Agenda Item No. 2 of the January Council Meeting to be held on 9th January, 2017.


This report is being presented to the Council in accordance with the requirements of Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended. The report sets out in summary fashion progress made in relation to commitments set down in the Council’s Corporate Plan for the period 2014-2019. The report specifically highlights the progress made during 2016 and follows the same format as the Corporate Plan itself.

Economic Development

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

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

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) completed the preparation of the Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) at the end of 2015 and it was adopted by Leitrim County Council in January, 2016. The plan was formally launched by Minister Simon Coveney in September, 2016 at the National Ploughing Championships in Tullamore.
Following joint consultations in several locations across the county, the Leitrim Local Development Strategy was finalised and recommended for submission by the LCDC. Approval for the LDS was received in July and a contract was signed with the Dept of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht between LCDC, Leitrim County Council and Leitrim Development Company in July. In addition, the Rural Development Operational Committee has met to develop the policies and procedures in relation to the rollout of the LEADER Programme. The Programme was officially launched on 28th October, 2016 by Minister Michael Ring in Carrick on Shannon. Initial Expressions of Interest were opened for certain targeted calls in the areas of tourism and social inclusion with a closing date of 9th December, 2016. The Expressions of Interest were reviewed and approved as appropriate at the LCDC meeting on 16th December, 2016.

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

Leitrim County Council continued to facilitate the Upper-Shannon-Erne Business initiative, which has 6 key partners – local authorities of Leitrim, Longford, Cavan and Roscommon as well as Bord na Mona and ESB. The Upper Shannon-Erne Future Economy Project has progressed a number of initiatives in 2016.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Infrastructural Development**

Our Non-National Roads Budget for 2016 was €8.3m. While this was an increase on the 2015 budget it did include €2.0m for works on roads damaged as a result of the storms in December, 2015. A total of 39km of road was surface dressed and 62km of road strengthened in 2016.
In terms of our National Road network, the construction of Phase II of the N16 Cornacloy to Sadrine Realignment Scheme continued in 2016 with an expected completion date of March 2017. Planning approval was obtained for the realignment of 1.4km of the N16 at Drummahan.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Council continued to support the Tidy Towns Committees across the County with a workshop for all in April 2016, financial support through the GMA and assistance from the area structures on an ongoing basis.

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

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

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

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

• Drumshanbo, Leitrim Village, Carrigallen and Ballinamore Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades have progressed through the planning phase in 2016.

Tourism

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

A comprehensive marketing campaign took place from May to July promoting Leitrim to the domestic market, the theme of the campaign, ‘Creating Memories in Leitrim’ included activities such as national and regional radio, bus advertising, press and digital as well as social media.

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

Under the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme Leitrim is a partner with 6 other countries to develop the concept of Slow Adventure Tourism. The project is mainly research based with a focus on assisting relevant SMEs within the slow adventure product area to market themselves, meet other similar providers and share ideas/experiences. As part of our pilot project we hosted a tour to Derry to meet with SMEs also engaged with Slow Adventure Tourism.

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

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

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

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

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

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

High Quality Sustainable Living Environment

Planning & Sustainable Development

- The Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021 suite of documents was published in February.
- The Planning Department prepared a new County Leitrim Development Contributions Scheme (2016-2019) which was adopted at the November Council meeting.
- Work is well underway on the preparation of the Progress ‘Manor 2020’ land use strategy as provided for in ‘To the Waters and the Wild: A Plan for the Manorhamilton Rural Economic Development Zone.
- Work is presently underway on the preparation of the 2 year progress report on achieving the objectives of the County Development Plan 2015-2021 and in the preparation of a variation to the County Development Plan to incorporate the requirements of the Vacant Site Levy.
- The Council continued to progress the resolution of unfinished estates in 2016 with all relevant stakeholders. 5 housing developments have been taken in charge by Leitrim County Council in 2016 although a significant number will be advertised soon as part of the National Taking in Charge Initiative. 11 no. developments will be taken in charge as part of this initiative and the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government provided funding of €101,950 for works to these estates and €50,000 towards funding for a special project relating to the engagement of legal counsel to advise in relation to ‘non-recompense’ bonds.
- The Heritage Officer Programme continued in 2016. A very successful Heritage Week (20 – 28 August) saw events held across the County with widespread promotion of information and activities - A comprehensive National Heritage Week - The County Leitrim Event Booklet was produced. In addition, the Heritage Officer has carried out strategic, operational, promotional, co-ordination and facilitation roles including advice, appraisal, community liaison and public relations. The frequency of publication of the Heritage Matters newsletter increased significantly and is a valuable resource to the promotion of heritage across the county.
Leitrim County Council issued a Letter of Offer to 6 no. successful applicants who have been approved for funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2016 and 2 no. successful applicants who were approved funding under the Structures at Risk Fund 2016.

Grant funding from the Heritage Council was approved for Leitrim County Council’s continued involvement in the regional Black Pig Dykes project. This trebles the local contribution made to the project by Leitrim County Council for 2016.

The Planning Authority sought further potential applicants to take part in the pilot scheme to facilitate testing of Zero Discharge Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Systems in Co. Leitrim.

A total of 70 pre-planning meetings took place in 2016 and 165 valid planning applications have been received during 2016 (to 10/12/2016) which is 5 more valid applications than had been received by the same date in 2015. 24 of the applications lodged were for commercial developments. Planning permission was granted for a new Gael Scoil on a 1.2 acre site at Aghameeney, Carrick on Shannon, for a significant extension to the manufacturing facility at Jetwash International at Carrigallen and for a Primary Medical Centre in Townparks, Carrick-on-Shannon. Planning permission was also granted for a large convenience store at Attyfinlay and Attyrory, Carrick-on-Shannon but is presently the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanàla. A further 60 applications were received during 2016 which were deemed invalid which is a slight increase on the comparable number received in 2015 (56 applications).

**RMCEI PLAN**

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

**DWWTS**

The Water Services (Amendment) Act, 2012 provided for the introduction of a registration and inspection system for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWWTS’s). The Environment Department completed 30 of these inspections in 2016. Water Services continued to maintain the water and waste water plants to the highest standards within the resources available from Irish Water, ensuring that all plants were EPA compliant.

**CFRAMS**

Active participation was continued with the OPW and their Consulting Engineers as part of the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies (CTRAM’s).

- A Stakeholder Workshop took place with OPW/Jacobs Engineering in Athlone on Wednesday 25th May, 2016 on Preliminary Options Report Stage.


- The North Western – Neagh Bann CFRAM Draft Flood Risk Management Plan was on public display from Friday 19th August to Friday 28th October, 2016.

- The Western CFRAM Draft Flood Risk Management Plan was on public Display from Tuesday 13th September to Tuesday 22nd November, 2016.
The OPW/Consultants made a presentation to the Elected Members on Monday 5th September, 2016 on the Draft Flood Risk Management Plans. This was followed by a Public Consultation day in County Buildings on Tuesday 6th September, 2016 hosted by the OPW and the Consultants, where the public were encouraged to make submissions on the Draft FRMP.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Over the summer months, the Environment Department commenced a process of encouraging Event Organisers to ‘green’ their festivals and events. Work in this regard took place with the inaugural Lough Rynn Regatta, the Taste of Carrick, Ballinamore and Manorhamilton Agricultural Shows.
The Keeping Leitrim Lovely re-useable jute bags were launched as part of National Re-use Month at the end of October and proved to be very popular.

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

**Emergency Services**

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

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

**Quality Housing**

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

The Statutory Assessment of Housing Need was completed in September, 2016 which required a detailed review of all approved housing applicants. On completion of the detailed assessment the net need identified was 367 households deemed qualified for and in need of social housing support.
The Housing Assistance Payment scheme commenced in Leitrim County Council on 1st December, 2016. The introduction of HAP means that Leitrim County Council will now have a further instrument to provide housing assistance for households who qualify for social housing support to live in the private rented sector, and meet long term housing need.

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

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

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

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

An Inclusive County

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

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

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

Leitrim Age Friendly Alliance continued its work. The three year plan 2014 – 2016 was completed and reviewed by the Alliance. Work commenced towards the end of the year on the preparation of a new three year plan for 2017 – 2019. This will include work to designate Manorhamilton as the second age friendly town in Leitrim, Mohill being the first.
Leitrim again entered three communities in Pride of Place in 2016, one from each Municipal District. The three: Carrick on Shannon (population 2,000 to 5,000), Rossinver (population under 300) and Drumshanbo Community Council (Community Enterprise – Business) each presented an excellent entry and there was no surprise when Carrick on Shannon and Drumshanbo Community Council won runner up prizes at the awards event in The Waterfront in Belfast.

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

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

The Leitrim Joint Policing Committee met on four occasions in 2016. A Sub-Committee of the JPC was established to examine the night-time economy in Carrick-on-Shannon. The JPC Sub-Committee recommended the introduction of Drinking Bye-laws for Carrick-on-Shannon, however, following further review it was agreed to defer the proposed introduction of the Bye-laws for a 12-month period and that more regular stakeholder engagement would be progressed in order to examine the issues associated with the night-time economy.

The Council’s Sports and Recreation Department continued to deliver, in conjunction with Leitrim Sports Partnership, an ever expanding range of sports and recreational activities and coaching. Work continued in primary and secondary schools throughout the County. Programmes included Sports hall athletics, Kidz on the Run, TY Kayaking, Girls active for Post Primary Girls and many more. Leitrim Sports Partnership delivered the North and South Leitrim Sports Forum meetings for local sports clubs and community groups. The meetings were to discuss local issues affecting clubs, exploring potential club development initiatives for clubs, and ways the LSP can support the clubs going forward. A number of other Workshops were also delivered e.g. Code of Ethics Workshop and Ag Sugradh le Cheile Workshops. The Community Coaching Multi-Sport programme was also delivered in 6 primary schools with 222 children benefiting from the programme. The sixth annual Leitrim Sports Star Awards Night took place on 26th November, 2016 in the Landmark Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon with guest of honour the former Republic of Ireland soccer player Mr. Packie Bonner. Leitrim Native and Olympian Breege Connolly was the overall winner of the Leitrim Sports Star of the Year on a night that celebrated the great achievements of Leitrim sportspeople in a wide variety of sports and activities. The Hall of Fame Recipient was Mr. Joe Flynn.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leitrim County Council Arts Office continued to support arts venues and festivals throughout the county. Artist’s Studios developed by Leitrim County Council at Drumshanbo Library are now occupied by Artist Kate Wilson and Writer Gerry Boland. As part of their tenancy, the two Artists are working with different groups in the community encouraging wider access and participation in the Arts.

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

The current SPARK Programme has Visual Artist Tinka Bechert resident at Prior PLM Medical in Carrick-on-Shannon. SPARK is currently the subject of a study by the University of Limerick into the role of the Arts in business which is due for publication later this year.
In the film sector Leitrim, Roscommon and Sligo local authorities came together to develop a joint initiative in film development. Together with representatives of the film sector from the three counties, we have developed an ambitious blueprint for how to support local filmmakers.

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

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

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

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

**Maximising Operational and Organisational Capacity**

**Supporting the Elected Member**

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

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

**Staff Learning & Development**

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

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

**Managing Risk & Resources**

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

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

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

**Quality Customer Services**

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

In September, 2016, an Internal Communications Working Group was established to examine the internal communication within the organisation. The Group will be presenting their recommendations on how communication channels within the organisation can be improved early in the New Year. We continued to maximise the use the Council’s social media channels on facebook and twitter to engage with the public with regular updates and postings on all of the Council’s activities. As part of the continued enhancement of the Customer Services Desk a new telephone console system was installed. The new system has increased functionality which assists the Customer Services Agents with call handling. The system also provides real-time information to callers of their approximate waiting time and they also have the option of requesting a call back if there is a high volume of calls.
Conclusion
The foregoing achievements were made possible through the combined efforts of the Elected Members and Staff of this Authority and I wish to sincerely thank the Members and Staff for their efforts and support in achieving very considerable progress achieved in 2016 notwithstanding the challenging operating environment. I look forward to working with you the Elected Members to continue to provide a high quality service to all our customers and to working with all stakeholders in order to develop County Leitrim as a vibrant and attractive County for people to live, work, invest and visit.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Curran
Chief Executive
Appendix 2 - 9th Jan 2017

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATROMA

Áras an Chontae,
Corra Droma Ruisc.

3rd January, 2017

Cathaoirleach agus gach Ball
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATROMA

Agenda Item No 6 of the January Council Meeting to be held on Monday 9th January, 2017.

RE: Capital Programme for the forthcoming 3 years

Dear Member,

In accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended the Council must, at the beginning of each financial year, receive an updated report of the planned Capital Programme for the forthcoming three years. The Programme must be prepared having regard to the resources likely to be available to the Local Authority on the basis of a realistic and prudent assessment of the position, on the basis of the information available at the time and having regard to the measures proposed by the Local Authority to raise funding itself.

**Housing & Building:**

The Housing Capital Programme for the three year period 2015-2017 will see a continuation of the Construction / Acquisition Programme in line with the Government’s published Housing Strategy ‘Social Housing Strategy 2020: Support, Supply and Reform’, in addition to the continuation of the investment in the upgrading of the Council’s existing stock, funded through a combination of Departmental funding and Leitrim County Council own resources (Internal Capital Receipts and Part V).

The Government’s vision as outlined in the Social Housing Strategy is that every household will have access to secure, good quality housing suited to their needs at an affordable price in a sustainable community. In 2016 the Government published a more intensified action plan for housing and homelessness entitled ‘Rebuilding Ireland’. This strategy is a five pillar approach with an ambitious target of delivering 47,000 social housing units nationwide by 2021 accelerate housing supply in this country, and tackling the country’s housing shortage. This action-driven plan targets a significant increase in the delivery of homes nationwide. The five pillars of this ambitious plan focus on the needs of homeless people and families in emergency accommodation, accelerates the provision of social housing, delivers more housing, utilises vacant homes and improves the rental sector. The plan sets a target to provide 47,000 new social housing units nationally by 2021.

The action plan is structured under five key pillars which can be summarised as follows:

- **Pillar 1 – Address Homelessness**
  Provide early solutions to address the unacceptable level of families in emergency accommodation; deliver inter-agency supports for people who are currently homeless, with a particular emphasis on minimising the incidence of rough sleeping and enhance State supports to keep people in their own homes.

- **Pillar 2 – Accelerate Social Housing**
  Increase the level and speed of delivery of social housing and other State-supported housing.

- **Pillar 3 – Build More Homes**
  Increase the output of private housing to meet demand at affordable prices.

- **Pillar 4 – Improve the Rental Sector**
Address the obstacles to greater private rented sector delivery, to improve the supply of units at affordable rents.

- **Pillar 5 – Utilise Existing Housing**
  
  Ensure that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible - focusing on measures to use vacant stock to renew urban and rural areas.

Many of these actions are inter-related and inter-dependent. In outlining the actions, this Action Plan contains key targets and deadlines for delivery by a number of Government Departments, local authorities and other bodies.

- In April 2015 Leitrim County Council received details from The Minister for Environment Community and Local Government on delivery targets under a range of housing programmes out to 2017 broken down between capital and current programmes and how funding will be attached to that delivery. The target of units set for delivery under these programmes in the period 2015 – 2017 is 119 housing units at an estimated cost of delivery (current and capital) of **€4.4m**. 20 units are being targeted for delivery under the Capital Programmes encompassing Construction, Acquisition including Part V acquisition, Capital Assistance Scheme and Return of Void Properties for the period 2015 to 2017 with a provisional capital allocation of **€3.6m**.

**Local Authority Construction & Acquisition (Social Housing Investment Programme)**

**Construction - Taobh Tire, Manorhamilton:** This project to construct an additional 7 units of social housing has received Stage 2 approval from the Department. Detailed design and tender documentation are now complete and the project awaits Department approval prior to going to tender in December 2016. Construction works are anticipated to commence in April 2017. Approved construction costs have now been set at approx. €1m.

**Acquisition**

Leitrim has achieved very significant value for money and high quality social housing supply with an acquisition approach that seized upon market conditions and a mixed tenure strategy in the provision of additional social housing. In 2015, No. Family Type Houses were purchased by Leitrim County Council in Carrick on Shannon which is the area of greatest need and one of which was facilitated through the Housing Agency acquisitions portfolio. With the provision of additional funding in 2016 an accelerated acquisition programme has been achieved with the following acquisitions throughout the County in 2016. One of 2016 acquisitions has again been facilitated through the Housing Agency acquisitions portfolio.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>No. 4 bed semi-D</th>
<th>No. 3 bed semi-D</th>
<th>No. 4 bed Detached</th>
<th>No. 3 bed Detached</th>
<th>3 bed Bungalow</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ballinamore</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drumshanbo</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>25</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Voids & Derelicts**

Under the Voids Programme in 2015, a total of 9 No. Social Housing Units were returned to productive use at a total cost of €286,327 and €177,474 was received from the Department.

In 2016, the Council made a number of comprehensive submissions to the Department to maximise the available funding to complete the reinstatement to useful service of void and derelict units countywide. This has resulted in the return to productive use of 52 units. The overall cost of refurbishing these properties was in the order of €1 Million and it is anticipated that 70% to 75% will be received from the Department. The balance will funded through Internal Capital Receipts and Part V receipts. Funding up to a maximum of €30,000 per unit is available, subject to limits on individual aspects of works, and provision is made for match funding to be provided from the Council’s Internal Capital Receipts to meet costs over and above those individual work aspect limits or to fund necessary works which are outside of the scope of eligible works.

