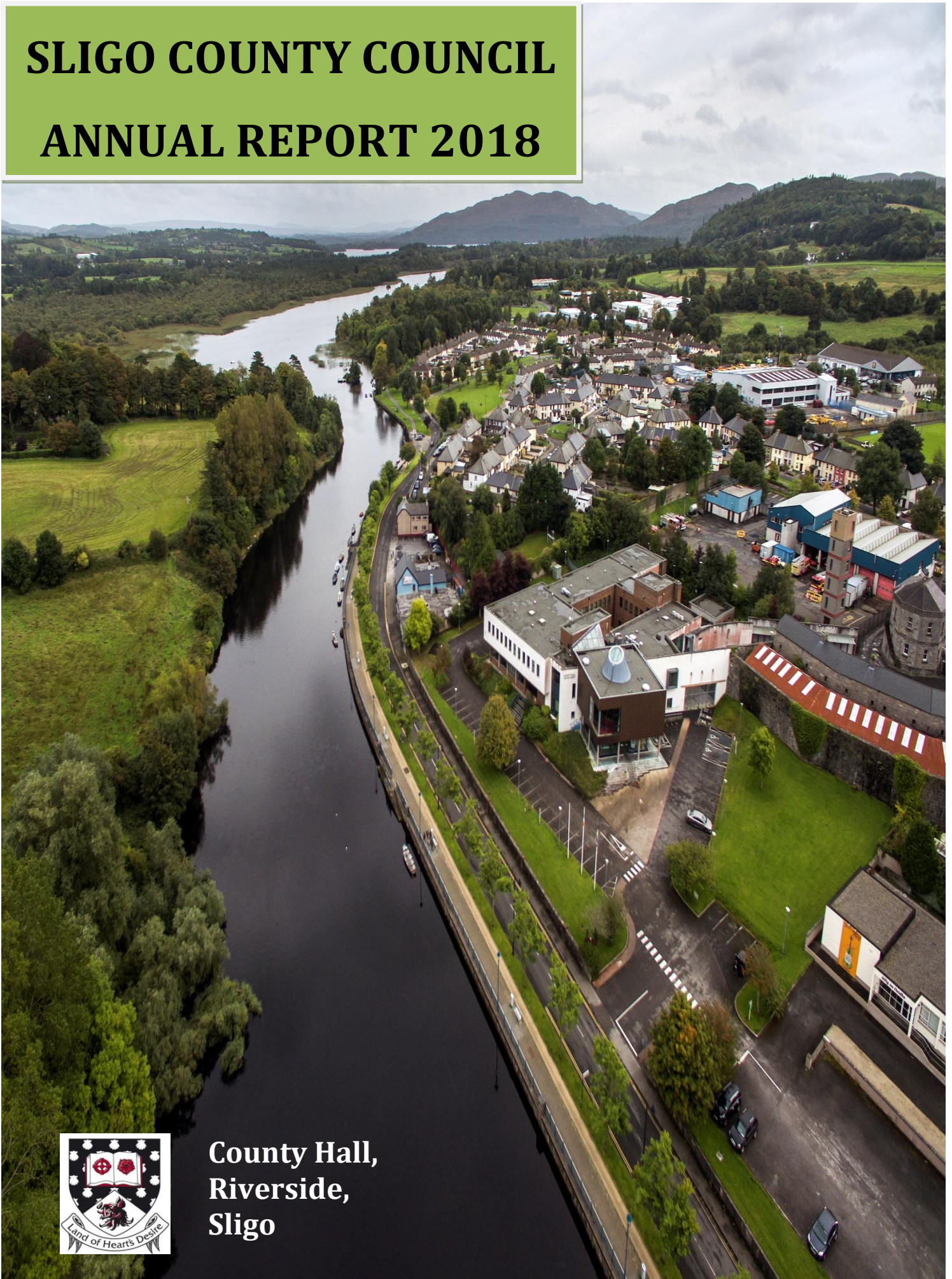


SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2018



County Hall,
Riverside,
Sligo

Mission Statement

“To maximise economic, social, cultural and community development, deliver efficient and cost effective services in a democratic, accountable and transparent manner in partnership with local communities, voluntary and statutory agencies.”



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| Mission Statement..... | 1 |
| Introduction..... | 3 |
| Members of Sligo County Council – 2018..... | 4 |
| Management Team | 7 |
| Strategic Policy Committees | 8 |
| Housing and Corporate Directorate | 10 |
| Housing & Building..... | 10 |
| Corporate Services..... | 28 |
| Human Resources | 34 |
| Civil Defence | 36 |
| Health & Safety | 36 |
| Planning, Community & Economic Development | 37 |
| Development Planning Unit..... | 37 |
| Enforcement of Planning Control | 38 |
| Heritage and Conservation Services..... | 40 |
| Community & Economic Development | 47 |
| Local Enterprise Office | 61 |
| Sligo Arts Service..... | 63 |
| Sligo Library Service and Museum..... | 65 |
| Infrastructure, Environment and Fire Services Directorate | 70 |
| Infrastructure Overview..... | 70 |
| Environmental Services..... | 97 |
| Veterinary Service | 106 |
| Fire Services..... | 107 |
| Finance..... | 108 |
| Motor Taxation | 110 |
| Appendices..... | 111 |



Introduction

The unprecedented range and scale of investment coming into Sligo in the last year is transformative, and allows us to plan with conviction and confidence for the future. Sligo can now look forward to a period of growth, and the infrastructure now being delivered will contribute to the growth of Sligo for many years to come.

The designation of Sligo as a 'Growth Centre' under the National Planning Framework has the capacity to see all areas of our county grow and develop, and there is a renewed sense of optimism and vibrancy on our community. The Council's ability to attract significant funding for flagship projects, often in direct competition with other local authorities, is a critical factor in this success. Major funding announcements in 2018 and the uplift in the local economy are not due to one agency alone. They come from a genuine collaboration between statutory agencies, business sector and local communities in the interest of Sligo. By working in partnership with other key local agencies, we have responded to the challenges and positioned Sligo as the economic driver of the region.

The investment and development proposals announced in 2018 provide a roadmap for positive times ahead. This investment will see work get underway on a range of tourism and infrastructure projects that will create around 300 construction jobs in the short term. Major capital finding will see immediate progress on the long awaited N4 Collooney-Castelbaldwin Scheme, the Western Distributor Road and the Eastern Garavogue Bridge. The construction of the Coolaney Mountain Bike Trail, Strandhill Surf Centre of Excellence and Yeats Trail, will enhance our tourism offering in Sligo and boost the visitor experience.

After a number of very challenging years, Sligo County Council welcomes the opportunity to harness local energy, ambition and pride, and to work together to secure our status as the economic, tourist and cultural capital of the Northwest.



Councillor Martin Baker
Cathaoirleach



Ciarán Hayes
Chief Executive

Members of Sligo County Council – 2018



Back Row (Left to Right): Councillor Dara Mulvey; Councillor Jerry Lundy; Councillor Michael Clarke; Councillor Keith Henry; Councillor Tom Mac Sharry; Councillor Chris MacManus; Councillor Seamus Kilgannon; Councillor Declan Bree; Councillor Joe Queenan; Councillor Paul Taylor; Councillor Hubert Keaney

Front Row (Left to Right): Councillor Margaret Gormley; Councillor Sinead Maguire; Cathaoirleach Councillor Martin Baker; Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady; Councillor Marie Casserly

Absent from Photo: Councillor Gino O'Boyle; Councillor Thomas Healy;

Ballymote-Tobercurry Municipal District

Councillor Martin Baker

Councillor Michael Clarke

Councillor Margaret Gormley

Councillor Keith Henry

Councillor Jerry Lundy

Councillor Dara Mulvey

Councillor Joseph Queenan

Councillor Paul Taylor

Sligo Municipal District

Councillor Declan Bree

Councillor Marie Casserly

Councillor Thomas Healy

Councillor Hubert Keaney

Councillor Seamus Kilgannon

Councillor Sinéad Maguire

Councillor Chris MacManus

Councillor Tom MacSharry

Councillor Gino O'Boyle

Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady

Management Team



Mr. Ciarán Hayes
Chief Executive

Ms. Dorothy Clarke,
Director of
Planning,
Community &
Economic
Development



Mr. Tom Kilfeather,
Director of
Infrastructure,
Environment & Fire
Services



Ms. Marie Whelan,
Head of Finance



Mr. Bartley Gavin,
A/Director of
Housing &
Corporate



Mr. John Reilly,
Head of
Enterprise, Local
Enterprise Office



Strategic Policy Committees

There are 3 Strategic Policy Committees operating in Sligo County Council, details of which are as follows:

- **SPC 1 Housing & Corporate**
- **SPC 2 Environment & Infrastructure**
- **SPC 3 Planning, Community & Economic Development**

SPC 1 – Housing and Corporate

Councillors

1. Cllr. Dara Mulvey
2. Cllr. Declan Bree, Chairperson
3. Cllr. Martin Baker
4. Cllr. Joe Queenan
5. Cllr. Gino O’Boyle
6. Cllr. Keith Henry

Sectoral Nominations

1. Mr. Brendan Henry – Business/Employers
2. Mr. Gerry O’Connor – Community/Voluntary
3. Ms. Marcella Flanagan –
Community/Voluntary
4. Ms. Monica Reilly – Social Inclusion

No. of meetings held in 2018: 4

SPC 2 – Environment & Infrastructure

Councillors

Nominations

1. Cllr. Jerry Lundy, Chairperson
2. Cllr. Michael Clarke
3. Cllr. Margaret Gormley
4. Cllr. Thomas Healy
5. Cllr. Hubert Keaney
6. Cllr. Paul Taylor

Sectoral

1. Mr. Conor McCarthy –
Business/Employers
2. Mr. Eddie Davitt –
Agricultural/Farming
3. Ms. Sharon Eastwood –
Environment/Conservation
4. Ms. Michelle McMorro
– Community/Voluntary

No. of meetings held in 2018: 2

SPC 3 – Planning, Community & Economic Development

Councillors

1. Cllr. Sinéad Maguire, Chairperson 1.
2. Cllr. Marie Casserly
3. Cllr. Hubert Keaney
4. Cllr. Séamus Kilgannon
5. Cllr. Chris MacManus
6. Cllr. Tom MacSharry
7. Cllr. Rosaleen O’Grady
8. Cllr. Paul Taylor (resigned end of 2018)

Sectoral Nominations

1. Mr. Conor McCarthy – Business/Employers (resigned end of 2018)
Mr. Aidan Doyle – Business Sector (Appointed Dec 2018 to fill the casual vacancy)
2. Mr. Anthony McCormack – Trade Union
3. Mr. Gerard Queenan – Agricultural/Farming
4. Ms. Sue Mahon – Community/Voluntary (Resigned)
Ms. Arianna Somers - Community/Voluntary (Appointed July 2018 to fill the casual vacancy)
5. Mr. Marcus Hufsky – Social Inclusion (Resigned)
Mr. Liam Scollan – Social Inclusion (Appointed July 2018 to fill the casual vacancy)

No. of meetings held in 2018: 4

Housing and Corporate Directorate

Housing & Building

Overview

Social Housing Strategy

The Social Housing Strategy was launched by Government in late 2014. It sets out to support the vision that every household should have access to secure, good quality housing suited to their needs at an affordable price and in a sustainable community.

'Rebuilding Ireland-Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness'

'Rebuilding Ireland-Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness' was published on 19th July 2016. Its aim was to ramp up the delivery of housing across all tenures, to help households meet their housing needs and also address homelessness. It set ambitious targets to double the annual level of residential construction to 25,000 homes, to deliver 47,000 social housing units in the period to 2021 and to make the best use of existing stock (a lot of vacant units in the country).

In the latter part of 2017, the figure for delivery of social housing units was revised to 50,000 by 2021, through build (33,500), acquisition (6,500) and leasing (10,000) with a Government commitment to funding of €6 billion to support the delivery.

The Housing Section is active in the following areas:

- Provision of new homes
- Approving households for social housing support
- Allocation of houses to those on the Housing List
- House maintenance and improvements
- Housing Design & Construction
- Estate Management
- Homelessness
- Traveller Accommodation
- Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability and also the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme
- Private Rented Tenancy Inspections
- Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans and Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

Maintenance and Repairs of Local Authority Housing Stock

The budget provided for the maintenance and repairs of Local Authority Housing Stock in 2018 is €922,540. The Council prioritises repair requests that pose a health or safety risk to the tenant and also requests from older people and those with special needs. The Housing section processed close to 1,400 repair requests in 2018.

An allocation has been sought from the Department under Phase 2 of the Energy Efficiency /Retrofitting Scheme to fund works to up to 60 houses. This Phase will focus in the main on fabric upgrade works to dwellings with solid/hollow block wall construction. No Department approval was received in 2018.

Housing Assessment

The Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011, as amended, sets out the procedure for assessing households who are seeking social housing support. The assessment shall determine if the household is eligible and in need of social housing support.

There are 1259 households on the housing waiting / transfer waiting list at December 2018-see Table hereunder.

TABLE

| | |
|---|------|
| Households availing of HAP and approved for a transfer | 584 |
| Council /AHB /RAS Tenants approved for a transfer | 189 |
| Households not availing of any assistance and on the housing waiting list | 486 |
| No of Households approved for Social Housing Support and on the Housing Waiting / Transfer List | 1259 |

The Housing Section also offers advice on other housing options and supports that households may be eligible to avail of in lieu of social housing or while they are awaiting a housing allocation.

Allocations

The Council allocates properties in accordance with its "Allocation Scheme" which was adopted by the Members in June 2011. A total of 222 offers of tenancy issued in 2018, with 116 accepted and 106 refused.

Housing Assistance Payments (HAP)

The implementation of the above payment (HAP) is a key Government priority and a major pillar of the Social Housing Strategy 2020. It is a new form of social housing support where the Councils can provide housing assistance for households with a long term housing need including long term rent supplement recipients. The scheme will remove a barrier to employment by allowing recipients to remain in the scheme if they gain full-time employment. HAP will also improve regulation of the rented accommodation being supported and provide certainty for landlords as regards their rental income.

HAP went live in Sligo on the 16th November 2015 and as at December 2018, 810 tenancies have been set up. It is the intention of the Council over a period and in line with Government policy to transfer all rent supplement applicants and recipients in the County into HAP.

Differential Rent Scheme

The Council operates a Differential Rents Scheme on the basis that tenants are charged a weekly rent in accordance with their ability to pay.

Estate Management Programme

The Council in managing its housing stock uses the resources of its Estate Management Officers, Housing Investigation Officer, Tenant Support Worker, Community Wardens and also cooperates with Residents Associations and an Garda Síochána to ensure that in so far as possible all Council estates are pleasant and safe areas to reside.

All complaints in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour and Estate Management issues are documented and followed up on in terms of Estate Management policies and strategies. The Estate Management Unit has developed policies designed to be consistent and fair in its approach to dealing with all complaints and aims to resolve issues in accordance with housing legislation and functions.

Resettlement Tenancy Support & Sustainment

The Council, to minimise the instances of homelessness occurring and to assist in cases where homelessness does occur, has put in place a commissioned Resettlement Tenancy Support and Sustainment Service with Focus Ireland. The aim of this service is to support individuals and particularly families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Disability

The Council, in conjunction with the HSE, adopted a Strategic Plan for Housing People with a disability for Sligo on 25th May 2016. The preparation of the Strategic Plan involved the identification of current and future needs (over the next five years) for people with disabilities using the information available to the Council from waiting lists and consultation with relevant statutory authorities, service users groups and disability organisations. The overall need was identified at 528. A significant challenge identified is dealing with the accommodation needs of people residing in the two learning disability congregated settings located at Cregg House, Cregg and at Cloonamahon.

A number of housing developments are currently being proposed by Sligo County Council. This potential supply options were identified in the Plan and a target set that a minimum of 15% of all units in developments of ten units or more will be designed specifically for people with a disability. In developments of less than ten units, consideration will be given to providing one unit in each. Approved Housing Bodies will also be encouraged to target new build and acquisition projects to cater for persons with a disability.

The Plan is time lined to run from 2016 – 2020. It has been recognised that the Plan needs to be realistic in its targets. The ability of Housing providers in County Sligo to deal with the disability needs identified is a real challenge given that a substantial element of the need has built up in the county over decades.

Traveller Accommodation

Sligo County Council under the provisions of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 was required to prepare and adopt a new Traveller Accommodation Programme (T.A.P.) for the five year period of 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2018. This Plan was adopted in April 2014. The table below shows the targets for and the numbers achieved in relation to the T.A.P. 2014-2018.

TABLE

| T H.A.P. 2014-2018 | No. of Households | No. of Households |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| | <i>Target 2014-2018</i> | <i>Achieved 2014-2018</i> |
| RAS/PRIVATE RENTED/HAP | 35 | 23 |
| SPECIFIC PURCHASES | 7 | 7 |
| LOCAL AUTHORITY TENANCY | 5 | 30 |
| VOLUNTARY HOUSING | 2 | 3 |
| UPGRADE OF EXISTING FACILITIES | 4 | 4 |
| GROUP HOUSING | 11 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 64 | 67 |

The target which had been set for the life-time of the full Plan has been exceeded by three.

Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government introduced the new Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 on the 1st of January 2016 to enable tenants buy their homes. Tenants must meet the eligibility criteria set out under the Scheme in order to be eligible to purchase their house. The new scheme involves discounts for purchasers linked to household income (40%, 50% or 60%) and a discount related charge on the property that reduces to nil over a period, unless the house is resold or the purchaser fails to comply with conditions of the sale. Where the tenant purchaser resells the property before the end of the charge period, he or she is required to pay back to the housing authority a portion of any profits arising from the sale.

Sligo County Council received 17 applications under the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme in 2018.

Private Rented Accommodation Standards

Minimum standards for rental accommodation are prescribed by means of Regulations made under Section 18 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, updated by the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009. The relevant standards are currently set out in the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017.

All landlords have a legal obligation to ensure that their rented properties comply with the aforementioned Regulations and responsibility for the enforcement of the Regulations rests with the relevant local authority. The Council is active in the area of enforcement of the standards in private rented accommodation, and carried out 511 inspections in 2018. A total of 335 Improvement Notices were issued together with 1 Prohibition Notice.

