



2016

Leitrim County Council Annual Report



Aras an Chontae,
Carrick on Shannon,
Co. Leitrim.
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Mission Statement

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



OFFICIALS ATTENDING THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE 1916 CENTENARY PROGRAMME IN KILTYCLOGHER, CO. LEITRIM IN JANUARY, 2016.

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INTRODUCTION

We pleased to present on behalf of Leitrim County Council the 2016 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 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 2016 in areas such as the provision of physical and social infrastructure, economic development, environmental improvements and developing sustainable communities as detailed in this report.

In 2016, Leitrim and its citizens celebrated the centenary of the 1916 Rising with a particular pride

given that the second signatory on the Proclamation, and a key strategist of this seminal development in Irish history, was our own Seán MacDiarmada from Kiltyclogher. A key event in the Leitrim 2016 Centenary Celebrations was centred on the life and times of MacDiarmada which included the Seán MacDiarmada Summer School, a Twilight vigil at the Homestead of Sean MacDiarmada, a St. Patrick's Day Parade in Kiltyclogher and the re-dedication of Lower Main Street, Manorhamilton to Sráid Sheáin Mhic Dhiarmada. We would like to take this opportunity to pay special tribute to the Leitrim 2016 Committee and to the many community and voluntary groups that organised over sixty events in locations throughout the county as part of the Centenary Programme.

The Council continued to carry out an extensive range of work on promoting Leitrim as a strong location for economic development during 2016. The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) was approved by Leitrim County Council in January, 2016 and the plan was formally launched by Minister Simon Coveney in September, 2016. Vista Med officially opened a state-of-the-art R&D facility in Carrick-on-Shannon in

September, 2016 as part of a €10m investment, supported by Enterprise Ireland, which will generate 200 new jobs over the next 36 months which is a very positive development for the county. The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) continued to deliver key programmes during 2016 to support business throughout the county. The embedding of the three Municipal Districts in Leitrim continued to ensure the delivery of effective public services to our communities. The Corporate Policy Group and the three Strategic Policy Committees continued to review and recommend policy to the Council.

Among the other noteworthy achievements during the year were:

- Major capital projects including the realignment of the N16 and upgrade of the North Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme.
- Funding sought under the Town and Village Enhancement Scheme, CLAR Scheme, REDZ and works under the Rural Recreation Programme.
- The Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021 suite of documents was published in February, 2016
- The Planning Department prepared a new County Leitrim Development Contribution Scheme which was adopted at the November Council meeting.
- An extensive Tourism marketing campaign was rolled out nationally targeting the domestic market under the theme 'Creating memories in Leitrim'.
- An Enterprise and Employment Strategy 'To the Waters and the Wild', was formally launched as part of the Manorhamilton Summit in Manorhamilton in February, 2016.
- The Economic Development Unit co-ordinated the renewal application for Carrick-on-Shannon to remain Purple Flag Status – which is a standard for a vibrant, well-managed evening and night time economy.
- The Upper Shannon-Erne Future Economy Project has progressed a number of initiatives in 2016 including an EU Trinno project to develop an action plan to examine the possibility of establishing a regional food distribution hub in the USEFE region.
- Following the completion of the Blueway Project in 2015, a 'Build Your Blueway' capacity building event took place in April, 2016.
- A comprehensive acquisition programme to increase social housing stock with the purchase of 20 houses based upon Exchequer funding of €1.3 million.
- Continued investment in the Voids Programme to return vacant local authority dwellings to habitable stock.
- Funding advanced under the Capital Assistance Scheme to St. Vincent de Paul to construct two family type dwellings at Cannoboe Terrace, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim.

- As the Arts Office approached the final year of its current strategy, in 2016, a number of new initiatives and approaches to further develop the arts were progressed.
- Leitrim County Library marked a significant milestone with the introduction of free Library Membership to all of its users, as part of a nationwide initiative.
- The Public Participation Network (PPN) progressed considerably in 2016, with a total of 189 groups registered with the PPN by year-end.

The Annual Report also includes a section on progress to date achieved in meeting the objectives of our Corporate Plan and a report on the performance of the local authority as measured by the National & Local Performance Indicator for 2016. The National Performance Indicators are subject to scrutiny by NOAC (National Over-sight and Audit Committee) and an onsite audit of six of the National Performance Indicators was completed by NOAC in July, 2016.

The foregoing achievements were made possible through the combined efforts of the Elected Members and Staff of this Authority and, together with the many voluntary and community organisations with whom the Council interacts. We wish to thank them for their commitment and dedication to securing our mission, vision and goals in 2016. We look forward to continuing to deliver high quality services to all our customers and to working with all stakeholders in order to develop County Leitrim as a vibrant and attractive County for people to live, work, invest and visit.



Frank Curran
Chief Executive



Councillor Mary Bohan
Cathaoirleach

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
Caroline Mulvey**



**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**

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC

Councillors

Frank Dolan (Chairperson)
Finola Armstrong McGuire
Caillian Ellis
Caroline Gildea
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:

Development Contribution Scheme 2012-2018
National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial Economic Strategy
Rural Development Zone Projects
Manorhamilton Land Use Strategy
Leitrim Economic Renaissance Event
Amendments to the County Development Plan arising from implementation of the Vacant Site Levy
Upper Shannon Erne Future Economy Project

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:

SPC Work Programme
Housing Grant Schemes
Peace IV Programme
Play & Recreation Policy, 2016
Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy
Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme
Housing Strategy
Mid-Term Review of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018
Statutory Assessment of Housing Need, 2016
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)
Arts Strategy

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 (IFA) (Agriculture/Farming (National Pillar).
Kealin Ireland (Environment/Conservation – Environment pillar
and associated Environment College under PPN)
Brendan Sammon (Business/Commercial (National Pillar)
Padraig Sammon (Business/Commercial (National Pillar)
Brendan O’Beirne (Trade Union/National Pillar) ICTU.

Issues considered by the SPC:

SPC Work Programme 2016
Traffic Calming at Schools
River Drainage
Litter Management Plan 2016-2019
Road Safety Strategy
Current Irish Water investment in the county
Local authorities Water and Communities Office
Burial Grounds Policy 2016-2022
Speed Limits Review
Rural Water Strategic Review

Number of Meetings: 4

**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 people to establish and grow businesses in the county. The LEO Office is 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	22
Amount Approved	€210,751
Number of Projects paid	23
Total amount paid	€130,325

MEASURE 2 – TRAINING, MENTORING AND NETWORKING

Number of Training Courses	*35
Number of Mentoring Assignments	106
Total Number of Participants – Training	394
Total Number of Participants - Networking	216

*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 almost doubled the applications for the IBYE programme in 2016 (35 up from 18 in 2015). LEO Leitrim hosted the Co. Leitrim Final on 1st December with winners as follows:

- Best Idea - Aoife Mc Niffe, "Against the Grain"
- Best Start Up Business (under 36 months) - Lorcan Kearns, "Wild Atlantic Crusades"
- Best Established Business (over 36 months) - Michelle Fanning, "Assorted Fitness"
- The overall "Best Young Entrepreneur" for the county went to Aoife Mc Niffe.

NATIONAL ENTERPRISE AWARDS

The Leitrim finalist and representative at The National Enterprise Awards during 2016 was Mc Niffe's Boxy. Mc Niffe's attended the National Final in the Aviva Stadium on 9th June and won a prize for the region (Leitrim, Longford, Sligo and Donegal).

STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARDS

The 2015/2016 school programme involved six Leitrim secondary schools with 150 students attending the county final, while approximately 1,400 students availed of the in house visits to schools. Winners of the Leitrim County Final selected to attend the National Final in Croke Park were:

Junior Winner: Candle Holders Direct, Drumshanbo Vocational School.

Senior Winner: Cut Cost Coupons from Carrigallen Vocational School

The Senior Winner from Carrigallen Vocational School won a Special Merit prize at the National Final and attended the Business Bootcamp in UCC during the summer. The 2016/2017 programme commenced in

September, 2016 with all seven schools participating. The 2016 National Schools Programme involved ten schools with 300 students participating and was won by Annaduff National School.

TASTE LEITRIM

Leitrim were one of the Top 10 Foodie Destinations Finalists in 2016 but were unfortunate in their bid to win this competition. LEO Leitrim is in the process of completing the development of a five year Food Strategy for the county to be launched in early 2017. Leitrim has also recently been awarded €200,000 towards the development of a Taste Leitrim Food Tourism and Enterprise Zone.

LEITRIM BUSINESS NETWORK

The Leitrim Business Network was established to exploit the power of business networking. Leitrim Business Network is proudly supported by Local Enterprise Office and meets four times per year. www.leitrimbusinessnetwork.com

ONLINE TRADING VOUCHERS

There was great interest again in the Trading Online Voucher Programme and 19 vouchers were approved during 2016 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

The programme continues its partnership approach and 2016 saw four applications come through LEO Leitrim with three receiving microfinance approval.

SMART GREEN MOHILL

LEO continued to work with community groups on the ground to develop a Sustainable Energy Communities Group and is working towards submitting an application for funding to Better Energy Communities in early 2017. Through LEO and Agenda 21 funding, five businesses received a small grant to carry out some of the actions identified through the energy audits conducted in 2015.

ENTERPRISE PROMOTION

- Showcase – LEO has supported the Leitrim Design House attend the Enterprise Zone at Showcase (which takes place in January) for the past 4 years. The stand was 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.
- National Ploughing Championships –Two clients were supported to attend the National Ploughing Championships, Chef Sham's Sauces and Artwood represented Leitrim at the event from 20th to 22nd September, 2016.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

A very successful joint Longford and Leitrim Women in Business Networking event took place in Lough Rynn, Mohill in September, which was attended by 128 women. LEO hopes to continue to develop this joint network approach as an annual event.

SPARK

The Artist in Residence Programme has been running a number of years with very positive feedback. In 2016, Prior PLM Medical was chosen as the company for the Artist to work with.

CREATIVE FRAME

The programme has been busy delivering the training requested by members of the network. It is aimed at professional and emerging practitioners from any arts or design field such as visual arts, architecture, music, performing arts, literature, film, craft and design who wish to make a living or a significant part of their living from their practice.



COMPETITIVE FUNDS PROJECT USEFE

The Graduate Internship for Entrepreneurship Programme was launched in The Hive on 1st December, 2016. The programme proposes to support business by bringing together academic institutions, enterprise bodies (The Local Enterprise Offices of Cavan, Leitrim, Longford and Roscommon) and 24 SME's to facilitate the placement of a graduate/final year student (24 in total) in start up companies, innovation-oriented companies and entrepreneurial social ventures in the region for a six month placement period, with priority sectors of Food, Manufacturing, Forestry, Energy and Tourism. This programme is funded through the LEO Competitive Fund and it is envisaged that through this programme the graduates will be connected with a six month full-time paid internship centred on a two way skills transfer, graduates/final year students will transfer new skills and approaches, employers will transfer entrepreneurial learning and experience of running/managing a business.

The Creative Connections Programme will undertake an audit of the craft sector in the four counties (USEFE) and deliver network development and training as well as a pop up shops, regional craft trail and marketing. The tender for the Creative Connections Programme phase 1-4 was awarded to Leitrim Design House. Work will commence on this element of the programme shortly. An invitation to tender for phase 5-7 and the evaluation will also be progressed.

EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

LEO Leitrim has secured money to deliver the following;

- Co-Innovate which is a cross border research and innovation (R&I) initiative funded under the INTERREG VA Programme. The aim of the programme is to increase the numbers of SMEs engaged in cross border research and innovation in the regions of Northern Ireland, Border Counties and Western Scotland.
- Smart Data Smart Regions is an Erasmus Programme (led by Omagh Enterprise Company Ltd.) which involves partners from Leitrim, Omagh, Lisburn, Germany, Netherlands and Belgium. The programme looks at the levels of data available and how it can be turned into "smart data" which will increase productivity, innovation and competitiveness.

LEITRIM DESIGN HOUSE



Supported by LEO, the Leitrim Design House continues to develop and expand its range of services. Highlights from 2016 include the introduction of the new online shopping facility, the Essence of Design Conference and successful delivery of training programmes for craft businesses as well as Summer Sundays, where makers had an opportunity to meet the public and demonstrate their craft.

LOCAL AUTHORITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

UPPER SHANNON ERNE FUTURE ECONOMY PROJECT

The following initiatives under the Upper Shannon-Erne Future Economy Project were progressed in 2016:

Food: USEFE began liaising with WESTBIC, the Irish partners responsible for delivering the EU TRINNO project, to develop a plan to examine the possibility of establishing a Regional Food Distribution Hub in the Upper Shannon Erne region.

Tourism:

- **'Build Your Blueway' Capacity Building Event:** following the completion of the Blueway project in 2015, A 'Build Your Blueway' Capacity Building Event took place on the 13th April, 2016 in Carrick on Shannon. More than 90 people attended this meeting. There were 29 stands exhibiting on the day. Consultants provided advice on developing packages/itineraries/importance of social media. Waterways Ireland provided an update on the status of Blueways in each county.
- **Official launch of Flagship Blueway REDZ:** On Friday 24th June, 2016, Minister Heather Humphrey's officially launched the Flagship Blueway REDZ project which took place in the Landmark Hotel, Carrick on Shannon.
- **Laktive Tourism Project:** USEFE became involved with the which is funded under the COSME Programme for the Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises. The aim of the project is to design and develop a specific tourism product focused on senior target groups travelling in low/medium seasons towards small towns along the waterways. Forty-nine Italian senior citizens travelled to the USEFE region in September 2016. Key activities in the region tourists participated in included a bike ride along the Blueway, Arigna Mining Experience, Lough Key Forest Park, Cavan Burren Park and Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre.
- **Diaspora:** The Diaspora Group are very passionate about retaining jobs and encouraging investment into the region. They initiated the idea to develop a regional jobs and investment expo to reach out to the Dublin Diaspora. The USEFE Project Partners saw merit in this idea and financed the initiative. All parties worked together to develop Invest4Success, a free jobs and investment expo, which took place on the 3rd November, 2016 in Croke Park, Dublin. The event hosted fifty-three exhibitor stands and seventeen individual speakers involved in the event.
- **Creative Group:** USEFE worked with Leitrim Design House to enable crafters from across each of the four USEFE counties to showcase and sell their products in a professional environment. Roscommon crafters showcased their products in Leitrim Design House for a month in September 2016 which was a great success. It is hoped that the remaining USEFE counties will follow suit in 2017. Training with the creative sector also took place in April, 2016 to identify funding opportunities within the sector.
- **LEO Competitive Fund:** The four LEO's jointly submitted two applications for funding under the USEFE umbrella to the LEO Competitive Fund and were successful in their bid:
 - Creative project aimed at replicating the model of Leitrim Design House across the USEFE region.
 - The application included network enhancement, training, pop up shop, regional craft trail, marketing etc.
 - Funding approved: €70,700
 - A strategic graduate student placement programme across the USEFE region

- The application included placing students from local colleges in micro businesses in the region on internships, training, networking etc.
- Funding approved: €146,648.



DELEGATES ATTENDING THE INVEST4SUCCESS EVENT WHICH WAS HELD IN CROKE PARK IN NOVEMBER, 2016.

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) was approved by Leitrim County Council in January, 2016 and the plan was launched by Minister Coveney in September, 2016 at the National Ploughing Championships in Tullamore. The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the SPC responsible for Economic Development commenced work on implementing some of the projects in the Local Economic Community Plan (LECP).

RENEWABLE ENERGY GROUP

The Renewable Energy Group, chaired by the Chief Executive held meetings in February and June. The group is comprised of businesses and support agencies involved in renewable energy across the county or impacting on the county. The areas of interest for the group are developments across solar, wind and biomass. The group are also the Stakeholder Group for the SECURE Project and will be making recommendations on mechanisms to promote energy efficiency to the wider community. As a follow through from the Renewable Energy Group, the following projects have commenced:

- **District Heating System:** Funding has been secured from the Western Development Commission (WDC) to do a feasibility study in Carrick on Shannon – this work commenced in 2016 and will be completed in early 2017.
- **Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy:** The Economic Unit took lead on organising renewable energy training with counties Donegal, Cavan, Roscommon and Longford with SEAI to develop a Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy.

SECURE NPA PROJECT ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGIES

Leitrim County Council is one of the partners under the Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) co-funded SECURE Project which is all about building Smarter Energy Communities. SECURE is a 3 year (2016 – 2019) transitional project to help build the capacity of partner organisations to deploy successful energy

efficiency and renewable energy technologies and solutions in housing and public infrastructure. The learning across peripheral and arctic regions on energy efficiency and use of renewable technologies will be shared between partners and to communities they serve. The project partnership includes eight partners across the Northern and Arctic Region: Erris, Leitrim and Donegal County Councils (ROI), Derry City & Strabane District Council (NI), Association of Local Authorities in Västernorrland (ALAV) in Sweden, Karelia University of Applied Sciences in Finland, Umhvørvisstovan in Faroe Islands and the Ecology Action Centre (Canada). Actions in 2016 included the following:

- Stakeholder meeting held in Leitrim in June, 2016
- Focus group with communities held in Mohill in June as part of EU Energy week
- Identification of best practice examples in Leitrim and presentation to all partners in Finland
- Directory of best practice to be completed developed across the NPA region
- Community and staff energy efficiency questionnaire circulated through the PPN
- Baseline analysis of energy usage across the local authority with a particular focus on the Civic Headquarters at Aras-an-Chontae, Ballinamore library and The Dock Arts Centre.



A MEETING OF THE SECURE NPA PROJECT

PURPLE FLAG AND CARRICK-ON-SHANNON TOWN DEVELOPMENT GROUP

The Economic Development Unit co-ordinated the renewal application for Carrick on Shannon to retain Purple Flag Status – which is a standard for a vibrant, well-managed evening and night time economy. The formal launch of achieving the Purple Flag standard took place on Friday 29th January, 2016. The renewal process involved five meetings with the Purple Flag Steering Group and data collection and analysis on different aspects of the evening and night time economy. A Public Perception Survey on the town was also organised to allow for a comparison against 2015. A total of three hundred and five surveys were completed by members of the public. Some of the interesting results included an increase in the average spend in the town and an increase in the perception of the town from 80% to 85% rating as ‘good’ or ‘very good’. An overnight assessment panel consisting of residents, business representatives, local authority staff and Gardai was held in June and this also allowed for an examination of any areas of improvement required. The approval to retain the Purple Flag status for Carrick-on-Shannon was approved in October, 2016.

Work continued on the development of a structured town team approach in Carrick on Shannon. This included two public events held in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. The first included a presentation from Retail Excellence Ireland on 25th April, 2016 to guide the direction of what is required to increase the retail offering in the town. This emphasised the need for activities to bring people into the town centre and public realm changes that can enhance a town. This led to the formation of two Task Groups – Public Realm, Marketing and Citizen Engagement. These groups had a short action plan to be completed which included looking at issues on Public Realm, CCTV, WIFI, Town Marketing with a particular focus on off-season festivals/events to bring people into the town centre. The second public presentation was by Simon Wall, a community architect on 6th July, 2016. This presentation included good examples of public realm and festival impacts on a town centre. Following this a Christmas Task Group was formed to develop a Christmas Festival and program of activities to encourage shoppers to visit Carrick-on-Shannon and to shop locally.

A formal Town Team was established on 6th September, 2016 which has representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Local Authority, Hospitality, Vintners and Restaurants. The priority actions for the project were identified as CCTV cameras, signage and a Christmas Festival for the town.



