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Comhairle Chontae Liathroma Leitrim County Council

Aras an Chontae,
Carrick-on-Shannon,
Co. Leitrim.

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Accounts Payable
(071) 9650439

Arts Office
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Civil Defence
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Community and
Enterprise
(071) 9650429

Community
Wardens
(071) 9641667

Corporate Services
(071) 9650461

County Library
(071) 9645582

County Managers
Office
(071) 9650465

Environment
Hotline
1890 205 205

Finance Section
(071) 9650410

Fire Service
(071) 9650402

Higher Education
Grants
(071) 9650463

Housing Section
(071) 9650426

Human Resources
(071) 9650460

Motor Taxation
(071) 9650431

Planning Section
(071) 9650450

Rates/Revenue
Section
(071) 9650416

Register of Electors
(071) 9650461

Roads Section
(071) 9650420

Stores
(071) 9650424

Veterinary
Inspector
(071) 9640785

Water Services
(071) 9650451

Water Services
Hotline
1890 302 302

THIS MATTER IS BEING DEALT WITH BY _____ TEL. NO. _____ EXT. NO. _____

Date: 31st August, 2009 Our Ref: _____ Your Ref: _____

Cathaoirleach agus Gach Ball COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATHROMA

RE: ABANDONMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY - SECTION OF REGIONAL ROAD R.201 AT SHOALMORE, MOHILL

A Chara,

Under the provisions of Section 12 of the Roads Act, 1993, Notice of the intention of Leitrim County Council to abandon the Public Right of Way on a section of Regional Road R.201 at Shoalmore, Mohill, for a distance of 21 metres or thereabouts was published in the Leitrim Observer on the 10th July, 2009.

An appropriate notice was erected during the specified period on the section of roadway concerned.

One objection was received within the specified period. A copy of the reply dated 30th July, 2009 which issued in relation to this objection is attached hereto.

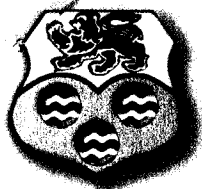
I would be obliged to have a resolution from this Council to effect the abandonment of the Public Right of Way on a section of Regional Road R.201 at Shoalmore, Mohill, for a distance of 21 metres or thereabouts.

Mise, le meas,


**DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Encl.





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Date: 31st August, 2009 Our Ref: _____ Your Ref: _____

Cathaoirleach agus Gach Ball
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATROMA

**RE: EXTINGUISHMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY
- SECTION OF REGIONAL ROAD R.201 AT SHOALMORE AND
KILLAMAUN, MOHILL**

A Chara,


Under the provisions of Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993, Notice of the intention of Leitrim County Council to extinguish the Public Right of Way on a section of Regional Road R.201 at Shoalmore and Killamaun, Mohill, for a distance of 71 metres or thereabouts was published in the Leitrim Observer on the 10th July, 2009.

An appropriate notice was erected during the specified period on the section of roadway concerned.

One objection was received within the specified period. A copy of the reply dated 30th July which issued in relation to the objection is attached hereto.

I would be obliged to have a resolution from this Council to effect the extinguishment of the Public Right of Way on a section of Regional Road R.201 at Shoalmore and Killamaun, Mohill, for a distance of 71 metres or thereabouts.

Mise, le meas,


**DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Encl.





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THIS MATTER IS BEING DEALT WITH BY _____ TEL. NO. _____ EXT. NO. _____

Date: 30 July 2009

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

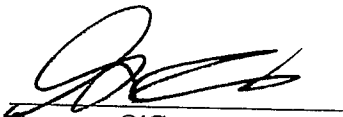
Mr Frank Scollan
Drumboy
Mohill
Co. Leitrim

Re: Regional Road R201

Dear Mr Scollan,

I refer to your correspondence regarding Leitrim County Councils proposal to abandon a section of the regional road r210 and extinguish a public right of way on the regional road R201. Both these proposals are due to this section of road being bypassed a number of years ago. This section of road was no longer used by the general public and Leitrim County Council was not maintaining the road. It was felt by this council that this was the most sensible solution to this situation, which could not continue. I trust this answers your query on this proposal but if you wish to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


