



2015

Leitrim County Council Annual Report



Aras an Chontae,
Carrick on Shannon,
Co. Leitrim.
Ph 071 9620005



Mission Statement

**To make Leitrim a sustainable, creative, inclusive county
where individuals, family and business can flourish**



EAGLES ROCK, GLENADE, CO. LEITRIM.

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INTRODUCTION

We pleased to present on behalf of Leitrim County Council the 2015 Annual Report which outlines the activities and achievements of Leitrim County Council. The report follows the format of our Corporate Plan 2015-2019, which provides a framework for the organisation to deliver on our agreed mission, key strategic objectives and supporting strategies for the five year period covered. Leitrim County Council continued to advance objectives aimed at achieving its ultimate goal of providing high quality efficient services to ensure that Leitrim is a sustainable, creative, inclusive County where individuals, family and business can flourish. In this context, significant progress continued to be made in 2015 in areas such as the provision of physical and social infrastructure, environmental improvements and developing sustainable communities as detailed in this report.

The Council continued to carry out an extensive range of work on promoting Leitrim as a strong location for economic development during 2015. The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) prepared the Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) which was adopted in January, 2016. The second phase of the Upper-Shannon-Erne-Future Economy Project was launched by Minister for Enterprise Trade and Employment, Mr. Richard Bruton TD in June, 2015. Funding was also secured for two projects under the Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) and the LCDC also commenced work on the preparation of a draft Local Development Strategy.

The procurement process for the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) was completed in early 2015 and the programme commenced in April 2015. Leitrim County Council provided a co-ordinating role in a project to achieve Purple Flag Status for Carrick-on-Shannon which was awarded to the town in November, 2015.

There was a continued investment in our Roads Infrastructure, a contractor was appointed for the construction of Phase II of the N16 Cornacloy to Stradine Re-alignment with the sod turning performed by Minister Paschal Donohue. The County Development Plan 2015-2021 was adopted in 2015 and the Carrick-on-Shannon Local Area Plan was extended to 2019.

During 2015 further investment was made in the County's Tourism infrastructure with the completion of a new Sliabh an Iarainn drive associated with raised bogs there, the completion and official opening of the Visitors Centre in Drumshanbo and the Lime Kiln at Farnaught. A further project delivered improvement works at Glencar Waterfall amenity, carpark, service block and traffic calming.

There was also continued progress in upgrading the Council's Housing Stock through the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme in 2015 with investment of €260,000. Under the broader SEAI Better Energy Communities Scheme, Energy Retrofitting works were completed on 41 Council housing stock in Carrick-On-Shannon totalling €337,833 with 42% funded through SEAI grants.

The 2016 Centenary Committee coordinated the preparation of the County Plan for the 2016 events to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising and they also managed a funding programme.

The foregoing achievements were made possible through the combined efforts of the Elected Members and Staff of this Authority and, we wish to sincerely thank the Members and Staff for their efforts and support in achieving very considerable progress in 2015 notwithstanding the extremely challenging operating environment.



Frank Curran
Chief Executive



Councillor John McCartin
Cathaoirleach

ELECTED MEMBERS OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL 2014-2019

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



**Councillor
Finola Armstrong-
McGuire**



**Councillor
Des Guckian**



**Councillor
Sinead Guckian**



**Councillor
Seadhna Logan**



**Councillor
Sean McGowan**



**Councillor
Enda Stenson**

BALLINAMORE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



**Councillor
Brendan Barry**



**Councillor
Gerry Dolan**



**Councillor
Cailian Ellis**



**Councillor
Martin Kenny**



**Councillor
John McCartin**



**Councillor
Paddy O'Rourke**

MANORHAMILTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



**Councillor
Mary Bohan**



**Councillor
Frank Dolan**



**Councillor
Padraig Fallon**



**Councillor
Felim Gurn**



**Councillor
Sean McDermott**



**Councillor
Justin Warnock**

Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee Report 2013

County Leitrim



MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC

Councillors

Frank Dolan (Chairperson)
Finola Armstrong McGuire
Caillian Ellis
Martin Kenny
John McCartin
Sean McDermott

Sectoral Nominations

Colm McGrath Business/Commercial (National Pillar)
Brendan Sammon Development/Construction (National Pillar)
Scott Coombs, Environmental/Conservation
Brian Smyth Social Enterprise (PPN)

Issues considered by the SPC:

Standing Orders
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC Work Programme
Growth Strategy for Tourism in Leitrim 2015-2021
Leitrim County Council Economic Strategy 2015-2021
Business Startup Incentive Scheme for town centres
Appointment of Elected Member to the Advisory Group of the Leitrim Local Economic and Community Plan
Centralised Procurement

Number of Meetings: 4

Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development SPC

Councillors

Enda Stenson (Chairperson)
Mary Bohan
Gerry Dolan
Padraig Fallon
Seadhna Logan
Paddy O'Rourke

Sectoral Nominations

Colin Grimes (Social Inclusion PPN)
Helen Corcoran (Community/Voluntary/PPN)
Marie Finney (Voluntary Housing)
Sarah Searson (Creative Industries Network)

Issues considered by the SPC:

Standing Orders
Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development SPC Work Programme
Social Housing Strategy 2020
Housing & Disability Strategy
Housing Grants
Leitrim Arts Strategy
Leitrim Local, Economic and Community Plan.
Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018.
Play and Recreation Policy 2016 – 2019

Number of Meetings: 4

Environmental, Transportation and Infrastructure SPC

Councillors

Sinead Guckian (Chairperson)

Brendan Barry

Des Guckian

Felim Gurn

Sean McGowan

Justin Warnock

Sectoral Nominations

Patrick Duffy (Agriculture/Farming (National Pillar).

Andy Halliwell (Environment/Conservation (Env Pillar & associated Env College under PPN).

Marie Finney (Voluntary Housing)

Sarah Searson (Creative Industries Network)

Brendan Sammon (Business/Commercial (National Pillar)

Issues considered by the SPC:

Standing Orders

Environmental, Transportation and Infrastructural Policy SPC Work Programme

Waste Presentation and Pay by Weight

Speed limits and Traffic Calming Policy

Transport Co Ordination Unit

Irish Water

Waste Presentation Bye Laws – Registration Process

Number of Meetings: 4

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2015

Performance Indicators

01/01/2015 - 31/12/2015 (Annual)

Leitrim County Council

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------|---|
| Housing: H1, H2 & H4 | A. Overall total number of dwellings provided by the LA in the period 1/1/2015 to 31/12/2015 | 36 | 27 RAS, 5 SHLI and 4 new purchase/acquisitions. |
| | B. Number of dwellings directly provided | 4 | 4 new units purchased in 2015: |
| | B1. Number of dwellings constructed | 0 | |
| | B2. Number of dwellings purchased | 4 | |
| | C. Number of units provided under RAS | 27 | |
| | D. Number of units provided under the HAP Scheme | 0 | |
| | E. Number of units provided under the SHLI | 5 | One MTR excluded as it was done under the original Payment and Availability Agreement. |
| | F. The overall total number of social housing dwellings in the LA at 31/12/2015 | 1038 | Figure inclusive of LA Social Housing Stock (924), RAS (109), SHLU (5). |
| | G. The total number of dwellings directly provided (constructed or purchased) by the LA | 924 | |
| | H. Total number of units provided under the RAS | 109 | |
| | I. Total number of units provided under the HAP if operated | 0 | |
| | J. Total number of units provided under the SHLI | 5 | |
| | A. Percentage of the number of dwellings at H1G that were vacant on 31/12/2015 | 8.23 % | It is acknowledged that the number of vacant local authority dwellings at the end of 2015 is high at 8.23% of our total housing stock. However, a targeted programme of works under the Voids Programme was progressed in |

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|-----------------------------|---|------------------|--|
| | | | 2015 and continued in 2016 and the vacancy level will be reduced once all of the contracts are complete and the units are re-tenanted. |
| | The number of dwelling units within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2015 | 76 | A total of 31 of the 76 units have been re-tenanted in 2016. Other units will be coming on stream in the coming weeks once pre-letting repairs are complete. In 2015, 55 new tenancies were created, however, 51 units of accommodation were returned to the local authority. The Council will continue to access all funding streams and resources to reduce the overall level of vacant housing stock. |
| | A. Expenditure in 2015 on repair & maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA divided by H1G | €1482.88 | This figure is slightly higher than the output in 2014 at €1,329.85. However, the scale of the works required is dictated by the year of construction of the property and the condition that they are returned to the local authority in. |
| | Expenditure on repair and maintenance of LA stock compiled on a continuous basis during 2015 | €1370179 | |
| Housing: H3 & H5 | A. Average time taken from date of vacation of dwelling to date when a new tenancy had commenced | 62.46 wk | |
| | B. Average cost expended on getting the units re-tenanted ready for re-letting | €10039.88 | |
| | No of units that were re-tenanted on any date in 2015 (excl. those vacant for estate refurbishment) | 57 | |
| | No. of weeks from when previous tenant vacated dwelling up to date new tenant's first rent debit | 3560.14 wk | This figure is impacted by 10 units that had significantly longer vacancy periods as they were units that required major work. Funding was |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--|----------------|---|
| | | | provided under the Long-Term Voids Scheme. A number of units were also upgraded under the SEAI Scheme. Compliance with public procurement, awarding of contracts etc impact on this indicator. Efforts will continue to reduce the number of weeks from a tenant vacating a property to the date of the new tenant's first rent debit. Refusal rates also high in 2015. |
| | Total expenditure on repairs necessary to enable re-letting of the units included above | €572273 | |
| | A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area | 1470 | |
| | B. Number of inspections carried out | 79 | A total of 79 inspections were completed in 2015. Properties inspected included rented accommodation and properties that were being acquired under the Rental Accommodation (RAS) or the Social Housing Leasing Scheme (SHLI). A number of inspections were carried out following a request from the tenant. |
| Housing: H6 | A. No. of adults in emergency accom. long-term as a % of the total number of homeless adults | | No emergency long-term accommodation for homeless adults in Leitrim. |
| | No. of adults classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on night of the 31/12/2015 | 0 | |
| | No. of adults on that date who had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously | 0 | |
| | | | |
| Roads: R1 & R2 | % Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating | 8.74 % | |
| | % Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating | 70.49 % | |

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| % Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating | 71.36 % | |
| % Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating | 58.21 % | |
| % Regional roads that received a PSCI rating during 2015 | 6.83 % | |
| % Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 | 0.02 % | |
| % Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 | 8.20 % | |
| % Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 | 0.46 % | |
| % Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 | 0.06 % | |
| % Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 | 2.31 % | |
| % Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 | 16.64 % | |
| % Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 | 41.99 % | |
| % Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 | 9.54 % | |
| % Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 | 5.98 % | |
| % Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 | 35.80 % | |
| % Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 | 28.19 % | |
| % Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 | 1.41 % | |
| % Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 | 11.99 % | |
| % Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 | 29.18 % | |
| % Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 | 15.73 % | |
| % Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 | 1.30 % | |
| A1. Kilometres of regional roads strengthened using Road Improvement grants | 12.0 km | |
| A2. Regional road Improvement Grant amount | €3913982.00 | |

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|------------------------------------|--|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| | B1. Number of kilometres of regional roads resealed using Road Maintenance grants | 6.1 km | |
| | B2. Regional road Maintenance Grant amount | €947805.00 | |
| | | | |
| Motor Tax: R3 | % of motor tax transactions online | 50.58 % | |
| | | | |
| Water: W1 | % of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance | 99.50 % | |
| | | | |
| Waste: E1 | No. households in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2015 | 8133 | |
| | % households within the LA that the number A represents | 66.51 % | |
| | | | |
| Environmental Pollution: E2 | Number of pollution cases in respect of complaint during 2015 | 376 | |
| | Number of pollution cases closed during 2015 | 262 | |
| | Total number of cases at hand at 31/12/2015 | 114 | |
| | Total number of pollution complaint cases | 376 | |
| | Number of pollution cases not investigated or finalised | 262 | |
| | Number of pollution cases not finalised | 114 | |
| | | | |
| Litter Pollution: E3 | Percentage of area unpolluted by litter | 21 % | |
| | Percentage of area slightly polluted by litter | 68 % | |
| | Percentage of area moderately polluted by litter | 11 % | |
| | Percentage of area significantly polluted by litter | 0 % | |
| | Percentage of area grossly polluted by litter | 0 % | |
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| Planning: P1 | Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the | 30.43% | 7 of 23 new buildings inspected. |

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| Planning: P2 & P3 | local authority | | |
| | Total no. of new buildings notified to the local authority | 61 | |
| | No. of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2015 subject of at least one inspection | 19 | |
| | | | |
| | A. Number of planning decisions subject of appeal to An Bord Pleanála determined by board in 2015 | 2 | |
| | B. % of the determinations which confirmed (with or without variations) the decision made by the LA | 50.0 % | |
| | Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision with or without variation | 1 | |
| | A. Number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the LA during 2015 that were investigated | 31 | |
| | B. Number of cases that were closed during 2015 | 18 | |
| | C. % cases at B dismissed re Section 15(2) or closed because statute barred or exempted development | 38.89 % | |
| | D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's sanctification through negotiations | 27.78 % | |
| | E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings | 33.33 % | |
| | F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2015 | 13 | |
| | Number of cases at 'B' that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000 | 7 | This figure for the number of case at B that were dismissed under Section 152 (2), Planning & Development Act 2000 is 4. However, the figure of 7 cases entered here includes the 4 cases dismissed under Section 152(2) in addition to 3 other cases that do not fall into any of the category of exemption, negotiation or enforcement. These 3 cases need to be |

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| | | | included otherwise the figures do not tally and you are only accounting for 15 of 18 cases. |
| | Number of cases at 'B' that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations | 5 | |
| | Number of cases at 'B' that were closed due to enforcement proceedings | 6 | |
| Planning: P4 | AFS Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area | €0.00 | |
| | AFS Programme D consisting of D01, D02, D03 (inclusive of the central management charge) | €31.04 | |
| | | | |
| Fire Service: F1 | AFS Programme E expenditure divided by the census 2011 population served by the Fire Service | €70.01 | Based on our figure of €2,199,520 and the 2011 Census Data the calculation is slightly less at €69.17. |
| | AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service & E12 Fire Prevention | €2199520 | |
| | | | |
| Fire Service: F2 & F3 | A. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of Fire | 0 min | |
| | B. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of Fire | 4.55 min | |
| | C. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of other accidents | 0 min | |
| | D. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of other accidents | 4.22 min | |
| | A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins | 39.76 % | |
| | B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins | 46.99 % | |
| | C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins | 13.25 % | |
| | | | |
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| | D. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins | 47.13 % | |
| | E. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins | 41.40 % | |
| | F. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins | 11.46 % | |
| | Total no. of call-outs in respect of fires from 01/01/2015 - 31/12/2015 | 83 | |
| | No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes | 33 | |
| | No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins | 39 | |
| | No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 mins | 11 | |
| | Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents from 01/01/2015 - 31/12/2015 | 157 | |
| | No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 mins | 74 | |
| | No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins | 65 | |
| | No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 mins | 18 | |
| | | | |
| Library Service: L1 | A. Number of library visits per head of population | 5.67 | |
| | B. Number of items issued to borrowers during the year | 113305 | |
| | Number of library visits during the year | 180400 | |
| | Number of items borrowed during the year | 113305 | |

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| Library Service: L2 | The Annual Financial Statement Programme F data / by the population of the LA area 2011 per census | €1.35 | |
| | AFS Programme F02 Cost of Library Service | €43060 | |
| Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 | Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council//Comhairle na nÓg scheme | 100 % | |
| | Total number of secondary schools in the LA area at 31/12/2015 | 7 | |
| | No. second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the Comhairle na -Óg AGM | 7 | |
| | No. organisations in the County Register and proportion who opted in to the Social Inclusion College | 33.14 | |
| | No. organisations in the County Register for the local authority area | 169 | |
| | Total number of registered organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College | 56 | |
| Corporate: C1 & C2 & C4 | Wholetime equivalent staffing number as year end | 251.05 | |
| | Percentage of working days lost due to sickness absence through medically certified leave | 5.20 % | |
| | Percentage of working days lost due to sickness absence through self-certified leave | 0.35 % | |
| | Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave | 2964.3 day | |
| | Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave | 196.9 day | |
| | Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave | 32.5 day | |
| | Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave | 3 day | |
| | | | |

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|-----------------------------|---|------------------|--|
| Corporate: C3 | All ICT Expenditure in the period 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015 divided by the WTE no. | €4202.43 | |
| | Total revenue expenditure on Account Elements | €1055019 | |
| | Total page views of the LA website in 2015 | 310735 | |
| | Total number of social media users at 31/12/2015 following the LA on social media sites | 1900 | |
| | The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the LA during 2015 | 310735 | |
| | Total no. of social media users who, at 31/12/2015, were following the LA on any social media sites | 1900 | |
| | | | |
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| Finance: M1 & M2 | Cumulative balance at 31/12/2011 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS | €117645 | |
| | Cumulative balance at 31/12/2012 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS | €1479205 | |
| | Cumulative balance at 31/12/2013 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS | €-1579451 | |
| | Cumulative balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS | €-1426331 | |
| | Cumulative balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS | €1324122 | This figure is a deficit. |
| | Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2015 as a percentage of Total Income from the AFS statement | 3.86 % | |
| | The 2015 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS | €34335174 | Total income including rates, LPT & PRD. |
| | Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2011 | 72.0 % | |
| | Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial | 93.0 % | |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------|--|
| | Statement for 2011 | | |
| | Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2011 | 71.0 % | |
| | Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012 | 64.0 % | |
| | Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012 | 91.0 % | |
| | Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012 | 65.0 % | |
| | Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013 | 65.0 % | |
| | Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013 | 91.0 % | |
| | Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2011 | 63.0 % | |
| | Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014 | 60.0 % | |
| | Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014 | 87.0 % | |
| | Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014 | 60.0 % | |
| | Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015 | 79 % | |
| | Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015 | 86 % | |
| | Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015 | 85 % | |
| Economic Development: J1 | | | |
| | Number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the year | 46.00 | |
| | | | |

**LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND SUPPORTING STRATEGIES
FROM THE CORPORATE PLAN 2015-2019**

**Economic
Development**

- To lead, mobilise and support Enterprise and Economic Development in Leitrim, in conjunction with relevant agencies, and ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support this

**High Quality
Sustainable Living
Environment**

- To improve, protect and promote the natural and man-made environment, encourage and facilitate participation by citizens in the development of their communities and promote an inclusive, creative, active and vibrant County

**Maximising
Organisational &
Operational Capacity**

- To maximise the potential of our Human, Financial and ICT resources to optimise organisational capacity and performance and ensure high quality services and information tailored to meet the needs of all our customers

Economic Development

To lead, mobilise and support Enterprise and Economic Development in Leitrim, in conjunction with relevant agencies, and ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support this

Economic Development – Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

The LEO Leitrim continues to assist more people setting up and growing businesses in the County. The five staff of the LEO office are the initial point of contact for enterprise queries in County Leitrim and LEO is the First Stop Shop for anyone seeking information and support on starting or growing a business in Leitrim.

MEASURE 1 – FINANCIAL SUPPORTS

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Number of Projects Approved | 17 |
| Amount Approved | €164,606 |
| Number of Projects paid | 23 |
| Total amount paid | €213,628 |

Measure 2 - Training, Mentoring and Networking

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Number of Training Courses | 30 * |
| Number of Mentoring Assignments | 126 |
| Total Number of Participants – Training | 331 |
| Total Number of Participants - Networking | 80 through Leitrim Business Network |

*Courses include Start your Own Business, Managing Finances, Sales and Marketing, Human Resource Management, Social Media Marketing etc

IRELAND'S BEST YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

LEO Leitrim had 18 applications for the IBYE programme and hosted the Co. Leitrim Final on 6th October, 2015 with winners as follows:

- **Best New Idea:** Iain Keaney U-Clid,
- **Best Start Up Business:** Edwina Guckian
- **Best Established Business:** Jennifer Wrynne.