Homelessness

Every effort is made by the Council to respond effectively and appropriately to those who present as homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Sligo County Council has a Homeless Action Team (HAT) which regularly meets to assess individual cases and to adopt approaches to best support and assist homeless individuals or those at risk of becoming homeless and to put in place support services for them. This case management approach is key to achieving the principle contained in national policy of a housing led approach whereby homeless persons should be accommodated in the first instance in suitable accommodation with or without supports rather than in so called expensive emergency accommodation. This has proven very effective for the Council. Households are also assisted with move-on to independent living. Assistance can also be provided in certain instances by way of B&B accommodation.

Sligo County Council now has a dedicated worker in the Place Finder – Homeless HAP role who is working to source HAP accommodation for those in homeless accommodation for prolonged periods. The Place Finder is working to explore new opportunities with landlords, agencies and the general public and is matching places with clients.

Services are available at the following locations:

- Maryville, Finisklin (Sligo Social Services Council Ltd) – Capacity of 15 beds.
- Ballytivnan (Sligo Social Services Council Ltd) – capacity 5 beds.
- Shalomar (Finisklin Housing Ltd) – capacity to provide total no of beds of 21, comprising of 17 in main house and 4 x 1 bed units to rear.
- Provision of 23 units of transitional supported housing at Citygate.

- 2 units for families requiring intensive supports under SLA with Focus Ireland.

Sligo County Council continues to be the lead authority for the North West Region (Sligo, Donegal and Leitrim) and is responsible for budget management and the co-ordination of funding for the region.

Housing Capital Programme

The target of units set for delivery for the Council for this Programme under Rebuilding Ireland for the period 2017-2021 is 384 units (88 units were delivered in 2017).

72 units were delivered in 2018 (The target set for delivery was 60 units).

The target could be met by,

- Local Authority Housing (Construction, Part V and Acquisition)*
- Capital Assistance Scheme (C.A.S.)*
- Returning Vacant Social Housing Properties to Productive Use Programme (Voids programme) and Long Term Vacant/Derelict Social Housing Units (Derelict Voids),*
- Leasing*
- Other*

A) LA Housing (Construction, Part V and Acquisition)

Sligo County Council is actively advancing a number of Schemes to provide housing to those most in need. The schemes are being advanced through a four stage Social Housing Approval Process, which is required by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government. Each stage requires Department approval. These are as follows:

Stage 1: Project Feasibility & Capital Appraisal.

Stage 2: Project Design, Costs Planning approval, followed by a Part 8 Planning submission to the members of the Council.

Stage 3: Project Detail Design Development and Cost Plan for Pre-Tender.

Stage 4: Project & Tender Review of Costs & Tender Submission. The Stage 4 approval allows the project to proceed to construction and for the Council to appoint a contractor.

Construction

Father O Flanagan Terrace, Sligo is a development of 22 houses. Fourteen houses were completed in 2018, to follow eight houses that were completed in 2017.

One rural house at Culleens.

One house at Ballinode.

Total 16 houses.

Part V

Strandhill, Sligo-Three houses were completed.

Acquisitions

2018- A total of 13 houses were acquired.

The Council also has a number of other houses at either sale agreed or contract signed stage (not included in these figures).

Housing Schemes in progress

Knappagh Road, Sligo: 28 Houses.

Works started on site on 15th October 2018.

Rosses Point Road: 14 Units.

Works started on site on 26th November 2018.

Collooney: 15 Units.

Works started on site on 19th November 2018.

St Josephs Tce. - Single Dwelling Infill:

This is a Pilot project to examine new construction detailing to achieve Near Zero Energy Building (NZEB) standard. Works started on site on 21st December 2018.

Connolly Park, Tubbercurry-Phase 1: 10 Houses.

The current construction proposal will provide for demolition works to 4 long term derelict dwellings at Connolly Park, together with proposals to construct 10 new dwellings, enlarged green area and associated landscape works. A Stage 3 submission is now being prepared and will be forwarded to the Department in March 2019.

St Farnan's Drive Dromore West- Phase 2: 10 Houses.

This project will provide 8 two-bed dwellings and two three bed semi detached dwellings at St Farnan's Drive Dromore West. A Stage 2 submission is now being prepared and will be forwarded to the Department in March 2019.

Maugheraboy, Sligo: 62 Houses.

This *Scheme involves the provision of 62 units at Maugheraboy, Sligo.* A Stage 1 submission was lodged with the Department on 31st October 2018. A Stage 1 approval was received from the Department dated 23/11/18. Work is now progressing on the Stage 2 submission to the Department.

Proposed 6 Bay Halting Site at Glenview Ashlane:

Stage 3 approval was received from the Department on 12/10/18. A Stage 4 submission is now being prepared and will be forwarded to the Department in early 2019.

Carrowbunnaun, Strandhill

A Scheme here relies on road upgrade works and the provision of services. Agreement has not been reached to date with the third parties involved. Staff resources are mainly concentrated on schemes that can progress, such as the above listed, as that approach positions the Council to take advantage of funding at national level and bring new houses into use in the shortest timeframe.

Future Capital Projects:

It is also the intention to develop a programme for further projects at a number of other locations including Connolly Park Tubbercurry (Phase 2), Carney, Geldof Drive, Cranmore, Sligo and the Centre Block site at Cranmore, Sligo. These projects will be demand lead and will be assessed on the basis of Stage 1 Capital Appraisal submissions to the Department.

The Council have applied to have its lands at Rathellen, Finisklin developed in a national project initiated by the Department and their decision is currently awaited.

B) Capital Assistance Scheme (C.A.S.)

The Department) in August 2017 announced a 'Call for Proposals, 2017' under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) to Approved Housing Bodies (A.H.B.s) to submit proposals to Local Authorities for the delivery, through either construction or acquisition, of housing accommodation, to cater for priority groups including,

- elderly;
- homeless persons (including 'care leavers' exiting state care on reaching the age of 18);
- people with a disability, with a particular emphasis on moving people with disability from a congregated settings into community based living.

There is no deadline for submission of applications in what is effectively an open 'rolling' call for applications.

9 no. acquisitions were delivered in 2018.

C.A.S. Projects in progress.

- Cuan Iosa, Ballymote, Co. Sligo: 8 units.
- Works started on site in December 2018.

C1) Returning Vacant Social Housing Properties to Productive Use Programme (Voids Programme) -

This Programme is directed at housing units where the cost of remediation greatly exceeds the cost of the normal end-of-lease maintenance and is capped at €30,000 of Department funding per unit. 67 no. units have been returned to productive use in 2017. The Council received Department funding for 53 units under the 2018 Programme, 14 of which have been included in the overall Rebuilding Ireland delivery target for 2018.

C2) Returning Vacant Social Housing Properties to Productive Use Programme- Long Term Vacant/Derelict Social Housing Units

In late July 2016 the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government announced that funding would be made available to the Council to fund the remediation/ return of a number of long term vacant/derelict social housing units. The cost of Unit repair had to exceed €30,000. The Council sought funding from the Department under this Programme in 2016 and 2017. In total 20 houses have been remediated to date with one final unit to be remediated in 2019.

D) Leasing Programme

Units under this Programme can be delivered in a variety of ways to include,

- Multi-unit developments directly leased by Councils,
- Individual units either leased or through rental arrangements that can be acquired using Council delegated sanction, and
- Units leased, purchased or constructed by A.H.B, s.

The Council are currently in discussions with developers and Approved Housing Bodies for a number of leased units.

15 no. houses were delivered in 2018 (The target set for delivery was 20 units). Generally for Sligo, leased units are not easily sourced and the target set was considered unachievable (exceeding targets elsewhere will counter the shortfall under Leasing).

E) Other

The Housing Agency acquired two houses for Approved Housing Bodies in 2018.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

305 units (20 no. RAS and 285 no. HAP) were delivered during 2018. (319 units were delivered under RAS and HAP in 2017).

The target of units set for delivery was 179 units (RAS 19 units and HAP 160 units).

Other Work Programmes

Adaptations and Extensions to Local Authority Stock

Each year the Department provides funding to the Council to enable it where necessary to carry out adaptations and extensions to Council stock. Works in a number of cases facilitated tenants in being able to leave hospital and return home to their homes.

The sum allocated in 2018 amounted to €539,315, (increase from original allocation of €528,072). This sum included the Council contribution of 10%.

Adaptations Programme.

Adaptation works were carried out to 62 houses in 2018.

Extensions Programme.

A Programme of extensions has been advanced to deal with special needs demands and overcrowding as hereunder.

- **House at Bellanode, Sligo.**

Works to this extension were completed in November 2018.

- **House at Shannon Eighter, Sligo.**

Works to this extension were completed in December 2018.

- **Two houses at Cranmore Drive, Sligo.**

Works commenced on both extensions in late 2018.

Repair and Leasing Scheme

A key component of the *Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness* is a new scheme, the Vacant Housing Repair and Leasing Scheme, which targets the delivery of social housing and also ensures that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible. The Scheme is open to owners of houses or apartments that have been vacant for at least one year (proof required) and which require an amount of repairs to bring the property to the required standard for rented properties. Repair and improvement works necessary to suitable vacant properties are to be funded by Local Authorities or Approved Housing Bodies (A.H.B.) in return for the property being made available for social housing through a lease for a period of between 10 and 20 years. The cost of the works is deducted from lease (rent) payments over an agreed lease period.

The maximum cost of repairs allowed under the Scheme will be €40,000. The Council will consider properties in all areas but will in particular be interested in properties in its high demand areas. There will have to be a social housing demand for a property and also the property has to be assessed as being viable to provide social housing. Details of the Scheme are on the Council Website.

22 applications have been made in 2018 with fifteen rejected and the seven the subject of further discussions.

Buy and Renew Scheme

Under this Scheme the Council can buy and renew housing units in need of remediation, and make them available for social housing use. The focus will be on older stock, particularly as part of the response being made in tackling dereliction and improving streetscapes/supporting renewal. It is expected that Buy and Renew properties would have been vacant for a period before being acquired for social housing purposes.

The Council has purchased one house under this Scheme in 2018 and has also identified a number of other possible acquisitions under this Scheme.

Housing Loans

Applicants may be considered for house purchase loans who did not previously own a dwelling and who have been refused by a Bank/Building Society. The Housing (Local Authority Loans) Regulations 2009 set out the requirements and process for the approval of loans by a Local Authority.

43 applications were received in 2018, with 18 applications approved.

Housing Adaptation Grants for older People and People with a Disability Schemes

The Allocation under this heading for the Council for 2018 was €1,600,000 of which €320,000 (20%) is provided from the Councils own revenue resources.

The applicable schemes are:

- Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for People with a Disability.
- Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme.
- Housing Aid for Older People Grant Scheme.

The Grants supported 233 applicants to improve their homes in 2018.

Cranmore Regeneration Project

The Sligo East City, Cranmore & Environs Regeneration Masterplan 2016 was launched on 1st December 2016, by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Mr Simon Coveney. The implementation phase commenced in 2017 and continued during 2018.

The Regeneration Masterplan describes an overall vision and a number of physical projects and social and economic initiatives to address needs. €20m of funding for projects has been identified by the Department. These projects will provide much needed investment to improve housing in the area, open spaces and roads, as well as investment in community facilities. The Plan

focuses on the Cranmore area, but also includes a range of projects in the wider East City Area.

The Regeneration Vision is:

- *To make the area a more attractive place to live with better, convenient connections to existing and new facilities, locally and in the rest of Sligo.*
- *To enable individuals and communities in the area to avail of emerging opportunities and access to employment, education, health and family support services.*
- *To secure the area as a location of choice for future generations in which to live, work and visit.*

The three elements to deliver the Regeneration Vision are:

- *Physical Plan*
- *Social Plan*
- *Economic Plan*

The following are details of projects being progressed from the **PHYSICAL PLAN**:

Provide quality spaces for community facilities:

- **Devins Drive / Cranmore Road Junction**

It is proposed to upgrade the ‘T’ Junction at intersection of Devins Drive with Cranmore Road. This proposal seeks to enhance the urban/street boundaries, introduce traffic calming measures, a road crossing, junction improvements and landscaping to add to the character and safety of the street.

The proposals include the following benefits:

- Realignment of existing junction
- New footpaths
- Introduction of Traffic calming measure at Junction and Devins Drive
- Re surfacing of junction and approach road on Devins Drive
- Revised carriageway width
- Introduction of mandatory cycle lanes
- Introduction of designated shared surface pedestrian crossing point

The proposed development was approved at the Council Meeting on 1st October 2018 and it is envisaged works will commence in Q2 2019.



- **Joe McDonnell pedestrian/bicycle link to Chapel Hill:**

A new link to Joe Mc Donnell Drive from Chapel Hill has been designed and consultations are ongoing with residents. The project was considered at the Council Meeting on 3rd December 2018 and planning approval was granted. The works include the demolition of four houses and the replacement with four new houses that are realigned to provide passive supervision of the area. This unique project is key to the transformational change that the Masterplan is designed to bring about. It is envisaged that work will commence in Q3 2019.



- **New Community Facility**

Key to developing a new Community Centre in Cranmore is the continuing support and involvement of existing agencies and service providers, specifically the two long-established organisations delivering services in the Cranmore and East City area; Cranmore Community Co-Op Ltd and the Abbeyquarter Community Centre. The views and opinions of these two organisations were critical to informing a vision for the new centre and the future management and operations of the facility. The spatial requirements of both groups were discussed in detail with both Boards generating a list for potential inclusion in the design of the new Centre. The needs were analysed and a proposed design for the new Centre has been prepared by the Cranmore Regeneration Design Team. The design encompasses the spatial needs within a space that has the potential to become a real beacon for the community. Stage 2 approval was received from the Department of HPLG during 2018, with planning approval to be sought in Q2, 2019.

- **Thermal Upgrade Works – Pilot Project**

Stage 1 approval has been received for a Pilot Project covering Energy Efficiency, Housing Quality and Environmental Improvement works, in Cranmore Drive, Cranmore Place and Cranmore Villas. A design team has been appointed to oversee the work to prepare the tender documents. Surveys of all dwellings have been carried out. A decanting strategy is being developed. A pre-tender Stage 3 Appraisal was issued to the Department on the 29th November 2018 and approval to same was received 15th January 2019. Work to commence in Q3, 2019.

- **Restoration of Riverside Lodge, Doorly Park**

It is an objective in the Masterplan that the restoration of the Lodge be explored as it provides an opportunity to create a new public/community space close to the river, adjoining park and recreation areas. The building is a piece of local heritage, a protected landmark structure, at a key location within the area. The Council has secured funding and has protected the building from further decay and potential dereliction. Work was completed on this in January 2018. The Council are working to secure funding to carry out other conservation work to the remainder of the building which, if successful will provide tourism and community facilities.

- **Improve access to Quality Amenities and Open Spaces:**

The Masterplan contains an objective to support the development of water-based recreational opportunities and associated facilities at Doorly Park. During 2018 an application for funding was submitted to Inland Fisheries Ireland to undertake an Appropriate Assessment in order to ensure the proposed works do not adversely

affect the surrounding area, which is a Special Area of Conservation. A funding call from Inland Fisheries Ireland is awaited to progress further with this project.

The following are details of projects being progressed from the **SOCIAL PLAN**:

- **Education and Learning Strategy:**

One of the key objectives of the Masterplan is to address educational disadvantage. It sets out an ambitious programme of works/initiatives to address fundamental issues which affect the estate and which prevent residents from meeting their full potential.

The delivery of the Education and Learning Strategy began in January 2018 and since then a number of supports have been put in place to support residents from early years to active age, in their participation in education. An Education Working Sub Group has been set up to oversee the delivery of the strategy. Supports such as College Information events, including a series of site visits to IT Sligo and St. Angela's College, and MSLETB Adult Guidance in Education workshops have been delivered in the area. Activities and programmes aimed at supporting children and young people to remain in school are also ongoing in the three Primary and Post Primary Schools within the Regeneration area.

A future initiative is the provision of a dedicated mentor to work with people, thereby addressing issues such as early school leaving, supporting parents as primary educators, improving access to higher and further education, and supporting / promoting lifelong education and training in the Regeneration area.

- **Health and Wellbeing:**

A number of initiatives are being progressed under this strategy to meet the actions in the Masterplan such as:

- ❖ Support for the Abbeyquarter Men's Group and Community Garden
- ❖ Support for Cranmore Age Friendly Group
- ❖ Funding applications submitted for a number of projects under various funding initiatives

- **Family Support:**

The following initiatives are continuing under this strategy:

- ❖ Breakfast Club
- ❖ Tenancy Support and Sustainment Project

Community Safety and Housing Management Strategy:

- ❖ A key priority for the Community in Cranmore was the upgrade and extension of the CCTV system. This was upgraded in 2018 and the new system will provide enhanced recording capacity and assist in maintaining community safety in the area.

- ❖ **Cranmore Community Safety Taskforce – Illegal Money Lending Group**

The Illegal Money Lending Group is a sub group of the Cranmore Community Safety Taskforce. The Taskforce involves state agencies, community and voluntary groups in identifying projects and initiatives to improve community safety for residents of Sligo. The Illegal Money Lending Group has produced an information leaflet and accompanying poster which provides information on the cost of different types of borrowing, gives information about the many organisations that can support people in making good borrowing decisions or help if they have money problems.

Conclusion

The social, economic and physical strategies of the Masterplan can achieve a transformative impact for the East City area, providing an action plan for change with benefits for both the local and wider community which include the development of Sligo as Designated Regional Growth Hub. This will be achieved through continued consultation and collaboration with the Community in particular building on the strong links that the Regeneration Project have with the Cranmore Community Co-op and Abbeyquarter Community Centre.

Corporate Services

The range of services provide by Corporate Services include:

- Administration of Council and Municipal District meetings
- Providing administrative services for the Cathaoirleach and chairs of Municipal District's
- Support for elected members
- Preparation of the register of electors
- Freedom of Information
- Provision of media and Information Services, administration and the delivery of customer services
- Town Twinning etc.

Council Meetings

The meetings coordinated by Corporate Services include monthly Plenary meetings, bi-monthly Municipal District meetings for Sligo and Ballymote-Tobercurry, Corporate Policy Group, Joint Policing Committee, Disability Consultative Committee, Procedures Committee, Twinning Committee and Audit Committee.

Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting of Sligo County Council held in June 2018, Councillor Martin Baker was elected as Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council for a one year term. Councillor Paul Taylor was elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach. Cllr Rosaleen O'Grady was appointed as Mayor of Sligo Municipal District and Cllr Sinéad Maguire as Deputy Mayor. Cllr Joe Queenan was appointed Cathaoirleach of the Ballymote-Tobercurry Municipal District with Cllr Jerry Lundy as Leas-Cathaoirleach.



Local Representation and Civic Leadership

Corporate Services provides Administrative support for the Cathaoirleach and the chairs of the Municipal Districts. In 2015 the 'Cathaoirleach's Awards Scheme' was revived, an initiative which was devised to reward the special volunteers who have given exemplary service to their community. At a ceremony in County Hall in December 2018, awards were presented in the categories of Arts & Culture, Community, Environment & Heritage, Schools, Young Enterprise, Sports and Spirit of Sligo'.

The Council also hosts Civic receptions and receptions hosted by the Cathaoirleach to honour people who have given distinguished service or have excelled in a particular endeavour. The following is a representation of events which were hosted by Sligo County Council during 2018.



Register of Electors

Since the publishing of the 2013 Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee report, County Sligo has been divided into two electoral areas (previously five), Ballymote-Tobercurry and Sligo. Following the Local Elections held in May, 2014 8 No. Members were elected to the Municipal District of Ballymote- Tobercurry with 10 No. Members elected to the Municipal District of Sligo. However in 2018 the Local Boundary Commission published a new Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee report. This report recommended a division of the county into three local electoral areas, comprising of Ballymote-Tubbercurry with 7 seats, Sligo-Strandhill with 6 seats and Sligo-Drumcliff with 5 seats.

Sligo County Council prepares the Register of Electors annually and as always a major effort was made to achieve the highest possible degree of accuracy and comprehensiveness in compiling the Register. On the final Register for 2017/2018, 53,464 electors were registered.

Freedom of Information

Since Freedom of Information legislation was introduced in 1997, there is a right of access to official records held by the Council, the right to have personal information held on them corrected or updated where such information is incomplete, incorrect or misleading.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 application fees were abolished and the search, retrieval and copying fees reduced. **In 2018, 84 applications were received.**

Information Services/Media Requests

The Section provides information services to the Elected Members, staff and media, monitors and updates our website in conjunction with IT Section. The section is also responsible for issuing media releases and coordinating responses to media queries. Among the publications produced are the Annual Report and the Corporate Plan, the current Plan expires in 2019.

Social Media Channels

The Council continued to proactively use social media channels to communicate with our customers and promote local authority event and initiatives. The number of followers on the Council's social media channels continued to grow in 2018.

Emergency alerts

The Corporate Services Department works with the Information Technology Section to coordinate and issue 'out of office' emergency alerts, particularly in relation to roads and water services.

Customer Services

The staff at the Customer Services desk in County Hall continue to provide front-line services to the public whether it be in person, by email or by phone. In 2018 no formal customer complaints were received.



Performance Indicators

The council's performance is measured by a series of Performance Indicators, set nationally by the National Oversight and Audit Commission. While the indicators for 2018 are still being compiled, the indicators for 2017 are available on <http://noac.ie/noac-reports/>

International contacts/ Town Twinning

While Sligo has signed three formal Twinning Agreements – with Crozon, Kempten and Tallahassee – it has developed a range of international contacts and regularly welcomes Ambassadors, dignitaries and other guests to County Hall and City Hall.



The Canadian Ambassador to Ireland Kevin Vickers attended a reception in his honour hosted by the Cathaoirleach Councillor Martin Baker in August 2018.

In 2018, Sligo County Council welcomed the German and Canadian Ambassadors and hosted receptions for groups from Kempten, Crozon and Miranda do Douro (Portugal).



The Cathaoirleach Cllr Martin Baker welcomes guests from Crozon and Kempten.

In addition, at the request of the Mayor's office in Kempten, two students from Kempten were engaged by Sligo County Council on a two month work placement programme. They gained experience on general administration and attended a number of civic events, including meeting with the German Ambassador.

Corporate Policy Group

The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) consists of the Cathaoirleach and the Chairperson's of the SPC's 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 Sligo County Council. Full decision making power however remains with the Elected Council. The CPG met on 6 occasions in 2018.

Disability Consultative Committee

Sligo County Council's Disability Consultative Committee was re-established as a sub-committee of the Authority's Housing and Corporate Strategic Policy Committee. Its main function is to advise the Local Authority on policies to improve services, and to make recommendations on disability proofing of policies, projects and actions. The Committee is made up of elected members, representatives of the disability sector and community organisations, and members of Council staff. The Committee met 4 times in 2018.

Joint Policing Committee

The Garda Síochána Act 2005 provides for the establishment of a Joint Policing Committee in each Local Authority. The purpose of the Joint Policing Committee is to develop greater consultation, co-operation and accountability between An Garda Síochána, Local Authorities and elected members, with the participation of the Community and voluntary sector, on the management of policing issues. Revised Guidelines governing the operation of Joint Policing Committees were issued in August, 2014.

In accordance with the Guidelines, the Joint Policing Committee consists of 25 members, i.e. 13 elected members of the Council, 5 Oireachtas members, 2 Local Authority Officials, 2 nominees of the Garda Commissioner, and 6 Community nominees. The Committee met 3 times in 2018.

A Property marking unit (Telesis Machine) was acquired by Sligo County Council following a recommendation from the Sligo Joint Policing Committee. JPC Chair Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady said the initiative was hugely significant in terms of combating crime, especially in rural areas, and she commended Chief Superintendent Aidan Glacken and colleagues on the JPC for overseeing the acquisition of the unit. She said it will be welcomed by householders, business people and farmers throughout the county. The unit was officially launched in Grange in November 2018.



Human Resources

The Human Resources Department looks after all staffing related matters in Sligo County Council, e.g. recruitment, training, maintenance of personnel records, industrial relations, payroll, superannuation, time and attendance etc. It is also responsible for implementing statutory and non-statutory staff welfare policies and procedures and maintains stable industrial relations within the Organisation. The HR Department works to create an equitable, consultative and supportive working environment within Sligo County Council.

Staff Recruitment

2018 saw a significant number of posts being filled via internal and external competition. Vacancies for open posts were advertised in the local and/or national press and also on the Sligo County Council and Local Government Jobs websites. In total, 29 recruitment competitions were held during the year and 72 posts were filled, 53 of which were filled by open competition.

Retirements

During 2018, a total of 11 staff retired from the service of Sligo County Council.

Training and Development

Sligo County Council is dedicated to providing relevant Training to all staff within its resources. Training activity in 2018 particularly focused on Health & Safety. Funding for training was also made available to the Council under the headings of Non-National Roads Grant, Water Services Grant and Environmental Grant and these were expended on relevant courses for staff working in those areas.

Industrial Relations

It is the policy of the Human Resources Department to foster a good industrial relations climate and, in this regard, regular meetings take place between the HR Department and Union representatives/officials. The Council is committed to resolving IR issues as soon as possible once an issue arises in an open and co-operative manner.

Staff Welfare

The Human Resources Department is responsible for formulating and implementing a range of policies and support mechanisms to help staff manage their work-life balance. The HR Department manages the Sick Leave Scheme and provides employee assistance when required, with the services of a full-time Staff Welfare Officer available to all staff. The Council has entered into an agreement with Health Assured to deliver Employee

Assistance to all staff as required.

Details of all family friendly policies are available on the Council's intranet and many staff avail of these policies, which include Shorter Working Year Scheme, Parental Leave Scheme, Work Sharing Scheme, Career Breaks, Force Majeure Scheme, Bereavement Leave and Maternity and Paternity Leave.

Cycle to Work Scheme

Sligo County Council also promotes the Cycle to Work Scheme and, in 2018; the Council assisted 12 employees to purchase bicycles under this Scheme.

Payroll

The Human Resources Department is now responsible for the administration of Payroll in conjunction with MyPay. 3 No. Paygroups are paid on a fortnightly basis, Wages and Wages Pensions, Salary and Salary Pension and Monthly Fire Fighters.

Civil Defence

Civil Defence under the leadership of the Civil Defence officer has 70 active volunteer members and 6 training centres throughout the county and train on an ongoing basis in skills specific to being in a position to provide assistance to the local 3 PRA's Civil Defence under the leadership of the Civil Defence officer has 70 active volunteer members who attend at 6 training centres throughout the county and train on an ongoing basis in skills specific to being in a position to provide assistance to the local 3 PRA's in an emergency situation.

Civil Defence also provided very valuable service to the community in providing first aid cover and safety boat assistance at events. During 2018, Civil Defence volunteers attended 135 events which included safety boat cover for 10 swims. The budget for Civil Defence was €121,000 which is grant aided by the Department of Defence.

The Department of Defence allotted a grant of €21,000 towards the purchase of a communications vehicle which is at present being kitted out to the required communication standard and which will be of major benefit not only to Civil Defence but also to the Sligo Fire service during serious fires etc.

During 2017 The Coast Guard were hit with 2 serious events resulting in loss of life and at the moment Sligo Civil Defence await the investigation reports and advice on the future of boat responses and in the meantime have limited their boat response to inland waterways until advised otherwise.

Health & Safety

Sligo County Council will continue to implement the provisions of the local authorities Safety Management Systems. This will be carried out by ongoing review of the current systems and implementation of the rigorous annual H&S Inspection programme. Communication and consultation with employees will be carried out and H&S training of employees will be facilitated as required. Employees will be supported to implement safe systems of work. Liaison with the HSA, Irish Water and other stakeholders will continue as appropriate.

Planning, Community & Economic Development

Development Planning Unit

The Development Planning Unit is responsible for drafting planning and development policy for Sligo County and City, in consultation with the public, members, officials, prescribed bodies and other stakeholders. The Development Planning team also carries out research, advises on development proposals, facilitates plan implementation and participates in a range of initiatives, at both local and regional level.

Achievements in 2018

A public realm plan for Sligo City was completed in September 2018 following a number of public consultation workshops over the summer. The Plan proposes a programme of improvements to Sligo's public spaces, including streets and car parks, whose overall aim is to enhance the town as an attractive place in which to live, work and visit. A number of successful applications for funding to the Department under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund announced in July 2018 were related to specific projects proposed in the Public Realm Plan.

National Planning Framework / Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

Following the publication of the NPF in February 2018, the DPU will be working in collaboration with the North and Western Regional Assembly on the preparation of the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) which is expected to be adopted in 2019.

Work planned for 2019

In advance of the completion of the RSEs in early 2019, new legislative provisions have been introduced to ensure a process of alignment between all the levels of spatial planning in our planning process from national to regional to local. These provisions mean that all City / County Development Plans will be subject to review during 2019 and broadly aligned to address a six year period to 2026 / 27. Similarly, all local area plans, including the Sligo and Environs LAP, will be brought into alignment during or immediately after the 2019 – 2021 review period.

Development Management

The Planning section continues to manage development in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and associated Regulations.

The total number of planning applications received in 2018 was 514. Pre-planning

consultation interest has remained strong and it would be expected that 2019 will see a continuing increase in the number of planning applications received.

As part of government housing policy, and in compliance with requirements of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015(as amended), the process of establishing a vacant sites register commenced in 2017. Ongoing survey and monitoring work will continue throughout 2018 with a view to commencing the collection of vacant sites levies in 2020.

The national roll out of the e-planning system across all planning authorities is expected to be delivered in 2019. The main objectives of the e-Planning system are to increase efficiency and to provide enhanced customer service. Similar to the Building Control Management System, a web portal will be created through which all electronic planning applications and all correspondence would pass. The implementation is expected to generate significant operational efficiencies over time but will involve costs to the local authority in 2019 associated with enhancements to existing hardware and software capabilities.

Enforcement of Planning Control

The Enforcement Section's role in this area involves investigating all complaints from the public with regard to unauthorised development, random inspections of developments in progress, and dealing with prior to commencement conditions or conditions which have not been complied with. The Section conducts site visits and issues Warning Letters, serves Enforcement Notices and institutes legal proceeding, as appropriate.

Hereunder are some relevant details of activity for the period January 2018 – December 2018:

- 94 new complaints lodged
- 36 Warning Letters
- 17 Enforcement Notices
- 0 prosecutions initiated
- 151 complaints resolved through negotiation (These include complaints received prior to January 2018)
- 40 complaints dismissed.

Collection of Development Contributions

The Enforcement Section is responsible for the collection of development contributions. Staff resources continue to be allocated to ensure that

contributions are paid in a timely manner and to follow up defaulters. The position in relation to the collection of arrears has improved significantly in the last year with this figure reduced to €1.18 million as at 25/09/18, down from €2.0 million as at 30/08/16. Most of the outstanding money is in respect of unsold new build property, mainly dwelling houses and will be paid in due course on the sale of the properties.

Unfinished Housing Developments

Sligo County Council facilitated the building of a significant number of housing developments since 2000. A number of these developments were left unfinished. The Council has relied on its own existing Enforcement Section staff to address the issue. The satisfactory completion of these developments represents a significant challenge for the Section. Working with developers, Financial Institutions, Receivers and Residents is very time consuming but a lot of progress has been made over the last couple of years.

Taking Estates in Charge / Vacant Homes

Taking Estates in Charge

The Council expects to commence the process of Taking in Charge 14 No. estates in 2019. Some of these estates would have been previously categorised as unfinished housing estates.

Vacant Homes

The Government has committed in *Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness* to develop an overall national vacant housing re-use strategy. In February 2018, the planning section prepared a Vacant Homes Action Plan whose aim is to significantly reduce the number of long term empty dwellings and reduce the effect of empty dwellings on the community and facilitate their return to productive use. A key action to be achieved in 2019 will be the identification of the real level of vacancy in the Sligo and its Environs area. This will allow realistic targets to be set for the number of vacant homes that can ultimately be brought back into use, whether for private sale or rent or for social housing purposes.

Heritage and Conservation Services

County Sligo Heritage Plan 2016-2020

During 2018, Sligo Heritage Forum, in association with Sligo County Council and the Heritage Council, continued to oversee the implementation of the County Sligo Heritage Plan (2016- 2020). The Heritage Plan seeks to protect, conserve, manage and promote the value of Sligo's heritage in recognition of its significant contribution to the quality of life of communities and the socio-economic development of the county.

An indicative budget of €850,000 is envisaged for the implementation of the third Heritage Plan for Sligo over a five year period, realising an annual programming budget of €170,000/annum (excluding staff costs). To date, a significant proportion of the funding for implementation of heritage plan actions has been provided by The Heritage Council through its County Heritage Plan Fund, with match funding being provided by Sligo County Council. Every opportunity will be taken to explore external and alternative funding streams for heritage projects, particularly under the Rural Development Programme, EU Structural Funds and new Peace IV Programme. In light of the above, the delivery of the third County Sligo Heritage Plan 2016-2020 will be subject to adequate resources being available to implement the strategic actions proposed.

The County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-2015 which is a subset of the current Heritage Plan was not implemented during 2018 owing to budgetary restrictions. In light of the above, the delivery of the County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan in 2019 will be subject to resources being allocated to implement the actions proposed.

The following achievements were delivered through the Sligo Heritage Plan in 2018:

- *Heritage Week*
- *Sligo Community Archaeology Project*
- *Sligo Community Biodiversity Project and development of Local Biodiversity Action Plans with*
- *six local communities*
- *Ongoing conservation work to medieval churches in Local Authority care*
- *Continued implementation of the Green Fort Conservation Plan*
- *Ongoing review of the Sligo Museum Project*
- *Ongoing involvement in the Sligo Creative Ireland programme as part of the Cultural Team Ongoing involvement and, the County Sligo Tourism*

Strategy as part of the Sligo Tourism Team.

- *Co-ordination and provision of support to the County Sligo Placenames Committee.*

Conservation Services

In 2018, an allocation of €65,000 was allocated for building conservation grants for protected structures. The grant schemes are administered by the Heritage Office, Sligo County Council with the support of the Planning Section and Architecture Service of Sligo County Council. The 2018 grant allocations are set out below.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2018

| Project Ref No | Project | Amount € |
|----------------|---|----------------|
| BHIS 18 /S001 | Thatched cottage, Cabragh, Rathlee, Easkey, Co. Sligo | 2,500 |
| BHIS 18/S002 | Yeats Memorial Building, Hyde Bridge, Sligo | 5,300 |
| BHIS 18/S003 | Former Coach House, St. Marys Presbytery, Temple St. Sligo | 3,475 |
| BHIS 18/S004 | The Masonic Hall, The Mall, Sligo | 5,624 |
| BHIS 18/S005 | Millview House, Sligo Folk Park, Riverstown, Co. Sligo Not progressing - reallocated to S002 and S007, which was subject to Departmental approval. | 4,313 |
| BHIS 18/S006 | Lissadell Parish Church, Ballinfull, Co. Sligo | 3,500 |
| BHIS 18/S007 | Collooney Methodist Church, The Square, Collooney, Co. Sligo | 10,257 |
| BHIS 18/S008 | Breeogue House, Breeogue, Co. Sligo | 2,606 |
| BHIS 18/S009 | Coopershill House, Riverstown, Co. Sligo | 2,550 |
| BHIS 18/S010 | The Blue Door, Toberpatrick, Dromard, Co. Sligo | 5,000 |
| BHIS 18/S011 | St. Ursula's (Clogherevagh House) at St. Angela's College, Clogherevagh, Lough Gill, Co. Sligo | 4,875 |
| | Total | €50,000 |

Structures at Risk Fund 2018

| Project Ref No | Project | Amount € |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| SRF 18/105 | Ballinfull Creamery, Ballinfull, Co. Sligo | 15,000 |
| | Total | €15,000 |

Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ)

The concept of the Rural Economic Development Zones evolved to encourage a more tailored approach to economic planning at local level and to increase the level of local input in relation to the planning and delivery of agreed economic development initiatives. In 2016 Sligo Co. Co. was successful with applications for funding under the Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) and was approved an allocation of €800,000 from the Department of Arts, Heritage Regional Rural, Gaeltacht Affairs (now Dept. Rural and Community Development - DCRD).