This now presents the Council with 52 additional productive properties spread throughout the County in what will be the most comprehensive void refurbishment in any one year therefore significantly reducing the Council’s vacant properties requiring extensive repair and refurbishment works. The units by area are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<th>2 bed</th>
<th>3 bed</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manorhamilton/Kinlough</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drumkeerin/Dromahaire</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>52</strong></td>
</tr>
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**Capital Assistance Schemes**

CAS Construction - Approval was received in February 2016 for a project led by St. Vincent de Paul Ballinamore for demolition of derelict properties and site preparation in Cannaboe Terrace, Ballinamore and the construction of two family type two storey dwellings on the site. Construction costs of €322,280 have been approved, detailed design and tender documentation are now complete and the project awaits Department approval prior to going to tender in December 2016. Construction works are anticipated to commence in March 2017.

CAS Acquisition - Two properties in Carrick-on-Shannon were acquired by North West Simon in late 2015 / early 2016 through a Capital Assistance Scheme funded by the Department through Leitrim County Council. These properties have been refurbished and are ready for use. The Council is currently in the process of nominating tenants for these properties.

The Council will have 100% tenancy nomination rights on all these CAS scheme properties from the Housing Waiting List.

**Current Units**

- In addition to the capital programme, Leitrim County Council will continue with our ongoing implementation of the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme (previously Social Housing Leasing Initiative (SHLI) and the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) as enablers for the Council to meet the longer term needs of households on the housing list. Targets as set out for Leitrim by the Department of Environment Community and Local Government and achievements to date in these areas are as follows:
Appendix 2 - 9th Jan 2017

Supply issues and acceleration in the private rented sector in a number of locations are impacting on ability to meet these targets.

**Housing Assistance Payment**

The Housing Assistance Payment scheme is commencing in Leitrim County Council on 1st December 2016. The introduction of HAP means that Leitrim County Council will now have a further instrument to provide housing assistance for households who qualify for social housing support to live in the private rented sector, and meet long term housing need. Anyone qualified for social housing support from 1st December is ineligible for Rent Supplement and the Council is currently working with the local Department of Social Protection office to structure the referral to the Council to initiate the HAP process for qualifying applicants.

**Energy Efficiency**

A programme aimed at improving Energy Efficiency in Local Authority Housing Stock was introduced in 2009 by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government targeted at bringing the entire housing stock up to a ‘comfortable living’ baseline standard and works including attic and cavity wall insulation, draught proofing and ventilation upgrades (Phase 1 works). The programme has operated on a year on year rolling basis where significant energy efficiency works have lead to better quality efficient houses across approx 96% of Leitrim County Councils housing stock with 153 units having been completed in 2016 with costs in the order of €173,000 subsidised by the Department. The Programme is currently 100% funded by the Department and more extensive energy efficiency upgrades (Phase II works including window - door replacement and external insulation) under the ongoing rolling programme will be completed on the remainder of the Council Housing stock in 2017.

- With a continued energy efficiency focus Leitrim County Council in cooperation with Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Better Energy Communities in recent years has undertaken extensive energy retrofitting projects on suitable housing stock in Council ownership, this has resulted in enhanced works such as zoned heating control in 43 of Leitrim County Council's housing stock in Manorhamilton and Carrick on Shannon. Also under this programme Leitrim County Council technical department enhanced the energy efficiency in a number of Council buildings and supported community groups and private property owners in achieving similar works on their properties. This consisted of 4 private houses with fuel poor and non-fuel poor homes, a further 10 no private homes were completed under a joint LEO-Credit Union Initiative Scheme and also 3 no Community beneficiary’s projects consisting of a Community Centre and 2 no school. In total SEAI subsidised Leitrim County Council and its Beneficiaries with a grant of €283,964.33 towards eligible costs of €691,903.78.

- **Disability Adaptation Works**

  These works are carried out to Council housing stock where necessary in order to render the dwelling more suitable to the particular needs of the tenant, with typical works including, depending on the

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<th>Target</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<td>58</td>
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<table>
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<th>Target</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<th>2017</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAS Delivery Actual</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
individual circumstances, installation of level access showers, installation of rails in bathrooms, installation of ramp access to front/back doors, installation of oil heating systems or storage heating and associated works all of which are primarily associated with medical need and disability related. The funding for these works is based on the provision of 90% funding by the Department with the remaining 10% to be funded by Leitrim County Council Internal Capital receipts/Part V monies. In June the Council received confirmation of grant approval of €134,100 (90% funding) with €14,900 (10% from Council’s own resources) totalling €149,000 to complete identified works. Adaption works were completed on approx 17 units of housing stock in 2016.

**Traveller Accommodation**

- A new Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 was adopted in January 2014. While the Programme does not include for any traveller-specific construction projects, funding will be sought on a case by case basis for upgrade, refurbishment and extension works as required and a 2016 - 2017 project at Tawlaughtmore Mohill is being progressed for extensive refurbishment on a property. Furthermore the Council is well ahead of target in the provision of traveller accommodation under the 2014 - 2018 TAP and several of these outputs were achieved under capital and current social housing delivery as referred to above in this report.

**Planned Maintenance**

- The Council has implemented a significant Planned Maintenance Programme in our housing stock, funded through ICR’s and Part V receipts, in recent years and a similar provision of €70,000 will be made in 2017.

**Roads and Transportation:**
The Roads Capital Programme for the three year period 2017-2019 will comprise of improvement works on the National and Non-National Roads which will be funded by the Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the Department of Transport, based on allocations to be notified.

- The N16 Cornacloy to Sradrine Phase II project will be completed in the first quarter in 2017. This is the realignment of 2km of the N16.

- The N16 Drummahan Realignment scheme has received planning approval in 2016. It is the realignment of 1.4km of the N16. It is expected to complete the detailed design and associated documents for the construction contract in 2017. The completion of the construction will be subject to securing funding from the TII but we expect to have it completed by 2019.

- Leitrim County Council will continue to pursue similar improvement schemes on the N16 over the period of this report, including a proposed scheme at Munakill. It is expected to go to Planning Permission in 2017 subject to obtaining necessary funding.

- Leitrim County Council hope to progress the replacement of road pavement over the single carriageway section of the N4 with emphasis on the Drumsna Jamestown section, with the extent of works to be carried out each year dependent on funding.

- The Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Road Scheme is still suspended and it is doubtful if it will be resumed during the next three years.

- Non-National Roads projects activity will be based on allocations received each year from the Department of Transport. The Specific Improvement Grants Scheme remains discontinued and it is doubtful if it will be resumed during the next three years.
- Leitrim County Council has made application to the DTTAS for funding to carry out the upgrading or replacement of the following bridges:
  o Hartley Bridge
  o Rooskey Bridge
  o Lennox Bridge
  o Kilavoggy Bridge

- Funding for the construction of a Salt Barn in Manorhamilton is still being pursued with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

  The Council will continue to pursue a program of Active Travel Towns and town streetscape improvement. Currently funding is in place for footpath extensions in Mohill and Kinlough and also streetscape enhancements in Manorhamilton.

Rural Water

The Department of Environment announced a 3 year Multi Annual Rural Water Programme (2016 – 2018). The overall program submitted for Leitrim is detailed on the attached. The first allocation (i.e. for 2016) of €238,675 was received. This allocation will cover In relation to Group water Schemes, work under the following categories

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

In relation to Group Sewerage Schemes the allocation provides for the setting up of a Group Sewerage scheme where individual septic tanks are not a viable option particularly from an environmental perspective €95,175.

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

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

Further allocations will be announced for 2017 and 2018 later.

Water Services:

- Following the establishment of Irish Water, Leitrim County Council remains the water authority for group water and sewerage schemes. Funding for the upgrade of existing schemes or construction of new schemes has been reduced in recent years.

Environmental Services:

Leitrim County Council proposes to complete the following projects over the next three years, pursuant to our commitments under the Climate Change Strategy. Leitrim County Council will continue to manage and upgrade our existing Waste Management Infrastructure over the next three years and address legacy issues regarding historic closed landfills within the County subject to the support of the Department as follows
Appendix 2 - 9th Jan 2017

- Risk Assessment and Registration – Medium Risk Landfills - County Leitrim has six historic closed landfills which must be registered with the EPA. Three of these have already been assessed as “Medium” risk. It is proposed to complete works necessary to facilitate the registration of our three “Medium” risk sites over the next three years, namely Ballinamore, Kiltyclogher and Drumshanbo, subject to a scheme of funding being made available by the Department.

- The installation of weighbridges at Mohill and Manorhamilton Recycling Centres remains desirable and will be considered over the next three years.

Recreation and Amenity:
Leitrim Council will continue to prioritise the development of recreation and amenity infrastructure within the County as a means to support economic development and in particular, support the ongoing development of our tourism product. The following projects are proposed over the next three years:

- An application for funding for the construction of the SLNCR Greenway from Sligo to Manorhamilton has been made to Failte Ireland Major Grants Fund. If successful this will this will proceed through the Part 8 Public Consultation process with a view to being constructed by 2019.

- An application for funding for the construction of the Cavan Leitrim Greenway from Ballinamore to Belturbet has been made to Failte Ireland Major Grants Fund. If successful this will this will proceed through the Part 8 Public Consultation process with a view to being constructed by 2019.

- Funding is also being pursued for a Greenway from Leitrim Village to Carrick on Shannon to connect into the existing Blueway. If successful this will proceed through the Part 8 Public Consultation process with a view to being constructed by 2019.

- Funding has been received for a demonstration section of the SLNCR Greenway at Dromahaire and these works will be completed in 2017.

- Funding has been received for a 2.5 km demonstration section of the Cavan / Leitrim Greenway at Ballinamore and this project will proceed through the Part 8 Public Consultation process with a view to being constructed by 2017.

- Funding has been received by Leitrim County Council from the Recreational grants for the upgrading and re-routing of sections of the Leitrim Way Trail, and these works will be carried out in 2017 subject to the approval of the Part 8.

- A 2km section of the SLNCR Greenway at Glenfarne is currently under construction and will be opened to the public in 2017 following completion of the road scheme at this location

- Funding has been received by Leitrim County Council under the REDZ and CLAR programs which will help to enhance angling facilities and access to lakes for angling in the Ballinamore, Carraigallen, Drumshanbo and Ballinglera areas and all of these works will be completed in 2017.

- Funding has been received by Leitrim County Council under the Town and Village schemes for eight different town projects. Some of these relate to recreational projects, such as the refurbishment and upgrading of the Angling hub at Ballinamore which will be completed in 2017.
Leitrim County Council are continuing to source funding from different sources for many recreational projects and work in conjunction with other bodies on the development of some of these schemes such as the Blueways which is completed in partnership with Waterways Ireland and also with Coillte. Furthermore Leitrim County council are working with local groups on the progression and development of other trails through the county such as ARROO walk and Glenfarne Forest.

Following on from the recent construction of the new Launch Pontoon at Lough Rinn Recreational Facility, the next phase of the of this project will see the construction of the finishing tower and starting bridge (subject to Department agreement) The upgrade of the wastewater treatment system will also be undertaken. Funding will be pursued under the Sports Capital Programme for future phases of this project including completion of the starting facilities, enhanced access, parking and viewing areas for spectators along the course.

The Programme as set out above represents an ambitious programme of capital works over the coming three year period, much of which is contingent on the necessary funding being secured. Leitrim County Council is committed to actively pursuing the necessary resources to facilitate implementation of the projects detailed. Periodic reports will be presented to the Members as Programmes are progressed.

Yours sincerely

Frank Curran
Chief Executive
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<tr>
<th>SERVICE DIVISION</th>
<th>SERVICE</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
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<th>2019</th>
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<th>GRANTS</th>
<th>ICR’S/Part V</th>
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**Leitrim County Council Capital Programme 2017-2019**
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Cathaoirleach agus gach Ball
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATROMA

Re: Agenda Item No. 4: To consider resolution to enter into an agreement, under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 with Mayo County Council in respect of the upgrading of public lighting on the N4 Dromod/Rooskey By-Pass.

Dear Councillor,

I refer to Agenda Item No. 4 to be considered at the January Council Meeting. Please find enclosed for your reference and information a copy of a memo on this item as issued by Mr. Thomas Gilligan, Director of Services, Mayo County Council to the Cathaoirleach and Members of Mayo County Council.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Gilhooly
Director of Services,
Economic Development, Planning,
Environment and Infrastructure Department
**COMHAIRLE CONTAE MHAIGH EO**

**MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEMO**

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<th>TO:</th>
<th>Cathaoirleach &amp; Members of Mayo County Council</th>
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<td>FROM:</td>
<td>T. Gilligan, Director of Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>DATE:</td>
<td>29th November 2016</td>
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<td>RE:</td>
<td>TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE NATIONAL ROAD BYPASS NORTH WEST PUBLIC LIGHTING PROJECT</td>
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Transport Infrastructure have recently undertaken a business case for the upgrading of public lighting on national road bypasses in the North West region which includes Mayo.

The business case justified the economic benefits of undertaking the upgrading of the public lighting on these bypasses to LED technology.

The North West National Road Bypasses analysed under the business case are as follows:

- N4 Edgeworthstown Bypass
- N4 Dromod/Rooskey Bypass
- N4 Curlews Bypass
- N4 Longford Bypass
- N5 Longford Bypass
- N5 Charlestown Bypass
- N5 Ballaghaderreen Bypass
- N5 Swinford Bypass
- N5 Collooney/Sligo Inner Relief Road
- N17 Knock to Claremorris
- N15 Bundoran to Ballyshannon
- N15 Donegal Bypass

There are approximately 1,345 public lights involved in the project. The next phase of the project is the approval of a Consultant to undertake the required survey and design works leading to the preparation of contract documents. The Consultant would also be responsible for the supervision of all site works.
Because of the nature and scale of the works involved, Transport Infrastructure Ireland have requested one of the local authorities to act as a lead authority in the delivery of the project. I have agreed that Mayo County Council should act as the lead authority which will give valuable knowledge and experience for undertaking any further public lighting upgrading projects in the County.

The Consultant who will be undertaking all design, tender and supervision works will be appointed by Mayo County Council off the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Consultant Framework. All costs associated with the project will be fully funded by the TII.

Accordingly, under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 it will be necessary for Mayo County Council to enter into agreements with Longford County Council, Leitrim County Council, Roscommon County Council, Sligo County Council, and Donegal County Council for this public lighting project to be undertaken by Mayo County Council as the lead authority.

The making of the agreement under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 is a Reserved Function and is subject to adoption by Mayo County Council and all of the above local authorities.

The following Draft Resolution is recommended for adoption by the Council:

"That Mayo County Council hereby resolves to enter into an agreement with Longford, Leitrim, Roscommon, Sligo and Donegal County Councils under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 in respect of the upgrading of public lighting on the following bypasses - N4 Edgeworthstown Bypass; N4 Dromod/Rooskey Bypass; N4 Curlews Bypass; N4 Longford Bypass; N5 Longford Bypass; N5 Ballaghaderreen Bypass; N5 Collooney/Sligo Inner Relief Road; N15 Bundoran to Ballyshannon and N15 Donegal Bypass; whereby Mayo County Council will be enabled to undertake appropriate works in the above named counties"

T. Gilligan,
Director of Services
Vacant Site Levy

Leitrim County Council Meeting
9 January 2017
Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015

• Primary purpose
  To assist in addressing the housing supply shortage situation, stimulate increased activity in the construction sector and contribute to economic recovery

• Key provision
  Introduction of the Vacant Site Levy

• Objective
  To ensure that vacant or underutilised sites are brought back into use
The Problem of Vacant Sites

- Considerable number of vacant sites in towns and villages throughout the Country
- Unsightly, lower the tone and give negative impression of area
- Also attract anti-social behaviour
- Real need for Planning Authorities to address vacancy

- Situations where land and key sites zoned for development are held back by landowners contrary to the achievement of Development Plan objectives
Mandatory Establishment of a Vacant Site Register

Steps

• Preliminary assessment of number and location of potential vacant sites in functional area (min site size 0.05ha / 500m²)

• Report to Elected Members to make informed decision on application of levy in their areas

• Variation of Development Plan to revise Policy

• Establishing and Maintaining Register
Preliminary Steps

- Ensure the vacant site levy provisions are appropriately reflected in development planning process:
  - Include a specific objective in the Development Plan for the development of vacant sites in designated areas, and
  - Identify designated areas – either residential and/or regeneration land – where the levy will be applied

- Then identify individual vacant sites within those designated areas according to relevant criteria
Residential and/or Regeneration Land

The Vacant Site Levy can be applied on Residential and/or Regeneration Land.
The Vacant Site Levy can be applied on Residential Land – where

(i) the site is situated in an area in which there is a need for housing,

(ii) the site is suitable for the provision of housing, and

(iii) the site, or the majority of the site, is vacant or idle.
Applying the Levy on Regeneration Land

- The Vacant Site Levy can be applied on Regeneration Land where -
  (i) the site, or the majority of the site, is vacant or idle, and

  (ii) the site being vacant or idle has adverse effects on existing amenities or reduces the amenity provided by existing public infrastructure or has adverse affects on the character of the area.
Establishing a Housing Need

- In order to focus on the application of the legislation in Leitrim, it is required to establish whether there is a housing need.

- This is a forerunner to deciding how best to apply the legislation to our administrative area - whether the levy will apply to housing lands or whether the legislation applies to regeneration lands only at this time.
Core Strategy

- The Core Strategy of the County Development Plan 2015-2021 projected that 1,043 housing units would be built over the period of the plan of which 262 units would be in Carrick-on-Shannon.