LEO Leitrim co-organised and hosted the Regional Final (for counties Leitrim, Longford, Donegal and Sligo) on 27th October, 2015 in Lough Rynn Castle, at which the Best Established Business for the region was won by Jennifer Wrynne. The National Final took place in Google on Sunday 6th December, 2015 but unfortunately Leitrim did not have a winner on the day.



Leitrim and Regional Winner (IBYE) Jennifer Wryne pictured with Head of Enterprise, Joe Lowe

NATIONAL ENTERPRISE AWARDS

The National Enterprise Awards was represented by Primary Planet, a newspaper/magazine for school children and the National Final took place in Kilmainham on 11th June, 2015.



STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARDS

The 2014/2015 school programme involved seven secondary schools with 150 students attending the county final, while approximately 1,400 students availed on the in house visits to schools. Winners of the Leitrim County Final who were selected to attend the National Final in Croke Park were:

- **Junior Winner:** "Pickwicks" Drumshanbo Vocational School
- **Intermediate Winner:** "Look to Cook" St. Clare's Comprehensive School, Manorhamilton
- **Senior Winner:** "Aquabell" St. Clare's Comprehensive School, Manorhamilton

The 2015/2016 programme commenced in September, 2015 with a number of visits to the schools to assist them develop their mini businesses to date. The 2015 National Schools Programme involved 10 schools with 240 students participating.

TASTE LEITRIM

Taste Leitrim is a collection of over 80 businesses, including restaurants and food and drink producers, promoted through five interactive food trails on the Taste Leitrim website. The launch of Taste Leitrim took place on Monday 7th December, 2015 in the Food Hub, Drumshanbo.



LEITRIM BUSINESS NETWORK

The Leitrim Business Network was established to exploit the power of business networking. Leitrim Business Network is proudly supported by the Local Enterprise Office and meets four times per annum. Further information and details can be found on their website: www.leitrimbusinessnetwork.com

ONLINE TRADING VOUCHERS

This programme had another successful year where 15 trading online vouchers were approved to Leitrim businesses, giving them the opportunity to create an e-commerce website, a payment system or booking system on their websites.

MICRO FINANCE IRELAND

This programme had another successful year whereby 13 applications were processed through LEO Leitrim and 10 received microfinance approval of €185,000.

JOBS FAIR

A successful Jobs Fair was held on 1st October, 2015 in the Landmark Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon. Over 1,000 people attended the event and 100 jobs were available on the day (LEO secured part funding from the Department of Social Protection to finance the cost of the event).



SMART GREEN MOHILL

Twelve energy audits were carried out for Mohill businesses and a breakfast briefing took place on completion of same for all involved. A one day information session with exhibitors was held in Mohill at the start of the programme with over 100 in attendance. There continues to be ongoing liaison with Mohill Business Forum and Mohill Enterprise Centre.

SPARK

The artist in residence programme ran in 2015 with both The Hive and Leitrim Observer had an artist working with them with very positive feedback.

CREATIVE FRAME

A network based initiative by which anyone can actively shape and pursue their own continuous professional development.

HARNESSING CREATIVITY

The successful 3-year programme came to a close under budget in mid 2015 with targets exceeded. Some of the deliverables included the following: 47 days training delivered to 440 participants in master classes and 16 days training delivered to 265 participants in Marketing & Promotion training.

ENTERPRISE PROMOTION

- **SHOWCASE** – LEO has supported Leitrim Design House attend the Enterprise Zone at Showcase for the past 4 years. The stand is designed and curated by LDH, who also guided the four makers through the process of preparing POS, business cards, media pack, price list and a brochure for the show.
- **Feile na Tuaithe** – LEO Leitrim supported craft businesses to attend the Feile na Tuaithe Event in Mayo on 23rd and 24th May, 2015.
- **National Women's Enterprise Day** – 10 Leitrim women in business were offered a free ticket to attend the event in Galway in October, 2015.
- **Meet West** – 2 businesses were offered the chance to attend the event in Athlone in November, 2015.
- **Manorhamilton Enterprise Expo** took place in May and LEO worked closely with Manorhamilton Enterprise Forum on the event and provided a level of financial assistance and support in co-ordinating the event.
- **National Ploughing Championships** – Two clients were supported to attend the National Ploughing Championships, Chef Sham's Sauces and Carrig Brewing represented Leitrim at the event from 22nd to 24th September, 2016.

LEITRIM DESIGN HOUSE

Supported by LEO, the Leitrim Design House hosted a number of activities to celebrate the Year of Design including the Essence of Design conference with attendees came from all over the country. A new website was developed with an online shopping facility for 22 Leitrim businesses, and specialised training was delivered on business development and new product development. An end of year exhibition was on display in the Dock Arts Centre, showcasing 14 makers of the new product developed during the year.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - LOCAL AUTHORITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

UPPER SHANNON ERNE FUTURE ECONOMY PROJECT

The Upper Shannon Erne Future Economy (USEFE) Project commenced in 2013 with the coming together of business people from counties Leitrim, Roscommon, Longford and Cavan led by Bord na Mona and with the support of Leitrim County Council. The purpose of this initiative was to develop a vision for how the region can be developed, led by the actions of the people who already have businesses in the area. Arising out of a number of workshops different sectoral teams emerged in the areas of Tourism, Food, Creative, Diaspora and Forestry and Energy. At the end of the initial phase of work, 6 funding partners emerged in the form of the Project Steering Group – the Local Authorities of Cavan, Leitrim, Longford and

Roscommon as well as Bord na Mona and ESB. A co-ordinator post was advertised and recruited in Spring 2015. The achievements in 2015 included the following:

- Phase II of this unique business led USEFE Initiative was officially launched in Carrick on Shannon on the 29th June, 2015 by Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mr. Richard Bruton, T.D. The Minister was joined at the launch by more than 70 businesses across counties Cavan, Leitrim, Longford and Roscommon.
- USEFE in conjunction with Waterways Ireland, received funding to the value of €209,692 under the Rural Economic Development Zones Project (REDZ) to develop the Blueway across the USEFE region. This project resulted in two capital projects being developed along with regional & directional signage, a series of capacity building workshops and the publication of activity, food, craft, culture and heritage trails.
- The Diaspora Group identified a number of towns across the region and gathered information for each one to encourage greater engagement with the Diaspora.
- The membership of the Creative Group consisted primarily of craft workers so the group focused heavily on the craft sector and how it could be developed further across the USEFE region.
- The Forestry and Energy Group looked at the opportunities for biomass development across the Upper Shannon Erne Region.
- The Food Group availed of mentoring support from Aurivo, a globally focussed agrifood business, in the form of social media marketing, meeting the retailer, site visit to their plant etc.
- A Regional Healthy Food showcase and a Meet the Buyer event took place on the 14th October, 2015 in Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim. This event was held in partnership with the EU Nourish Programme which aimed to develop tools to assist the stimulation of healthy and creative food regions in the United Kingdom/Northern Ireland, Bulgaria, Hungary and Ireland. Producers from across the region got the opportunity to meet buyers as well as showcase their produce.
- 9 USEFE Operational Management Group meetings took place in 2015 and 3 Steering Group Meetings.



PHASE II LAUNCH OF USEFE



PHASE II LAUNCH OF USEFE

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL ECONOMIC STRATEGY

Work concluded on preparing the Economic Development Strategy for Leitrim County Council in December, 2015. The work carried out in preparing the Economic Strategy helped to inform the Sustainable Economic Development objectives in the Local Economic and Community Plan.

RENEWABLE ENERGY GROUP

A Renewable Energy Group was established as a result of the Local Economic and Community Plan process. This group is chaired by Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive and has membership from both public and private organisations involved in renewable energy. This group will be working to achieve the objectives set out in the LECP and Local Development Strategy.

PURPLE FLAG AND CARRICK-ON-SHANNON TOWN DEVELOPMENT GROUP

In February, 2015 it was agreed that Leitrim County Council would provide a co-ordinating role in a project to achieve Purple Flag Status for the County Town. Purple Flag is a standard for a vibrant, well-managed evening and night time economy. This involved establishing a Purple Flag Steering Group and a number of teams to look at different aspects of the evening and night time economy. Over 28 meetings, a strong team based approach lead to success in achieving the standard and marketing of this is now underway.



'KICK-START WORKSHOP' ON PURPLE FLAG IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CARRICK-ON-SHANNON.

As a follow on to this achievement a Town Team Development Group was established in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. The group has a number of sub-committees including a Marketing Group, Retail Group and Public Realm Group.

The Marketing Group met five times during 2015 in order to develop a comprehensive package of activities for the town to take place in December, 2015 and to market the launch of the Purple Flag. This group is facilitated by the Economic Development Officer while the Retail Group is facilitated by the Director of Services and has commenced work on an audit of workspace and other initiatives to build the retail capacity of the town.



**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PURPLE FLAG COMMITTEE
RECEIVING THE PURPLE FLAG AWARD FOR CARRICK-ON-SHANNON**



MANORHAMILTON REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE (REDZ)

In addition to the Blueway REDZ, a second REDZ application was made for the Manorhamilton area which received €40,000 in grant aid as 75% of the total project. This included support for three capital projects and the development of a REDZ Team and Enterprise and Employment Strategy.

LEITRIM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was established in 2014 and work continued on the preparation of a Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) including additional consultation, public consultation phase and workshops with members. It was approved by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly in December 2015 and adopted by Leitrim County Council in January, 2016.

A number of actions within the LECP and Economic Strategy of the Council have commenced during the year. The first of these is the marketing of the County as a positive location to do business with the launch of the Leitrim.ie site which now includes a portfolio of information on the County acting as a gateway to the Council website, Leitrim Sports, Leitrim Business and Leitrim Tourism. A DVD highlighting the different business sectors operating in the County, was completed and promoted in social media and on the website. In addition a further sector or support specific DVD's were developed and will be marketed in 2016.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The LCDC submitted an Expression of Interest in being the Local Action Group (LAG) which was approved by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government. Work was carried out in conjunction with the implementing partner on the preparation of a draft Local Development Strategy. This also involved joint consultations across the county. The Plan was submitted to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in December, 2015 and was approved.

SOCIAL INCLUSION COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME

The procurement process for the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) was completed in early 2015 and the programme commenced in April, 2015. A mid-term review was also completed and work has commenced on preparing the plan for 2016.

HIGH LEVEL ADVISORY GROUP

The High Level Advisory Group met twice in 2015 and ensures on-going support and engagement of Leitrim people in Dublin and elsewhere with a connection with the county in addition to key local business people. A number of projects have been prioritised with this group for 2016.

FACILITATE AND SUPPORT BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021

The County Development Plan 2015-2021 was adopted by the Elected Members in January, 2016. The plan came into effect on 9th February, 2015. This marked the culmination of 2 years of work by both the Elected Members and officials of the Planning Authority. The County Development Plan 2015- 2021 was published later in the year and consists of the following:

- Volume 1 (Written Statement);
- Volume 2 (Appendices A-D);
- Volume 3 (Book of Maps);
- Retail Strategy;
- Housing Strategy;
- Natura Impact Report;
- Strategic Environmental Assessment, and;
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

The full suite of documents is available to view (or purchase) at the offices of the Planning Department or on the Council website.

CARRICK ON SHANNON LOCAL AREA PLAN

The Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan was due to expire on 9th May, 2016 and the Council agreed at the meeting of Leitrim County Council on 2nd March, 2015 to extend it for a further 3 year period to 2019 under the appropriate legislation. This has allowed an extended period within which a Carrick-on Shannon/Cortober Joint Local Area Plan can be prepared or other options for the County town explored.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT & BUILDING CONTROL

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A total of 227 planning applications, including 11 Extension of Duration applications, were received in 2015. A total of 26% (59) of these applications were considered invalid, primarily relating to poorly prepared applications with the remaining 168 applications considered valid. Of the valid applications, 41

related to commercial development. The number of valid applications received increased by 23% by comparison to the figure for 2014 and this is an encouraging indication in relation to an increase in construction activity occurring across the county.

A total of 167 planning decisions were issued in relation to planning applications during the year which marked a significant increase on 2014 figure when 101 decisions issued. The grant rate was recorded at 93% of all decisions made. A significant commercial application seeking to construct a large extension to Vistamed Limited in Carrick-on-Shannon was granted planning permission in September. This project proposal demonstrates further confidence in the local economy and the ability to attract large numbers of skilled and educated employees from within the wider sub region. Of the unsuccessful planning applications, 3 related to Extension of Duration applications, 2 related to applications seeking to retain planning permission and 7 related to applications seeking planning permission.

PART 8 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The Council successfully brought two of its own development proposals through the Part 8 public consultation process in 2015. Both of these proposals were progressed in partnership with Waterways Ireland to develop a Blueway (cycle and walking trail alongside canals which can be used for multi purposes) between Battlebridge and Acres Lake, Drumshanbo and between Kilarcan to Kilclare. The section between Battlebridge and Drumhauver was completed in late 2015 with grant assistance from the Rural Economic Development Zone pilot scheme.

PRE-PLANNING CLINICS

The Planning Department facilitated 79 formal pre-planning queries/meetings in 2015 with the average waiting time for such meetings or queries being dealt with recorded at 9.5 days.

EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENTS

A total of 27 applications for a determination on exempt/non exempt status of a proposed development (Section 5 Declarations) were received over the course of the year in comparison to 8 applications received in the previous year. This increase in applications is primarily due to the availability of grant-aid assistance from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme.

- 1 application for a Certificate of Exemption under Section 97 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (exemption from the provisions of Part V) was received in 2015 again reflective of the lack of multiple residential unit development presently under construction/being considered across the county.
- 70 Tree Felling and 74 Tree Planting applications were dealt with in 2015 reflective of the extent of the county under forestation.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS FOR SINGLE HOUSES

Leitrim County Council continued to work with interested parties to facilitate the design of a wastewater treatment and disposal facility that would have the potential to have a zero discharge of effluent. Currently, sites that fail soil percolation tests as part of the site assessment process under the EPA publication Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment Systems for Single Houses are not acceptable for the use of conventional wastewater treatment systems that dispose of treated effluent to groundwater. Suitable pilot designs have been identified and 11 landowner applicants were given initial approval to commence the design process phase of this Pilot Scheme. At the end of 2015, 6 of these designs had the benefit of planning permission with construction having commenced on 3 sites.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

A total of 31 new planning enforcement cases were referred to or initiated by the Planning Authority in 2015 of which 18 were successfully closed by the year end. A total of 12 Warning Letters were issued which resulted in 1 case being the subject of an Enforcement Notice. Of the 12 Warning Letters which issued, 6 of these cases have been resolved.

TAKING IN CHARGE OF ESTATES

A total of 12 housing developments were taken in charge during 2015 in comparison to 1 development taken in charge in 2014, 3 developments in 2013 and 4 developments in 2012.

UNFINISHED DEVELOPMENTS

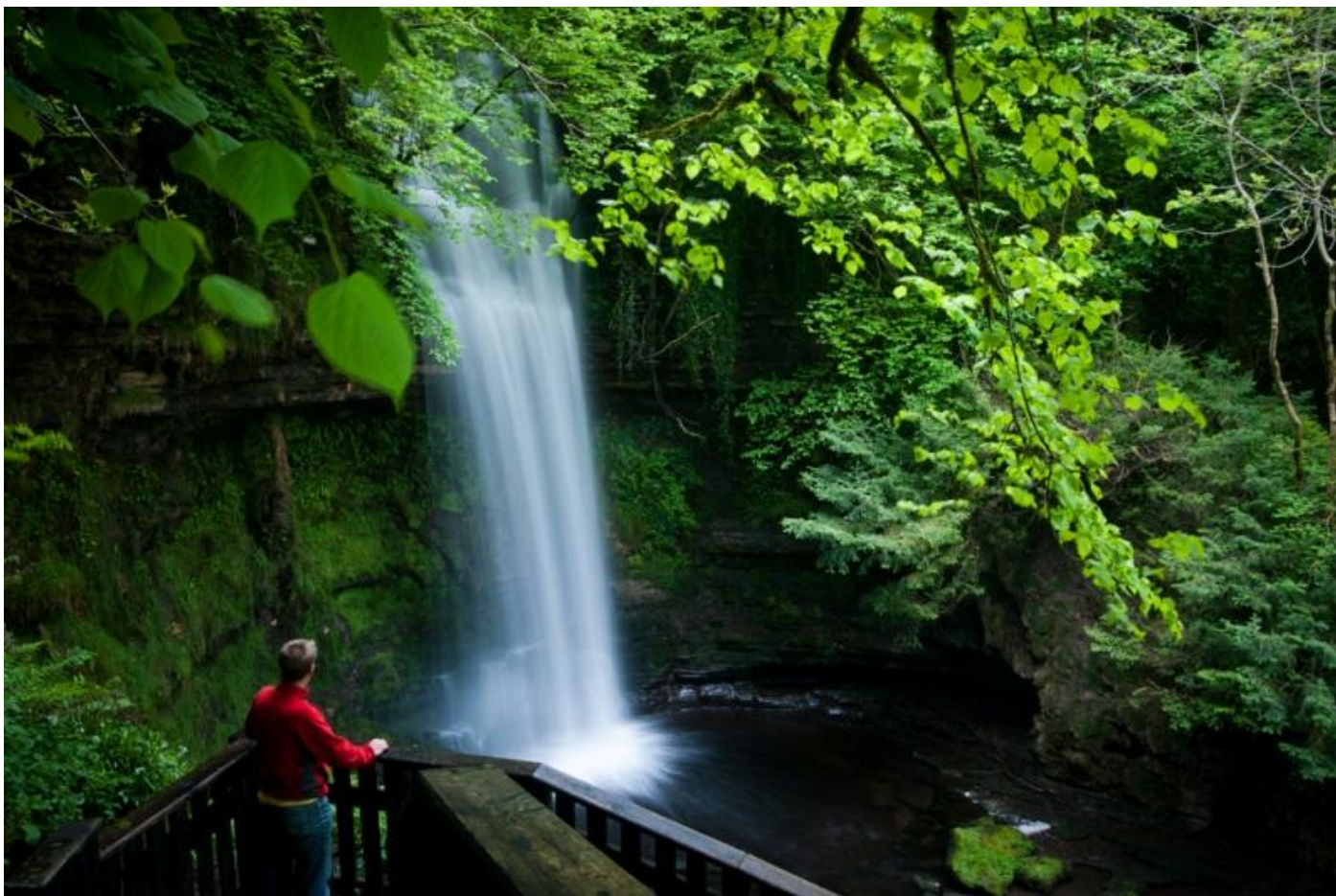
The Council continued to progress the resolution of unfinished estates in 2015 with all relevant stakeholders. Work has been ongoing with various developers, banks and bond companies in this regard. Works on the 3 housing developments awarded funding under the Special Resolution Fund were certified as complete in 2015. These developments were Radharc an Bhaile, Drumshanbo, The Beeches, Roosky and Elysian Meadows, Carrick on Shannon. It is anticipated that these three housing developments will be advertised for being taken in charge by the Council in 2016.



