



# **Sligo County Council**

## **Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

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## 1. Introduction

Circular 13/13: *"The Public Spending Code: Expenditure Planning, Appraisal & Evaluation in the Irish Public Service-Standard Rules & Procedures"*, came into effect in September 2013.

The objective of the code is to ensure that the state achieves best value for the resources it has at its disposal. The Code covers all bodies in receipt of public funding, including Local Authorities. Each Authority is required to publish an annual report, signed by the Chief Executive, following the completion of a Quality Assurance process. In July 2019 the Public Spending Code was amended to update the central technical references and economic appraisal parameters in the Spending Code. In December 2019 the Public Spending Code was further amended as it applies to capital expenditure, updated the Guidelines for the use of PPPs and consolidated the Public Spending Code guidance on the website of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

This report is the "Public Spending Code-Quality Assurance Report" for Sligo County Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

## 2. Format of Report

The Public Spending Code sets out five steps in the Quality Assurance Process, as follows:

1. Compilation of a list of all projects/programmes, at the different stages of the Project Life Cycle, with an anticipated cost in excess of €500,000 ("Project Inventories"). This list of Capital and Current Expenditure schemes/programmes are further classified under the categories of:
  - Being considered
  - Being incurred
  - Completed or discontinued
2. Where there are procurements in excess of €10m, relating to projects in progress or completed in the year under review, the Authority should publish summary information on its website.

3. Completion of checklists included in the Code.
4. Undertaking an in-depth check on a sample of projects/programmes. The value of the projects selected for in-depth review must follow the criteria set out below;
  - Capital Projects – minimum of 5% of the total value of all Capital projects on the Project Inventory
  - Revenue Projects – minimum of 1% of the total value of all Revenue projects on the Project Inventory.The minimum is an average over a three year period.
5. Preparation and submission of a short report to the National Oversight & Audit Commission (NOAC), summarising the information covered in steps 1-4 of the Quality Assurance process. The report is to be signed by the Chief Executive and published on the authority's website.

### **3. Inventory of Projects/Programmes (Step 1 of QA Process)**

Appendix 1 sets out the inventory of Sligo County Council, for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. The current expenditure, capital grant schemes and capital projects are categorised under the three phases of:

- Expenditure being considered
- Expenditure being incurred
- Projects / Programmes completed or discontinued

#### **Expenditure being considered**

This heading includes expenditure for capital projects and grant schemes that are or were under consideration during the year and new current expenditure programmes/extensions to existing programmes, with annual expenditure greater than €0.5m per annum. Capital projects "under consideration" include those at appraisal and planning and design phases.

#### **Expenditure being incurred**

This covers capital projects that are at the implementation stage, capital grant schemes that are incurring expenditure and current expenditure schemes or programmes that are incurring expenditure.

## Projects / Programmes completed or discontinued

This includes Capital Projects that were completed in the year, capital grant schemes that were completed/discontinued and current expenditure schemes or programmes that were completed /discontinued.

The revenue figures included in Appendix 1 are based on the Unaudited Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021.

The total Current expenditure for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 is €65,447,177.

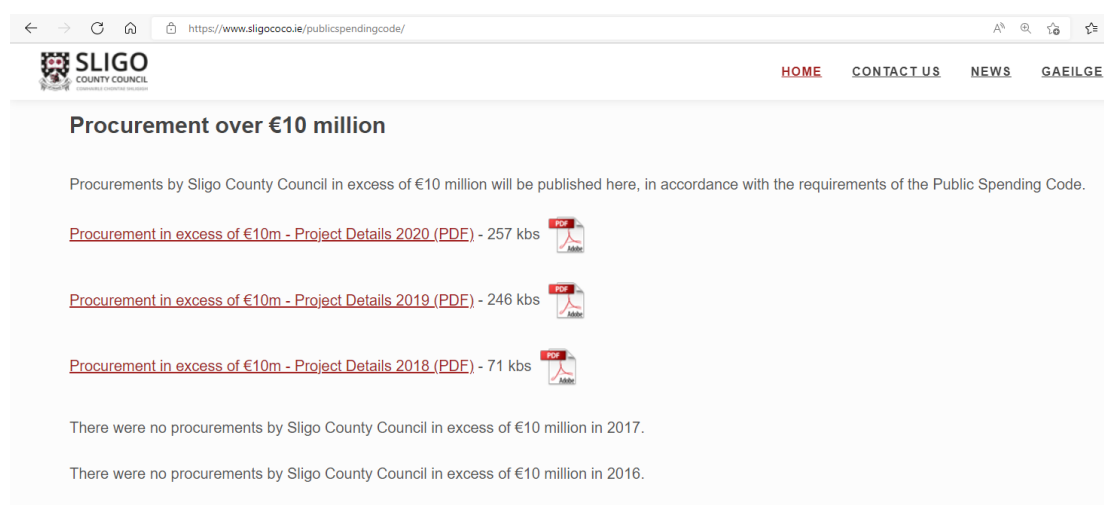
The total inventory value for Capital Projects / Programmes for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 is:

Expenditure being considered	€126,372,675
Expenditure being incurred	€988,472,163
Project / Programme completed or discontinued	€14,459,267
<b>Total</b>	<b>€1,129,304,105</b>

## 4. Published Summary of Procurements (Step 2 of QA Process)

Sligo County Council has published details of procurements in excess of €10m, for 2021 inventories, on its website at the following link:

<http://www.sligococo.ie/publicspendingcode/>



The screenshot shows the Sligo County Council website at the URL <https://www.sligococo.ie/publicspendingcode/>. The page is titled "Procurement over €10 million". Below the title, it states: "Procurements by Sligo County Council in excess of €10 million will be published here, in accordance with the requirements of the Public Spending Code." There are three links to PDF documents:

- [Procurement in excess of €10m - Project Details 2020 \(PDF\)](#) - 257 kbs
- [Procurement in excess of €10m - Project Details 2019 \(PDF\)](#) - 246 kbs
- [Procurement in excess of €10m - Project Details 2018 \(PDF\)](#) - 71 kbs

Below these links, it states: "There were no procurements by Sligo County Council in excess of €10 million in 2017." and "There were no procurements by Sligo County Council in excess of €10 million in 2016."

The Authority will continue to update the information as new relevant procurements arise.

## **5. Assessment of Compliance (Step 3 of QA Process)**

The following high level checklists have been completed by the Authority:

1. General Obligations not specific to individual projects/programmes
2. Capital Expenditure being considered – Appraisal and Approval
3. Current Expenditure being considered – Appraisal and Approval
4. Capital Expenditure being incurred
5. Current Expenditure being incurred
6. Capital Expenditure recently completed
7. Current Expenditure (i) reached the end of its planned timeframe or (ii) was discontinued

**Checklist 1 – To be completed in respect of general obligations not specific to individual projects/programmes.**

	<b>General Obligations not specific to individual projects/programmes.</b>	<b>Self-Assessed Compliance Rating: 1 - 3</b>	<b>Comment/Action Required</b>
Q 1.1	Does the organisation ensure, on an ongoing basis, that appropriate people within the organisation and its agencies are aware of their requirements under the Public Spending Code (incl. through training)?	3	All relevant staff have been notified of their obligations under the PSC
Q 1.2	Has internal training on the Public Spending Code been provided to relevant staff?	3	Guidance documentation has been circulated and is available on the intranet.
Q 1.3	Has the Public Spending Code been adapted for the type of project/programme that your organisation is responsible for, i.e., have adapted sectoral guidelines been developed?	3	Yes, e.g. TII project appraisal guidelines
Q 1.4	Has the organisation in its role as Approving Authority satisfied itself that agencies that it funds comply with the Public Spending Code?	3	Where applicable.
Q 1.5	Have recommendations from previous QA reports (incl. spot checks) been disseminated, where appropriate, within the organisation and to agencies?	3	Recommendations are notified to relevant parties for review and implementation
Q 1.6	Have recommendations from previous QA reports been acted upon?	3	Recommendations are reviewed and implemented by relevant parties.
Q 1.7	Has an annual Public Spending Code QA report been submitted to and certified by the Chief Executive Officer,	3	Certified by the Chief Executive, submitted to NOAC and published

	submitted to NOAC and published on the Local Authority's website?		on Sligo County Council's website
Q 1.8	Was the required sample of projects/programmes subjected to in-depth checking as per step 4 of the QAP?	3	Yes the required sample was subjected to an in-depth review
Q 1.9	Is there a process in place to plan for ex post evaluations? Ex-post evaluation is conducted after a certain period has passed since the completion of a target project with emphasis on the effectiveness and sustainability of the project.	3	Yes – standard part of Scheme Management for both TII, DTTAS and Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in relation to capital projects
Q 1.10	How many formal evaluations were completed in the year under review? Have they been published in a timely manner?	3	n/a in 2021
Q 1.11	Is there a process in place to follow up on the recommendations of previous evaluations?	3	Yes
Q 1.12	How have the recommendations of reviews and ex post evaluations informed resource allocation decisions?	3	Yes- they are used as a learning tool for future projects

**Checklist 2 – To be completed in respect of capital projects/programmes & capital grant schemes that were under consideration in the past year. Review of Housing projects checklists in 2021.**