NORTH WEST HOSPICE REMEMBRANCE DAY AND QUEUE FOR SANTA AS PART OF THE TOWN AND VILLAGE SPONSORED CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

MANORHAMILTON REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE (REDZ) TEAM

Manorhamilton received a REDZ allocation of €40,000 in grant aid as 75% of the total project towards the end of 2015 which included support for three capital projects and the development of a REDZ Team and an Enterprise and Employment Strategy. The Enterprise and Employment Strategy “To the Waters and the Wild”, which had been worked up in the last months of 2015, was formally launched as part of the Manorhamilton Summit in February with over 100 people in attendance. There was a number of further facilitated meetings and sub-group meetings to commence the implementation of the various elements of this Strategy. A large tourism event took place to mark the 1916 connection with signatory Seán MacDiarmada which included the renaming of a street in his name. Other actions included the preparation of a Land Use Strategy which is in draft and will be reviewed by the REDZ Team which has been developed from this initiative. In September 2016, the Manorhamilton REDZ Team was established and they prioritised a project to be submitted under the Town and Village Scheme 2016. The Team selected improvement and safety works on the Carrick-on-Shannon road entrance to the town. These works will enhance the entrance to the town and improve the road layout in close proximity to the School.

LEITRIM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) finalised work on the preparation of the Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) including both a national launch of the LECP by Minister Coveney in September and a local launch along with the Leader Local Development Strategy (LDS) in October.

A significant element of the work of the LCDC in 2016 was around development of the programmes it oversees which include LEADER and SICAP.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Following joint consultations in several locations across the county, the Leitrim Local Development Strategy (LDS) was finalised and recommended for submission by the LCDC. Approval for the LDS was received in July and a contract was signed with the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht between LCDC, Leitrim County Council and Leitrim Development Company in July. Following the signing of the contract, work has taken place on the development of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the parties. In addition, the Rural Development Operational Committee has met over six times in order to develop the policies and procedures in relation to the rollout of the Leader Programme. The Programme was officially launched on 28th October, 2016 by Minister Michael Ring in Carrick on Shannon. Initial Expressions of Interest were opened for certain targeted calls in the areas of tourism and social inclusion with a closing date of 9th December, 2016.

SOCIAL INCLUSION COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME

Year one of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) through the LCDC was completed with the programme being reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Monitoring Sub-Committee. The annual Action Plan for 2017 was prepared in November and approved by the LCDC by early December.

HIGH LEVEL ADVISORY GROUP

The High Level Advisory Group met in October, 2016 and ensures on-going support and engagement of Leitrim connected people in Dublin and elsewhere as well as key local business people. Members of the High Level Advisory Group also assisted with the Diaspora Engagement event held in Dublin in May.

PROMOTION OF THE COUNTY



Leitrim County Council continued to promote the County as an investment location, throughout Ireland and the world. A large scale event was organised in the InterContinental Hotel in Dublin on 12th May, 2016. This event involved extensive engagement with the various networks of Leitrim people and also involved direct engagement with the top one hundred and fifty companies who might consider locating part of their business outside of the Dublin area. The event included presentations on the developments in the county, potential sectors which can be developed and presentations from three different scaled businesses operating here successfully – Shed Distillery, Cora Systems and VistaMed.

This event provided an ideal lead-in to the USEFE Invest4Success Regional Jobs and Investment event in Croke Park in November. In addition, a number of applications were submitted for funding around business Diaspora related activity and funding was received of €10,000 late in 2016 for the development of a Diaspora Strategy over 2017. In addition, a short promotional video of the businesses which had stands at the event and people speaking and attending was compiled and widely promoted on social media.

FACILITATE AND SUPPORT BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

LEITRIM COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015-2021

The Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021 suite of documents was published in February, 2016. This comprises:

- 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.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT & BUILDING CONTROL

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME 2016-2019

Leitrim County Council adopted a new Development Contributions Scheme to cover the period 2016 – 2019 at the November 2016 Council meeting. This followed the publication of the Draft Scheme in July/August 2016 and the holding of a number of workshops with the Elected Members. All relevant developments which are subject to the provisions of the Development Contributions Schemes will be required by condition of their planning permission to contribute towards future infrastructural provision which will benefit their development in accordance with the terms of the Scheme. The Development Contributions Scheme is available to view (or purchase) at the offices of the Planning Department or on the Council website.

VACANT SITE LEVY

The Planning Authority undertook extensive research in the preparation of a report outlining the manner in which the Vacant Site Levy will be implemented in Leitrim. This included a presentation of the draft report to the Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee in December. The text of the Draft Variation was finalised in December to be presented to the full Council at the January 2017 meeting. It is expected that the draft Variation when screened for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment will be published in 2017.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A total of 241 planning applications, including 11 Extension of Duration applications, were received during 2016. 27% (65) of these applications were considered invalid, primarily relating to poorly prepared applications with the remaining 176 applications considered valid. Of the valid applications, 24 related to commercial development. The number of valid applications received in 2016 increased by 5% in comparison to the total number of valid applications received in 2015 although a reduction in the increase experienced in 2015 (increase of 23%). This again is an encouraging indication in relation to an increase in construction activity occurring across the county.

A total of 172 decisions were issued in relation to planning applications during the year which was broadly similar to the number of decisions which issued in 2015 (167) in comparison to the 101 decisions issued in

2014. The grant rate was recorded at 92% of all decisions made. A significant commercial application seeking to construct a three storey Primary Healthcare Centre in Flynn's Field, Carrick-on-Shannon was granted planning permission in November and demonstrates further confidence in the local economy. A new Gaelscoil to replace the existing temporary school which is located in the grounds of St. Mary's GAA Club was granted planning permission off the Castlecara Road, Carrick on Shannon in July. Of the unsuccessful planning applications, 5 related to Extension of Duration applications and 9 related to applications seeking planning permission.

PART 8 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The Council successfully brought four of its own development proposals through the Part 8 public consultation process during the year. These developments were:

- Dromahair – 200 metre footpath extension on the R288 Sligo Road to connect the existing local GAA grounds and playground to the village.
- Manorhamilton - Development of a walkway / cycleway along the R280 Carrick on Shannon Road to the rear of the newly developed Glencar Manorhamilton GAA grounds at Boggaun, a distance of approximately 4.5km in length.
- Carrick on Shannon - Flood relief works in the form of raising the existing local roads and footpaths at the rear of the Bush Hotel and the Landmark Hotel.
- N16 - Proposed realignment of the existing N16 National Primary route for a distance of 1.55 km in length within the townlands of Diffreen, Drummahan, Tawnamachugh and Mulkaun.

PRE-PLANNING CLINICS

A total of 86 formal pre-planning queries/meetings were facilitated in 2016 with the average waiting time for such meetings or queries being dealt with recorded at 11.9 days.

EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENTS

A total of 29 applications for a determination on exempt/ non exempt status of a proposed development (Section 5 Declarations) were received over the course of the year. The relatively large number of applications reflects primarily to the availability of grant aid assistance from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme. This was also reflected in the number of planning applications for agricultural development (22) which were submitted over the course of the year.

Three applications for a Certificate of Exemption under Section 97 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2016 (exemption from the provisions of Part V) was received in 2016 again reflective of the lack of multiple residential unit development presently under construction/being considered across the county.

In 2016, 57 tree felling and 56 tree planting applications were dealt with 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 eleven landowner applicants were given initial approval to commence the design process phase of this Pilot Scheme. At the end of 2015, seven of these designs had the benefit of planning permission with construction having commenced on four sites. The first of these houses was occupied during 2016.

The Planning Authority re-opened this scheme for further applicants over the course of 2016 with a further twenty-six applications received within the specified period. Following a short listing process, thirteen applications have been invited to participate in the extended Pilot Scheme. The Council is now also commencing a process to develop the parameters within which this extended phase of the scheme will operate taking into account complexities such as revisions to the Building Regulations Technical Design documents.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

A total of thirty-five new planning enforcement cases were referred to or initiated by the Planning Authority in 2016 of which six were successfully closed by the year end. A total of twenty-one Warning Letters were issued which resulted in five cases being the subject of Enforcement Notice. Of the twenty-one Warning Letters which issued, seven of these cases have been resolved to date whilst of the five Enforcement Notices served, two have been successfully resolved.

TAKING IN CHARGE OF ESTATES/UNFINISHED ESTATES

A total of five housing developments were taken in charge during 2016. Significant work was done over the course of year in progressing works within a significant number of housing developments which would allow for these developments to be taken in charge by the Local Authority. The Council continued to progress the resolution of unfinished estates in 2016 with all relevant stakeholders. Work has been ongoing with various developers, banks and bond companies in this regard.

The Planning Authority was successful in obtaining funding under the National Taking in Charge Initiative from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. €101,950 was obtained under Measure 1 which will allow for works to be completed in nine estates and be brought to a state where they are capable of being taken in charge. €50,000 was obtained under Measure 3 towards funding for a research project relating to the engagement of legal counsel in relation to development bonds and the undertaking of Site Resolution Plans by Consulting Engineers/Quantity Surveyors with respect to a number of housing developments.

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) which included the following:

- A Stakeholder Workshop with OPW/Jacobs Engineering was held in Athlone on Wednesday 25th May, 2016 on Preliminary Options Report Stage.
- Public Consultation on the Draft Flood Risk Management Plan for the Shannon CFRAM Catchment took place from 15th July, 2016 to 23rd September, 2016 inclusive with final adoption of the plans by the end of 2016.
- The North Western – Neagh Bann CFRAM Draft Flood Risk Management Plan was on public display from Friday 19th August to Friday 28th October, 2016.
- The Western CFRAM Draft Flood Risk Management Plan was on public Display from Tuesday 13th September to Tuesday 22nd November, 2016.
- The OPW/Consultants made a presentation to the Elected Members on Monday 5th September, 2016 on the Draft Flood Risk Management Plans. This was followed by a Public Consultation day in County Buildings on Tuesday 6th September, 2016 hosted by the OPW and the Consultants, where the public were encouraged to make submissions on the Draft FRMP.

Leitrim

explore • experience • enjoy

MARKETING AND PROMOTION

Leitrim Tourism conducted an extensive Marketing campaign targeting the domestic market under the theme 'Creating Memories in Leitrim', this included the following activities: - National and Regional radio campaign, Outdoor advertising placed on prominent coach routes, Press advertising and Digital and Social Media. A call to action for all activities was advertised on the developed website www.enjoyleitrim.com. An events campaign featuring six Leitrim festivals on the TV3 Gig guide was also completed and received additional publicity.

LEITRIM TOURISM WEBSITE

Leitrim Tourism developed a new and innovated website which enables the trade to access and upload details of their product.

TOUR OPERATORS

Over eighty Tour Operators visited Leitrim and experienced the Shannon Blueway, Heritage sites and local food.



REDZ BLUEWAY FLAGSHIP

Minister Heather Humphreys, T.D., Minister for Regional Development, Rural Affairs, Arts and the Gaeltacht formally launched the REDZ Blueway Flagship Initiative on Friday 24th June in the Landmark Hotel, Carrick on Shannon. This project was an innovative partnership of Cavan, Leitrim, Longford and Roscommon local authorities in conjunction with Waterways Ireland and supported by Bord Na Mona and the ESB.



OFFICIALS AND DELEGATES WITH MINISTER HEATHER HUMPHRIES AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE REDZ BLUEWAY FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE



EXAMPLES OF ADVERTISING PROMOTION OF THE SHANNON BLUEWAY



2016 was the year of the Centenary, a programme of over sixty events took place in Leitrim. Events included the St. Patrick's Heritage Day, renaming of a street in Manorhamilton, Midnight Vigil in Kiltyclogher and a Diversity Project by the Leitrim Learning Network. The main focus for Leitrim was remembering Seán Mac Diarmada, who was born in Kiltyclogher and also Thomas Clarke who had connections in Carrigallen. All schools in the county participated in various events including flag rising ceremonies on Proclamation day.



FLAG RAISING CEREMONY AS PART OF THE 1916 CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS





PHOTOGRAPHS FROM ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE IN KILTYCLOGHER, CO. LETITRIM WHICH FORMED PART OF THE 1916 CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS





RE-DEDICATION OF LOWER MAIN STREET, MANORHAMILTON TO SRÁID SEAN MACDIARMADA AS PART OF THE 1916 CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS



SAINT

Leitrim is the designated area in Ireland for Slow Adventure Tourism in collaboration with the SAINT Project which includes research and development of the slow adventure concept. Trade providers around the county have been involved in the initial stages of this project.

TRADE SHOWS

Leitrim Tourism attended a number of trade and consumer shows in 2016 including the holiday world show in Belfast, Tourism Ireland Road shows in Canada and Flavours of Ireland in London. In partnership with Waterways Ireland we attended the Adventure and Travel show in the Excel London.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Two additional Tourist Information points were set up in Glencar and Ballinamore. Leitrim in conjunction with Roscommon host a unit in Ireland West Knock Airport and a seasonal Tourist Office in Carrick on Shannon.

DIGITAL MARKETING

Leitrim Tourism continues to increase its presence of our social media platforms and also produced four e-zines which were circulated to our large database. The Leitrim Top Attractions brochure was translated into three languages German, French and Italian.

TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

LOUGH RINN RECREATIONAL FACILITY



Leitrim County Council secured 2014 Sports Capital Grant funding of €150,000 for Phase II of Lough Rinn Rowing Course Project. The works completed the provision of an additional Launch Pontoon adjacent to the existing Launch Pontoon. Works were tendered and a Design/Build Contract was awarded to Deane Public Works who completed all works in 2016.

Leitrim County Council was delighted to receive additional funding under the 2015 Sports Capital of €200,000 towards further development of the world class Lough Rinn Recreational facility and these works will be completed in 2017. This will greatly assist in the further development of this regional Sports facility and have a very positive impact in attracting Clubs/Regatta/National and International clubs and people to the region thus enhancing the tourist potential for the region and giving a much needed economic boost to the area. The Connaught branch of Rowing Ireland held the first National Rowing regatta on Lough Rinn on Saturday 14th May, 2016 which attracted rowing clubs from all over Ireland. The rowing clubs had a very positive experience and enjoyed rowing to a large crowd with excellent weather conditions. Many different clubs, colleges and groups are also using this facility for training purposes.



TRANSPORTATION – PLANNING AND MAINTENANCE

The annual roads budget for 2016 was €10.2m, which was down from €11.2m in 2015.

Works completed in 2016 include the following:

- The construction of the upgrading of 2km of N16 at Cornalcoy to Sradrine continued throughout 2016. This project will remove a series of dangerous bends along the N16 and is a continuation of a scheme complete a number of years ago. In total 3.5km of the N16 will be improved at this location once this project is complete.
- Improvement works were complete at 45 different locations throughout the county as a result of the €2m funding received to deal with the damage caused by the flood event in December, 2015.
- New surfacing, footpaths and public lighting on Bridge Street, Carrick-on-Shannon was completed.
- 67.6km of roads were strengthened in 2016 which is the same length as 2015.
- 41.4km of roads were surfaced dressed in 2016 which is the same length as 2015.
- €690,000 spent on road safety improvement schemes at ten locations in the county, including a new roundabout on the N4 at the bridge in Carrick on Shannon, junction improvement works on the N4 at Masonite and junction improvement works on the R202 at Edentinny.
- A slope remediation contract was completed on the N4 outside Carrick on Shannon
- 30km/hr speed limit was introduced for roads in all housing estates in the county.
- Bridge Rehabilitation Works was completed on six bridges.

LABOUR ACTIVATION MEASURES

Four Interns were employed under the JobBridge Internship Scheme during 2016. The aim of JobBridge is to assist in breaking the cycle where jobseekers are unable to get a job without experience, either as new entrants to the labour market after education or training or as unemployed workers wishing to learn new skills. Internships provide individuals with an opportunity to put into practice skills they have learned during training and/or education, in a workplace setting, to enhance those skills, understand the workplace environment and context and to benefit from a mentor or supervisor's experience and advice.

Forty-eight people were employed on the 'Gateway' Labour Activation Initiative during 2016, with thirty-eight of these staff having completed their twenty-two month maximum term on the scheme during the year. The Scheme provides short-term work and training opportunities for long-term unemployed people who have been on the Live Register for over two years and the associated work opportunities have benefited areas such as local amenity upkeep, tourism promotion etc.

The Government has commenced a review of the operation of Labour Activation Schemes and the outcome of same is awaited.

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

As the Arts Office approaches the final year of its current strategy, 2016 has already seen the ignition of new approaches and ideas designed to develop new thinking and practice. This has evolved across a range of arts development spheres from an ongoing evaluation and reflection on current programmes.



JOE LOWE, LEO SCARRTT, JOHN MANNION AND COUNCILLOR SINEAD GUCKIAN AT THE LAUNCH OF THE METHODOS TECHNE IN MOHILL.

LEITRIM YOUTH THEATRE

Membership of Leitrim Youth Theatre continued to grow this year, far exceeding the national average, expanding to three groups in Carrigallen with two each in Carrick on Shannon and Manorhamilton. Plans were also developed for an exchange programme between the three centres to be implemented in 2017 further encouraging peer learning among leaders and exposure to a much wider range of approaches to theatre making for members.

ARTIST IN SCHOOLS SCHEME

The format and structure of the Artist in Schools Scheme has been refined year on year to maximise the return on investment in terms of the quality of experience for young people to engage with the arts. Collaboration is key, and the process of project development is now phased to ensure that artists, teachers and young people all contribute to the design of their programme.

ARTIST IN THE COMMUNITY SCHEME

Mirroring the Artist in Schools Scheme, 2016 saw the completion of the first full cycle of the Artist in Community Scheme where four artists worked with an Environmental Protection Action Group in Manorhamilton, Youthreach in Drumshanbo, Rehabcare in Ballinamore and Aughavas ICA. The four

projects had different approaches, processes and outcomes according to their contexts, with each very successful in their own right. Four new artists worked with a Men's Shed Group, a Resident's Association, Photography Group and an Intercultural Group resulting in the development of interesting project ideas.

WILD WORDS ANTHOLOGY

Today FM's Alison Curtis launched the fourth volume of the Wild Words anthology to a packed auditorium at the Dock on 12th August, 2016. While events for all ages at Wild Words Children's Book Festival continue to be very popular and provide wonderful opportunities for young people to engage with books – the Wild Words programme for teenagers, which includes the anthology and a masterclass programme for young writers, has grown exponentially over the last two years and exceeded all expectations in terms of numbers, quality and impact.



ALISON CURTIS LAUNCHING THE FOURTH VOLUME OF THE WILD WORDS ANTHOLOGY

IRON MOUNTAIN LITERARY FESTIVAL

Arising from the John McGahern Seminar which ran from 2007 for eight years, the Iron Mountain Literature Festival was established this year, reframed in a wider context and features, among others, celebrated American novelist Annie Proulx and Laureate for Irish Fiction, Anne Enright. The festival's character was inspired, in part, by Annie Proulx's memoir *Bird Cloud* whose subtitle –A Memoir of Place– illustrates the curatorial approach which has allowed for a wide-ranging event combining panels, talks and readings which looked to ideas central to an exploration of place, home and identity. The programme also included architect Dominic Stevens, Dr. Keith Hopper, archaeologist Sam Moore, historian and writer Shane McCorristine, and playwright Conor McPherson. As part of the programme Leitrim County Council and the Tyrone Guthrie Centre created the John McGahern Award to support new writing and to pay tribute to the exceptional contribution of John McGahern to literature and to Leitrim.

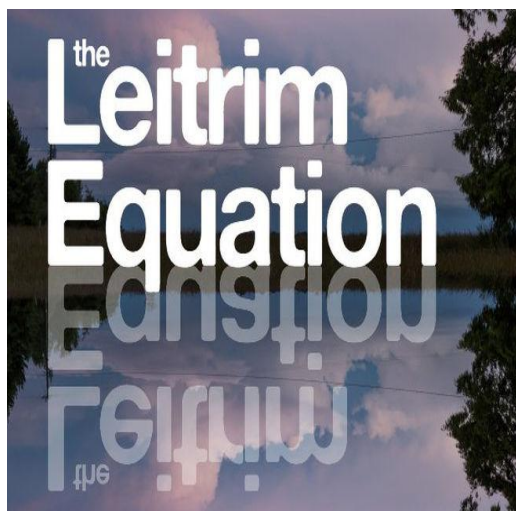


FRANK CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, PHILIP DELAMERE, ARTS OFFICER, ANNIE PROUX AND DOMINIC STEVENS AT THE OPENING OF THE IRON MOUNTAIN LITERATURE FESTIVAL.