ELYSIAN MEADOWS, CARRICK-ON-SHANNON

CFRAMS

Active participation was continued with the OPW and their Consulting Engineers as part of the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies (CFRAM's). Draft Optioneering and Flood Risk Management Maps for each of the built up areas considered to be at risk were prepared. These were subject to Public Consultation which was facilitated by OPW/Jacobs Engineering at a number of locations within Leitrim on Thursday 19th November, 2015. The Draft Flood Maps went on Public Display as part of the Statutory Public Consultation from Friday 20th November, 2015 to Wednesday 23rd December, 2015 inclusive and were available at all Local Authority offices for viewing.



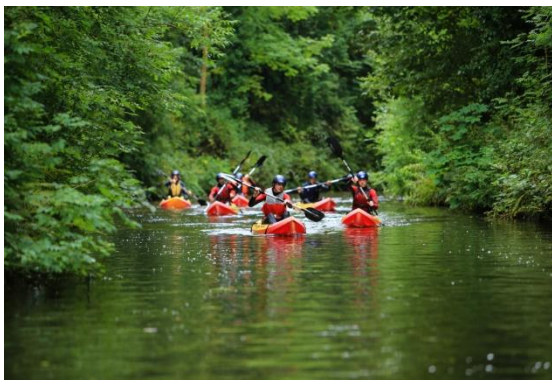
GLENCAR WATERFALL, CO. LEITRIM

MARKETING AND PROMOTION

Leitrim Tourism continued to increase the following on our Social Media Platform and attended a number of events and trade shows during 2015, such as the European Sports Tourism Summit, Annual Meitheal Workshop and Holiday World Shows,

MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE BLUEWAY

In 2015, Leitrim County Council in collaboration with Waterways Ireland developed and implemented a comprehensive marketing campaign to promote the Blueway within County Leitrim. This campaign included radio promotion, press and bus advertisements and social media promotion.



TOUR OPERATORS

In 2015, Leitrim County Council facilitated a familiarisation trip for Tour Operators who offer packages abroad, which included site visits throughout County Leitrim.



TOUR OPERATORS VISIT TO LEITRIM

HARNESSING NATURAL RESOURCES (HNR)

Leitrim County Council as a partner in the HNR cross border project, completed the Sliabh an Iariann Visitors Centre in Drumshanbo in early 2015, which represents a significant addition to the Tourism Infrastructure within County Leitrim. In addition Leitrim County Council also completed and launched the Cross Border Motorcycle and Car Driving Routes during 2015, thereby attracting visitors inland from the Wild Atlantic Way.

BORDER UPLANDS

In 2015, Leitrim County Council provided enhanced amenity and Tourist facilities at Glenade Valley and Eagles Rock in North Leitrim, while Farnagh Limekiln was restored at Lough Rynn, which included the provision of improved access and interpretation. This was delivered as part of a cross border project in partnership with Fermanagh, Sligo and Cavan.



FARNAGH LIMEKILN

TOURISM STRATEGY

A new Leitrim Tourism Strategy called “A Growth Strategy for Tourism in Leitrim 2015 – 2021” was launched on Monday 21st December 2015 by Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.



LAUNCH OF THE LEITRIM TOURISM STRATEGY WITH MINISTER PASCHAL DONOGHUE

2016 CENTENARY PROGRAMME

The National 2016 Centenary Programme was launched in early 2015. Leitrim County Council established the Leitrim Centenary Committee and hosted the County Centenary Community Meeting in April 2015, with fifty eight people in attendance. All ideas were collated and informed the preparation of a draft Centenary Plan in September 2015. The Leitrim Centenary Committee also supervised the administration of 2016 Centenary funding provided by Government during 2015. Leitrim County Council also provided

administration and support to the Sean MacDiarmada Summer School 2015, which took place in Kiltyclogher, County Leitrim.

TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

Leitrim County Council progressed the following projects in 2015 with the support of funding from Intereg, Fáilte Ireland, Sports Capital and the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government.

BORDER UPLANDS PROJECT

Development of three sites of Geological interest building on the Geo Park and working with Sligo, Cavan and Fermanagh.

SLIABH AN IARAINN BOARDWALK

Raised Bogs access and interpretation as part of the Border Uplands Project completed in June, 2015 with Viewing Area and scenic drive through the raised Blanket bog and surrounds of Lough Allen.

FAILTE IRELAND GLENCAR WATERFALL

The project works at Glencar Waterfall were completed in 2015 and included the following suite of works: provision of a playground, enhanced looped footpaths within waterfall site, landscaping to enhance the visual attraction, enhanced viewing area at the waterfall site with paving and railings, road surfacing and road markings, traffic calming, disabled access car parking, sign interpretation at the site and refurbishment of the Amenity Block building. In addition, a new 'Tea Shed' operated by Jonathan and Helen Hays opened for business in 2015 and is a great asset to this tourist location. The Glencar Waterfall continues to be a major tourist attraction with approximately 70,000 visitors to the site in 2015.

SEAN MACDIARMADA HOMESTEAD

This project involved the provision of car parking facilities at the Sean Mac Diarmada homestead. All works were completed on this project in preparation for the 100th anniversary celebrations of the 1916 Rising.

LOUGH RINN RECREATIONAL FACILITY

Leitrim County Council received Sports Capital Funding of €200,000 in 2015 towards the further development of the Lough Rinn Recreational facility which caters for Rowing/Canoeing and Kayaking. The funding was used to further develop the Rowing Course facility by installing additional floating pontoons on the lake and to facilitate a Start Tower/Finish Tower for Racing Competition for these water based sports activities.



CANOEISTS AND ROWERS AT LOUGH RINN, MOHILL

TRANSPORTATION – PLANNING AND MAINTENANCE

The annual roads budget for 2015 was €11.2million which was significantly less than the 2014 Roads Allocation of €12.5m. The Roads Department advanced the following works under the 2015 Roads Programme:

- The construction contract for N16 Cornalcoy to Sradrine Phase II project was signed towards the end of 2015. This is the upgrading of 2km of the national primary road N16. Most of the works will be completed in 2016.
- New surfacing, footpaths and public lighting on Main Street Manorhamilton and Bridge Street Carrick on Shannon.
- 63.5km of roads strengthened. This is a reduction of 10% on works completed in 2014.
- 47.5km of roads surfaced dressed, which is slightly higher than works completed in 2014.
- Lough Reane Overflow Pipe contract completed
- €305,000 spent on road safety improvement schemes at 10 locations in the county.
- Bridge Rehabilitation Works completed on 6 bridges.
- Severe weather event in December caused by Storm Desmond and Storm Frank caused major damage to the road network plus flooding of properties in the county.



MINISTER PASCHAL DONOGHUE, MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT ‘TURNING THE SOD’ ON THE N16 CORNACLOY TO SRADINE PHASE II PROJECT.



FOOTPATH REPLACEMENT WORKS AT TREANMORE, MOHILL



ROAD RE-SURFACING WORKS ON THE R207

OVERVIEW OF ENERGY USAGE IN 2015

A funding application was submitted to SEAI in regard to a Better Energy Community scheme for Carrick on Shannon. The application provided for works involving insulation, energy efficient heating and lighting across 44 domestic units in 4 local authority housing estates and Carrick on Shannon Fire Station in addition to proposed works to a number of community buildings in Carrick on Shannon.

Leitrim County Council was approved grant assistance of €142,000 by the SEAI for this 2015 “Better Energy Communities Programme” with the balance of funding coming from Leitrim County Council and the Community Project Beneficiaries. The Council was selected as a finalist in the Sustainable Energy Awards 2015 which was held in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham on Thursday 19th November, 2015 for the Energy Project completed in Mohill in 2014.

LABOUR ACTIVATION MEASURES

During 2015 six Interns were employed by Leitrim County Council under the Job-bridge Internship Scheme. The purpose of the Scheme is to give job seekers some experience and training on a nine-month work placement which will assist them in their search for employment. Forty eight (48) persons were also placed on the ‘Gateway’ Labour Activation Initiative in 2015. This Scheme provides short-term work and training opportunities for long-term unemployed people who have been on the Live Register for over 2 years. The work opportunities have benefited areas such as local amenity upkeep, tourism promotion etc.

High Quality Sustainable Living Environment - To improve, protect and promote the natural and man-made environment, encourage and facilitate participation by citizens in the development of their communities and promote an inclusive, creative, active and vibrant County

ARTS

LOCIS PROJECT

As we passed the halfway mark of our 5 year arts plan, 2015 saw the successful completion of a €320,000 EU funded LOCIS project which we led with partners in Sweden and Poland. Culture night continued to garner new audiences in venues throughout the county, encouraging new audiences young and old to engage with the arts. Membership of the three centres of Leitrim Youth Theatre Company in Manorhamilton, Carrick on Shannon and Carrigallen continued to grow to five times the national average.



MR. FRANK CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE LAUNCHING THE LOCIS PROJECT.

ARTIST IN SCHOOLS SCHEME

The Artist in Schools Scheme saw highly trained artists working with young people to develop projects in primary schools throughout the county. Mirroring the Artist in Schools Scheme, for the first time four community groups worked throughout the year with artists selected specifically for their extensive experience of working collaboratively with communities.

LEITRIM EQUATION PROJECT

The Leitrim Equation project came full circle with four Leitrim musicians leading the project bringing the music of the county to new audiences. The Leitrim Equation show continues to receive much critical acclaim and the programme also included professional development workshops for young musicians and the development of an archive project of Leitrim music. The professional development bursary programme helped over 20 artists develop new work or receive further training and this year also saw the development of Creative Frame which in partnership with Leitrim LEO and with the support of ID2015, sees the development of a comprehensive unique professional development support structure for people working in the wider Creative Sector.



EDWINA GUCKIAN PERFORMING AS PART OF THE LEITRIM EQUATION.

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

Leitrim County Council Arts Office continued to support arts venues and festivals throughout the county and continued to play a lead role in the development of Wild Words Children's Book Festival. The new studios at Drumshanbo library are now occupied by painter Kate Wilson and writer Gerry Boland. As part of their tenancy, the two artists are working with different groups in the community encouraging wider access and participation in the arts.

SPARK PROGRAMME

The SPARK programme in partnership with Leitrim LEO hosts artists' residencies in companies and businesses. 2015 saw the completion of Padraig Cunningham's residency in the Hive, the results of which will be part of a nationwide touring exhibition and the start of the next residency by Leo Scarff at Mohill Enterprise Centre. SPARK is currently the subject of a study by the University of Limerick into the role of the arts in business.

FILM DEVELOPMENT

In the film sector Leitrim, Roscommon and Sligo local authorities came together to develop a joint initiative in film development. Together with representatives of the film sector from the three counties, we are developing a blueprint for ongoing cooperation and collaboration.

THE DOCK

As owner of The Dock, 10 years ago Leitrim County Council developed the venue to be a linchpin of the county's cultural infrastructure and home to the Dock's visual, performing, community and educational arts programmes as well as home to Leitrim Design House. In 2015 we continued our investment in the centre to ensure that it could be sustained as a cornerstone for the arts. It's varied and strategically planned programme throughout the year continued to encourage audiences and participants for the arts locally and regionally, and The Dock continued to be a beacon for visitors and a crucially positive endorsement of the rich culture offering of Carrick on Shannon, Leitrim and the Northwest.

While not yet in a position to expand or regain ground lost in recent years, we have maintained our level of investment in the creative sector for 2016 and hope to maintain our level of programming within existing resources. We do this because we recognise that that the creative sector is uniquely important to Leitrim, and that more than many other counties, we reap substantial social, cultural and economic benefits from the sector. Particular priorities in the coming year include the Creative Frame project which focuses on maximising the potential of the sector for years to come and development work in the area of film which ushers a new fresh approach to supporting the sector for the entire northwest.



RAY DARCY INTERVIEWS AUTHOR MATT GRIFFIN

COMMUNITY

Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Public Participation Network (PPN) continues to facilitate the representation of the community and voluntary sector on council committees i.e. the Local Community Development Committee and three Strategic Policy Committees. PPN representatives were also elected onto the Leitrim Sports Partnership, Leitrim County Childcare Committee, Leitrim County Enterprise Fund and the Joint Policing Committee. A total of 169 groups were registered with the PPN by year end, 109 groups from the Community/Voluntary College, 56 groups from the Social Inclusion College and 4 groups registered in the Environmental College. Two County Plenary meetings were held during the year. The PPN was involved in the consultation process for the LCDC Local Economic and Community Plan. Promotion of the PPN included an extensive PR package in the local press and the development of a PPN dedicated website. Training for PPN representatives was also delivered and support given to all PPN representatives on an ongoing basis.



PPN MEMBERS ATTENDING A MEETING IN DRUMSHANBO

LEITRIM JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Leitrim's Joint Policing Committee was re-established in 2015. The re-establishment of the JPC following the Guidelines on the Revised Guidelines for JPC's. The Membership of Leitrim's JPC is made up of 2 Officials of Leitrim County Council, two Garda Officials, 13 Elected Members, 6 Oireachtas Members and 6 Community Representatives. The Chairperson of the JPC is Councillor Enda Stenson and the Vice-Chairperson is Councillor Sinead Guckian. The JPC met on three occasions in 2015 and they commenced the process on the preparation of the 6-year JPC Strategy.



MEETING OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

TRAVELLER INTERAGENCY GROUP

The Inter Agency Traveller Services Group was restructured and several new members joined. A new action plan was developed during the year.

COMHAIRLE NA NOG

Comhairle na nOg Liatroma continues to enjoy the support of all second level schools in the county. During the year it ran an event to highlight issues of mental health amongst young people and also participated in the Dail na nOg in Croke Park, attended by Ministers Reilly and O'Sullivan.

LEITRIM AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVE

Age Friendly Leitrim continued with delivery of the actions set out in the plan being monitored. Mohill was recognised as an Age Friendly Town and a plan for that was completed early in the year.

PRIDE OF PLACE

This year, there were three entries in the national Pride of Place competition. These were Cloone (population under 300), Manorhamilton (population 1,000 to 2,000) and Mohill Pride of Place (Age Friendly Community Initiatives). Both Cloone and Manorhamilton were awarded runner up prizes in their respective categories.



REPRESENTATIVES OF CLOONE & MANORHAMILTON AT THE PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS CEREMONY

FLORAL PRIDE

Floral Pride proved to be as popular as ever with 38 entries and over 100 people attending the awards event in Carrigallen. Mohill won the overall award.



ENTRANTS IN THE FLORAL PRIDE COMPEITION 2015 AT THE AWARDS CEREMONY IN CARRIGALLEN

HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

HERITAGE OFFICER

The role of Heritage Officer was re-established in Leitrim in 2015 after a 12 year absence and reflects a growing commitment to the value and importance of heritage generally within the county. The Heritage Officer has carried out strategic, operational, promotional, co-ordination and facilitation roles including the provision of advice, appraisals, community liaison and public relations. From a public awareness and promotional perspective, Leitrim County Council published a total of 21 newsletters over the course of the year and a detailed database of heritage contacts has been created and is being updated continuously.

COUNTY HERITAGE PLAN PROGRAMME 2015

Leitrim County Council applied for match funding to the Heritage Council under the County Heritage Plan Programme 2015 for our continued involvement along with Cavan, Longford, Roscommon and Monaghan in the regional Black Pig's Dyke project. During Phase 2 of the Black Pig's Dyke (2015), emphasis was placed on disseminating the findings of the research undertaken by this joint regional project in order to raise the visibility of this unique project and the important earthworks.

HERITAGE WEEK

A very successful Heritage Week saw approximately 50 No. events held across the County with widespread promotion of information and activities. A total of 21 no. event organisers were involved over the course of the 9 days. The Libraries were particularly active in hosting events. One of the events held, the Green Door Weekend 2015, featured on the shortlist of the Heritage Council's National Heritage Week Event Award under the '*Hidden Heritage*' Category. Heritage Week was heavily promoted and advertised by Leitrim County Council with 1,700 event guide brochures along with promotional posters designed, printed and distributed across the county.

HERITAGE GRANTS

The Heritage Officer also advised members of the public in relation to the various grants available, in particular the Structures at Risk Fund, the Community Based Heritage Grant Scheme and the Built Heritage Investment Scheme. The Built Heritage Investment Scheme, the purpose of which was to encourage the investment of private capital in a number of small-scale, labour intensive projects to repair and conserve historic structures and to support the employments of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craft workers and trades people, operated in 2015. 6 applications were proposed for funding by the Council under this scheme with a total combined funding of €46,179 sought which would be matched by privately leveraged capital of €61,204. A total of 6 Section 57 Declarations of Exemptions to Protected Structures were also dealt with in 2015.



Display in Aras-an-Chontae for National Heritage Week

ENVIRONMENT

GREEN SCHOOLS

In Leitrim we are in the unique position to have 100% participation in the Green Schools Programme. A total of 11 schools were awarded flags in 2015 for their work on the Green Schools Programme.



CHILDREN FROM ST. MANCHAN'S NATIONAL SCHOOL DISPLAYING THEIR IRISH AID PROJECT.



STUDENTS FROM KILTYCLOGHER NATIONAL SCHOOL WORKING ON THEIR BIO-DIVERSITY PROJECT FOR THE GREEN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME.

The following schools were awarded a Green Flag in 2015.

| School | Theme |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| None | Litter and Waste |
| None | Energy |
| Carrigallen Vocational School | Water |
| Ballinamore Community School | Travel |
| Creevelea National School | Travel |
| Fatima National School in Cloone | Travel |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| St. Josephs N.S., Killennunmery | Travel |
| Drumeela National School | Biodiversity |
| Scoil Mhic Diarmada, Kiltyclogher | Biodiversity |
| Ardvarney National School | Global Citizenship (Litter & Waste) |
| St. Manchans N.S., Mohill | Global Citizenship (Litter & Waste) |

FOOD RESCUE EVENT

The Food Rescue Event was hosted in Lough Rynn Castle in April, 2016 showcasing the cooking talents of Joe Shannon and Ethna ‘The Burlesque Chef’ Reynolds. Both chefs turned out delicious dishes for approximately 150 attendees, including a veggie cake, soup, pork stir fry, stuffed mushrooms and pasta dish – all made from food that would have been thrown away. Ethna demonstrated how to turn soggy vegetables into pickled wonders. Admission to this event was €5 and the proceeds went directly to the North West Simon Community.

Leitrim’s Food Rescue event was organised and sponsored by Leitrim County Council. Mindy O’Brien, Coordinator of VOICE, urged participants to take the message of reducing food waste into their local communities. “We hope this event will inspire you to combat food waste at home, at school, at work and in the community.”

Leitrim County Council also hosted a Free Seminar on Food Waste and the circular economy for local business and tidy town representatives before the food rescue event. Ms. Carmel Coll, Leitrim Environmental Awareness Officer, believes that “businesses can improve their bottom line while adopting more environmentally-friendly measures. Our speakers, including Mr. Colum Gibson from Clean Technologies, Cork and promoter of the Stop Food Waste initiative, Mr. Joe Dolan from the environmental award winning Bush Hotel in Carrick-on-Shannon and Ms. Mindy O’Brien from VOICE all illustrated ways to reduce business costs through waste-reduction initiatives.

POLLUTION CONTROL

WATER PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

Routine monitoring of receiving waters upstream and downstream of private discharges and the discharges from the licensed Urban Waste Water Treatment Plants was undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the individual licences.

Mandatory inspection, testing and reporting of results in respect of the designated Bathing Water at Keeldra Lake was undertaken between May and August. Pre swim-week inspections were also undertaken at Gulladoo, Rossinver (Lough Melvin), Fahey (Lough Allen) and Corry Strand (Lough Allen).

As part of the EPA’S National monitoring programme, a Water Quality Survey is conducted on seven representative lakes each quarter. The 2015 results were consistent with previous years but identify no significant progress in meeting the targets set down in the River Basin Management Plans.