	Capital Expenditure being Considered – Appraisal and Approval	Self-Assessed Compliance Rating: 1	Comment/Action Required
Q 2.1	Was a Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) completed for all capital projects and programmes over €10m?	n/a	
Q 2.2	Were performance indicators specified for each project/programme which will allow for a robust evaluation at a later date? Have steps been put in place to gather performance indicator data?	3	Initial briefing agreed by Housing Section at Stage 1



Q 2.3	Was a Preliminary and Final Business Case, including appropriate financial and economic appraisal, completed for all capital projects and programmes?	3	As required
Q 2.4	Were the proposal objectives SMART and aligned with Government policy including National Planning Framework, Climate Mitigation Plan etc?	3	Yes, proposals align with Housing for All and NPF. Climate mitigation sought as part of consultant team scope of works
Q 2.5	Was an appropriate appraisal method and parameters used in respect of capital projects or capital programmes/grant schemes?	3	Yes DHPLG 4 stage capital appraisal process
Q 2.6	Was a financial appraisal carried out on all proposals and was there appropriate consideration of affordability?	3	Sought as part of consultants briefing
Q 2.7	Was the appraisal process commenced at an early enough stage to inform decision making?	3	From initiation of project
Q 2.8	Were sufficient options analysed in the business case for each capital proposal?	3	From initiation of project
Q 2.9	Was the evidence base for the estimated cost set out in each business case? Was an appropriate methodology used to estimate the cost? Were appropriate budget contingencies put in place?	3	Sought as part of consultant team scope of works
Q 2.10	Was risk considered and a risk mitigation strategy commenced? Was appropriate consideration given to governance and deliverability?	3	Risk mitigation underway. Risk Register prepared at Stage 1. Governance – fortnightly report to Housing Capital Team, quarterly report to DHPLG Capital Team
Q 2.11	Were the Strategic Assessment Report, Preliminary and Final Business Case submitted to DPER for technical review for projects estimated to cost over €100m?	n/a	

Q 2.12	Was a detailed project brief including design brief and procurement strategy prepared for all investment projects?	3	Yes DHPLG 4 stage capital appraisal process
Q 2.13	Were procurement rules (both National and EU) complied with?	3	
Q 2.14	Was the Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF) properly implemented?	3	
Q 2.15	Were State Aid rules checked for all support?	3	
Q 2.16	Was approval sought from the Approving Authority at all decision gates?	3	Yes DHPLG 4 stage capital appraisal process
Q 2.17	Was Value for Money assessed and confirmed at each decision gate by Sponsoring Agency and Approving Authority?	3	Yes DHPLG 4 stage capital appraisal process
Q 2.18	Was approval sought from Government through a Memorandum for Government at the appropriate decision gates for projects estimated to cost over €100m?	n/a	

*See Note 2 in the opening guidelines in relation to the interpretation of Capital Grant Schemes in the context of Local Government*

**Checklist 3 – To be completed in respect of new current expenditure under consideration in the past year. F04 Additional Salary Costs related to the delivery of Community Sport and Recreational projects**

	Current Expenditure being Considered – Appraisal and Approval	Self-Assessed Compliance Rating: 1 - 3	Comment/Action Required
Q 3.1	Were objectives clearly set out?	3	Part of the annual budgetary process
Q 3.2	Are objectives measurable in quantitative terms?	3	

Q 3.3	Was a business case, incorporating financial and economic appraisal, prepared for new current expenditure proposals?	n/a	
Q 3.4	Was an appropriate appraisal method used?	n/a	
Q 3.5	Was an economic appraisal completed for all projects/programmes exceeding €20m or an annual spend of €5m over 4 years?	n/a	
Q 3.6	Did the business case include a section on piloting?	n/a	
Q 3.7	Were pilots undertaken for new current spending proposals involving total expenditure of at least €20m over the proposed duration of the programme and a minimum annual expenditure of €5m?	n/a	
Q 3.8	Have the methodology and data collection requirements for the pilot been agreed at the outset of the scheme?	n/a	
Q 3.9	Was the pilot formally evaluated and submitted for approval to the relevant Vote Section in DPER?	n/a	
Q 3.10	Has an assessment of likely demand for the new scheme/scheme extension been estimated based on empirical evidence?	n/a	
Q 3.11	Was the required approval granted?	3	Approved at the annual budget meeting
Q 3.12	Has a sunset clause been set?	n/a	
Q 3.13	If outsourcing was involved were both EU and National procurement rules complied with?	n/a	
Q 3.14	Were performance indicators specified for each new current expenditure proposal or expansion of existing current expenditure programme which will allow for a robust evaluation at a later date?	3	Additional expenditure relates to existing expenditure stream
Q 3.15	Have steps been put in place to gather performance indicator data?	3	Additional expenditure relates to existing expenditure stream

**Checklist 4 – To be completed in respect of capital projects/programmes & capital grants schemes incurring expenditure in the year under review. Review of Housing projects checklists in 2021.**

	Incurring Capital Expenditure	Self-Assessed Compliance Rating: 1 - 3	Comment/Action Required
Q 4.1	Was a contract signed and was it in line with the Approval given at each Decision Gate?	3	As per DHLGH Approvals and confirmed by CE Order
Q 4.2	Did management boards/steering committees meet regularly as agreed?	3	SCC Housing Capital fortnightly review meeting and quarterly review with DHLGH Capital Team
Q 4.3	Were programme co-ordinators appointed to co-ordinate implementation?	3	As required
Q 4.4	Were project managers, responsible for delivery, appointed and were the project managers at a suitably senior level for the scale of the project?	3	Housing Delivery Team
Q 4.5	Were monitoring reports prepared regularly, showing implementation against plan, budget, timescales and quality?	3	Yes
Q 4.6	Did projects/programmes/grant schemes keep within their financial budget and time schedule?	3	Yes generally. Timescales impacted by COVID-19
Q 4.7	Did budgets have to be adjusted?	3	Yes
Q 4.8	Were decisions on changes to budgets / time schedules made promptly?	3	Yes
Q 4.9	Did circumstances ever warrant questioning the viability of the project/programme/grant scheme and the business case	3	No

	(exceeding budget, lack of progress, changes in the environment, new evidence, etc.)?		
Q 4.10	If circumstances did warrant questioning the viability of a project/programme/grant scheme was the project subjected to adequate examination?	n/a	n/a
Q 4.11	If costs increased or there were other significant changes to the project was approval received from the Approving Authority?	3	Yes, DHLGH approval sought and received
Q 4.12	Were any projects/programmes/grant schemes terminated because of deviations from the plan, the budget or because circumstances in the environment changed the need for the investment?	n/a	n/a

*See Note 2 in the opening guidelines in relation to the interpretation of Capital Grant Schemes in the context of Local Government*

**Checklist 5 – To be completed in respect of current expenditure programmes incurring expenditure in the year under review.**

	Incurring Current Expenditure	Self-Assessed	Comment/Action Required
Q 5.1	Are there clear objectives for all areas of current expenditure?	3	Annual Budget defines the expenditure for the year
Q 5.2	Are outputs well defined?	3	National Key Performance Indicators
Q 5.3	Are outputs quantified on a regular basis?	3	National Key Performance Indicators are set annually
Q 5.4	Is there a method for monitoring efficiency on an ongoing basis?	3	Budget monitoring on a monthly basis and regular team meetings to review activities
Q 5.5	Are outcomes well defined?	3	Yes, Corporate Plan objectives

Q 5.6	Are outcomes quantified on a regular basis?	3	As required
Q 5.7	Are unit costings compiled for performance monitoring?	3	As required
Q 5.8	Are other data compiled to monitor performance?	3	Reports as required by the Approving Authority
Q 5.9	Is there a method for monitoring effectiveness on an ongoing basis?	3	Monthly management reports
Q 5.10	Has the organisation engaged in any other 'evaluation proofing' of programmes/projects?	2	Performance Indicator data is available

**Checklist 6 – To be completed in respect of capital projects/programmes & capital grant schemes discontinued in the year under review.**

	Capital Expenditure Recently Completed	Self-Assessed Compliance Rating: 1 - 3	Comment/Action Required
Q 6.1	How many Project Completion Reports were completed in the year under review?	3	1 no.
Q 6.2	Were lessons learned from Project Completion Reports incorporated into sectoral guidance and disseminated within the Sponsoring Agency and the Approving Authority?	3	Updated guidelines incorporate lessons learned
Q 6.3	How many Project Completion Reports were published in the year under review?	3	1 no.
Q 6.4	How many Ex-Post Evaluations were completed in the year under review?	n/a	n/a in 2021

Q 6.5	How many Ex-Post Evaluations were published in the year under review?	n/a	n/a in 2021
Q 6.6	Were lessons learned from Ex-Post Evaluation reports incorporated into sectoral guidance and disseminated within the Sponsoring Agency and the Approving Authority?	n/a	n/a in 2021
Q 6.7	Were Project Completion Reports and Ex-Post Evaluations carried out by staffing resources independent of project implementation?	n/a	n/a in 2021
Q 6.8	Were Project Completion Reports and Ex-Post Evaluation Reports for projects over €50m sent to DPER for dissemination?	n/a	n/a in 2021