THE CATHAOIRLEACH, COUNCILLOR MARY BOHAN PRESENTS THE INAUGURAL JOHN MCGAHERN AWARD TO PHIL KEARNEY BURN AT THE IRON MOUNTAIN LITERATURE FESTIVAL.

LEITRIM EQUATION



The Leitrim Equation project came full circle with four Leitrim musicians having led the project, bringing the Leitrim music to new audiences. The performance that was the culmination of the residency featured the four musicians Eleanor Shanley, Padraig McGovern, Dave Sheridan and John McCartin joined by Dónal Lunny, poet Vincent Woods and dancer Edwina Guckian. The Leitrim Equation show received much critical acclaim in Leitrim, Dublin and London and a film of the show was premiered in Carrick-on-Shannon Cineplex as part of Culture Night. In 2016, we worked with Edwina Guckian on a separate project with Appalachian dancer Nic Gareiss to provide professional development training and mentoring for Sean Nós dancers and it is hoped to develop this further in the coming years.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BURSARY PROGRAMME

The Professional Development Bursary Programme helped over twenty artists develop new work or receive further training in 2016 and also saw the continued development of Creative Frame in partnership with the Leitrim Local Enterprise Office. Project Manager Leslie Ryan spearheaded the rollout of the new on-line network and facilitated networking by Visual Artists Ireland, Irish Writers Centre, Words Ireland, First Music Connect and training in areas such as web design, music publishing, photographing your work, proposal/application writing and a series of social media workshops.

SUPPORT TO ART VENUES AND FESTIVALS

Leitrim County Council Arts Office continued to support arts venues and festivals throughout the county. The Artist's Studios developed by Leitrim County Council at Drumshanbo Library were occupied by artist Kate Wilson and writer Gerry Boland. As part of their tenancy, the two artists worked with different groups in the community encouraging wider access and participation in the arts.

SPARK PROGRAMME

The SPARK Programme in partnership with Leitrim Local Enterprise Office fosters collaboration between artists and conventional businesses. 2016 saw the completion of Leo Scarff's residency at Mohill Enterprise Centre with an exhibition and publication entitled Methodos Techné. During the residency Leo developed a programme of workshops about design in partnership with FabLab Manorhamilton, which has since resulted in two new Level 5 courses in design being rolled out in Mohill and Manorhamilton. SPARK is currently the subject of a study by the University of Limerick into the role of the arts in business which is due for publication later this year.

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 have developed an ambitious blueprint for how to support filmmakers based in the three counties.

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 2016, we continued our investment in the centre to ensure that it could be sustained as a cornerstone for the arts. Key to its continued success are plans developed to improve the facilities provided and to ensure that the existing facilities meet the highest health and safety standards and fire regulations. It's varied and strategically planned programme

throughout the year continues to encourage audiences and participants for the arts locally and regionally. 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.

In Leitrim there is a particular recognition of the value of the creative sector and the substantial social, cultural and economic benefits which accrue from it. We maintained our investment in the arts insofar as possible in recent years because we recognise that the creative sector is uniquely important to Leitrim. After an extended period of some difficulty, Leitrim County Council is now starting to regain any lost ground in the sector in recent years and hopes to start to grow again in 2017.

COMMUNITY

Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government allocated a budget of €50,000 to the Leitrim Public Participation Network for 2016. A new User Guide was issued in May which contained the guidelines for the roll out of the PPN in County Leitrim for 2016. All actions in the User Guide were completed by Leitrim PPN. A National Advisory Group was set up to monitor and oversee the work of the PPN's. Bi-monthly meetings for Resource Workers were also put in place to support the workers.

Leitrim County Council allocated €30,000 to Leitrim Public Participation Network. A Memorandum of Understanding was put in place between the PPN and Leitrim County Council. A work plan and budget were also agreed and signed off.

○ PPN Secretariat

There are seven Community Representatives on the Secretariat. An Assessment Sub Group was set up and work was commenced on PPN Policies and Procedures, a Constitution for the PPN and a Representatives Charter.

○ PPN Groups

There were 188 groups registered with the PPN in 2016 which can be broken down as follows:

Colleges

• Voluntary and Community	121
• Social Inclusion	63
• Environment	4

Municipal Districts

• Ballinamore Municipal District	73
• Manorhamilton Municipal District	60
• Carrick on Shannon Municipal District	55

○ Meetings/Events

Considerable work was progressed and achieved during the year. Volunteer members of the PPN Secretariat, along with the Resource Worker and PPN Representatives arranged and attended meetings, workshops and events which ensured that the PPN developed within the county. Attendance at various events ensured that Leitrim PPN was represented and its profile was raised within the county while also providing numerous opportunities for networking and sharing of information.

- **Communications/PR**

An extensive PR package was rolled out between January and April in partnership with Think6 PR Company. Monthly e-bulletins were sent to all PPN member groups and Leitrim PPN is involved in the circulation of information on consultations, funding, training, courses, activities and events to all PPN members on a monthly basis. Information is also circulated on an ad hoc basis to meet deadlines as required. CIT Web Solutions were contracted to develop the PPN website. A PPN Face book page was set up.

- **PPN Training**

Digital Business Institute were contracted to deliver training on Social Media Training to PPN groups. These sessions were delivered in Manorhamilton and Drumshanbo.

- **PPN Outreach Work**

The PPN continues to reach out to communities throughout the county and provide a presence in Manorhamilton, Ballinamore and Rossinver.

- **PPN Representation on Committees:**

Leitrim PPN has representatives who sit on the following Committees:

- LCDC – five representatives.
- Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC – 2 representatives.
- Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development SPC – 2 representatives.
- Environment, Transport and Infrastructure – 1 representatives.
- Joint Policing Committee – 6 representatives.
- Leitrim Sports Partnership – 1 representative.
- County Childcare Committee – 1 representative.
- Leitrim County Enterprise Fund – 1 representative.
- NW Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force – 2 representatives.
- Leitrim Peace IV Partnership – 4 representatives.
- Leader Evaluation Committee – 5 representatives.
- Social Justice Ireland delivered training for PPN Representatives in March.

- **PPN Linkage Groups**

Meetings were held with PPN Reps to set up Linkage Groups for all of the Committees and Boards that have PPN representatives sitting on them.

- **Leitrim Development Company**

The PPN have representation on the Community Development Sub-Committee of Leitrim Development Company and regularly attend meetings of the Leitrim Equality Disability Network meetings.

The PPN worked closely with both Community Development Workers from the Development Company in the promotion of the PPN throughout the County and also the sourcing and signing up of groups to the PPN membership.

LEITRIM JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

The Leitrim Joint Policing Committee (JPC) met on four occasions in 2016. The JPC adopted the Leitrim Joint Policing Strategy 2015-2020 at their February meeting. The Strategy contains a number of objectives that will be implemented by the Gardai, the Council and the Joint Policing Committee over the life-time of the Strategy. A Sub-Committee of the JPC was also established to consider the proposed introduction of Drinking Place Bye-laws for Carrick-on-Shannon. The JPC Sub-Committee examined the matter and they recommended the deferral of the proposed introduction of the Bye-laws for an initial 12 month period. They also recommended better stakeholder engagement between the business community, the local

authority and the Gardai be put in place in order to address issues relating to the night-time economy in Carrick-on-Shannon. The JPC also received presentations from Superintendent Kevin English on Policing Issues in Leitrim, a presentation from Ms. Johanna Daly, Road Safety Officer on Road Safety and a presentation from Mr. Sean O'Connor, Northwest Regional Drugs Taskforce Co-ordinator on alcohol and substance mis-use.

COMHAIRLE NA NOG



Comhairle na nÓg Liatroma represents young people in Leitrim, with members from all the second level schools. In 2016, the young people researched Homelessness in Leitrim, produced a report and presented their findings. They received training including committee skills, presentation skills and facilitation skills. They participated in Dáil na nÓg and were consulted on a number of issues, including the Peace IV programme.

LEITRIM AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVE



Leitrim Age Friendly Alliance continued to deliver their plan to ensure Leitrim becomes more age friendly. Leitrim County Council hosted an Age Friendly Information Event, bringing together all relevant agencies and service providers. Leitrim Older People's Council produced the guide "Making Your Written Publications Age Friendly" which was launched at the event. Consultations took place for the new Age Friendly Strategy 2017/2019.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Leitrim had three entries in the annual all-Ireland Pride of Place Awards. At the Awards Ceremony in Belfast in November, although there were over 100 entries from around the 32 counties, two groups from Leitrim were presented with top awards. Carrick on Shannon was runner up in Category 4 (population 2,000 to 5,000), Drumshambo Community Council was runner up in Category 7 (Community Business Enterprise Initiatives). Rossinver was also nominated for an award (population under 300), however, despite putting in a really strong entry, they were unsuccessful in getting an award.



PHOTOGRAPHS OF PRIDE OF PLACING JUDGING

FLORAL PRIDE

A total of 56 applications were entered in the 2016 Floral Pride Competition and twenty of these received prizes at the Awards Event in Manorhamilton in October. Ballinamore Tidy Towns received the overall winner in the Community Category.

HERITAGE MANAGEMENT



The role of Heritage Officer continued to be developed in 2016 after it being re-established the year previously 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 twenty-eight newsletters over the course of the year which was an increase from twenty one publications in the previous year. A detailed database of heritage contacts has been created and is being updated continuously. Leitrim County Council applied for match funding to the Heritage Council under the County Heritage Plan Programme 2016 for our continued involvement with Cavan, Longford, Roscommon and Monaghan in the regional Black Pig's Dyke project.

A comprehensive '*National Heritage Week - The County Leitrim Event Booklet*' was produced in addition to 100 posters advertising the various events which were organised by approximately 1,000 heritage enthusiasts across the county. The booklet listed all the events taking place around the county during National Heritage Week. The Libraries were particularly active in hosting events and the booklet was well received.



PICTURED IN CARRICK LIBRARY IS A DISPLAY OF CHILDREN'S ARTWORK AS PART OF NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK.

The Heritage Officer also advised members of the public in relation to the various grants available, in particular the Structures at Risk Fund and the Built Heritage Investment Scheme. Two applications were successfully nominated by Leitrim County Council for inclusion under the terms of the Structures at Risk Fund whilst six applications were successfully nominated by Leitrim County Council for inclusion under the terms of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme.

A total of eight Section 57 Declarations of Exemptions to Protected Structures were also dealt with in 2016.

ENVIRONMENT

GREEN SCHOOLS

The following schools were awarded flags for work on the Green Schools Programme in 2016.

SCHOOL	THEME
Largy National School	Litter and Waste
Newtowngore N.S	Litter and Waste
Gaelscoil Liatroma	Energy
Mohill Community College	Water
Annaduff N.S	Travel
St. Brigid's N.S	Travel
St. Joseph's N.S	Travel
St. Patrick's N.S	Travel
Drumlease N.S	Biodiversity
St. Brigid's N.S	GC Energy

RE-USABLE COFFEE CUP PROJECT



In Leitrim, we have in excess of 60 Adopt a Road Groups who pick litter on a regular basis on stretches of roads in the County. The two things that they regularly complained of was picking up paper coffee cups and plastic water bottles. Leitrim County Council chose to use the LAPN funding to do a branded Re-Useable Coffee Cup to encourage positive behavioural change.

The Environment Department sought quotations and samples from various companies to purchase branded cups and the one which came up best value for money and best product was the KeepCup. A total of 990 cups were purchased and distributed to Tidy Towns Groups on 12th April, 2016. The 18 Tidy Towns Groups were each given a supply of cups and accompanying promotional posters to promote in their own towns and villages. The individual groups also liaised with their local Coffee Shops and Filling Stations to negotiate discounts for people presenting these cups for take-away teas and coffees.

TASTE OF CARRICK-ON-SHANNON

One of the highlights of the Carrick-on-Shannon Carnival is the “*Taste of Carrick*” event, where attendees can sample local delicious food from a selection of restaurants, cafes, breweries and local food producers. There was an attendance of over 1, 500 at this event in June, 2016. Leitrim County Council provided two Bin Stations and worked in conjunction with the Vendors and Carrick-on-Shannon Tidy Towns at the event.



WORKING WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE WASTE COLLECTION AT THE 'TASTE OF CARRICK' EVENT.

Leitrim County Council provided Food Waste Bins, Recycling Bins and General Waste Bins for use by the patrons attending the event. The weights of wastes collected on the day were 70kg Recyclables, 200kg Food Waste and 150kg General Waste which resulted in 270kg of waste being diverted from landfill.

Since then, the two Bin Stations have been provided complimentary to Manorhamilton Agricultural Show in July 2016 and the Ballinamore Agricultural Show which was held in August 2016. Each of these events had an attendance in excess of 1,500 and the feedback to Leitrim County Council from the Event Organisers was very positive.

2016 BETTER ENERGY COMMUNITY SCHEME

Leitrim County Council in conjunction with our Energy Consultants Retrofit Energy Ireland Ltd (REIL) lodged a Better Energy Communities 2016 Application on Friday 26th February, 2016 with Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI). Works involved scoping a further project application for the 2016 SEAI Better Energy Communities Grant programme with a particular emphasis on the community facilities within Manorhamilton town and Carrick-on-Shannon town. Energy Surveys by REIL Specialist Energy Retrofit Ireland (Energy Consultant) were carried out on selected properties to meet SEAI requirements in Manorhamilton and Carrick-on-Shannon for proposed application to SEAI for funding. SEAI evaluated all applications received nationally. SEAI announced on the 9th June, 2016 that Leitrim County Council and its Beneficiaries were awarded a grant of €691,903.78 total eligible costs with a maximum grant amount of €283,964.33 for this SEAI Project.

All works were completed on this project which included the following:

- 43 Local Authority Houses
- 3 Private houses
- Bee Park Community Centre – Manorhamilton
- St. Clare's National School Manorhamilton
- Drumboylan National School.

It was a huge challenge to get all works completed by deadline date of 14th October, 2016. All works were successfully completed and funding was recouped from the SEAI for this Project subject to their audit inspections. Leitrim County Council have availed of SEAI grant allocations for 2014, 2015 and 2016 for the past three years and have availed of total eligible cost grant funding in the region of €1.5 million in funding under the SEAI Better Energy Communities Grant funding. This was all project managed by the Environment Department.

POLLUTION CONTROL

WATER PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government issued a document for Public Consultation “*Significant Water Management Issues in Ireland*” on the 17th June, 2015. Ireland is currently preparing its second round of RBMPs (2015 – 2021) which will be in place in December, 2017. This document has been informed by a variety of National and EU Reports including those on water quality, drinking water quality, urban waste water treatment, bathing waters and protected habitats and species. This document has been informed by a variety of National and EU Reports including those on water quality, drinking water quality, urban waste water treatment, bathing waters and protected habitats and species. In July 2014, the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government issued the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2014, which gave effect to a new, three Tier governance framework and placed new obligations on local authorities to co-ordinate the catchment management and public participation elements of the Water Framework Directive. The regulations also provide for the establishment of a Water Framework Directive Office (WFD office) to deliver on these obligations as a shared service on behalf of all Local Authorities. Kilkenny County Council and Tipperary County Council have been appointed as the lead Authorities for this Project and will take responsibility for the WFD Office.

The WFD office will ensure that the resources are utilised locally within an integrated National Implementation Plan, based on a single River Basin District. Three Regional Co-ordinators were appointed and twelve Water Community Officers were appointed with one Community Water Officer based in Carrick-on-Shannon serving the Border Region counties of Sligo, Leitrim, West Cavan and Longford.

DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM INSPECTIONS, 2016

Domestic Waste Water, if not managed properly, has the potential to contaminate surface and ground waters, causing pollution and creating a risk to human health and the environment. The *National Inspection Plan 2013: Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems*, published by the EPA, aims to protect water and human health in two ways: by raising public awareness of the issues involved and by providing a framework for a nationwide risk-based inspection programme to be delivered by Local Authorities. It focuses on areas where the potential risk to public health and water resources is high and sets out the minimum number of inspections to be carried out by each Local Authority for the period 1st January, 2016 to 31st December, 2016.

Two staff members from the Environment Section were trained to undertake inspections on behalf of Leitrim County Council. Following successful completion of the training course, the staff members were registered as Inspectors with the EPA. Following on from the training areas were identified for inspections using the risk based approach adopted by the EPA. The Inspectors called to the houses in the chosen area in advance to meet with the householders, provide notice of the upcoming inspections and assist with any queries related to the inspection process. An Information Pack detailing the process was also distributed to each householder.

The minimum number of inspections required to be carried out by Leitrim County Council during the period was twenty-eight. A total of thirty inspections were carried out in Leitrim during the months May to October 2016. The Inspections determined if the domestic wastewater treatment system is fit for purpose and does not pose a risk to human health or the environment. Of the treatment systems inspected in Leitrim ten passed the inspection representing a 33% pass rate on inspections completed in 2016. Advisory Notices were issued to twenty properties representing a 67% failure rate in 2016, regarding the systems that failed the inspection, specifying the issues and the measures required to resolve the problem. The majority of failures required minimal work in order to comply with the legislation with the most common

reasons for failure including unlicensed discharge to surface water, operation and maintenance issues and roof or surface water entering the system. Leitrim County Council will continue with inspections in 2017 as per the National Inspection Plan requirement.



EQUIPMENT USED AS PART OF THE ENVIROMENTAL INSPECTION PROGRAMMES

WASTE MANAGEMENT

CONNAUGHT-ULSTER WASTE ENFORCEMENT REGIONAL LEAD AUTHORITY (CUWERLA)

Leitrim County Council in partnership with Donegal County Council secured the role as Connaught/Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (CUWERLA). This office established on 18th January, 2016 with all positions of three officers filled by mid-March 2016. The lead authorities would have a visible presence in the field to support local authorities in the delivery of their statutory functions with a clear *"boots on the ground"* approach to waste enforcement. The local authorities will have responsibility for developing regional enforcement plans that would take account of national enforcement priorities and for ensuring that Local Authority Waste Enforcement Plans/RMCEI's take the regional enforcement plans into account. In addition to risk based inspections the Lead Waste Enforcement Authorities can ensure that sufficient random checks are also being carried out in the region.

In addition, a pilot targeted packaging enforcement project will be launched in 2017. Further details of this enforcement priority will be communicated to local authorities through the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA) offices in due course.

The National Waste priorities will be the focus of the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLAs) work in 2017 and they will be co-ordinating the work of the Local Authorities within the regions in pursuit of the effective and consistent enforcement of these priorities.

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

REPAK AWARDS 2016

Leitrim County Council was shortlisted to the final three in the National Pakman Awards for 2016 under the Social and Community Initiatives Category for work undertaken in the Keepcup Initiative and the Segregated Waste Initiative at Public Events.



PICTURED AT THE PAKMAN AWARDS IN OCTOBER, 2016 ARE KARINA O GRADY, CARMEL COLL, CLARICE WRYNNE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL WITH COUNCILLOR SEAN MCGOWAN, MINISTER DENIS NAUGHTON AND REPAK STAFF.

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 Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government in 2016. Mr. Simon Coveney visited Leitrim in December, 2016 and completed a site visit to a new housing development in Kinlough, Co. Leitrim. This development was an unfinished housing development where six dwellings were purchased by the local authority and the development was completed. The Minister also attended a Stakeholder Event on Rebuilding Ireland in the Bush Hotel with other stakeholders.



MINISTER SIMON COVENEY PERFORMING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE OAKFIELD MANOR ESTATE IN KINLOUGH, CO. LEITRIM AND ADDRESSING DELEGATES AT A 'REBUILDING IRELAND' SEMINAR IN CARRICK-ON-SHANNON IN DECEMBER, 2016.

HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT & HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

A total of 253 new housing applications for social housing support were received and processed in 2016. 116 offers of accommodation issued to housing applicants for casual vacancies arising within our existing Social Housing Stock. A total of 67 new tenants completed mandatory Pre-tenancy training – this figure is inclusive of 51 newly appointed local authority tenants, 10 transfer applicants and 6 tenancy regularisations. Leitrim County Council and all Housing Authorities were required to complete the Statutory Assessment of Housing Need as at 21st September, 2016. At the completion of this Statutory

Assessment of Housing Needs, a total of 367 Applicants were included on Leitrim County Council's Housing Waiting List. At the end of 2016, there were a total of 386 Applicants on the Housing Waiting List.