Work also commenced on the production of a new five-year River Basin Management Plan.

DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM INSPECTIONS, 2015

The Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 provided for the introduction of a registration and inspection system for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWWT’s). The Environment Department completed 43 DWWTS Inspections in 2015 with a 57% pass rate on inspections completed.

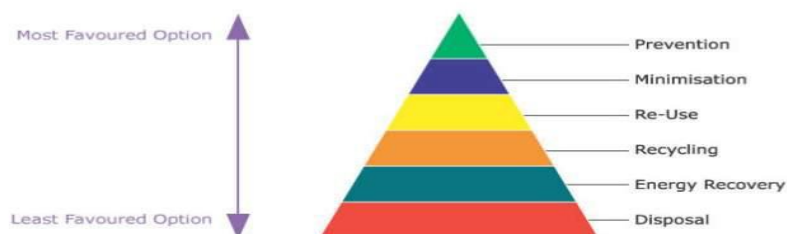


PHOTOGRAPHS OF DOMESTIC WASTE WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM INSPECTIONS

WASTE MANAGEMENT

RECYCLING RATES

The rate of kerbside recycling in County Leitrim increased in 2015 to 22%. It is anticipated that this rate will continue to grow as households become more familiar with the pay by weight system. The percentage of waste to landfill is continuing to reduce however (37.83%), largely due to the fact that 54.99% of waste was incinerated for energy recovery in the Incinerator at Dulleek, Co. Meath.



POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE

WASTE PRESENTATION BYELAWS 2013

The Pay by Weight system came into effect from the 1st December 2014. Households are benefitting from significant savings as a result of the introduction of the pay by weight system and it is anticipated that recycling rates will increase as will the diversion of waste to the organic bin. This will reduce the amount of waste to landfill, thereby helping to reach national targets in this regard, but most importantly reducing the cost of the black bin to households. It is anticipated that residual waste (non recyclable and inorganic material) disposal costs will increase significantly over the coming years and it was essential that Leitrim County Council introduced the pay by weight system at this point so as to minimise the impact of such increases on Leitrim householders in the future. It is expected that in a pay by weight system the amount of waste generated will reduce as households become more familiar with the system and change their buying and day to day habits in order to minimise their waste arising. A National Pay by Weight system will become fully operational from 1st July, 2016.



CONNAUGHT-ULSTER WASTE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE (CUWEO)

In 2015, the Consortium of Counties Leitrim and Donegal successfully secured the establishment of the Connacht – Ulster Waste Enforcement Office (CUWEO). It is envisaged that together it will ensure the effective implementation of Waste Enforcement policy in the Connacht Ulster region through a coordinated and collaborative approach with stakeholders on a Local, Regional and National basis.

COMMUNITY WARDENS

Our Community Warden Service, in addition to their enforcement activities in relation to litter and waste disposal, abandoned vehicles and parking offences, continued to monitor our Bring Centre and Amenity Areas and carried out regular Playground Inspections. A second Community Warden was recruited and commenced employment in 2015.

HOUSING

The Housing Department continued to provide front-line assistance and support to housing applicants including emergency housing assistance to persons seeking social housing support. Efforts continued to improve the social housing stock from the available funding streams provided by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in 2015.

HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT & HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

A total of 285 new housing applications for social housing support were received and processed in 2015. 124 offers of accommodation issued to housing applicants for casual vacancies arising within our existing Social Housing Stock. 67 tenants completed mandatory Pre-tenancy training – this figure is inclusive of 55 newly appointed local authority tenants, 6 transfer applicants and 6 regularisation of existing tenancies. There were a total of 465 Applicants on our Housing Waiting List at the end of 2015. In 2015 an amendment to our Housing Allocation Scheme was approved by the members of Leitrim County Council to provide for the introduction of Choice Based Letting. It is envisaged that Choice Based Letting will be utilised in the letting of some properties which to date have proved difficult to let due to their location and other such factors.

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

The adopted Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2014 – 2018 sets out annual targets for the delivery of outputs in respect of Traveller Accommodation. The target set for 2015 was 12 outputs, 19 outputs were achieved as outlined hereunder:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| ▪ Group Housing Scheme | 2 |
| ▪ Standard Local Authority Accommodation | 8 |
| ▪ Rental Accommodation Scheme | 7 |
| ▪ Long Term Leasing Scheme | 2 |
| Total Outputs for 2015 | 19 |

The delivery of 19 units of accommodation exceeded the target to provide 12 units of accommodation in 2015, by the provision of 7 additional units.

Following receipt of Departmental sanction, a Traveller Liaison Officer was recruited in 2015 and took up duty in July, 2015. This Traveller Liaison Officer is a dedicated resource and will facilitate the implementation of a targeted and pro-active Traveller Liaison Programme and is also involved in providing tenancy sustainment supports in relation to a number of Traveller households.

LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (LTACC)

The (LTACC) is a statutory body established under the Housing (Traveller Accommodation Act) 1998 to assist in the delivery of accommodation options for Members of the Traveller Community. The role assigned to the LTACC is to facilitate consultation between the Council and Travellers and to advise on any aspect of accommodation for Travellers, assist in the preparation, adoption and implementation of Leitrim County Council's Traveller Accommodation Programme, advise on the management of accommodation for Travellers and to provide a link between Travellers, Elected Members and Officials of the Council. Membership of Leitrim County Council's LTACC is made up of Elected Members (6), Traveller Representatives (4) and Officials from Leitrim County Council (3). The LTACC met on five occasions in 2015.

HOMELESSNESS

The Housing Department responded to 58 homeless presentations in 2015 - 8 deposits to the value of €2,725 were paid to secure private rented accommodation and expenditure of €700 was incurred in the provision of emergency B&B accommodation. Quarterly reports and recoupment claims were submitted to

Sligo Local Authorities as the Lead Authority for the North West Homelessness Region. A number of meetings of both the Management Group and the wider North West Regional Homeless Forum were held in 2015.

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME (RAS) AND SOCIAL HOUSING LEASING INITIATIVE (SHLI)

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and the Social Housing Leasing Initiative (SHLI) are both long term social housing supports provided through direct arrangements between the local authority and the private rented sector. In 2015, the accommodation needs of 27 households were met through new transfers into the RAS and at 31st December, 2015, the accommodation needs of a total of 109 households were being met by RAS. In 2015 the accommodation needs of a further 5 households were met by the securing of 5 properties under the SHLI.

PRIVATED RENTED INSPECTION PROGRAMME

A total of 1,431 tenancies in the private rented sector in County Leitrim are registered with the Private Residential Tenancies Board (PRTB). Leitrim County Council completed 79 inspections under this Inspection Programme in 2015.

HOUSING GRANT SCHEMES

Leitrim County Council provided grant aid in the sum of €342,899.45 to a total of 55 applicants under the Housing Aid for Older People Grant Scheme, the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for People with a Disability and the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme.

TENANT (INCREMENTAL PURCHASE SCHEME)

Leitrim County Council was formally notified by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government of the introduction and details of a new tenant purchase scheme called the Incremental Purchase Scheme. The Housing Department will be communicating details of this new Incremental Purchase Scheme directly to all existing tenants.

ESTATE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Our Estate Management Programme was ongoing throughout the County in 2015 and encompasses the following:-

- Tenancy Sustainment in relation to a number of individual tenancies, including participation in multi-agency case conferences and initiatives in relation to individual or particular issues
- Liaison with North West Simon, the HSE and other agencies in relation to specific tenancies and issues
- Annual Estate Management Grant Scheme - The Housing Department of Leitrim County Council supports the voluntary work of active Residents Associations in local authority estates in the county under the annual Estate Management Grant Scheme. In 2015, a total of 16 Residents Associations received grant assistance under this Scheme.
- The Estate Management Programme is also supplemented by a Community Employment Scheme which is part-funded by the Council, and a Jobs Initiative Scheme, with participants making a very valuable contribution to the maintenance of the communal and green areas within a number of estates.
- In 2015 each of the 3 Municipal Districts were allocated funding of €2,000 to fund particular local authority estate works. This funding was utilised to carry out general estate enhancement works in a number of local authority estates.

- A Tenant Liaison Officer is employed to progress our Estate Management Programme and to establish best practice in the management and maintenance of our housing stock and to develop estate management initiatives.
- Our Estate Management Programme involves an inter-agency approach involving ongoing liaison with the Gardai, Leitrim Development Company and other relevant agencies in order to create more sustainable communities.
- Leitrim County Council's Anti Social Behaviour Strategy aims to promote good estate management and prevent and eliminate anti social behaviour in our estates.

HOUSING MAINTENANCE

The Housing Maintenance Team continued to respond to housing maintenance requests from tenants residing in the Council's Social Housing Stock. A total of 711 repair requests were received in 2015, with 90% of them attended to by year-end.

HOUSING DISABILITY STRATEGY

The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011 – 2016 provided that a Housing and Disability Steering Group would be established in each local authority area. Leitrim County Council established the Housing & Disability Steering Group in August, 2014. In 2015, a Draft "Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability" was published by Leitrim County Council following consultation with the HSE. Work is currently ongoing on the finalisation of this Strategy with the HSE. The vision of the Strategy is to facilitate access, for people with disabilities, to the appropriate range of housing and related support services, delivered in an integrated and sustainable manner, which promotes equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living.

SOCIAL HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME (SHIP)

- Leitrim County Council made a submission to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in 2015 under the Social Housing Strategy 2015 – 2017. This Submission included proposals for the Construction of 12 No. Social Housing Units at Carrick on Shannon and the Construction of 7 No. Social Housing Units at Manorhamilton over the period of the Strategy. Stage 1 Approval was received from the Department in 2015 in respect of the Construction of 7 No. Social Housing Units at Manorhamilton at an anticipated cost of €970,000 with construction works on this Project scheduled to commence in late 2016.

ACQUISITION OF SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS

Leitrim County Council completed the purchase of 3 family type dwellings in Carrick on Shannon in 2015. The purchase price in each case was fully recouped from the Department. The upgrade works required for the acquired properties will be completed in 2016 and the costs of the works will also be funded by the Department. Upgrade works were completed in 2015 to a property at Oaklands, Carrick on Shannon which was acquired by Leitrim County Council in 2014 and this house was allocated in 2015 to a household on our Housing Waiting List. Leitrim County Council is currently at an advanced stage with regard to the acquisition of an additional property in Carrick on Shannon and it is expected that this acquisition will be completed in 2016.



TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

Leitrim County Council made a submission to the Department for capital funding for a total of five projects, three of these projects related to the acquisition of new social housing units with the other two being refurbishment projects. All three of the proposed acquisition projects were approved by the Department and three of these acquisitions were completed in 2015 (2 No. included in the details above re. Acquisition of Social Housing Units) with the remaining 1 No. acquisition not being completed due to changes in family circumstances.

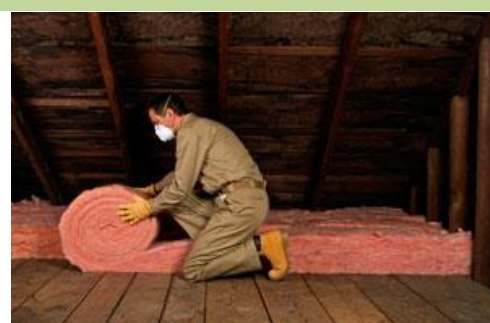
CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME (CAS)

Under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS), a proposal submitted by Leitrim County Council in 2014 in respect of the acquisition of six social housing units by the North West Simon Community was approved by the Department in 2014 at a total cost of €260,000. The North West Simon Community are at an advanced stage with regard to the acquisition of two family type dwellings in Carrick on Shannon and both of these acquisitions are expected to be completed in 2016 at a total cost of approx. €152,750. It is hoped that further social housing units will be acquired by North West Simon under this Programme in 2016.

- Under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) 2015 – 2017, a “Call for Proposals” from the Department was issued in March, 2015. Approved Housing Bodies operating in County Leitrim were invited to submit potential projects for delivery over the period 2015-2017 under this Scheme and based on submissions received a shortlist of prioritised proposals was submitted to the Department for consideration for funding. The Saint Vincent de Paul Project in respect of the Construction of two family type dwellings at Ballinamore was approved by the Department in February, 2016 in the sum of €320,000. This project involves the demolition of three existing derelict and vacant one bedroom single storey dwellings at this location and the construction of two 3-bedroom family type two-storey social housing units. This project is currently being progressed with the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Ballinamore.

ENERGY RETROFITTING PROGRAMME 2015

Cavity wall insulation, attic insulation and installation of vents were completed in 251 dwellings in the Council’s Housing stock at a cost of €308,382 which was fully recouped from the Department.



In addition, special case funding was also secured from the Department for windows/doors replacement works in 12 units of our stock at a total cost of €33,448.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY OF IRELAND (SEAI) BETTER COMMUNITIES AREA BASED SCHEME, 2015

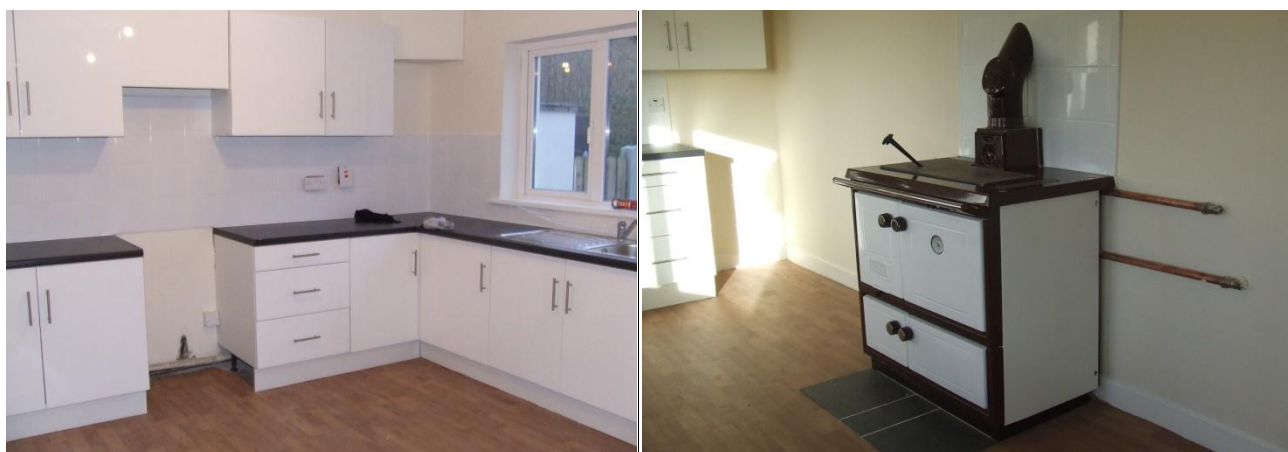
- This SEAI Scheme which was approved for the Carrick on Shannon Area included Energy Retrofitting Upgrades to 41 local authority dwellings in the Cara Court, Autumn View, Oak Drive and Ath na Ri Housing Estates in Carrick on Shannon in addition to Energy Retrofitting Upgrades to a number of Community Buildings.
- The suite of works to the 41 local authority dwellings, included attic and cavity insulation, installation of new heating systems and heating upgrades.
- The project involved significant ongoing contact, correspondence and discussion with the tenants involved, including individual home visits to discuss the works to individual properties.

HOUSING VOIDS PROGRAMME 2015

- The Voids Programme which was introduced in 2014 continued in 2015. This Programme is aimed at returning long-term vacant local authority properties to productive use.
- Leitrim County Council recouped funding in the sum of €177,474 towards the cost of significant refurbishment works to 9 properties in various locations throughout the County.

DISABILITY WORKS TO LOCAL AUTHORITY DWELLINGS 2015

- Medical/Disability related adaptation works are carried out to individual units of our housing stock where necessary to render the dwelling more suitable to the particular needs of a member of the tenant household. Typical works include, depending on the individual circumstances, installation of level access shower, installation of rails in bathrooms, installation of ramp access to front/back doors, installation of oil heating systems or storage heating and associated works.
- Adaptation Works were completed in respect of 18 local authority dwellings at a total cost of €73,140 in 2015 with 90% of the funding recouped from the Department in the sum of €65,826.



EXAMPLE OF KITCHENS IN DWELLINGS UPGRADED UNDER THE 2015 VOIDS PROGRAMME.

WATER SERVICES

RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

Over €70,000 was spent on the Rural Water Programme in 2015 with the following Group Water Schemes receiving grant aid to carry out upgrading works: Cornabrone/Aghaslane GWS, Cloonsarne GWS and Lough Errill GWS. The Rural Water Section also continued to work with various proposed Group Sewerage Schemes in order to progress them to construction.

WATER SERVICES

Irish Water was formally established on the 1st January 2014 as the National Water Utility and Leitrim County Council, operating on behalf of Irish Water, has successfully completed the first two years of a twelve year Service Level Agreement with the new National Utility. An Annual Service Plan outlining the targets for the year was agreed in advance and a budget of €3.6 million was provided. In 2015 Leitrim County Council was successful in drawing down substantial funding for refurbishment and health & safety related projects and continues to make submissions for other refurbishment works deemed necessary to various parts of the infrastructure throughout the County. The Council continues to actively engage with Irish Water in developing and progressing the 2014-2017 Transformation Plan.

WATER SERVICES OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

During 2015, Irish Water agreed to invest in a number of pipeline replacements which will reduce the unaccounted for water rate within the County. This investment in Mohill, Ballinamore, Carrick and Manorhamilton will allow water services to replace 1950's and 1960's deteriorating cast iron pipelines with new high performance polyethylene pipelines. 2015 also saw Irish Water carry out energy audits on the nation's 50 biggest energy users. Carrick on Shannon water treatment plant fell into this category and the conclusions of this energy audit will see a €300k investment in new pumps and raising main pipelines upgrades.

Irish Water has invested in Process optimisation of our water treatment plants, this will see best practises put in place which will allow higher quality water produced at each of the main treatment plants.

Irish Water carried out Health and Safety audits on its Infrastructure within Leitrim and follow up works are continuously reducing the H&S risks to our staff and securing Irish Water assets. Continuous effort is being maintained to ensure that all H&S legislation is being upheld and that the required systems and processes are in place.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

In 2015, Leitrim County Council was successful in drawing down substantial funding for refurbishment of existing infrastructure and health & safety related projects and continues to make submissions for other refurbishment works deemed necessary to various parts of the infrastructure throughout the County.

IRISH WATER MAJOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN 2014-2016

Progress in 2015 of projects in County Leitrim:

1. North Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme Project
2. Manorhamilton Sewerage Scheme and the Mohill Sewerage Scheme Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades.
3. Irish Water Minor Capital Programme of Works

Throughout 2015 the Water Services Section has engaged with the Asset Strategy section in Irish Water and prepared reports and business case submissions for the inclusion of infrastructural projects in County Leitrim for inclusion in the next Capital investment Plan 2017 – 2021. Works identified in the Minor

Reactive Maintenance Works – HSQE Audits are being designed, procured and managed by Leitrim County Council Capital Office Staff and progressed well in 2015.

VETERINARY SERVICES

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are currently six slaughterhouses operating in County Leitrim. A total of 869 Cattle, 2760 Sheep and 279 Pigs were slaughtered in Leitrim slaughterhouses during 2015.