- This equates to an annual projection of 174 housing units per annum for Co. Leitrim of which 44 units per annum would be in Carrick-on-Shannon.
House Commencements

Reaffirms the indications that apart from individual one off housing, there is no active domestic house construction presently occurring in the County

Construction Activity - House Commencements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Residential Units Commenced</th>
<th>One Off Units Commenced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Mar – Dec 2014</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan – Sept 2016</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
35 – 50 new housing units will be constructed per annum. This contrasts significantly to the level of activity in house construction in the middle of the last decade, where completions averaged at 1,126 for the three years 2005 -2007.
Figure 3.3 Housing Affordability by County
### Average Asking Prices

#### Q3 2015 - Q3 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Average Asking Price (€)</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WICKLOW</td>
<td>287,581</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KILDARE</td>
<td>232,139</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEATH</td>
<td>227,153</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KILKENNY</td>
<td>194,179</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORK CO.</td>
<td>192,598</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOUTH</td>
<td>185,421</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATERFORD CO.</td>
<td>183,336</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEXFORD</td>
<td>175,472</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GALWAY CO.</td>
<td>172,057</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KERRY</td>
<td>171,813</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WESTMEATH</td>
<td>164,786</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFFALY</td>
<td>156,999</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIMERICK CO.</td>
<td>156,783</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARLOW</td>
<td>156,677</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIPPERARY</td>
<td>155,533</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAOIS</td>
<td>152,242</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GALWAY CO.</td>
<td>149,999</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLARE</td>
<td>145,487</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONAGHAN</td>
<td>145,567</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAVAN</td>
<td>139,880</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DONEGAL</td>
<td>139,788</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAYO</td>
<td>137,587</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROSCOMMON</td>
<td>123,798</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIGO</td>
<td>122,001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEITRIM</td>
<td>119,938</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LONGFORD</td>
<td>106,178</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Daft.ie, House Price Report, Dr. Ronan Lyons
Average Rental Prices

Source: Daft.ie, House Price Report, Dr. Ronan Lyons
Percentage of Housing Vacant

Appendix 4 - 9th Jan 2017

Preliminary Results

Population
- 2011: 4,588,252
- 2016: 4,757,976
- Total change: +169,724
- Natural increase: +198,282
- Net migration: -28,558

Largest Outward migration: Donegal -6,731
Largest Inward migration: Dublin +7,981

Housing
- 2011: 2,003,914
- 2016: 2,022,895
- Total change: +18,981
- Occupied: 1,763,333
- Vacant: 259,562

Highest % vacant: Leitrim 29.5%
Lowest % vacant: Kildare 6.3%
Housing Need Conclusions

- Fragile recovery of residential property market in Leitrim
- Limited population growth between 2011-2016
- Highest level of vacant properties in Ireland
- Leitrim has relatively low property price and rental levels
- No new construction activity occurring and no planning permissions granted for multiple residential developments
- Not considered viable yet to start constructing new houses in Leitrim although Carrick on Shannon would be the 1st centre in which to expect such viability to occur
- Not considered feasible to start imposing penalties on developers and landowners to bring forward proposals for house construction on the basis of analysis
- Restrict application of levy at present to regeneration and renewal of areas in prominent sites
• Requirement to introduce expanded mandatory objective into County Development Plan and provide clear policy basis for application of Vacant Site levy by:

  – Defining zonings to which it would apply (Can be mixed use zonings- particularly for regeneration areas).

  – Defining specific areas to which the levy would apply, thereafter identifying sites.
Core Strategy of the Leitrim County Development Plan contains: 

*Strategic Goal 2.2.2 d: To promote regeneration and the reuse of derelict and obsolete sites and buildings.*

The above Strategic Goal seeks to address urban regeneration at a high level, however no specific objectives follow within the Plan which would indicate particular areas within key towns in which specific actions should be pursued.

Revision to the existing policy framework to have regard to the revised mandatory objective 10 (2) (h) of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2015 is now required.
It is an objective of this plan to seek the development, redevelopment, renewal or reuse of vacant sites, properties and areas in need of regeneration in specific locations identified, having regard to the Core Strategy in order to prevent:

Adverse effects on existing amenities in such areas, in particular as a result of the ruinous or neglected condition of any land,

Urban blight or decay,

Anti-social behaviour or

A shortage of habitable houses or of land suitable for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses.

The designated lands to which the provisions of the Urban Regeneration & Housing Act 2015 shall apply, namely that may be subject to the application of the Vacant Site Levy mechanism for the provision of housing and / or for regeneration and renewal, are within Tier 1 (Carrick on Shannon) on lands identified with a Mixed Use, Commercial Town Expansion, Enterprise and Employment or Residential land use zoning objective and within Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns (Ballinamore, Manorhamilton, Dromahair, Kinlough, Mohill, Drumshanbo, Carrigallen, Dromod, Drumkeeran, Leitrim Village and Tullaghan) on lands identified with a Mixed Use, Enterprise and Employment or Residential land use zoning objective on their respective land use zoning strategy maps.

Each of the listed centres shall be examined to determine if there are sites present where the Vacant Site Levy shall apply in accordance with the definition of Vacant Sites as provided in the Urban Regeneration & Housing Act 2015.
The Vacant Site Register

- From 1 January 2017, Planning Authorities shall establish and maintain a Register of sites vacant for the preceding year.

- Before entering vacant sites on the register: (latest 1 June 2018)
  - Notify site owner of proposed entry on the register
  - Owner has 28 days to make a submission on proposal
  - If authority still deem the site was a vacant site for 12 months then it shall be entered on the register
  - Notify site owner of the entry on the register and that the levy will be applied starting in 2018

- Owner has 28 days to appeal the entry on the register to An Bord Pleanála. (Burden of proof rests with owner)

- Register will contain: Description, including a map; Property ownership folio reference; Name and address of owner; and Market valuation.

- The earliest that a levy could be owed would be 1 January 2019 on the basis that a site was included on the Vacant Site Register by June 2017
Market Value of Site

• As soon as possible after a site is entered on the Register, Planning Authorities shall:
  – Determine the market value of vacant sites,
  – Enter the details of the determination on the Register,
  – Notify the owners of the site valuations, and
  – Indicate the right to appeal.

• Owner has 28 days to appeal to the Valuation Tribunal

• The market value of a site on the register should be reviewed at least once every 3 years and owner notified of the revised market valuation.
Applying the Levy

- Commencing **1 January 2019**, Planning Authorities shall apply the levy to vacant sites entered on the register in respect of 2018.
  - Levy should be applied at 3% of the market valuation, or other appropriate % rate.
  - Levy payable on demand or by instalments if agreed with the planning authority.
  - A receipt shall be issued, and on request a certificate of discharge, in respect of levies paid.

- Owner has 28 days to appeal the demand for the levy to An Bord Pleanála. (Burden of proof rests with owner)
**Rates of the Levy**

- Planning Authorities shall apply the levy to vacant sites as per the following rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>To all sites except those below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>Sites subject to loans between 75% and 100% of site value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.75%</td>
<td>Sites subject to loans between 50% and 75% of site value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zero</td>
<td>Sites subject to loans greater than site value; No market exists for sites; Sites on contaminated land would exceed the site value; or Death or change of owner for year of change and preceding year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank You
Appendix 4 - 9th Jan 2017

Leitrim County Council

Application of Vacant Site Levy

Planning Department

January 2017
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1 Introduction

The Government published 'Construction 2020 Strategy' in May 2012 primarily focusing on the facilitation of increased activity in the construction sector, particularly in relation to housing construction with a view to meeting housing demand and contributing to economic recovery. Action 23 of the Strategy provided for examining the feasibility of enabling Planning Authorities to adopt measures to incentivise the use and development of vacant and underutilised sites in urban areas. This culminated in the introduction of the Vacant Site Levy in the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. The Vacant Site Levy is a site activation measure which seeks to ensure that vacant or underutilised land in urban areas is brought into beneficial use particularly although not exclusively in areas where there is a defined need for housing.

The new legislation requires Local Authorities to include a specific objective in their County Development Plans requiring the development, redevelopment and reuse of vacant sites in specific locations where they consider it to be beneficial towards securing the objectives of the relevant Core Strategy, Housing Strategy and Retail Strategy for their areas and where the necessary supporting infrastructure is already in place. It then allows Local Authorities to impose a levy on land which has been zoned as suitable for housing and / or regeneration land and which has been left unused by owners without good reason. In relation to vacant or idle residential lands, the Local Authority must determine that the lands are located in an area of defined housing need whilst in relation to identified regeneration lands, the Local Authority must determine whether or not the site, being vacant or idle, has adverse effects on existing amenities or reduces amenity.

It is accepted in the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government Circular (PL7/2016) that the application and provisions of the Vacant Site Levy are more relevant to certain Local Authorities than others having regard to their own local circumstances specifically in relation to the need for additional housing. Nonetheless, all Planning Authorities are encouraged to implement the levy provision for the purposes of promoting and implementing the concept of sustainable urban development in their areas. In deciding on the application of the levy, Local Authorities should also take account of the viability of developing vacant sites in specific locations. The Department suggest that a particular early focus of Planning Authorities in the implementation of the levy provisions should be on vacant sites in designated areas which meet the criteria set out in the Act, and which in their opinion are capable of being developed, as well as on groups of sites in rundown areas which have been vacant for some time and where it is envisaged that the regeneration of such sites and areas can provide wider societal benefits.

The Act states that every Planning Authority shall, beginning on 1 January 2017, establish and maintain a Vacant Site Register. The Planning Authority may place sites on the Vacant Sites Register which have been identified as being vacant for the previous 12 months and will issue notices to the registered owners indicating that such owners shall be charged an annual levy in respect of the site. The levy is to be applied annually at a rate of 3% of the market valuation of the vacant sites (with reduced and zero rates applying in certain circumstances) and will continue to be applied in each subsequent year, if the site remains included on the Vacant Site Register. The levy is sought on the 1st January each year for the year previous i.e. is retrospectively applied. The earliest that a levy could be owed would therefore be January 1st 2019 on the basis that a site was included on the Vacant Site Register by June 2017.
2 Implementing the Vacant Site Levy in Leitrim

2.1 Report to Elected Members

The Circular Letter PL7/2016 referred to above issued by the Department on 1 July 2016 sets out guidance and includes a step by step approach that should be taken by Planning Authorities, for the purposes of applying the levy in accordance with the requirements and timelines set out in the Act. The Circular Letter recommends that in the first instance, Planning Authorities should as soon as possible undertake a preliminary assessment and quantification of the number and location of potential vacant sites in their area. This will provide an initial indication of the extent of vacant sites in their administrative areas and assist the Planning Authority in the identification of potential designated areas within which to apply the Vacant Site Levy. This information should then be presented to the Elected Members together with a report by the Chief Executive recommending designated areas in the Development Plan in which the levy could be applied. This report is presented to the Elected Members to satisfy this requirement.

2.2 Mandatory Objective in Development Plan

Within the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, Section 10(2)(h) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 has been further expanded upon. Section (10)(2) lists the mandatory objectives which a Planning Authority must include in their County Development Plans. Previously, this mandatory objective sought the 'development and renewal of areas in need of regeneration'. For the purposes of supporting the provisions relating to the Vacant Site Levy, this mandatory objective shall in future seek:

'the development and renewal of areas, identified having regard to the core strategy, that are in need of regeneration, in order to prevent:

(i) adverse effects on existing amenities in such areas, in particular as a result of the ruinous or neglected condition of any land,
(ii) urban blight or decay,
(iii) anti-social behaviour or
(iv) a shortage of habitable houses or of land suitable for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses.

This objective will apply to the development and renewal of identified "residential land" and/or "regeneration land" for the purposes of the Vacant Site Levy. The levy can therefore be applied only to regeneration lands which may not necessarily be located in areas in need of housing. This is an important qualification in the Circular Letter.

This section of the Planning Act, as amended, now requires this revised mandatory objective to be included in a Development Plan to support urban regeneration. Leitrim County Council is therefore required to examine our current Development Plan 2015 – 2021 with a view to ensuring that the revised requirements of section 10(2)(h) have been appropriately integrated therein. As there is no review scheduled of the existing County Development Plan due before 2019, the suggested mechanism to adhere to the new provisions is through the variation process.
2.2.1 Existing Leitrim County Development Plan 2015 – 2021

The Strategic Goals which are stated in the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan form the general framework for the policies and objectives of the Plan. A specific Strategic Goal addresses regeneration, as follows:

\textit{Strategic Goal 2.2.2 d:}

To promote regeneration and the reuse of derelict and obsolete sites and buildings.

Whilst the above Strategic Goal seeks to address urban regeneration at a high level, no specific objectives follow within the Plan which would indicate particular areas within key towns in which specific actions should be pursued or the nature of such actions to be pursued in order to realise the Strategic Goal. It is therefore clear that a revision to the existing policy framework of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021 to have regard to the revised mandatory objective 10 (2) (h) of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2015 is now required.

2.3 Residential Lands

The Planning Authority, as part of the identification of appropriate target residential lands for inclusion in a Development Plan Objective supporting the application of the Vacant Site Levy, shall satisfy itself that:

(i) the site is situated in an area in which there is a need for housing,
(ii) the site is suitable for the provision of housing, and
(iii) the site, or the majority of the site, is vacant or idle.

All 3 criteria must be met before such sites shall be identified.

The need for housing in an area is to be determined by the Planning Authority by reference to the following factors:

(i) the Housing Strategy and the Core Strategy of the Planning Authority,
(ii) house prices and the cost of renting houses in the area,
(iii) the number of households qualified for social housing support in accordance with section 20 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 that have specified the area as an area of choice for the receipt of such support and any changes to that number since the adoption of the planning authority’s development plan, and
(iv) whether the number of habitable houses available for purchase or rent was less than 5% of the total number of houses in the area.

The suitability of lands for housing will be determined by reference to the following factors:

(i) the Core Strategy – has the area been identified as a development area, with particular reference to the settlement hierarchy,
(ii) is the area serviced by public infrastructure and facilities (within the meaning of section 48 of the Planning Act 2000) necessary to enable housing to be provided and serviced, and
(iii) whether there is anything affecting the physical condition of the area which might affect the provision of housing.

The Planning Authority must therefore establish firstly whether or not there is a housing need or housing supply shortage presently in Co. Leitrim. This determination is a prerequisite in establishing the application of the Vacant Site Levy to residential lands in Co. Leitrim. The extent of available residually zoned lands is dealt with in Section 3.2 of this report and confirms that all of the lands identified in the County Development Plan 2015-
2021 and in the Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan 2010-2019 remain available for housing development.

2.4 Regeneration Lands

"Regeneration land" means land identified by a Planning Authority in its Development Plan or Local Area Plan in accordance with Section 10(2)(h) of the Act of 2000 with the objective of development and renewal of areas in need of regeneration, and includes any structures on such land.

In the case of regeneration land, a site shall be considered a vacant site if it satisfies the following criteria:

(i) the site, or the majority of the site, is vacant or idle, and
(ii) the site being vacant or idle has adverse effects on existing amenities or reduces the amenity provided by existing public infrastructure and facilities (within the meaning of section 48 of the Act of 2000) in the area in which the site is situated or has adverse effects on the character of the area.

As stated, a key reason for the introduction of this legislation is the housing supply shortage issues which are currently being experienced on a national basis, and in this regard it was considered critical to identify such vacant sites which are capable of providing housing. However, the application of the housing need element, as set out in the legislation may not identify a housing need in all counties, and in this context, the legislation might only be applied at this time in certain counties to 'regeneration land'.

The Planning Department have considered the extent of vacant sites within the towns identified as Tier 1, 2 and 3 of the County Development Plan. The Planning Authority has identified a number of key sites which could be considered for inclusion in the Vacant Site Register following the making of the necessary enabling variation to the County Development Plan.

3 Housing Need in Leitrim

An analysis of a number of different information sources is showing that there is a significantly lower housing need evident in Leitrim than elsewhere in the country where large urban areas are under significant pressure to provide housing. The establishment of the Housing Supply Co-ordination Task Force for Dublin (also an Action in the Construction 2020 Strategy) seeks to address supply related issues affecting the delivery of housing units in the Dublin region whilst reduced development contributions also now apply in Dublin and Cork as an incentive to encourage developers to construct more housing in these areas. The suggested rent increase restrictions also in Dublin and Cork would indicate that both of these urban areas are under most pressure with regard to satisfying housing need by constructing or releasing more housing units for sale and rent. The following sections of this report provide the basis for the view that there is not such a defined shortage of supply of housing in Co. Leitrim at this time although the position of Carrick on Shannon requires careful monitoring and review.

3.1 The Core Strategy of the County Development Plan 2015-2021

The Core Strategy of the County Development Plan 2015-2021 articulates a medium to long term quantitatively based strategy for the spatial development of the area. It sets out the amount of land proposed to be zoned for residential and mixed use purposes.
The key principles of the Core Strategy, which are relevant to the application of the Vacant Site Levy, include:

- Strengthening the critical mass of Carrick on Shannon (Regionally-Strategic Centre);
- Development of Manorhamilton and Ballinamore as key economic engines for growth within their respective Areas;
- Maximisation of the return from investment in existing utilities and services;
- Development of the towns and villages of the County, in terms of priority and in accordance with the sequential approach, based on the tiers of towns and villages in the settlement hierarchy.

### Table 1: Population Change, Housing Change and Resultant Land Requirements 2015-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Core Strategy Population Growth Allocation</th>
<th>Estimated Housing Units Required</th>
<th>Actual Housing Land requirement (Ha)</th>
<th>Existing Zoned residential Lands (ha)</th>
<th>Potential Housing Yield (no. or Units)</th>
<th>Excess (Ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>2,388</td>
<td>1,043</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>59.06</td>
<td>956</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrick on Shannon</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>22.91</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other towns (Tier 2 &amp; 3)</td>
<td>1,788</td>
<td>781</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>21.15</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 4 &amp; Rural</td>
<td>(Included above)</td>
<td>(Included above)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Leitrim County Development Plan 2015 – 2021 Core Strategy*

The Core Strategy of the County Development Plan 2015-2021 projected that 1,043 housing units would be built over the period of the plan of which 262 units would be in Carrick-on-Shannon. This would equate to an annual projection of 174 housing units per annum for Co. Leitrim of which 44 units per annum would be provided in Carrick-on-Shannon. The amount of lands presently identified for residential purposes in urban centres across the county is linked to the population and household projections contained in the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan which in turn are based on regional allocations through the Regional Planning Guidelines.

