracts and share expertise regarding contract supervision and performance, and
- Draft a business case for a National Public lighting retrofit programme to upgrade to LED lighting.

This was further expanded in September 2018 with the approval of the business case for retrofitting to provide supports and oversight to the development and implementation of the retrofit programme.

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

It is anticipated that the level of expenditure over the 3-year period 2020 – 2022 will be in the order of €41m. This is broken down as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>2020 Expenditure</b>	<b>2021 Expenditure</b>	<b>2022 Expenditure</b>
Office Running Costs and Software Development	€4.0m	€3.0m	€3.0m
Support to regional Authorities from ELENA ad	€0.6m	€0.5m	
Supports to Public Lighting retrofit programme from Climate Action Fund	€8.0m	€7.0m	
Administration of Centralised Billing for Road Licensing	€5.0m	€10.0m	€10.0m
<b>Total</b>	<b>€17.6m</b>	<b>€20.5m</b>	<b>€13.0m</b>

The work of the RMO is approved and overseen by a project board of the County and City Management Association (CCMA), and the objectives and tasks for the office are agreed annually. For 2020 these include:

#### Road Licensing:

- Lead out and support Road Authorities and Utilities in the Implementation of the Guidelines for the Management of Road Openings
- Implementation of improved licence turnaround times
- Support authorities in moving towards monthly-in-arrears billing for Utilities.
- Implement licensing software in Dublin City Council
- Further implementation of Licensing Software and Guidelines in Irish Water
- Support implementation of National Broadband rollout through efficient road licensing

#### Pavement Management:

- Support and training to local authorities in managing the MapRoad Pavement management system including:
  - Survey of road condition
  - Recording of road maintenance projects
  - Recording other road assets including speed limit signage, bridges
- Assisting LASNTG in training
- Compiling NOAC indicators
- Centralised procurement of software and pavement surveys
- Assisting DTTAS

#### Public Lighting:

- Developing and managing LED energy saving design and build model forms of contract including specifications together with asset management guideline documents
- Assisting lead authorities to procure supervising consultants for LED project
- Support lead authorities in the procurement of contractors for Regions 1-3
- Reporting to CCMA and others on progress with the project
- Producing a maintenance strategy for public lighting nationally
- Produce maintenance model forms of contract including specifications together with guideline documents.
- Assisting authorities in securing project finance for lighting retrofit
- Coordination with ESB nationally on interface between ESB and LA networks
- Development of MapRoad Public Lighting Software Database

## 9. Statutory Tables

### LOCAL AUTHORITY - COMHAIRLE DHÚN NA NGALL CAITEACHAS AGUS IONCAM DO 2020 - 2022

CLÁRGHRÚPAÍ	CAITEACHAS		IONCAM		Ranníoc Chomhairle Contaí Dhún na nGall
	MEASTACHÁN	GLACTHA	MEASTACHÁN	GLACTHA	
<b>1. TITHÍOCHT &amp; TÓGÁIL</b>					
1.1. Tithíocht An Údaráis Áitiúil	€171,750,000		€171,750,000		€6,425,000
1.2. Cúnamh Do Dhaoine Ag Cur Tithíochta Ar Fáil Dóibh Féin	€6,850,000		€6,850,000		
1.3. Cúnamh Do Dhaoine Ag Cur Feabhasúcháin Ar Thithe	€6,000,000		€6,000,000		€1,200,000
1.8. Riarachán Agus Ilghnéitheach	€600,000		€600,000		
<b>IOMLÁN-CLÁR 1</b>	<b>€185,200,000</b>		<b>€185,200,000</b>		<b>€7,625,000</b>
<b>2. IOMPAR DE BHÓTHAR &amp; SÁBHÁILTEACHT</b>					
2.2. Feabhsúchán Bóithre	€186,140,000		€186,140,000		€17,165,000
2.3. Trácht Ar Bhóithre					
2.8. Riarachán Agus Ilghnéitheach	€51,100,000		€51,100,000		
<b>IOMLÁN CLÁR 2</b>	<b>€237,240,000</b>		<b>€237,240,000</b>		<b>€17,165,000</b>
<b>3. SOLÁTHAR UISCE &amp; SÉARACHAIS</b>					
3.1. Soláthar Uisce Poiblí					
3.2. Scéimeanna Poiblí/Séarachais	€240,000		€240,000		
3.3. Feistiú Príobháideach	€3,472,000		€3,472,000		
3.8. Riarachán Agus Ilghnéitheach					
<b>IOMLÁN-CLÁR 3</b>	<b>€3,712,000</b>		<b>€3,712,000</b>		
<b>4. DREASACHTAÍ FORBARTHA &amp; RIALÚCHÁN</b>					
4.1. Pleanáil Úsáide Talún					
4.2. Forbairt Thionsclaíoch					
4.3 Dreasachtaí agus Rialú Forbartha	€6,320,000		€6,320,000		€316,365
4.5 Cur Cum Cinn Suinne I Measc An Phobail Aitiuil					
4.8. Riarachán Agus Ilghnéitheach					
<b>IOMLÁN-CLÁR 4</b>	<b>€6,320,000</b>		<b>€6,320,000</b>		<b>€316,365</b>