*See Note 2 in the opening guidelines in relation to the interpretation of Capital Grant Schemes in the context of Local Government*

**Checklist 7 – To be completed in respect of current expenditure programmes that reached the end of their planned timeframe during the year or were discontinued.**

	Current Expenditure that (i) reached the end of its planned timeframe or (ii) was discontinued	Self-Assessed Compliance Rating: 1 - 3	Comment/Action Required
Q 7.1	Were reviews carried out of current expenditure programmes that matured during the year or were discontinued?	n/a	n/a in 2021
Q 7.2	Did those reviews reach conclusions on whether the programmes were efficient?	n/a	n/a in 2021
Q 7.3	Did those reviews reach conclusions on whether the programmes were effective?	n/a	n/a in 2021
Q 7.4	Have the conclusions reached been taken into account in related areas of expenditure?	n/a	n/a in 2021
Q 7.5	Were any programmes discontinued following a review of a current expenditure programme?	n/a	n/a in 2021

Q 7.6	Were reviews carried out by staffing resources independent of project implementation?	n/a	n/a in 2021
Q 7.7	Were changes made to the organisation's practices in light of lessons learned from reviews?	n/a	n/a in 2021

### ***Main issues arising from Checklist Assessment***

The above checklists represent Sligo County Council's assessment of its compliance with the Public Spending Code. Overall, while there is a good level of compliance in most areas, the quality assurance process also has assisted in identifying areas where there are weaknesses and improvements are required.

Where current expenditure was incurred during the year, the rating of compliance was mainly in band 3 which is "Broadly Compliant". The authority will review the measurements of output, efficiency and effectiveness currently employed and assess if additional methods of monitoring outcomes could be developed to strengthen the process. Under the current expenditure categories there were no programmes ended /discontinued within the year.

The capital checklists prepared for 2021 show, in general, a high level of compliance with the code. In the case of smaller scale schemes/projects there is the opportunity to introduce more structured procedures to strengthen documentation and management of such projects.

The QA process highlighted the need for training, to ensure that all staff involved in expenditure and budgetary management, are familiar with the code and its related obligations. Department Circulars containing updates to the Public Spending Code process are available to staff on the Council's intranet. Staff from the Council will avail of future external training on the PSC when this occurs.

The authority has met the obligations in preparing and submitting to NOAC, the PSC report for the expenditure year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, which includes the completion of the required inventories and checklists and the in-depth review on the required sample of total inventory.



## 6. In-depth Checks (Step 4 of QA Process)

This section presents a summary of the findings of the In-Depth Check on the following areas of expenditure:

### Current Project – Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes

Sligo County Council currently operates three types of Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes:-

- Housing Aid for Older People
- Housing Adaptation for Disabled Persons
- Mobility Grants

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage funds up to 80% of the approved cost of the works carried out under the schemes subject to maximum limits on each scheme. Sligo County Council funds the balance.

#### *Applications received in 2021*

Applications in 2021	No.
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	170
Housing Aid for Older People	194
Mobility Aids Grant	14
Total	378

#### *Grants paid in 2021*

Grants paid in 2021	€	No.
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	€1,092,465	103
Housing Aid for Older People	€717,920	128
Mobility Aids Grant	€58,786	14
	€1,869,171	245

Grants paid in 2021 include approvals from previous years claimed in 2021.

The in-depth check has demonstrated adherence with the broad principles of the Public Spending Code, in relation to current expenditure programmes. Overall, the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme which was reviewed is broadly in compliance with the requirements of the Public Spending Code.

## **Capital Project – National Surf Centre of Excellence Strandhill**

The project involves construction of a National Centre of Excellence for Surfing in Sligo. Located on the Wild Atlantic Way, Strandhill is one of Ireland's popular surfing destinations.

The centre will consist of a total over 500 sq. meters of space over two floors and 107 sq. meters of outdoor covered space. The building will accommodate a retail unit on the ground floor and meeting rooms /exhibition space on the first floor. To the rear a single storey wing with 4 no. changing rooms with shower and toilet facilities, an office and an external covered space is planned. The public amenity space adjacent to the building, including the Peace Park will be enhanced as part of the works. The centre will provide facilities for the surfing community of Strandhill and visitors who come for surfing or other tourist activities.

Funding has been received from Fáilte Ireland under the Grants Scheme for Large Tourism Projects and from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF).

The expected date for hand over to client is September 2022 with the Surf Centre operational from October 2022.

The in-depth check has demonstrated adherence with the broad principles of the Public Spending Code in relation to capital expenditure programmes. Overall, the National Surf Centre of Excellence Strandhill project which was reviewed is substantially in compliance with the requirements of the Public Spending Code.


## **7. Conclusion**

The Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report, inventories and checklists have been completed by the Authority for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. While there are no serious areas of non-compliance with the PSC noted in the report, the Authority has identified some areas where compliance with the PSC requirements could be strengthened and improved. The Authority will continue to review these areas and identify and implement improvements in its processes.

## 8. Certification

This Annual Quality Assurance Report reflects Sligo County Council's assessment of compliance with the Public Spending Code. It is based on the best financial, organisational and performance related information available across the various areas of responsibility.

Signed by:

  
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Martin Lydon,  
Chief Executive

27<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

## 9. Appendices

**Appendix 1**    Project Inventory

**Appendix 2**    Quality Assurance – In Depth Check

Current:        Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes

Capital:        National Surf Centre of Excellence Strandhill

## Appendix 1

Expenditure being Considered - Greater than €0.5m (Capital and Current)							
Project/Scheme/Programme Name	Short Description	Current Expenditure Amount in Reference Year	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Non Grant )	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Grant )	Project/Program me Anticipated Timeline	Projected Lifetime Expenditure	Explanatory Notes
Enterprise & Community Centre & Urban Park Cranmore - ERDF	Multi-use community facility with office accommodation for the delivery of social programmes and community activities	€ -	€ -	€ -	June 2022 - March 2022	€ 750,000	
Proposed Construction Geldof Drive and Centre Block Cranmore	30 no. units	€ -	€ -	€ -	Stage 2 approval to be submitted Q3 2022	€ 6,377,490	
Traveller Accommodation Programme Group Housing	3 no. units	€ -	€ -	€ -	Capital appraisal Stages 2-4 to be submitted 2022	€ 836,508	
Proposed Turnkey Acquisition Finisklin	73 no. units	€ -	€ -	€ -	Single stage approval received 2021	€ 20,646,252	
Proposed Tuath Housing Association CAS Turnkey Acquisition Ballisodare	6 no. units	€ -	€ -	€ -	Single stage approval received 2021	€ 767,575	
RRDF Enniscrone	Rural Re-generation of disused cliff baths and pavillion building	€ -	€ -	€ -	June 2025	€ 4,000,000	75% RRDF funding
RRDF Tubbercurry Regeneration Project	Public Realm Re-generation project	€ -	€ -	€ -	June 2023 to June 2023	€ 2,000,000	75% RRDF funding
RRDF Ballisodare Regeneration Project	Rural Re-generation of Main Street	€ -	€ -	€ -	Jan 2022 to Dec 2023	€ 725,000	80% RRDF funding
Town and Village Renewal 2021	Town and Village Renewal 2021	€ -	€ -	€ -	Jan 2022 to Nov 2022	€ 1,500,000	max 90% Government funding
Fáilte Ireland Platforms for Growth - Rosses Point and Enniscrone	Outdoor water-based activities facility centres	€ -	€ -	€ -	Nov 2022 to Nov 2022	€ 1,730,000	

Expenditure being Considered - Greater than €0.5m (Capital and Current)							
Project/Scheme/Programme Name	Short Description	Current Expenditure Amount in Reference Year	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Non Grant )	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Grant )	Project/Program me Anticipated Timeline	Projected Lifetime Expenditure	Explanatory Notes
Peace Plus 2021 - 2027	Support for activities that promote peace and reconciliation and contribute to the cross border economic and territorial development of the Border Region.	€ -	€ -	€ -	2022-2027	€ 500,000	
URDF - Sligo Public Realm Plan	Various projects to be delivered over next 6 years	€ -	€ -	€ -	2022-2028	€ 31,844,473	75% URDF funding
RRDF Strandhill Rosses Point Public Realm Enhancement	Public Realm Enhancement Schemes	€ -	€ -	€ -	2022 - 2025	€ 6,000,000	75% URDF funding
URDF - City Campus project	City Campus - development of brownfield town centre site plus new county library and museum	€ -	€ -	€ -	2022-2030	€ 48,185,402	75% URDF funding
F04 Community Sport and Recreational Development	Additional Service Support Costs				2022	€ 509,975	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>€ -</b>	<b>€ -</b>	<b>€ -</b>		<b>€ 126,372,675</b>	