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

The targets for the delivery of outputs in respect of Traveller Accommodation. The target for delivery in 2016 was to deliver 10 units of accommodation and the target exceeded with the delivery of 13 units as outlined hereunder:

• Service Block Existing	2
• Standard Local Authority Accommodation	8
• Rental Accommodation Scheme	2
• Housing Provided by an Approved Housing Body	1
Total Outputs for 2016	13

MIDTERM REVIEW OF TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

In accordance with the provisions of Section 17(1) of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, and as directed by the Minister, Leitrim County Council carried out a mid-term review of its Traveller Accommodation Programme by 31st December, 2016 in consultation with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee. In completing this midterm review, there was ongoing consultation with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and all Traveller Households resident in the county were consulted in carrying out this review. Submissions were invited from all relevant Groups/Agencies. Following this midterm Review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme, it was not considered necessary to amend or replace the existing Traveller Accommodation Programme.

FIRE SAFETY UPGRADE WORKS AT SHANNONSIDE VIEW

In 2016, substantial Fire Safety Upgrade Works were completed at Shannonside View Halting Site, Rosebank, Carrick on Shannon. These upgrade works comprised of the following:-

- Completion of a full periodic Inspection Report (full electrical check) of all units at Shannonside View and completion of any necessary electrical repairs/upgrades arising.
- Installation of Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Alarms in each unit.
- Installation of Fire Extinguishers and Fire Blankets in each unit.
- Fire Safety Training was provided to all tenants in the maintenance and use of all fire safety equipment.
- Installation of two Wall Mounted fire cabinets with hose, stand pipe and associated fittings on site at Shannonside View.
- Supply and installation of fuel Storage sheds for each unit.

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). Two of the existing Traveller Representatives resigned from the Committee in 2016 and two new Traveller Representatives were elected to the Committee in 2016. The LTACC met on four occasions in 2016.

HOMELESSNESS

The Housing Department responded to 62 homeless presentations in 2016 - 17 deposits to the value of €5,780 were paid to secure private rented accommodation and expenditure of €96 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 2016.

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 2016, the accommodation needs of 26 households were met through new transfers into RAS and at 31st December, 2016, bringing the total number of households accommodated under the scheme to 119. In 2016, the accommodation needs of a further 11 households were met by the securing of properties under the SHLI bringing the total number of tenants accommodated in leased units to 15.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT (HAP) SCHEME

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is a new form of long term Social Housing Support which was introduced in Leitrim with effect from 1st December, 2016. HAP will replace Rent Supplement for those with a long term housing need. A person must be qualified for Social Housing Support in order to be eligible for HAP. Under HAP, a person must source their own private rented accommodation (within specific Rent Caps) and the Local Authority will pay their landlord directly and the tenant will pay a rent to the local authority based on Leitrim County Council's Differential Rent Scheme. Leitrim County Council accommodated 1 Household under HAP in 2016.

PRIVATED RENTED INSPECTION PROGRAMME

A total of 1,505 tenancies in the private rented sector in County Leitrim are registered with the Private Residential Tenancies Board (PRTB). Leitrim County Council completed 66 inspections under our Private Rented Inspection Programme in 2016.

HOUSING GRANT SCHEMES

Leitrim County Council provided grant aid in the sum of €409,695 to a total of 75 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)

All Leitrim County Council housing tenants were notified by letter issued on 28th April, 2016 of the introduction of the new Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme and the Terms and Conditions which apply. A total of 16 applications under this Scheme were received in 2016 and these applications were assessed in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme.

ESTATE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Our Estate Management Programme was ongoing throughout the county in 2016 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 supports the voluntary work of active Residents Associations in local authority estates in the county under the annual Estate

Management Grant Scheme. In 2016, 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 2016 each of the three 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.
- New Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy - Leitrim County Council adopted a new Anti Social Behaviour Strategy Document in November, 2016. This Strategy aims to prevent and reduce incidences of anti-social behaviour by working in partnership with all relevant organisations and aims to promote good estate management and prevent and eliminate anti social behaviour in our estates.
- New Tenant Handbook – A new Tenant Handbook was finalised in 2016 which provides Tenants with information regarding all aspects of their Tenancy Agreement.

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 669 repair requests were received in 2016, with 90% of them attended to by year-end.

THE NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY 2011-2016

The National Housing Strategy for People with Disability 2011 - 2016, is a joint initiative between the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and the Department of Health, to support people with disabilities in community based living with maximum independence and choice. 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. Housing Authorities, as part of this National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability, were requested to draw up specific strategies to locally meet the identified housing needs of people with physical, intellectual, mental health and sensory disabilities. To this end, Leitrim County Council set up a Housing & Disability Steering Group consisting of representatives from the Housing Department of Leitrim County Council and representatives from the HSE representing each of the above disability categories. The Housing & Disability Steering Group met on a number of occasions in 2016 in order to develop a Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability. The Strategy was finalised in December, 2016 and will be rolled out on an ongoing basis with proposed scheduled 5 year reviews. The Strategy sets out an annual target that not less than 5% of all dwellings will be reserved for people with a disability that are qualified for Social Housing Support. This Strategy will form an integral part of Leitrim County Council's Housing Service Plan and will promote and support the delivery of accommodation for people with disabilities using all appropriate housing supply mechanisms.

SOCIAL HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME (SHIP)

Leitrim County Council made a submission to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in 2016 under the Social Housing Strategy 2015 – 2017. This submission included a proposal for the construction of twenty social housing units at Carrick on Shannon over the period of the Strategy. Stage 3 Approval was received from the Department in 2016 in respect of the Construction of seven units

in Manorhamilton at an anticipated cost of €880,000 with construction works scheduled to commence in May, 2017.



PROPOSED DESIGN OF 7 ADDITIONAL SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS AT TAOBH TIRE, MANORHAMILTON, CO. LEITRIM.

ACQUISITION OF SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS

The Council continued its acquisition programme subject to Departmental approval and targets identified in the Social programme 2015 – 2017. In 2016, the Council purchased 24 number houses across the county. The purchase price in each case was fully recouped from the Department. The houses required energy and remedial works to return them to productive use and the costs of the works was also be funded by the Department.

Location	No. 4 bed semi-D	No. 3 bed semi-D	No. 4 bed Detached	No. 3 bed Detached	3 bed Bungalow	Total
Carrick- on-Shannon	4	2	1			7
Ballinamore	1	1				2
Kinlough		12		1		13
Manorhamilton	1					1
Drumshanbo					1	1
Totals	6	15	1	1	1	24

OVERVIEW OF 2016 HOUSING ACQUISITION PROGRAMME



HOUSING ACQUISITION – SIX DWELLINGS WERE ACQUIRED AT OAKFIELD MANOR, KINLOUGH, CO. LEITRIM AS PART OF THE 2016 HOUSING ACQUISITION PROGRAMME.

CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME (CAS)

Under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS), in 2016 North West Simon Community completed the acquisition and refurbishment of two family type dwellings in Carrick on Shannon. It is hoped that further social housing units will be acquired by North West Simon under this Programme in 2017.

A further CAS approval was received in February 2016 for a project led by St. Vincent de Paul, Ballinamore for the demolition of derelict properties and site preparation in Cannaboe Terrace, Ballinamore and the construction of two family type two storey dwellings on the site. In December, 2016 this project received Stage 3 approval from the Department: - approval to go to the market and procure a contractor to construct the project. Approved construction costs of €275,000 and it is anticipated that works will commence on site in April, 2017. The Council will have 100% tenancy nomination rights on all these CAS scheme properties from the Housing Waiting List.

ENERGY RETROFITTING PROGRAMME 2016

Cavity wall insulation, attic insulation and installation of vents were completed in 158 dwellings in the Council's Housing stock at a cost of €173,231 which was fully recouped from the Department.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY OF IRELAND (SEAI) BETTER COMMUNITIES AREA BASED SCHEME, 2016

Utilising this SEAI funding, energy retrofitting works were completed to 43 local authority dwellings, 3 private houses consisting of fuel poor and non-Fuel poor homes, a further 10 private homes were completed in conjunction with the LEO office and a Credit Union Initiative Scheme and also 3 Community beneficiaries projects consisting of a Community Centre and two schools. This SEAI Scheme funded energy retrofitting works to Council houses in the Breffni Crescent Estate in Carrick on Shannon and the Boley Hill, McDermott Terrace, Pairc an Mhuilinn and Gublaun Estates in Manorhamilton. The suite of works to the 43 local authority dwellings, included attic, cavity and external 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 2016

The Voids Programme and Derelict Scheme Programme are aimed at returning long-term vacant local authority properties to productive use. In 2016, the Council made a number of comprehensive submissions to the Department to maximise the available funding to complete the reinstatement to useful service of void and derelict units countywide. The Council successfully returned 51 units back to productive use under these Programmes. The overall cost of refurbishing these properties was €994,256 and €712,242 towards these costs was recouped from the Department. This now presents the Council with 51 additional productive properties spread throughout the County in what has been the most comprehensive void refurbishment programme completed by the Council in any one year. This has significantly reduced the Council's vacant properties which require extensive repair and refurbishment works. The units by area were as follows:

Location	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4bed	Total
Carrick- on-Shannon	3	3	3	-	9
Mohill/Cloone	4	8	6	1	19
Carrigallen/Ballinamore/ Aghavas/Aughnasheelin	1	3	1	-	5
Manorhamilton/Kinlough/ Kiltyclogher	3	3	2	-	8
Drumkeeran/Dromahaire	8	2	-	-	10
Totals	19	19	12	1	51

OVERVIEW OF LOCAL AUTHORITY DWELLINGS BY LOCATION UPGRADED IN 2016 UNDER THE HOUSING VOIDS AND DERELICTS PROGRAMMES.

DISABILITY WORKS TO LOCAL AUTHORITY DWELLINGS 2016

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 household. Typical works include - 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 having regard to the particular medical circumstances of the tenant. Adaptation Works were completed in 2016 in respect of 21 local authority dwellings. A total of €96,301 was recouped from the Department in respect of the costs of the total cost of these works at €126,232.

RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

In January 2016, Leitrim County Council received circular letter L1/16 from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government entitled Rural Water Multi-Annual Programme 2016 -2018'. The circular requested the Council to bid for 2016 funding within the new multi-annual framework and to provide a perspective on funding needs for schemes for 2017 and 2018.

All existing Group Water Schemes and any Groups who had expressed an interest in forming new Group Water Schemes were contacted as were all potential Group Sewerage Schemes who had previously indicated an interest in setting up a sewerage scheme. An advertisement was also placed in the Leitrim Observer allowing the opportunity for any group schemes/potential schemes to express an interest in applying for grant aid under the terms of the new circular.

Based on the information received from our communications a listing was prepared taking into account the need to support proper planning and sustainable development in rural areas, the need to meet the requirement of the Drinking Water Directive in relation to water supplies and to support the delivery of measures identified in the River Basin Management Plans to meet the objectives of the Water Framework directive.

In total funding was sought for 31 Group Water Schemes and 13 Group Sewerage Schemes with a total bid of €2,333,472 over the 3 year period. The following group water schemes were grant aided in 2016 under the multi annual programme 2016-2018 and ongoing discussions were held with Hartley Cartown Sewerage Scheme to progress matters.

Group Water Scheme	Funding Allocation
Antfield	€12,000.87
Drumaleague	€19,999.85
Mohercregg	€13,999.42
Termon	€10,000.25
Drumkeelan	€2,999.98
Pollboy NEW	€7,000.98

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH IRISH WATER

Leitrim County Council has successfully completed the third year of a twelve year Service Level Agreement with Irish Water. An Annual Service Plan was agreed in advance and an operations budget of €3.8 million was provided. An allocation of €1.07 million was also provided to fund the Central Management Charge associated with Water Services delivery.

In addition to this many Major and Minor Capital Works commenced in 2016 which, when completed, will enhance the Water Services infrastructure in the county and improve the quality of the Drinking Water produced. Irish Water have also continued to fund other refurbishment works deemed necessary on health and safety grounds to provide a safe working environment for all staff involved in Water Services delivery.

WATER SERVICES OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Leitrim County Council has continued to carry out operations and maintenance activities on the Water Services Network under the Irish Water Service Level Agreement. During 2016 there was a total of 1,370,273m³ of drinking water produced at the three plants operating in Leitrim, an average of 14,894m³ per day. A dedicated Leak Detection Team was formed during the year which together with a substantial upgrade to the District Metering Area (DMA) infrastructure has started to make progress on reducing Unaccounted for Water (UFW). Since the Team commenced in May a total of 38 leaks were found and repaired, many of which were substantial, losing between 50m³ and 200m³ per day. The Council also continues to operate and maintain 14 Waste Water Treatment Plants in the county. The billing of non domestic water charges was transferred to Irish Water in September but Council staff continue to have responsibility for meter reading.

MAJOR CAPITAL PROGRAMME

A number of Major Capital projects commenced in 2016 after various contracts were awarded by Irish Water.

- An extension of the NLRWSS to serve Kiltyclogher and Rossinver was completed in 2016. This major pipeline contract involved the construction of 11km and a new pumping station. These works secure the water supply to these two supply areas which are now supplied with fully treated water from the Moneyduff Water Treatment Plant.
- Substantial investment for the upgrade and improvement of various treatment processes was undertaken and completed in the Water Treatment Plant in Carrick on Shannon in 2016. These process improvements enhance and ensure the consistent quality of the water produced and improve the overall efficiency of the plant.
- Following an extended planning and design and tendering phase a contract for the extension of the Water Treatment Plant at Moneyduff commenced in October, 2016. This contract is a 2 year Design Build and Operate contract. The extended plant will increase the capacity of the plant to 5,500cum/day and will secure water supply demands in the north of the county for the foreseeable future.
- The Planning, Design and Tendering phase for a number of projects was concluded in 2016;
- Manorhamilton and Mohill Waste Water Treatment Plants Upgrades. Tendering was completed for this major capital project in 2016 and works are scheduled to commence in 2017.
- Drumshanbo, Ballinamore Carigallen and Leitrim Village WWTP upgrades. Tendering was completed for this minor capital project in 2016 and works are scheduled to commence in 2017.
- Eslin – Mohill 8" AC Trunk Main Replacement. Tendering completed in 2016 for the replacement of a 2.5Km section along the R201 at Kildoo to Mohill and is scheduled to commence in 2017.
- Killenna Watermain Extension. Tendering completed in 2016 for a 2.0 Km section pipeline at Killenna on the R286 West of Shancurry cross. These works will commence in 2017.

MONEYDUFF WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT EXTENSION



MINOR CAPITAL

In 2016, Leitrim County Council received approval and funding from Irish Water for a number of Minor Capital Projects.

- Watermain replacements in Dowra and Boley Hill, Manorhamilton has resulted in the lifting of Boil Water Notices in these areas.
- The old cast iron mains at Bridge Street, Carrick on Shannon were also replaced in advance of overall street and roadwork's improvements.
- A major upgrade of the District Metering Area (DMA) infrastructure was also completed.
- A Minor Capital Programme for the provision of flow and monitoring equipment was completed at 12 WWTP's in Leitrim as part of a regional scheme.
- A Minor Capital Programme for provision of UVT and Cryptosporidium monitoring equipment was completed at two Water treatment Plants NLRWSS and SLRWSS as part of a regional scheme.
- Preliminary work on many other projects has been completed and is awaiting approval from Irish Water for commencement in 2017.

VETERINARY SERVICES

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are currently six slaughterhouses operating in Leitrim. In total, 913 Cattle, 2,639 Sheep and 213 Pigs were slaughtered in 2016. In total 23 samples were collected for Veterinary Residue analysis and microbiological examination in 2016.

SMALL MEAT MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTION PREMISES

Leitrim County Council currently supervises two Ready-to-Eat Meals Plants and three Meat Distributors. A total of 103 food samples and 69 environmental swabs were sent for microbiological analysis in 2016.

DOG LICENSING & MICRO-CHIPPING

Leitrim County Council issued 1324 dog licences in 2016, 215 licences were issued on-line. On-line licences may be purchased on www.leitrimcoco.ie. The Leitrim Dog Warden continues to carry out dog licensing checks throughout the county on a regular basis.

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Leitrim County Council continues to support micro-chipping, neutering and responsible dog ownership in 2016. Leitrim County Council also issued 42 dog neutering vouchers to qualifying individuals under the Leitrim County Council/ Dog's Trust subsidised neutering programme.

STRAY HORSES

Fourteen stray horses were collected on behalf of Leitrim County Council in 2016. Many of these horses were abandoned by their owners on roads or public lands. Eight horses were re-homed to responsible owners and six horses were deemed unsuitable for re-homing and were humanely euthanised.

STRAY DOGS

A total of 231 dogs were seized or surrendered to the Leitrim Dog Warden Service in 2016. A re-homing rate of 96% was achieved in 2016. All dogs re-homed are neutered, vaccinated, groomed, 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/>

STRAY CATS

Approximately 45 stray or feral cats were trapped and neutered under the Leitrim County Council Trap-Neuter-Release programme in 2016.

TRANSITION YEAR INTEGRATION DAY

A Transition Year Integration Day, organised and sponsored by Leitrim County Council was held on 16th April, 2016 in the Lough Allen Hotel, Drumshanbo. The event was highly successful and was attended by 162 transition year students. Topics covered included Responsible Dog Ownership, Road Safety and Health and Fitness.



STUDENTS AND OFFICIALS AT THE TRANSITION YEAR INTEGRATION DAY IN THE LOUGH ALLEN HOTEL, DRUMSHANBO.

LIBRARY SERVICE

Leitrim County Council marked a very significant milestone at the beginning of the year with the introduction of free library membership for all its users, as part of a national initiative. Over the twelve month period, January to December 2016, there were 152,682 visits to libraries, with 107,306 items issued to borrowers. At 31st December 2016 there were 6,968 people with in-date library membership, an increase of 1.23% on the previous year. Total Internet sessions were 26,751 in 2016, which was up from 23,292 sessions in 2015, an increase of 14.85%. This increase is primarily due to the provision of Wi-Fi services in four branch Libraries since late 2015.

COMMEMORATING THE 1916 EASTER RISING

Leitrim County Library Service played a central role in implementing the Leitrim 2016 Centenary Programme, delivering a broad variety of commemorative events, which included public lectures, workshops, musical performances and readings.



PICTURED IN CARRIGALLEN AHEAD OF THE FIRST LECTURE IN THE LIBRARY CENTENARY LECTURE SERIES IS COUNCILLOR PADDY O'ROURKE, CHAIRPERSON OF THE LEITRIM 2016 CENTENARY COMMITTEE WITH HELEN LITTON, AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN AND EMMA CLANCY, LEITRIM COUNTY LIBRARIAN.

READING IS FOR EVERYONE

The provision of a quality collection of books is a core library service. Another core service is to foster and encourage a love of reading for both children and adults. Throughout 2016, the library service co-ordinated an extensive programme of events aimed at enhancing reading skills and the enjoyment of reading and learning.

- The Summer Stars Reading Programme is an exciting nationwide project, which provided support and encouragement to children who participated in a reading challenge during their summer holidays. This project built on the success of previous summer reading initiatives and benefitted from exciting branding and a national promotion campaign. Awards ceremonies were held in Library branches.
- A number of local Summer Camps incorporated a visit to local Libraries, during which the children enjoyed craft activities, storytelling and a tour of the Library.
- The Library Service presented 1916-themed events with author Patricia Murphy and Illustrator Gerry Hunt in Ballinamore and Carrick-on-Shannon Libraries as part of "Wild Words" – Carrick-on-Shannon's Children's Literature Festival.
- Children's Book Festival ran during the month of October.
- Library Reading Groups continued to grow and develop in a number of our branches during 2016, with an additional group setting up in Carrigallen Library due to popular demand.
- A series of readings and book launches were held throughout the year.
- The Library Service also plays host to a number of Creative Writing groups, and activities were organised throughout the year to provide support and encouragement for aspiring writers. Leitrim County Library, in association with Creative Frame, Leitrim County Council, and Words Ireland, hosted a hugely engaging event, which featured presentations from writers from the region, including Michael Harding, Brian Leyden, Monica Corish and Gerry Boland.