Seamus O'Connor
Senior Engineer



Páipéar Athchúrsáite
Printed on recycled paper

Beidh Fáilte roimh freagra tre Ghaeilge



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATROMA

*Áras an Chontae,
Cora Droma Ruisc.*

27th October 2009

***Cathaoirleach agus gach Ball
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATROMA***

***RE: Item No. 3 on Agenda for Council Meeting 2nd November 2009
- Adoption of Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme***

Dear Councillor,

Having been approved to go to public consultation by the Council at its meeting on 7th September 2009, the Leitrim County Council Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme was placed on public display on 18th September 2009. The Draft Scheme was made available on the Council's website and in hard copy from our Corporate Services Section. The Scheme was also circulated directly to the sectoral organizations / representatives involved in the previous SPC's. Comments, submissions or observations on the Draft SPC Scheme were invited from the public by 4pm on Monday 19th October 2009.

A total of five formal submissions were received in relation to the Draft SPC Scheme. The submissions were considered by the Corporate Policy Group at a special meeting convened for that purpose. The details of these submissions together with details of the responses as recommended by the Corporate Policy Group, are outlined below.

Submission No. 1: Mr. Michael Ewing, Co-ordinator of the Environmental Pillar

This submission on behalf of the National Environment Pillar outlines that the interdependence of the three dimensions of sustainability (i.e. social, economic and environmental) must underpin the way in which Ireland responds to our current challenges. The Pillar position, in light of the importance of Agenda 21 and the Minister's specific emphasis on the importance of environmental/sustainable development issues informing the work of the SPCs as a whole, is that it should have the right to make nominations to the SPCs that advise the actions and policies of the Council that are likely to have significant impacts on the environment. In this regard the Pillar sees it as essential that it has at least one representative on each of the following three SPCs:

1. Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development
2. Infrastructure
3. Planning, Environment & Emergency Services

To facilitate this they suggest that a balance should be struck between the representation of the national Social Partners that would reflect the equal status of each of the Pillars at national level as well as reflecting Agenda 21. They have outlined that, if this would necessitate an increase in the size of the SPCs, this is allowed for in the SPC Guidelines. It is also the position of the Pillar that the Community should be strongly represented on all the SPCs.

The Pillar respectfully asks the Council to take their recommendations into account when finalising the SPC Scheme and allow the Pillar the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the future of County Leitrim by taking its part as the representative of the third strand of Local Agenda 21 on these three SPCs. They have suggested that this could be achieved by providing an appropriate balance between the National Social Partners and the Community.

Response to Submission:

In preparing the Draft SPC Scheme the importance and value of sectoral representation was fully recognised and the number of sectoral representatives on each SPC was increased from the minimum 1/3 (3 members) to 4 sectoral representatives on each SPC. It is considered that the SPC structure as proposed in the Draft SPC Scheme, with a 60/40 ratio of Elected Member to Sectoral Representative, facilitates broad sectoral representation and it is not proposed to further increase the size of the SPCs.

Detailed consideration was given to the provisional assignment of Sectoral Representation to the SPC's, as outlined in the Draft Scheme, having regard to the range of sectoral and other interests to be represented. The provisional allocation across the sectors is as outlined below:

Sectoral Representatives on SPC's as proposed (16 in total):

National Pillars		6
Business/Commercial	2	
Development/Construction	1	
Farming	1	
Trade Union	1	
Environmental	1	
Community/Voluntary/Disadvantaged		5
Specific relevant interests/sectors		5
Voluntary Housing	1	
Residents Associations,	1	
Library	1	
Arts	1	
Group Water Schemes	1	

It is considered that a balance has been achieved between the National Pillars, the Community/Voluntary/Disadvantaged Sector and the Specific relevant interests/sectors to be represented. While the facilitation of one additional Environment Pillar nominee could possibly be accommodated within the National Pillars representation as outlined above, if the Business/Commercial representative to the Infrastructure SPC was to be replaced by an Environmental representative, it is considered that an appropriate balance has been achieved and no change to the provisional assignment of Sectoral Representation to the SPC's is recommended in this regard.