Expenditure being Incurred - Greater than €0.5m (Capital and Current)								
Project/Scheme/Programme Name	Short Description	Current Expenditure Amount in Reference Year	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Non Grant)	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Grant)	Project/Programme Anticipated Timeline	Cumulative Expenditure to-date	Projected Lifetime Expenditure (Capital Only)	Explanatory Notes
A01 Maintenance/Improvement of LA Housing	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 3,113,562	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
A03 Housing Rent and Tenant Purchase Administration	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 1,093,772	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
A05 Administration of Homeless Service	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 581,378	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
A06 Support to Housing Capital & Affordable Prog.	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 725,607	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	excl. Salaries for Capital Schemes
A07 RAS Programme	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 3,827,984	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
A08 Housing Loans	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 1,166,783	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
A09 Housing Grants	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 1,951,831	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
CAS 2015 St VdP at Cuan Iosa Ballymote	Construction of 8 no. units		€ 5,528	€ -	works completed	€ 1,593,779	€ 1,639,382	
Social Housing Development at Maugheraboy	Construction of 62 no. units		€ 3,716,840	€ -	works to commence 2023 / complete 2024	€ 3,741,544	€ 20,607,421	
Proposed Social Housing at Collooney	Construction of 15 no. units		€ 93,890	€ -	works completed	€ 4,244,330	€ 4,269,762	
Housing Construction Connolly Park, Tubbercurry	Construction of 10 no. units		€ 1,736,262	€ -	works completed	€ 2,392,324	€ 2,520,097	
Proposed Construction Dromore West	Construction of 10 no. units		€ 1,019,378	€ -	works completed	€ 2,491,355	€ 2,512,118	
Proposed Construction Bunnanadden	Construction of 6 no. units		€ 86,510	€ -	works to be completed 2022	€ 94,341	€ 1,350,405	
Proposed Construction Conolly Park Phase 2 and Green Road Coolaney	Construction of 19 no. units		€ 295,225	€ -	Construction to commence in 2022	€ 295,225	€ 5,060,152	
Traveller Accommodation Programme	Refurbishment of 6 no. bay Glenview		€ -	€ -	works completed	€ 990,903	€ 1,052,470	
2021 Proposed 4 no. extensions and treatment works	Ballyfree		€ 10,653	€ -	2022	€ 10,653	€ 800,000	
2021 Proposed 4 bay serviced site and treatment works	Cloonamahon		€ 7,763	€ -	2022	€ 7,763	€ 950,000	
Housing Construction Knappagh Beg	Construction of 28 no. units		€ 372,934	€ -	works completed	€ 7,783,366	€ 8,210,418	
Proposed Social Housing at Rosses Point Road	Construction of 14 no. units		€ 130,783	€ -	works completed	€ 4,513,072	€ 4,615,589	
Cranmore Regeneration Project - Administration	Salaries and Administration Costs		€ 1,031,218	€ -		€ 15,453,704	€ 18,000,000	

Expenditure being Incurred - Greater than €0.5m (Capital and Current)								
Project/Scheme/Programme Name	Short Description	Current Expenditure Amount in Reference Year	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Non Grant)	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Grant)	Project/Programme Anticipated Timeline	Cumulative Expenditure to-date	Projected Lifetime Expenditure (Capital Only)	Explanatory Notes
Cranmore Regeneration Project	Environmental and building improvement works to social and private dwellings - various projects		€ 362,615	€ -		€ 2,114,347	€ 8,273,799	
Refurbishment 96 units Cranmore	Environmental and building improvement works to social and private dwellings		€ 903,694	€ -	Completion date April 2022	€ 4,559,722	€ 4,771,835	
Enterprise & Community Centre and Urban Park	Multi-use community facility with office accommodation		€ 25,974	€ -	Completion date June 2024	€ 224,216	€ 6,928,017	
Cranmore - new link via Joe McDonnell Drive	Demolition of 4 no. existing houses and construction of 4 no. new units to provide pedestrian access from Cranmore to Chapel Hill		€ 19,047	€ -	Completion date November 2023	€ 49,325	€ 1,493,264	
CAS Newgrove Housing Association, 1st Sea Road	Construction of 4 no. units & 1 no. Care support unit		€ -	€ -	Completion date 2022	€ 345,000	€ 673,222	
CAS Project Oaklee Housing Trust, Johnstons Court	Acquisition of 6 no. units		€ -	€ -	works completed	€ 1,381,907	€ 1,428,944	
CAS Project Nazareth House, Church Hill	Construction of 48 no. units & 1 no. Care support unit		€ -	€ -	works completed	€ 6,566,003	€ 6,577,964	
CAS Project Newgrove Housing Association, Strandhill	Acquisition and works to 1 no. unit		€ -	€ -	works completed	€ 564,136	€ 655,285	
CAS Project St Vincent de Paul, 5A Charles Street	4 no. units		€ -	€ -	works completed	€ 675,864	€ 684,674	
CAS and CLSS Project Sophia Housing Association, Tubbercurry	CAS , CLSS and communal facilities		€ -	€ -	works completed	€ 9,267,409	€ 9,543,924	
Housing Acquisitions Programme 2020	Department funded housing acquisition programme		€ 55,521		2022	€ 567,372	€ 609,940	
B01 NP Road - Maintenance and Improvement	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 1,343,716	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	excl. TII Active Travel schemes - listed separately
B02 NS Road - Maintenance and Improvement	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 558,070	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
B03 Regional Road - Maintenance and Improvement	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 4,517,393	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	excl. Markievicz Bridge - listed separately
B04 Local Road - Maintenance and Improvement	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 12,440,880	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	excl. Burton St. Link Road - listed separately
B05 Public Lighting	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 1,190,871	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
B06 Traffic Management Improvement	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 514,434			on-going	n/a	n/a	
B07 Road Safety Engineering Improvement	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 2,109,515	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	excl. NTA Active Travel scheme - listed separately
B10 Support to Roads Capital Programme	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 504,474	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	



Expenditure being Incurred - Greater than €0.5m (Capital and Current)								
Project/Scheme/Programme Name	Short Description	Current Expenditure Amount in Reference Year	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Non Grant)	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Grant)	Project/Programme Anticipated Timeline	Cumulative Expenditure to-date	Projected Lifetime Expenditure (Capital Only)	Explanatory Notes
B11 Agency & Recoupable Services	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 2,362,002	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
Active Travel - NTA funded	NTA Programme 2021 - 2026		€ 1,232,840	€ -	2021 - 2026	€ 1,232,840	€ 10,000,000	
AT - N4 Collooney - Castlebaldwin	Cycle/walkway following completion of N4	€ -	€ 50,430	€ -	2027	€ 50,430	€ 8,000,000	
AT - Toberbride to Collooney	Cycle/walkway to connect Toberbride to Collooney	€ -	€ 40,344	€ -	2026	€ 40,344	€ 2,000,000	
Sligo Greenway - Bellaghy/Charlestown/Collooney	Greenway along disused railway line		€ 80,907		2027	€ 80,907	€ 10,000,000	
N4 Cloonamahon Castlebaldwin	15km upgrade of the N4 from Collooney to Castlebaldwin of which 3.0km is online and the remainder is off line upgrade.		€ 19,982,821	€ -	Phase 6 Construction Substantial Completion Q4 2021	€ 125,527,275	€ 149,400,000	
N16 Lugatobber	2.5km predominately offline upgrade.		€ 1,365,648	€ -	Commence Phase 6 in Q3 2022	€ 4,136,710	€ 18,000,000	
N59 Corhawnagh to Crockacullion (formerly N59 Corhawnagh to Lugnadeffa)	Upgrade of a 4.7km section of the existing N59		€ -	€ -	Progressing to Phase 3 in 2022	€ 133,695	€ 23,000,000	
N4/N15 Sligo Urban Improvement	0.73km section upgrade of the existing Hughes Bridge linking the N4 with the N15 and installation of an Urban Traffic Control System along the entire N4 Inner relief Road and associated side road junctions in Sligo Town.		€ 5,633,317	€ -	Phase 6 Construction Substantial Completion Q3 2021, overall scheme completion Q3 2023	€ 15,133,900	€ 15,950,000	
N17 Collooney to Knock	Route being examined is 55km in length (this is not necessarily the section to be improved)		€ 819,554	€ -	TII Phase 2 Options Selection to be determined Q2-Q3 2022	€ 1,923,081	€ 550,000,000	
Western Distributor road Phase II	Strategic non-national road		€ 1,058,712	€ -	Road opened 2021, overall scheme completion Q4 2022	€ 19,919,127	€ 21,500,000	
Eastern Garavogue River Bridge & Approach Roads	Strategic non-national road		€ 8,929	€ -	Q4 2026	€ 1,704,093	€ 27,700,000	
Burton St Link Road	Strategic non-national road		€ 177,610	€ -	Q4 2023	€ 443,720	€ 1,100,000	
URDF O'Connell St enhancement	Street enhancement works		€ 359,150	€ -	Q3 2022	€ 3,147,638	€ 4,500,000	
National Surf Centre of Excellence Strandhill	New Centre of Excellence		€ 332,858	€ -	June 2021 - Sept 2023	€ 509,069	€ 2,730,884	Fáilte Ireland, RRDF and Council funding
D01 Forward Planning	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 727,847	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	