**LOCAL AUTHORITY - COMHAIRLE DHÚN NA NGALL  
CAITEACHAS AGUS IONCAM DO 2020 - 2022**

CLÁRGHRÚPAÍ	CAITEACHAS		IONCAM		Ranníoc Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall
	MEASTACHÁN	GLACTHA	MEASTACHÁN	GLACTHA	
<b>5. COSAINT CHOMHSHAOL</b>					
5.1 Díúscairt Dramhaíola	€3,220,000		€3,220,000		€350,000
5.2 Úirleachas					
5.3 Sábháilteacht Struchtúr Agus Áiteanna	€324,000		€324,000		€324,000
5.4 Cosaint In Aghaidh Dóiteáin					
5.5 Measúnú Truailliúcháin	€2,355,000		€2,355,000		€45,000
5.8 Riarachán Agus Ilghnéitheach					
<b>IOMLÁN-CLÁR 5</b>	<b>€5,899,000</b>		<b>€5,899,000</b>		<b>€719,000</b>
<b>6. ÁINEAS AGUS TAITNEAMHACHT</b>					
6.1 Linn Snámha	€2,850,000		€2,850,000		€1,680,000
6.2 Leabharlanna	€3,500,000		€3,500,000		€3,500,000
6.3 Páirceanna, Spásanna Oscailte, Ionaid Áineasa					
6.4 Áineasa/Taitneamhachtaí Eile	€49,009,867		€49,009,867		€10,841,692
6.8 Riarachán Agus Ilghnéitheach					
<b>IOMLÁN-CLÁR 6</b>	<b>€55,359,867</b>		<b>€55,359,867</b>		<b>€16,021,692</b>
<b>7. TALMHAÍOCHT, OIDEACHAS &amp; SLÁINTE &amp; LEASA</b>					
7.1 Talmhaíocht	€28,300,000		€28,300,000		€7,075,000
7.8 Riarachán/Ilghnéitheach					
<b>IOMLÁN-CLÁR 7</b>	<b>€28,300,000</b>		<b>€28,300,000</b>		<b>€7,075,000</b>
<b>8. SEIRBHÍSÍ ILGHNÉITHEACHA</b>					
8.1 Ceannach Talún Agus Forbairt					
8.2 Planda Agus Ábhair					
8.5 Riaracháin Chosaint Cheartais/Tomhaltóra Tomhaltóra					
8.6 Damáiste Do Mhaoin					
8.8 Riarachán Agus Ilghnéitheach	€2,278,000		€2,278,000		€2,178,000
<b>IOMLÁN-CLÁR 8</b>	<b>€2,278,000</b>		<b>€2,278,000</b>		<b>€2,178,000</b>
<b>IOMLÁN NA GCLÁRGHRÚPAÍ UILE</b>	<b>€524,308,867</b>		<b>€524,308,867</b>		<b>€51,100,057</b>