### 3.2 Supply of Housing Land

#### Table 2: Availability of Residentially Zoned Lands in Co. Leitrim

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Residential Brownfield / Infill (ha)</th>
<th>Residential - Greenfield (ha)</th>
<th>Town Centre / Mixed Use (ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carrick on Shannon</td>
<td>3,314</td>
<td>1.56 ha</td>
<td>76.02 ha</td>
<td>6.82 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manorhamilton</td>
<td>1,336</td>
<td>1.13 ha</td>
<td>21.12 ha</td>
<td>1.07 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinlough</td>
<td>1,018</td>
<td>2.05 ha</td>
<td>13.01 ha</td>
<td>2.47 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity in other Tier 2 and 3 Settlements: 200 - 1,000 population</td>
<td>5,203</td>
<td>8.40 ha</td>
<td>110.42 ha</td>
<td>22.10 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10,871</td>
<td>23.14 ha</td>
<td>250.47 ha</td>
<td>32.46 ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Leitrim County Council Planning Department*
There is no shortage of supply of land for housing in the County as evident from the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan or the more recent review of housing land which has been undertaken for the upcoming National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy (May 2016).

The figure for residential (greenfield) includes significant lands identified as Residential Reserve / Support. There have been no changes to the above assessments since the County Development Plan was adopted 2 years ago. All lands identified for housing in the relevant land use zoning strategies remain available for development. There is not considered a need to reproduce each of the maps to validate this finding.

### 3.3 Housing Completions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No of Houses Built</td>
<td>860</td>
<td>1,545</td>
<td>975</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government database which is based on ESB connections.

![Graph of Number of Houses Completed in Co. Leitrim 2005 - 2015](image)

**Source:** Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government database which is based on ESB connections.

Whilst the number of houses being completed is increasing and starting to approach the numbers indicated in the Core Strategy as being required each year (174 number units), these units are primarily contained in developments which were previously incomplete and inactive, which have since been completed and are now being brought to the market.

In comparison, the Planning Authority has permitted 21 houses in 2013, 18 houses in 2014, 32 houses in 2015 and 21 houses in 2016. The vast majority of these houses being permitted are individual dwellings located in rural areas. There are no extant planning
permissions for multiple house developments awaiting commencement with the completion of a 7 no. unit development in Roosky having been granted planning permission in late December 2016.

The following table has been collated from information on Co. Leitrim contained in the Local Government Management Agency Building Control Management System and reaffirms the indications that apart from individual one off housing, there is no active domestic house construction presently occurring in the County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 4: Construction Activity - House Commencements 2014 - 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Mar – Dec 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan – Sept 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) Building Control Management System (BCMS)*

It is accepted therefore that the number of completions differs significantly from the actual number of houses currently being constructed in the County.

From an analysis of planning applications submitted which have the benefit of planning permission, it is considered highly unlikely that the projected housing completions contained in the County Development Plan will now materialise during the first half of the County Development Plan period (2015 – 2018). It is considered more realistic that 35 – 50 housing units will be constructed per annum during this period.

However, the actual recorded population increase between 2011-2016 in Co. Leitrim was 174 no. persons. This modest population increase could be accommodated in 70 no. houses on the basis of an average occupancy of 2.5 no. persons per household. The lack of construction activity must be considered against this modest population growth context and also having regard to the extent of vacant properties which are located across the County.

### 3.4 Overview of Housing Market

During the economic boom, tax incentives were offered under the Rural Renewal Tax Incentives Scheme to areas in the Upper Shannon region (1999 – 2008) to encourage developers to build and invest in smaller towns and rural areas. There is no doubt that Co. Leitrim benefited from such investment arising from the Rural Renewal Scheme, however, there were a number of locations where the number of homes built greatly exceeded the numbers required to satisfy demand or need resulting in an oversupply in the market. This over supply has resulted in a legacy of vacant residential units, a number of unfinished or incomplete housing developments, and, as discussed in the analysis of house completions above, has had a direct affect on the housing market in Co. Leitrim.

An overview of the housing market, as set out in the subsequent sections, will demonstrate that the current supply would appear to suffice for Leitrim at present, taken in conjunction with the demand for housing provision in the private market, which has remained relatively low.
3.4.1 Transactions

Analysis carried out by EBS / DKM Economic Consultants (April 2014) based on median transaction prices from the Property Price Register would indicate the emergence of a three-tier housing market across the country. Within this, Dublin, Wicklow, and Kildare were identified as the least affordable counties, while Roscommon, Cavan, Leitrim and Longford were identified as the most affordable. This trend has continued in subsequent analyses.

Leitrim sits well below the average national affordability level demonstrated by the figure below, extracted from the National Statement of Housing Supply and Demand (July 2015) prepared by the National Housing Agency.

**Figure 2: Housing Affordability by County**

![Housing Affordability Chart](chart.png)

**Source:** National Statement of Housing Supply and Demand 2014 and Outlook for 2015-2017, National Housing Agency (July 2015).

In Q2 2016, the average house price in Co. Leitrim was recorded at €118,590 with the average asking price for a 3 bedroom semi detached dwelling being recorded at €55,000. As would be expected, there are marked differences across the County. In the County town of Carrick on Shannon, there were 51 no. properties available to buy in October 2016 of which 23 were 4 bedroom houses. Whilst the average house price in Co. Leitrim was €118,590, the average asking price for a 4 bedroom house in Carrick on Shannon was €197,000.

The average asking prices across the Country from Quarter 3, 2015 to Quarter 3, 2016 are set out overleaf in the accompanying graphics. As can be seen, Leitrim was the second least expensive county in Ireland in which to buy an average house, recorded at €119,938.
Figure 3: Average Residential Property Asking Prices Q3 2015 – Q3 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Price 2015/2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wicklow</td>
<td>€267,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kildare</td>
<td>€222,131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meath</td>
<td>€227,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerry</td>
<td>€171,813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westmeath</td>
<td>€164,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offaly</td>
<td>€154,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limerick</td>
<td>€156,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlow</td>
<td>€156,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tipperary</td>
<td>€155,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterford</td>
<td>€183,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laois</td>
<td>€152,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galway</td>
<td>€152,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clare</td>
<td>€149,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monaghan</td>
<td>€145,567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlow</td>
<td>€139,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dundalk</td>
<td>€139,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayo</td>
<td>€137,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roscommon</td>
<td>€123,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sligo</td>
<td>€122,801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leitrim</td>
<td>€119,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longford</td>
<td>€106,178</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Daft.ie, House Price Report Q3 2016, Author - Dr. Ronan Lyons

Figure 4: Most and Least Expensive Areas to Purchase Residential Property Q3 2016

The Residential Property Price Register indicated that the level of transactions of residential properties have been increasing steadily since records began in 2010. Taking the number of transaction in 2015 (475) as a proportion of the total number of dwellings in Co. Leitrim (18,239) indicates that 2.6% of properties were sold last year. The figure provided for 2016 is the year to the beginning of November.

Table 5: Residential Property Transactions in County Leitrim 2010 – 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. Transactions</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>387</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Residential Property Price Register website

3.4.2 Rental Market

Rental Prices in County Leitrim are also much lower than national averages and rental prices attained in the larger urban areas. According to Daft.ie, Leitrim appears as the least expensive county in Ireland in which to rent a residential property for the periods surveyed: Q2 2015 – Q2 2016 and Q3 2015 – Q3 2016 with average rents of €490 and €504 respectively for these periods. This compares to the national average of €1,077. Neighbouring Counties such as Roscommon and Longford also have comparatively low rental pricing on average at €550 and €521 respectively.
From a review of Daft.ie website, there were 56 properties available to rent in County Leitrim in October 2016 of which 5 were 1 bedroom units, 16 were 2 bedroom units, 23 were 3 bedroom units and 12 were 4 or more bedroom units.

In comparison in the nearby Counties of Roscommon and Longford, both of which serve larger urban centres than present in Leitrim, there were only 26 properties and 46 properties respectively available to rent.

There were 17 rental properties available to rent in Carrick on Shannon. 1 no. property was a 1 no. bedroom unit, 2 no. were 2 bedroom units, 9 no. were 3 bedroom units, and 5 no. were 4 or more bedroom units. In contrast, it is worth noting that there were only 18 no. properties to rent in Sligo town at the same time.

An extract from the Daft.ie ‘Snapshot of Rents Nationwide’ shows the following average monthly rents across Ireland (€), and annual change (%), for quarter 3 of 2016. Dublin 2 was recorded as the most expensive location in which to rent and is included for comparative purposes.

Table 6: Average Monthly Rents and Average Change Q3 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>1 bed apart.</th>
<th>2 bed house</th>
<th>3 bed house</th>
<th>4 bed house</th>
<th>5 bed house</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>% Change</td>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>% Change</td>
<td>Rent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leitrim</td>
<td>€384</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>€437</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>€527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longford</td>
<td>€390</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>€454</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>€547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roscommon</td>
<td>€413</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>€470</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>€567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin 2</td>
<td>€1,532</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>€1,826</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>€2,185</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Daft.ie, Snapshot of Rents Nationwide Q3 2016 Author - Dr. Ronan Lyons

Figure 5: National Rental Prices Q2 2015 – Q2 2016

Source: Daft.ie, House Price Report Q3 2016, Author - Dr. Ronan Lyons
3.4.3 Total Amount of Housing Available to Buy and Rent

Of the 18,203 housing units recorded in the County in the 2016 Census of Population, there were 5,375 vacant (30% compared to national average of 13%). From a brief analysis on daft.ie website, it can be ascertained that the 482 properties for sale represents 2.7% of the housing stock and 42 properties available for rent, represents a further 0.25%. This is below the suggested requirement of 5% of total housing stock being available to buy or rent as set out in the Circular Letter.

3.4.4 Census of Population and Vacancy Rates

As can be seen from the info graphic overleaf, extracted from the 2016 Census Preliminary Results, Leitrim has the highest percentage of vacant housing properties in the Country.
An analysis of demand has indicated that there will be a requirement for 1,043 no. households during the lifetime of the County Development Plan 2015-2021. Some of the demand for housing identified in the Strategy will be accommodated in units presently vacant.

Table 2.6 of the Statistical Yearbook of Ireland, 2016, published by the CSO, set out the occupied and vacant permanent housing units by area, classified by occupancy status on Census Night, 2016.

**Table 7: Occupied and Vacant Houses on Census Night 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Total Housing Stock</th>
<th>Vacant Holiday Home</th>
<th>Other Vacant Dwellings</th>
<th>Total vacant dwellings</th>
<th>Vacancy Rate %</th>
<th>Actual change in vacant dwellings 2011-2016</th>
<th>Percentage change in vacant dwellings 2011-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leitrim</td>
<td>18,203</td>
<td>1,589</td>
<td>3,786</td>
<td>5,375</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>-151</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>2,022,895</td>
<td>61,204</td>
<td>198,358</td>
<td>259,562</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-29,889</td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** CSO Statistical Yearbook of Ireland, 2016

The following map shows the vacancy rate graphically. The map clearly illustrates the highest vacancy levels in the north west of the Country and particularly in large areas of Leitrim.
Whilst the actual number stated in the Statistical Yearbook of Ireland, 2016 is slightly different from that indicated in their Preliminary Results (18,203 as opposed to 18,239), it is interesting to note the components of the total vacant dwellings. Only 30% are indicated as being Vacant Holiday Homes with the remainder stated as being ‘Other Vacant Dwellings’. From a sustainability viewpoint, this area needs to be explored in more detail by the Local Authority. This indicates that excluding holiday homes, these are 3,786 dwellings vacant in the county in comparison to the requirement to provide 1,043 housing units over the life of the County Development Plan to provide the anticipated demand for additional houses.

3.5 Social Housing

There were no adults classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31st December 2015 in County Leitrim and there had been no adults in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously.

There are 367 no. applicants on the County Leitrim Housing Waiting List at present. The length of time which prospective applicants remain on the list is varied; however the trend suggests that, the vast bulk of applicants are in their first year on the housing list.

The very low comparative numbers on the waiting list, the low number of provisions and the non existence of homelessness in the County shows that Leitrim has a relatively low Social Housing Need.
The overall total number of social housing dwellings in the County at the end of 2015 was 1,038 no. units of which 924 no. units were Local Authority Social Housing Stock, 109 no. units were Rental Accommodation Scheme and 5 no. units were Social Housing Leased Units.

The current local Authority Housing Stock is as follows:-

**Table 8: Co. Leitrim Local Authority Housing Stock 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Authority Housing Stock</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manorhamilton</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballinamore</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohill</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinlough</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drumshanbo</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrick on Shannon</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Units</td>
<td>945</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Leitrim County Council Housing Department*

The overall total number of dwellings provided by the Local Authority during 2015 was 36 no. units. The number of dwelling units within their overall stock that were not tenanted at year end, (2015), was 76 no. units.

An analysis of social and affordable housing in the Leitrim Housing Strategy, 2015-2021, identified that there is no demand for affordable housing due to the current low cost of housing within the housing market.

Leitrim County Council recently prepared a summary of the social housing needs assessment for the County. Provision of new social housing has effectively halted and there is a need to bridge the gap through some other housing mechanisms, as DoHPCLG data shows that in recent years there has been minimal acquisition or transfer for Part V housing to the Local Authority or provided by Approved Housing Bodies. Historically in Leitrim social housing completions followed trends in social housing provision.

### 3.6 Carrick on Shannon

The Carrick or Shannon housing market will require further research over a more sustained period and requiring further engagement with local auctioneers. From an analysis of the residential property for sale in the month of October 2016, it could be concluded that the availability of smaller properties, one and two bedroom units, are short of supply whilst there appears to be a more healthy supply of 4 bed family units. However when analysed in greater depth, that there are a number of smaller vacant residential units which are in use as holiday homes and short term lets within Carrick on Shannon and Corteober.
Table 9: Carrick on Shannon Housing Availability Analysis October 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Properties</th>
<th>1 bed</th>
<th>2 bed</th>
<th>3 bed</th>
<th>4 bed</th>
<th>5 bed</th>
<th>6 + bed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Asking Price</td>
<td>€51,000</td>
<td>€70,000</td>
<td>€95,000</td>
<td>€197,000</td>
<td>€287,000</td>
<td>€496,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Daft.ie

Unlike the counties on the east coast and around the larger cities and towns in the country, there is no bank of extant planning permissions for multiple house developments in Carrick on Shannon or indeed elsewhere in Co. Leitrim. There has not been any new multiple house development applications for almost a decade. There are signs of a recovery beginning with tentative inquiries through pre planning but the lack of activity in Carrick on Shannon points towards factors such as the viability of new construction, investor confidence in terms of sufficient pool of potential customers that can buy new houses and development and finance capability. The lack of applications being brought forward through the planning system and ultimately construction also means that there is presently no Part V social housing contribution from the private housing sector.

It is accepted that the sales price which a developer expects is a combination of the land acquisition cost, the cost of construction and the return on investment. It is possible that developers are waiting for the economy to recover further to make a reasonable profit or that they acquired the development sites during the economic boom at high relative prices and it remains unfeasible to seek to build houses at this time. However, this would not explain the reluctance to seek planning permission and have sites ‘shovel ready’. The proposed amendments to planning legislation whereby 100 + housing schemes will be made directly to An Bord Pleanála as an efficiency measures will not affect Co. Leitrim as no such developments of this scale are expected. The lack of activity in seeking planning permission for multiple housing developments would tend to indicate that there are problems for developers accessing finance or there is uncertainty with regard to the demand for houses at a price which would return a reasonable level of profit. It may also simply be that are insufficient number of potential purchasers in a position to secure finance to buy new homes which provides the necessary confidence for developers to commence construction.

3.7 Conclusion

In Leitrim at present, we are witnessing a fragile recovery of the residential property market starting in South Leitrim (Carrick on Shannon, Dromod and Roosky) but also becoming evident in Drumshanbo and Manorhamilton. It is not considered feasible at this time to start imposing penalties on developers and landowners to bring forward land for residential development until developers have commenced constructing new starter homes for families in Co. Leitrim. The analysis undertaken has not concluded that there is a defined housing need in Co. Leitrim as a whole but that ongoing monitoring is required in Carrick on Shannon. It does not appear yet to be viable to start constructing new homes in Co. Leitrim.

It could also be considered to be somewhat fortuitous at present that it is not yet feasible to start new construction sites as there would be fewer incentives for investors and developers to explore and exploit the opportunities which exist in unfinished or partly constructed developments across the county. The impact, if any, which a relaxation from the Central Bank lending rules to first time buyers will also have to be monitored over time. The recently published Circular from the Department in relation to the impact of Airbnb and short term lettings which is affecting the number of residential units available to rent in
larger urban areas will require further changes to legislation and may have an impact in Carrick on Shannon where significant residential properties are used primarily for overnight guest accommodation at weekends to facilitate the vibrant hen and stag party market.

With the exception of less than 5% of the total housing stock presently being available to buy or rent, the Planning Authority has determined that there is not a need for housing presently in Co. Leitrim. The population increase experienced during the last inter censal period was modest. There remains a significant extent of vacant properties within the county which are recorded at 2.5 times the national average. In addition, a number of previously incomplete housing developments are being completed which is also satisfying demand for housing in certain urban centres. This situation will continue to be monitored by the Planning and Housing Authority over the course of 2017 with particular emphasis on Carrick on Shannon.