A COMMUNITY SPACE

Our Libraries are intended to be used by everyone in local communities. In 2016, the Library Service continued to reach out to individuals and groups in the community, highlighting the range of spaces, services and resources available. This is reflected in the wide range of regular ongoing events organised for and in partnership with community groups and public agencies. Examples include Citizen's Information, Age Action, ICA, and the local Astronomy Group. Film Screenings and Computer Classes, were held in a number of branch Libraries, while Irish language Groups and Craft Clubs met on a regular basis across the Library network.

LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY

The Library Service plays a vital role in facilitating Internet connectivity across the county. Library users continue to enjoy free high-speed Internet access via our public-use computers and printers in all branches, along with WiFi facilities in Ballinamore, Carrick-on-Shannon, Manorhamilton and Mohill Libraries.

NEW NATIONAL LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A major library technology project undertaken by the Library Service and the ICT Department in 2016 was the preparatory work for the new National Library Management System, Sierra, which the Library Service is scheduled to join in early 2017.

LOCAL STUDIES

2016 proved a very busy year for the Local Studies Department - supporting local history research, family history enquiries, presenting lectures, exhibitions and the well-received Item of the Month which runs in the Leitrim Observer. A limited County Archive Service was provided by Local Studies staff on an appointment basis only during 2016.

HERITAGE WEEK 2016

Leitrim County Library Service prepared and presented an impressive programme for Heritage Week 2016, with a total of eight events taking place in eight branch Libraries. Activities included a children's art exhibition, knitting demonstration, basket-making demonstrations, lectures and a poetry evening.

LIBRARY STAFFING

Our most valuable resource is our Library Staff team, who continue to deliver a high quality service with enthusiasm and imagination. Their unwavering commitment has brought us through challenging times in recent years. In 2016 saw long-serving staff members, Ms. Hilda King, Executive Librarian and Ms. Veronica McKeon, Branch Librarian retired from their posts.

LEISURE AND RECREATION

LEITRIM SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Leitrim Sports Partnership (LSP) aims to increase the number of people engaged in sport and physical activity in Leitrim. In 2016, LSP continued to work with all of the Post-Primary schools and over thirty Primary schools in the county. Some of the programmes provided were 'Kidz on the Run', 'Ag Sugradh le Cheile', 'Sports Hall Athletics', 'Girls Active', 'Paddles Up!' which is a kayaking programme for Transition Year students. Youth Leadership is another programme for Transition Year students which enables them to qualify with a Level A1 Award in Sports Leadership.

Leitrim Sports Partnership currently has two Community Sports Development Coaches who provide multi-sport activities for Primary Schools and are an essential asset for children who don't have the opportunity to take part in mainstream sport. Leitrim Sports Partnership through the Leitrim Disability Sports Forum was able to provide physical activity programmes for Disability Groups in the county including: Rehab Care, The Irish Wheelchair Association, the National Learning Network, the Leitrim Association for People with a Disability, St. Ciarán's Day Services and the Leitrim Down's Syndrome Association.

Programmes for older adults were also provided throughout the county. These included a follow up on the PALs (Physical Activity Leader) training, 'Mature Mover's - a social dancing programme for Active Age Groups, Flexibility and Mobility Programmes and a social dancing programme for members of the Leitrim I.C.A. Assistance was also provided to groups applying for funding under the 'Go for Life' Scheme.



ACTIVE AGE P.A.L.S TRAINING

The Community Coaching Programme continued in to 2016 which gives an opportunity for unemployed people to become fully qualified Coaches in number of sports including G.A.A., Soccer, Athletics and Rugby. Leitrim Sports Partnership continued to work closely with sports clubs throughout the county delivering Safeguarding 1-3 and First Aid Courses, provision of its annual Club Development Grants and establishing North and South Leitrim Sports Fora to give clubs an opportunity to have their voices heard.

Some of the other programmes in with which LSP was involved include Mohill and Dromahair Operation Transformation Programmes, Carrigallen Multi-Sport Summer Camp, Leitrim County Council Transition Year Integration Day, Gortletteragh Walking Group and the Shannonside Women's Walk and Fitness Programme. A total of €244,635 was invested in Sports Development in the County in 2016.



TRANSITION YEAR KAKAYING GROUP

NATIONAL BIKE WEEK

2017 was another very successful year for National Bike Week in County Leitrim. The aim of Bike week is to promote cycling for both recreation and sport and together Leitrim County Council & Leitrim Sports Partnership provided funding to a number of Community groups and schools to provide Bike-centred

activities. Leitrim Sports Partnership also facilitated Safer Cycling Days within primary schools and hosted a Cycling Sports Day for all participating schools in Leitrim Village.



LAUNCH OF NATIONAL BIKE WEEK 2016

WATER SAFETY

In association with Leitrim's Water Safety Committee 'Swim Weeks' took place throughout July and August with 670 children participating. There were two camps provided in the following locations: Cleighranmore, Drumshanbo, Gulladoo, Keeldra and Rossinver.

CIVIL DEFENCE

The year commenced with Volunteers tasked with assisting our colleagues in Longford during a flood related incident over a number of days. Flooding did not cause any major incidents in Leitrim in 2016, however Volunteers continued to participate in training programmes to prepare for such incidents.

In addition to Swift Water and Flood Responder training Volunteers also undertook First Aid, Radiation Monitoring, Sonar and Boat Crew training during the year. Volunteers also provided Sonar and Underwater Camera training to other Volunteers throughout the country, as part of an ongoing skill sharing programme provided by Leitrim Civil Defence.

Assistance was provided to a number of community events during the year involved in regattas, agricultural shows, charity swims and runs etc. Support was also provided to assist staff from the Environment Department with lake monitoring. This support has increased with the requirement to monitor an increased number of lakes in 2016.

The Coastguard once again required the assistance of our Boat Crews to deal with a number of Cruiser related incidents on the Shannon during the boating season. All incidents were successfully dealt with without injury.

During 2016 our Volunteers were requested to assist during a number of missing person incidents. In April assistance was provided to our colleagues in Mayo during a missing person search in the Moy at Ballina. In July Volunteers assisted Gardai by locating a body in the Shannon in Carrick on Shannon. Assistance was also provided to Longford Civil Defence during a missing person search in July. In December, 2016 Gardai

requested assistance during search operations in Carrigallen and Drumharlow. A body was recovered during each operation.

FIRE SERVICES

Leitrim County Council employs four Senior Fire Officers and one Assistant Staff Officer to run the service for the county from headquarters in Carrick-on-Shannon. Leitrim County Fire Service has five Fire Stations with the following number of retained fire-fighters employed at 31st December, 2016:

Station	No. of Firefighters
Carrick-on-Shannon	12
Mohill	9
Ballinamore	9
Drumshanbo	9
Manorhamilton	9

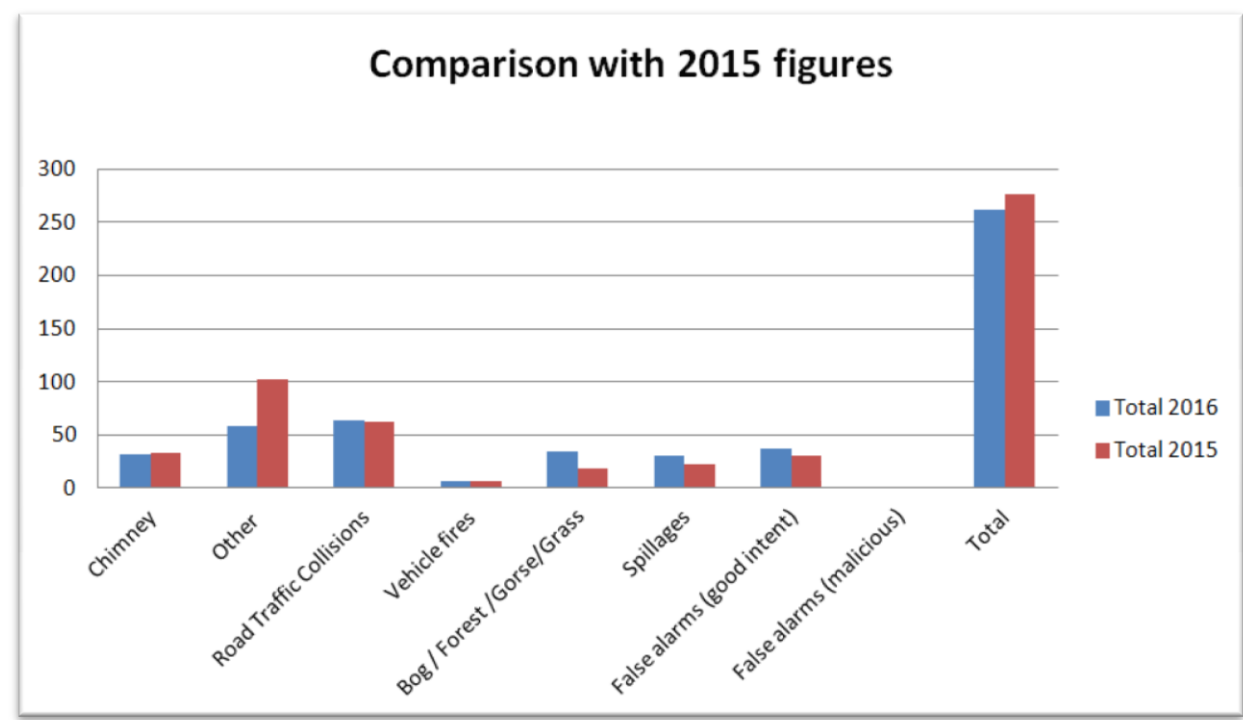
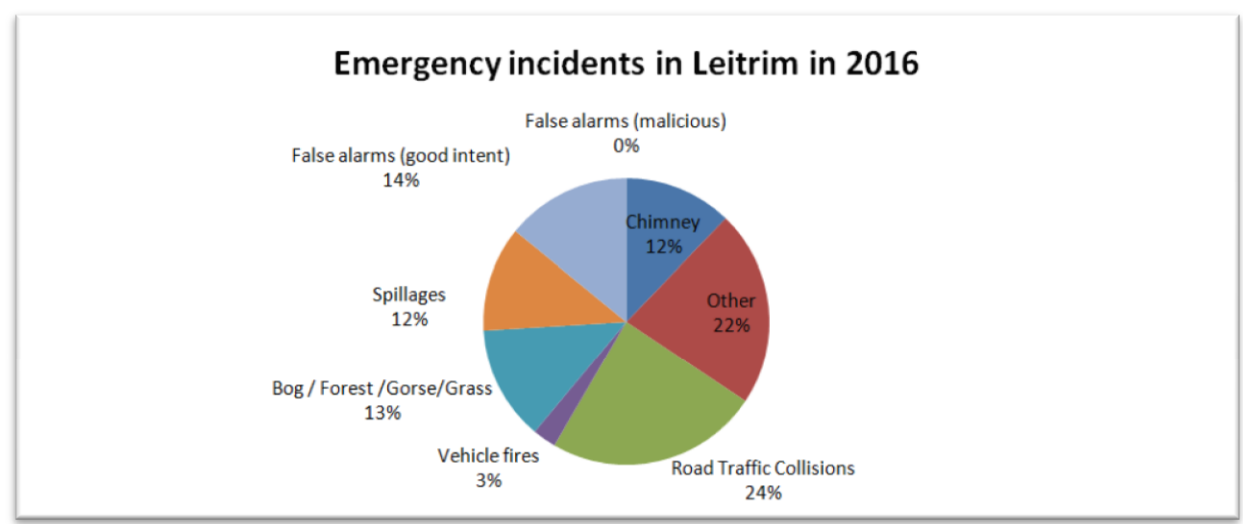
EMERGENCY INCIDENTS 2016

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 2016 there were a total of 262 emergency incidents in Leitrim generating 276 callouts serviced by Leitrim fire -brigades.

Leitrim Emergency Incidents in 2016

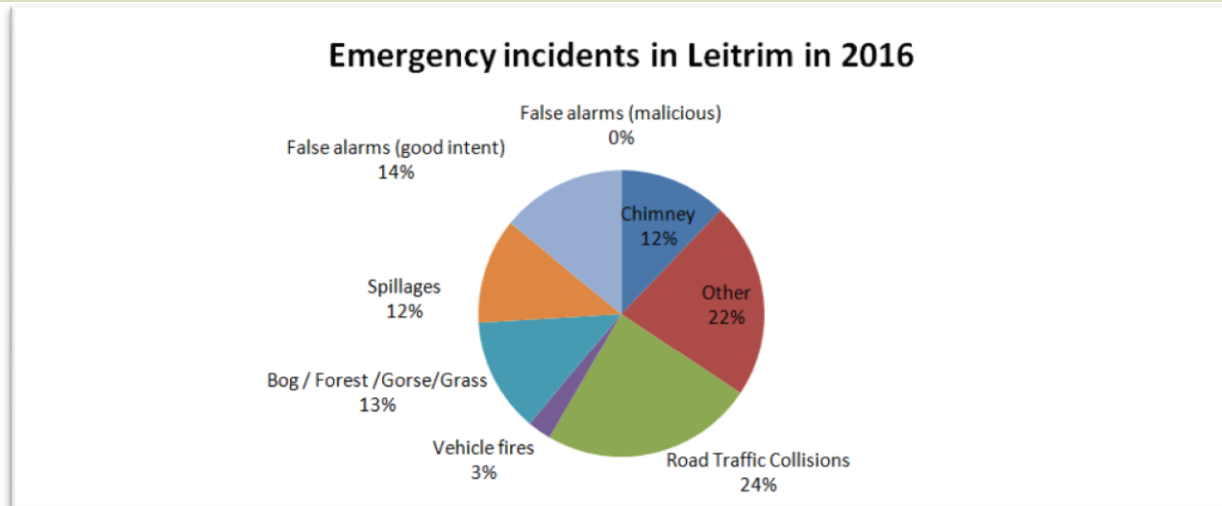
Type of incident	Total 2016
Chimney	32
Other	58
Road Traffic Collisions	63
Vehicle fires	7
Bog / Forest /Gorse / Grass	34
Spillages	31
False alarms (good intent)	37
False alarms (malicious)	0
Total	262

Pie chart analysis of the incidents for 2016 gives the following breakdown by incident type:



Overall the numbers of calls are very similar when compared to 2015.

BREAKDOWN OF EMERGENCY INCIDENTS BY TYPE



A PIE CHART ANALYSIS OF THE INCIDENTS FOR 2016 GIVES THE FOLLOWING BREAKDOWN BY INCIDENT TYPE

INSPECTIONS

Leitrim Fire Service carried out a total of **148** inspections under the following Acts in 2016, namely

- Fire Services Act 1981 (Section 24)
- Indoor Licensing Bill, 2003
- Building Control Act, 1990 & 2007
- 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 Major Emergency Management exercise and training Course in 2016. Training Course for Information Managers and a Live Exercise "Exercise Derailment, Sligo, October, 2016. The exercise scenario was based around a Rail Incident in Sligo City.



NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY WEEK 2016

National Fire Safety Week took place from 3rd to 10th October, 2016 and was jointly launched by the Chairperson of Leitrim County Council, Councillor Mary Bohan and the Chief Executive Mr. Frank Curran.



COUNCILLOR MARY BOHAN LAUNCHING 'FIRE SAFETY WEEK' WITH FRANK CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MARY QUINN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES AND FINIAN JOYCE, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

The theme for the week was **"STOP Fire - Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives"** and Leitrim Fire Service prepared a special programme of events throughout the county.

<p>S</p> <p>Smoke alarms</p> <p>Make sure you have at least one on every floor.</p>	<p>T</p> <p>Test your smoke alarms weekly</p> <p>Test your smoke alarm weekly, or ask someone to check it for you.</p>	<p>O</p> <p>Obvious dangers</p> <p>Look for fire risks like overloaded sockets, candles and unattended appliances.</p>	<p>P</p> <p>Plan your escape route</p> <p>Keep access routes clear and have your keys at the ready.</p>
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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.

CORPORATE SERVICES

MEETINGS OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

Bi Monthly Meetings	6
Area Roads Meetings	1
Annual Meeting	1
Special Meetings	2
Budget Meeting	1



THE JANUARY, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING WAS HELD IN KILTYCLOGHER TO CO-INSIDE WITH THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE 2016 PROGRAMME OF EVENTS TO MARK THE CENTENARY OF THE 1916 RISING.

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

ANNUAL MEETING OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

At the Annual Meeting of Leirim County Council held in June 2016, Councillor Mary Bohan was elected Cathaoirleach of Leirim County Council to serve for a one-year term. Councillor Sean McDermott was elected as the Leas-Cathaoirleach of Leirim County Council.



OUTGOING CATHAOIRLEACH OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR JOHN MCCARTIN HANDS OVER THE CHAIN OF OFFICE TO THE NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRPERSON, COUNCILLOR MARY BOHAN AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL IN JUNE, 2016

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 6 occasions in 2016.

CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR CAROLINE MULVEY TO LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

In February, 2016 Councillor Martin Kenny contested the General Election and won one of four Dáil Seats in the Sligo/Leitrim Constituency. Arising from the election of Deputy Kenny's to Dáil Eireann a vacancy arose in Leitrim County Council. In this regard, Councillor Caroline Mulvey was co-opted as a member of Leitrim County Council at a special meeting of Leitrim County Council held on 14th March, 2016. At this meeting the Chief Executive Mr. Frank Curran made a special presentation to Deputy Kenny to mark the occasion of his election to Dáil Eireann and to recognise his contribution to local democracy while a serving member of Leitrim County Council from 2003 to February, 2015.

QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

In 2016, the Customer Services Group was re-named to the Quality Assurance Group. The Group is tasked with examining and reviewing performance and outcomes in terms of service delivery and outputs across the range of local authority services. In 2016, the Group had a particular focus on reviewing and improving performance in relation the National and Local Performance Indicators. A revised mechanism was put in place which provides for a quarterly review of the data with the Topic Co-Ordinators and the Management Team. Leitrim County Council was also selected by the National Oversight and Audit Committee as one of six sites subject to audit of a number of National Performance Indicator Data Sets relating to the 2015 data. The audit involved an on-site visit by NOAC Representatives to review the methodology and process relating to the data collection and validation prior to its submission to the LGMA.

The Customer Services Desk in Aras-an-Chontae continues to provide front-line services to the public. As part of the continued investment in improving customer services, a new telephone console system was introduced in 2016. The system is a touch-screen system operated by the Customer Care Agents and allows for an increased volume of calls to be handled. During peak call times, the system also provides the caller with the option of requesting a call back later that day by a member of staff thus reducing their call waiting time.

In 2016, in order to commence the preparation of a Communications Strategy for Leitrim County Council an Internal Communications Working Group was established.

CUSTOMER COMPLAINTS

In 2016, Leitrim County Council received no formal Customer Complaints. One compliant was received from the Office of the Ombudsman. A detailed response issued to the Office of the Ombudsman in response to the complaint and the decision of the Office of the Ombudsman was not to uphold the compliant.

MEDIA REQUESTS

The Designated Media Liaison Officer continued to manage media enquiries in 2016. A significant number of media requests were received in 2016 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 newspage of the Internet and there was a continued focus on communicating information via the Council's social media channels on facebook and twitter.