Flagship Project:

IWAK, Airport Knock €400,000 (Involving 7 local authorities in Partnership)
The IWAK Visitor Discovery Centre was formally launched in November 2018 by Minister Ring which will provide enhanced visitor experience for passenger traffic coupled with improved digital signage highlighting the many attractions visually around the region. The Partnership will continue to engage with the IWAK to complement further year round marketing opportunities.

Matching Funds

Funding has been provided under Matching Contributions for 2018 to allow the Council to benefit from opportunities that might arise to drawdown and match fund a number of grant schemes and programmes during the year. These include initiatives under tourism and recreational development, economic development, social inclusion, rural / community development etc.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2018 managed by DCRD, was created to support the revitalisation of towns and villages in order to improve the living and working environment of their communities and increase their potential to support increased economic activity into the future.

Sligo County Council has been successfully approved €1,138,400 under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2018 from DCRD in respect of 11 no. Locations as follows:

| Town or Village 2018 |
|----------------------|
| Aclare |
| Ballisodare |
| Ballymote |
| Cloonacool |
| Collooney |
| Enniscrone |
| Grange |
| Killavil/Bunnanadden |
| Raghly |
| Rathcormac |
| Riverstown |

With an allocated sum of €1,138,400. Match funding in the sum of €71,150 has been allocated towards this scheme from Sligo County Council, with a further € 71,150 contribution from successful local communities.

Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme is part of the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development and will provide funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure or the necessary maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in Ireland.

Successful applications were secured under;

Measure 1 – maintenance/promotion for 7 no. locations for €130,000

Measure 3 – Large scale projects for 1 no. location for €500,000 National Mountain Biking Centre Coolaney on Coillte lands

Measure 2 – not yet announced

Further funding opportunities will arise in 2019 under this funding stream which will be considered in collaboration with community groups and interested parties.

The Beara Breifne Way Route

Also secured through the ORIS fund, the Beara-Breifne Way walking and cycling route is a walking and cycling trail and, though it is as yet incomplete, it is the longest in Ireland. The application managed by the Heritage Council successfully secured funding to complete the route through Co. Sligo. Sligo County Council Infrastructure Dept. secured an award of €286,000 through the allocation of 20% own Roads Maintenance match funding, with BBW works to continue in 2019.

Sligo County Council C. & E./L.E.O. Economic Development Unit

The Unit is involved in a number of E.U. project proposals at present. Specifically, it has secured Interreg V Atlantic Area programme to develop a transnational cycle route – EuroVelo Route 1. The name of the project is “Atlantic on Bike (AoB)”.

The Eurovelo Route 1 is a transatlantic signed cycling route extending from Norway on through Scotland, Northern Ireland, Ireland, France, Spain and Portugal. A provisional route has been identified. The Interreg V project proposes to develop the route with associated marketing, on line web and social media presence, audit of allied resources and capacity building. Sligo County Council will support development of route identification, signage and assist with audit of services research, marketing and digital resources.

Donegal and Mayo County Council are also committed to participate as project partners; therefore Sligo’s engagement on what will deliver a substantial linear element of the overall EuroVelo Route1 route forms a key component.



Sligo County Council was successful in sourcing an INTERREG Europe Project, named SARURE-saving Rural Retail which commenced in Sept 2018, secured €167,000 in funding and is ongoing. Tubbercurry and Aclare are the focus towns as part of the 5 year project with the outcomes from the project to inform future policy direction and regional and European level.

Community & Economic Development

The Community & Economic Development section supports inter-agency strategic collaborative work with other organisations on a local and regional level in promoting and encouraging community and economic development within the County. It supports community organisations, encourages volunteerism and active citizenship, promotes Social inclusion including the youth and aged and provides a range of supports and grant aid to a community based and non-profit organisations.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Sligo LCDC was established in 2014 under the Local Government Reform 2014 Act for the purposes of developing, co-ordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development. The committee is made up of representatives from the local government and local development sectors, public bodies and representatives of social, economic, environmental and community interests.

During 2018 and in 2019 the focus of the LCDC, together with its sub committees, will be to continue its overview of community and development activity in Sligo and in particular to review and monitor the implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021. The committee's interagency structure and its oversight and monitoring role places it in a key position to collaborate with programmes such as the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme, the Public Participation Network, Healthy Ireland, Communities facilities grants, Rapid Grants, and EU programmes such as the Peace IV Programme. Its function as the Local Action Group for the delivery of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 in Sligo will ensure it has a key role in the oversight of the delivery of the LEADER programme.

Some key actions in the LECP have been met with collaboration at a county level, in particular ensuring the set up of an Economic Forum and development of a Tourism Strategy for County Sligo.

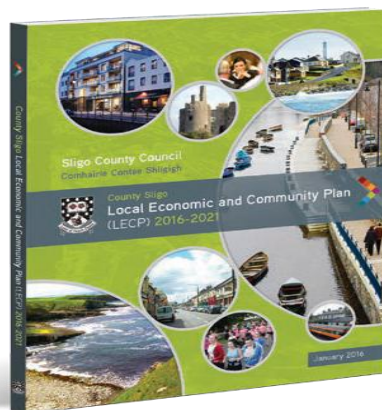


Pictured above are a number of French students who visited Sligo County Council in October 2018 to hear the work of the LCDC

Local Economic Community Plan

The LECP provides a roadmap for collective action in relation to local economic and community development in County Sligo. The main features of the LECP are priority and high level goals and objectives, each of which are to be achieved through the implementation of specific, time bound and measurable Actions. Implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review of the LECPs' objectives and actions is critical in determining the success of the LECP.

The Lead Agency with responsibility for delivery on specific actions, have been submitting quarterly progress reports in relation to the implementation on this. The LECP is also subject to a midterm review wherein each individual action will be reviewed not just to monitor progress, but also to assess continued relevance and need for additions and amendments if necessary.



Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is a national programme which aims to tackle poverty and social exclusion through local engagement and partnership between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies.

The LCDC manages SICAP at a local level with support from Pobal and funding from the Department of Rural & Community Development. The Programme commenced in April 2015 with SICAP 2015-2017 concluding on the 31st December 2017. County Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG deliver the programme on behalf of Sligo LCDC

Following procurement and a tender evaluation process (August – October 2017) County Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG were again awarded the contract for SICAP 2018 - 2022 with the new Programme commencing on 1st January 2018.

SICAP involves the provision of supports to marginalized individuals and groups and disadvantaged communities. Sligo County Council staff on behalf of the LCDC is responsible for administration of the contract and the preparation of monitoring and oversight reports. The budget under the new programme for 2019 remains the same as that of 2018, i.e. €585,514.



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020

Rural Development Programme - LEADER



Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development

The Sligo LCDC is the Local Action Group (LAG) with the responsibility for the delivery of the Rural Development Programme (RDP/LEADER) working in partnership with Sligo County Council as Financial Partner and Sligo LEADER Partnership Company as Implementing Partner. The overall budget assigned to Sligo to implement its Local Development Strategy (2014-2020) is €7.6m.

The County Sligo Local Development Strategy outlines three main themes that were identified as overarching needs for the county and out of that fall nine sub-themes as follows:

| Theme 1 | Theme 2 | Theme 3 |
|---|---|---|
| Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation | Social Inclusion | Rural Environment |
| Sub Themes | Sub Themes | Sub Themes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rural Tourism ● Enterprise Development ● Rural Towns ● Broadband | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Basic Services targeted at hard to reach communities ● Rural Youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protection and sustainable use of water resources ● Local Biodiversity ● Renewable energy |
| €2.8m | €2m | €858,000 |

In addition there is a sum of €1.9m provided in the LDS to cover the Administration, Support and Checking needed to deliver the strategy successfully. To date €592,606 has been drawn down from the Department for the Administration of the Programme.

As at the 31st January 2019, there were 264 No. Expressions of Interest on the LEADER ICT system with a total of sixty six (66No.) projects approved by the LAG for funding in the amount of €2,306,080.87 under the LEADER Programme. Projects vary from the development of community playgrounds to purchase of equipment, marketing and

feasibility projects.

Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) Capital Grant Scheme

On the 31st May 2018, the Department of Rural and Community Development launched a new capital grant scheme known as the 'Community Enhancement Programme' (CEP). This new programme builds on and replaces both the 'RAPID' and 'Community Facilities Scheme'. The programme will be administered by and delivered through the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). Its aims to address disadvantage as identified in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) by providing funding to communities to enhance facilities. Applications are invited from community and voluntary groups for capital projects that will benefit their local community.

The initial allocation to Sligo LCDC for 2018 was €134,084. The Department recommended that up to 30% of this be directed towards small scale capital grants of €1,000 or less. This is aimed at assisting small grassroots community projects to get off the ground. Ring fencing funds at this level will allow a larger volume of those with limited resources to receive some funding.

The balance was directed towards larger capital projects. Examples of the types of capital projects that received funding are;

- Renovation/refurbishment of community centres.
- Improvements to town parks and common areas.
- Equipment and improvements to sporting facilities.
- Health Safety & Wellbeing projects such as Community First Responder Defibrillator Groups

A second round of funding was announced in September bringing the total allocation for Sligo to just over €260,000. Across the 2 Municipal districts, a total of 129 groups benefited with the average grant being just over €2,500. In addition a separate allocation specifically for Mens Sheds was also made available.



Launch of the Community Enhancement Programme

Support for the Community & Voluntary Sector

The Community & Voluntary Grant Scheme covers a broad range of community activity in the county including support for community led local development. This Scheme supports community groups such as Tidy Towns Committees, Burial Ground Committees, Festival Committees and Organizers of International / National and Local Events in promoting their area and the county in general. The grant scheme creates a great opportunity for communities to benefit from an income source to allow them implement programmes, carry out projects and activities at a local level that otherwise would not be possible. The combination of this fund along with a strong volunteering ethos provides for a “bottom- up” approach to local development and participation. A budget of €120,000 was provided in 2018.

Public Participation Network (PPN)



Sligo Public Participation Network has had a successful and active year through its Secretariat, Colleges and Linkage groups putting in place supports and structures to strengthen the capacity of the community and voluntary sector in Sligo to make a real contribution in decision and policy making.

In 2018, the Sligo Public Participation Network saw the election of a new Secretariat and this group have worked to develop a new work plan for the network which reflects their representation of the community sector in Sligo.

Communications has been one of the key focuses for the PPN across 2018 with the launch of a new website and a profile raising exercise through a variety of social media platforms. Interest in the PPN is growing and we now have an average twitter reach of around 64K. We also launched a promotional video for the PPN which has been viewed nearly 15,000 times on Facebook. After a steady growth across 2018, the PPN membership finished the year with 506 member groups, 184 in the Ballymote, Tubbercurry Municipal District and 322 in Sligo Municipal District.

As part of a national initiative, Sligo PPN has also adopted Salesforce as our new data management programme and this involved a full scale re-registration process for all

member groups to ensure that we are fully GDPR compliant.

Working for our members

In June, 2018 Sligo PPN undertook a training needs analysis for all groups and we have formed a partnership with Sligo Leader Partnership, MSLETB and SVC to put in place a coordinated training response that will see all identified community needs responded to. Already we have rolled out GDPR and Governance training. Sligo PPN has also introduced a Community Issues template on our website to allow community groups to raise issues of collective community concern to be reflected in the ongoing reporting process to the LCDC. In addition, Sligo PPN has formed partnerships with sectoral groups such as Comhairle na nÓg and Sligo Intercultural project who represent some of the groups in our community who struggle to have their voice heard. We are working to not only create avenues for the issues facing these groups to be raised at the decision making table, but are also reviewing the socially inclusive nature of the PPN and associated committees to support people from different backgrounds to take up representative roles.



Members of Sligo PPN Secretariat, Elected Members of Sligo County Council, LCDC Chair and staff of Community & Economic Development Section at the PPN AGM in November, 2018.

Informing and influencing

Sligo PPN also became the first in Ireland to join the Alliance for Insurance Reform, reflecting the growing concern among members regarding the prohibitive nature of rising insurance costs for the community sector in Ireland. We also fed into the SCC Disability Action Plan and the new national strategy for Volunteering.

The Sligo Economic Forum

The Sligo Economic Forum (SEF) established in 2017 convened on 5 occasions in 2018. Current membership consists of representation from Sligo County Council officials and members, LEO, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Chamber of Commerce, IT Sligo, Fáilte Ireland, St. Angela's College, and representatives from the Business and Farming sectors. The Chair of the SEF is Mr. Aaron Forde CEO of Aurivo Ltd. The work of the Forum centres around supporting, co-ordinating and promoting Sligo as a place to do business, to invest and to live. In 2018 it initiated the development of a new overarching

Brand identity for Sligo which will be completed before the end of the year. For 2019, a new Marketing and Promotional Strategy for the implementation of the new Brand is proposed as part of the Forum's work together with the enhancement and development of the Sligo.ie website.

Enterprising Town Awards

Sligo was announced as one of the regional runners up in the National Enterprising Towns Awards 2018. The Awards recognize and reward towns where businesses and communities have come together to showcase the spirit of enterprise in their local area. The nomination and application was made by Sligo Economic Forum in the category for populations in excess of 10,000+. The application focused on the many positive developments and projects underway and in the pipeline for Sligo focusing on the high level of collaboration and co-operation in place between the multi stakeholders from public, private and community and voluntary sector. It also highlighted the Forum's ambition to position Sligo as a City location. A judging panel visited Sligo on Friday 21st September, 2018 whereby they received a presentation of the application by Forum members in IT Sligo followed by a showcasing of key projects including an opportunity to meet some of the new and developing company's in the Innovation Centre IT Sligo. This was followed by a tour of key developments such as the site of the Western Distributor Road at Oakfield, the Building Block and culminating in The Model whereby the efforts of the community and voluntary sector was showcased.



Enterprising Towns Judges on their visit to Sligo pictured with the Elected Members of Sligo County Council, members of Sligo Economic Forum, community organisations and staff the Community & Economic Development Section.

The Atlantic Economic Corridor

The Programme for a Partnership Government and the Action Plan for Rural Development included a commitment to progress the concept of an Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC). The AEC is the term applied to a non-administrative or “linear” region along the Western seaboard, covering counties Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway, Clare, Limerick, and Kerry.

The overarching objective of the AEC concept is to maximise the region’s assets and connect the economic hubs, clusters and catchments of the region to generate a value proposition of scale which will attract investment and support job creation and an improved quality of life for those who live in the region.

The Department of Rural and Community Development is the department that is helping to progress the AEC concept and develop a clearly articulated road-map for delivery of the AEC objectives. It has committed to making a contribution towards the recruitment of AEC Officers in each of the ten local authorities along the AEC. An AEC Officer is due to be appointed in 2019 and an interim officer represented Sligo County Council on AEC forums and activities in 2018.

Tourism Development and the County Sligo Tourism Strategy 2018-2023

The County Sligo Tourism Strategy was developed collaboratively by Sligo County Council and Sligo Tourism Ltd and aims to be an inclusive and strategic roadmap that will guide the development and direction of the industry in the county. It was approved by Sligo County Council on 5th February, 2018 and was officially launched on Tuesday 27th March, 2018.



Pictured above at the Launch of Sligo Tourism Strategy are Board Members of Sligo Tourism with guest Speaker Pól O’Conaighle, Travel Writer

The Strategy sets out 4 Strategic Priorities to be delivered over the lifetime of the Programme namely:

- Product and Experience Development
- Marketing and Communications
- Industry and Capability Development
- Leadership and Collaboration

To deliver on these Strategic Priorities a number of key objectives, initiatives and actions are set out. These include a concentrated focus on developing the Yeats Theme as the main theme /attractor for tourism in County Sligo both from a product and marketing point of view. This theme is selected on the basis that it can give County Sligo a Market Differentiation leading to advantage, that cannot be copied. The Plan also focuses on developing a second tier of thematic experiences and attractors selected based on their relative strength and ability to capture visitors and offer compelling experiences. In this respect, they are: (a) Outdoor Adventure (b) Archaeology and history. (c). Culture and Creativity.

The Board of Sligo Tourism Ltd have appointed a Tourism Manager and as part of this role will oversee the co-ordination and implementation of the County Sligo Tourism Strategy. Sligo Tourism Ltd have established 4 Working Groups to assist and support the implementation of the plan namely:

- Product and experiences
- Marketing and Communications
- Industry Capability and Training
- Finance and Resources. (Cross Cutting requirement for all actions and initiatives in the plan.

The Strategy sets out clear performance outputs and metrics to be achieved over the lifetime of the plan. Some of the Headline performance metrics are outlined below.

Headline Performance Metrics

| Performance Metric | 2016 (Estimates) | 2023 Target | Change | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------|-----|
| Overseas Visitor Numbers | 192,000 | 236,000 | 44,000 | 23% |
| Domestic Visitor Numbers | 272,000 | 312,000 | 40,000 | 15% |
| Overseas Tourism Revenue | €54,000,000 | €76,000,000 | €22,000,000 | 41% |
| Domestic Tourism Revenue | €63,500,000 | €73,000,000 | €9,500,000 | 15% |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| Total Employment | 2,700 | 3,400 | 700 | 26% |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|

A successful application was submitted to Fáilte Ireland’s Large Tourism Projects Capital Scheme for Stage 1 (Development Stage) for €60,000 to investigate the development of a Cultural Plaza/Civic Space in Stephen St. Car Park including the Lady Ann Walk in 2018. The Council granted planning permission following conclusion of the Part 8 process in Nov 2019 and will now advance a Stage 2 (Delivery Stage) application in 2019.

Festivals & Events

There are many festivals held on an annual basis in County Sligo from local festivals engrained in the community with a varying level of attraction for visitors to the larger festivals and events held which attract a substantial audience. All however provide a variety of colour to the community and bring people together.

Festivals are seen in national tourism policy as having the potential to attract visitors to an area and are a generator of income for that area, along with being a driver to instil civic pride in its inhabitants. In 2018, Festivals across the county were supported via a number of grant schemes including the Community and Voluntary Grants and the County Sligo Regional Festivals and Participative Events Scheme 2018 which was funded by Fáilte Ireland and administered by Sligo County Council.

The County Sligo Tourism Strategy 2018-2023 looks at developing 6-7 larger events that demonstrate a uniqueness and ability to attract bed nights (overseas preferable) and grow business at off peak times. In 2019, an emphasis will be placed on progressing this priority.