Expenditure being Incurred - Greater than €0.5m (Capital and Current)								
Project/Scheme/Programme Name	Short Description	Current Expenditure Amount in Reference Year	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Non Grant)	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Grant)	Project/Programme Anticipated Timeline	Cumulative Expenditure to-date	Projected Lifetime Expenditure (Capital Only)	Explanatory Notes
D02 Development Management	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 953,738	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
D06 Community & Enterprise Function	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 1,094,855	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
D09 Economic Development and Promotion	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 3,441,903	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
SICAP 2018-2022	Social inclusion programme managed by Sligo LCDC and implemented by Sligo LEADER Partnership		€ 618,475	€ -	Jan 2018 - Dec 2023	€ 2,430,030	€ 3,046,604	
Rural Development Programme	LEADER Programme 2014 - 2020, now extended to 31st March, 2021		€ 1,067,117	€ -	August 2016 - March 2021	€ 5,115,030	€ 7,880,187	
Transitional LEADER Programme	Transitional programme to bridge the gap between EU Programming periods		€ 353,667	€ -	April 2021 - Dec 2022	€ 353,667	€ 2,261,896	
ORIS Coolaney Mountain Bike Centre	A trail centre with almost 75kms of mountain bike trails beside Coolaney village in Co. Sligo on Coillte lands in the Ox mountains.		€ 19,816	€ -	Feb 2019 - Dec 2023	€ 875,100	€ 1,050,356	max 75% Government funding
ORIS M2 2020	Outdoor Recreation Measure 2 2020		€ 146,549	€ -	April 2021 - Dec 2022	€ 146,549	€ 660,000	max 90% Government funding
Town and Village Renewal 2018	Public space enhancement works in Aclare, Ballisadare, Ballymote, Cloonacool, Collooney, Enniscrone, Grange, Kilavil, Rathly, Riverstown and Rathcormac		€ 21,279	€ -	Sept 2018 - Dec 2022	€ 1,188,329	€ 1,423,000	max 80% Government funding
Town and Village Renewal 2019	Enhancement works in Ballinacfad, Bunninaden, Culfadda, Enniscrone, Mullaghamore and Riverstown		€ 339,176	€ -	Dec 2019 - Oct 2022	€ 657,528	€ 705,000	max 80% Government funding
Town and Village Renewal 2020	Town and Village Renewal 2020		€ 211,483	€ -	April 2021 - Nov 2022	€ 211,483	€ 744,450	max 90% Government funding
Fáilte Ireland Destination Town - Enniscrone	Capital investment in Tourism Infrastructure in Enniscrone as a tourist destination on the Wild Atlantic way		€ -	€ -	June 2020 - Dec 2023	€ 2,470	€ 666,483	
RRDF Yeats Trail	Construct walkway and cycleway along edge of SAC woodland at Cleveragh Lough Gill SAC1 976		€ 199,000	€ -	Jan 2019 - Dec 2022	€ 500,000	€ 670,000	75% RRDF funding

Expenditure being Incurred - Greater than €0.5m (Capital and Current)								
Project/Scheme/Programme Name	Short Description	Current Expenditure Amount in Reference Year	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Non Grant)	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Grant)	Project/Programme Anticipated Timeline	Cumulative Expenditure to-date	Projected Lifetime Expenditure (Capital Only)	Explanatory Notes
Fáilte Ireland - Sligo Cultural Plaza - Fáilte Ireland and URDF	To design and build shared civil space in what is currently Stephen St car park		€ 98,598	€ -	July 2019 - Dec 2023	€ 367,102	€ 3,644,756	
URDF - SCPREP- Sligo City Public Realm Enhancement Project	Enhancement of Stephen Street, Holborn Street, Rockwood Parade, Water Lane, Tobergal Lane and other mini projects		€ 221,823	€ -	Tender Action - September 2022	€ 353,320	€ 6,515,865	75% URDF funding
E06 Street Cleaning	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 665,587	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
E11 Operation of Fire Service	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 3,940,286	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
Remedial Works on Structures in Graveyards	Remedial works		€ 59,662	€ -	on-going	€ 649,509	€ 800,000	
Finisklin Landfill Proposal	Finisklin Landfill Remediation Works		€ 61,260	€ -	2024	€ 568,509	€ 1,294,000	
F02 Operation of Library and Archival Service	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 2,367,984	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
F03 Op, Mtce & Imp of Outdoor Leisure Areas	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 763,091	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
F04 Community Sport and Recreational Development	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 1,160,915	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	excl. Match Funding applied to projects
F05 Operation of Arts Programme	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 923,818	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
H01 Profit/Loss Machinery Account	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 2,514,740	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
H03 Administration of Rates	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 7,017,371	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
H09 Local Representation/Civic Leadership	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 1,282,182	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
H10 Motor Taxation	Annual Expenditure per Approved Revenue Budget	€ 590,588	€ -	€ -	on-going	n/a	n/a	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>€ 65,447,177</b>	<b>€ 44,434,860</b>	<b>€ -</b>		<b>€ 257,329,115</b>	<b>€ 988,472,163</b>	

Projects/Programmes Completed or discontinued in the reference year - Greater than €0.5m (Capital and Current)							
Project/Scheme/Programme Name	Short Description	Current Expenditure Amount in Reference Year	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Non Grant)	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Grant)	Project/Programme Completion Date	Final Outturn Expenditure	Explanatory Notes
Housing Acquisitions Programme 2018	Department funded housing acquisition programme	€ -	€ 93,728	€ -	2021	€ 2,246,767	
Housing Acquisitions Programme 2019	Department funded housing acquisition programme	€ -	€ 9	€ -	2021	€ 2,746,099	
Housing Acquisitions Programme 2021	Department funded housing acquisition programme	€ -	€ 708,210	€ -	2021	€ 708,210	
Fr O'Flanagan Tce	Construction of 21 no. units	€ -	€ 64,451	€ -	2021	€ 4,122,651	
Returning Vacant Council stock to productive use voids 2020 programme & approved Energy efficient works to void properties 2020	Department funded Voids Programme	€ -	€ 67,567	€ -	2021	€ 848,246	
Returning vacant Council stock to productive use voids programme 2021	Department funded Voids Programme	€ -	€ 919,288	€ -	2021	€ 919,288	
Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme 2022	Department Funded Programme	€ -	€ 691,672	€ -	2021	€ 691,672	
Markiviecz Bridge	City centre footbridge	€ -	€ 20,425	€ -	2021	€ 36,832	Included in NTA Active Travel Scheme in future years
Town and Village Renewal 2017	Public space enhancement works in Ballisodare, Achroon, Banada, Ballymote, Ballygawley, Bunninadden, Tubbercurry, Carney, Strandhill, Rosses Point, Easkey and Gurteen	€ -	€ -	€ -	2021	€ 1,190,629	
PEACE IV	EU funded PEACE IV Action Plan key areas - Children & Young People, Shared Spaces and Services, and Building Positive Relations		€ 84,098	€ -	2021	€ 948,873	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>€ -</b>	<b>€ 2,649,448</b>	<b>€ -</b>		<b>€ 14,459,267</b>	

## Appendix 2

### Quality Assurance – In Depth Check

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#### Section A: Introduction

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This introductory section details the headline information on the programme or project in question.

Programme or Project Information	
<b>Name</b>	Housing Adaptation Grants
<b>Detail</b>	Sligo County Council currently operates three types of Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes - Mobility Grants, Housing Adaptation for Disabled Persons & Housing Aid for Older People.
<b>Responsible Body</b>	Sligo County Council
<b>Current Status</b>	Expenditure being incurred
<b>Start Date</b>	January 2021
<b>End Date</b>	December 2021
<b>Overall Cost</b>	€1,869,171 in 2021

## **Project Description**

Sligo County Council currently operates three types of Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes:

- Housing Aid for Older People
- Housing Adaptation for Disabled Persons
- Mobility Grants

The three housing adaptation grant schemes were introduced in November 2007. Local Authorities play a key role in the housing adaptation grant process, as they are responsible for part-funding and administering the schemes. The terms and conditions for the three schemes are set out in the Housing (adaptation grants for older people and people with a disability) Regulations, 2007 (SI No. 670 of 2007) as amended by 2014 Regulations. More detailed administrative guidance for Local Authorities and standard application forms for each of the schemes were issued by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government, effective from January 2020.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage funds up to 80% of the approved cost of the works carried out under the schemes subject to maximum limits on each scheme. Sligo County Council funds the balance.

All schemes are means tested and the % grant allocated is dependent on the household income of the applicant.

The schemes vary slightly but include such criteria as:

- Evidence of income
- Medical opinion on applicant.
- Tax compliance certificates from both the applicant and the contractor.
- Evidence of payment of Local Property Tax
- Submission of quotation from contractor
- Certification of work when complete.

The Housing Aid for Older People Scheme is available to assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out.

The Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability is available to assist in the carrying out of works that are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who is a member of the household.

The Mobility Aids Grant Scheme is available to fast track grant aid to cover a basic suite of works to address mobility problems.

***Applications received in 2021***

Applications in 2021	No.
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	170
Housing Aid for Older People	194
Mobility Aids Grant	14
Total	378

***Grants paid in 2021***

Grants paid in 2021	€	No.
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	€1,092,465	103
Housing Aid for Older People	€717,920	128
Mobility Aids Grant	€58,786	14
Total	€1,869,171	245

Grants paid in 2021 include approvals from previous years which were claimed in 2021.