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

The Council continued to proactively using the social media channels to communicate with our customers and promote local authority events and initiatives. The number of followers on the Council's social media channels continued to grow in 2016. At the end of the year, the Council had a total of 2,200 followers on facebook and 2,450 on twitter.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Register of Electors for 2016/17 was published on 1st February, 2016. The figures in relation to the Live Register at 2016/2017 were as follows:

Dáil Constituency	Presidential Electors	Dáil Electors
Sligo/Leitrim	25,019	26,071
Total	25,019	26,071

European Parliament Constituency	European Electors	Potential European Electors
Midlands- North West	26,277	479
Total	26,277	479

Local Electoral Areas	Local Government Electors
Ballinamore	9,547
Carrick-on-Shannon	8,712
Manorhamilton	8,730
Total	26,989

SUPPLEMENT TO THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS – FEBRUARY, 2016

Leitrim County Council prepared a Supplement to the Register of Electors for the 2016 General Election which was held on Friday 26th of February, 2016. A total of 619 applications to be included on the Supplement to the Register of Electors were received by the closing date and 611 applications were approved and 8 were rejected as they were received after the deadline for submission.

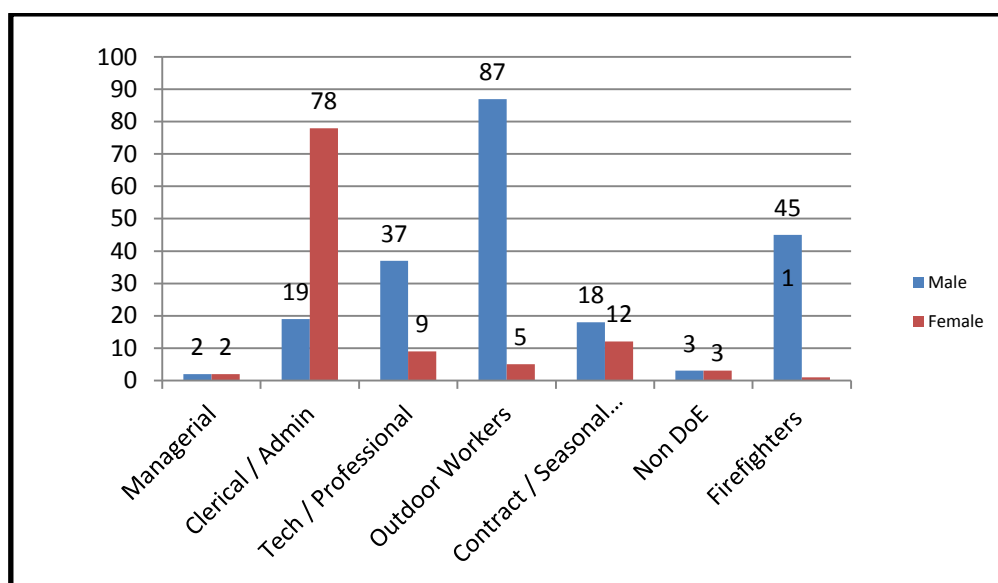
Total number of applications received	619
Number approved	611
Number rejected	8
Number of applications received after closing date	8

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 2016 with a view to streamlining operational processes and to assist in making the best use of diminished staff resources. There were a total of 5 staff retirements in 2016 and 1 Death in Service (R.I.P.). A further 4 permanent staff members resigned during the year while 17 staff members on temporary contracts left Leitrim County Council during 2016. Recruitment activity also continued to be significant however with 23 recruitment competitions completed to fill a range of vacancies arising and a total of 31 new staff joining Leitrim County Council on either permanent or temporary contracts during the year. Detailed Business Improvement Reviews (BIRs) were undertaken in the Environment, Planning and Finance functions to determine the most appropriate structure and identify potential areas where administrative or other efficiencies could be achieved in the respective areas.



Staff Profile at 31st December, 2016

STAFF LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

The Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) for staff continued to be closely linked to the Annual Service Delivery Plan as adopted by the Members, and the associated Departmental Team Plans, in 2016. The new National Competency Framework, aimed at developing a competency-based approach to performance development within the local government sector, was also implemented at senior and middle management levels as part of the PMDS process. A comprehensive Learning and Development Plan was implemented in 2016 including the commencement of a programme of Supervisory Management Training for Middle Managers. The roll out of an upgrade to the Council's Financial Management System - Agresso Milestone IV - was a key organisational priority in 2016 with an in-house training programme delivered by Finance Department Staff. A series of staff briefings, delivered by senior staff, also took place during 2016 – these briefings are an important element of the Council's ongoing Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Programme with our re-accreditation assessment by Engineers Ireland scheduled for late 2017.

The Learning & Development Programme is complemented by the expansion of the Staff Education Scheme, providing support to staff members pursuing further education opportunities with 11 Staff being supported under the Scheme in the 2016/2017 Academic Year. 28 Staff are also availing of our in-house Mentoring Programme, 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.

The Council's Service Level Agreement for the provision of an Employee Assistance Programme also continued in 2016 and is due for review in 2017.

STAFF BLUEWAY EVENT

Leitrim Sports Partnership organised a very successful Blueway Event for the staff and Elected Members of Leitrim County Council to explore the Blueway on Thursday 2nd June, 2016. Staff had the opportunity to walk, cycle or kayak the Blueway and it was a very enjoyable experience for all.



STAFF FROM LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL AND WATERWAYS IRELAND ENJOYING THE BLUEWAY IN JUNE, 2016



STAFF AND ELECTED MEMBERS ENJOYING THE BLUEWAY EVENT IN JUNE, 2016

MENTORING PROGRAMME

The Mentoring Programme, introduced in 2014, provides 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. 25 members of staff participated on the Programme in 2016.

HR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Council's Human Resources Management System – CORE HRM – was also significantly upgraded during the year as part of a national roll-out programme, with the project having been completed in-house by the HR Department working in collaboration with the LGMA, Core and MyPay. Current Core HRM System Modules include Personnel Management, Superannuation, Training, Payroll, Time & Attendance, Recruitment and Business Intelligence Reporting. Employees can access their individual employment records, pension calculator, online payslips, training details and submit leave requests etc with significant automation while the manager dashboard supports approvals, automated reminders and team analytics. Additional modules have been developed at national level and are scheduled to be rolled out during 2017 in relation to PMDS and the Council's Safety Management System. The Service Level Agreement with the Local Authority Shared Payroll & Superannuation Centre in Portlaoise – MyPay – continued to operate successfully during 2016.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Activity under the Freedom of Information legislation increased significantly in 2016 with 86 Freedom of Information requests received. This compares to 52 requests in 2015 and 18 in 2014 and reflects increasing activity, particularly by journalists, since the introduction of the FOI Act 2014 in November 2014 and the associated abolition of fees. At the end of 2016 84 of the 86 requests received during the year had been

determined with 50 granted, 25 part-granted and 9 refused. 2 Freedom of Information requests were live awaiting decision at year end.

In March 2016 the Council published its Model Publication Scheme on www.leitrimcoco.ie in line with the provisions of Section 8 of the 2014 Act. The Scheme is designed to facilitate the provision of information to the general public to the greatest extent possible and gives extensive information regarding the Council's activities and functions. The Scheme also includes a Disclosure Log of all decisions made in relation to non-personal Freedom of Information requests received, updated on a quarterly basis

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

Leitrim County Council continues to process Higher Education 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).

Expenditure on Higher Education Grants in 2016 was €41,945 broken down as follows: €27,000 (Fees), €11,091 (Ordinary Maintenance) and €3,854 (Special Rate of Maintenance Grant). A total of 3 renewal applications were received as at 31st December 2016 and all 3 were approved grant assistance for the 2016/17 academic year.

FINANCE

In 2016, Leitrim County Council again returned a surplus and succeeded in reducing the cumulative general revenue deficit to €266,479. This was supported in part, by higher than expected levels of income from the NPPR (Non Principal Private Residence Charge) in 2016.

MOTOR TAXATION

During 2016 a total of 38,448 vehicle licence transactions were processed for Leitrim which represented a 2% decrease on 2015 transactions. The details are as follows:

- Motor tax counter transactions –14,753 (38.37%)
- Motor tax postal transactions - 2,546 (6.62%)
- Online transactions - 21,149 (55.01%)

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.

PROCUREMENT

The public procurement process spans the whole project life cycle, from definition of need through to the end of the useful life of an asset or the end of a contract. In 2016, Leitrim County Council developed a Corporate Procurement Strategy and Action Plan and established a Procurement Unit to ensure value for money and compliance in the procurement of works, goods and services within Leitrim County Council. This Unit will collaborate with the Office of Government Procurement to maximise the use of national frameworks and engage with the small and medium size business sector within County Leitrim to raise awareness of public sector procurement requirements and build capacity within the sector to facilitate effective procurement and competition locally.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

In 2016, Leitrim County Council ICT further enhanced its public infrastructure through the extension of Wi-Fi services in Carrick-on-Shannon. Guest Wi-Fi spots are available at the Fire Station, Park Lane House, Town Hall and the Dock (Arts Centre). In further developments, on the Leitrim County Council website (www.leitrimcoco.ie), newly redeveloped planning and general services maps are now provided via cloud infrastructure to ensure 24/7 availability. On an operational level, 2016 saw several ICT staff earn industry-standard ITIL (Information Technology Infrastructure Library) Certification and the local authority completed a full Microsoft compliance audit. As part of our data centre upgrade we installed a 15KVA UPS. During the year over 5,300 cyber attacks on council infrastructure were detected and halted through ongoing security measures while 3,800 service calls were dealt with by staff over the year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Leitrim County Council continues to implement a wide range of policies and procedures with a view to strengthening the existing internal safety management system. Significant advances in IT within the area have resulted in the production of measurable safety data on which continuous improvement can be set. This in turn ensures the protection of Council staff as far as reasonably practicable from injury and ill health while at work.

APPENDIX 1 – STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2016

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT) FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2016

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
	Notes	2016 €	2016 €	2016 €	2015 €
Housing & Building		4,173,739	3,453,093	720,646	590,477
Roads Transportation & Safety		14,624,830	11,590,595	3,034,234	3,261,140
Water Services		3,503,406	3,366,590	136,815	(68,761)
Development Management		3,101,611	1,031,314	2,070,297	2,003,961
Environmental Services		3,859,683	814,225	3,045,458	3,118,436
Recreation & Amenity		2,874,450	258,002	2,616,447	2,609,167
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare		463,109	290,980	172,129	126,378
Miscellaneous Services		3,115,188	1,698,315	1,416,873	1,910,607
Total Expenditure/Income	15	35,716,015	22,503,114		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Property Tax				13,212,900	13,551,405
Rates				5,191,422	5,193,566
Local Property Tax				8,371,365	8,282,319
Pension Related Deduction				465,677	637,334
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers	16			815,563	561,814
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	14			242,079	(459,605)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year				1,057,642	102,209
General Reserve @ 1st January 2016				(1,324,122)	(1,426,331)
General Reserve @ 31st December 2016				(266,479)	(1,324,122)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AT 31ST DECEMBER 2016

	Notes	2016 €	2015 €
Fixed Assets	1		
Operational		104,491,661	102,220,759
Infrastructural		734,173,996	734,173,996
Community		4,792,283	4,883,064
Non-Operational		-	-
		843,457,941	841,277,818
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	3,092,407	17,194,807
Long Term Debtors	3	6,867,143	10,312,822
Current Assets			
Stocks	4	-	-
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5	5,850,871	5,230,021
Bank Investments		8,661,622	9,034,743
Cash at Bank		7,300,066	5,947,472
Cash in Transit		-	-
		21,812,559	20,212,237
Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)			
Bank Overdraft		-	-
Creditors & Accruals	6	6,949,437	8,543,241
Finance Leases		-	-
		6,949,437	8,543,241
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		14,863,122	11,668,996
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)			
Loans Payable	7	6,951,370	6,836,490
Finance Leases		-	-
Refundable deposits	8	3,028,748	3,149,047
Other		-	1,723,716
		9,980,118	11,709,253
Net Assets		858,300,495	868,745,191
Represented by			
Capitalisation Account	9	843,457,941	841,277,818
Income WIP	2	3,142,256	18,056,106
Specific Revenue Reserve		-	956,814
General Revenue Reserve		(266,479)	(1,324,122)
Other Balances	10	11,966,777	9,778,574
Total Reserves		858,300,494	868,745,191

APPENDIX 3

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL 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 Caroline Gildea co-opted in place of Councillor Martin Kenny on 14th March, 2016
Association of Irish Local Government
Councillor Sean McGowan Councillor Sinead Guckian Councillor Paddy O'Rourke elected 7th March, 2016 to replace 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 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

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 re-elected on the 11 th January, 2016.
Library Advisory Committee
All Members
Lough Oughter and Gowna 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 West 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 Pádraig 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
 Councillor Sinead Guckian
 Councillor Paddy O'Rourke
 Councillor Brendan Barry

Steering Committee on Comhairle na nOg

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke

Peace IV Committee

Councillor Justin Warnock – Manorhamilton Municipal District appointed on 15th February, 2016.
 Councillor Gerry Dolan – Ballinamore Municipal District appointed on 22nd February, 2016.
 Councillor Enda Stenson – Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District appointed on 14th March, 2016.

Board of Arigna Enterprise Fund Limited.

Councillor Brendan Barry appointed on 25th April, 2015 at Ballinamore Municipal District 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
March	Celtic Conferences - The Finance Act 2015	Cork	3
June	Sean MacDiarmada Summer School	Leitrim	12
August	Celtic Conferences - BREXIT The Economic Consequences for Ireland	Cork	1
October	Action Plan for Rural Development	Sligo	1
November	ACE - Microsoft Excel Workshop for Councillors	Cork	2
	Celtic Conferences - First Time Home Buyer Mortgage – Getting on the Property Ladder	Cork	3
December	Celtic Conferences - A Practical Guide to Budget 2017	Cork	1
	ACE - Microsoft Excel Training for Councillors	Cork	1

APPENDIX 5 – DETAILS OF TRAINING EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL IN 2016

Month	Details of Training Events	Location	No of Members attending
February	Association of Irish Local Government – Module 1 2016 – Local Authority Safety Services	Westmeath	1
April	Local Authority Members Association Spring Seminar Planning & Flood Plains Insurance & Finding Solutions	Sligo	9
May	Association of Irish Local Government Annual Conference “Revitalising Our Cities, Towns and Villages”	Donegal	9
	Association of Irish Local Government – Module 2 2016 Local Authority Cultural Services Arts, Heritage & Library Services	Donegal	7
June	Association of Irish Local Government – Local Authority Planning	Cavan	2
September	Association of Irish Local Government – Module 4 2016 – Local Authority Housing & the National Action Plan for Housing July 2016	Galway	6
	Association of Irish Local Government - Module 4 2016 – Local Authority Housing & the National Action Plan for Housing July 2016	Cork	1
	Local Authority Members Association Autumn Seminar Brexit and Ireland	Cork	9
October	Association of Irish Local Government - Autumn Seminar –	Wexford	7
	Association of Irish Local Government - Module 5 2016 – National & Local Authority Emergency Planning	Sligo	1

Corporate Plan-Annual Progress Report 2016

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 2016 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 2016. This was carried out through targeted infrastructure provision, proactive forward planning and active marketing and collaboration with other agencies. A large scale event was organised in the InterContinental Hotel in Dublin on 12th May, 2016. This event involved extensive engagement with the various networks of Leitrim people and also involved direct engagement with the top 150 companies who might consider locating part of their business outside of the Dublin area. The event included presentations on the developments in the County, potential sectors which can be developed and presentations from three different scaled businesses operating here successfully – Shed Distillery, Cora Systems and VistaMed. This event provided an ideal lead-in to the USEFE Invest4Success Regional Jobs and Investment event in Croke Park in November. In addition, a number of applications were submitted for funding around business diaspora related activity and funding was received of €10,000 late in 2016 for the development of a Diaspora Strategy over 2017.

The Local Enterprise Office continued to provide supports to start up and expanding businesses throughout the year, 2016 was another busy year with 35 training programmes delivered to 394 participants. A further 130 clients received one to one mentoring support. A total of 22 grants were awarded under the Financial Supports programme. It was another successful year for Leitrim businesses as Mc Niffe's Boxty won a Regional prize at the National Enterprise Awards and a group of Leitrim students won a Special Merit Prize at the National Finals in Dublin. LEO Leitrim hosted an Enterprise Week in March with over 12 events and hosted joint Women in Business networking event in September. A total of 300 students (from 10 national schools) and 180 students (from 6 secondary schools) participated in Student Enterprise Programmes. LEO Leitrim continues to deliver the Trading Online Voucher Programme (19 awarded), Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Programme (35 applications). LEO Leitrim was successful in securing additional funding in 2016 for two LEO Competitive Funds Programmes totalling €217,348 as well as an Erasmus Programme worth €28,760 to Leitrim and Redz funding of €240,000.

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) completed the preparation of the Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) at the end of 2015 and it was adopted by Leitrim County Council in January, 2016. The plan was formally launched by Minister Simon Coveney in September, 2016 at the National Ploughing Championships in Tullamore.

Following joint consultations in several locations across the county, the Leitrim Local Development Strategy was finalised and recommended for submission by the LCDC. Approval for the LDS was received in July and a contract was signed with the Dept of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht between LCDC, Leitrim County Council and Leitrim Development Company in July. In addition, the Rural Development Operational Committee has met to develop the policies and procedures in relation to the rollout of the LEADER Programme. The Programme was officially launched on 28th October, 2016 by Minister Michael Ring in Carrick on Shannon. Initial Expressions of Interest were opened for certain targeted calls in the areas of tourism and social inclusion with a closing date of 9th December, 2016. The Expressions of Interest were reviewed and approved as appropriate at the LCDC meeting on 16th December, 2016.

Year one of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) through the LCDCs was completed with the programme being reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Monitoring Sub-Committee.

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 Upper Shannon-Erne Future Economy Project has progressed a number of initiatives in 2016.

The Council continued to facilitate a Renewable Energy Group comprising additional agencies such as SEAI, NWRA, LDC, UCD and businesses involved in the Renewable Energy Sector.

In addition to the regional Rural Economy Development Zone project, the second program under REDZ was approved for funding for the Manorhamilton REDZ area. An Enterprise and Employment Strategy “To the Waters and the Wild”, which had been finalised in Quarter 4, 2015, was formally launched as part of the Manorhamilton Summit in February 2016.

The formal launch of achieving the Purple Flag standard took place on Friday 29th January, 2016. The Economic Development Unit co-ordinated the renewal application for the Purple Flag and the renewal process was successful.

Work continued on the development of a structured Town Team approach in Carrick-on-Shannon. A formal Town Team was established on 6th September which has representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, the Local Authority, Hospitality, Vintners and Restaurants. The Group progressed the Christmas Festival/Winter Wonderland in the Town Park to include 15 market stalls, a Santa Grotto, a stage for performance of a variety of shows from late November to Christmas.

Business, community and sports interests in Kinlough were brought together in September to prioritise a project for the Town and Village Scheme. Similar groups met in Ballinamore, Mohill, Drumkerrin, Carrigallen and Drumshanbo to identify a priority project under the Town and Village Scheme which resulted in a total of 8 successful projects.

Funding was also sourced under the REDZ 2016 initiative for a Taste of Leitrim Food Enterprise Hub in Drumshanbo and an Angling Centre of Excellence in Ballinamore.

Infrastructural Development

Our Non-National Roads Budget for 2016 was €8.3m. While this was an increase on the 2015 budget it did include €2.0m for works on roads damaged as a result of the storms in December, 2015. A total of 39km of road was surface dressed and 62km of road strengthened in 2016.

In terms of our National Road network, the construction of Phase II of the N16 Cornacloy to Sradrine Realignment Scheme continued in 2016 with an expected completion date of March 2017. Planning approval was obtained for the realignment of 1.4km of the N16 at Drummahan.

Safety improvement works were carried out at the R201/N4 junction at Masonite and the R202/R208 junction at Edentinnny plus other minor improvement works throughout the County.

The Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government announced a 3 year Multi Annual Rural Water Programme (2016 – 2018). An overall allocation of €238,675 was received for 2016. This allocation will cover work under the following categories:

- (A) Improvements to achieve compliance with Drinking Water regulations €25,000,
- (B) Water conservation and management €18,500
- (C) Network upgrades €100,000.

In relation to Group Sewerage Schemes the allocation provides for the setting up of a Group Sewerage Scheme where individual septic tanks are not a viable option particularly from an environmental perspective.