Adventure Tourism

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The County Sligo Tourism Strategy 2018-2023 looks at developing 6–7 larger events that demonstrate a uniqueness and ability to attract bed nights (overseas preferable) and grow business at off peak times. In 2019, an emphasis will be placed on progressing this priority.

A successful application to Dept. Rural and Community Development through Sligo Leader Partnership secured over €130,000 towards continued ongoing trail developments works at various locations throughout Co. Sligo.

County Diaspora Strategy 2018-2022

It is widely recognised that Diaspora engagement is a critical component in local economic, social and community development in Ireland as outlined in “**Global Irish – Irelands Diaspora’s Policy**”. As well as reaching out to the Diaspora on a national level there is potential for local communities and counties in Ireland to reach out to their own Diaspora and build new relationships, to benefit local and regional development.

It is an action in the Sligo Local Economic Community Plan 2016-2021 to develop ways of linking with our Diaspora to build mutually beneficial linkages through networks and involvement of other agencies. (Action 1.6.1 – 1.6.5)

In 2018, work was ongoing on the development of the County Sligo Diaspora Strategy 2018-2022 which Sligo County Council advanced on a collaborative basis with counties Leitrim, Longford and Roscommon. Within this collaborative approach each county developed their own individual strategy which sets out a detailed road map for Diaspora engagement at local level, in addition to exploring opportunities for further synergies across the councils. The Draft Strategy was put before the members of Sligo County Council at their meeting of the 14th January, 2019 where it was approved.

It looks at engagement with the Diaspora over 4 main headings, listed below.

1. Economic and Job Creation
2. Arts, Heritage and Culture
3. Tourism and Genealogy
4. Sport and Community

It also looks at how best to engage with the Diaspora digitally.

Pride of Place

Local communities throughout the county are encouraged to showcase their achievements and have participated in the IPB Pride of Place competition held in association with Co-operation Ireland since its inception in 2004. Entries are accepted in either population categories or single issue categories and Sligo County Council supports entrants in their preparation for and during judging day. The competition fosters community participation and highlights the importance of communities working together to create civic pride in their area. In 2018, Coolaney (Population Category) and South & West Sligo Tourism (Community Tourism Category) represented the county in the competition.

Healthy Ireland

'Healthy Ireland', a Framework for improved Health & Wellbeing 2013-2025' is the national framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of Ireland over the coming generation. In 2017 the Government approved the creation of a Healthy Ireland Fund with an initial allocation of €5 million to support the implementation of its objectives in a practical way such as through alignment with specific objectives contained in Local Economic & Community Plans LECP's. Up to €100,000 is available to each LCDC for 'funding to commence, progress and/or strengthen relevant actions in their Local Economic & Community Plans, LECP's. With SCC as co-ordinator Lead Agencies responsible for delivering on such actions were approved in 2018 to proceed with 8 projects, to the value of €75,000.



PEACE IV

County Sligo is currently benefitting from a funding award of €860,505 from the PEACE IV Programme which is administered by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). The PEACE IV Programme is being implemented by Sligo County Council through the LCDC. To facilitate the development and implementation of the PEACE IV Programme, the LCDC established the PEACE IV Sub Committee.

Projects and initiatives being implemented fit under three specific themes, namely:

- I. Children and Young People;**
- II. Shared Spaces & Services; and**
- III. Building Positive Relations.**



Implementation of the PEACE IV Programme is due for completion in late 2019. In total 15 projects and initiatives will be delivered. These include 5 projects supported by the Small Grants Fund and led by community groups. The development of a cantilevered shared public space at Stephen Street Car Park on the banks of the River Garavogue will be a positive legacy of the PEACE IV Programme.



Above – Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council Councillor Martin Baker, Members of Sligo LCDC, PEACE IV Sub Committee, Sligo Rovers Heritage Group and Sligo County Council officials at the launch of the Sligo Rovers Outdoor Museum PEACE IV Small Grant Project.

Local Enterprise Office



The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) is first-stop-shop for those entrepreneurs starting a small business or expanding an existing one. It provides an integrated support service centred on the needs of small businesses from the Council's offices in City Hall (from which many of its training supports are delivered directly to clients). Supports provided include training, mentoring, financial assistance, advice, counselling and promotion of an enterprise culture (including through programmes run in schools). It provides a key role in signposting clients to the Council's other business-related services and to business-related services operated by other agencies.

The LEO also assists broader economic development through for example the advancement of tourism, workspace, city centre development activities and membership of relevant local development bodies such as Sligo Business Improvement District (of which Councillor O'Grady and the Head of Enterprise are both directors), the Sligo Local Community Development Committee and the Economic Forum. At a cross border and international level its current activities in this regard include sourcing/partnering for external funding e.g. "Target" – a manufacturing programme involving the LEO and various organisations in other EU Member States and Co-Innovate across border programme with Inter Trade Ireland as lead partner geared towards promoting business efficiency and cross-border trade.

Furthermore, the LEO is heavily involved in the Ireland West International Trade Centre project with five other western local authorities, the Western Development Commission and Ireland West International Airport. Its objectives include assisting selected clients gain a foothold in the American market, tourism development, building connections etc.

The LEO also promotes the European Enterprise Network initiative, under which businesses are facilitated in making international connections.

The Office is also involved in driving a number of Government initiatives

locally. For example, it remains heavily involved with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in the delivery of its ICT vouchers programme and in the delivery of the Ireland's Best Young

Entrepreneur Programme on behalf of the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation. It works closely with Micro Finance Ireland on promotion of its loan offering to small businesses. The office has been very successful in attracting REDZ and other funding which has and continues to enable a broad range of projects in the areas of rural recreation, town and village enhancement and improvements to vantage points along the Wild Atlantic Way.

A significant element of the LEO's micro enterprise funding is provided by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and channelled through Enterprise Ireland, which also provides key back up expertise and assistance.

Sligo Arts Service

Sligo Arts Service & Programme 2018

In 2018 Sligo Arts Service delivered its core service and programme as outlined below.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

County Sligo Youth Theatre delivered weekly workshops to 100 young people and produced four shows featuring different age groups.

The Primary Colours visual arts programme for Primary schools was delivered by 16 artists to 330 children in 9 schools around the county.

4,135 children took part in the Discovering Music Programme in 169 classrooms. The Programme is provided by Music Generation Sligo, supported by its partner, Sligo County Council.

ARTS AND HEALTH AND OLDER PEOPLE

The ongoing annual programme of arts and health work was delivered in partnership with the HSE West Services for Older People and Health Promotion, in care settings throughout the county.

The Bealtaine Festival featured a special commission by artist, Michael Wann, who created a series of drawings, *Old Haunts*, based on older people's memories of special places.

COMMUNITY ARTS AND ARTISTS

Training was delivered to 58 artists to support their work in the community.

MUSIC

Musicians from 5 countries performed at the 19th Sligo International Chamber Music Festival in the Model and St. Columba's Church in Drumcliffe. 31 young people from around Ireland participated in the Festival's masterclass programme in partnership with Music Generation Sligo.

FILM

The SLR website was launched in the Spring, www.slrfilm.ie The first round of bursaries for collaborations between writers and filmmakers and to support the completion of films was rolled out. Four bursaries were awarded to writers and filmmakers representing all three counties.

Contributions to the Arts Scheme 2018

| Organisations and Venues | Amount Recommended | Festival and Events | Amount Recommended |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Coleman Centre | €3,000 | Tread Softly | €3,000 |
| Blue Raincoat Theatre | €30,000 | Michael Coleman Festival | €1,500 |
| Orpheus Choir | €900 | The Fiddler of Dooney | €3,000 |
| The Model | €93,000 | Traditional Singing Circle | €2,000 |
| Avalon Pipe Band | €2,500 | Ballintogher Traditional Festival | €1,500 |
| Sligo Jazz | €6,000 | James Morrison Festival | €1,500 |
| Hawk's Well Theatre | €45,000 | Feis Ceoil | €7,000 |
| The Yeats Society | €6,100 | County Fleadh | €5,000 |
| Sligo Concert Band | €3,500 | Choral Festival | €8,000 |
| Branching Out | €2,000 | Sea Shanty Festival | €1,000 |
| Total | €192,000 | South Sligo Summer School | €4,000 |
| | | Tubbercurry Old Fair Day | €8,000 |
| | | Cos Cos Festival | €3,000 |
| | | Baroque Orchestra/IMA | €1,500 |
| | | Baroque Festival | €2,000 |
| | | Feis Shligigh | €7,000 |
| | | Cairde Arts Festival | €6,000 |
| | | Sligo Live | €10,000 |
| | | Sligo Summer School | €10,000 |
| | | Total | €85,000 |
| TOTAL ALLOCATED FOR 2018: | | | €277,000 |

Sligo Library Service and Museum

Operation of Library and Archival Service

Sligo County Library's vision is that Library Services will be at the heart of our communities, providing a free library service for all, in neutral inclusive spaces. 2018 saw a range and diversity of events and services which delivered this vision by fostering reading, stimulating the imagination and contributing to life-long learning and cultural recreation. A number of National Programmes are also delivered through the library service such as *Healthy Ireland at your Library* which focuses on health and well being, *Work Matters* which has an emphasis on business and employment and *Right To Read* which incorporates all elements of literacy and reading development. 2018 saw the launch of a new website www.sligo.library.ie and there was increased use of social media in terms of library promotion and public engagement.

Sligo Central Library

2018 was a really busy year for Sligo Central Library with over 100,000 visits recorded with July and August seeing just over 22,000 visits alone. The year got off to a great start with the celebration of Oíche Nollaig na mBan and the launch of a monthly literary event entitled 'The Word'. Throughout the year there were numerous events and activities to engage both young and old with workshops, storytelling, design, poetry readings, board games, mindfulness and yoga to name but a few.

The Word is a monthly author's evening which is held in Sligo Central Library. An established writer and an up and coming writer or special guest perform their work, followed by Q & A, and an open mic section of 3 minute slots for 10-12 pieces of poetry/flash fiction/music/song. It is a collaboration between Sligo Central Library and the staff and students of IT Sligo's BA (Hons) Writing and Literature. In 2018 authors included Eoin McNamee & Louise Kennedy, Lisa McNerney & Niamh McCabe, Alice Lyons & Treasa Nealon, Kevin Barry & Julianna Holland, Declan Burke & Eileen P Keane, Pat McCabe & John Patrick McHugh, Molly McClosky & Alice Kinsella, and Alan McMonagle & Jo Holmwood.



Tubbercurry Community Library

Tubbercurry Community Library held a number of interesting and different events during the year such as a 'Blind Date with a Book' for Valentine's Day to events for Healthy Ireland, Culture Night and Science Week.

The staff facilitated a series of creative writing classes for both children and adults and also a number of art/comic making workshops which were hugely popular and engaging. The Western Drama Festival celebrated its Diamond Jubilee in 2018 and an Art Exhibition entitled 'The Next Chapter' was on display at the library from March 6th to 10th with the aim of celebrating creativity in the community.

The Library hosted a number of junior sessions for the South Sligo Summer School in July with 25 to 30 players each day attracting large audience numbers. My Open Library saw a big increase in use in 2018 with increased demand for study space during exam times.

Ballymote Community Library

Ballymote Community Library had a very busy year holding over 520 events. In addition to rolling out all the Right to Read initiatives it also held events to mark Dr. Seuss Day, World Book Day, Easter, Bealtaine, Poetry Ireland Day, Yeats Day, Roald Dahl Dream Jar Day, Halloween and Christmas. The library's Documentary Club, Saturday Stitchers, Film Club, Book Club, Job Club and Computer classes continue to attract large numbers. The Parent and Toddler Group, Baby Book Club, Teddy Bear Sleepovers, homework club, dyslexic group meetings, coding club are responsible for large numbers of children visiting the library as well as those who come on a class visit for the Library Detective sessions or simply visit to practice their piano playing skills.

To mark the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day an exhibition was held in the library in recognition of the 53 men and other people from the Ballymote

area who had family who fought and died or fought and returned from WW1.



Enniscrone Branch Library

There was increased visibility of the library service and what it has to offer in Enniscrone in 2018. An Adult Book Club commenced in May, there were a number of visits from local pre-schools and primary schools and over 90 children signed up for the Summer Stars programme with the prize-giving taking place in the nearby 'Maple Moose' at the end of the Summer. A Storybook Trail at the hollow at Enniscrone Beach in July to coincide with the Tread Softly Festival featured 'Commotion in the Ocean' by Giles Andreae and 'Danny McGee Drinks The Sea' by Andy Stanton. The idea was to introduce books to families who wouldn't normally visit the library. This has resulted in increased family engagement which is crucial to continued and sustained library use.



Mobile Library Service

In addition to the 18 locations visited by the Mobile Library service countywide, 2018 also saw a number of story-time sessions taking place on the Mobile Library, these included four 'Spring Into Storytime' sessions and a number of storytime sessions with crèches throughout the county using a range of Story Sacks specifically purchased for interactive storytime.

The Mobile library also visited the Northside Community Centre and Caltragh Community Centre for Easter Storytime and Book Club Sessions. Weekly storytime sessions at Sligo family Resource Centre and works in partnership with MSLETB specifically with participants on the 'Play and Learn with your Junior and Senior Infant'

course are also a regular feature of the service.



Library Service to Schools

2018 saw a huge emphasis being placed on school engagement (Primary, Secondary and Pre-School) and this has really paid off in terms of increased library membership and issues. Library staff conducted over 130 class visits, provided a range of novels which could be used as class readers and book club titles and also made a number of presentations to classes in both primary and secondary schools across the county



Europe Direct

For the second year running, Sligo won the EDIC National Senior Soapbox Competition. This was a huge achievement given the high standard of speakers from all eight regional winners from EDICs around the country. There were lectures on Brexit, Sligo IT EU Simulation event, Europe Day Debates, 3D Printing Workshops, EU Funding workshops, Time To Move events, European Day of Languages.

Cruinniú na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg is a Creative Ireland initiative and in 2018 a total of 22 events were held in all libraries across County Sligo over 2 days in June. The aim was to celebrate and encourage children and young people's participation in culture and creativity through performance, coding, theatre, art and music workshops, readings, screenings, special events and much more. The focus of these free events was to encourage local participation in creative activities. It was all about 'doing', 'making' and 'creating'.

Right to Read Programme

Under the umbrella of The *Right to Read* Programme and through the four initiatives of 'Spring Into Storytime', 'Summer Stars', 'Childrens' Book Festival' and 'Family Time at your Library', Sligo library engaged with a

number of crèches, pre-schools, after-school clubs, homework clubs and Summer/Easter/Halloween camps. The aim was to increase the number of children and their families who visited their local library, borrowed items and engaged in activities and events.

Summer Stars

In excess of 1,500 children signed up to this programme with just over 29,000 books being issued in July and August alone. A total of 396 new child members were signed up and 179 parents also signed up for library membership during this time. Events included Story-times, Art and Craft activities, Puppet Shows, Board-game Sessions, Yoga Classes and a range of workshop in creative writing, digital photography, coding and comic making.



Bibliotherapy and Mental Health Services

As part of an ongoing collaboration with Sligo Leitrim Mental Health Services, St. Columba's Mental Health Facility was added to the Mobile Library schedule in 2018. In-Patients at the facility as well as medical staff registered as library members and began borrowing items from the mobile during its scheduled visits. In October, World Mental Health Day was marked with the launch of a 'Reading Well Feeling Well' Recommended Reading booklet for young adults. The event was held at Summerhill College Sligo and a number of students and teachers from other second level schools in the county were in attendance.

Infrastructure, Environment and Fire Services Directorate

Infrastructure Overview

A total of €29,053,152 was initially allocated, from TII/DTTAS/Sligo County Council for the improvement/maintenance of the public road network in County Sligo in 2018. The TII and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in addition to Sligo County Council were key funding agencies for this programme.

Initial funding for County Sligo Roads was allocated from the various agencies as follows:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) | €17,661,027 |
| Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport | €10,502,125 |
| Sligo County Council: | € 890,000 |

In addition to the above roads allocations the following programmes are managed by the Roads/Transport/Infrastructure Department:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Public Lighting- Maintenance & Energy costs | €580,000 |
| Piers & Harbours – General Maintenance of 10 Harbours & Piers | € 33,000 |
| Beach Maintenance (5 beaches including 2 Blue Flag beaches) | € 35,000 |
| Drainage Schemes (4 arterial drainage Schemes) | € 38,250 |
| Public Conveniences (3 locations) | € 14,750 |
| Burial Grounds maintenance (57 cemeteries) | € 14,800 |
| Parks and Open Spaces – Sligo Urban Area | €434,000 |
| Sligo Cemetery | €124,000 |
| Sligo Port | € 64,000 |

National Roads

Pavement Improvements/ HD28/ HD15/ HD17:

N15 Cliffony North (Recycling Trial) Surface Replacement - 2018 Allocation €500,000

This scheme involves the digging out and replacement of the existing road surface for 2km at the northern end of the N15. Initial design was carried out in 2018 with construction taking place in 2019.

N15 Teesan to Rathcormack Pavement Strengthening - 2018 Allocation €1M

This project involved overlaying the existing road surface and was completed in mid 2018.

N16 Clarion Road to N4 Phase 1 – 2018 Allocation €400,000

This scheme started at Feehily's funeral home on Duck Street and extended along the N16 ash Lane to the N16/ R286/Molloway Hill junction. €400,000 was allocated to replace the existing road surface. This project was completed in early 2018.

N16 Clarion Road to N4 Phase 2 Pavement Strengthening – 2018 Allocation €582,016

This scheme continued the Phase 1 project above and extended from the N16/ R286/ Molloway Hill junction to the Abvie roundabout on the N16. Works were completed by mid 2018.

HD 28 NP Pavement Renewals

Several locations were identified and works completed for Surface Renewal/Surface Repair on the National Road Network in County Sligo in 2018.

N59 Ballysadare – 2018 Allocation €1,333,904

This scheme started at the Cluan Dara housing estate on the west side of the Ballysadare village and ran through the village along the N59 and terminated at the Sligo County Council depot in Belladrehid. The project included removing and replacing the existing road surface. This work was substantially complete at end of 2018.

Safety Schemes National Roads (HD15/17) – N17 Cashel Gates – 2018 Allocation €10,000

Formal agreement with CIE/ Irish rail was received during year to proceed and works were complete by mid 2018. This scheme greatly improved the layout of this local road junction with the N17.