DOG WARDEN SERVICE

A total of 445 dogs were seized or surrendered to the Leitrim Dog Warden Service in 2015. This figure represents an increase of 26% on the figure for 2014. A re-homing rate of 97% was achieved in 2013. All dogs re-homed are neutered, vaccinated, groomed and wormed and a home-check is carried out after re-homing. A list of dogs available for re-homing is available on the Leitrim Animals website;

<http://www.leitrimanimals.com/>

DOG LICENSING & MICRO-CHIPPING

Leitrim County Council issued 1933 dog licences in 2015, 391 of these licences were issued on-line. On-line licences may be purchased on www.leitrimcoco.ie. Leitrim Dog Wardens continue to carry out dog licensing checks throughout the county on a regular basis.

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Leitrim County Council continued to support dog micro-chipping, neutering and responsible dog ownership in 2015. Approx 500 dogs were micro-chipped at a reduced rate by Leitrim Animal Welfare and Leitrim County Council during the year. Leitrim County Council 30 dog neutering vouchers to qualifying individuals under the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government/Dog's Trust subsidised neutering programme.



STRAY HORSES

A total of 26 stray horses were collected on behalf of Leitrim County Council in 2015. Many of these horses were abandoned by their owners on roads or public lands. 18 horses were deemed suitable for re-homed to responsible caring owners and 8 horses were deemed unsuitable for re-homing and were humanely euthanized.



LIBRARY SERVICE



PICTURED IN BALLINAMORE LIBRARY ON THE OCCASION OF THE 10TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS ARE MR. FRANK CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CATHAOIRLEACH PADDY O'ROURKE, AND MS. MARY QUINN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICE, WITH LIBRARY STAFF.

LIBRARY VISITS

During 2015, 162,941 people visited their local library in Leitrim, reflecting a keen demand for quality library services from the citizens of County Leitrim. Library membership increased with 6,883 active members registered, while Internet usage stood at 23,292 sessions in 2015. Lending remained strong at 113,305, with adults borrowing 64,897 and children 48,546 items.

LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

Leitrim County Library presented a wide and varied programme of social and cultural activities during 2015, celebrating key festivals such as Seachtain na Gaeilge, Bealtaine, Library Ireland Week, World Book Day, Culture Night, National Science Week and Heritage Week.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS 2015

- 2015 saw the 10th Anniversary of the opening of Ballinamore Library – a community celebration took place to mark the occasion
- Ballinamore Library hosted a most enjoyable visit by the RTÉ Lyric FM string quartet, as part of their outreach programme, the concept behind which was "Life-long learning: listen, engage, enjoy."
- "Idir Mhná" by Irene Duffy Lynch is an Irish translation of John McGahern's novel "Amongst Women". This is most noteworthy as it is the first of McGahern's works to be translated as Gaeilge, and it was launched in the County Library in June 2015.



PICTURED IN BALLINAMORE LIBRARY, ARE MEMBERS OF THE RTÉ LYRIC FM STRING QUARTET, GERRY KELLY, EVELYN GRANT, MARY MCCAGUE AND JEAN KELLY, WITH MARY BOHAN, BALLINAMORE LIBRARY AND EMMA L. CLANCY, LEITRIM COUNTY LIBRARY.



PICTURED IN BALLINAMORE LIBRARY AT THE LAUNCH OF “IDIR MHNÁ”, THE FIRST IRISH TRANSLATION OF JOHN MCGAHERN’S “AMONGST WOMEN” IS AUTHOR, MS IRENE DUFFY LYNCH, HER HUSBAND JOSEPH LYNCH, WITH LIBRARY STAFF.

LIBRARY READING GROUPS

Library Reading Groups continued to grow and develop in a number of our branches during 2015. A very successful **“One Book”** initiative for Reading Groups in County Leitrim took place in Spring 2015 – this collective read of one book comprised two events, with discussion facilitated by Brian Leyden.

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

- The Summer Reading Tree Programme is an initiative which invites children to read six books over the summer months. Now in its third year, it proved very successful in 2015, supporting and encouraging a strong reading pattern during the holiday period. 723 children participated across the branch library network - awards ceremonies were held in all nine branches.
- Reading Groups for Children took place in Carrick-on-Shannon and Drumshanbo Libraries as part of “Wild Words Festival” – Carrick-on-Shannon’s Children’s Literature event.
- Children’s Book Festival is a celebration of books and reading, which takes place during the month of October. This is a major highlight of the Library calendar, and plays an important part in raising awareness and usage of Children’s Services. In October 2015 a full programme of events took place to mark this festival including visits by acclaimed storytellers, children’s writers and illustrators.

Our Library Programming is built on a range of partnerships that have been developed and fostered with community groups and public agencies. Examples include Foróige, Citizen’s Information, Age Action, Irish Countrywomen’s Association, and local History Groups. Film Screenings, Computer Classes, Irish Language Classes, were held in a number of branch libraries, while Craft and Games Clubs such as Knitting and Scrabble met on a regular basis across the Library network.

LOCAL STUDIES

2015 proved a very busy year for the Local Studies Department - supporting local history research, family history enquiries, presenting lectures, exhibitions and the well-received Picture of the Month.



PRESENTATION OF THE SUMMER READING TREE 2015 AWARDS AT CARRIGALLEN LIBRARY ARE HELEN CORCORAN, LIBRARIAN, AND CONOR HESSON, WORLD SINGLE DEADLIFT CHAMPION, WHO PRESENTED THE CHILDREN WITH THEIR AWARDS.

USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Leitrim County Library Service is a progressive public service, responding to the demands of our users, and embracing technological advances to improve service delivery. Wi-Fi facilities were introduced in Ballinamore, Carrick-on-Shannon, Manorhamilton and Mohill Libraries in late 2015, marking a significant advancement in service provision to our local communities and to our visitors.

LEISURE AND RECREATION

In 2015, usage figures for Leitrim Aura Centre were slightly up on previous years - 145,882 people accessed the centre which comprises of a 25m pool with children's and learners facilities, a gym, fitness suite, all weather pitches and a playground. Drumshanbo open-air Swimming Pool, which was open from May to September, had 2,441 visitors in 2015. Aura Leisure, again managed the facility on behalf of Leitrim County Council.

LEITRIM SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

The Council's Sports and Recreation Department continued to deliver, in conjunction with Leitrim Sports Partnership, an ever expanding range of sports and recreational activities and coaching. Leitrim Sports Partnership aims to increase the number of people involved in sport or physical activity in Leitrim. Work continued in over 30 primary schools and with all of the secondary schools in the County. Programmes included Sports hall athletics, Kidz on the Run, TY Kayaking, Girls active for Post Primary Girls and many more. Leitrim Sports Partnership is also providing a programme to Transition Year Students which will see them qualify with a level A1 Award in Sports Leadership. Another new initiative introduced in 2015 was a 14 week Community Coaching programme for unemployed people to become fully qualified Athletics, Soccer and Rugby coaches. This programme included Sports Coaching Training, Coaching experience and Job Readiness Skills.

Leitrim Sports Partnership provided exercise programmes for disability groups in the County including Rehab, IWA, National Learning Network and LAPWD. Programmes were also provided for Active Age Groups including PALs Training which provided an opportunity for members of various Active Age Groups to come together and receive training in how to become physical activity leaders for their own groups. Get Fit Keep Fit, a fitness programme for women, was rolled out in five locations throughout the County

and Men on the Move, a programme for men in three locations. Both programmes were so successful that they will be repeated in 2016.

In 2015, €190,892.00 was invested in sports development with the range of activities delivered by the Partnership. Outlined is a 'snapshot' of the many programmes and activities that were delivered by the Sports Partnership in 2015 in local primary and secondary school, to Community Groups, to the elderly and to persons with a disability ensuring that sport is incorporated into the life-cycle of children, adults and older persons.



PARTICIPANTS IN 'KIDZ ON THE RUN' PROGRAMME



FIRST-AID TRAINING COURSES FOR SPORTS CLUBS



'BODY & SOUL WORKSHOPS' – ACTIVE AGE GROUPS



'GO FOR LIFE' – SPORT & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR OLDER ADULTS



GIRLS ACTIVE FESTIVAL



LOUGH RYNN 10K MINI-MARATHON



IRISH WHEELCHAIR ASSOCIATION



NATIONAL LEARNING NETWORK

NATIONAL BIKE WEEK

The objective of Bike Week is to celebrate cycling in all its forms and to get more people participating in cycling both for transport and recreation. Leitrim County Council in partnership with Leitrim Sports Partnership provided funding to a number of community groups to assist with the organisation of a cycling themed event during Bike Week 2015. A wide range of activities took place including Family Cycle & Bike days, Bicycle maintenance and safety awareness, schools safer cycling training days and a 20km Club Time Trail Tour organised by Lough Melvin Cycling Club.



ACTIVITIES IN LEITRIM AS PART OF NATIONAL BIKE WEEK, 2015

WATER SAFETY

The Leitrim Area Water Safety Committee Swim Weeks Summer Camps, 2015 were held in the following locations:

- Drumshanbo Swimming Pool – 340 children/teenagers
- Keeldra Lake, Cloone, - 160 children/teenagers
- Gulladoo Lake, Carrigallen, - 70 children/teenagers
- Lough Melvin Lake, Rossinver, - 120 children/teenagers Creighmore Pier, Ballinaglera, - 19 children/teenagers

FAI VISIT TO LEITRIM

All soccer clubs in the county were visited by the FAI delegation and there were club visits to the Carrick-on-Shannon town FC, Manorhamilton Rangers FC and Abbey Rovers FC in Ballinamore. The FAI delegation also received a Civic Reception from Leitrim Co Council. The FAI's Football for All and Interculturalism programmes also ran events during the week including a match involving the Irish Amputee team in Manorhamilton and a Power-chair soccer display in Carrick-on-Shannon. The Football Fun Days were held in Carrick on Shannon and Manorhamilton with a large attendance at both events.



FAI VISIT TO LEITRIM JULY, 2015

LEITRIM SPORTS STAR AWARDS 2015

The Leitrim Sports Star awards 2015 were held in the Lough Rynn Castle hotel, Mohill, Co. Leitrim. The purpose of the Leitrim Sports Star Awards is to acknowledge Individuals, Sports Clubs, Teams, Schools and Community Volunteers for their outstanding contributions and achievements to sport and recreation in Leitrim. Mr. John O'Mahony, a well-known GAA pundit was the Guest of Honour and a large crowd attended the event to witness Gerard O'Donnell being awarded the Leitrim Sportsman of the year Award. A special ward was also made to former Leitrim GAA Legend Mr. Packie McGarty for his outstanding contribution to GAA in Leitrim.



LEITRIM SPORTS STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS NOVEMBER, 2015

CIVIL DEFENCE

2015 was once again a busy year for Civil Defence in Leitrim. In January Volunteers provided assistance to HSE Homecare staff by transporting them to vulnerable clients during a period of severe weather. Volunteers remained on standby during further periods of severe weather in January to assist the HSE and other agencies. The Coastguard requested the assistance of Civil Defence Boat Crews on several occasions during the year to go to the aid of members of the public who found themselves in difficulty on our waterways.

All incidents were successfully resolved without injury. Our Volunteers expertise in water based search operations continues to be acknowledged with operations conducted in Leitrim, Cavan, Meath and Mayo. Joint training continued with other Civil Defence Units in order to share the skills acquired by Leitrim Volunteers.

Assistance was provided during the year to a number of Community Groups involved in a variety of activities including charity cycles, regattas, agricultural shows, sponsored swims, charity runs etc. Training for Volunteers continued on a weekly basis throughout the year. In February Leitrim Civil Defence hosted an Avian Flu training exercise for 70 Volunteers from 7 Counties as part of a national programme. Volunteers also participated in a National Radiation monitoring exercise in November involving all Civil Defence Units.

Support continued to be provided to the Environment section with Lake Water monitoring. 2015 concluded with a further period of severe weather resulting in extensive flooding. Volunteers were involved in flood monitoring during the period 05-31 December. During this period assistance was provided to a number of landowners while moving animals from flooded areas. Volunteers also provided assistance to business owners in the Jamestown area during a flood incident. Contact was also maintained with a number of families in flooded areas in order that assistance could be provided in the event of any medical emergency requiring evacuation.



CIVIL DEFENCE CREW PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT ON LAKE MONITORING.

FIRE SERVICES



PICTURED L-R MR. JOE MCLOUGHLIN SSO, MR. FINIAN JOYCE CFO, MR. FRANK CURRAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE, COUNCILLOR PADDY O'ROURKE CATHAOIRLEACH, MR. CONOR LYNCH ACFO, MR. JOHN NOLAN SO, MS. MARY QUINN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES.

EMERGENCY INCIDENTS 2015

Leitrim Fire Service provides an emergency response service to Leitrim and part of north Roscommon by agreement with Roscommon County Council. Fire brigades in the adjoining counties of Donegal and Cavan (Bundoran, Killeshandra, Dowra and Ballyconnell) also provide first attendance cover to parts of Leitrim. In 2015 there were a total of 276 emergency incidents in Leitrim generating 287 callouts serviced by Leitrim brigades.

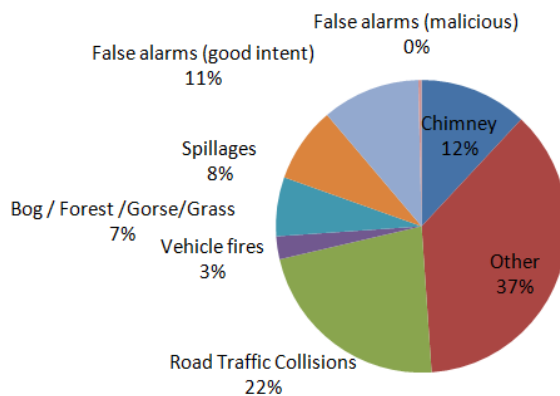
| Type of incident | Total 2015 |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Chimney | 33 |
| Other | 102 |
| Road Traffic Collisions | 62 |
| Vehicle fires | 7 |
| Bog / Forest /Gorse / Grass | 18 |
| Spillages | 23 |
| False alarms (good intent) | 30 |
| False alarms (malicious) | 1 |
| Total | 276 |

Leitrim Emergency Incidents in 2015

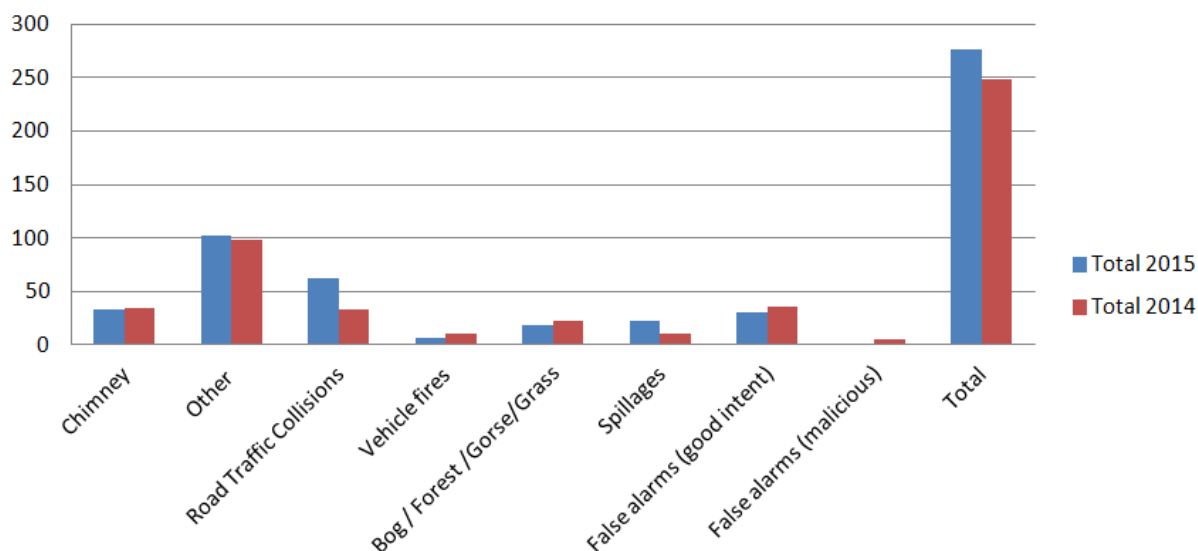
BREAKDOWN OF EMERGENCY INCIDENTS BY TYPE

A pie chart analysis of the incidents for 2015 gives the following breakdown by incident type:

Emergency incidents in Leitrim in 2015



Comparison with 2014 figures



Overall the numbers of calls are very similar when compared to 2014, with the exception of the increase in the number of Road Traffic Collisions attended to by Leitrim Fire Brigades.

BREAKDOWN OF INCIDENTS BY STATION (2008-2015)

Each fire brigade unit covering Leitrim responded to the following number of emergency incidents in 2015. A comparison with other years is also included.

| Station | No. of inc. 2015 | No. of inc. 2014 | No. of inc. 2013 | No. of inc. 2012 | No. of inc. 2011 | No. of inc. 2010 | No. of inc. 2009 | No. of inc. 2008 |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Manorhamilton | 77 | 50 | 58 | 53 | 72 | 109 | 67 | 64 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Carrick-on-Shannon | 60 | 57 | 58 | 54 | 72 | 95 | 87 | 91 |
| Mohill | 54 | 76 | 80 | 47 | 63 | 87 | 79 | 65 |
| Drumshanbo | 46 | 35 | 54 | 33 | 42 | 83 | 41 | 54 |
| Ballinamore | 50 | 45 | 25 | 16 | 40 | 45 | 30 | 46 |

BREAKDOWN OF TURNOUT BY QUARTER 2008-2015

A breakdown of the 287 turnovers by quarter reveals the following trend:

| Quarter | No. of inc. 2015 | No. of inc. 2014 | No. of inc. 2013 | No. of inc. 2012 | No. of inc. 2011 | No. of inc. 2010 | No. of inc. 2009 | No. of inc. 2008 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Q1 (1 st January – 31 st March) | 70 | 58 | 60 | 45 | 77 | 89 | 84 | 67 |
| Q2 (1 st April – 30 th June) | 63 | 86 | 92 | 56 | 99 | 191 | 66 | 98 |
| Q3 (1 st July – 30 th September) | 49 | 55 | 44 | 46 | 49 | 71 | 74 | 70 |
| Q4 (1 st October – 31 st December) | 105 | 64 | 65 | 56 | 64 | 68 | 80 | 85 |
| | 287 | 263 | 261 | 203 | 289 | 419 | 304 | 320 |

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING

Leitrim Fire Service personnel of all ranks completed a range of training courses in 2015:



PUMP OPERATOR TRAINING

Two Pump Operator Training Courses were held at Ballinamore Fire Station in 2015.



LEITRIM FIRE SERVICE ATTENDING A PUMP OPERATOR COURSE

RECRUIT FIRE-FIGHTER TRAINING

Two new recruits, Barry McDermott and Wayne McKeon, completed their 3 week Recruits courses in 2015. They will be stationed in Manorhamilton and Ballinamore respectively.



FIRE SERVICE RECRUITS COURSE, DONEGAL, NOVEMBER 2015

NEW CLASS B APPLIANCE AND 4X4 VEHICLES

Approval was received from the Department of Environment Community and Local Government for the purchase of one new Class B Appliance for the Carrick on Shannon unit. The vehicle should be delivered to Leitrim Fire Service by early 2017. Leitrim County Council received delivery of 2 new 4x4 vehicles for the fire service in July 2015. The new fire vehicles were assigned to Manorhamilton and Drumshanbo fire stations to replace their existing 4x4 vehicles. The new fire vehicles were purchased as part of a

government procurement contract. Capital funding was received from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government for the two new vehicles.