4 County Development Plan Policy

As stated previously in Section 2.2, Section 10(2)(h) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, has been further expanded, requiring a mandatory objective to be included to support urban regeneration. An examination of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021 has revealed an absence of a regeneration/renewal objective. In ensuring that the revised requirements of section 10(2)(h) have been integrated, it will be required that a more detailed "regeneration" objective be included for the development and renewal of areas in need of regeneration within the County Development Plan. The Circular letter from the DohPCLG provides guidance on what the objective should state. This will require a variation to the current County Development Plan. It is suggested that a new objective be introduced to the County Development Plan as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>It is an objective of this plan to seek the development, redevelopment, renewal or reuse of vacant sites, properties and areas in need of regeneration in specific locations identified having regard to the Core Strategy in order to prevent:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i) Adverse effects on existing amenities in such areas, in particular as a result of the ruinous or neglected condition of any land,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) Urban blight or decay,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii) Anti-social behaviour or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv) A shortage of habitable houses or of land suitable for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The designated lands to which the provisions of the Urban Regeneration & Housing Act 2015 shall apply, namely that may be subject to the application of the Vacant Site Levy mechanism for the provision of housing and / or for regeneration and renewal, are within Tier 1 (Carrick on Shannon) on lands identified with a Mixed Use, Commercial Town Expansion, Enterprise and Employment or Residential land use zoning objective and within Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns (Ballinamore, Manorhamilton, Dromahair, Kinlough, Mohill, Drumshanbo, Carrigallen, Dromod, Drumkeeran, Leitrim Village and Tullaghan) on lands identified with a Mixed Use, Enterprise and Employment or Residential land use zoning objective on their respective land use zoning strategy maps.

Each of the listed centres shall be examined to determine if there are sites present where the Vacant Site Levy shall apply in accordance with the definition of Vacant Sites as provided in the Urban Regeneration & Housing Act 2015.

It is respectfully suggested that there are a number of sites in County Leitrim which are critical prominent sites and which would deliver the momentum and confidence for their respective towns if their current vacant, idle, dilapidated or neglected state was addressed.
The application of the Vacant Site Levy on these sites would be a considerable incentive to their redevelopment and to the provision of a catalyst for further development.

5 Next Steps

Leitrim County Council is therefore required to prepare a Variation to the County Development Plan 2015-2021, as outlined above. The variation will have to be screened for both Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment although considered unlikely to trigger a requirement to undertake either assessment.

Leitrim County Council must also establish a Vacant Site Register. This register will require to state what the criteria are for the inclusion of a site on the register, should set out the manner by which inclusion would be assessed, but may not have any sites on its list at the outset. It must also review this position after 3 years.

The establishment and maintenance of a register of vacant sites from 1 January 2017 onwards should include:

- a description of the site, including a map,
- the property ownership folio reference attached to the site,
- the name and address of the owner of the site, and
- the particulars of the most recent market valuation of the site.

No sites will be proposed for inclusion in the Vacant Sites Register until the enabling variation to the County Development Plan has been made by the Elected Members.
Appendix 5 - 9th Jan 2017

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATROMA

Áras an Chontae,
Cora Droma Ruisc.

5th January, 2017

Cathaoirleach agus gach Ball
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATROMA

Re: Agenda Item No. 6: Leitrim County Council Review of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 - 2018

Dear Member,

I wish to inform you that in accordance with Section 17 (1) of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, and in consultation with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Leitrim County Council has completed a mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2014-2018.

The Review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018 commenced in July 2016 and is now completed. Letters issued to all of the relevant Agencies/Bodies informing them of this mid term Review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme and their Submissions on the review of this Programme were requested by 9th September, 2016. 1 No. Submission was received from North West Simon in relation to the review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme. However, this Submission did not make any recommendations and/or observations in relation to the review of this Programme.

In preparing and adopting the TAP 2014 – 2018, Leitrim County Council was obliged to make an assessment of the number of Traveller households who would require accommodation over the lifetime of the TAP 2014 – 2018. The total projected need over the period of the TAP 2014 – 2018 was estimated to be forty six (46 No.) households broken down as follows:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households already accommodated with a specific requirement</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households assessed as having a housing need</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Household Formations</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On the basis of the above projected need over the period 2014 – 2018, the targets for meeting this projected need were outlined in the TAP and are summarised in the Table hereunder:-

**TAP - Targets for Delivery – 2014-2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation Type</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Housing Scheme - Existing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Block - Existing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Authority Standard Housing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Accommodation Scheme (incl. renewals)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Leasing (incl. renewals)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Assistance Payment (incl new family formations)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following table sets out details of the progress to date on implementing the Programme:

**TAP – Outputs Delivered in terms of Offers Issued – 2014 – 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation Type</th>
<th>Outputs for 2014</th>
<th>Outputs for 2015</th>
<th>Outputs for 2016</th>
<th>Total Outputs from 2014 to 31st December, 2016 inclusive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Housing Scheme - Existing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Block - Existing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Authority Standard Housing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Accommodation Scheme (incl. renewals)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Leasing (incl. renewals)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Provided by an Approved Housing Body under CAS Scheme</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Assistance Payment (incl. new family formations)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility Aids Grant</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It should be noted that the above 42 No. Outputs take account of all Offers issued by this office i.e. they include all Offers issued even where such offers are refused. For the purposes of reporting, all Offers of Accommodation are counted as an Output. As can be seen from the above, at 31.12.2016 we have achieved 42 No. of the 46 No. Outputs targeted under the TAP 2014 – 2018 (91%). It is envisaged that the Target of 46 No. Outputs will at a minimum be achieved and will possibly be exceeded by the end of the Programme in 2018.
### TAP – Outputs Delivered in terms of Actual Number of Units of Accommodation delivered under the Programme – 2014 – 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation Type</th>
<th>Actual No. of Units Delivered in 2014</th>
<th>Actual No. of Units Delivered in 2015</th>
<th>Actual No. of Units Delivered in 2016</th>
<th>Total No. of Actual Units of Accommodation Delivered from 2014 to 31st December, 2016 inclusive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Housing Scheme - Existing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Block - Existing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Authority Standard Housing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Accommodation Scheme (incl. renewals)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Leasing (incl. renewals)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Provided by an Approved Housing Body under CAS Scheme</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Assistance Payment (incl. new family formations)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility Aids Grant</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>34</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In summary, a Total of 34 No. actual Units of Accommodation have been delivered over the period of the Traveller Accommodation Programme to date (2014 – 2016). Out of a Target of 46 No. Outputs as set out in the TAP 2014 – 2018, this amounts to 74% Delivery. It is anticipated that the full Target of 46 No. actual Units of Accommodation will be achieved by the end of the current TAP in 2018.

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 and the targets which were set out in this Programme were developed in the context of a total of 63 Traveller families living in the County at that time (38 of these families already had their housing need provided for by Leitrim County Council either directly through the provision of Standard Local Authority Houses and Traveller Group Scheme Housing/Service Blocks and indirectly through the RAS and Leasing Schemes) and anticipated new family formations over the period of the Programme. The Annual Traveller Count for 2015 revealed that there were 66 No. Traveller Families living in the County at that time (25th November, 2015) and the figures for the Annual Traveller Count 2016 show that there are 69 No. Traveller Households living in the County.

Information provided by the Annual Traveller Census, the 2016 Housing Needs Assessment (recently completed) and any feedback/submissions received as part of the review of the TAP have informed the mid-term review of this Traveller Accommodation Programme.

**Consultation with Traveller Households as part of Mid-Term Review**

All 14 No. Traveller Households on our Housing Waiting List at the time of commencement of this Review were invited to attend for a Review Meeting as part of the mid-term Review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme. 6 No. of these Families attended for this review meeting. The remaining 8 No. Families who did not attend did not avail of the facility to reschedule this meeting to suit their personal circumstances. However, a desktop review of all of these files
was completed. In addition, as part of this Mid-Term Review, a review has been completed in respect of all Traveller Households already accommodated by Leitrim County Council (49 No. Households) and all such Traveller Households were provided with an opportunity to have an input into this Review. Again a desktop review was completed in respect of all of these 49 No. Households who are already accommodated by Leitrim County Council.

The Summary Position with regard to this Mid-Term Review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme is as follows:-

- There are a total of 69 No. Traveller Households currently residing in the County
- There are a total of 37 No. Traveller Households in Local Authority provided accommodation with one of these owner occupied
- There are a total of 14 No. Traveller Households accommodated by Leitrim County Council in Private Rented Accommodation under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and the Long Term Leasing Scheme
- There are a total of 2 No. Traveller Households who are accommodated through their own resources as they are ineligible for Social Housing Support on income grounds
- 1 No. Traveller Household has recently been accommodated in a house provided by North West Simon under the CAS Scheme
- There are a total of 12 No. Traveller Households currently on our Housing Waiting List and a further 3 No. Traveller Households whose application for Social Housing Support is currently being assessed. Of these 12 No. Households currently on our Housing Waiting List, 8 No. are in Private Rented Accommodation with the assistance of Rent Supplement, 3 No. are Involuntary Sharing in Local Authority Accommodation and 1 No. is in Private Rented Accommodation without Rent Supplement.

Following this mid term review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme and having regard to the significant progress made to date in achieving the Targets set out in the TAP 2014 – 2018 and the number of Traveller Households currently on our Housing Waiting List (12 No. Households), it is considered that an amendment to the current Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2014 - 2018 is not required. This Mid Term Review of the TAP has been carried out in consultation with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) and at the last meeting of the LTACC held on 15th December, 2016 the Mid Term Review of this Programme was considered and it was agreed by the Committee that an amendment to the current Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2014 - 2018 would not be required.

Yours Sincerely,

Mary Quinn,
Director of Services,
Housing & Corporate Services.
### October 2016 - Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division

#### PRELIMINARY October 2016 - FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Adopted Full Year Budget</th>
<th>% Budget Spent</th>
<th>Budget Remaining</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing &amp; Building</td>
<td>2,889,798</td>
<td>3,814,105</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>924,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Transport &amp; Safety</td>
<td>10,929,911</td>
<td>10,976,959</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>47,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Services</td>
<td>2,819,834</td>
<td>3,703,448</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>883,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Management</td>
<td>2,456,158</td>
<td>3,095,307</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>629,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Services</td>
<td>2,904,241</td>
<td>3,506,984</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>602,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation &amp; Amenity</td>
<td>2,276,572</td>
<td>3,162,891</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>886,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Education, Health &amp; Welfare</td>
<td>328,132</td>
<td>425,521</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>97,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Services</td>
<td>2,185,162</td>
<td>3,126,950</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>1,987,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government Fund / FGPS</td>
<td>6,990,979</td>
<td>8,790,079</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>1,790,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension Levy</td>
<td>527,020</td>
<td>621,805</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>94,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>4,326,185</td>
<td>5,204,830</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>879,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£27,086,489</strong></td>
<td><strong>£33,109,828</strong></td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>5,123,348</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Income V Budget - Oct 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Adopted Full Year Budget</th>
<th>% Budget Spent</th>
<th>Budget Outstanding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£2,484,588</td>
<td>£3,347,747</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>£833,159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£7,437,968</td>
<td>£7,632,186</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>£354,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£2,097,278</td>
<td>£3,564,221</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>£1,466,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£804,446</td>
<td>£1,195,938</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>£391,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£407,910</td>
<td>£607,320</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>£199,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£228,094</td>
<td>£297,500</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>£69,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£395,516</td>
<td>£264,502</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>£60,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£883,009</td>
<td>£1,073,887</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>£190,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£6,990,979</td>
<td>£8,790,079</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>£1,790,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£527,020</td>
<td>£621,805</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>£94,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£4,326,185</td>
<td>£5,204,830</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>£879,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£37,086,653</strong></td>
<td><strong>£43,109,827</strong></td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MAIN POINTS AS AT END OF October 2016

1. **All figures contained herein are October 2016 Preliminary figures & are subject to change prior to Q3 EU/IMP expenditure reports to be submitted 30/11/16.**
2. **Water Expenditure in line with invoices from Irish Water.**
3. **Miscellaneous Income ahead of target due to higher than budgeted NPP Recession.**

### October 2016 - Recourse to Overdraft

| No. Days in Overdraft during October 2016 | 0 |

### October 2016 - Collection Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Oct-16</th>
<th>Oct-16</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>% Oct-16</th>
<th>% Oct-16</th>
<th>% FY 2016</th>
<th>COMMENTARY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing Rents</td>
<td>1,677,485</td>
<td>1,596,958</td>
<td>1,878,709</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>Collection up on 2015 in line with increased taxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Rates</td>
<td>3,371,055</td>
<td>3,082,214</td>
<td>4,426,300</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>Collection down on 2015 in line with reduced installments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Loans</td>
<td>136,220</td>
<td>135,816</td>
<td>181,651</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>Collection down on 2015 in line with reduced installments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### October 2016 - Aged Debt Analysis

#### RATES

- 30 Days
- 90 Days
- 1 Year
- 2 Years

#### RENTS

- 30 Days
- 60 Days
- 90 Days
- 1 Year
- 2 Years

#### LOANS

- 30 Days
- 60 Days
- 90 Days
- 1 Year
- 2 Years
- > 2 Years

### October 2016 - Finance and Water Services Directorate

- **Appendix 6 - 9th Jan 2017**
Water Services

Operations Update

Maximo: Asset Management

- The month of October saw 66 issues raised on Maximo, IW Asset Management System.
- 47 related to water and 19 related to waste water.
- There were 20 Bursts / Leaks detected and repaired.

Water Conservation:

The Unaccounted for Water is 55.8%.
The Following District Metered Areas require Water Conservation / Leak Detection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DMA·Name</th>
<th>DMA Code</th>
<th>Total Nett Inflow m3/day</th>
<th>AFW Total m3/day</th>
<th>UFW Total m3/day</th>
<th>Percentage UFW %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carrick on Shannon Town</td>
<td>1700_TEMP_005</td>
<td>1956.30</td>
<td>798.533</td>
<td>1157.76</td>
<td>59.181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corraleehan Scheme</td>
<td>1700_TEMP_010</td>
<td>316.505</td>
<td>80.065</td>
<td>236.440</td>
<td>74.703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dromahair PWS</td>
<td>2700MA045</td>
<td>694.737</td>
<td>233.69</td>
<td>461.047</td>
<td>66.363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenade WTP to Fertagh Res</td>
<td>1700MA007</td>
<td>229.900</td>
<td>56.151</td>
<td>173.749</td>
<td>75.576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gowel to Kilnagross</td>
<td>1700MA003</td>
<td>244.2</td>
<td>44.406</td>
<td>199.764</td>
<td>81.814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leckau &amp; Fivemilebourne</td>
<td>2700MA010</td>
<td>252.000</td>
<td>86.407</td>
<td>165.593</td>
<td>65.712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manorhamilton PWS</td>
<td>1700MA005</td>
<td>1108.000</td>
<td>731.462</td>
<td>376.538</td>
<td>33.984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Campbell to Jamestown</td>
<td>1700MA058</td>
<td>221.000</td>
<td>61.141</td>
<td>159.859</td>
<td>72.334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point X to Drumkeeran</td>
<td>1700MA046</td>
<td>53.500</td>
<td>3.551</td>
<td>49.949</td>
<td>93.363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point X to Manorhamilton</td>
<td>1700MA001</td>
<td>126.100</td>
<td>32.494</td>
<td>93.606</td>
<td>74.232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Road Black Road</td>
<td>1700_TEMP_007</td>
<td>101.000</td>
<td>11.404</td>
<td>89.596</td>
<td>88.709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toomans to Gortfadda</td>
<td>1700MA022</td>
<td>494.800</td>
<td>144.600</td>
<td>350.200</td>
<td>70.776</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capital Update:

North Leitrim Regional Water supply Scheme (Project No. 1000390)
The contract for the Moneyduff WTP Extension has now been signed and EPS Ltd has been contracted by Irish Water to undertake the works. The commencement date was the 26th October, 2016. A shadowing period of our Operations Staff by the Contractor’s Staff takes place for 30 days up to 25th November, 2016. Thereafter the
Contractor takes full control for 1 Year Design Build and Interim Operate Phase plus a further 1 year Operate/Commissioning phase. The contract sum is €3.84 million.

**Extension of Supply to Rossinver and Kiltyclogher (Project No 10014315)**

Ward and Burke Construction Ltd were appointed and works commenced on site on 20th June, 2016. Work on the Kiltyclogher 6.5Km rising main is substantially complete. The mechanical and electrical fit out of the new pumping station at Coolodonnell will be fully complete by Friday 11th November, 2016. The new supply to Kiltyclogher will be made live on 16th November and following the successful monitoring of the supply the Boil Water Notice will be lifted with the approval of the EPA and the HSE the following week ending 18th November, 2016.

The works on the new distribution main to Rossinver (4.5Km) has commenced and is approx 75% completed. A road closure is required for two weeks from 1st November to 15th November, 2016 on the R282 from Coolodonnell to Rossinver to allow the safe construction of open cut trenches for pipeline. Overall the works are scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

**Manorhamilton Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project No 10000734**

& **Mohill Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project No 10000735**

- All required Planning Permission granted by Leitrim County Council.
- The Design and Tender Documents were approved by Irish Water. Irish Water invited Tenders on 4th May, 2016. Unfortunately only one complete tender was received by Irish Water from 6/7 companies invited to tender. Irish Water has re-tendered this project with a closing date for receipt of Tenders the 12th December 2016. Arrangements for the site inspections by Contractors is Wednesday 9th November, 2016.
- Commencement of the works on site is now likely to be February 2017.
- The all in cost of this project is currently estimated at €2,009,931. incl VAT.

**Minor Capital Works**

The total cost of all Projects Approved to date is estimated to be in excess of €2.5million

- **Energy Efficiency Programme** – Carrick on Shannon Water Treatment Plant is selected as a pilot project to examine the energy usage and efficiency at this facility. Mr. W. Moynihan is Project Manager in Irish Water and J.B.Barrys Consulting Engineers has been engaged as ER on this project. An initial site meeting has been held and a data gathering exercise has to be completed by the Council to inform the issues.