All Group Schemes under each of the categories have now been contacted and are currently progressing. The following are the schemes involved:

- Environmental and Public Health Compliance - Cornashamsogue GWS
- Enhancement of Schemes - Kilmaddaroe GWS, Antfield GWS, Drumaleague GWS, Drumkeelan GWS, Lismoyle/Coolcrieve GWS, Mohercregg GWS, Tarmon GWS
- Sewerage Schemes (where individual septic tanks are not a viable option particularly from an environmental perspective) – Hartley Cartown GSS

The Council continued to support the Tidy Towns Committees across the County with a workshop for all in April 2016, 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.

The County Road Safety Working Together Group published the County Leitrim Road Safety Strategy 2016 – 2020. A Road Safety Workshop for Transition Year Pupils from the County was held in Drumshanbo in April.

Leitrim County Council continues to work with Irish Water under the existing Service Level Agreement to improve water services infrastructure within the County. The Capital Office support the delivery of Irish Water approved infrastructural developments, while also preparing Asset Needs Brief submissions to Irish Water, highlighting infrastructural deficits within the County to prioritise future capital investment. The following schemes were approved by Irish Water and progressed in 2016;

- North Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme has commenced construction phase with a total estimated cost of €8.076m
- Rossinver and Kiltyclogher Watermain Extensions are now substantially complete.
- Manorhamilton and Mohill Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade progressed through planning stage with a total estimated cost in excess of €2m.
- Minor programme works progressed during the year with a total estimated cost of €2.5m. This included the replacement of old cast iron water mains in Bridge Street, Carrick-on-Shannon, which were completed in December, 2016. This programme also facilitated the completion of water mains replacement in Dowra and Manorhamilton in 2016.
- Drumshanbo, Leitrim Village, Carrigallen and Ballinamore Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades have progressed through the planning phase in 2016.

Tourism

Actions arising from the Tourism Development Strategy were reviewed and implemented, in particular a new Tourism website for the promotion of Leitrim as a tourist destination. The website is a one stop shop which gives the visitor an overall flavour of the county and represents the various trade offerings.

A comprehensive marketing campaign took place from May to July promoting Leitrim to the

domestic market, the theme of the campaign, 'Creating Memories in Leitrim' included activities such as national and regional radio, bus advertising, press and digital as well as social media.

An ezine template was developed with 3 ezines sent out to subscribers, the theme for the ezines were generic, angling and heritage. A further ezine was sent out to tour operators focused on the accessibility of Leitrim from Dublin, Leitrim as a base for touring the Wild Atlantic Way, Northern Ireland and the products on offer in Leitrim.

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 SMEs within the slow adventure product area to market themselves, meet other similar providers and share ideas/experiences. As part of our pilot project we hosted a tour to Derry to meet with SMEs also engaged with Slow Adventure Tourism.

Under the 2016 Centenary Commemorations, Leitrim hosted over 60 events which included a St. Patrick's Day Parade, Lectures, Summer schools, Memorial Gardens, Flag Rising Ceremonies and many more events. The Centenary Committee assisted and promoted the events through various media channels and a dedicated face book page was regularly maintained promoting events on a weekly basis. A funding programme was also managed by the Committee. The Council hosted a Flag Raising Event in April on the anniversary of the 1916 Rising. A closing event acknowledged all of the event organisers for events held as part of the Centenary Programme and relatives of those involved in the 1916 Rising received a medal in their honour.

Visitor Guides covering top attractions in Leitrim were translated into three languages and published. Tourist Information Points at Glencar and Ballinamore were assisted and supported in their set up.

Funding was secured through both the REDZ and Clar Programme to enhance the angling sector including access and parking in Ballinamore, Carrigallen, Drumshanbo and Ballinagleara. The REDZ Programme will also be supporting a new Heritage Trail and Walking Tour of Ballinamore. The County also secured a food related project through REDZ which will assist in further developing the County as a food destination. The Council continued to focus on the development of Greenways in the County with funding applications submitted with regard to Sligo to Manorhamilton and Manorhamilton to Enniskillen of the SLNCR Greenway. Unfortunately the latter has been unsuccessful. A funding application has also been submitted with regard to the Greenway from Mohill to Belturbet and Carrick-on-Shannon to Leitrim Village to connect with the Blueway.

Recreational Trail Funding has been secured to reinstate the Leitrim Way and to provide demonstrator stretches of Greenway at Dromahaire and Ballinamore.

Leitrim County Council received Sports Capital Funding of €200,000 towards the further development of the world Class Lough Rinn Recreational Facility which caters for Rowing/Canoeing and Kayaking. The Council also secured a Sports Capital Grant Funding of €150,000. The first phase of these works as part of the 2014 Grant allocation is providing additional Launch pontoon facilities. These works were tendered and a Design/Build Contractor was awarded the Contract and works were substantially completed by year end 2016.

These additional works will greatly assist in the further development of this Regional Sports Facility and have a very positive impact in attracting Clubs/Regatta/National and International Clubs and people to the region thus enhancing the tourist potential of the region and giving a much needed economic boost to the area.

The Connaught branch of Rowing Ireland held the first National Rowing Regatta on Lough Rinn on Saturday 14th May, 2016 which attracted Rowing Clubs from all over Ireland and all Rowing Clubs had a very positive experience on this world class Rowing Course. Many different clubs, colleges and groups are also using this facility for training purposes.

High Quality Sustainable Living Environment

Planning & Sustainable Development

- The Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021 suite of documents was published in February.
- The Planning Department prepared a new County Leitrim Development Contributions Scheme (2016-2019) which was adopted at the November Council meeting.
- Work is well underway on the preparation of the Progress 'Manor 2020' land use strategy as provided for in 'To the Waters and the Wild: A Plan for the Manorhamilton Rural Economic Development Zone.
- Work is presently underway on the preparation of the 2 year progress report on achieving the objectives of the County Development Plan 2015-2021 and in the preparation of a variation to the County Development Plan to incorporate the requirements of the Vacant Site Levy.
- The Council continued to progress the resolution of unfinished estates in 2016 with all relevant stakeholders. 5 housing developments have been taken in charge by Leitrim County Council in 2016 although a significant number will be advertised soon as part of the National Taking in Charge Initiative. 11 no. developments will be taken in charge as part of this initiative and the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government provided funding of €101,950 for works to these estates and €50,000 towards funding for a special project relating to the engagement of legal counsel to advise in relation to 'non-recompense' bonds.
- The Heritage Officer Programme continued in 2016. A very successful Heritage Week (20 – 28 August) saw events held across the County with widespread promotion of information and activities - A comprehensive National Heritage Week - The County Leitrim Event Booklet was produced. In addition, the Heritage Officer has carried out strategic, operational, promotional, co-ordination and facilitation roles including advice, appraisal, community liaison and public relations. The frequency of publication of the Heritage Matters newsletter increased significantly and is a valuable resource to the promotion of heritage across the county.
- Leitrim County Council issued a Letter of Offer to 6 no. successful applicants who have been approved for funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2016 and 2 no. successful applicants who were approved funding under the Structures at Risk Fund 2016.
- Grant funding from the Heritage Council was approved for Leitrim County Council's continued involvement in the regional Black Pig Dykes project. This trebles the local contribution made to the project by Leitrim County Council for 2016.
- The Planning Authority sought further potential applicants to take part in the pilot scheme to facilitate testing of Zero Discharge Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Systems in Co. Leitrim.
- **A total of 70 pre-planning meetings took place in 2016 and 165** valid planning applications have been received during 2016 (to 10/12/2016) which is 5 more valid applications than had been received by the same date in 2015. 24 of the applications lodged were for commercial developments. Planning permission was granted for a new Gael Scoil on a 1.2 acre site at Aghameeney, Carrick on Shannon, for a significant extension to the manufacturing facility at Jetwash International at Carrigallen and for a Primary Medical Centre in Townparks, Carrick-on-Shannon. Planning permission was also granted for a large convenience store at Attyfinlay and Attyrory, Carrick-on-Shannon but is presently the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála. A

further 60 applications were received during 2016 which were deemed invalid which is a slight increase on the comparable number received in 2015 (56 applications).

RMCEI PLAN

The 2016 RMCEI Plan was submitted by the Environment Department to the EPA in January 2016, and was approved by the EPA. The objectives provided in the plan were delivered in 2016.

DWWTS

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 30 of these inspections in 2016. 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.

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).

- A Stakeholder Workshop took place with OPW/Jacobs Engineering in Athlone on Wednesday 25th May, 2016 on Preliminary Options Report Stage.
- Public Consultation on the Draft Flood Risk Management Plan for the Shannon CFRAM catchment took place from 15th July, 2016 to 23rd September, 2016 inclusive with final adoption of the plans by the end of 2016.
- The North Western – Neagh Bann CFRAM Draft Flood Risk Management Plan was on public display from Friday 19th August to Friday 28th October, 2016.
- The Western CFRAM Draft Flood Risk Management Plan was on public Display from Tuesday 13th September to Tuesday 22nd November, 2016.
- The OPW/Consultants made a presentation to the Elected Members on Monday 5th September, 2016 on the Draft Flood Risk Management Plans. This was followed by a Public Consultation day in County Buildings on Tuesday 6th September, 2016 hosted by the OPW and the Consultants, where the public were encouraged to make submissions on the Draft FRMP.

WERLA

Previously a consortium of Leitrim & Donegal County Councils successfully secured the establishment of the Connacht-Ulster Waste Enforcement Office. In 2016, the Connacht Ulster WERLA (Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities) co-ordinated a consistent approach to enforcement across all Local Authorities in the region. This included targeted inspections of Household Waste Collection Permit Holders dealing with large scale illegal dumping and management of waste tyres and end-of- life vehicles.

LAWCO

The European Union (Water Policy) Regulations, 2014 places new obligations on Local Authorities relating to the catchment management and public participation elements of the Water Framework Directive. It assigns responsibility to Local Authorities for regional co-ordination, public participation and support to the Minister and the EPA in the development and implementation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) and Programme of Measures (POM's). The Local Authority Water and Communities Office (LAWCO) was

established by Local Authorities to promote public awareness, participation and knowledge sharing in the development of River Basin Management Plans and Programme of Measures.

SEAI

Leitrim County Council in conjunction with our Energy Consultants Retrofit Energy Ireland Ltd. (REIL) lodged a Better Energy Communities 2016 Application on 26th February, 2016 with Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI). Works involved scoping a further project application for the 2016 SEAI Better Energy Communities Grant Program with particular emphasis on the community facilities within Manorhamilton town and Carrick-on-Shannon town. SEAI announced on the 9th June, 2016 that Leitrim County Council and its Beneficiaries were approved for a grant of €691,903.78 total Eligible Costs with Maximum Grant amount of €283,964.33 for this SEAI Project.

Contractors were appointed to undertake this energy retrofitting works across a total of 7 contracts and all works and payments were complete and grants drawn down in advance of the deadline of 14th October, 2016. The house and buildings that the works were carried out on are as follows:

- 43 no Local Authority Houses
- 3 no Private houses
- Bee's Park Community Centre – Manorhamilton
- St. Clare's National School Manorhamilton
- Drumboylan National School

OTHER INITIATIVES

Leitrim County Council offered all Tidy Towns Group individual 'Clinic type Sessions' with Biodiversity Expert and Tidy Towns Judge, Billy Flynn, which was followed by an Information Seminar for all groups. The Keeping Leitrim Lovely Re-useable Cups were launched on the night with the proceeds from sales going directly to the Tidy Towns Groups.

Over the summer months, the Environment Department commenced a process of encouraging Event Organisers to 'green' their festivals and events. Work in this regard took place with the inaugural Lough Rynn Regatta, the Taste of Carrick, Ballinamore and Manorhamilton Agricultural Shows.

The Keeping Leitrim Lovely re-useable jute bags were launched as part of National Re-use Month at the end of October and proved to be very popular.

To celebrate October as National Re-use month, the Environment Department held a Primary Schools and After Schools Up-cycling Competition – which received in excess of 250 entries.

Emergency Services

In January, 2016 Leitrim Civil Defence with Volunteers assisted their colleagues in Longford during a number of flood related incidents. Assistance was also provided to the Principle Response Agencies during a number of missing person searches and water based incidents. Civil Defence continued to assist the Environment Department throughout the year in completing the lake water sampling programme. Volunteers also participated in a National Radiation Monitoring Exercise by assisting the Radiological Protection Institute to collect samples and take background radiation readings. In addition to the normal training disciplines Leitrim Civil Defence has continued to develop the capacity to undertake water based missing person searches using Sonar and underwater camera systems. In 2016, the Department of Defence acknowledged the progress made by Leitrim Civil Defence in this area in recent years by tasking Leitrim with providing training to 9 Units throughout the country.

Leitrim Fire Services continued to provide emergency fire services in the County. Plans continue to be progressed to provide a new Fire Station in Manorhamilton and capital funding was also sanctioned in respect of Ballinamore and Drumhanbo Fire Station. The Fire Services continued to participate in Major Emergency Incident Planning/Cross Border Emergency Management Group and a review of road based incidents in Leitrim from 2015 onwards also took place with a view to updating the Council's policy. The Fire Service worked with the Road Safety Authority to deliver a new Road Safety Strategy for Leitrim and to assist in the development of a new Junior Cycle Course on Road Safety to be implemented in September, 2017. A Cross-Department Team with personnel from the Housing Department and Fire Services completed a comprehensive review of fire safety in Traveller Accommodation at Shannonside View Halting Site, Rosebank, Carrick-on-Shannon and remedial works were completed on site. Four fire Service Personnel received Long Service Awards in November, 2016: Finian Joyce, John Conway (30 Years Service), Michael Quinn and Michael Duignan (20 years service).

Quality Housing

In terms of meeting housing needs the Council continued to address the housing need of approved housing applicants on the Housing Waiting List by the allocation of standard local authority accommodation and the allocation of accommodation under the Rental Accommodation and the Long-term Leasing Scheme.

In 2016, 61 new tenancies were created in standard local authority accommodation, this figure is inclusive of 10 transfers, 23 RAS contracts were negotiated and 11 dwellings were allocated under the Long-Term Leasing Scheme. In order to address supply issues in areas with a high demand for social housing support an ambitious Housing Acquisition Programme was progressed in 2016 and a total of 25 new dwellings were provided through this Programme. Two further units were provided under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) by North West Simon to address housing need in Carrick-on-Shannon. The Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government Mr. Simon Coveney visited Leitrim in December, 2016 and completed a site visit to a new housing development in Kinlough, Co. Leitrim. This development was an unfinished housing development where six dwellings were purchased by the local authority and the development was completed. The Minister also attended a Stakeholder Event on Re-building Ireland in the Bush Hotel with other stakeholders.

The Statutory Assessment of Housing Need was completed in September, 2016 which required a detailed review of all approved housing applicants. On completion of the detailed assessment the net need identified was 367 households deemed qualified for and in need of social housing support.

The Housing Assistance Payment scheme commenced in Leitrim County Council on 1st December, 2016. The introduction of HAP means that Leitrim County Council will now have a further instrument to provide housing assistance for households who qualify for social housing support to live in the private rented sector, and meet long term housing need.

The targets identified for delivery in 2016 under the Traveller Accommodation Programme continued to be delivered, a total of 39 of 46 outputs for delivery over the life-time of the Programme have been achieved to date which equates to 85% delivery. A mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 was completed as directed by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Environment and it was determined that no change to the Programme was required. The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee met 4 times in 2016 and monitored the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme and other matters arising.

In meeting the housing needs of the wider community to support housing modifications under the housing grants schemes, the Council received an allocation of €409,695. This allocation was fully committed in 2016 to deliver supports under the Housing Adaptation Grants (HAS's), Mobility Aids Grants (MAG's) and Housing Aids for Older People (HOP's).

The Leitrim Housing & Disability Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability was finalised in 2016 in partnership with the HSE. The implementation of the plan will be progressed in 2017 to address the housing need of persons with a disability that require specially adapted accommodation and support services.

Efforts continued to upgrade and enhance the Council's Social Housing Stock. Funding in the order of €1 million was expended under the 2016 Voids and Derelicts Programme and a total of 52 units were upgraded via this funding stream.

An Inclusive County

County Leitrim Public Participation Network was very active during 2016. The PPN Officer has encouraged greater activity by groups and has provided support services that have assisted community representatives to play a greater role in the various committees and organisations in which PPN is involved. A total of 189 groups registered with the PPN by year-end. Thirty-one representatives sit on nine committees, seven of which are Council Committees and two external Committees. This level of engagement has ensured that community views feature significantly in the policy making process.

Comhairle Na nOg Liatroma had another active year with representation from all of the second level schools. Highlights achieved by Comhairle Na nOg in 2016 include the following:

- The production, with collaboration from the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre attached to NUIG, of a video on homelessness in Leitrim, narrated by Cillian Murphy. This was launched at the Comhairle AGM and has been shown at Municipal District meetings in Leitrim as well as at the launch of the new LEADER Programme.
- The AGM was held in October and attracted almost 100 young people from all second level schools.
- The attendance by 15 members at the Comhairle Na nOg Showcase event in Croke Park in November. This was addressed by Minister Zappone.

Leitrim Age Friendly Alliance continued its work. The three year plan 2014 – 2016 was completed and reviewed by the Alliance. Work commenced towards the end of the year on the preparation of a new three year plan for 2017 – 2019. This will include work to designate Manorhamilton as the second age friendly town in Leitrim, Mohill being the first.

Leitrim again entered three communities in Pride of Place in 2016, one from each Municipal District. The three: Carrick on Shannon (population 2,000 to 5,000), Rossinver (population under 300) and Drumshanbo Community Council (Community Enterprise – Business) each presented an excellent entry and there was no surprise when Carrick on Shannon and Drumshanbo Community Council won runner up prizes at the awards event in The Waterfront in Belfast.

Floral Pride attracted a record 56 entries this year. These came from all over the county and covered all three categories, community, business and schools. The Awards Ceremony was held in The Bee's Park Centre in Manorhamilton and was attended by approximately 115 people. The winning entry this year was Ballinamore.

A new Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, Peace IV, was developed during the year. As at the year end, it had been indicated that the application was successful and that the sum of €1.8 million would be allocated over a two year period, however, the final approved plan will not be agreed with SEUPB, the funding body, until early 2017.

The Leitrim Joint Policing Committee met on four occasions in 2016. A Sub-Committee of the JPC was established to examine the night-time economy in Carrick-on-Shannon. The JPC Sub-Committee

recommended the introduction of Drinking Bye-laws for Carrick-on-Shannon, however, following further review it was agreed to defer the proposed introduction of the Bye-laws for a 12-month period and that more regular stakeholder engagement would be progressed in order to examine the issues associated with the night-time economy.

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 primary and secondary schools throughout 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 delivered the North and South Leitrim Sports Forum meetings for local sports clubs and community groups. The meetings were to discuss local issues affecting clubs, exploring potential club development initiatives for clubs, and ways the LSP can support the clubs going forward. A number of other Workshops were also delivered e.g. Code of Ethics Workshop and Ag Sugradh le Cheile Workshops. The Community Coaching Multi –Sport programme was also delivered in 6 primary schools with 222 children benefiting from the programme. The sixth annual Leitrim Sports Star Awards Night took place on 26th November, 2016 in the Landmark Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon with guest of honour the former Republic of Ireland soccer player Mr. Packie Bonner. Leitrim Native and Olympian Breege Connolly was the overall winner of the Leitrim Sports Star of the Year on a night that celebrated the great achievements of Leitrim sportspeople in a wide variety of sports and activities. The Hall of Fame Recipient was Mr. Joe Flynn.

2016 was the final year of the Arts Strategy and new approaches and ideas designed to develop new thinking and practice were progressed. Membership of Leitrim Youth Theatre continued to grow this year, far exceeding the national average, expanding to three groups in Carrigallen with two each in Carrick on Shannon and Manorhamilton.