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE FIRE SERVICE

These were introduced nationally for the first time in 2004. The 2015 returns for Leitrim are included in the table below together with the comparable figures for 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009

| Performance Indicator | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>F1</i> | 4.55 mins | 4.92 mins | 4.97 mins | 5.22 mins | 5.24 mins | 5.23 mins | 5.06 mins |
| F2 | 39.76% 46.99% 13.25% | 46.94% 46.94% 6.12% | 43.2% 42.4% 14.4% | 40.8% 48% 11.2% | 41.6% 36% 22.4% | 33.5% 41.4% 25.1% | 40.2% 41.4% 15.4% |
| F3 | 23 received 27 processed | 25 received 23 processed | 33 received 34 processed | 39 received 35 processed | 32 received 35 processed | 34 received 34 processed | 32 received 32 processed |

F1: Represents Fire Service mobilisation times

F2: Represents a percentage of attendance at scene of a Fire within 10 minutes or less, Between 10 and 20 minutes and greater than 20 minutes.

F3: Represents the number of Fire Cert applications received and processed.

INSPECTIONS

Leitrim Fire Service carried out a total of **158** inspections under the following Acts in 2015, namely

Fire Services Act 1981 (Section 24)
 Indoor Licensing Bill, 2003
 Building Control Act, 1990
 Local Government Planning and Development Acts, 1963 - 2001
 Dangerous Substances Act, 1972
 Intoxicating Liquor Acts, 1833 and 1988
 Dance Halls Act, 1935 and 1977
 Gaming and Lottery Act, 1956
 Registration of Clubs Acts 1904 and 1981.

MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Leitrim County Council personnel took part in a number of Major Emergency Management exercises and training Courses in 2015.



STAFF ATTENDING MAJOR EMERGENCY EXERCISES TRAINING

- Live Exercise “Recovery”, Donegal, November 2015
The Exercise Aim was to mobilise the Multiple Fatality Unit and to demonstrate the activation process involved.



NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY WEEK 2015

National Fire Safety Week took place during October 5th – 12th 2015 and was jointly launched by the Chairperson of Leitrim County Council and the Chief Executive.



PICTURED L-R MR. FRANK CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MS. MARY QUINN DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, COUNCILLOR JOHN MCCARTIN CHAIRPERSON, MS. PATRICIA FLANAGAN, LEITRIM OLDER PERSONS COUNCIL, MR. CONOR LYNCH ACFO, MR. DONAL FOX, MR. JAMES MALONE SACFO.

The theme for National Fire Safety Week was **“Smoking at Home Causes Fatal Fires”**. Leitrim fire service prepared a special programme of events including a social media campaign for the first time. 200 smoke alarm testers were also distributed to vulnerable householders in the community.

Maximising Operational and Organisational Capacity - To maximise the potential of our Human, Financial and ICT resources to optimise organisational capacity and performance and ensure high quality services and information tailored to meet the needs of all our customers.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY

MEETINGS OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Bi Monthly Meetings | 7 |
| Area Roads Meetings | 1 |
| Annual Meeting | 1 |

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

| | |
|--|----|
| Ballinamore Municipal District Meetings | 11 |
| Annual Meeting | 1 |
| Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District Meetings | 11 |
| Annual Meeting | 1 |
| Manorhamilton Municipal District Meetings | 11 |
| Annual Meeting | 1 |



MEETING OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL, CARRIGALLEN, MAY, 2015.
L-R: MS. SINEAD FLYNN, COUNCILLOR PADDY O'ROURKE, CATHAOIRLEACH,
MR. FRANK CURRAN, MS. MARY QUINN,

ANNUAL MEETING OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

At the Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in June 2015, Councillor John McCartin was elected Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council to serve for a one-year term.

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) consists of the Cathaoirleach and the Chairpersons of the Strategic Policy Committees, and is supported by the Chief Executive. The role of the CPG includes advising and assisting the Elected Council in the formulation, development, monitoring and reviewing of policy for

Leitrim County Council. Full decision making power however remains with the Elected Council. The Corporate Policy Group met on 7 occasions in 2015.

QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

In 2015, a number of initiatives to enhance our customer service delivery and quality were implemented. Services at the main Customer Services Desk in Aras-an-Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon were augmented and staffed by two full time resources. In 2015, we also expanded our Social Media channels to engage with the public. The staff also have responsibility for issuing standard application forms and also deal with a number of front-line processes that were transferred to the Customer Services Team: initial processing of housing applications, logging of housing maintenance requests, queries on the Register of Electors, Fix your Street, Ethics Declarations and processing mobile phones bills for Council staff.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

In accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, enacted in November 2014, up-front fees for freedom of information requests were abolished. 2015 saw a significant increase in the level of freedom of information requests submitted with 52 such requests being received in 2015 as compared to a total of 19 requests received in 2014. At the end of 2015 29 of the 52 requests received had been granted, 8 were part granted, 10 were refused, 3 were withdrawn and 2 were live awaiting decision.

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

A total of €208,545 was spent in 2015 on Higher Education fees and maintenance grants, broken down as follows: €73,125 (Fees), €98,794 (Ordinary Maintenance) and €36,626 (Special Rate of Maintenance Grant). Leitrim County Council continues to process student grants for students who are currently in receipt of a student grant from Leitrim County Council and who are progressing to the next year of the same course, until such time as those students have completed their current courses. All new applications, including applications from existing students changing courses or progressing to new courses, are made online to SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland). A total of 9 renewal applications were received as at 31st December 2015 of which 9 were approved grant assistance for the 2015/16 academic year.

CUSTOMER COMPLAINTS

Leitrim County Council received four Customer Complaints in 2015, one of which related to a private Contractor and therefore the substance of the complaint could not be investigated by the Council, the other three complaints were responded to. In addition two Complaints were received from the Office of the Ombudsman. A detailed response issued to the Office of the Ombudsman outlining the background and circumstances to the complaints and neither complaint was upheld.

MEDIA REQUESTS

The Designated Media Liaison Officer continued to manage media enquiries in 2015. A significant number of media requests were received in 2015 from the local and national print and broadcasting media. The Council also actively promoted news, events and announcements of funding for projects by releasing press releases and statements to the local media. Information was also disseminated via the newpage of the Internet and the social media channels.

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

A Draft Social Media Policy was developed and staff in number of Departments were trained on the use of social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, U-tube and Linkein. The Council are proactively using the social media channels to communicate with our customers and promote local authority events and initiatives. Maximum use of the social media channels was utilised during the severe weather events in late 2015 to communicate with the public and disseminate information in relation to status updates on flooding, road-closures etc.

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL'S FACEBOOK POSTING – DECEMBER, 2015

The screenshot shows the Facebook interface for Leitrim County Council. The main post, published on December 30, 2015, at Carrick On Shannon, Ireland, describes the impact of Storm Frank, noting that water levels rose approximately 65mm but remain over 300mm lower than the peak of December 13, 2015. It anticipates further rising water levels over the next 24 hours and mentions that council staff are managing floods on roads. A photo of a yellow 'ROAD FLOODED' sign in a flooded area is included. The left sidebar features links to 'Breffni Family Resource Centre', 'Culture Night', and 'Carrick on Shannon'. The right sidebar displays a list of friends and a 'Recent' section with years from 2016 down to 2011.

Update on Flooding Event December, 2015.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AND FOLLOW US ON TWITTER.

MOTOR TAXATION

During 2015 a total of 39,303 vehicle licence transactions were processed for Leitrim which represented a 3% decrease on 2014 transactions.

The details are as follows:

- Motor tax counter transactions - 16,273 (41.40%)
- Motor tax postal transactions - 3,149 (8.02%)
- Online transactions - 19,881 (50.58%)

The online motor tax service allows customers to renew their Motor Tax 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, through the website www.motortax.ie.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Register of Electors for 2015/16 was published on 1st February, 2015. The figures in relation to the Live Register at 2015/2016 were as follows:

| Dáil Constituency | Presidential Electors | Dáil Electors |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Roscommon/South Leitrim | 13,662 | 14,176 |
| Sligo/North Leitrim | 11,216 | 11,741 |
| Total | 24,878 | 25,917 |
| | | |

| European Parliament Constituency | European Electors | Potential European Electors |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Midlands- North West | 26,124 | 472 |
| | 26,124 | 472 |

| Local Electoral Areas | Local Government Electors |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Ballinamore | 9,445 |
| Carrick-on-Shannon | 8,615 |
| Manorhamilton | 8,772 |
| Total | 26,832 |

SUPPLEMENT TO THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS – MARRIAGE REFERENDUM MAY, 2015

The Supplement to the Register of Electors was prepared and published in advance of the Marriage Referendum which was held on Friday 22nd May, 2015. A total of 227 applications to be included on the Supplement to the Register of Electors were received in advance of the closing date, 214 of which were approved and 24 applications were received after the closing date.

MAXIMISE THE POTENTIAL OF OUR HUMAN, FINANCIAL AND ICT RESOURCES TO IMPROVE ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE

HUMAN RESOURCES

Leitrim County Council recognises that one of its most valuable assets is our staff and, against a backdrop of reduced human resources and a difficult financial operating environment, the Council continues the drive to reduce costs through organisational rationalisation and restructuring and by service delivery organised in different ways with the ongoing support and cooperation of all staff.

RECRUITMENT AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

The workforce planning process has continued throughout 2015 with a view to streamlining operational processes and to assist in making the best use of diminishing staff resources. There were a total of 10 staff retirements in 2015 and 1 Death in Service (R.I.P.). A further 10 staff members on temporary contracts left Leitrim County Council during 2015. Recruitment activity also increased significantly however in 2015 with 28 recruitment competitions completed to fill a range of vacancies arising and a total of 20 new staff joining Leitrim County Council on either permanent or temporary contracts during the year. The Council, in common with other public bodies, continued to be subject to the public sector staffing moratorium in 2015. Under the terms of the moratorium Leitrim County Council must apply for sanction to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government for each new position prior to any recruitment process being commenced.

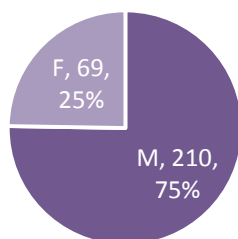
A detailed Business Process Review (BPR) of the Housing function was completed in 2015 to determine the most appropriate structure and identify potential areas where administrative or other efficiencies could be

achieved. Work also commenced on a BPR of the Planning and Environment functions in 2015 with further such processes planned for other functional areas in 2016.

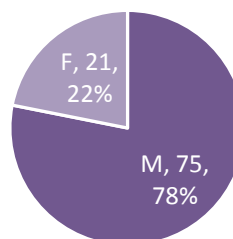
Gender Breakdown of Leitrim County Council Staff 31/12/15



Gender Breakdown of Interview Attendees at Interview 2015



Gender Breakdown of Interview Board Members 2015



STAFF LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

The Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) for staff was closely linked to the new Annual Service Delivery Plan as adopted by the Members, and the associated Departmental Team Plans, in 2015. Training in relation to the new national Competency Framework, aimed at developing a competency-based approach to performance development within the local government sector, was also rolled out at senior and middle management levels in 2015, for implementation as part of the PMDS process in 2016. A comprehensive Learning and Development Plan was implemented in 2015 while the Staff Education Scheme was also re-introduced providing support to staff members pursuing further education opportunities.

CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

Leitrim County Council was awarded a two year Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Accreditation by Engineers Ireland in September 2015, following completion by the Council's Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Committee of a comprehensive submission to Engineers Ireland and a detailed on-site audit process. The Council was benchmarked against a rigorous standard on all aspects of its CPD policies and processes and now join a network of leading organisations, in the private and public sector, which have been awarded this accreditation.



AWARD OF CPD ACCREDITATION: MR. TERRY MCGOVERN, MR. GERRY DOYLE, COUNCILLOR MARY BOHAN, MS. CAROLINE SPILLANE, GENERAL ENGINEERS IRELAND, MR. FINIAN JOYCE, MR. SHAY O'CONNOR AND MR. PEADAR GRIFFIN.

MENTORING PROGRAMME

The Mentoring Programme, introduced in 2014, and providing staff with the opportunity to avail of the advice, assistance and support of more senior staff in relation to aspects of their work and/or career development was significantly expanded during the year. The Council's Service Level Agreement for the provision of an Employee Assistance Programme also continued in 2015.

HR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Council's HR Management System – CORE HRM - provides an integrated end to end modular IT solution inclusive of Personnel Management, Superannuation, Training, Payroll, Time & Attendance, Recruitment, Performance Management and Business Intelligence Reporting. Employees can access their individual employment records, pension calculator, online payslips, and submit leave requests and queries with significant automation. Manager self-service supports approvals, automated reminders and team analytics. The system is based on meaningful real time data, user centric technologies and employee engagement. It provides immediate HR value and support with an efficient focus on the organisations most important assets - The Workforce. 2015 was the first full year implementation of payroll integration under a Service Level Agreement with the Local Authority Shared Payroll & Superannuation Centre in Portlaoise – the shared services project is to be extended to include Superannuation processing in 2016.

FINANCE

Although the economic climate continued to improve during 2015 the Council finances continued to require tight budgetary control. The financial results for 2015 improved on previous years and returned a surplus of €102,209. This surplus resulted from a higher than expected level of income from the NPPR (Non Principal Private Residence Charge) in 2015. The Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) at 31st December 2015 reflects the removal of Water and Waste assets due to their statutory transfer to Irish Water. Loans relating to Water and Waste Assets were also redeemed in 2015 through the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

PROCUREMENT

The Office of Government Procurement (OGP) commenced operations in 2014 and, together with four key sectors (Health, Defence, Education and Local Government), takes responsibility for sourcing all common goods and services on behalf of the Public Service. The Public Service spend is €8.5 Billion per annum on goods and services and €3.5 Billion per annum on works – over €23 Million a day. The OGP will also take full responsibility for procurement policy and procedures. The Procurement process within Leitrim County Council sets out to:

- Deliver Value for Money and Best Value – challenging economic environment.
- Make it easy for suppliers of goods and services to do business with the Council and so promote equality of access- Engage with the SME sector .
- Provide clear manageable procurement processes and lines of responsibility to promote consistency, best practice and quality across all Council services.
- Contribute to the achievement of the Governments’ efficiency saving targets and beyond.
- Develop the use of technology to streamline services and so achieve savings.
- Collaborate to maximise purchasing power.
- Include the requirements of the Sustainable Procurement Policy in the specification of all new contracts.

The public procurement process spans the whole project life cycle, from initial conception and definition of the needs of the public service through to the end of the useful life of an asset or the end of a contract.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Council’s existing Audit Committee was dissolved with the dissolution of the Council following the Local Elections in May 2014 and a new Audit Committee was established by resolution at the Council meeting in July 2014 (with an amendment to the membership approved at the November Council meeting). The Committee comprises 2 (two) Elected members and 3 (three) External Members. The Elected Members appointed to the Committee are Councillor Sinead Guckian and Councillor John McCartin. The external membership of the Committee is Mr. Bryan Kelly (Chairperson), Mr. Stephen Hennessy and Mr. John McDwyer.

The role of the Audit Committee is to advise the Council on financial reporting process, internal control, risk management and audit matters. A total of 4 meetings were held in 2015 and the Audit Committee considered the following matters:

- Audit Committee Charter
- Public Spending Code
- Internal Audit Programme
- External Audit
- Preparation of the Audit Committee Statutory Audit Report.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

In terms of ICT Development in June, 2015 the Leitrim County Council website www.leitrim.ie was launched by Minister Richard Bruton, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. The website will serve as the ‘Official Gateway to Leitrim’ and is designed to meet the diverse needs of the residential population, the business community, leisure enthusiasts and visitors to the County. The website was designed with a vision to create a ‘one-stop’ modern and novel internet presence for Leitrim, within which, the expansive range of services, facilities, amenities and events across state agencies, commercial & business sectors, tourism and sporting organisations in Leitrim are consolidated into one central internet point.

On an operational level in 2015 the Council replaced almost staff 100 computers throughout the organisation, upgraded the Firewall to a Sonicwall 3600 and implemented a total network security suite called Trend Complete.



LAUNCH OF WWW.LEITRIM.IE L-R: MR. KEVIN GLANCY, MR. FRANK CURRAN, MINISTER RICHARD BRUTON, MR. SHANE TIERNAN, MS. UNA WALL, MR. RICHARD MOLLOY.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Leitrim County Council continues to eliminate the hazards that give rise to safety, health and welfare risks for employees and those who may be affected by our activities. Where elimination is not possible, control measures are implemented that manage such hazards and risks, so as to prevent injuries at work. Guidance and a series of actions on how to prevent injury and/or ill-health associated with our activities have been further developed throughout the organisation, positively striving towards our objective of continuous improvement.

APPENDIX 1 – STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2015

Appendix 1

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT) FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2015

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year. Transfers to/from reserves are shown separately and not allocated by service division. Note 16 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget.

Expenditure by Division

| | | Gross Expenditure | Income | Net Expenditure | Net Expenditure |
|---|-------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | 2015 | 2015 | 2015 | 2014 |
| | Notes | € | € | € | € |
| Housing & Building | | 3,908,042 | 3,317,565 | 590,477 | 554,857 |
| Roads Transportation & Safety | | 12,451,500 | 9,190,359 | 3,261,140 | 3,139,009 |
| Water Services | | 3,821,939 | 3,890,701 | (68,761) | 29,024 |
| Development Management | | 3,249,614 | 1,245,653 | 2,003,961 | 2,394,543 |
| Environmental Services | | 3,631,814 | 513,378 | 3,118,436 | 3,216,720 |
| Recreation & Amenity | | 2,798,146 | 188,979 | 2,609,167 | 2,612,889 |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | | 648,838 | 522,460 | 126,378 | 502,544 |
| Miscellaneous Services | | 3,263,466 | 1,352,860 | 1,910,607 | 1,417,409 |
| Total Expenditure/Income | 15 | 33,773,380 | 20,221,966 | | |
| Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Property Tax | | | | 13,661,406 | 13,865,995 |
| Rates | | | | 5,193,566 | 5,177,063 |
| Local Property Tax | | | | 8,282,319 | 8,282,319 |
| Pension Related Deduction | | | | 637,334 | 673,996 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers | 16 | | | 681,814 | 266,383 |
| Transfers from/(to) Reserves | 14 | | | (459,605) | (113,263) |
| Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year | | | | 102,209 | 153,120 |
| General Reserve @ 1st January 2016 | | | | (1,426,331) | (1,579,451) |
| General Reserve @ 31st December 2015 | | | | (1,324,122) | (1,426,331) |

APPENDIX 2 – STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2015

Appendix 2

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AT 31ST DECEMBER 2015

| | Notes | 2015 € | 2014 € |
|--|-------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Fixed Assets | 1 | | |
| Operational | | 102,220,759 | 101,737,697 |
| Infrastructural | | 734,173,996 | 734,173,996 |
| Community | | 4,883,064 | 4,465,510 |
| Non-Operational | | - | - |
| | | 841,277,818 | 840,377,203 |
| Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses | 2 | 17,194,807 | 17,104,679 |
| Long Term Debtors | 3 | 10,312,822 | 10,833,538 |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Stocks | 4 | - | - |
| Trade Debtors & Prepayments | 5 | 5,230,021 | 11,464,574 |
| Bank Investments | | 9,034,743 | 9,570,864 |
| Cash at Bank | | 5,947,472 | 164,813 |
| Cash In Transit | | - | - |
| | | 20,212,237 | 21,200,250 |
| Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year) | | | |
| Bank Overdraft | | - | - |
| Creditors & Accruals | 6 | 4,450,602 | 9,043,883 |
| Finance Leases | | - | - |
| | | 4,450,602 | 9,043,883 |
| Net Current Assets / (Liabilities) | | 16,761,636 | 12,156,367 |
| Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year) | | | |
| Loans Payable | 7 | 6,836,490 | 7,393,563 |
| Finance Leases | | - | - |
| Refundable deposits | 8 | 3,149,047 | 3,383,073 |
| Other | | 1,864,624 | 1,864,624 |
| | | 11,860,181 | 12,641,260 |
| Net Assets | | 872,898,822 | 867,830,527 |
| Represented by | | | |
| Capitalisation Account | 9 | 841,277,818 | 840,377,203 |
| Income WIP | 2 | 22,148,745 | 17,981,771 |
| Specific Revenue Reserve | | 956,814 | 956,814 |
| General Revenue Reserve | | (1,324,122) | (1,426,331) |
| Other Balances | 10 | 9,637,666 | 9,941,071 |
| Total Reserves | | 872,898,822 | 867,830,527 |