## Section B - Step 1: Logic Model Mapping

As part of this In-Depth Check, a Programme Logic Model (PLM) for Housing Adaptation Grants has been completed. A PLM is a standard evaluation tool and further information on their nature is available in the [Public Spending Code](#).

Objectives	Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
<p>To administer three Housing Adaptation Grant schemes under the Housing (Adaptation Grants for Older People and People With A Disability), Regulations 2007, as amended by new Regulations in 2014.</p> <p>To assist with repairs / improvements in homes for those qualifying for the grants to improve their living conditions</p>	<p>Government funding</p> <p>Sligo County Council's own financial resources</p> <p>Staff resources – technical &amp; administrative</p>	<p>Processing applications</p> <p>Inspections – before and after works</p> <p>Approval of grants</p> <p>Processing claims and payments</p> <p>Recoupment of monies due from the Department</p>	<p>Number of grant applications received</p> <p>Number of grants approved / withdrawn / paid</p>	<p>Enabling people to remain living in their own homes for as long as possible</p> <p>Positive impact on the local construction industry</p> <p>Positive impact on the quality of the national housing stock</p>



## Description of Programme Logic Model

*Objectives:* Sligo County Council operates the Housing Grants Scheme (consisting of Mobility Grants, Housing Adaptation for Disabled Persons and Housing Aid for Older People) to:

- (i) address mobility problems, primarily, but not exclusively, associated with ageing
- (ii) assist in the carrying out of works which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who has an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment and
- (iii) assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out.

These 3 schemes are administered by Local Authorities, under the Housing (Adaptation Grants for Older People and People With A Disability), Regulations 2007 (SI 670 of 2007), which were amended by new Regulations in 2014 (SI 104 of 2014).

*Inputs:* Financial Inputs: The primary input to the programme was funding by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage i.e. 80%. The Local Authority funds the remainder from the revenue budget.

Staff Resources: Administrative and Technical staff deliver the scheme.

### *Activities:*

1. Processing applications – applications are validated and further information requested where necessary
2. Inspections – technical inspections prior to approval of proposed works
3. Approval of grants – letter of approval issues where criteria for the scheme are met
4. Processing claims, inspections and payment of grants following inspection of completed works
5. Recoupments from the Department – regular recoupment of annual allocation

### *Outputs:*

	No. of applications received in 2021	No. of applications approved	No. of applications withdrawn /closed in 2021	No. of applications paid in 2021
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	170	197	15	103
Housing Aid for Older People	194	207	16	128
Mobility Aids Grant	14	24	8	14
Total	378	428	93	245

Grants paid in 2021	€	No.
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	€1,092,465	103
Housing Aid for Older People	€717,920	128
Mobility Aids Grant	€58,786	14
Total	€1,869,171	245

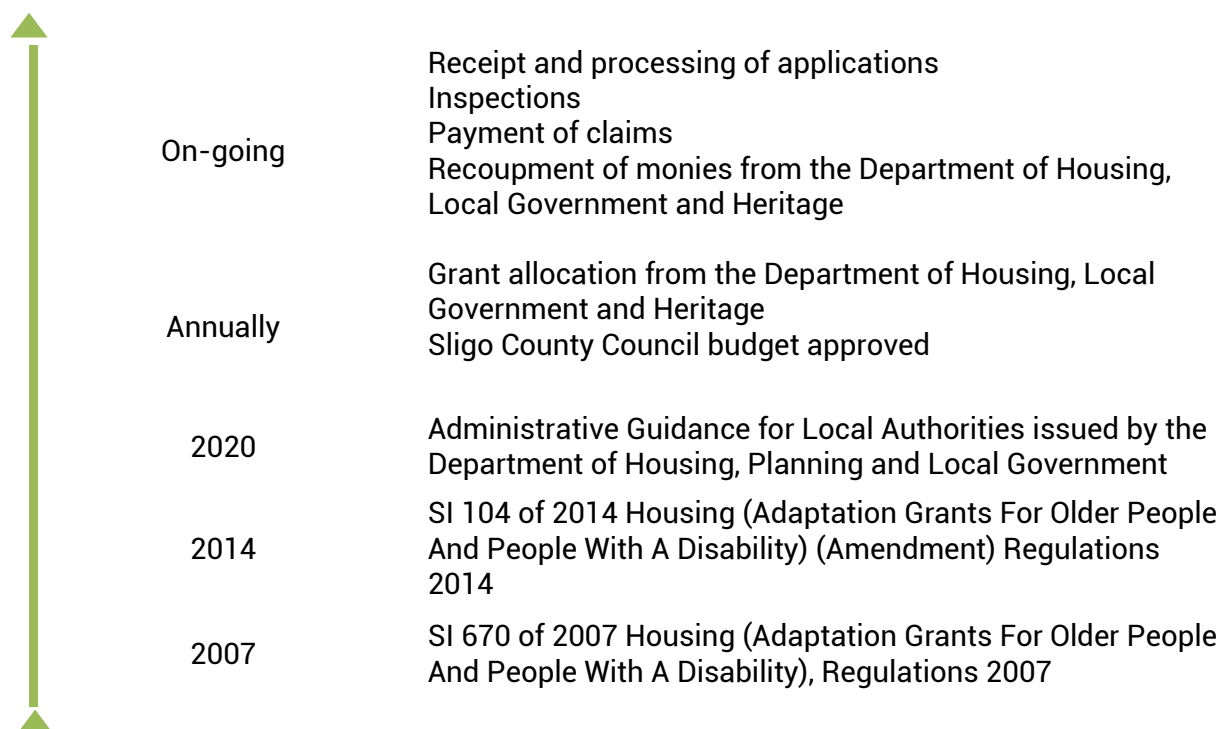
#### *Outcomes:*

The envisaged outcome of the programme is to provide assistance to applicants who require grant aid to make housing suitable for a person with a physical, sensory or intellectual disability or mental health difficulty to live in, address mobility problems in the home and to improve the condition of an older person's home. It is acknowledged that the grants play a significant role in allowing people to remain living in their own homes for as long as possible.

It is also expected that the schemes have a positive impact on the local construction industry and on the improvement and sustainability of the national housing stock.

### Section B - Step 2: Summary Timeline of Project/Programme

The following section tracks Housing Adaptation Grants to the end of 2021 in terms of major project/programme milestones



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### Section B - Step 3: Analysis of Key Documents

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The following section reviews the key documentation relating to appraisal, analysis and evaluation for Housing Adaptation Grants.

Project/Programme Key Documents	
Title	Details
Department of Housing Planning and Local Government - Administrative Guidance for Local Authorities Implementation January 2020 for each scheme	Guidance to assist Local Authorities on the administration of the grant schemes
Application forms / Information leaflet	Template issued by the Department
Housing Grants records system	Records all applications from receipt date to close of file
Agresso FMS	Expenditure and income details for the relevant job code

**Key Document 1:** Details include types of eligible housing, timelines, prioritisation, qualifying works, calculation of household income, appeals procedures and tax clearance procedures

**Key Document 2:** Each Local Authority is required to use the standardised single application form issued by the Department.

**Key Document 3:** The Housing Section operates an IT system to record all applications received and their subsequent processing to payment and recoupment from the Department.

**Key Document 4:** Financial records of payments to grant recipients and recoupments from the Department are contained in the Agresso system. The records kept by the Housing Section are reconciled with Agresso on a monthly basis.

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### Section B - Step 4: Data Audit

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The following section details the data audit that was carried out for the Housing Grants Schemes. It evaluates whether appropriate data is available for the future evaluation of the project/programme.

Data Required	Use	Availability
Applications received	Evaluate demand for the schemes	Yes, Housing Section
Financial records for income and expenditure	Audit trail	Yes, Agresso FMS
Grants paid	Audit trail	Yes, Agresso FMS and Housing Section
Individual files	Audit trail	Yes, Housing Section
Recoupment claims	Audit trail	Yes, Housing Section

#### Data Availability and Proposed Next Steps

The documentation outlined in the above table is available for inspection on request from the Housing Section of Sligo County Council. The necessary supporting documentation is retained for future audit.

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### Section B - Step 5: Key Evaluation Questions

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The following section looks at the key evaluation questions for Housing Adaptation Grants based on the findings from the previous sections of this report.

#### **Does the delivery of the project/programme comply with the standards set out in the Public Spending Code? (Appraisal Stage, Implementation Stage and Post-Implementation Stage)**

The in-depth check has demonstrated that controls are in place to provide adequate assurance that there is broadly in compliance with the Public Spending Code.

#### **Is the necessary data and information available such that the project/programme can be subjected to a full evaluation at a later date?**

The necessary data is available to enable the Scheme to be subjected to a full evaluation at a later date.

#### **What improvements are recommended such that future processes and management are enhanced?**

A review of a sample of expenditure for the year 2021 was undertaken. Following discussions with staff currently responsible for processing the scheme there have been a number of changes to the processing regime which has resulted in improved record keeping.

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### Section: In-Depth Check Summary

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The following section presents a summary of the findings of this In-Depth Check on the Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme.