Submission No. 2: Marcus Hufsky, Regional Support Officer, The Disability Federation of Ireland, North West Region

This submissions outlines that the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) is the national support organisation and advocate for voluntary disability organisations who represent and provide services to people with disabilities and disabling conditions. DFI works to ensure that Irish society

is fully inclusive by providing information, training and support, organisation and management development, research and policy development, advocacy and representation and networking. In the Community and Voluntary Pillar of social partnership DFI leads on disability issues. DFI is also a member of the National Disability Strategy Stakeholder Monitoring Group. DFI are asking that they would be permitted to nominate a representative of DFI to represent the voluntary disability sector on the SPC for Community/Voluntary/Disadvantaged/Conservation/Culture.

In response to a query seeking clarification on their submission, DFI have outlined that they understand that the nominations for people with disabilities come through the community forum mechanism. They have outlined however that, whilst they co-operate with some 20 local organisations in the disability sector in Leitrim, they would not be a member of the County Leitrim Community Forum due simply to the fact that they do not have an office presence in Leitrim. Their remit is Sligo/Leitrim & Donegal as an area and DFI has in the past applied successfully for places on SPC's across the country. They indicate that their main focus with regards to the SPC are of more strategic nature, in that they look at general issues affecting people with disabilities and the provision of services across the various disability disciplines. The other important link they like to nurture is the information exchange between SPC's in other counties in an effort to support best practice and avoid duplication.

Response to Submission:

The Disability Sector has always been specifically represented on the Housing & Corporate Services SPC. The National Disability Strategy and Leitrim County Council's Disability Action Plan falls within the remit of the Housing & Corporate Services SPC, as does our housing policy generally and policy in relation to Housing Adaptation Grants, and it is considered that this is the most appropriate SPC for specific disability sector representation. One of the community/voluntary/disadvantaged sector representatives to this SPC is reserved specifically for a disability representative. Given the broad range of sectoral interests to be represented across the 4 SPC's it is not considered possible to accommodate a second disability specific representative.

The SPC Scheme proposes, as has been the case previously, that the Disability representative will be nominated through the County Leitrim Community Forum. The Disability Representative nominated under the previous SPC Schemes has come from the Leitrim Association of People with Disabilities which is one of the locally-based representative organisations affiliated to the DFI. It is considered that the Community Forum mechanism is the appropriate mechanism through which the Community/Voluntary/Disadvantaged representatives would be nominated and it is considered that it is a matter for the Forum in relation to the selection of the disability representative. It is suggested that DFI should be advised that they should ensure their registration with the Community Forum.

Submission No. 3: Ellen Keane, Acting Correspondence Secretary, County Leitrim Community Forum

Ms. Keane has outlined that, after consulting with Forum members the following comments have been made - everyone is happy with the changes in makeup of the SPC's and with the fact that now the Forum is represented on all of them. The one area of disquiet is in training. Last time round there was a long delay before training, which was not good for our reps, especially new Forum members. It was also requested that training be held for everyone at the same time, not in several batches as before.

Response to Submission:

The issue raised is not in relation to the SPC Scheme itself but rather in relation to the provision of training for SPC sectoral representatives. The training for SPC members was previously implemented by the Department and delivered by the IPA – the training was delivered in a series of phases and the sectoral representatives were the last group to receive training. The feedback in this regard will be forwarded to the Department for consideration.

Submission No. 4: Justin Molloy, Regional Executive, Construction Industry Federation, North West Branch

Mr. Molloy refers to the formation of Leitrim County Council's Strategic Policy Committees and outlines that they would like to nominate specified CIF representatives to the Planning, the Transportation & Infrastructure and the Housing SPCs.