N17 Pavement Scheme at Tubbertelly – 2018 Allocation €2M

This scheme will extends for 4km approx from Muckelty to Tubbercurry town. It consist of a pavement overlay and surface repair. The scheme was designed and tendered in 2018 and is due to commence on site in early 2019.

N59 Owenbeg Phase 2 Pavement Overlay – 2018 Allocation €1.5M

This scheme commenced approximately 5km to the west of Dromore West. It consisted of a pavement recycling scheme to rehabilitate the existing road surface. Works were completed in mid 2018.

N15 Shannon Eighter

This scheme will extended from the old Borough Boundary stone on the N15 to the Statoil garage near Rosses Point road junction. The works involved digging out the existing road and replacing it with new construction. Works were substantially complete by the end of 2018.

National Road Maintenance Works

National Road maintenance works are developed on an ongoing basis by the Area Engineering staff. Works proposed will include surface renewal at particular locations, barrier repairs, bridge maintenance, signing & lining, drainage works, public lighting etc. The TII requires the logging of maintenance issues on the TII Geo App on handheld tablets and the programming of maintenance works online. This system also allows applications to be made for additional funds for particular maintenance issues.

National Primary Road Maintenance

The TII allocated €551,242 for National Primary Maintenance of N4, N15, N16 and N17 in 2018. For ease of administration the National Roads within Sligo Urban area are managed by the Sligo City area Engineer. The N4 Dual Carriageway from Summerhill Roundabout to Toberbride Roundabout (junction with N17) is managed by the Sligo Strandhill Area Engineer. The N4 from Toberbride Roundabout to the Roscommon Border is managed by the Ballymote Area Engineer. The N15 and N16 outside the Sligo Urban Area is managed by the Sligo Drumcliff Area Engineer. The N17 is managed by the Tubbercurry Area Engineer.

The breakdown for County Sligo is:-

- €222,995 for Ordinary Maintenance. The 2018 works programme will have an emphasis on surface maintenance, verge maintenance and drainage works.
- €163,019 for Winter Maintenance.
- €165,238 for N.P. Route Lighting.

National Secondary Road Maintenance

The TII allocated €111,465 for N59 Ordinary Maintenance in 2018. The N59 from Belladrehid to Corhownagh Church is managed by the Sligo Strandhill Area Engineer. The N59 from Corhownagh Church to the Mayo border is managed by the Enniscrone Area Engineer.

The breakdown is:-

- €58,139 for Ordinary Maintenance. The Grant will be used for surface maintenance, verge maintenance and drainage works.
- €36,226 for Winter Maintenance.
- €17,100 for N59 Route Lighting.

Works on N4 Dualcarriageway



Non-National Roads

Sligo County Council has been allocated a grant of €10,502,125 by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for the maintenance and improvement of non national roads.

The Non-national roads programme has been developed by the roads engineering staff. The programme takes into account Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport conditions regarding grant type spend and work type allowable for each grant, the existing road conditions and ongoing input from elected representatives. The section of the programme relevant to each Municipal District will be presented to members for consideration at Municipal District meetings arranged to discuss the Schedule of Municipal District Works.

Restoration Improvement Grant:

An allocation of €4,497,350 was provided by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for the restoration improvement of Regional and Local Roads. Some 51km of roads at 65 locations throughout the County were programmed to be improved under this grant heading.

The types of work carried out included:

- Laying bitumen macadam surfacing to shape and strengthen the roads followed by surface dressing.
- Laying crushed stone to shape and strengthen the road and double surface dressing the stone to seal the road surface and provide skid resistance.
- Recycling – this was done where there were adequate stone already in the road structure but the road had disintegrated (typically used in bog road locations).
- Replacement of road markings.



Restoration Maintenance Grant

A grant of €910,000 plus €413,500 for Supplementary Maintenance was provided in 2018 for surface dressing to Regional and Local roads. This programme included the surface dressing of approximately 69km of roads at 56 locations throughout County Sligo.



Discretionary Grant

A discretionary grant of €2,704,000 was allocated in 2018 for improvement and maintenance works on Regional and Local Roads in County Sligo. These funds were in general used for regional road maintenance, road repairs, winter maintenance and bridge maintenance.

Strategic Regional and Local Roads

A grant of €470,000 was allocated for the Eastern Garavogue River Bridge Project and a grant of €630,000 was allocated for the Western Distributor Road in 2018.

Safety Improvement Works

A grant of €170,000 for schemes was obtained in 2018 at the following locations:

- R284-Geevagh,
- R294-Dubaile-Cloonloo,
- R286 Hazelwood Avenue,
- R290 Ballintogher,
- R290 Barrack Road Collooney,
- R292-Strandhill Road,
- L4502-0 Mountain Road, Tubbercurry,
- L-1502/L5508 Cloonlurg,
- L6804-0 Coolaney/Rockfield and
- L-210-46 Kilnamanagh.

Special Maintenance Grant

A grant of €600,000 was provided to carry out works at ten locations.

Clár Schemes

The Department of Arts, Heritage Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs allocated funding of € 274,650 in 2017 and €376,895 in 2018 under the Clár Scheme. There were allocations under two Clár measures. Strict criteria had to be complied with. The 2017 and 2018 schemes are substantially completed.

Clár Allocations 2017

| Ref | Description | Agreed Clár Funding € |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|
| Measure 1 | Safety Package for Schools/Community Facilities | 127,900 |
| Measure 2 | Outdoor Play Facilities Enhanced Scheme/Support for the Development of multi use Games Areas | 100,000 |
| Measure 3 | Local Access Roads | 46,750 |
| Total | | 274,650 |

Clár Allocations 2018

| Ref | Description | Agreed Clár Funding € |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|
| Measure 1 | Safety Package for Schools/Community Facilities | 224,785 |
| Measure 2 | Outdoor Play Facilities Enhanced Scheme/Support for the Development of multi use Games Areas | 152,110 |
| Total | | 376,895 |

Community Involvement Schemes (CIS)

The DTTAS reintroduced a Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) Grant in 2018 with a total allocation of €1.4m for a two year period, 2018 and 2019. This scheme funds works on public roads which are part funded by the local community. When the CIS grant scheme was announced the onus was on Sligo County Council to identify and submit suitable schemes to the DTTAS for funding. A total of 41 Schemes throughout the county received funding of €853,000 in 2018. Further Schemes will be identified for the 2019 allocation.

Local Improvement Schemes (LIS)

The Department of Rural Affairs in 2018 continued the provision of Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) Grants for non public roads which provide access to agricultural lands and local amenities with specific conditions placed on the award of the grant. Sligo County Council received a total of €606,870 for 22 specific LIS roads in 2018. It is expected that further grant allocations for LIS will be made in 2019.

Western Distributor Road

The Western Distributor Road, a Strategic Non-National Roads Scheme will link the National Primary N4 dual carriageway at the Caltragh Interchange to the R292 Strandhill Road at Ballydoogan, west of Sligo City. The Western Distributor Road comprises 3.0 km of 2-lane Urban Distributor Road, two traffic signal controlled junctions, one roundabout junction, one railway overbridge, sustainable drainage and attenuation works, and accommodation works.

Western Distributor Road Phase 1 looking North towards the Strandhill Road recently named 'Roger Eames Road'.



Western Distributor Road Phase 1 looking South towards the Ballydoogan Road recently named 'Roger Eames Road'



Current Status of Phase 2 -

Land Acquisition:

The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for phase 2 is in place. Possession has been taken of the lands necessary to build the scheme. Negotiations have been ongoing with landowners and Sligo County Council staff and the appointed valuers regarding accommodation works and compensation agreements for land.

Advance/Preliminary Works:

Tenders were advertised in 2017 for an Advanced Works Site Clearance and Fencing Contract. Noone Civil Engineering & Construction was awarded the contract. Works commenced in February 2018 and were substantially complete in April, 2018. Lands acquired under the Compulsory Purchase Order are fenced to facilitate the construction of the project by the main contractor.

Scheme Design and Tender Document Preparation:

Consultants Atkins finalised the detailed design of Phase 2 and prepared tender documents for the procurement of a contractor for the Works. Sligo County Council advertised tenders for the main construction contract on the 14th June 2018 with Tenders received on the 08th August 2018. Sligo County Council awarded the contract to SIAC Construction Ltd in November 2018. It is anticipated that the project will be complete and open to traffic by Q3 2020.

Sligo County Council continues has liaised with the IDA and various statutory providers to ensure that as far as possible and practical all infrastructural & servicing requirements are provided for within the main construction contract.

Photo 1 taken at the Intersection with Phase 1 and Mitchel Curley Park, looking south to Oakfield Road and the Proposed IDA Business Park.



Photo 2 taken at Oakfield Road looking east towards the N4 and Caltragh Interchange.



Eastern Garavogue Bridge

Introduction:

The Eastern Garavogue Bridge and approach roads has been developed as a traffic calmed urban distributor road consisting of a single carriageway with cycleways and footpaths. It will be developed as a high quality urban road rather than a bypass of the city. The Scheme will improve linkages within Sligo city and facilitate the development of the East Ward. The proposed Bridge would compliment and prolong the life of the Sligo Inner Relief Road.

Current Status of Scheme:

An objective to provide a Bridge across the Garavogue River on the eastern side of the City at this location has been in Borough of Sligo Development Plans since 1973.

An Bord Pleanála approved the proposed development and Compulsory Purchase Order on 26th June 2009. The scheme does not require the acquisition of any houses.

The detailed design process commenced in 2013. The detailed design was carried out in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets as published by the Dept of Environment and Dept of Transport. This document ensures that the design takes into account the urban nature of the route and the need to cater for other road users rather those of vehicle users alone.

Every effort has been made to integrate the design of the scheme into the surrounding area especially on the South Bank of the River. Public consultations have taken place on several occasions in 2013, 2014 and in 2015. The design of the scheme was considerably refined as a result of these consultations. Negotiations are progressing on compensation and accommodation works for land owners. Notice to Enter was served on Land Owners on the 7th February 2018. An 'Advanced Site Clearance and Fencing Contract' was completed in December 2018 north of the Garavogue River. The acquired lands are now fenced off and available for the main construction contract. Archaeological investigations and ground investigation are substantially complete, the completion of the Site Clearance Contract will enable the completion of the remaining Archaeological investigations.

Sligo County Council continues to liaise with the various statutory providers to ensure that all servicing and infrastructural requirements are provided for within the main construction contract. The Eastern Garavogue Bridge and Approach Roads Project is listed for construction in the National Development Plan 2018 to 2027.

Sligo County Council submitted a funding application in September, 2018 to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government under the Urban Regeneration

and Development Fund (URDF). It was announced in December, 2018 that the Eastern Garavogue Bridge and Approach Roads Project would receive funding through this fund. It is expected that the scheme will be jointly funded between the URDF fund and the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport.

A funding profile and programme is to be agreed for the Project and discussions are ongoing with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport as well as the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Sligo County Council Roads Department are to develop a design and construction strategy with a view to having construction commence before the end of 2019 with construction complete in 2022.

This project will, when implemented, greatly increase overall confidence in Sligo's ability to grow and in its ability to attract funding for other projects such as Cleveragh Regional Park Development, Cranmore Regeneration, business development, for the improvement of educational institutions, health services etc. It will help Sligo to compete with growth centres elsewhere in Ireland in the competition for new industry and jobs. It will help Sligo to improve living standards and to provide jobs for its residents and to curtail job losses.





O'Connell Street Enhancement

The project will provide improved pedestrian access and mobility for all including the visually and mobility impaired. Not only will the project improve the current condition of the paved areas and roadway, it will clearly define the pedestrian priority areas and delineate the narrower carriageway, providing structure and integrity to the street-scope.

The design, tender and appointment of the contractor have been completed. Shareridge Limited has been appointed to carry out the works. The contractor, in partnership with Sligo County Council and O'Connor Sutton Cronin are finalising strategies, including traffic management, method statements, works scheduling and materials approval, to ensure a smooth transition into the construction works programme. The issues are being progressed with a view to commencing works in Q02 of 2019.

The project involves the refurbishment of Sligo's busiest commercial zone and pedestrian thoroughfare. The main design ethos is to create an improved pedestrian zone by enhancing the quality and attractiveness of the urban environment, while concurrently; creating a permeable interconnected metropolitan space that will facilitate commercial and residential opportunities for the undeveloped and underutilised sites on, and in proximity to O'Connell Street.

O'Connell Street – Current View



O'Connell Street - Artistic View



Project Costs and Funding

It is estimated that the overall costs for the O'Connell Street Project will be €3 million. The Project is funded from the following sources;

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – Urban Development Fund for Designated Urban Centres. This fund is administered by the North Western Regional Assembly (NWRA). The funding amount approved is 50% of project costs up-to a maximum of €1.25million.

The second source of co-funding is from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. This fund has been secured through the Cranmore Regeneration Office of Sligo County Council in the amount of €0.5million.

A further successful application for grant aid was submitted to the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF). Grant aid in the sum of €1.236 million has been approved for the completion of the O'Connell Street Project

Bridge Rehabilitation

The Department Of Transport continued to provide support for bridge works and the grant was increased in 2018 to €329,000, for 9 bridges. The grant was carefully spent to provide a high standard of repairs, some to conservation standard maximising resources, with zero consultant fees as all the analysis, design, management, and supervision is carried out in-house.

Substantial bridge repairs were carried out at:

- L-1101-0 Ummeryroe Bridge
- R284 Ballinakill Bridge
- L-12021 Lurgan Bridge
- L-5207 Drumsoohy Bridge
- L-6515-0 Carns Bridge, Enniscrone
- L-4603 Carrownaleck Bridge
- L-81053 Cloonaheen Bridge
- L-7302 Ballygilgan Bridge

Other works

In addition to the above, Roads department personnel oversee the following works:

- Public lighting management and maintenance
- Weed Control inc. treatment of invasive species such as Japanese

knotweed, giant hogweed etc.

- Traffic management including traffic signal management & maintenance
- Assist tidy towns/clean coast and other voluntary/ community groups
- Road Openings
- Planning control/inspections & pre-planning meetings
- Beach maintenance inc. lifebuoy provision & inspections
- Dangerous structures
- Cemetery Maintenance
- Town and village cleaning & upkeep/waste management.

National Road Major Road Schemes

Sligo National Roads Project Office

The Sligo National Roads Project Office (Sligo PO) is responsible for the delivery of all Major and Minor National Road improvement and realignment Schemes in County Sligo.

The following are the Schemes currently being developed by the Sligo PO and the progress on the Schemes to the end of 2018.

N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Road Development Scheme

Following An Bord Pleanála's confirmation of the EIS and CPO for this Scheme in July 2014, the Sligo PO has continued to progress the development of the Scheme. The Sligo PO Team are Project Managing the Scheme and were also the Lead Road Designers and (Project Supervisor Design Phase) PSDP for the Scheme up to and including the Statutory Process and completion of the Advance Works.

Following the issuing of the Notices to Treat and Notices to Enter to affected landowners in 2015, the Advance Works progressed, and all advance site works were completed by the end of 2017.

The total number of Land Acquisition cases on the Scheme is 135 (181.5 hectares) and by the end of 2018, agreement was reached on 121 of these cases. A total of 110 out of 118 Accommodation Works Agreements (93%) were agreed & signed by the end of 2018.

Following completion of a Tender process, Consultants CH2M Barry were appointed in May 2017 to provide consultancy services for Phases 5 – 7 of the Scheme. This included preparing Specimen Design and Contract Documents for the procurement of the Design/Build Contractor. The Tender process commenced with the pre-qualification phase at the end of 2017, which resulted in the shortlisting of five Contractors in March 2018. The five Contractors were invited to tender in April 2018, with a return date of August 2018. Following assessment of the Tenders, a preferred Tenderer was identified. The post-Tender Project Business Case was submitted to DPER in early December for confirmation of compliance with the Public Spending Code. At the end of 2018, approval was awaited from Cabinet to award the Contract to the preferred Tenderer.

The delivery of the N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Scheme is listed as one of the key Schemes to be delivered under Strategic Outcome No. 2 'Enhanced Regional Accessibility' in Project Ireland National Development Plan 2018-2027.



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© Photo: Barrow Coakley Photography Tel: 087-2856527, 24th June 2017

Ariel Views of new Fencelines along route of N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Scheme

N17 Knock to Collooney

The N17 Knock to Collooney Scheme was identified in Project Ireland National Development Plan 2018-2027 as *one of the projects which will be progressed through pre-appraisal and early planning during 2018 to prioritise projects which are proceeding to construction in the National Development Plan*. The route forms part of the Ten-T Comprehensive Network and is a core component of the Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC). The project involves upgrading of approx. 55km (34km in Co. Sligo and 21km in Co. Mayo) of a very substandard section of the existing N17 to current alignment & safety standards, including bypassing 4 towns & villages.

The objective of the pre-appraisal is to establish, in compliance with the requirements of the Public Spending Code (DPER) and the Common Appraisal Framework (DTTAS), which projects could be included in the portfolio of projects to be progressed to Planning and Design Stages post 2018.

The pre-appraisal (Project Appraisal Plan) was carried out in 2018, jointly by the Sligo PO and Mayo National Roads Office. This exercise had regard to the fit of the project to the principles set out in the National Planning Framework. Confirmation was received from DTTAS in August 2018 that the Project Appraisal Plan was compliant with the Public Spending Code and Common Appraisal Framework.

Following the submission of all TII Project Management Guideline Phase 0 Deliverables, to TII in October 2018, approval was received from TII in November 2018 to progress the planning and design of the Scheme in accordance with the TII Project Management Guidelines, Phases 1-3. Both County Councils and TII agreed that Sligo County Council should be the lead Authority on the Scheme going forward, and a Section 85 Agreement was signed and sealed by both County Councils.

Sligo County Council are currently setting up a Project Team to lead and deliver the project from the Feasibility through to the Statutory Process Stage of development.

N16 Lugatobber

The selection of a Preferred Route for the full length of the N16 in County Sligo in 2017 enabled the commencement of the development of a Minor Scheme on the N16 at Lugatobber. This Scheme, which is 2.5km in length, will remove a number of significantly deficient bends on this section of the network and in so doing will improve journey times. The Sligo PO are Project Managing this Scheme and are also the Lead Road Designers and PSDP for the Scheme.