- **Process Optimisation and Control Programme**
  (Level sensors and SCADA telemetry at 10 No. drinking water reservoir sites)

  **Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers** have been appointed and the scope of the works has been extended to include other items required at these sites.

  Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers has now produced Draft contract documents for procurement by Irish Water of a Contractor to undertake these works. It is anticipated that Irish Water will go to tender on this project in the next couple of months.

  **Approximate Estimate:** €91,400

- **DMA Programme**
  (Upgrade and complete the District Metering Structure on the networks in Co. Leitrim). This project is progressing well and is on target for commissioning and completion early December 2016.

  **Contract cost:** €518,000.
• **Killenana Watermain Replacement** (2km) is approved and included in the minor capital programme. Tender documents were issued to the market on 20th October, 2016 and we await the appointment of a Contractor by Irish Water. **Estimated cost: €100,000.**

• **Drumshanbo, Leitrim Village, Carrigallen and Ballinamore WWTP Upgrades.**
  Nicholas O’ Dwyers Consulting Engineers appointed by Irish Water to prepare contract documents for these process optimisation works. Planning permissions for the various works was granted in June, 2016. Irish Water has invited tenders and site visits have taken place. The closing date for tenders was extended to 31st October, 2016. Following procurement of a Contractor by Irish Water we expect that works will commence early in the New Year. **Estimated Cost: €270,000.**

• **Inline UVT and Crypto Samplers:**
  Coffey’s Water Ltd. has been contracted to install inline UVT and Crypto monitors at two Water Treatment Plants in Leitrim at Carrick on Shannon and Moneyduff as part of a larger regional project. Works at the Moneyduff WTP are completed and Carrick on Shannon WTP is scheduled for next week. This contract also includes for a 12 month monitoring of raw and treated water at these plants.

• **Trunk Main replacement Eslin – Mohill (2.5Km) - €500,000**
  On 31st August, 2016 we were asked to revise and resubmit the tender documents. These documents are now with Irish Water CST and following their approval Tenders will be sought by Irish Water from their frameworks. As soon as the Contractor is appointed work will commence on the trunk main replacement.

• **Cast Iron Mains Replacement, Bridge Street, Carrick-on Shannon**
  Work on the replacement of the old cast iron watermains in Bridge Street, Carrick on Shannon commenced on 27th September, 2016. The Contractor appointed by Irish Water, Source Civil Ltd, have also been engaged to undertake some work on surface water upgrade on Bridge Street by the Roads Department. The overall works are ongoing and are slightly behind on programme. The Contractor has indicated completion of all works by 9th December, 2016. The Contractor has been instructed to increase his resources to complete his works ahead of this date. We await his response.
  **The contract cost of circa €120,000.**

• **Cast Iron Mains Replacement ,Ballinamore ,Mohill and Manorhamilton:**
  Irish Water has now decided that these Minor Capital works will be procured by Shared Services from Minor Capital frameworks in the normal way and will not be attached as a variation to some existing capital project as earlier proposed.
  It has now also been decided that the preliminary design and contract documents for the procurement of these works will be prepared by the Council in CaPO. The documents will be prepared with a view to proceed to construction of these pipelines in the Spring/Summer 2017.

• **New Cover to the flash mixers and flocculators in Carrick on Shannon water treatment plant estimate €50,000.**
  EPS appointed as the Contractor and the prefabrication of these structures has been completed. There has been an issue causing delay with the steel fabrication. Work re-commenced on site on Monday 7th November and will be completed by the end of the month.

• A project to provide “Filter Run To Waste” at Carrick on Shannon has been approved by IW. EPS has received an order to carry out these works. Designs approved and works commenced on site on Monday 7th November and will take two weeks to complete by 19th November, 2016.
• **Other Projects recently approved under Minor Capital works**

Kinlough / Tullaghan – Glenade water Treatment Plant

1. Filter Run to Waste required. Tender documents to be prepared by CaPO Office for procurement of a Contractor by Irish Water. Outstanding

2. Irish Water has approved an ANB for Minor Capital upgrade of Drumsna WWTP to provide for optimisation of the treatment process. The works require the construction of a balancing tank and level sensor and linked communications to main pumping station. The estimated cost is €62,000. Design and tender document is underway by CaPO and will be submitted to Irish Water for procurement in due course.

**Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation Directorate**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING:**

**Local Enterprise Office (LEO)**

**Training**

There continues to be strong demand for training, courses run during October include HACCP, Taxation and Vat, Which Social Media Network is right for my Business and Social Media Marketing.

**Mentoring**

There continues to be a strong demand for one to one mentoring.

**Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur**

Applications for the competition closed on 14th October and a record number of 35 applications were received in Leitrim. These applications were assessed and shortlisted to 19 who were invited to attend a Bootcamp in November. Those not shortlisted have been offered a Start Your Own Business Training Programme.

**Networking**

The Border Region National Women in Enterprise Day took place on 19th October in the Radisson Hotel, Cavan with Special Guest Minister for Regional Development, Rural Affairs, Arts and the Gaeltacht, Ms. Heather Humphreys T.D. There were over 110 women in attendance at this event.

**Online Trading Vouchers**

A regional Trading Online Voucher workshop took place in the Abbey Hotel, Roscommon on 10th October with Minister Naughten and his officials from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment as well as Industry giants Facebook, Google and SAP to offer expert advice to local businesses on how to successfully trade online. To date in 2016, 16 clients have received Online Trading Vouchers

**One to one meetings**

The LEO staff continues to meet with clients on a one-to-one basis to provide advice and signposting to supports.

**Other**

A request for tender to develop a Food Strategy document for Co. Leitrim has gone out.

**Competitive Funds Projects USEFE**

The second partner meeting on the Competitive Funds Project has taken place and updates are as follows: Recruitment has taken place for the Graduate Placement Programme and it is hoped that the matching of students with industry will take place shortly

A request for tender has gone out with closing date of 28th October for the audit and training elements of the Creative Connections Programme.
**Student Enterprise Programme**

School visits have commenced for the Student Enterprise Programme 2016/2017.

**Economic Development**

**Local Economic Development Committee and Rural Development Programme**

The LCDC met on October 10th and agreed details for the initial round of LEADER Rural Development calls. This was followed by a joint training session on Leader with the Independent Evaluation Committee.

**HLAG**

HLAG Workshop was held on 14th -15th October, 2016 in Carrick on Shannon.

**Town and Village Scheme**

Queries were answered in relation to the applications submitted. Outcome is now due in early November.

**Purple Flag**

Costings were put together on hosting the awards in 2017. A Survey was completed in relation to how Purple Flag could be further promoted by ATCM.

**Renewable Energy**

**SECURE Project**

- Presentation prepared for project meeting in November.
- Baseline of energy usage was prepared by Facilities Engineer.
- Budget estimates for May – November were prepared.
- Information on launch was circulated to Renewable Energy Group.

**LARES Training**

Staff from all USEFE Counties and Donegal took part in the three initial training sessions which took place as follows:

- Renewable Energy Policy, Resources and Conversion Technologies – 13th October in Leitrim Council Offices
- Renewable Energy Utilisation in an Urban Environment – 26th October in Leitrim Council Offices
- Planning and Implementing Community Engagement for Renewable Energy Strategies on 19th October in Mohill Enterprise Centre

**District Heating System**

An initial meeting with successful tenderers appointed by WDC was set up in Carrick on Shannon from 9th November.

**Carrick on Shannon Christmas Festival**

A number of meetings were held with Chamber of Commerce and the hospitality and restaurant sector to arrange the roll-out of a Christmas Festival to place. This included the following:

- Providing information on procurement required for Town and Village funding should it be awarded:
- Updating the schedule of What’s On in Carrick-on-Shannon for Christmas 2016;
- Set up Sub-Committee to assist with a fundraiser on November 27th which will involve a Christmas Cook Off to defray some of the costs of co-ordinating the festival by the Chamber of Commerce;
- Looking at marketing opportunities and assisting with the selection of a Co-ordinator for the markets etc.

**USEFE**

- Meeting took place on the 5th October, 2016 in Athlone to discuss the USEFE partners working together on an EU TRINNO project to develop an action plan to investigate the viability of developing a regional food distribution hub in the region. All project partners were in agreement to proceed with this action plan.
• A USEFE Operational Group meeting took place on the 11th October, 2016 in Longford at which the USEFE Co-Ordinator provided a review of the USEFE project.

• A USEFE Operational Group meeting took place on the 25th October, 2016 in Longford which focused specifically on the Invest4Success event held on 3rd November, 2016 in Croke Park.

• USEFE Project Co-Ordinator was working extensively on organising the Invest4Success event in Croke Park on the 3rd November, 2016 in conjunction with project partners.

Tourism Development

The following actions have been undertaken throughout October, 2016 to facilitate the continued promotion of the tourism offering in the County

1. In partnership with Waterways Ireland we conducted a marketing and local awareness campaign on Experiencing Ballinamore with particular emphasises on the Blueway.

2. Designed and produced an Ezine focusing on the Angling product in Leitrim, the Ezine was circulated to a large database with the call to action to enjoyleitrim.com

3. Prepared an angling application for infrastructure, promotion and capacity building for the Ballinamore/Carrigallen area through the REDZ programme.

4. Attended the Flavours of Ireland event hosted by Tourism Ireland in London and met with GB Tour Operators.

5. The Marketing Sub Group of the LTGA met and discussed various initiatives including angling and conference tourism.

6. Assisted Failte Ireland with the New Welcome Standard Initiative which included clinics in Leitrim Village to inform new and existing accommodation providers on the new standard.

7. Attended the Waterways Ireland partnership event in Athlone

8. SAINT – Attended the SAINT Partnership meeting and workshop in Derry with Leitrim SME.

Development Management

Unfinished Housing Developments / Taking in Charge

• Works are continuing within 9 estates across the county which obtained funding under the National Taking in Charge Initiative and also in relation to the a research project on development bonds. These works are due to be completed before year end which would allow these estates to be advertised for taking in charge.

• Works are also been undertaken in other developments where the Council retains cash deposits and is expected that these estates will also have commenced the formal taking in charge process by year end.

Pre-Planning

• The pre planning clinics continued during the month of October. The Clinic System operates on an appointment basis with the relevant Area Planner each Wednesday morning. 3 no. new pre planning consultations took place during October in addition to a number of other inquires which are dealt with through e-mail and phone.

Scheme to facilitate testing of Zero Discharge Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Systems in Co. Leitrim

• The closing date for receipt of completed application forms was the close of business on Friday 30th September 2016. A total of 25 applications have been received by the Planning Department and an assessment of the applications has now been completed with notifications issuing shortly to the successful applicants to proceed to formal pre planning consultations.

Development Management

• 14 no. valid planning applications were received in October. A further 3 no. applications were deemed invalid of which all have since had valid applications made on their behalf.

• 12 final decisions on planning applications were made during October, all of which were granted planning permission (11 no. relating to applications for permission and 1 application for retention. A request for further
information issued with respect to a further 8 no. applications, 6 no. of which all sought planning permission and 2 no. of which sought permission to retain.

- A major reorganisation of the historic planning application files held in storage from 1964 to present is ongoing by the administrative staff of the Planning Department. This project will result in a more efficient service being provided to customers and staff seeking to retrieve historic files for viewing purposes.

Forward Planning
- Work is continuing with regard to the Manorhamilton Land Use Strategy which was a specific action arising from “To the Waters and the Wild” REDZ Strategy.
- Work has commenced on a position paper for the implementation of the Vacant Site Levy in County Leitrim and on the 2 Year Progress Report for implementing the objectives of the County Development Plan 2015-2021.

Heritage
- 1 newsletter (Heritage Matters) was published during October. The newsletter advertised the closing date (November 18th) for applications to the GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings Grant Scheme and details of the Community Water Officer who covers Co. Leitrim. In addition, the newsletter notified interested stakeholders of various events being held over the coming weeks

Development Contributions Scheme
- A workshop was held with the Elected Members on Monday October 17th to discuss the Chief Executives Report on the submissions received to the draft Development Contributions Scheme 2016-2019 which had been circulated to the Members. A decision to make the Scheme is scheduled for the November bi-monthly meeting.

ENVIRONMENT:

National Inspection Program (DWWTS) – The Council are inspecting 28No DWWTS in 2016 and these inspections will take place during the summer months. We will be selecting these sites based on EPA Risk based methodology mapping across the Country. These DWWTS inspections have now all been completed. Where Advisory Notices were issued in 2015/2016 there will be ongoing inspections where works have been completed and re-inspections are requested.

RMCEI Plan – Works will be targeted in the Environment Department based on the 2016 RMCEI Plan. The 2016 RMCEI Plan was submitted to EPA in January 2016.

CFRAMs – OPW and their Consultant Jacobs Engineering continue to work on the development of suitable flood mitigation options regarding the management of flood risk in the Shannon River Basin District in the Leitrim area. The OPW in conjunction with their Consulting Engineers have Draft Flood Risk Management Plans completed. The closing date for comments and observations regarding was Friday 23rd September, 2016.

ENERGY:

Leitrim County Council in conjunction with our Energy Consultants Retrofit Energy Ireland Ltd (REIL) lodged a Better Energy Communities 2016 Application on Friday 26th February, 2016 with Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI). Works involved scoping a further project application for the 2016 SEAI Better Energy Communities Grant program with particular emphasis on the community facilities within Manorhamilton town and Carrick-on-Shannon town. Energy Surveys by REIL Specialist Energy Retrofit Ireland (Energy Consultant) were carried out on selected properties to meet SEAI requirements in Manorhamilton and Carrick-on-Shannon for proposed application to SEAI for funding. SEAI evaluated all applications within the Country.

SEAI announced on the 9th June 2016 that Leitrim County Council and its Beneficiaries would be awarded a Grant of €691,903.78 total Eligible Costs with Maximum Grant amount of €283,964.33 for this SEAI Project.

All works are now completed on this Project which included as follows:

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

All works are currently under a strict inspection regime by SEAI at the moment on this project.

It was a huge challenge to get all works completed by deadline date of 14th October, 2016. All works were successfully completed and funding is currently been recouped from SEAI for this Project subject to their audit inspections.

ROADS:
• Area Road works Programme progressing in accordance with the adopted program
• Severe weather funding – progress in accordance with programme
• N16 Drummahon Realignment Scheme – Part 8 Consultation process ongoing
• N4 Embankment Failure at Carrick on Shannon – Contractor approved. Work to commence in November
• N16 Cornclosh Sradrine Phase II – Works ongoing. Estimated completion date March 2017
• Works at N4/R201 Junction at Masonite commenced

Rural Water Programme:
All group schemes that have been approved for funding have now been contacted and are progressing matters currently. The following are the schemes involved:
• Environmental and Public Health Compliance - Cornamshamogue GWS
• Enhancement of Schemes - Kilmaddaroe GWS, Antfield GWS, Drumaleague GWS, Drumkeelan GWS, Lismoyle/Coolcrieve GWS, Moherrcreg GWS, Tarmon GWS
• Sewerage Schemes (where individual septic tanks are not a viable option particularly from an environmental perspective) – Hartley Cartown GSS

Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services Directorate

HOUSING:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing Allocations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offers issued to 31st October, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Tenancies created from 1st January 2016 to 31st October, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing tenants transferred to alternative accommodation to 31st October, 2016</th>
<th>New Tenants (1st time allocation)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>47</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Traveller Accommodation Programme Targets – Progress Report at 31st October, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation Type</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Outputs achieved at 31st October, 2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Housing Scheme – Existing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Block - Existing</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Authority Standard Housing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Accommodation Scheme (incl. renewals)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Leasing (incl. renewals)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Housing provided by Approved Housing Body under CAS Scheme

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing Assistance Payment (incl new family formations)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Private Rented Inspection Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall target for delivery in 2016</th>
<th>No of inspections completed to 31st October, 2016</th>
<th>% Complete</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Housing Grants

**NOTE:** HGD = Housing Adaptation Grant; MAG = Mobility Aids Grant; HOP = Housing Aid for Older People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Allocation</th>
<th>€409,695.00</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/01/2016 – 31/10/2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Allocation</td>
<td>2016 Allocation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRANT</strong></td>
<td><strong>NO</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGD</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAG</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOP</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approved not paid</strong></td>
<td><strong>Applications Rec'd Not Yet Approved</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOP</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAG</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGD</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance (Estimated)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Balance (Estimated)</strong></td>
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Housing Capital
Energy Efficiency Works

Leitrim County Council has proactively sought to improve the Council’s Social Housing Stock by securing funding from the Department under the Energy Efficiency Programme in addition to providing a level of match funding from the Council’s own financial resources. The Programme has been particularly beneficial to upgrade older social housing stock. Following requests for proposals from the Department in March, the Council has made a submission to upgrade 153 units under Phase 1 energy efficiency works and 27 potential units for Phase II upgrade works at an estimated cost of €390,000 approx. The Council has received approval to progress with phase 1 works up to a total cost of €198,800; no allocation was received for phase 2 works. A Contractor has been procured under National Frameworks and the Council is now in the process of appointing this Contractor to undertake upgrades to the 153 units.

These will complete the energy upgrade works on all Leitrim County Council housing stock requiring Phase 1 energy works. The remaining 27 for phase 2 (External insulation) will be proposed for funding in 2017.

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Better Energy Communities Area Based Scheme

A submission for grant aid was lodged under the SEAI Better Energy Communities Scheme for an extensive energy retrofitting project on 43 Council housing stocks in Manorhamilton and Carrick on Shannon during 2016. The submission also included for energy retrofitting to a further 4 Private houses consisting of Fuel poor and non-Fuel poor homes, a further 10 no Private homes which will be done in conjunction with the LEO office and a Credit Union Initiative Scheme and also 3 no Community beneficiaries projects consisting of a Community Centre and two number schools.