Response to Submission:

Representation to SPCs from the Development/Construction sector (and the Business/Commercial sector) must come through the National Pillar, i.e. Chambers Ireland, and the CIF cannot nominate directly onto the SPC's. Furthermore the Draft SPC Scheme provides for only one representative from the Development/Construction sector, to sit on the Planning, Environment & Emergency Services SPC. Given the broad range of sectoral interests to be represented across the 4 SPC's it is not considered possible to accommodate a second development/construction representative. The CIF will be advised that their nominations must come through the National Pillar and the relevant contact details for that Pillar i.e. Chambers Ireland will be provided.

Submission No. 5: Jim Penders, Chairperson Leitrim Residents Association Network

The Leitrim Residents Associations Network would like to endorse and support the changes as proposed. The Network is requesting however that Leitrim County Council consider the possibility of allowing two representatives from their organisation, one from the North of the county and the other from the South. This would also allow them to nominate both a male & female representative. The Network thanks the Council for taking on board their view regarding the need to nominate someone directly onto the SPC, without being compelled to also sit on Leitrim Community Forum.

Response to Submission:

The Leitrim Residents Association Network represents Local Authority Residents Associations within the County and has been identified as one of the specific relevant interests/sectors to be represented on the Housing & Corporate Services SPC. Given the broad range of sectoral interests to be represented across the 4 SPC's it is not considered possible to accommodate a second Leitrim Residents Association Network representative.

Conclusion:

Having considered the submissions and observations received the Corporate Policy Group is recommending the Draft SPC Scheme to the members for adoption without amendment.

The SPC Scheme is listed on the Agenda for adoption at the November Council Meeting. Following adoption by Leitrim County Council of the new SPC Scheme, with or without amendment, nominations will be sought for representatives to the SPCs. A period of one month will be allowed for receipt of nominations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Maguire', written over a horizontal line.

Jackie Maguire,
County Manager,
AMcG



LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT SERVICE

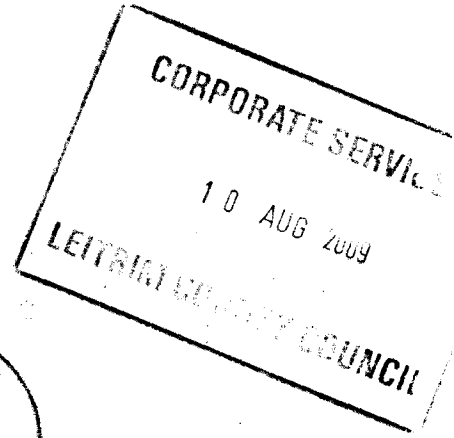
Statutory Audit Report

to the

Members of Leitrim County Council

for the

Year Ended 31 December 2008



Comhshaol, Oidhreachta agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Heritage and Local Government

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AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

1 Introduction

1.1 I have completed the statutory audit of the accounts of Leitrim County Council for the year ended 31 December 2008. My audit opinion on the Annual Financial Statement (AFS) of the Council, is qualified in respect of a number of accounting transactions, and also contains an emphasis of matter paragraph in relation to the current provision for bad debts. It is stated on Page 5 of the AFS.

1.2 This report is issued in accordance with Section 120 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

2. Main Issues

Attention is drawn to the following main issues in this report:

- The Council has reported a deficit of €301k for the year ending 31st December 2008. Furthermore the 2009 budget has been balanced on the basis of achieving substantial savings from a new early retirement scheme. It is uncertain as to whether or not these savings will be achieved.