An EIA Screening Assessment was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in November 2017, and the Bord subsequently directed that an EIAR (Environmental Impact Assessment Report) be carried out for the Scheme. The Preliminary Design and Statutory Documents, including EIAR, NIS (Natura Impact Statement) and CPO (Compulsory Purchase Order), for the Scheme were prepared and completed by the Design Team during 2018. This involved input from specialists and significant landowner liaison. At the end of 2018, a legal review of the documents was carried out and approval to publish the Statutory Documents was requested from TII.



Existing N16 in County Sligo



Ground Investigation at Lugatobber

N4/N15 Sligo Urban Improvement Scheme

Following on from the N4 Hughes Bridge Widening Scheme, the N4/N15 Sligo Urban Improvement Scheme is the next section being developed by the Sligo PO. This Section commences at the northern end of the Hughes Bridge Widening Scheme and finishes north of the Rosses Point junction.

The Sligo PO are Project Managing this Scheme and engaged Jacobs Engineering to carry out the detail design and prepare the Statutory Process documents required. The Scheme will include upgrading the National Primary Road from the northern end of Hughes Bridge to north of the Rosses Point junction, along with the upgrade of the Rosses Point, Duct Street and Markievicz Road Junctions. The Copper River Bridge will be upgraded as part of the works also. A new Traffic Management System will be designed and upgraded to an Urban Traffic Control System.

Following an Oral Healing in November 2017, An Bord Pleanála granted approval for this Scheme in February 2018. The procurement process for the Construction Works Contractor commenced in April 2018, and following the prequalification phase, five Contractors were shortlisted.

The Detailed Design and Contract Document preparation continued throughout 2018 and at the end of 2018, these documents were being

reviewed. TII approval to invite the five Contractors to tender was received in November 2018, and on completion of the review of the Contract Documents, Sligo County Council expected to be in a position to invite the Contractors to tender, early in 2019.

The CPO for the Scheme became operative in April 2018, which enabled land acquisition to commence. Negotiations on land acquisition were ongoing during the second half of 2018.

N59 Corhownagh to Lugnadeffa Road Improvement Scheme

Feasibility and Constraint Studies were carried out in 2017 for the development of a Realignment Scheme on the N59, between Corhownagh and Lugnadeffa. The Sligo PO are Project Managing this Scheme and are also the Lead Road Designers and PSDP for the Scheme.

Following approval from TII, work was ongoing in 2018 on the Route Selection phase of this Realignment Scheme. A Constraints Area, with six feasible routes were established. Ten Environmental Consultants were engaged to inform the Route Selection process. The Engineering Assessment of the feasible route option corridors was well advanced in 2018. Preliminary economic assessment was ongoing.

The first public consultation for the route was held in October 2018 in Corhownagh Parish Centre Balisodare, with all information arising from the public consultation feeding into the assessment process.

Management of Invasive Alien Plant Species

Invasive alien species (IAS) are species that are initially imported through human activities outside of their natural range across ecological barriers, and then survive, reproduce and spread, and have negative impacts on the ecology of their new location as well as serious economic and social consequences.

In 2016, the Sligo PO managed the procurement process for the appointment of a contractor to treat and eradicate Japanese and other Knotweed species and Gunnera Tinctoria (Giant Rhubarb) along the National Roads in County Sligo. This Contract was for a three-year period, with treatment taking place in September/October each year. The Contract, which was being managed by the Sligo PO, concluded at the end of 2018, the third year of treatment.

Noise Action Plan for Sligo County and City

The Noise Action Plan 2018-2022, was prepared by the Sligo PO in 2018, in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument No. 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This involved a period of public consultation in the summer of 2018, and a review by the EPA and TII. The Final Plan was submitted to the EPA for submission to the European Commission in January 2021.

Project Ireland National Planning Framework gives effect to the Environmental Noise Regulations under Policy Objective 65, which is to:

Promote the pro-active management of noise where it is likely to have significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life and support the aims of the Environmental Noise Regulations through national planning guidance and Noise Action Plans.

The Final Plan was submitted to the EPA in December 2018, for submission to the European Commission by the January 2019 deadline.

Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution

To manage water and waste water services from 2014, Irish Water developed service level agreements (SLAs) with all Local Authorities. All costs associated with Irish Water activity are recouped in full and the related income figures are also reflected in the Draft Budget Figures. The Council continues to bear the costs of operation of public conveniences and administration costs associated with group water scheme operations.

Catchment Management

The principal piece of legislation relating to protection of surface water, groundwater, tidal and coastal water quality in Ireland is the E.U. Water Framework Directive. The first cycle of implementation of the Water Framework Directive is now complete and implementation of the second cycle has commenced. Under the second cycle of implementation of the Water Framework Directive, one national river basin district management plan has been prepared for the Republic of Ireland. The plan was adopted by the Minister in April 2018. The national plan includes a Programme of Measures aimed at achieving the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. The second cycle of implementation of the Water Framework Directive includes a focus on improving water quality within specific priority catchments, a number of which are located within the functional area of Sligo County Council. The four key priority objectives in the national river basin district management plan are protection of existing high status waters, prevention of deterioration of status, compliance with the objectives for protected areas and compliance with the wide range of existing water quality protection legislation already in place in the Republic of Ireland.

The current focus on implementation of the national plan may potentially place increased demands on the Environment Section resources. Nationally, the emphasis is on integrated catchment management and relates primarily to the following specific areas of work, which will continue to be prioritised during 2019.

- Licensing and enforcement of trade and domestic effluent discharges to waters under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 as amended.
- Assessing planning proposals for domestic, commercial, agricultural and forestry developments in terms of environmental impact, with particular reference to protection of water quality.
- Implementation of the National Inspection Plan for domestic wastewater treatment systems as published by the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Implementation of Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated

shellfish waters.

- Implementation of the European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2017 (S.I. no. 605 of 2017, as amended).
- Complaint and query response relating to general environmental, water quality and planning related issues.

Drinking Water

The quality of drinking water in Ireland is governed by the EU (Drinking Water) Regulations, 2014. All public water supplies and regulated Group Water Schemes will be monitored in 2019, in accordance with statutory requirements and those set by Irish Water where relevant. Legislation defines what parameters are tested, and the monitoring frequency. Sligo County Council will continue to inform/seek advice from the HSE in relation to non compliances and act as the supervisory authority in relation to the provision of drinking water by Group Water Schemes and private water suppliers.

Bathing Water

In 2018, Sligo County Council formally identified five beaches under the 2008 Bathing Water Regulations; these were Rosses Point, Enniscrone, Mullaghmore, Streedagh and Dunmorán. Monitoring of the 5 bathing water beaches and Strandhill beach will continue in 2019. Results of this monitoring will be displayed locally at each of the bathing water beaches and on the council's website throughout the 2019 bathing season. Applications have been made to An Taisce for the Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards.

Water Safety

Sligo County Council will be providing lifeguard cover for the 2019 bathing season at Rosses Point, Enniscrone, Streedagh and Dunmorán along with Beach Warden cover for Strandhill.

Sligo County Council, in conjunction with Sligo Sports & Recreation Partnership and the Irish Wheelchair Association, introduced two beach wheelchairs for use by members of the public. The wheelchairs were used mainly at Enniscrone beach during this pilot phase. It is intended to roll out this service to other beaches in Sligo during 2019.

Rivers and lakes

All rivers and lakes listed in the National Monitoring Programme will be monitored in 2019.

Air Pollution & Ban on Smokey Fuels

Environment will continue to enforce the 2 Air Pollution Licences and provide advice and information on odours and air pollution complaints.

Ban on Smoky Fuels

In 2012 the Department introduced new Regulations extending the restricted area with regard to the marketing, sale & distribution of smoky fuels (bituminous coal). They also made the use of this fuel type, within the restricted area, an offence. Sligo County Council is responsible for the enforcement of these Regulations. Due to the changes introduced, this will be challenging and will require a change in habits for inhabitants of Sligo Town and Environs regarding the type of fuel they use to heat their homes. However it should ensure that the increase in air quality, observed since the original Regulations were introduced in 2003, are maintained and improved upon.

Casual Trading

New Casual Trading Bye Laws for Sligo were brought into force during 2018 following a full public consultation process.

The Casual Trading Act 1955 covers open air trading of goods at designated bays throughout Sligo. The Environment Section enforces Casual Trading Bye Laws in order to regulate casual trading on public property. Regular inspections will continue to be carried out by the Council's appointed Casual Trading Officers to ensure that the trading bays are being operated in accordance with the Bye Laws.

Climate Change

Sligo County Council reports its energy usage to SEAI, and this allows us to measure our energy performance, with a view to working towards our energy usage reduction target (reduction of 33% of our 2009 usage by 2020). While some progress has been made, further efforts and resources will need to be identified to ensure that these targets are met.

Sligo County Council also participates in the Sligo Sustainable Energy Community (SEC), along with other major energy users including IT Sligo, the HSE, Abbots, Abbie, Aurivo and others. This allows Sligo County Council to engage with other Organisations and to apply for funding available from the SEAI, as well as avail of expertise and information which may not otherwise be readily available.

Sligo County Council will work with, and support the efforts of the recently launched Regional Climate Action Offices in order to ensure that an adequate Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, as required by the Climate Action & Low Carbon Development Act 2015 is drawn up and implemented.

Sligo County Council recognises the risks associated with the increased frequency of climate change related events such as flooding, wind & rain storms, as well as extended periods of warm or cold weather. The National Adaptation Framework was launched in Sligo by the Minister in January 2018, and as part of this the Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) were established. Sligo is in the Atlantic Seaboard North CARO.

In order to adapt to the changes that are projected to occur as a result of Climate Change, and to mitigate the potential impacts on communities here, Sligo County Council are developing a Local Adaptation Plan, which includes considering the impacts of similar events in the recent past and which seeks to outline plans and contingencies which will be developed as a result of the lessons learned while dealing with these events. The work associated with the development of this plan started towards the end of 2018 and it is to be adopted by October 2019.

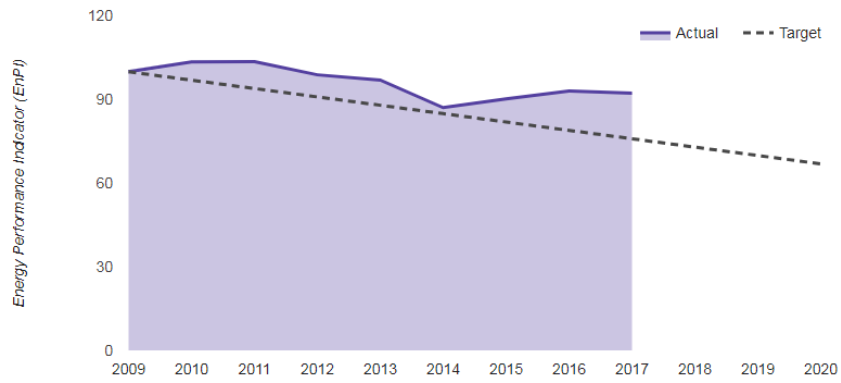
Energy Efficiency

Sligo County Council is committed to ensuring that it meets its target of a 33% reduction in energy usage over 2009 levels by 2020. While we are currently not on target to meet this, we intend to focus significant resources on this area in 2019. In 2018, Sligo County Council participated in the Sligo Sustainable Energy Community, which is comprised of many of the larger energy users in the County. This group seeks to identify areas where improvements in energy efficiency can be made, which are eligible for funding through various means. In 2018, these projects included seeking funding for a feasibility study for a local gas distribution network, as well as working with the Cranmore Regeneration Project. Sligo County Council also continued to engage with, and avail of the supports available from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). The confirmed figures for the total consumption of energy by Sligo County Council in 2018 are not yet available; however the figures for 2017 are as follows:

Total Consumption – 18,838,173 kWh

- **Electricity – 11,964,560 kWh**
- **Thermal – 3,421,190 kWh**
- **Transport – 3,452,423 kWh**
- **Gap to Target – 5,009,137 kWh**

Energy performance to date



0.8% better than 2016

7.7% better than baseline

Environmental Services

The following facilities will continue to be made available to the public:

- Bring Banks
- Textile Banks
- Recycling Centre Tubbercurry
- Ballisodare Composting Facility

Litter Management

In 2019, activity will continue on the enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 – 2003 as amended.

Environmental Awareness

Sligo County Council supports a number of environmental awareness initiatives including National Spring Clean, Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant Scheme, LA21 Environmental Partnership Fund Grant Scheme and the Green Schools Programme.

During 2018, over 80 schools throughout the County participated in the Green Schools programme. Sligo County Council works with the Educational Unit within An Taisce to ensure that children get an opportunity to look at environmental issues in their classroom. The National Spring clean also took place with 61 groups availing of support from the Local Authority. In addition to this, 16 Clean Coast Groups were in operation in Sligo and were involved in the removal of waste from the county shoreline.

Further initiatives undertaken in Sligo during 2018 included the following:

- Two Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days
- Mattress Amnesty for the disposal of old mattresses
- Production of a Draft Policy on Invasive Alien Plant Species
- Use of footpath stencils, in an effort to raise awareness around the issue of dog fouling
- Recycling workshops were delivered throughout the year by Recycling Ambassadors from VOICE Ireland, in an effort to educate households on correct recycling practice – clean, dry and loose!

Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement

Waste Management continues to be to the fore of EU and Governmental priorities. It receives recognition through increased amounts of legislation and funding. Waste enforcement activities continue to be fully recoupable from Governmental funding. This funding originates from initiatives such as the plastic bag levy and landfill levy. The legislation introduced by Government has encompassed producer responsibility which also generates additional monies.

There are ever increasing demands placed on organisations and families but the need for proper waste management continues to be of importance for economic, legislative and environmental reasons.

There is a continuing need to avoid the production of waste at source and try and divert as much as possible from landfill. This diversion of waste is achieved through the provision of facilities and services followed by education and enforcement. The Bring Bank Network, Civic Amenity Sites, Composting Site, Kerbside Recycling, Home Composting and the introduction of a separate organic collection all help divert waste from landfill.

Another element of waste management is trying to ensure that people manage their waste in a manner that avoids the creation of environmental pollution. Ongoing waste enforcement activities will endeavour to reduce this to a minimum.

Waste Management and Enforcement priorities will continue to involve bringing unauthorised sites into environmental compliance, increasing the recycling and recovery rates and to try and ensure that works undertaken by Sligo Local Authorities are carried out in compliance with waste legislation.

Waste Management Planning

For the purposes of Waste Management Planning the country is divided into 3 waste regions. Sligo is in the Connacht Ulster Region. A 6 year plan was agreed in 2015 which sets out a road map for achieving commitments, and is the framework for the prevention and management of waste. The plan is a statutory document and Sligo County Council has obligations to fund initiatives in the plan as well as the regional office based in Mayo County Council. Sligo is represented on the Regional Waste Steering Group.

Waste Management Enforcement

The Connacht Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority is in operation since January 2016 with the intention of ensuring the effective implementation of Waste Enforcement policy in the Connaught Ulster Region. A key objective is to work with Local Authorities in the region towards an integrated approach to waste enforcement which will drive consistent enforcement of legislation.

Eircodes Pilot Project:

Sligo County Council officially launched a new national pilot project in March 2018, supported and funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and the Connacht Ulster WERLA Office (Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority). The pilot project is aimed at tackling and addressing the source of illegal dumping in the County, through Eircodes investigation.

Waste Collectors and operators of the Civic Amenity Site in Sligo are now obliged to submit a quarterly return with a list of customer eircodes. This listing is then cross referenced with the entire County Eircode database, to filter out Eircodes which are not accounted for in Waste Collectors Returns. This filtered list allows the Waste Enforcement Officers to focus their efforts into investigating what these households are doing with their domestic waste, in accordance with the Sligo County Council Waste Management Bye-Laws 2013.

As part of the Pilot Project, a 10 week Social Media Campaign was carried out in 2018. The aim was to create a united, co-ordinated and consistent approach against illegal dumping. Education and Awareness of a specific topic was delivered each week via radio, social media and press. The radio slot reached in excess of 280,000 people who either listened to the live interviews or listened back through podcasts. Social media reached in excess of 335,000 people. The most popular topics covered was hazardous waste, prohibition of burning waste and 'Why is my Eircode so important?' The pilot element of the project is due to be completed in 2019 with a final report submitted to the Dept. of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, outlining findings and recommendations to assist in a national rollout.

Parks and Open Spaces - Maintenance & Landscaping

Sligo County Council recognises the importance of the adequate provision of conveniently located open space throughout the city. People are attracted to live, work, visit and invest in areas which have good quality developed green recreational infrastructure.

Sligo County Council continues to progress and invest in the development of parkland and recreational infrastructure for Sligo. The provision of funding for Parks infrastructure and maintenance is a challenging issue but the elected members and the executive team remain committed to developing and maintaining high quality green infrastructure. The Parks Service, in consultation and cooperation with the community, will continue to improve the quality and beauty of the local environment.

The Parks Department are responsible for the management and maintenance of an expanding range of facilities including Doorly Park, Cleveragh Regional Park, Forthill Park, Mitchell Curley Park, the Fairgreen, Sea View Park, Sea View Drive Promenade Salmon Point and The Fairgreen. This will continue in 2018. Along with, and incorporated into some of the Parks are 11 playing pitches, 6 playgrounds, 6 MUGAs, outdoor gym equipment, walking/jogging/cycling pathways and trails, amenity areas, a range of landscaped inner urban areas, 33 acres of partially landscaped and developed open space, and 290 acres of undeveloped open space incorporating woodland and pathways and undeveloped agricultural pastureland. The maintenance work conducted by the Parks department in open space areas include such activities as grass cutting, litter collection, maintenance and improvement of landscaped areas, maintenance of fencing, tree management and planting and maintenance of monuments and parks furniture all of which will continue in 2019.

The Parks Department will again assist in 2019 in judging of the best kept estates in Sligo competition, which has been supported and facilitated by Sligo Tidy Towns over the past few years. This initiative further enhances the quality of the green areas and open spaces throughout Sligo and its Environs.