APPENDIX 3

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 6TH JUNE 2014 (UPDATED TO REFLECT ANY CHANGES ARISING).

| |
|--|
| Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly |
| Councillor Justin Warnock Councillor Frank Dolan |
| Ballinamore/Ballyconnell Joint Drainage Committee |
| Councillor Paddy O'Rourke Councillor Caillian Ellis Councillor John McCartin Councillor Gerry Dolan Councillor Martin Kenny |
| Association of Irish Local Government |
| Councillor Sean McGowan elected 26 th June 2015 to replace Councillor Mary Bohan Councillor Sinead Guckian Councillor John McCartin |
| Local Authority Members Association |
| Councillor Sean McGowan |
| PEACE III Partnership |
| Councillor Mary Bohan Councillor Sean McDermott Councillor Brendan Barry |
| Leitrim County Enterprise Fund Limited |
| Councillor Felim Gurn Councillor Justin Warnock |
| Irish Central Border Areas Network |
| Councillor Sean McDermott Councillor Paddy O'Rourke elected 26 th June 2015 to replace Councillor Caillian Ellis The Cathaoirleach is an ex-officio member. |
| Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited |
| Councillor Mary Bohan |
| Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee |
| Councillor Sinead Guckian Councillor Enda Stenson Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire Councillor John McCartin Councillor Seadhna Logan Councillor Des Guckian |

| |
|--|
| Regional Drugs Task Force |
| Councillor Sinead Guckian |
| Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Training Board |
| Councillor Mary Bohan Councillor Paddy O'Rourke Councillor Enda Stenson |
| Local Community Development Committee |
| Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire Councillor Felim Gurn Councillor Paddy O'Rourke |
| Governing Body of NUI Galway |
| Councillor John McCartin elected on the 14 th January 2016 -Councillor Gerry Kilrane (replaced Councillor Tony Ferguson as and from 5 th March 2012 to 31st January 2013). |
| Library Advisory Committee |
| 18 Elected Members |
| Lough Oughter and Gowra and River Erne Drainage Committee |
| Councillor Paddy O'Rourke Councillor John McCartin |
| Western River Basin District Advisory Council |
| Councillor Sean McGowan Councillor Frank Dolan |
| North Western River Basin District Advisory Council |
| Councillor Justin Warnock Councillor Sean McDermott |
| Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council |
| Councillor Paddy O'Rourke Councillor Des Guckian |
| Regional Health Forum |
| Councillor Caillian Ellis Councillor Felim Gurn Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire |
| County Leitrim Local Sports Partnership |
| Councillor Enda Stenson Councillor Frank Dolan Councillor Caillian Ellis |
| Audit Committee |
| Councillor Sinead Guckian Councillor John McCartin |

| |
|--|
| Disability Advisory Group |
| Councillor Felim Gurn Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire Councillor Des Guckian |
| Leitrim Joint Policing Committee |
| Councillor Sinead Guckian Councillor Mary Bohan Councillor Justin Warnock Councillor Caillian Ellis Councillor Des Guckian Councillor Brendan Barry Councillor Padraig Fallon Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire Councillor Sean McDermott Councillor Enda Stenson Councillor Felim Gurn Councillor Gerry Dolan Councillor John McCartin |
| Tourism Alliance |
| Councillor Felim Gurn – Manorhamilton Municipal District Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire – Carrick Municipal District Councillor Caillian Ellis – Ballinamore Municipal District |
| 1916 Centenary Committee |
| Councillor Sean McDermott- Manorhamilton Municipal District Councillor Sinead Guckian – Carrick Municipal District Councillor Paddy O’Rourke – Ballinamore Municipal District Councillor Brendan Barry – Ballinamore Municipal District – appointed 2 nd March 2015 Councillor Sean McDermott- Manorhamilton Municipal District Councillor Sinead Guckian – Carrick Municipal District Councillor Paddy O’Rourke – Ballinamore Municipal District Councillor Brendan Barry – Ballinamore Municipal District – appointed 2 nd March 2015 |
| Steering Committee on Comhairle na nOg |
| Councillor Paddy O’Rourke appointed 26 th June 2015 Annual Meeting |

APPENDIX 4 - DETAILS OF CONFERENCES/ SEMINARS ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

| Month | Details of the Conference/Seminar | Location | No of Members attending |
|-----------|--|-----------|-------------------------|
| January | ACE - The Finance Act 2014 | Louth | 2 |
| | | | |
| March | Irish Private and Public Bodies (Consulting) Ltd – “The Councillor and Irish Water” (Water Services Bill 2014) | Donegal | 1 |
| | | | |
| April | Local Authority Members Association Spring Conference “Housing Provision” | Galway | 8 |
| | | | |
| May | Galway County Council - “The Courthouse” Restoration Conference | Galway | 1 |
| | | | |
| July | DOE - LCDC Tourism Seminar | Longford | 1 |
| | | | |
| | 35 th Annual MacGill Summer School | Donegal | 5 |
| | | | |
| | Council for the West - Western Regional Development Conference | Roscommon | 1 |
| | | | |
| September | DOE/ICLRD - Housing Debate: Building our Communities through integrated working with Local Government | Kildare | 1 |
| | | | |
| October | Local Authority Members Association Autumn Seminar “The Lobbying Act” | Kilkenny | 10 |
| | | | |
| December | Celtic Conferences - EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 | Louth | 2 |

APPENDIX 5
DETAILS OF TRAINING EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL IN 2015

| Month | Details of Training Events | Location | No of Members attending |
|----------|---|-----------|-------------------------|
| March | Association of Irish Local Government Annual Conference | Monaghan | 5 |
| | | | |
| April | Association of Irish Local Government – Module 2 – “Local Economic Development & the Role of the Local Authority” | Galway | 3 |
| | | | |
| May | Association of Irish Local Government – Module 3 – “Local Community Development and LCDC’s – A New Role for Local Authorities” | Sligo | 1 |
| | | | |
| June | Association of Irish Local Government – Module 4 Local Authority Finance and Housing (National Social Housing Strategy) | Westmeath | 1 |
| | | | |
| October | Association of Irish Local Government - Autumn Seminar – “Local Government Reform New Structures 12 months on” | Cork | 6 |
| | | | |
| | Association of Irish Local Government - Module 5 Roads, Transport & Urban Traffic Planning | Leitrim | 1 |
| | | | |
| November | Association of Irish Local Government – Module 6 – “Septic Tanks, Ground Eater & Water Pollution & Registration of Lobbying Act 2014” | Dublin | 2 |

Dear Chairperson and Members,

This report is being presented to the Council in accordance with the requirements of Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended. The report sets out in summary fashion progress made in relation to commitments set down in the Council's Corporate Plan for the period 2014-2019. The report specifically highlights the progress made during 2015 and follows the same format as the Corporate Plan itself.

Economic Development

The Council continued to carry out an extensive range of work on promoting Leitrim as a strong location for economic development and facilitating infrastructure and other supports to encourage economic development during 2015. This was carried out through targeted infrastructure provision, proactive forward planning and active marketing and collaboration with other agencies.

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) which was established in 2014 continued to work on the preparation of a Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) including additional consultation, public consultation phase and workshops with members. It is now complete with approval of the Municipal Districts, the SPC and the Northern and Western Regional Assembly and will go to full council in January 2016 for approval. The LECP includes both a Community element and an Economic element both of which have undergone extensive consultation which was concluded in 2015 with consultation with the High Level Advisory Group, SPCs and a specific workshop with members as well as a public consultation process during summer 2015. The LECP was also informed by a detailed Economic Strategy prepared during the year.

A number of actions within the LECP and Economic Strategy of the Council have commenced during the year. The first of these is the marketing of the County as a positive location to do business with the launch of the Leitrim.ie site which now includes a portfolio of information on the County acting as a gateway to the Council website, Leitrim Sports, Leitrim business and Leitrim Tourism. A DVD highlighting the different business sectors operating in the County was completed and promoted in social media and on the website. In addition a further sector or support specific DVDs were developed and will be launched and promoted in 2016.

Leitrim County Council continued to facilitate the Upper-Shannon-erne Business initiative, which has 6 key partners – local authorities of Leitrim, Longford, Cavan and Roscommon as well as Bord na Mona and ESB. The second phase of this project was launched by Minister for Enterprise Trade and Employment, Richard Bruton TD. In summary the work carried out under this initiative included the following:

- A co-ordinator was appointed for the Upper Shannon-erne at end of April 2015
- Food Group: A number of mentoring sessions facilitated by Aurivo Co-operative were held in the areas of packaging, marketing and social media. In addition, a Regional Food Seminar was held in Drumshanbo which focused on healthy food and producers from across the region got the opportunity to meet buyers as well as showcase their produce.
- Tourism and Creative – both groups met a number of times to form regional networking groups and as a result of ideas emerging from this an application was submitted for a Flagship Regional Economic Development Zone (REDZ). Leitrim County Council led out on an application under the, Regional Economic Development Zone (REDZ) initiative, to apply for flagship funding for the development of the Blueway in the four counties along with Waterways Ireland. A total of €209,692 in grant aid was awarded and the project which involved developing both capital and marketing supports for the Blueway was completed between October and December 2015.

- Renewable Energy: Group met to look at possibilities of progressing initiatives such as thinning of small forests – this has now become operational in one area so the Group are looking at further opportunities in relation to biomass.
- Diaspora: A number of towns across the region are piloting ways of encouraging greater engagement with the Diaspora such as through an inventory of information on each area, links to GAA clubs and a possible regional event.

In addition to the Blueway REDZ, a second REDZ application was made for the Manorhamilton area which received €40,000 in grant aid as 75% of the total project. This included support for three capital projects and the development of a REDZ Team and Enterprise and Employment Strategy. This was carried out using a novel approach of Dragon's Den with a twist. This involved bringing in outside experts to pitch options to a group of local people but provided a great opportunity to learn from other areas and also visit other areas to learn new ways of doing things and to appreciate how much has already been achieved.

The Council established and facilitated a Renewable Energy Group comprising additional agencies such as SEAI, NWRA, LDC, UCD and businesses involved in the renewable energy sector. The Economic Development Unit participated in the development of an application to the Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPP) project to build the capacity and knowledge on renewable energy and energy efficiency along with partners from Sweden, Faroe Islands, Canada, Northern Ireland, Donegal and Norway. The Renewable Energy Group will be heavily involved in this project if the application is successful in 2016.

The Council also put in place an incentivised scheme in regard to rates to encourage the fresh use of vacant premises in town centres.

The LCDC submitted an Expression of Interest in being the Local Action Group (LAG) in summer 2015 which was accepted by the DECLG and work was carried out in conjunction with the implementing partner on the preparation of a draft Local Development Strategy. The Strategy will be completed and submitted to the Dept. Of Environment, Community and Local Government in January 2016.

The procurement process for the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) was completed in early 2015 and the programme commenced in April 2015. A mid-term review was also completed and work has commenced on preparing the plan for 2016.

In February 2015, it was decided that Leitrim County Council would provide a co-ordinating role in a project to achieve Purple Flag Status for the County Town. Purple Flag is a standard for a vibrant, well-managed evening and night time economy. This involved establishing a Purple Flag Steering Group and a number of teams to look at different aspects of the evening and night time economy. Over 28 meetings, a strong team based approach lead to success in achieving the standard and marketing of this is now underway.

As a follow on to this achievement a Town Team Development Group was established in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. The group has a number of sub-committees including a Marketing Group, Retail Group and Public Realm Group. The Marketing Group developed a comprehensive package of activities for the town for December 2015 while the Retail Group has commenced work on an audit of workspace and other initiatives to build the retail capacity of the town.

The High Level Advisory Group met twice in 2015 and ensures on-going support and engagement of Leitrim connected people in Dublin and elsewhere as well as key local business people. A number of projects have been prioritised with this group for 2016.

Leitrim County Council continued to play a lead role in further developing cooperation in cross border emergency management. It hosted a number of meetings of the Cross Border Emergency Management Group during the year. The Cross Border Emergency Management Group produced a three year business plan to progress some mutually beneficial cross border initiatives and hopes to attract some EU funding to implement these.

Infrastructural Development

2015 was another year of reduced roads budget. Our Non-National Roads Budget for 2015, at €6.1m, was down on 2014. A total of 44km of road was surface dressed and 62km of road strengthened in 2015.

In terms of our National Road network, a Contractor was appointed for the construction of Phase II of the N16 Cornacloy to Stradrine Realignment Scheme with the sod turning performed by Minister Pascal Donohue in December, 2015. This work will commence in 2016. Phase II of the Scheme comprises the realignment of a further 2km at this location. A design programme has been put in place with the Westmeath NRDO in regard to commenced of design works for a further phase of the N16 at Drummahan. In addition some safety improvement works were put in place on the N15.

The Lough Reane Overflow Pipeline contract was successfully completed during 2015 also.

The Rural Water Programme had an investment allocation of €200,000. €100,000 was spent on upgrading of Group Water Schemes at Cornabrone/Aghaslane, Cloonsarne, Lough Errill and Poolboy. A further €100,000 was made available for the construction of new Group Sewerage Schemes. Offers were made to three potential schemes. Unfortunately none were able to progress to construction in 2015

The Council continued to support the Tidy Towns committees across the county with a workshop for all in April 2015, financial support through the GMA and assistance from the Area structures on an ongoing basis.

Works on the streetscape in both Manorhamilton and Carrick on Shannon were further progressed during the year adding significantly to the standard of public realm in both town centres.

During 2015 further investment was made in the County's Tourism infrastructure with the completion of a new Sliabh an Iarainn drive associated with raised bogs there, the completion and official opening of the Visitors Centre in Drumshanbo and the Lime Kiln at Farnaught. A further project delivered improvement works at Glencar Waterfall amenity, carpark, service block and traffic calming. Development work was ongoing during the year in regard to proposed Greenways. Screening processes in regard to Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive and Environmental Impact were progressed in regard to the SLNCR while work has been ongoing in the preparation of a 2016 application for Interreg VA funding in respect of the Manorhamilton to Enniskillen section. Consultants have been appointed by Cavan County Council supported by Leitrim County Council for the preparation of preliminary report and preliminary route design and costing for the Dromod to Bulturbet Greenway. A new car park has been developed at Sean MacDiarmada homestead in advance of the centenary of 1916.

A County Road Safety Working Together Group was established in 2015 and work is at an advanced stage in the preparation of a new County Road Safety Strategy. In April a road safety workshop was carried out with Transition Year Pupils from the County. In addition new speed limit bylaws for Housing Estates were adopted.

To ensure the improvement of water infrastructure our Water Services Department worked with Irish Water within the Service Level Agreement during 2015. In addition to the Capital projects already

approved by Irish Water there are ongoing Assets Needs Briefs submissions by Leitrim County Council highlighting deficiencies in existing networks and where priorities should be focused in order to bring the infrastructure to a world-class standard. The Capital Office in Leitrim County Council provides follow up information to support the applications. Although Irish Water determines what works are priority and how these projects are funded, Leitrim County Council continues to promote where investment is necessary - this includes investment in Water and Waste Water services.

Drinking water projects that commenced in 2015 include:

- The North Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme Stage 3a Water Treatment Plant Expansion and Stage 3b Pipelines/ Reservoir Rossinver and Kiltyclogher with a budget of €8.076m.
- The new extended water treatment plant at Moneyduff that will have a capacity of 5,500cum/day, an increase of 50% on its current design.
- Pipelines are also being provided under separate contract for the extension of the NLRWSS to Kiltyclogher and Rossinver. The estimated cost of these two contracts is €4.1 million.

Waste Water projects that have been commenced in 2015 include:

- The Manorhamilton and Mohill Sewerage Scheme Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades. The full cost estimate for these critical upgrade works is approximately €1.95 million.
- Minor Capital Works with a total estimated cost of in excess of €2m such as:
 - Drumshanbo, Leitrim Village, Ballinamore & Carrigallen WWTP Upgrades.
 - Trunk Main replacement Eslin-Mohill.
 - Dowra & Boley Hill Watermain replacement.
 - Drumsna WWTP.
 - Mains replacement at Bridge Street, Carrick-on-Shannon.

The Council put a significant focus on returning void properties of its housing stock to tenant ready units in 2015. During the course of the year the Council secured a funding allocation of €223,000 for works on nine number housing units under the Voids Programme 2015. Six of these houses are in Carrick on Shannon and one in Dromahair and 2 houses in Killargue. A further 10 houses in the Mohill and 5 in Carrick-on-Shannon were progressed under separate contracts as part of a proactive programme in Leitrim County Council to return vacant houses to useable stock.

There was also continued progress in upgrading the Council's Housing Stock through the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme in 2015 with investment of €260,000. Cavity wall, attic insulation and ventilation upgrades were completed on 211 No. houses. Under the broader SEAI Better Energy Communities Scheme, Energy Retrofitting works were completed on 41 no. Council housing stock in Carrick-On-Shannon totalling €337,833 with 42% funded through SEAI grants. The housing units concerned are spread between Autumn View, Cara Court, Ath na Rí and Oak Drive estates. In total this means that 252 Local Authority Houses will have had significant energy efficiency works carried out in 2015 leading to better quality efficient houses across approx 85% of Leitrim County Councils housing stock. It is hoped the remaining 15% approx will be completed in 2016 under similar programmes.

Adaptation Works are carried out to Council housing stock where necessary in order to render the dwelling more suitable to the particular needs of the tenant which are disability related. The 2015 Funding was €59,130 - This constitutes 90% of the value of works, with Council funding of 10% translating to an actual allocation of €65,700 for these works in 2015. This facilitated adaptation works on 17 no. units spread across the County.

The Council also completed negotiations for the purchase of 3 additional family type houses in Carrick-On-Shannon in 2015. These units will have a suite of works including energy retrofitting completed and will be ready for occupancy in the second half of 2016. An acquisition at Oaklands Carrick-on-Shannon towards the end of 2014 had works completed and tenants in place during 2015 also.

Tourism

The Tourism Development Strategy for Leitrim was prepared after extensive consultation with the trade, agencies and key stakeholders and was launched by Minister in December 2015. The strategy is the blueprint for the Leitrim Tourism Growth Alliance who will be steering its implementation in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders. A key deliverable from the Strategy has commenced with the development of a new tourism website for marketing Leitrim as a visitor destination.

Following the successful launch of the Shannon Blueway as the first Blueway in Ireland a joint marketing initiative with Waterways Ireland was implemented which included Radio, Regional, Local and National Press, Specialist Magazines, Bus advertising, Social Media, Media Trips and Video footage. In conjunction with Waterways Ireland a very successful Familiarization Trip for a number of Tour Operators was hosted to highlight packages on offer to incoming visitors to Ireland.

Under the Northern Periphery and Arctic programme Leitrim is a partner with 6 other countries to develop the concept of Slow Adventure Tourism. The project is mainly research based with a focus on assisting relevant SME's within the Slow adventure product area to market themselves, meet other similar providers and share ideas/experiences. The Failte Ireland Meitheal workshop was attended this year with the focus was on Leitrim as a destination and to create awareness of the newly developed Shannon Blueway and the Wild Atlantic Way.