Manager's response:

- *When Leitrim County Council prepared its budget for 2009 it was balanced on the basis that payroll savings of €400k would be achieved through a Voluntary Severance Scheme. This was outlined in the budget book when submitted to the Members and subsequently adopted. The Voluntary Severance Scheme which was in place at that time generated sufficient interest to indicate that these savings could be achieved. However as the conditions of the scheme have now changed it is unlikely that such savings are achievable. Considerable effort has and continues to be made to reduce all other costs where possible. All temporary contracts have been terminated. Plant, Machinery Hire and materials were re advertised in April and savings of up to 10% have been achieved in some cases. The contract for the mobile phones was re-tendered and significant savings are anticipated by the award of the tender to Vodafone. Stationery and electricity are currently being tendered. Many programmes in Community and enterprise have been withdrawn and reductions in contributions to community based projects have been implemented. These cutbacks and savings may well have allowed Leitrim County Council to stay within Budget for 2009. However recent further reductions in the LGF of 3.22% will make this very difficult.*

- I have issued a qualified audit opinion on the County Councils 2008 AFS in respect of the following transactions that do not comply with the provisions of the Code of Practice and Accounting regulations.

1. Provision has been made in the accounts for €4.620m relating to commitments due relating to water and waste water projects, and road projects. This will be partially funded by development contributions and partially funded by loans drawn down by Leitrim County Council. This is not in accordance with the accounting code of practice that requires that provision should not be made in the Annual financial statements in respect of the associated commitments/liabilities for the spending of development contributions.

Manager's response:

- *A total of €3m of the €4.62m which is the subject of this qualification relates to commitments already made on signed contracts for water and waste water projects. Contracts valued at €38m were signed in 2008 on these projects. They were signed on the basis that they would be funded by a combination of Grants, Development Contributions, loans and other funding from CLAR and Roscommon County Council. Following extensive discussions with the Department on the issue of water pricing, agreement was reached on what proportion of the project would be funded by Development Contributions and Loans. We are still awaiting Department approval to our Loan request. Since the initial request was submitted a further increase in costs has been agreed with the Department which will increase our loan requirements and they (the Department) have been advised in June of this fact. Given that Leitrim County Council are financially and contractually committed to these contracts The Council believe that the financial accounts accurately reflect the financial position.*
- *The remaining €1.6m of the €4.62m which has been accrued relates to commitments on road projects which are to be funded out of Development Contributions. The Council believe that the recording of this accrual is in accordance with the requirements of Circular Fin 06/2008 which allows a Local Authority to expand note 11(c) to include the estimate of future commitments relating to Development Contribution balances.*

- *The Council agree that The Accounting Code of Practice (ACOP) needs to be applied but would draw attention to the fact that "The overriding requirement remains that the AFS presents fairly the financial position and transactions of the Authority" In addition to complying with the ACOP the AFS must comply with general accounting standards including the fundamental concept of prudence where proper allowance is made for known liabilities.*
2. A sum of €526k has been classified in the balance sheet as capital expenditure. An analysis of this indicates that it relates to revenue type expenditure that was wrongly charged as capital expenditure. This sum should be recharged to the revenue account.

Manager's response:

- *The salary expenditure currently coded to these jobs has in previous years been charged to the Housing Capital jobs to which they relate in line with Department Guidelines. The changed economic circumstances have reduced the capacity of the Council to absorb these costs. While there is a reduced Housing Capital Building Programme some of these costs will be recovered in 2009. Leitrim County Council is not currently in a position to charge these costs to the Revenue Account in a single year.*
- An emphasis of matter paragraph has been included in the accounts in respect of the level of bad debt provision. This is further highlighted in paragraph 6.

3. Financial Performance

3.1 The Income and Expenditure Account with comparative figures for the previous year may be summarised as follows:

	2008	2007
	€000	€000
Expenditure	47,539	43,977
Income	<u>47,209</u>	<u>44,962</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers	(330)	985
Transfers from / (to) Reserves	<u>29</u>	<u>(969)</u>
Overall Surplus /(Deficit) for Year	(301)	16
Opening Balance at 1 st January	<u>240</u>	<u>224</u>
Closing Balance at 31 st December	<u>(61)</u>	<u>240</u>