The following is a list of all the Parks and the facilities in each Park, for which the Parks Department manage and maintain and will continue to do in 2019:

| Park / Amenity Area | Facilities |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Cleveragh Regional Park | 1 No. Rugby Pitch |
| | 1 No GAA Pitch |
| | 1 No Tennis Court |
| | Walking/Jogging/Cycling Trails (Floodlights) |
| | Seating |
| Doorly Park | 1 No. Soccer Pitch |
| | MUGA |
| | Playground |
| | Walking/Jogging/Cycling Trails (Floodlights) |
| | Seating |
| | 1 No. soccer Pitch |
| | 1 No. GAA Pitch |
| Mitchell Curley Park | Boules Court |
| | Outdoor Gym & Trail |
| | Playground |
| | Walking/Jogging Trails |
| | Seating |
| Forthill Park | 2 No. Soccer Pitches |
| | 1 No. GAA Pitch |
| | Pitch Dressing Rooms |
| | MUGA |
| | 2 No. Basketball Courts (Floodlights) |
| | Walking/Jogging Trail |
| Sea View Park | 1 No Soccer Pitch |
| | MUGA |
| | Playground |
| Sean Fallon Park | 1 No. Soccer Pitch |
| Acorn Play Area | Playground |
| Hillside Adventure Park | Playground |
| M.C.R. Community Centre | Playground |
| Ballytivnan Park | MUGA |
| Sea View Drive Promenade | Amenity Area |
| Salmon Point | Amenity Area |
| Fairgreen | MUGA |

Sports Pitches

The Parks Department will continue to oversee and regulate the management, maintenance, booking and hire of the 11 public playing pitches in Sligo Town. High quality soccer, GAA and rugby pitches are available for hire to clubs, organisations and schools throughout Sligo. Various sports clubs and groups were accommodated with the hire of pitches to the greatest possible extent and the ongoing regime of quality pitch maintenance programmes including regular grass cutting, verti-draining, weed control, fertilising and turfing ensures the quality of the pitches year round.

Town Centre Enhancement

The Parks Departments continue to prioritise the enhancement of the Town Centre during the Spring and Summer months. In 2018 there was again a huge effort put in by the Parks Department to ensure Sligo Town was looking its best for the busy tourist season. Existing landscaped areas were enhanced and planter boxes were designed and hung from both sides of the pedestrian bridge at Rockwood Parade which gave a new vibrancy to this strategic pedestrian link across the Garvogue River. The Parks Department continue to bring the City Centre alive with colour for all seasons and this will continue into 2019. These initiatives, along with the hanging baskets initiative organised by Blooming Sligo and Sligo Tidy Towns ensure the town centre is awash with colour throughout the spring and summer months. The Parks Department will continue to work closely with Sligo Tidy Towns on appropriate projects throughout 2019 and the hard work and various improvement initiatives undertaken by Sligo Tidy Towns has yet again been rewarded by an increase in points received by Sligo in the tidy towns competition in 2018 and the award of a Silver medal.

Planned projects during 2019:

It is intended to continue with the enhancement of Cleveragh Park through the provision of additional walkways and sports facilities. In response to the DTTAS call for projects under the 2017 Sports Capital Programme the Council have received funding for these works in the amount of €77,000. An allocation of €30,500 was also received under the 2017 Sports Capital Grant for the provision of cycle ways at the Fairgreen. Applications have been made to the Sports Capital Programme 2018 for Mitchell Curley Park (provision of flood lighting for walkways and drainage improvements).

The planned works to the new cemetery extension is expected to commence in March this year and will be completed within two months. Works will consist of the construction of access road, access paths, hard and soft landscaping drainage and a boundary wall.

The Parks Department will continue to play their part in ensuring Sligo Town is at its best for the Festival Season and Tidy Towns adjudication in 2019. The Department will also continue to support National Bike Week in 2019.

The Parks Department will continue to work in partnership with Sligo Sports and Recreation Partnership to facilitate and optimise the use of these facilities and ensure all demographics have the opportunity to participate in the ongoing activities. The facilities encourage an active healthy lifestyle and supports council's focus on ensuring that more people are more active more often.

Operation and Maintenance of Piers and Harbour

A budget of €33,000 was made available in 2018 for essential maintenance of eleven piers and harbours along the Sligo coastline. This allocation is spent on items such as replacement railings, pontoon maintenance, navigation light maintenance, minor structural repairs, de-sea-weeding slipways and stairwells, tide gauge maintenance, services maintenance, etc.

In 2018 the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine part-funded (75%) 3 Projects at Mullaghmore, Raughly and Rosses point

Sligo Harbour

Sligo is the only working harbour between Galway and Derry. The main cargoes at the harbour are coal, timber (logs and pulp) and fish meal.

Shipping movements in 2018

The number of ships docking at Sligo Harbour in 2018 was 11 representing an increase of 3 on 2017. Indications are that shipping movements will increase further in 2019.

Pontoon

The pontoon on Ballast Quay at Sligo Harbour is available for use by owners and authorised crew of leisure craft, it is owned, managed and operated by Sligo County Council. The pontoon is 60m long and is available to all local and visiting leisure craft for day trips, short term stays or long term berthing.

Leisure craft can berth safely and securely within easy reach of the city enhancing the tourism potential of Sligo. Numbers of visiting boats in 2018 were similar to 2017. Currently there are boats on long term berth from Scotland, Holland and Australia. On average 7 boats are berthed at the pontoon all year round with approximately 10 on hard standing over the winter months.

Works carried out in the Harbour in 2018

Throughout 2017 the Council had noticed increased usage of the old slipway at Quay Street arising as a result of the increasing popularity of water based sports such as kayaking. The condition of the slipway had deteriorated in recent years. During 2018 significant repairs were undertaken to the slipway. Works comprised of the repair/replacement of significant sections of the structure, weed removal and re-pointing of joints.

Navigational aids

It is the responsibility of Sligo County Council to manage and operate the navigational aids within the remit of Sligo Harbour. They consist of the following;

- 15 Buoys with lights, 13 without lights,
- 2 Buoys at Rosses Point and 2 at Ballincar
- 10 in the River Channel

The Navigational aids have to be in place in the correct GPS location and maintained.

Rosses Point Pier & Pontoon

In 2017 the Council had completed , with the support of DAFM, a Project consisting of the provision of a Pontoon and Access ramp at Rosses Point thus providing much needed safe access to and from vessels. A further grant was received from DAFM in 2018 which allowed further works to be undertaken to enhance access and safety for boat users along the shoreline.

Mullaghmore Harbour

Significant damage was sustained to long southern pier built by Stephenson c 1847 in Winter 2017/18 and with the support of DAFM successful repair works were completed in September 2018.

Raughley Harbour

Significant damage and a partial collapse occurred to a aprt of the Alexander Nimmo Pier, built c 1835 and this was rebuilt and repair works also carried out in 2018.

Veterinary Service

Food Safety

Sligo County Council continues to implement all relevant food safety legislation under the Service Contract between Sligo County Council and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. This includes the supervision of two abattoirs and two small meat manufacturing plants. The Service Contract is up for renewal nationally in late 2019

Animal Welfare

The Council continues to implement the Control of Horses Act and has seen a major reduction in abandoned horses.

The Horse project proposed for Sligo town is still being progressed.

The Dog Warden service is operating well. Re-homing from the shelter is ongoing with considerable help from Dogs Trust who regularly take dogs for rehoming. Inspections of Dog Breeding establishments also takes place with 2 establishments registered.

Fire Services

Operation of Fire Service

Sligo County Council is statutorily designated as the Fire Authority for the County of Sligo under Section 9 of the Fire Services Acts 1981-2003 and provides a range of Fire Safety, Enforcement and Emergency Management Services and is also responsible for managing the delivery of operational emergency fire and rescue services across 4 Fire Brigade Units located in Sligo, Ballymote, Tubbercurry and Enniscrone.

Sligo Fire Service was active in promoting community fire safety throughout the year, focusing on vulnerable groups in the community and personnel from each fire station facilitated visits to their stations and requests from voluntary groups, such as the elderly and active retirement to provide fire safety talks. A major focus of the fire service in 2018 was fire safety in apartment blocks and a comprehensive inspection programme was implemented in that area. The fire service also conducts schools fire safety programmes every two years in all national schools. It is planned to continue this aspect of the fire service work during 2019.

The Fire Services Department process all applications for Fire Safety Certificates under building control legislation and is also involved in planning referrals for commercial developments, inspecting and reporting on Circuit and District Court applications for Places of Public Entertainment, Registration of Fire Arms and Explosives Stores and Petroleum Regulations Licences.

Sligo Fire Service, in recognition of the potentially hazardous roles performed by its personnel, is required to implement a continuous programme of training, including mandatory refresher training in both core and specialist skills for all fire-fighting personnel. Wages for fire fighters, which fluctuate depending on the number of 999/122 calls received, annual charges to neighbouring counties who provide both fire and rescue response services within the County of Sligo and call-out systems through CAMP West in Castlebar, all represent a major part of the 2019 budget. This year Sligo Fire Service has decided to develop a Swift Water Rescue capability in light of the hazards associated with water courses in County Sligo. This will see an increase in training costs for the year. The 2019 budget also reflects an intensive programme of preventative maintenance and replacement of specialist equipment, plant and facilities.

Finance

Income and Expenditure Account

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT)
FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure.

It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

Note 16 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget.

| Expenditure By Division | Note | Gross Expenditure 2018 € | Income 2018 € | Net Expenditure 2018 € | Net Expenditure 2017 € |
|---|-----------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Housing and Building | | 12,064,401 | 10,864,381 | 1,200,020 | 880,106 |
| Roads, Transportation & Safety | | 21,230,003 | 15,981,648 | 5,248,355 | 4,717,422 |
| Water Services | | 4,884,478 | 4,873,356 | 11,122 | 40,489 |
| Development Management | | 5,344,246 | 2,060,245 | 3,284,001 | 3,210,956 |
| Environmental Services | | 6,685,146 | 1,173,370 | 5,511,776 | 5,149,567 |
| Recreation & Amenity | | 4,114,336 | 344,587 | 3,769,749 | 3,510,150 |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | | 513,618 | 430,137 | 83,481 | 148,091 |
| Miscellaneous Services | | 7,045,121 | 4,354,900 | 2,690,221 | 3,967,175 |
| Total Expenditure/Income | 15 | 61,881,349 | 40,082,623 | | |
| Net Cost of Division to be funded from Rates and Local Property Tax | | | | 21,798,726 | 21,623,955 |
| Rates | | | | 13,570,115 | 13,211,198 |
| Local Property Tax | | | | 10,902,628 | 11,202,628 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfer | | | | 2,674,017 | 2,789,870 |
| Transfers from/(to) Reserves | 14 | | | (743,318) | (389,440) |
| Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year | 16 | | | 1,930,699 | 2,400,430 |
| General Reserve at 1st January | | | | (21,430,923) | (23,831,353) |
| General Reserve at 31st December | | | | (19,500,223) | (21,430,923) |

Balance Sheet

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2018

| | Notes | 2018 € | 2017 € |
|--|-------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Fixed Assets | 1 | | |
| Operational | | 439,141,689 | 438,735,440 |
| Infrastructural | | 1,187,594,684 | 1,186,455,298 |
| Community | | 9,063,942 | 9,063,942 |
| Non-Operational | | 19,673,719 | 19,673,719 |
| | | 1,655,474,035 | 1,653,928,399 |
| Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses | 2 | 134,507,982 | 112,774,591 |
| Long Term Debtors | 3 | 28,842,957 | 30,314,713 |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Stock | 4 | 253,205 | 258,503 |
| Trade Debtors & Prepayments | 5 | 8,074,772 | 9,155,574 |
| Bank Investments | | 1,561,313 | 2,325,670 |
| Cash at Bank | | 7,646,869 | 1,649,241 |
| Cash in Transit | | 1,625 | 1,625 |
| | | 17,537,785 | 13,390,613 |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Bank Overdraft | | - | - |
| Creditors & Accruals | 6 | 24,943,679 | 21,756,414 |
| Finance Leases | | - | - |
| | | 24,943,679 | 21,756,414 |
| Net Current Assets / (Liabilities) | | (7,405,894) | (8,365,802) |
| Creditors (Amounts greater than one year) | | | |
| Loans Payable | 7 | 90,343,738 | 97,323,691 |
| Finance Leases | | - | - |
| Refundable Deposits | 8 | 916,425 | 1,005,963 |
| Other | | - | - |
| | | 91,260,163 | 98,329,655 |
| Net Assets / (Liabilities) | | 1,720,158,917 | 1,690,322,247 |
| Represented By | | | |
| Capitalisation | 9 | 1,655,474,030 | 1,653,928,394 |
| Income WIP | 2 | 132,898,789 | 112,084,134 |
| Specific Revenue Reserve | | 32,264 | 32,264 |
| General Revenue Reserve | | (19,500,223) | (21,430,923) |
| Other Balances | 10 | (48,745,942) | (54,291,622) |
| Total Reserves | | 1,720,158,917 | 1,690,322,248 |

Motor Taxation

The Motor Taxation Offices in County Sligo are located in County Hall, Riverside, Sligo Tel: 071 9111333 and in Teach Laighne, Humbert Street, Tubbercurry, Co Sligo Tel: 071 9111719, where applications for Motor Tax are processed for owners of vehicles which are ordinarily kept in County Sligo.

During the year 2018, €5,226,689 was paid by the registered owners of vehicles to the Motor Tax Offices in Sligo and Tubbercurry for Motor Tax transactions. This was a decrease from the €5,861,686 recorded for 2017, an approximate 11% decrease.

Declaring a Vehicle Temporarily off the Road

New procedures were introduced in 2013 for declaring a vehicle is temporarily off the road so that customers do not have to pay motor tax for that period. Since 1 October 2013 it is necessary to declare in advance that a vehicle will be off the road and not in use for a period of between 3 and 12 months using Declaration of Non-Use of a Motor Vehicle Form RF150. The declaration of non-use must be made in the same month that the current motor tax disc expires. If arrears in motor tax are due these must be paid in full plus a minimum of 3 months motor tax, before a declaration of non-use can be made.

Motor Tax Online

www.motortax.ie is an online service provided by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and motor tax customers are encouraged to tax their cars on line to avoid queuing delays at their local offices.

Statistics from the Dept of Transport, Tourism and Sport statistics show On-Line Motor Tax transactions for Co. Sligo as follows:

- 31% in 2011
- 35% in 2012
- 39% in 2013
- 48% in 2014
- 53% in 2015
- 56% in 2016
- 58% in 2017
- 62% in 2018

Driving Licences

The Road Safety Authority assumed full responsibility for the driving licence service since 2013. The National Driver Licence Service office in Sligo is located at Ground

Floor, Millennium House, Stephen Street, Sligo, opposite the Ulster Bank – Tel: 076 1087880 and is open from 9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday and from 9am to 2pm on Saturdays. See also www.ndls.ie

Procurement

The primary procurement objective for Sligo County Council is to get optimum value for money while complying with all EU Directives, National Legislation, Public Procurement Policy, Circulars and Guidelines. The key procurement principles incorporate fairness, openness, transparency, mutual recognition, non-discrimination and proportionality.

Sligo County Council actively uses national procurement arrangements where they are suitable to our needs. These arrangements have been put in place by the Office of Government Procurement and the Local Government Operational Procurement Centre.

The Procurement Section under the guidance of the Procurement Officer is in place to provide a dedicated in-house resource for the organisation in respect of Public Procurement requirements. Formal responsibility for Procurement Governance is assigned to the Head of Finance.

Procurement within the organisation is decentralised, with buyers in all areas of the council, with most of the high value procurement being conducted using the two electronic procurement portals: www.etenders.gov.ie and www.SupplyGov.ie. The increasing level of e-procurement activity across the Council was a feature of 2018 and since October the Council is now accepting electronic tender submissions.

Details of Sligo County Council Purchase Orders for amounts over €20,000 are published on a quarterly basis via the Council's website.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Staff Retirements in 2018

Retired

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| David Garvey | Sub Officer |
| Tony Parkes | Craftworker |
| Gus Gorman | General Operative |
| Bridie Nicolson | Librarian Assistant |
| Ann Kilcoyne | Assistant Staff Officer |
| Joe Johnston | General Operative |
| Evelyn Henry | Assistant Staff Officer |
| James Conlon | Craftworker |
| Peter Coen | Halting Site Caretaker |
| Tommy Banks | Senior Storeman |
| Gerry O'Malley | General Operative |

Death in Service

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Liam Kilgannon (RIP) | General Services Supervisor |
| Peter Naughton (RIP) | General Operative |

Appendix 2 Conferences and Seminars attended by Councillors in 2018

| Conference/Seminar title | Venue | Date(s) |
|--|--|---|
| The Finance Act, 2017 | Clonakilty, Co. Cork | 9th-21st January |
| E. U. Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 | Carlingford, Co. Louth | 2nd-4th February |
| A.I.L. G. Training - Module 1 | Virginia, Co. Cavan Carlow Mullingar | 13th February 16th February 22nd February |
| European Energy Poverty Conference | Dublin | 29th March |
| LAMA Spring Seminar | Donegal | 5th-7th April |
| AILG Annual Conference | Dungarvan, Co. Waterford | 12th & 13th April |
| Irish Rural Link micro-enterprises - Annual Seminar | Cavan | 11th May, 2018 |
| Accessibility and inclusion through infrastructure | Waterville, Co. Kerry | 11th to 13th May |
| AILG Training - Module 2 | Dublin Westport, Co. Mayo | 15th May 19th May |
| Fáilte Ireland Training | Sligo | 12th June |
| AILG Training - Module 3 | Dundalk Bundoran, Co Donegal | 23rd June 28th June |
| Changing trends & approaches to drug & alcohol abuse | Tralee | 3rd-5th August |
| Desmond Greave School | Dublin | 7th-9th September |
| AILG Training - Module 4 | Carrick On Shannon Cork | 11th September 15th September |
| National Disability Authority Annual Conference | Dublin | 25th September |
| LAMA Autumn Seminar | Kerry | 28th & 29th September |
| AILG Module 5 Training | Sligo | 13th October |
| Smart Towns and Villages Training Seminar | ll, Co. Leitrim | 22nd October |

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| AILG Autumn Seminar | Monaghan | 25th & 26th Oct |
| AILG Module 6 Training | Leixlip Cavan | 17th November 22nd November |

*LAMA: Local Authority Members' Association AILG: Association of Irish Local Government
LCDC: Local Community Development Committee*