The format and structure of the Artist in Schools Scheme has been refined year on year to maximise the return on investment in terms of the quality of experience for young people to engage with the Arts. Mirroring the Artist in Schools Scheme, 2016 saw the completion of the first full cycle of the Artist in Community Scheme where four Artists worked with an Environmental Protection Action Group in Manorhamilton, Youthreach in Drumshanbo, Rehabcare in Ballinamore and Aughavas ICA. The four projects all had different approaches, processes and outcomes according to their contexts, with each very successful in their own right. This year four new Artists are working with a Men's Shed Group, Resident's Association, Photography Group and Intercultural Group and already early dialogues are giving rise to the development of interesting project ideas.

Today FM's Alison Curtis launched the fourth volume of the Wild Words anthology to a packed auditorium at the Dock on 12th August. While events for all ages at Wild Words Children's Book Festival continue to be very popular and provide wonderful opportunities for young people to engage with books – the Wild Words programme for teenagers, which includes the anthology and a master class programme for young writers, has grown exponentially over the last two years and exceeded all expectations in terms of numbers, quality and impact.

Arising from the John McGahern Seminar which ran from 2007 for eight years, the Iron Mountain Literature Festival was established this year, reframed in a wider context and features among others, celebrated American novelist Annie Proulx and Laureate for Irish Fiction, Anne Enright. As part of the programme Leitrim County Council and the Tyrone Guthrie Centre created the John McGahern Award to support new writing and to pay tribute to the exceptional contribution of John McGahern to literature and to Leitrim.

The Leitrim Equation Project has come full circle with four Leitrim musicians having led the project, bringing the Leitrim music to new audiences. The performance that was the culmination of the residency featured the four musicians Eleanor Shanley, Padraig McGovern, Dave Sheridan and John McCartin joined by Dónal Lunny, poet Vincent Woods and dancer Edwina Guckian. The Leitrim Equation Show received much critical acclaim in Leitrim, Dublin and London and a film of the show was premiered in Carrick Cineplex as part of Culture Night.

In 2016, Office worked with Edwina Guckian on a separate project with Appalachian dancer Nic Gareiss to provide professional development training and mentoring for Sean Nós Dancers and it is hoped to develop this further in the coming years.

The Professional Development Bursary Programme helped over 20 Artists develop new work or receive further training and this year also saw the continued development of Creative Frame in partnership with the Leitrim Local Enterprise Office. In recent months, Project Manager Leslie Ryan has spearheaded the rollout of the new on-line network and facilitated networking by Visual Artists Ireland, Irish Writers Centre, Words Ireland, First Music Connect and training in areas such as web design, music publishing, photographing your work, proposal/application writing and a series of social media workshops.

Leitrim County Council Arts Office continued to support arts venues and festivals throughout the county. Artist's Studios developed by Leitrim County Council at Drumshanbo Library are now occupied by Artist 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.

The SPARK Programme in partnership with Leitrim Local Enterprise Office fosters collaboration between Artists and conventional businesses. 2016 saw the completion of Leo Scarff's residency at Mohill Enterprise Centre with an exhibition and publication entitled *Methodos Techne*. During the residency Leo developed a programme of workshops about design in partnership with FabLab Manorhamilton, which has since resulted in two new Level 5 courses in design being rolled out in Mohill and Manorhamilton.

The current SPARK Programme has Visual Artist Tinka Bechert resident at Prior PLM Medical in Carrick-on-Shannon. SPARK is currently the subject of a study by the University of Limerick into the role of the Arts in business which is due for publication later this year.

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 have developed an ambitious blueprint for how to support local filmmakers.

In 2016, the Council continued its investment in The Dock to provide a varied and strategically planned programme throughout the year to encourage audiences and participants for the Arts locally and regionally and to be a beacon for visitors and a crucially positive endorsement of the rich culture offering of Carrick-on-Shannon, Leitrim and the Northwest.

Leitrim County Library Service marked a very significant milestone at the beginning of the year with the introduction of free library membership to all its users, as part of a nationwide initiative. Another exciting nationwide project was the introduction of the Summer Stars Reading Programme, which provided support and encouragement to children who participated in a reading challenge during their summer holidays. This project built on the success of previous reading challenges, and benefitted from exciting branding and a national promotion campaign.

The Library Service continued to promote heritage and culture through an impressive programme of library events. A wide range of regular ongoing events were organised for and in partnership with community groups and public agencies, including Heritage Week events, Positive Ageing Week and Children's Book Festival. Leitrim Library users continue to enjoy free high-speed internet access via our public PC network in all branches, along with WiFi facilities in Ballinamore, Carrick-on-Shannon, Manorhamilton and Mohill Libraries.

Commemorating the Easter Rising – Leitrim County Library Service played a central role in implementing the Leitrim 2016 Centenary Programme, delivering a broad variety of commemorative events, which included public lectures, workshops, musical performances and readings.

Maximising Operational and Organisational Capacity Supporting the Elected Member

The three Municipal Districts of Ballinamore, Carrick-on-Shannon and Manorhamilton continued to operate in 2016 and held monthly meetings and they also adopted the General Municipal Allocation for Municipal District Works. To mark the start of the 2016 Centenary Programme and to honour the memory of Sean MacDiarmada the January meeting of Leitrim County Council was held in Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim on 13th January, 2016. At the January Council meeting the Members also agreed to conduct a Plebiscite to change the street name of Main Street, Manorhamilton to Sráid Sean Mhic Dhiarmada. The Plebiscite was conducted in April, 2016 and the proposal was carried. The official opening of the re-named Sráid Mhic Diarmada took place on 16th May, 2016 as part of the Centenary Programme.

Regular meetings of the three SPC's - Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC; Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development SPC and Environmental, Transportation and Infrastructural Policy SPC took place throughout 2016 and a number of policy matters were progressed and they were brought to the full Council for adoption.

Staff Learning & Development

The workforce planning process has continued throughout 2016 with a view to streamlining operational processes and to assist in making the best use of diminished staff resources. There were a total of 5 staff retirements in 2016 and 1 Death in Service (R.I.P.). A further 4 permanent staff members resigned during the year while 17 staff members on temporary contracts left Leitrim County Council during 2016. Recruitment activity also continued to be significant however with 23 recruitment competitions completed to fill a range of vacancies arising and a total of 31 new staff joining Leitrim County Council on either permanent or temporary contracts during the year. Detailed Business Improvement Reviews (BIRs) were undertaken in the Environment, Planning and Finance functions to determine the most appropriate structure and identify potential areas where administrative or other efficiencies could be achieved in the respective areas. Further such processes are planned for other functional areas in 2017.

The Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) for staff continued to be closely linked to the Annual Service Delivery Plan as adopted by the Members, and the associated Departmental Team Plans, in 2016. The new national Competency Framework, aimed at developing a competency-based approach to performance development within the local government sector, was also implemented at senior and middle management levels as part of the PMDS process in 2016. A comprehensive Learning and Development Plan was implemented in 2016 which is complemented by the expansion of the Staff Education Scheme, providing support to staff members pursuing further education opportunities. 28 Staff are also availing of our Mentoring Programme, 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. The Council's Service Level Agreement for the provision of an Employee Assistance Programme also continued in 2016 and is due for review in 2017.

Managing Risk & Resources

Leitrim County Council continued to adopt a prudent approach to expenditure during 2016, resulting in the delivery of services within budget.

Leitrim County Council was one of the initial 7 pilot Local Authority sites to upgrade its Financial Management System to Agresso Milestone 4. The upgrade took place in March, 2016. Agresso MS4 is a modern Financial Management System that both standardises and harmonises processes and data across the Local Government Sector. The implementation of MS4 will help drive operational efficiencies through automated processes such as workflow and scanning. Through workflow, it provides greater budgetary control with only specified authorised Budget Holders approving spend within their own service areas. It will facilitate the gathering of procurement data to support the effective management of Local Government expenditure.

The Internal Audit Committee has an advisory role in promoting good accounting practices and improving the focus on value for money throughout the organisation. In this regard, the Committee provided oversight to the ongoing activities of the Internal Audit function during 2016.

Quality Customer Services

In 2016, the Quality Assurance Group was established to improve customer services within the organisation. As part of the remit of the Quality Assurance Group a new process for the quarterly review of the National and Local Performance Indicators was put in place in order to improve performance and outcomes across a range of service areas. Leitrim County Council was one of six Counties selected by the National Audit and Oversight Committee (NOAC) for an on-site audit of the 2015 data relating to six of the National Performance Indicators.

In September, 2016, an Internal Communications Working Group was established to examine the internal communication within the organisation. The Group will be presenting their recommendations on how communication channels within the organisation can be improved early in the New Year. We continued to maximise the use of the Council's social media channels on Facebook and Twitter to engage with the public with regular updates and postings on all of the Council's activities. As part of the continued enhancement of the Customer Services Desk a new telephone console system was installed. The new system has increased functionality which assists the Customer Services Agents with call handling. The system also provides real-time information to callers of their approximate waiting time and they also have the option of requesting a call back if there is a high volume of calls.

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 2016 notwithstanding the challenging operating environment. I look forward to working with you the Elected Members to continue to provide a high quality service to all our customers and to working with all stakeholders in order to develop County Leitrim as a vibrant and attractive County for people to live, work, invest and visit.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Curran
Chief Executive

APPENDIX NO. 7 NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2016

Performance Indicators

01/01/2016 - 31/12/2016 (Annual)

Leitrim County Council

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	A. Overall total number of dwellings provided by the LA during the year	62	
	B. Number of dwellings directly provided	24	
	B1. Number of dwellings constructed	0	
	B2. Number of dwellings purchased	24	
	C. Number of dwellings provided under RAS	26	
	D. Number of dwellings provided under the HAP Scheme	1	
	E. Number of dwellings provided under the SHCEP	11	
	F. The overall total number of social housing dwellings in the LA at year end	1,081	
	G. The total number of dwellings directly provided (constructed or purchased) by the local authority	946	
	H. Total number of dwellings provided under the RAS	119	
	I. Total number of dwellings provided under the HAP if operated	1	
	J. Total number of dwellings provided under the SHCEP	15	
	K. No. of single rural dwellings that are planned for demolition or sale due to dereliction	2	
	A. Percentage of the number of dwellings at H1G that were vacant on year end	8.35 %	
	The number of dwellings within the overall stock that were not tenanted at year end	79	
	A. Expenditure in the year on repair & maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA divided by H1G	€1,325.35	
	Expenditure on repair and maintenance of LA stock compiled on a continuous basis during the year	€1,253,779.	
Housing: H3 & H5 Approved	A. Average time taken from date of vacation of dwelling to date when a new tenancy had commenced	79.42 wk	

	B. Average cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted during the year ready for re-letting	€16,242.34	
	No of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in the year (excl. those vacant for estate refurbishment)	54	
	No. of weeks from when previous tenant vacated dwelling up to date new tenant's first rent debit	4288.43 wk	This figure is seriously impacted by 28 units that were upgraded under the Long-Term Voids Scheme. These dwellings had been vacant for a long period prior to DOE sanction and funding to return the dwellings to productive use. If these 28 properties were excluded the average re-letting time would be reduced to 50.77 weeks rather 79.42 (approximately 30 wk difference).
	Total expenditure on repairs necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings included above	€877,086.42	
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at end of June 2016	1505	
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected during the year	66	
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2016 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	75.76	
	D. Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant during 2016	15	
	The number of dwellings inspected that were found not to be compliant with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations	50	
Housing: H6 Approved	A. Number of adults in emergency accommodation long-term as a % of the total number of homeless adults		This is a nil return as there are no long-term homeless adults in Leitrim or emergency accommodation in the county.
	Number of adults classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on night of the 31/12/2016	0	
	Number of adults on that date who had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	0	
Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	% Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating	97 %	
	% Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	70 %	

% Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	71 %
% Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	58 %
% Regional roads that received a PSCI rating during the year	4 %
% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	5 %
% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	10 %
% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	43 %
% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	39 %
% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	2 %
% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	17 %
% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	41 %
% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	10 %
% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	6 %
% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	36 %
% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	28 %
% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	2 %
% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	12 %
% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	29 %
% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	16 %
% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	1 %
A1. Kilometres of regional roads strengthened using Road Improvement grants	12.4 km
A2. Road Improvement Grant amount spent on Regional Roads (strengthening)	€1,283,398.00
B1. Number of kilometres of regional roads resealed using Road Maintenance grants	7.5 km
B2. Road Maintenance Grant amount spent on Regional Roads (resealing)	€297,327.00
C1. Kilometres of Local roads strengthened using Road Improvement grants	55.2 km
C2. Road Improvement Grant amount spent on Local Roads (strengthening)	€2,084,471.00

	D1. Number of kilometres of Local roads resealed using Road Maintenance grants	33.9 km	
	D2. Road Maintenance Grant amount spent on Local Roads (resealing)	€650,656.00	
Motor Tax: R3 Approved	% of motor tax transactions online	59.27 %	
Water: W1 Approved	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements	1.00 %	
Waste: E1 Approved	No. households in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2016, (2016 census)	8,145	
	% households within the LA that the number A represents	65.66 %	
Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved	Total number of pollution complaint cases	457	
	Number of pollution cases not investigated or finalised	308	
	Number of pollution cases that arose in 2016 not finalised	149	
	Number of pollution cases in respect of complaint during the year	457	
	Number of pollution cases closed during the year	308	
	Total number of cases on hand at year end	149	
Litter Pollution: E3 Approved	Percentage of area unpolluted by litter	20 %	
	Percentage of area slightly polluted by litter	80 %	
	Percentage of area moderately polluted by litter	0 %	
	Percentage of area significantly polluted by litter	0 %	
	Percentage of area grossly polluted by litter	0 %	
Planning: P1 Approved	Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	31.82 %	
	Total no. of new buildings notified to the local authority	22	
	No. of new buildings notified to the local authority during the year subject of at least one inspection	7	
Planning: P2 & P3 Approved	A. Number of planning decisions subject of appeal to An Bord Pleanála determined by board in 2016	7	
	B. % of the determinations which confirmed	57.14 %	

	(with or without variations) the decision made by the LA		
	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision with or without variation	4	
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the LA during 2016 that were investigated	35	
	B. Total number of cases that were closed during 2016	6	
	C. % cases at B dismissed re Section 152(2) or closed because statute barred or exempted development	66.67 %	
	D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	16.67 %	
	E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	16.67 %	
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2016	64	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000	4	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	1	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	1	
Planning: P4 & P5 Approved	AFS Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area	€34.24	
	AFS Programme D consisting of D01, D02, D03 (inclusive of the central management charge)	€1097175	
	A. The average no. of weeks taken to deal with applications for fire safety certificates received in the year.	0.94 wk	
	Number of fire safety certificates issued in respect of applications received	19	
	The number of weeks from the date on which a complete and valid application was received by the local authority to the date on which a fire safety certificate issued to the applicant, with any partial week decimalised to two decimal places, totalled for all fire safety certificates issued in respect of applications received in 2016.	17.86 wk	
Fire Service: F1 Approved	AFS Programme E expenditure divided by the census 2016 population served by the Fire Service	€65.79	
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service & E12 Fire Prevention	€2076755	

Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved	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	4.49 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	4.6 min	
	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins	35.35 %	
	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	48.48 %	
	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins	16.16 %	
	D. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins	42.03 %	
	E. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	50.0 %	
	F. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins	7.97 %	
	Total no. of call-outs in respect of fires during the year	99	
	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	35	
	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	48	
	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 mins	16	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents during the year	138	
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 mins	58	
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	69	
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 mins	11	
Library Service: L1 Approved	Number of library visits during the year	159850	
	Number of items borrowed during the year	107306	
	A. Number of library visits per head of population	4.99	
	B. Number of items issued to borrowers	107306	

	during the year		
Library Service: L2 Approved	The Annual Financial Statement Programme F data / by the population of the LA area per 2016 census	€47.58	
	AFS Programme F02 Cost of Library Service	€1524648.11	
Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 Approved	A. 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 year end	7	
	Number of second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the Comhairle na nÓg AGM	7	
	A. Number of organisations included in the County Register and the proportion who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	32.45	
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register for the local authority area	188	
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2016	19	
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College when they registered for the PPN	61	
Corporate: C1 & C2 & C4 Approved	Wholetime equivalent staffing number at year end	255.69	The Whole time equivalent (WTE) figure excludes NON-DOE Staff and Part-time Retained Firefighters.
	Percentage of paid working days lost due to sickness absence through medically certified leave	5.01 %	Based on our calculations we consider that the correct figure here should be 5.07% and not 5.01%.
	Percentage of paid working days lost due to sickness absence through self- certified leave	0.30 %	
	Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave	2943.5 day	This indicator is significantly negatively impacted by a small number of long term sick leave absences as a result of critical illness. Excluding 6 staff who have been absent for in excess of 6 months brings the indicator back to 2.96% for days lost to certified sick leave.
	Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave	173.4 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence through medically	36.5 day	

	certified leave		
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave	0 day	
	All ICT Expenditure in the period 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016 divided by the WTE no.	€3568.04	
	Total revenue expenditure on Account Elements	€912312.95	
Corporate: C3 Approved			
	Total page views of the LA website in 2016	233911	
	Total number of social media users at 31/12/2016 following the LA on social media sites	4650	
	The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the LA during 2016	233911	
	Total no. of social media users who, at 31/12/2016, were following the LA on any social media sites	4650	
Finance: M1 & M2 Approved			
	A. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2012 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-1479205	
	B. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2013 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-1579451	
	C. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-1426331	
	D. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-1324122	
	E. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2016 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-266479	This figure is a deficit.
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2016 as a percentage of Total Income from the AFS statement	-0.73 %	
	G. Revenue Expenditure per capita in 2016	€1114.59	
	The 2016 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€36531578	
	The 2016 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€35716015	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	64.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	65.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	60.0 %	

	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	79.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	81 %	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	91.0 %	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	91.0 %	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	87.0 %	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	86.0 %	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	88 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	65.0 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	63.0 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	60.0 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	65.0 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	63 %	
Economic Development: J1 to J3 Approved	A. The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the year	40.0	
	A. The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in the year	18	
	A. The no. of participants who received mentoring during the year	107	
	B. The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in the year	9	

Figures may be subject to change if an Audit Query is raised in the review of the data by the LGMA or NOAC. Awaiting external data sets for W1 & E3.

APPENDIX NO. 8 -LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2016

Ref	Functional Area	Metric/Performance Indicator	Quarter 4, 2016 Output
Loc 1	Housing	Number of units upgraded under Improvement Works Programme	298
Loc 2	Housing	New tenancies created	51
Loc 3	Housing	Number of private Housing Adaptation Grants Paid	70
Loc 4	Housing	% achievement Traveller Accommodation Programme targets	130%
Loc 5	Planning	Number of formal pre planning enquiries and average waiting time	86 (11.87 working days)
Loc 6	Environment	% schools participating in environmental campaigns (Green Schools)	100%
Loc 7	Youth/Community	Participation in community organisations – number of groups associated with the PPN	188
Loc 8	Youth/Community	Participation in sport (Leitrim Sports Partnership Events / Activities)	10,588
Loc 9	Youth/Community	Usage of social infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of visitors to local authority facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population No. of childrens playgrounds per 1,000 pop directly provided/facilitated by LCC 	4,428 visitors per 1,000 population .594
Loc 10	Youth/Community	Number participating in Arts activities	844
Loc 11	Corporate	% Customer Contacts closed within 4 weeks	86.87%
Loc 12	Finance	% suppliers paid within 15 days	88.97%
Loc 13	Economic Development	Number of start-ups through LEO/local services (not including non eligible start ups who availed of training and mentor support).	7
Loc 14	Economic Development	Number of grants approved (LEO)	22
Loc 15	Economic Development	Number of companies mentored (LEO)	160
Loc 16	Economic Development	Number of participants on Start your Own Business Courses	5
Loc 17	Economic Development	Business vacancy rate	16%
Loc 18	Tourism	Number of page visits to Tourism website	9,800 2,980
Loc 19	Tourism	Number of visitors at specific points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glencar Waterfall Costello Chapel Glenade Car Park Lime Kiln 	93,579 29,615 4,062 2,476