SEAI announced on the 9th June 2016 that Leitrim County Council and its Beneficiaries would be awarded a grant of €283,964.33 towards eligible costs of €691,903.78 total with under this SEAI Project.

Contractors were appointed to undertake this energy retrofitting works across a total of 7 contracts; all works and payments were complete and grants drawn down in advance of the deadline of 14th October 2016.

Voids

The Council made a comprehensive submission in February for maximum funding to continue the refurbishment programme of 32 housing units requiring significant remedial works including 3 dwellings classed as derelict.

In June 2016 the Council received confirmation from the Department of an allocation of €531,700 towards works on 29 void units. Works are progressing on the 29 houses under a number of different contracts with Contractors procured through eTenders and under National Frameworks. These works are progressing well with approximately 21 of the units complete and the remaining substantially complete.

In July the Council received confirmation from the Department of an allocation of €130,000 towards works on 3 derelict units. Tender Documentation was prepared by Housing Department and was advertised on eTenders, contractor is currently on site completing this project.

Also in July the Council made a submission to the Department to include an additional 7 no. houses in the 2016 Voids Programme and an additional 1 no. house in the Derelict Scheme 2016. Approval was received for the additional derelict house with an allocation of €40,000. This derelict house will be complete by extending the contract of the contractor already undertaking the works on the 3 derelict houses.

Approval was been received for these additional 7 Voids; Tender Documentation for these works was prepared by Housing Department and advertised on eTenders, a contract is about to be awarded to undertake these works.
In September the Council made a further submission to the Department to include an additional 4 no. houses in the 2016 Voids Programme. Approval for these additional 4 houses has been received, Tender Documentation was prepared by Housing Department and the works will be complete by extending the contract of the contactors currently appointed to existing Voids Contracts.

In October the Council made a further submission to the Department to include an additional 8 no. houses in the 2016 Voids Programme and awaits approval of same. Approval for these additional 8 houses has been received from the Department.

When complete these works will return 52 units back to productive use, in what will be the most comprehensive void refurbishment in any one year therefore significantly reducing the Councils vacant properties requiring extensive repair and refurbishment works.

Disability Works in Council Houses
An Adaptation Works (Disability related) scheme for Council housing stock will continue to be funded by the Department in 2016 to facilitate the Local Authority in carrying out adaptation works for tenants to address mobility problems, primarily associated with medical need and disability related. The works will render the dwelling more suitable to the particular needs of the Tenant, with typical works including, depending on the individual circumstances, installation of level access shower, installation of rails in bathrooms, installation of ramp access to front/back doors, installation of oil heating systems or storage heating and associated works. The funding for these works is based on the provision of 90% funding by the Department with the remaining 10% to be funded by the Local Authority.

The Council made a submission in February following a call for suitable projects from the Department, identifying 17 suitable tenancies for proposed disability works costing an estimated €150,000.

In June the Council received confirmation of grant approval of €134,100 (90% funding) with €14,900 (10% from Council's own resources) totalling €149,000 to complete identified works. A contractor has been procured and is currently on site undertaking works at a number of these houses. The adaption works to the remaining 12 no. houses is also progressing.

In July tender documentation was complete by the Housing department for the extension of an existing house to provide accessibility for a tenant, this contract has been awarded, works are progressing with a completion date of end November.

All other works under this programme for 2016 will be minor in nature and will be completed by appointed contractor.

Acquisitions
3 no. family type houses were purchased in Carrick on Shannon in 2015. A building contractor was procured and is finalising works on these properties to return them to productive use. The Council is continuing an acquisition programme subject to Departmental approval and targets identified in the Social programme 2015 – 2017, to date the Council has purchased / is engaged in purchasing circa 20 number houses across the county. These houses will require some energy and remedial works to return them to productive use in 2017.

Construction - Taobh Tire, Manorhamilton: This project to construct an additional 7 units of social housing has received Stage 2 approval from the Department and the Design Team can now proceed to Stage 3; detailed design and completion of tender documentation. A submission for Stage 3 approval will be forwarded to the Department in early November 2016. Approved construction costs have now been set at close to €1 Million. Construction works are anticipated to commence on site by early 2017.
Capital Assistance Schemes

Two properties in Carrick-on-Shannon were acquired by North West Simon in late 2015 / early 2016 through a Capital Assistance Scheme funded by the Department through Leitrim County Council. These properties are currently going through refurbishment contracts to be tenant ready in Q4 2016.

A further approval was received in February 2016 for a project led by St. Vincent de Paul Ballinamore for demolition of derelict properties and site preparation in Canaboie Terrace, Ballinamore and the construction of two family type two storey dwellings on the site. In July this project received Stage 2 approval from the Department and the Design Team can now proceed to Stage 3; detailed design and completion of tender documentation. A submission for Stage 3 approval will be forwarded to the Department in early November 2016. Construction costs of €276,486 were applied for and received along with an allowance of €5000 for local authority administration costs. Construction works are anticipated to commence in early 2017.

The Council will have 100% tenancy nomination rights on all these CAS scheme properties from the Housing Waiting List.

Community:

Public Participation Network
- A total of 188 groups are registered with the PPN

Peace IV
- A series of clarifications on the plan were sought by various sections within SEUPB and the accountable department.
- A meeting with the SEUPB programme manager and Case Officer in Omagh to discuss details of the plan was held in October and a decision is expected by the end of November.
- The position of Peace Manager was advertised.

Floral Pride
- Awards night for Floral Pride took place on Tuesday 25 October in Manorhamilton. 20 prizes were awarded. There was an attendance of around 115.
- There was good coverage of the event in The Leitrim Observer.

Pride of Place
- Awards night will be in Belfast on Saturday 26 November.
- Certificates of participation were presented to the three entrants at the Floral Pride Awards evening.

Comhairle na nOg
- The 2016 AGM took place on Monday 17 October in Carrick on Shannon and all second level schools attended. There were around 95 young people present.
- National Showcase will take place in Croke Park on Thursday 24 November and will be attended by 15 members of the Comhairle.
- A short video on homelessness was completed with NUIG was launched and it was decided to show this at MD meetings in November.

Age Friendly
- A meeting of the Age Friendly Alliance took place at which it was decided to begin preparations for a new plan to cover the period 2017 until 2019.

Leitrim Sports Partnership

Get Ireland Walking Active Community Programme

Leitrim Sports Partnership in partnership with Get Ireland walking has set up six active community walking programmes around the County in Annaduff, Aughavas, Dromahair, Drumshanbo, Carrigallen, and Gortletteragh and the programme last 8 weeks. Total Number: 91 adults
Code of Ethics and Good Practice -Safe Guarding 1 & 2 Courses
We delivered two Safe Guarding One Workshops in September in Carrick on Shannon and Rossinver and one Safe Guarding Two Workshop in Carrick on Shannon in October. **Total Number: 34**

Sports Ireland Youth Leadership Award
The LSP identified the need to train transition years to link with their clubs/communities and lead programmes for younger children in their schools especially those not involved in mainstream sport. We have delivered four Sports Leadership courses in Ballinamore (15), Carrick on Shannon (23), Mohill (21) and St. Clare’s Comprehensive Schools (24). **Total Number: 83**

Sports First Aid Course
We complete a one day Sports First Aid Course for Aughasheelin GAA club with six people attending and a First Aid course in Carrick on Shannon with 12 people attending. **Total Number: 18**

FÁS Sports Development Coaches
The 2 LSP Sports Coaches who co-ordinate and manage the delivery of the sports and recreational programmes in Leitrim Schools for the LSP have just completed coaching in 8 Primary Schools in Leitrim with 594 students participating on this programme. **Total Number: 594**

Mature Movers Dance Programme
Leitrim Sports Partnership has stated a 6 week dance programme with the ICA group in Annaduff (19) and the Carrick on Shannon Active Age group (22). The dance programme is social dancing programme, where all the participants get opportunity to learn to jive, line dance and traditional dancing and have a laugh in the process. **Total Number: 41**

Community Coaching Programme
The Community Coaching Programme specifically targets unemployed or persons in part-time employment (males and females) living in the Leitrim area. There is two strands to this programme are sports and education and training. The sports coach training programme will include three sports, Soccer, Rugby and Athletics. It will also deliver accredited training in Occupational First Aid, Child Protection in Sport, Sports Ireland Active Leadership and Disability Awareness. The programme will also provide classroom based learning component and information through specialist professional guidance tutors on how to set up and manage your own business, enterprise opportunities, job readiness skills, personal development, building self esteem and self confidence. The coaches will also receive personal identification of progression options in employment, further education and training. We currently have 7 participants on this course. **Total Number: 7**

Ag Sugradh Le Cheile Programme
This programme is about parents and children playing together in tutor lead fun classroom activities and games during school hours or as after School programme. We held one workshop in Largy N.S. in September with 5 parents and 11 children participation in the workshops. **Total Number: 16**

Community Soccer Programme 2016

FARE Week Schools Participation
Football Against Racism in Europe Week took place in October:
- A classroom based interactive session using the Show Racism the Red Card DVD to educate about the issue of racism.
- Deliver a fun football coaching/PE session.
The following schools took part in the FARE week events: Leitrim Village NS, Kiltclogher NS, Dowra NS, Aughawillian NS, Largy NS, Ballaghmeehan NS, Ballinamore NS, Newtowngore NS. Over 170 students took part in all the workshops ran.

Club Futsal Programme
A 10 week programme running in the Mayflower Centre for u10’s began in October with 3 clubs involved. Over 60 players are involved across the 6 teams registered.

Primary Schools Futsal Blitzes
The Primary Schools Futsal caters for boys and girls in 3rd and 4th class. The programme delivers a quality fast paced action packed game focusing on skill, speed and technique with the emphasis on fun and participation.

The Blitz Days ran in 5 centres in Drumshanbo, Dowra, Kinlough, Ballinamore and Manorhamilton with 11 schools taking part and over 220 children involved.

Post Primary Schools 1st Year Futsal Competition
Post Primary Schools Futsal Competition ran in Drumshanbo with 4 schools taking part with 60 participants involved. St. Clares Comprehensive will represent Leitrim in the Boys and Girls Connaught Finals in November.

Soccer Sister Club Development Programme
We started Soccer Sister Club Programme with Manor Rangers as part of our approach to promote and develop women’s football in Leitrim. The Soccer Sisters Club Programme is for girls from 7-12yrs interested in starting playing football in a FUN environment. 22 Girls took part in this programme running over 6 weeks.

The Arts
Creative Frame- In partnership with Leitrim Local Enterprise Office, Leslie Ryan has been appointed Creative Frame Manager to develop the Creative Frame programme – a user driven continuous professional development network designed to facilitate the ongoing training and development requirements of practitioners in the creative sector in Leitrim and the wider region. A series of workshops and seminars have been organised.

Spark – Artist Tinka Bechert has commenced work with Prior PLM Medical as part of the 2016 Spark Programme.

Festivals and Events – 9 Festivals from across the County have been granted funding under the 2016 scheme

Artists in Schools – 4 Artists and schools attended a planning meeting ahead of the September term and are now commencing the 2016 Residencies and the initial facilitated planning meeting has taken

Artist in the Community – 4 artists were selected to work with 4 community groups across 3 municipal districts.

Drumshanbo Artist Studios – Artist Kate Wilson and writer Gerry Boland are continuing their Residencies

Leitrim Equation 4 – The Leitrim Equation DVD has been successfully launched and is now being made available in retail outlets.

Youth Theatre- Autumn/winter term is in place for 5 existing Youth Theatre groups in Manorhamilton, Carricx on Shannon and Carrigallen with a new junior group in Manorhamilton.

Literature – The Iron Mountain Literature Festival took place in October to full houses and received national press coverage. Leitrim Author Phil Byrne received the John McGahern award

Library Service:
Event Programming
A busy programme of activities took place in all branches across the county during the month of October, including Reading Group meetings, a Book Launch by the Carrigallen Writer’s Group, I.T. classes, lectures, Spanish language
classes, craft activities including Knitting for the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal in Mohill Library, and Comhrá Classes in Kinlough Library.

Mohill Library hosted a very enjoyable visit by residents of Lough Errill Nursing Home, where they accessed the Sensory Room, and watched old music videos.

**Highlights:**

**Leitrim 2016 Centenary Programme**

- Conference - The County Library presented a very successful conference entitled Paths to Freedom, featuring lectures by RTÉ broadcasters Joe Duffy and Myles Dungan, along with historians Turtle Bunbury and Ian Kenneally, and criminal psychologist John O’Keeffe.

- Ballinamore and Carrigallen Libraries presented two 1916-related Exhibitions – “Buttons and Bows”, a piece of artwork created by Noel Coffey, Oak View Nursing Home, Belturbet and “Our Coin Mural”, presented by pupils from St Aidan’s NS, Bawnboy.

- 1916 Family History Day – A most interesting genealogy event took place in Ballinamore Library, organised in association with the Irish Family History Centre, which comprised of presentations on genealogical sources along with one-to-one consultations. The talks were attended pupils from Ballinamore Comprehensive School and members of the public.

- Lecture on Leitrim Politics 1912-1916 took place in Ballinamore Library.

- An Exhibition from Conradh na Gaeilge was also held.

**Writer’s Event:**

Leitrim County Library, in association with Creative Frame, Leitrim County Council, and Words Ireland, hosted a hugely engaging event for aspiring writers in Ballinamore Library 22nd October, 2016. The presentation featured writers from the region, speaking about their experiences, including Michael Harding, Brian Leyden, Monica Corish and Gerry Boland. Over 70 participants attended.

**Children’s Book Festival 2016**

Children’s Book Festival is a celebration of books and reading, which takes place during the month of October. This is a major highlight of the Library calendar, and plays an important part in raising awareness and usage of Children’s Services.

**Special CBF Events organised with local primary schools, included:**

- Sound Therapy Workshops, held in Kiltyclogher, Carrick-on-Shannon and Manorhamilton Libraries
- History Live in Manorhamilton Libraries

**Other activities included:**

- Halloween Mask-making workshops were held in Carrick-on-Shannon and Mohill Libraries
- Halloween Storytelling events took place in Mohill, Kinlough and Carrigallen Libraries
- Autumn Craft Activity and Storytelling in Carrigallen Library

**Class Visits**

Schedule of class visits by local pre-schools, primary and post-primary schools continued in Branch Libraries across the county. Carrigallen Library hosted a visit by Junior Cert English class students and their teacher, while Ballinamore Library presented information to a group of History students from Ballinamore Comprehensive School.

**Summer Stars Reading Programme 2016 - Awards Ceremonies**

Awards ceremonies for our very successful Summer Stars Reading initiative took place in Branch Libraries during October, with guest speakers presenting the awards.
Local Studies - ‘Item of the Month’

Fire Service

Building Control
- Received 3 Commencement Notices (all valid), 3 Opt Out commencement notices (all valid), 1 Short Commencement notice (valid)
- Received 0 Disabled Access certificates, processed 1 Disabled Access certificates
- Received 1 Fire Safety Certificate, processed 1 Fire safety Certificate

Annual Licensing
A number of licensing inspections were carried out and recommendations issued to the Court.

New Class B Fire Appliance
Manufacturer is awaiting delivery of chassis. Construction to commence shortly afterwards and delivery of new Class B appliance expected by Q2 of 2017.

National Fire Safety Week
We delivered a successful programme of events for National Fire Safety Week in October 2016 including Primary Schools programme, talks to Active Age Groups, distribution of fire safety leaflets, fire safety packs, smoke alarms and testers to the public. We took part in the National Directorate campaign to post fire safety messages online using the Council’s social media accounts. Fire safety information was also posted to the Council’s website.

CAMP Outstation Equipment
The installation of outstation equipment was completed in four stations –the installation in the remaining station will be completed before end of November, 2016.

Major Emergency Management
Attended MEM Regional exercise in Sligo on 25th October based on a rail incident.

Road Safety Authority – First Response Video
As the final part of the development of the new Junior Cycle short course on Road Safety, it was decided to produce a video outlining the role of all the emergency services at an RTC. Each emergency service had to provide a representative to record the contribution of each service. I attended this video recording work and delivered the fire service input. This course will be rolled out to all secondary schools starting from September, 2017.

Road Based Incidents – Leitrim
Commenced a review of Leitrim County Council road based incidents in Leitrim from 2015 onwards with a view to updating our Council policy.

Cross Border Emergency Management Group
Preparing for next meeting of the group to be held in Carrick-on-Shannon on November 9th. Updating progress achieved on our current Business Plan.

Civil Defence
- On 2nd October an Ambulance and two 4x4 Vehicles provided First Aid cover during the Tour De Breifne charity cycle. The cycle route covered a distance of 100Km through Leitrim and Cavan.
- On the 18th October the Civil Defence Officer delivered a presentation on Civil Defence to members of the AILG (Association of Irish Local Government) at a training day in Birr.
- On the 22nd October the Civil Defence Officer delivered a presentation on Civil Defence to members of the AILG at a training day in Sligo.
- On the 22nd Oct a number of Volunteers took part in a visit to the Irish Coastguard Station at Malin Head where staff members provided a brief on Coastguard operations.
Appendix 6 - 9th Jan 2017

- Assistance was provided during the month to the Environment Department with lake water sampling.

Signed: ____________________________
Frank Curran
Chief Executive

Date: 11th November, 2016
Appendix 7 - 9th Jan 2017


Finance & Water Services Directorate

November 2016 - Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division

(PRELIMINARY November 2016 - FIGURES)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Overall Surplus/(deficit) €</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>£220,863,110</td>
<td>£22,193,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(102%) (£58,839)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MAIN POINTS AS AT END OF November 2016

* Environmental Income ahead of Target due to Resump of regional waste enforcement costs.
* Water Expenditure in line with income from Irish Water.
* Miscellaneous income ahead of Target due to higher than budgeted NPPA Receipts.