#### Summary of In-Depth Check

Sligo County Council currently operates three types of Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes:

- Housing Aid for Older People
- Housing Adaptation for Disabled Persons
- Mobility Grants

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage funds up to 80% of the approved cost of the works carried out under the schemes subject to maximum limits on each scheme. Sligo County Council funds the balance.

#### *Applications received in 2021*

Applications in 2021	No.
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	170
Housing Aid for Older People	194
Mobility Aids Grant	14
Total	378

#### *Grants paid in 2021*

Grants paid in 2021	€	No.
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	€1,092,465	103
Housing Aid for Older People	€717,920	128
Mobility Aids Grant	€58,786	14
	€1,869,171	245

Grants paid in 2021 include approvals from previous years claimed in 2021.

The in-depth check has demonstrated adherence with the broad principles of the Public Spending Code, in relation to current expenditure programmes. Overall, the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme which was reviewed is broadly in compliance with the requirements of the Public Spending Code.

## Quality Assurance – In Depth Check

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### Section A: Introduction

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This introductory section details the headline information on the programme or project in question.

Programme or Project Information	
<b>Name</b>	National Surf Centre of Excellence, Strandhill
<b>Detail</b>	The new surf centre will provide a state of the art modern National Surf Centre of international significance for the ever-growing surfing community of Strandhill and the many visitors who come for surfing and other tourist activities.
<b>Responsible Body</b>	Sligo County Council
<b>Current Status</b>	Expenditure being incurred
<b>Start Date</b>	2017
<b>End Date</b>	Construction completion expected September 2022 Centre Operational expected October 2022
<b>Overall Cost</b>	€2,730,884

## **Project Description**

The project involves construction of a National Centre of Excellence for Surfing in Sligo. Located on the Wild Atlantic Way, Strandhill is one of Ireland's popular surfing destinations.

The centre will consist of a total over 500 sq. meters of space over two floors and 107 sq. meters of outdoor covered space. The building will accommodate a retail unit on the ground floor and meeting rooms /exhibition space on the first floor. To the rear a single storey wing with 4 no. changing rooms with shower and toilet facilities, an office and an external covered space is planned. The public amenity space adjacent to the building, including the Peace Park will be enhanced as part of the works. The centre will provide facilities for the surfing community of Strandhill and visitors who come for surfing or other tourist activities.

Fáilte Ireland provided over €1m towards the build of the new centre, which was announced in October 2018. Funding contributed from the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF) will ensure that the project is fully fitted out to state of the art standard. The centre will act as a national attraction as a tourism and information hub, provide an interpretative display of the history of surfing in Ireland, act as a central meeting point for local tourism businesses, provide changing, storage and shower facilities for local and visiting surfers and surf schools and cater for those providing advanced surfing training. Expected benefits will include increased number of tourism visitors and spend to the region and increased employment. It will become a flagship facility on the Wild Atlantic Way for surfing and water sports, and create a hub for tourism in Strandhill and Co. Sligo where visitors can find information, orientation and experiences.

The Centre will accommodate the following:

- An interpretative display of the history of surfing in Ireland and the tourism assets of the local area.
- A central meeting and promotional point for local tourism businesses e.g., walking tours, adventure providers and other experience providers.
- Orientation point for a wide range of activities.
- Changing, storage and shower facilities for local and visiting surfers.
- Public bathrooms.

- Provision of modern facilities to the local community for meetings, training and events such as festivals, parties, social gatherings etc.
- Cater for those providing advanced surfing training up to international level. This will include video analysis equipment, training rooms and virtual surfing experience.
- Retail space for souvenirs and merchandise.

### **Background:**

The proposed National Surf Centre of Excellence was granted full Planning Permission in **March 2017**.

In **August 2018**, Sligo County Council lodged a Funding Support Application to Fáilte Ireland under the Grants Scheme for Large Tourism Projects (Stage2). This funding application was followed by a further Funding Application to The Department of Rural and Community Development under the RRDF. Sligo County Council committed to providing €200,000 in Match Funding for the delivery of the new Centre.

In **March 2019**, The Department of Rural and Community Development issued Sligo County Council confirmation of Grant Assistance in the amount of **€615,752**. In **May 2019** confirmation of Grant Assistance from Fáilte Ireland in the amount of **€1,042,171**.

With funding secured Sligo County Council appointed Jennings & O'Donovan & Partners to prepare a set of Tender documents for the procurement of Consultancy Services to provide Architect Led, Multi-Disciplinary Design Team services, for the detailed design, tender stage and construction stages of the proposed National Surf Centre of Excellence in Strandhill, Co. Sligo. In addition, the project was extended to include the regeneration, enhancement and upgrade of the peace park which adjoins the site of the Centre. Keys & Monaghan Architects were appointed as the Design Team Lead and to fulfil the role of Project Supervisor Design Stage for the project in **May 2019**.

The Design Team completed the Detailed Design process, and the Tender notice was published in **May 2020** for the construction of the National Surf Centre of Excellence.

Following a competitive tender process 11 Tenders were received, of which 6 met the minimum quality standards as set out in the Tender Documents and proceeded to a



Commercial Assessment. James Armstrong Construction (T/A Arken Construction) was identified as having the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (M.E.A.T) as set out in the Tender Evaluation Report. A comprehensive Cost Reduction Exercise was conducted in conjunction with the project Design Team as the tender price resulted in a funding deficit.

Despite the implementation of cost saving measures and additional match funding from Sligo County Council, a **€672,961** funding shortfall remained outstanding to bring the project to fruition.

In **November 2020** additional funding requests were issued to Fáilte Ireland in the sum of **€321,468** and The Department of Rural and Community Development in the sum of **€351,493** to meet the funding shortfall.

Both project funders approved the additional funding requests and issued formal letters of offer for the additional funding amounts which were received by Sligo County Council in **February 2021**.

James Armstrong Construction (T/A Arken Construction) & Norris Plant Hire Ltd., in joint venture were appointed as the building contractor with contract signing taking place in **June 2021**. Construction on site commenced in **June 2021** with a construction programme of 14 Months, now due for delivery in **September 2022**.

## Funding

Funding Source	Amount
Fáilte Ireland	€1,363,639
Department of Rural and Community Development (RRDF)	€967,245
Sligo County Council	€400,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€2,730,884</b>

## Benefits of the Project

The project will develop a National Centre of Excellence for Surfing encompassing every aspect of the sport from recreational to enthusiast levels and experiences. Situated on the Surf Coast of the Wild Atlantic Way, Strandhill has more surfing breaks than anywhere in the

country and is one of Ireland's most popular surfing destinations and well known internationally.

The centre will provide state of the art, safe and comfortable facilities for the ever-growing surfing community of Strandhill and the many visitors to Strandhill who come for surfing or other tourist activities. The area welcomes up to 40,000 surfing visitors per annum through customers of the local surf schools and independent surfers as well as members of Co. Sligo Surf Club. The project will help solidify Strandhill and Sligo as a must-see destination along the Wild Atlantic Way for visitors seeking to partake in water sports and other outdoor activities. It will act as an information hub and visitor focal point for the area with information on local tourism businesses and the wide range of visitor experiences that are in the region i.e., Sea Trails Walking Tours, Sligo Food Trail, Strandhill People's Market and local culture and heritage sites.

The Centre is located on a busy and high footfall area along the Strandhill Promenade, a short walk from the beach and amongst several local businesses.

The Centre will serve several important functions that include:

- National Centre of Excellence for Surfing in Ireland
- As a key focal point in the middle of the surf zone on the Wild Atlantic Way, the Centre will be a core asset of the WAW in terms of promoting the water sports and surfing experiences
- A hub and focal point for tourism in Strandhill and Co. Sligo where visitors can find some information, orientation, and experiences
- Support the tourism industry in Strandhill through providing state of the art services and facilities for surfing schools, surf visitors and others



## Section B - Step 1: Logic Model Mapping

As part of this In-Depth Check, Sligo County Council has completed a Programme Logic Model (PLM) for the National Surf Centre of Excellence project. A PLM is a standard evaluation tool and further information on their nature is available in the [Public Spending Code](#).