4. Financial Standing

4.1 The Balance Sheet shows net assets of €953m at 31 December 2008, consisting of the following:

	2008	2007
	€000	€000
Fixed Assets	826,260	821,973
Work In Progress and Preliminary Expenses	119,510	89,727
Long Term Debtors	10,240	10,037
Net Current Assets	13,910	23,312
Long Term Creditors	<u>(16,271)</u>	<u>(16,392)</u>
Net Assets	<u>953,649</u>	<u>928,657</u>
Financed by:		
Capitalisation Account	826,261	821,973
Income WIP	119,643	83,090
Specific Revenue Balance	956	956
General Revenue Balance	(61)	241
Other Balances	<u>6,850</u>	<u>22,397</u>
Total Reserves	<u>953,649</u>	<u>928,657</u>

4.2 Fixed Assets

The value of fixed assets after accounting for depreciation increased from €822m to €826m. The main reason for the increase was the transfer, from work in progress, of the costs associated with completed housing assets.

4.3 Cash Position

The decrease in bank investments of €4m was mainly attributable to capital expenditure on water and sewerage projects that amounted to €4.320 m for the year ended 31st December 2008.

4.4 Net Current Asset Position

Net Current Assets decreased from €23m at the end of 2007 to €14m at the end of 2008.

This is due to two main reasons:

- A reduction in development contributions received versus amounts spent of €3.7m

- Commitments included in accounts relating to development contributions amounting to €4.620m

4.5 Other Balances

Included in other balances are a number of unfunded capital projects, the balances on which, totalled €2m at the end of 2008.

Manager's response:

This balance has increased by €206k and relates to the 10% cost of Broadband which the Local Authority had to fund from its own resources. This balance is being written off to the Revenue Account over a period of 10 years.

4.6 Leitrim Leisure Centre:

This project was undertaken as part of a public private partnership in conjunction with a number of investors. The terms of the partnership requires Leitrim County council to pay a sum of €6.1m in 2018 to the investors. This is further explained in appendix 8 of the accounts. It also requires the payment of financial charges that will fluctuate in line with interest rates. The financial charges are currently in excess of €290k per year. This money will have to be provided from the council's own resources.

Manager's response:

- *Under the current arrangements 13 Investors own the Leisure Centre. The accounts of Leitrim County Council reflect the financial charges incurred each year in funding the value of the loan which is the subject of the Put and Call option in 2018. In addition a Capital sum of almost €2m is on deposit which will part fund the Put and Call option in 2018. This balance is reflected in the Long Term Debtors of the accounts.*

5. Capital Account

5.1 The Capital Account records income and expenditure in respect of the acquisition and provision of assets related to services provided by the Council. It has been de-aggregated with the various accounts included under relevant account headings in the Balance Sheet.

5.2 A summary of the transactions on the capital account, with comparative figures for 2007 is as follows:

	2008	2007
	€000	€000
Expenditure (Including Transfers)	41,630	63,167
Income (Including Transfers)	<u>32,513</u>	<u>64,637</u>
Outturn for the year	(9,117)	1,470
Opening Balance Favorable /(Adverse)	<u>21,661</u>	<u>20,191</u>
Closing Balance Favorable /(Adverse)	<u>12,544</u>	<u>21,661</u>

The capital account tends to fluctuate depending on funding arrangements and the state of completion on the various projects:

In the 2007 audit I recommended that management conduct a complete review of capital projects in advance of next years audit. Substantial work has been performed here, but additional work is still required.

It is essential that:

- Controls be reviewed regarding the monitoring of capital projects
- All un-funded balances be clearly identified
- Deviations from tendering procedures were noted in isolated instances relating to the purchase of small value items. Any deviation from tendering procedures should be clearly identified with detailed explanations as to reason why

Manager's response:

- *Significant work was undertaken during 2008 in reviewing the Capital Balances. This work will continue into 2009 as it was never anticipated that the full review would be completed within the year given the availability of resources.*
- *Details of Capital Balances are distributed to the relevant sections each month and are reviewed with Finance (hereafter). There are also incorporated into the financial Reports which are distributed to the Management Team on a monthly basis.*
- *Where Capital projects are tendered such tenders are never deviated from unless there is a problem with the individual carrying out the works and this is done with the approval of the Dept.*
- *There may be deviations from the LA quotes system in terms of plant, machinery Hire and materials. These deviations would only arise where those on the list were unable to supply the goods and services at the time or where it was felt better value for money could be*

achieved by obtaining quotations for working on the complete job as opposed to continuous hire etc.