The 2016 Centenary Committee coordinated the preparation of the County Plan for next year's events and also managed a funding programme. The group includes representatives from each municipal district, Sean Mac Diarmada Summer School, Historical Society in Carrick on Shannon and Manorhamilton, Arts, Tourism and Heritage officers and the County Library. Particular assistance was provided to a number of key events throughout the year such as the Sean Mac Diarmada Summer School which was held in Kiltyclogher over 3 days and the Rose of Tralee tour which returned to Leitrim for a second time.

Visitor guides covering top attractions and walking were produced during the year along with a new app, web information and printed guides for two 'Off the Beaten Track' Trails in conjunction with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

High Quality Sustainable Living Environment

Planning & Sustainable Development

- The Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021 was adopted on 12th January, 2015 and came into effect on the 9th February 2015. The Council continued to progress the resolution of unfinished estates in 2015 with all relevant stakeholders. Work has been ongoing with Developers, Banks and Bond Companies. Works on 3 developments awarded funding under the Special Resolution Fund are approaching substantial completion. A total of 12 housing developments have been taken in charge by Leitrim County Council in 2015 with a further 5 close to being advertised.
- The Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan was due to expire in 2016 and the Council extended it to 2019 under the appropriate legislation. This has allowed an extended period within which a Carrick on Shannon/Cortober Joint Local Area Plan can be prepared. A historical joint meeting of the

Carrick on Shannon and Boyle Municipal Districts was held in April, 2015 at which both Municipal Districts welcomed the proposal to prepare a joint Local Area Plan.

- The Heritage Office Programme commenced in 2015. A very successful Heritage Week saw approximately 50 No. events held across the County with widespread promotion of information and activities. The Heritage Officer has carried out strategic, operational, promotional, co-ordination and facilitation roles including advice, Appraisal, Community Liaison and Public Relations.
- A renewed pre planning clinic process commenced in 2015. The Clinic System operates on an appointment basis with the relevant Area Planner on Wednesday mornings in Aras An Chontae, Carrick on Shannon.
- 169 planning applications have been received during 2015 (to 06/11/2015) showing a modest increase in comparison to when 137 applications was received for the full year. 29 of the applications lodged were for commercial developments. A significant commercial application seeking to construct a large extension to Vistamed Ltd. in Carrick-on-Shannon was granted planning permission in September. A further 48 applications were received during 2015 which were deemed invalid.

The Water Services (Amendment) Act, 2012 provided for the introduction of a registration and inspection system for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWWTS's). The Environment Department completed 43 of these inspections and there was a 57% pass rate on inspections completed in 2015. Water Services continued to maintain the water and waste water plants to the highest standards within the resources available from Irish Water, ensuring that all plants were EPA compliant.

Active participation was continued with the OPW and their Consulting Engineers as part of the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies (CTRAM's). Draft Optioneering and Flood Risk Management Maps for each of the built-up areas considered to be at risk were prepared and placed for Public Consultation in November 2015.

In 2015, the Consortium of Counties Leitrim & Donegal successfully secured the establishment of the Connacht-Ulster Waste Enforcement Office (CUWEO). It is envisaged that together it will ensure the effective implementation of Waste Enforcement Policy in the Connacht-Ulster Region through a coordinated and collaborative approach with stakeholders on a Local, Regional and National basis.

Leitrim County Council received funding in 2015 through the SEAI Better Energy Communities Scheme to the value of €515,240.06. All Works were completed with potential for significant energy savings to the housing occupants and the community beneficiaries. This Grant focused on works around Carrick on Shannon and consisted of the following:

- 41 LCC Houses
- 3 private houses
- Carrick Fire Station
- 4 No Community projects

In April 2015, Leitrim County Council held a Food Waste Information Seminar for business and community groups in Lough Rynn Castle. The Seminar was followed by a Cookery Event which promoted the whole ethos of food waste prevention. The night was a resounding success and the proceeds from the Door went to the North West Simon Community.

The Council participated in the National Spring Clean in April, with 20 groups around the county participating in litter picks over the month. In the area of Green Schools Assessments 7 schools were assessed and progressed to receive their award under their respective theme, Carrigallen Vocational School won a special regional award sponsored by Irish Water for work done on the Green Schools Programme. The Council also administered funding applications in the areas of Anti Litter Awareness and Local Agenda 21, where 10 projects were funded.

Leitrim County Council commenced the process on the preparation of a Draft Litter Management Plan 2016 – 18, which is projected for completion in early 2016.

Emergency Services

Leitrim Fire Services continued to provide emergency fire services in the county. Leitrim Fire service engaged with CFRAMS on the flood mapping project for County Leitrim. The Fire Service continued to work with Planning Enforcement to resolve issues relating to the taking in charge of unfinished developments. Leitrim Fire Service took delivery of two new 4x4 vehicles in 2015 and received approval for capital funding to procure 1 new Class B appliance. This vehicle is to be procured as part of a joint procurement tender with four other fire authorities. A joint Halting Site Safety Inspection Programme was also jointly progressed by the Housing and Fire Services Department in relation to fire safety in Traveller Specific Halting Site Accommodation at Rosebank, Shannonside View, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

Leitrim Civil Defence has continued to develop its capacity to respond to requests to assist the Principle Response Agencies through continuous training and investment in vehicles and equipment. This is facilitated by funding provided by Leitrim County Council and the Department of Defence. Civil Defence hosted an Avian Influenza training exercise for 70 Volunteers from 7 Counties in addition to participating in a National Radiation monitoring exercise. Throughout the year Civil Defence responded to several requests for assistance during missing persons incidents and responded to a number of requests to assist Boats in difficulties on our waterways assistance was also provided at Community events.

Quality Housing

In terms of meeting housing needs the Council maintained its implementation of the Rental Accommodation Scheme in 2015. A total of 114 households currently have their long-term housing need met through RAS transfers and the Long Term Leasing Scheme. This includes the creation of 27 new RAS contracts and 4 leasing contracts in 2015. A total of 55 new local authority tenancies were also created in 2015 in addition to 6 existing tenancies being transferred to alternative accommodation. A further 8 households were assisted with deposits to secure private rented accommodation to meet emergency accommodation needs.

A new Traveller Accommodation Programme for the period 2014-2018 was adopted in January 2014 and 19 Traveller Households had their accommodation needs addressed during the year under this programme, well exceeding the 2015 target of 12 households. The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee met 4 times in 2015 where traveller accommodation matters were examined in detail.

In meeting the housing needs of the wider community to support housing modifications under the housing grants schemes, the Council received an allocation of €338,740. This allocation was fully committed in 2015 to deliver supports under the Housing Adaptation Grants (HAS's), Mobility Aids Grants (MAG's) and Housing Aids for Older People (HOP's).

In line with the National Housing Strategy for People with Disability 2011–2016 a Housing and Disability Steering Group was established in conjunction with the HSE to support and enhance current local

interagency structures in order to facilitate better coordination and delivery of housing and related support services for people with disabilities.

An Inclusive County

The Public Participation Network has developed during the year. At the year end, there were 169 groups registered and representatives had been nominated to eight committees, six of them County Council and two external. A total of twenty places on these committees were occupied by PPN nominees. A full time support officer was appointed in November and a dedicated budget was put in place to support PPN activities.

The Leitrim Joint Policing Committee was re-established in 2015 and met on a number of occasions. The Draft 6-year Leitrim Joint Policing Strategy was prepared and will inform the Annual Service Plan for the life-time of the current.

Comhairle na nOg Liatroma continues to enjoy the support of all second level schools in the county. During the year it ran an event to highlight issues of mental health amongst young people and also participated in the Dail na nOg in Croke Park, attended by Ministers Reilly and O'Sullivan.

Play facilities for children were enhanced during 2015 with two new playgrounds, in Drumsna and Glencar, being developed and two others, in Carrick on Shannon and Drumshanbo, being refurbished. There are now 19 playgrounds in Leitrim that are operated by Leitrim County council. This is one of the highest numbers per head of population in the country.

Age Friendly Leitrim continued with delivery of the actions set out in the plan being monitored. Mohill was recognised as an Age Friendly Town and a plan for that was completed early in the year.

The Inter Agency Traveller Services Group was restructured and several new members joined. A new action plan was developed during the year.

This year, there were three entries in the national Pride of Place competition. These were Cloone (population under 300), Manorhamilton (population 1,000 to 2,000) and Mohill Pride of Place (Age Friendly Community Initiatives). Both Cloone and Manorhamilton were awarded runner up prizes in their respective categories. An excellent achievement.

Floral Pride proved to be as popular as ever with 38 entries and over 100 people attending the awards event in Carrigallen. Mohill won the overall award.

The Council's Sports and Recreation Department continued to deliver, in conjunction with Leitrim Sports Partnership, an ever expanding range of sports and recreational activities and coaching. Work continued in over 30 primary schools and with all of the secondary schools in the County. Programmes included Sports hall athletics, Kidz on the Run, TY Kayaking, Girls active for Post Primary Girls and many more. Leitrim Sports Partnership is also providing a programme to Transition Year Students which will see them qualify with a level A1 Award in Sports Leadership. Another new initiative introduced in 2015 was a 14 week Community Coaching programme for unemployed people to become fully qualified Athletics, Soccer and Rugby coaches. This programme included Sports Coaching Training, Coaching experience and Job Readiness Skills.

Leitrim Sports Partnership provided exercise programmes for disability groups in the County including Rehab, IWA, National Learning Network and LAPWD. Programmes were also provided for Active Age Groups including PALs Training which provided an opportunity for members of various Active Age Groups

to come together and receive training in how to become physical activity leaders for their own groups. Get Fit Keep Fit, a fitness programme for women, was rolled out in five locations throughout the County and Men on the Move, a programme for men in three locations. Both programmes were so successful that they will be repeated in 2016. The annual Leitrim Sports Star Awards were again an outstanding success, this year being held in Lough Rynn Castle Hotel where Gerard O'Donnell was named Leitrim Sports Star of the Year 2015.

Many elements of Leitrim County Council's Art Strategy 2012-2017 were progressed in 2015. One of the highlights included the successful completion of a €320,000 EU funded LOCIS project which was developed with partners in Sweden and Poland. In partnership with Leitrim Local Enterprise Office, the Arts Office developed 'Creative Frame'— a user driven continuous professional development network for the Creative Sector designed to facilitate the ongoing training and development requirements of practitioners in the sector in Leitrim and the wider region. Also in partnership with Leitrim LEO, The SPARK Programme is currently ongoing with 2 artists and 2 local businesses having participated in 2015 and Leo Scarff recently selected to work with Mohill Enterprise Centre in 2016. In the film sector Leitrim, Roscommon and Sligo local authorities came together to develop a joint initiative in film development. Together with representatives of the film sector from the three counties, we are developing a blueprint for ongoing cooperation and collaboration.

A call out to artists as part of the Artist in Schools programme for 2015 and 2016 resulted in 32 applications from artists who will work in eight schools over the two year period. In a new initiative, a similar call out made to artists to express their interest in participating in the Artist in the Community programme resulted in 25 applications from artists from which four were selected to work with community groups across the county. Artist Kate Wilson and writer Gerry Boland took up residence in the new Artists' Studios in Drumshanbo and have been working with schools, community groups and the library services as part of their residency there. For the Wild Words Festival 119 short stories were submitted from young people across Ireland for the Wild Words Book and Volume 3 was launched by RTE's Ray D'Arcy as part of the Festival in August. In Youth Theatre, new junior groups were set up in Manorhamilton and Carrigallen, further extending the significant youth theatre membership in the county. 2015 saw an increased participation in Culture Night with 14 venues participating.

The Artist Bursary Scheme funded 16 applications and 9 Leitrim Festivals were also allocated funding under the Arts Festivals Support Scheme. The 4th Leitrim Equation project, involving musicians Eleanor Shanley, Dave Sheridan, Pdraig McGovern and John McCartin worked with Donal Lunny, Edwina Guckian and Johnny Gogan to develop a unique concert performance celebrating Leitrim music which premiered at the Corn Mill Theatre before a tremendous performance in London attended by the Irish Ambassador. An extensive programme of professional development in musicianship and the music industry was included in the project and workshops held with musicians and students throughout the County.

In 2015 we continued our investment in The Dock to ensure that it could be sustained as a cornerstone for the arts. It's varied and strategically planned programme throughout the year continued to encourage audiences and participants for the arts locally and regionally, and The Dock continued to be a beacon for visitors and a crucially positive endorsement of the rich culture offering of Carrick on Shannon, Leitrim and the Northwest.

While not yet in a position to expand or regain ground lost in recent years, we have maintained our level of investment in the creative sector for 2016 and hope to maintain our level of programming within existing resources. We do this because we recognise that the creative sector is uniquely important to Leitrim, and that we reap substantial social, cultural and economic benefits from it. Particular priorities in the

coming year include the Creative Frame project which focuses on maximising the potential of the sector for years to come and to usher a fresh approach to supporting the film sector for the entire northwest.

Leitrim County Library Service continued to support formal and informal learning for all ages during 2015. The Summer Reading Tree programme grew from strength to strength in 2015 with 723 children successfully completing the programme. Library Reading Groups for adults and children continued to develop in a number of our branches during 2015. An exciting and diverse calendar of events is a key feature of the Library Service, a wide range of regular ongoing events are organised for and in partnership with community groups and public agencies e.g. Foróige, Citizen's Information, Age Action, Irish Countrywomen's Association, and Local History Groups, with computer classes being held in a number of branch libraries. Highlights for 2015 included the 10th Birthday celebrations of Ballinamore Library, to mark the Library's 10 year anniversary and the launch in June 2015 of *Idir Mhná*, the first translation into the Irish language of renowned writer John McGahern's *Amongst Women*, which received local and national publicity. The addition of a dedicated Events Space in Drumshanbo Library has facilitated further programming, with ongoing art and craft activities, lectures, writing workshops, and reading group meetings.

Maximising Operational and Organisational Capacity

Supporting the Elected Member

The enactment of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 introduced 3 new Municipal Districts coinciding with the Local Electoral Areas - Carrick on Shannon, Manorhamilton and Ballinamore in 2014. The Municipal Districts continued to operate in 2015 and held monthly meetings and they also adopted the General Municipal Allocation for Municipal District Works.

A new Strategic Policy Committee Scheme was also adopted following the Local Elections with the new SPC's, which will be established early in 2015, reconfigured as follows: Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC; Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development SPC and Environmental, Transportation and Infrastructural Policy SPC. The respective SPC's progressed a number of policy matters in 2015 before they were brought to the full Council for adoption.

Staff Learning & Development

The workforce planning process has continued throughout 2015 with a view to streamlining operational processes and to assist in making the best use of diminishing staff resources. There were a total of 10 (ten) staff retirements in 2015 and 1 (one) Death in Service (R.I.P.). A further 10 staff members on temporary contracts left Leitrim County Council during 2015. Recruitment activity also increased significantly however in 2015 with 28 recruitment competitions completed to fill a range of vacancies arising and a total of 20 new staff joining Leitrim County Council on either permanent or temporary contracts during the year. A detailed Business Process Review (BPR) of the Housing function was completed in 2015 to determine the most appropriate structure and identify potential areas where administrative or other efficiencies could be achieved. Work also commenced on a BPR of the Planning and Environment functions in 2015 with further such processes planned for other functional areas in 2016.

The Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) for staff was closely linked to the new Annual Service Delivery Plan as adopted by the Members, and the associated Departmental Team Plans, in 2015. Training in relation to the new national Competency Framework, aimed at developing a competency-based approach to performance development within the local government sector, was also rolled out at senior and middle management levels in 2015, for implementation as part of the PMDS process in 2016. A comprehensive Learning and Development Plan was implemented in 2015 while the Staff Education Scheme was also re-introduced providing support to staff members pursuing further education

opportunities. Leitrim County Council was awarded a two year Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Accreditation by Engineers Ireland in September 2015, following completion by the Council's Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Committee of a comprehensive submission to Engineers Ireland and a detailed on-site audit process. The Council was benchmarked against a rigorous standard on all aspects of its CPD policies and processes and now join a network of leading organisations, in the private and public sector, which have been awarded this accreditation. The Mentoring Programme, introduced in 2014, and providing staff with the opportunity to avail of the advice, assistance and support of more senior staff in relation to aspects of their work and/or career development was significantly expanded during the year. The Council's Service Level Agreement for the provision of an Employee Assistance Programme also continued in 2015.

Managing Risk & Resources

Leitrim County Council delivered its services within budget in 2015 and continues to implement financial and budgetary control over its available spend. Procedures for claiming grants and sources of funding were further refined to ensure that all sources of financial assistance were availed of during 2015. Internal Audit, currently provided by a third party Auditor, continued its programme of work during 2015, ensuring appropriate procedures and standards are in place. The independent Audit Committee has an advisory role in promoting good accounting practices, ensuring better and more informed decision-making and improving the focus on value for money throughout the organisation.

The Office of Government Procurement (OGP) mission is to deliver sustainable procurement savings for the tax payer by optimising value for money across the public service. Since it has commenced operations in 2014 procurement savings facilitated by the OGP in 2014 amounted to €25 million across the public sector. This has been achieved through setting up of over 120 frameworks and contracts and also active engagement with different suppliers and customers. The procurement unit in Leitrim County Council works in tandem with the OGP to achieve these savings and is committed to ensuring compliance with national/regional and local frameworks where possible, and also identifying areas of expenditure where further savings and efficiencies can be achieved.

Leitrim County Council continues to engage in a proactive approach in meeting its legal and moral obligations in the management of health and safety in the organisation. In 2015, in addition to the normal programme of work of inspections, risk assessments and consultation, the Safety Monitoring Committee, in conjunction with the Health & Safety Section, led the development and implementation of a range of Health & Safety Policies.

Quality Customer Services

In 2015, a number of initiatives to enhance our customer service delivery and quality were implemented. Services at the main Customer Services Desk in Aras-an-Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon were augmented and staffed by two full time resources. In 2015, we also expanded our Social Media channels to engage with the public. A Draft Social Media Policy was developed and staff in number of Departments were trained on the use of social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, U-tube and Linkein. We are now proactively using the social media channels to communicate with our customers and promote local authority events and initiatives.

In terms of ICT Development in June, 2015 the Leitrim County Council website www.leitrim.ie was launched by Minister Richard Bruton, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. The website will serve as the 'Official Gateway to Leitrim' and is designed to meet the diverse needs of the residential population, the business community, leisure enthusiasts and visitors to the County. The website was designed with a vision to create a 'one-stop' modern and novel internet presence for Leitrim, within which, the expansive

range of services, facilities, amenities and events across state agencies, commercial & business sectors, tourism and sporting organisations in Leitrim are consolidated into one central internet point.

Conclusion

The foregoing achievements were made possible through the combined efforts of the Elected Members and Staff of this Authority and, I wish to sincerely thank the Members and Staff for their efforts and support in achieving very considerable progress achieved in 2015 notwithstanding the extremely challenging operating environment.

While 2015 was a successful year, as reflected above, it was nonetheless another difficult and volatile year for Leitrim County Council. While to date the Council has endeavoured to maintain service levels with minimal impact on frontline services, the impact of the reduced resources available to Leitrim County Council, in terms of both human and financial resources, is impacting and will invariably continue to impact on the level of services and initiatives that can be delivered. A process of continuous improvement and efficiency gains will be fundamental to the sustainability of the Council's operations in 2016 and in future years and this together with strict budgetary control and monitoring will continue to be a priority for the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Curran
Chief Executive