**LOCAL AUTHORITY - DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**EXPENDITURE AND INCOME FOR FINANCIAL YEARS 2020 - 2022**

PROGRAMME GROUP AND PROGRAMME	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		DCC Contribution
	ESTIMATED	ADOPTED	ESTIMATED	ADOPTED	
<b>1. HOUSING &amp; BUILDING</b>					
1.1. Local Authority Housing	€171,750,000		€171,750,000		€6,425,000
1.2. Assistance to Persons Housing themselves	€6,850,000		€6,850,000		
1.3. Assistance to Persons Improving Houses	€6,000,000		€6,000,000		€1,200,000
1.8. Administration and Miscellaneous	€600,000		€600,000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€185,200,000</b>		<b>€185,200,000</b>		<b>€7,625,000</b>
<b>2. ROAD TRANSPORTATION &amp; SAFETY</b>					
2.2. Road Improvement	€186,140,000		€186,140,000		€17,165,000
2.3. Road Traffic					
2.8. Administration & Misc (RMO)	€51,100,000		€51,100,000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€237,240,000</b>		<b>€237,240,000</b>		<b>€17,165,000</b>
<b>3. WATER SUPPLY &amp; SEWERAGE</b>					
3.1. Public Water Supply Scheme*					
3.2. Public Sewerage Scheme	€240,000		€240,000		
3.3. Private Installations	€3,472,000		€3,472,000		
3.8. Administration & Miscellaneous					
* Historical expenditure included					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€3,712,000</b>		<b>€3,712,000</b>		
<b>4. DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES &amp; CONTROLS</b>					
4.1 Land Use Planning					
4.2 Industrial Development					
4.3 Development Incentives & Control	€6,320,000		€6,320,000		€316,365
4.5 Promotion of Interest - Local Community					
4.8 Administration & Miscellaneous					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€6,320,000</b>		<b>€6,320,000</b>		<b>€316,365</b>

**LOCAL AUTHORITY - DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL  
EXPENDITURE AND INCOME FOR FINANCIAL YEARS 2020 - 2022**

PROGRAMME GROUP AND PROGRAMME	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		DCC Contribution
	ESTIMATED	ADOPTED	ESTIMATED	ADOPTED	
<b>5. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION</b>					
5.1 Waste Disposal	€3,220,000		€3,220,000		€350,000
5.2 Burial Grounds					
5.3 Safety of Structures & Places	€324,000		€324,000		€324,000
5.4 Fire Protection					
5.5 Pollution Control	€2,355,000		€2,355,000		€45,000
5.8 Administration & Miscellaneous					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€5,899,000</b>		<b>€5,899,000</b>		<b>€719,000</b>
<b>6. RECREATION &amp; AMENITY</b>					
6.1 Swimming Pools	€2,850,000		€2,850,000		€1,680,000
6.2 Libraries	€3,500,000		€3,500,000		€3,500,000
6.3 Parks, Open Spaces, Recreation Centres etc.					
6.4 Other Recreation & Amenity	€49,009,867		€49,009,867		€10,841,692
6.8 Administration & Miscellaneous					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€55,359,867</b>		<b>€55,359,867</b>		<b>€16,021,692</b>
<b>7. AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION HEALTH &amp; WELFARE</b>					
7.1 Agriculture	€28,300,000		€28,300,000		€7,075,000
7.8 Administration & Miscellaneous					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€28,300,000</b>		<b>€28,300,000</b>		<b>€7,075,000</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	€2,278,000		€2,278,000		€2,178,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€2,278,000</b>		<b>€2,278,000</b>		<b>€2,178,000</b>
<b>ALL PROGRAMME GROUPS TOTAL</b>	<b>€524,308,867</b>		<b>€524,308,867</b>		<b>€51,100,057</b>