5.5 Three Year Capital Programme Report

A report on the programme of capital projects proposed by the authority for the year under review and the following two years was prepared and submitted to the members of the Council in accordance with section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001.

6. Summary of Major Revenue Collections

6.1 The percentage yields from the main revenue collection accounts were as follows:

	2008	2007
Rates	91%	94%
Rents and Annuities	95%	93%
Housing loans	80%	78%
Commercial water	38%	63%

Collection percentages in respect of the above areas decreased in relation to rates, and decreased significantly in relation to water charges from 63% to 38%.

6.2 Bad debt provision

Emphasis of matter

An emphasis of matter paragraph has been included in the audit opinion expressing concern in relation to the level of bad debt provision included in the accounts

Collection of commercial water charges decreased from 63% in 2007 to 38% in 2008. This represents a very significant decrease in collection. Doubtful debtors were also identified in other areas such as rates. The level of bad debt provision remained constant at €61k, despite the deterioration in collection performance. An emphasis of matter paragraph has been included in the accounts expressing concern in this area.

Manager's response:

The deterioration in the collection performance was not entirely related to uncollectible accounts or bad debts. The poor collection was to a large extent the result of inadequate emphasises and resources invested in pursuing account. This situation has been corrected in 2009. Any accounts which are considered uncollectible are written off during the year.

7. Specific Matters

7.1 Development Contributions

The council is currently working in accordance with the Local Government Computer Services Board in developing a debtors management system for recording all aspects of development contributions.

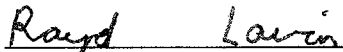
The council collected in excess of €1.3m in development contributions in 2008. This is a significant fall from 2007, when €2.8m was collected.

Manager's response:

The reduced collection is a reflection of the current economic circumstances. A significant amount of work has been done in the area of Development Contributions to improve collections.

8. Acknowledgement

- 8.1 I wish to record my appreciation for the courtesy and co-operation extended to the audit team by the management and staff of the Council.


Raymond Lavin B.A. (A.C.A) Dip IFRS
Local Government Auditor
30 June 2009

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATROMA

*Áras an Chontae,
Cora Droma Ruisc.*

27th October 2009

***Cathaoirleach agus gach Ball
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATROMA***

**RE: Item No. 5 on Agenda for Council Meeting – 2nd November 2009
Leitrim County Vocational Education Committee**

Dear Councillor,

I wish to advise you that in accordance with the Vocational Education (Amendment) Act, 2001 and Regulations made thereunder, Leitrim County Council may appoint four VEC members, two male and two female, after consultation with the persons elected to the VEC by Leitrim County Council, parents and VEC staff. The four VEC members are to come from persons nominated by such bodies as, in the opinion of the Council concerned, are representative of:

1. Students
2. Trustees of community colleges maintained by the VEC
3. Members of staff of the VEC other than members of staff belonging to the same class of member of staff as either of the staff elected
4. Voluntary organisations, community organisations, Irish language interests or
5. Persons carrying on in places within the VEC area concerned, trades, professions or commercial or industrial activities

An advert will be placed in the Leitrim Observer in the coming weeks inviting nominations from bodies representative of the above relevant interests. Following receipt of nominations, a consultation meeting will be organised by Leitrim County Council with the VEC members elected by the local authority, parents and VEC Staff respectively. (The process of electing members representing eligible parents and eligible staff to VEC's is currently ongoing with the counting of votes scheduled to take place on Saturday 7th November 2009). Regulations provide that the appointments by Leitrim County Council can be made only at the next scheduled meeting of the Local Authority following the holding of this consultation meeting.

Yours sincerely,

**Aideen McGovern,
Senior Executive Officer,
Housing & Corporate Services.**