Objectives	Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
<p>Provide a National Centre of Excellence encompassing every aspect of the sport of surfing</p> <p>Provide a professional, efficient experience to surfers and water sports visitors</p> <p>To develop the sport of surfing to properly provide for adequate training to surfers in all conditions and seasons</p> <p>To provide a new Village Centre to improve the visitor experience in Strandhill</p> <p>To promote the surf coast utilising the Wild Atlantic Way Brand</p> <p>To provide a major visitor and tourism facility in Co. Sligo</p>	<p>Fáilte Ireland funding</p> <p>Government funding</p> <p>Sligo County Council's staff and technical resources</p> <p>External Consultants</p> <p>External Contractors</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>Construction</p> <p>Operation</p>	<p>National Surf Centre of Excellence</p> <p>Estimated Increase the surfing/water sport visitor numbers to Strandhill and Co. Sligo to 79,000 in 7 years</p> <p>Estimated visitor spending in the region of €6m p.a. by year 2 of operation</p> <p>Interpretative display of the history of surfing in Ireland</p> <p>Meeting space and promotional point for local tourism businesses and for the Wild Atlantic Way brand of the 'Surf Coast'</p>	<p>World class facilities and experience for users and visitors</p> <p>Full time on-line presence for the promotion of the 'Surf Coast'</p> <p>Profitable and self-sustaining tourism product</p>

## Description of Programme Logic Model

### Objectives:

The Prime Objectives of the Centre are:

- To operate and deliver a top class Centre of Excellence for surfers and visitors
- To develop the sport of surfing to provide adequate training to surfers coming to Strandhill to surf and to learn surfing
- To increase the number of visitors to the region both for surfing and related water activities
- To value and enhance the natural environment of the region by being environmentally responsible and enhance the Irish Tourism Product and the Wild Atlantic Way Brand e.g. The Centre can promote other surfing areas such as Easkey, Tullaghan, Rosses Point, Bundoran, Enniscrone beach as surfing destinations
- To operate a business within the scope of tourism that is profitable and creates employment with consistent and sustainable levels of growth

### Inputs:

**Fáilte Ireland funding:** Funding has been received from Fáilte Ireland under the Grants Scheme for Large Tourism Projects.

**Government funding:** Funding has been received from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF).

**Staff:** This project is being project managed by in-house staff.

**External Consultants and Contractors:** A number of external contractors will be required during the lifetime of the project.

The Design Team appointed to deliver the Project is as follows:

- Keys and Monaghan - Architects (Design Team Lead)
- Sammon - Quantity Surveyors

- Taylor & Boyd - Civil and Structural Consultant Engineers
- Delap & Waller - Mechanical & Electrical Consultants
- Park Hood - Landscape Architects

The appointed construction contractor is James Armstrong Construction T/A Arken Construction & Norris Plant Hire, in joint venture.

#### Activities:

**Planning:** Full planning permission was granted in March, 2017. Funding applications lodged in 2018 with confirmation of grant assistance in 2019.

**Construction:** Construction tender notice was published on e-Tenders in May 2020. Works on site commenced in June 2021 following the appointment of the construction contractor.

**Operation:** The expected date for hand over to client is September 2022 with the Surf Centre operational from October 2022.

#### Outputs:

Changing, storage and shower facilities for local surfers, visiting surfers and surf schools and their clients. The Centre will cater for those providing advanced surfing training up to international level. This will include video analysis equipment, training rooms and virtual surfing experience.

A tourism focal point and information hub that will provide paper based and digitally interactive information on all tourism experiences and services in Strandhill and the surrounding Sligo area. This will link strongly with the ethos and brand of the Wild Atlantic Way.

Modern facilities will be available to the local community for meetings, training, and events such as festivals, parties, social gatherings etc

### Outcomes:

The project is important in a national context giving the Wild Atlantic Way a signature project relating to surfing and allowing it to promote the surf coast zone as having facilities and product that are comparable to any worldwide. For the Wild Atlantic Way brand of the 'Surf Coast' it will provide a tangible focal point in which to promote the surf region.

From a local community and business perspective the project will impact very positively on Strandhill moving surfing from the 'back of vans' and provide a professional outlook to surfing in the region. A fully functioning and professional centre will provide facilities in terms of changing, showering and provision of services for visitors to the region both for those interested in surfing and those who are actual surfers.

The Centre will work with its partners such as the Irish Surfing Association, Co. Sligo Surf Club and local Surf Schools to develop the sport of surfing and properly provide adequate training facilities to all (from the basic to the advanced and high-performance levels). The project will give surfing and the outdoor adventures tourism sector a proper base in Co. Sligo. In addition, it will showcase the history of surfing in Ireland.

From a community and visitor aspect the new centre will be the main visitor centre in Strandhill, providing an array of visitor experiences not only centred on surfing but also on the rich culture, heritage and outdoor activities that can be enjoyed in the area and the wider Wild Atlantic Way.

Incorporated in the Centre will be the history of the sport of surfing to provide visitors with an immersive experience. Presently in Strandhill there is no tourism centre in which to harness the thousands of visitors yearly – whether there for surfing or not. Therefore, it is important that the overall visitor experience can cater for the wide array of interests and motivations of visitors to Strandhill. It will over time increase the popularity of Strandhill as an outdoors destination and bring an increased number of new visitors to the area and to the sport of surfing.

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## Section B - Step 2: Summary Timeline of Project/Programme

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The following section tracks the National Surf Centre of Excellence, Strandhill Project from inception in terms of major project/programme milestones



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## Section B - Step 3: Analysis of Key Documents

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The following section reviews the key documentation relating to appraisal, analysis and evaluation for the National Surf Centre of Excellence Project.

Project/Programme Key Documents	
Title	Details
Application forms for RRDF and Fáilte Ireland funding	Completed application forms
Letter of Offer – Department of Rural and Community Development	Letter issued March 2019 and March 2021
Delivery Grant Agreement between Fáilte Ireland and Sligo County Council	Issued May 2019, Addendum issued May 2021.

Tender Documents	Documents submitted
Contract with Arken Construction & Norris Plant Hire	Contractual document for the construction of the Surf Centre

### **Key Document 1: Application Forms**

Applications were submitted under the Grants Scheme for Large Tourism Projects scheme and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF).

Fáilte Ireland's Grants Scheme for Large Tourism Projects is designed to support large tourism experience development projects applying for capital grants in excess of €200,000. The supporting documents required for a Stage 2 Application include: detailed design documentation; statutory approvals; detailed cost plan for the delivery phase of the project; updated project programme covering the delivery phase in detail; financial projections and plans for the operational phase.

The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund is a commitment of €1 billion by government to be invested in rural Ireland over the period 2019 to 2027. An application under Call 1 Category 1 was submitted. Category 1 relates to projects with all necessary planning and other consents in place and which are ready to proceed.

### **Key Documents 2: Tender documents**

The Construction Tender notice was published on eTenders in May 2020. 11 no. tenders were received and following a comprehensive tender assessment a tender report was issued.

### **Key Document 3: Letter of Offer – Department of Rural and Community Development**

The Letter of Offer issued in March 2019. In March 2021 additional funding was approved under the scheme. The document outlines the terms and conditions of the funding.

### **Key Documents 4: Grant Agreement**

The Grant Agreement issued in March 2019 with an addendum issued in May 2021. Terms and conditions of funding are set out in the Grant Agreement.

### **Key Documents 5: Contract document**

The construction contract was signed in June 2021 with expected handover to the client in September 2022.



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## Section B - Step 4: Data Audit

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The following section details the data audit that was carried out for the National Surf Centre Strandhill Project. It evaluates whether appropriate data is available for the future evaluation of the project/programme.

Data Required	Use	Availability
Funding Agreements	Set out the project conditions	Community & Economic Development office
Financial records for income and expenditure	Record expenditure incurred and income recouped	Agresso FMS
Regular on-going contact with funders	Monitor delivery of the project	Community & Economic Development office

### Data Availability and Proposed Next Steps

The documentation outlined in the above table is available for inspection on request from the Community & Economic Development directorate of Sligo County Council. The necessary supporting documentation will be retained on file for future audit.

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## Section B - Step 5: Key Evaluation Questions

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The following section looks at the key evaluation questions for National Surf Centre Strandhill based on the findings from the previous sections of this report.

### **Does the delivery of the project/programme comply with the standards set out in the Public Spending Code? (Appraisal Stage, Implementation Stage and Post-Implementation Stage)**

The in-depth check has demonstrated that controls are in place to provide adequate assurance that there is substantial compliance with the Public Spending Code.

### **Is the necessary data and information available such that the project/programme can be subjected to a full evaluation at a later date?**

The necessary data is available to enable the project to be subjected to a full evaluation at a later date.

### **What improvements are recommended such that future processes and management are enhanced?**

Sligo County Council staff should continue to monitor the delivery of the construction contract and continue to liaise on a regular basis with Fáilte Ireland. Staff will continue to follow the grant conditions in the delivery of the project.

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## Section: In-Depth Check Summary

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The following section presents a summary of the findings of this In-Depth Check on the National Surf Centre of Excellence Strandhill project.

### Summary of In-Depth Check

The project involves construction of a National Centre of Excellence for Surfing in Sligo. Located on the Wild Atlantic Way, Strandhill is one of Ireland's popular surfing destinations.

The centre will consist of a total over 500 sq. meters of space over two floors and 107 sq. meters of outdoor covered space. The building will accommodate a retail unit on the ground floor and meeting rooms /exhibition space on the first floor. To the rear a single storey wing with 4 no. changing rooms with shower and toilet facilities, an office and an external covered space is planned. The public amenity space adjacent to the building, including the Peace Park will be enhanced as part of the works. The centre will provide facilities for the surfing community of Strandhill and visitors who come for surfing or other tourist activities.

Funding has been received from Fáilte Ireland under the Grants Scheme for Large Tourism Projects and from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF).

The expected date for hand over to client is September 2022 with the Surf Centre operational from October 2022.

The in-depth check has demonstrated adherence with the broad principles of the Public Spending Code in relation to capital expenditure programmes. Overall, the National Surf Centre of Excellence Strandhill project which was reviewed is substantially in compliance with the requirements of the Public Spending Code.