November 2016 - Recourse to Overdraft

Days in Overdraft during October 2016: 0

Interest Income: 0

November 2016 - Collection Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nov 16</th>
<th>Nov 15</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>% Nov 16</th>
<th>% Nov 15</th>
<th>% FY 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing Costs</td>
<td>1,661,821</td>
<td>1,714,373</td>
<td>1,892,709</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial Rates</td>
<td>9,268,463</td>
<td>4,003,516</td>
<td>4,320,923</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing loans</td>
<td>214,190</td>
<td>236,803</td>
<td>236,803</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMMENTS:

- Collection rates up to 22nd in line with increased costs
- Collection down on 23rd
- Collection driven on 27th

November 2016 - Aged Debt Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>30 Days</th>
<th>60 Days</th>
<th>90 Days</th>
<th>180 Days</th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>2 Years</th>
<th>&gt; 2 Years</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rents</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Water Services

Operations Update

Maximo: Asset Management

- The month of October saw 80 issues raised on Maximo, IW Asset Management System.
- 74 related to water and 6 related to waste water.
- There were 24 Bursts / Leaks detected and repaired.

Water Conservation:

UFW in this county is 49.8% - (new audit completed)

The following are DMA’s which require urgent targeted leak detection and repair:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DMA Name</th>
<th>DMA Code</th>
<th>Total Nett Inflow m3/day</th>
<th>AFW Total m3/day</th>
<th>UFW Total m3/day</th>
<th>Percentage UFW %</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carrick on Shannon Town</td>
<td>1700_TEMP_005</td>
<td>1956.30</td>
<td>798.533</td>
<td>1157.76</td>
<td>59.181</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corraleehan Scheme</td>
<td>1700_TEMP_010</td>
<td>316.505</td>
<td>80.065</td>
<td>236.440</td>
<td>74.703</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dromahair PWS</td>
<td>2700MA045</td>
<td>694.737</td>
<td>233.69</td>
<td>461.047</td>
<td>66.363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenade WTP to Fertagh Res</td>
<td>1700MA007</td>
<td>229.900</td>
<td>56.151</td>
<td>173.749</td>
<td>75.576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gowel to Kilnagross</td>
<td>1700MA003</td>
<td>244.2</td>
<td>44.406</td>
<td>199.764</td>
<td>81.814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leckau &amp; Fivemilebourne</td>
<td>2700MA010</td>
<td>252.000</td>
<td>86.407</td>
<td>165.593</td>
<td>65.712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manorhamilton PWS</td>
<td>1700MA005</td>
<td>1108.000</td>
<td>731.462</td>
<td>376.538</td>
<td>33.984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Campbell to Jamestown</td>
<td>1700MA058</td>
<td>221.000</td>
<td>61.141</td>
<td>159.859</td>
<td>72.334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point X to Drumkeeran</td>
<td>1700MA046</td>
<td>53.500</td>
<td>3.551</td>
<td>49.949</td>
<td>93.363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point X to Manorhamilton</td>
<td>1700MA001</td>
<td>126.100</td>
<td>32.494</td>
<td>93.606</td>
<td>74.232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Road Black Road</td>
<td>1700_TEMP_007</td>
<td>101.000</td>
<td>11.404</td>
<td>89.596</td>
<td>88.709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toomans to Gortfadda</td>
<td>1700MA022</td>
<td>494.800</td>
<td>144.600</td>
<td>350.200</td>
<td>70.776</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capital Update:

North Leitrim Regional Water supply Scheme (Project No. 1000390)

The contractor EPS has taken possession of the site at Moneyduff WTP and work commenced on 26th October 2016. The shadowing period of 30 days ended on the 25th November 2016. LCC staff have vacated the site for offices at the roads office in Dromahaire.

The Contractor now has full control and responsibility for the interim operation of the existing WTP during the 1 year Design Build phase. Following this the contractor will operate the new extended plant for a further 1 year Operate / commissioning phase. The Contract sum is €3.84 million.

Extension of Supply to Rossinver and Kiltyclogher (Project No.10014315)

Ward and Burke Construction Ltd appointed and works commenced on site on 20th June 2016. Work on the Kiltyclogher 6.5Km rising main and the new pumping station at Coolodonnell is substantially completed.
The rising main and Pumps and controls etc have all been tested, super chlorinated and are ready to be put into service. The contractor has sampled the water being delivered to Killea reservoir and results are clear. It is now proposed to commence pumping to Killea Reservoir on 7th-8th Dec 2016.

Following extensive scouring of the networks in Kiltyclogher we will commence sampling and testing with the HSE circa 8th / 9th December 2016. Following a series of compliant results the Boil Water Notice will be lifted with the approval of the HSE circa 14-15th Dec 2016. The works on the new distribution main to Rossinver (4.5Km) has commenced and is approx 85% completed. Testing of the new distribution line is ongoing and some work on connections and installation of pressure reducing valves etc. is outstanding. 90% of the permanent road reinstatement is completed.

Manorhamilton Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project No 10000734
& Mohill Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project No 10000735

Irish Water has re-tendered this project with a closing date for receipt of Tenders extended to the 11th January 2017. Site inspections by contractors tendering took place on 9th November 2016. We are currently dealing with tender Clarifications. The appointment of a contractor should be possible before the end of February 2017 with commencement of the works on site now likely to be March /April 2017.

The all in cost of this project will exceed €3.0 million.

Minor Capital Works
The total cost of all Projects Approved to date is Estimated in excess of €2.5million

- **Energy Efficiency Programme** – Carrick on Shannon Water Treatment Plant is selected as a pilot project to examine the energy usage and efficiency at this facility. Mr. W. Moynihan is PM in Irish Water and J.B. Barrys Consulting Engineers has been engaged as ER on this project. An initial site meeting has been held and a data gathering exercise has to be completed by LCC to inform the issues.

- **Process Optimisation and Control Programme**
  (Level sensors and SCADA telemetry at 10 No. drinking water reservoir sites)
  Ryan Hanley consulting engineers have been appointed and the scope of the works has been extended to include other items required at these sites.
  Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers has now produced Draft contract documents for procurement by Irish Water of a contractor to undertake these works. Hopefully IW will go to tender on this project in the next couple of months.

- **DMA Programme** –
  (Upgrade and complete the District metering structure on the networks in Co. Leitrim) This project is progressing well and is on Programme for substantial completion in December 2016. Slight delays with ESB connections etc means that commissioning will extend into January 2017.
  Contract cost €518,000.

- **Killeen Watermain - replacement of 2km of old cast iron watermains.**
  Tender Documents were issued to the market on 20th October 2016 with the closing date for tenders the 2nd December 2016. The CaPO will undertake tender evaluation of submissions and we will make a recommendation to IW to appoint the preferred bidder. Commencement likely on site February 2017.
  Estimated cost = €150,000.

- **Drumshanbo, Leitrim Village, Carrigallen and Ballinamore WWTP Upgrades.**
  Nicholas O’ Dwyers Consulting Engineers appointed to prepare contract documents.
  Irish Water has invited Tenders and Site visits have taken place. Closing date for tenders extended on request to 7th November 2016.
• CaPO together with the Consultants will undertake the Tender evaluation and make a recommendation to IW on the preferred bidder. IW will appoint the contractor we expect that works will commence here early in the new year.

Following Procurement of a contractor by Irish Water we expect that works will commence here early in the new year.

Estimate €270,000.

• Inline UVT and Crypto Samplers.

Coffey’s Water Ltd. has been contracted to install inline UVT and Crypto monitors at two water treatment plants in Leitrim at Carrick on Shannon and Moneyduff as part of a larger regional project. Works at our two WTP’s are completed. This contract also includes for a 12 month monitoring of raw and treated water at these plants.

• Trunk Main replacement Eslin – Mohill (2.5Km) - €500,000

Tender documents prepared by CaPO were approved and issued to the market by Ervia with a closing date of receipt of tenders of 14th December 2016. CaPO will complete the tender evaluation and recommendation on preferred bidder before the end of the year with a view to IW appointing a contractor early in the new year with a possible commencement date in March 2017.

• Cast Iron Mains Replacement, Bridge Street, Carrick-on Shannon

Work on the replacement of the old cast iron watermain in Bridge Street Carrick on Shannon commenced on 27th September 2016.

The contractor appointed by Irish Water, Source Civil Ltd, has also been engaged to undertake work on surface water upgrade by our Roads Department.

Following some delays due to unforeseen circumstances the main pipeline works were all completed by week end Friday 25th November 2016. Completion of switch over of all connections and commissioning of the new main and decommissioning of the old main to be completed by 9th December 2016. Works now on course to meet this deadline.

The contract cost of circa €120,000.

• Cast Iron Mains Replacement, Ballinamore, Mohill and Manorhamilton;

Irish Water has now decided that these Minor Capital works will be procured by Shared Services from Minor Capital frameworks in the normal way and will not be attached as a variation to some existing Capital project as earlier proposed. It has now also been decided that the preliminary design and Contract documents for the procurement of these works will be prepared by us in CaPO. We will prepare these documents with a view to construction of these pipelines in the Spring / Summer 2017.

• New Cover to the flash mixers and flocculators in Carrick on Shannon water treatment plant estimate €50,000.

EPS appointed as contractor. Delays in November due to contractor error in manufacture of Steel frames. Work will resume in early December and will be substantially completed by the end of the month.

• A project to provide “Filter Run To Waste” at Carrick on Shannon has been approved by IW. EPS commenced on site on Monday 7th November. All of the mechanical fit out is completed. There is an issue with turbidity signals not available in Filter control panel and EPS / Aecom have been asked to propose a solution and cost and timeline for completion.

Other Projects recently approved under Minor Capital works

1. Kinlough / Tullaghan – Glenade water Treatment Plant

2. Filter Run to Waste required. Tender documents to be prepared by CaPO office for procurement of contractor by IW. Outstanding
3. Irish Water has approved an ANB for Minor Capital upgrade of Drumsna WWTP to provide for optimisation of the treatment process. The works require the construction of a balancing tank and level sensor and linked communications to main pumping station. The estimated cost is €62,000. Design and tender document is underway by CaPO and will be submitted to Irish Water for procurement in due course.

Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation Directorate

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING:
Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Training
The 2016 training is nearing completion and planning for 2017 training programme has commenced, invitations to tender will be sent out shortly.

Mentoring
There continues to be a strong demand for one to one mentoring.

Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur
The Bootcamp took place from 11th-13th November and was attended by 13 of the 19 shortlisted Feedback from the event was very good. The IBYE pitch day took place on 25th November and was attended by 13 participants. The County Final takes place on 1st December in the Landmark Hotel.

Networking
USEFE event took place in Croke Park on 3rd November and Local Enterprise Office shared stand with LEO’s from Cavan, Roscommon and Longford.

The Big Breakfast took place on 24th November in Glasshouse Hotel, Sligo. The event offered a chance for the public to hear from 19 statutory bodies as well as guest speakers Brody Sweeney from Camille Thai and Michael Tunney from the Enterprise Europe Network. Local Enterprise Office shared a stand at the event with LEO’s from Donegal and Sligo.

Regional Skills Forum Launch took place in IT Sligo on 25th November at which Local Enterprise Office shared a stand with Sligo LEO.

One to one meetings
The LEO staff continues to meet one to one with clients for advice and signposting to supports.

Competitive Funds Projects USEFE

Graduate Placement Programme: Companies from the four counties expressed an interest in receiving a graduate and interested graduates submitted an application form. The matching process will take place before Christmas. The programme itself will be launched on 1st December at 5pm in The Hive. The event will also provide an opportunity for local businesses to talk to training providers and agencies including IT Sligo, IT Athlone, Department of Social Protection and Regional Skill Forum.

Creative Connections Programme: Tendering took place for the audit and training elements of the programme and the contract was awarded to The Leitrim Design House. The work will begin shortly.

Student Enterprise Programme
School visits have commenced for the Student Enterprise Programme 2016/2017.

Taste Leitrim
A tender to develop a Food Strategy for Co. Leitrim was awarded to Momentum Consulting and work is continuing on same.
Other
Additional funding was made available to Local Enterprise Office in November for promotional purposes and a radio, social media and newspaper advertising campaign is currently running.

Economic Development

Local Economic Development Committee and Rural Development Programme
The LCDC met on November 30th and agreed changes to closing dates on some of the LEADER calls. The LCDC also received a presentation on the 2016 SICAP programme and were given the feedback from Pobal’s evaluation of the targets and progress.

Town and Village Scheme
Funding of €380,000 was approved for 8 Town and Village projects. Significant work has been completed on the Carrick on Shannon application during November in order to have infrastructure in place for Christmas Village which was a key element of the application.

Purple Flag
Discussion took place with ATCM co-ordinator in relation to hosting of 2017 International Awards. These will take place on February 8th in Carrick on Shannon.

Renewable Energy
SECURE project
Presentation on progress given to SECURE International partners in Donegal on Nov 8th and attended launch conference on November 9th.
Community Survey finalised along with project partners.
Budget estimates for May – November reviewed with Team Leader.

District Heating System
Information was sought from local businesses on their fuel usage to feed into Feasibility study.
Renewable Energy meeting set up for Dec 12th.

Carrick on Shannon Christmas Festival
A number of informal meetings have been held with the four other people involved in the roll-out of the Christmas Festival and Cook-off. This has included the following:

- Providing an on-going dialogue on what is required on procurement for different aspects of the Town and Village funding and arranging initial payments;
- Helping to organise Christmas Cook-Off event as a showcase of local restaurants and food and fundraiser;
- Assisting with marketing opportunities and events as part of the festival.

Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) Application for Empowering Female Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness
This involved completing Leitrim County Council element of NPA application with lead partner Kareila University of applied Sciences in Finland, Westbic, Stukurum in Sweden, UIT the Arctic University of Norway, Innovation Center Iceland along with a number of associate partners. The project objectives are as follows:

1. Support systems for regional and transnational networking of female entrepreneurs by:
   a. Regional and transnational networking to open global markets and motivate women for self-employment by sharing of best practices and peer-to-peer business support.

2. Improvement of entrepreneurial business environment in the regions by:
   a. capacity building of women entrepreneurs & leaders/managers;
   b. peer-to-peer support;
   c. introduction to versatile business models; and
   d. up-skilling in digital business tools and strategies
3. Encouragement for self-employment in rural regions by:
   a. motivating women in NPA region for self-employment,
   b. development of existing businesses;
   c. Access to global market by transnational networking and digital tools.
   d. Student, indigenous and immigrant women are a special target.

Outputs:

- 60 enterprises supported across the NPA region through transnational networking
- Digital handbook developed
- Peer to peer support programme
- Transnational competitive tool developed online

If successful, LCC will be the lead on improving the entrepreneurial ecosystem WP.

USEFE

- Invest 4 Success, a free jobs and investment expo, took place in Croke Park on the 3rd of Nov. The event consisted of 53 exhibitor stands and 17 speakers. 280 people registered between Eventbrite and on the day registrations. There were also a number of other people who attended but did not register on the day.

- PR and marketing consultants were provided with information on an ongoing basis to ensure the event was pitched to the target market.

- A USEFE Operational Group meeting took place on the 14th of November 2016 in The Hive, Carrick On Shannon.

- The Laktive Tourism project claim was prepared.

Tourism Development

The following actions have been undertaken throughout November 2016 facilitating the continued promotion of the tourism offering in the county:

1. Completed and submitted an angling application for infrastructure, promotion and capacity building for the Ballinamore/Carrigallen area through the REDZ programme
2. Designed and produced a ezine focusing on accommodation in and accessibility to Leitrim, The ezine was circulated to a large tour operator database with the call to action to enjoyleirrim.com
3. Exhibited at the invest4success event at Croke Park in Dublin.
4. Updates were carried out on the new Leitrim Tourism Website including the inclusion of an 'Angling in Leitrim' ebook
5. The Closing Ceremony for Centenary Programme Leitrim 2016 took place at St George's Visitor Centre in Carrick on Shannon. Representatives from each of the 33 events that took place in the county were invited to attend the event where they were presented with a certificate to mark their participation in the Leitrim Centenary Programme for 2016. Certificates were presented by Centenary Committee Chairman Cllr Paddy O'Rourke.
6. SAINT continue work on the Pilot case study for the SAINT project
7. Centenary/Festival & Events Grants - Administered the Centenary and Grants Claims
Development Management

Unfinished Housing Developments / Taking in Charge

- Works are continuing within 9 estates across the county which obtained funding under the National Taking in Charge Initiative and also in relation to a research project on development bonds. These works are due to be completed before year end which would allow these estates to be advertised for taking in charge in the New Year.

- Works are also been undertaken in other developments where the Council retains cash deposits and is expected that these estates will also have commenced the formal taking in charge process by year end.

Pre Planning

- The pre planning clinics continued during the month of November. The Clinic System operates on an appointment basis with the relevant Area Planner each Wednesday morning. 6 no. new pre planning consultations took place during November in addition to a number of other inquires which are dealt with through e-mail and phone.

Development Management

- 14 no. valid planning applications were received in November of which 2 related to commercial developments. One of these applications seeks to create a new visitor experience at The Shed Distillery, Drumshanbo. 3 of the applications lodged seek retention of planning permission and 2 of the applications seek extension of duration of planning permission. A further 2 no. applications were deemed invalid.

- 13 final decisions on planning applications were made during November, all of which were granted planning permission (10 no. relating to applications for permission, 2 applications seeking to extend the duration of their respective planning permissions and 1 application seeking retention of planning permission. A request for further information issued with respect to a further 6 no. applications, 2 no. of which all sought planning permission and 4 no. of which sought permission to retain.

Forward Planning

- Work is continuing with regard to the Manorhamilton Land Use Strategy which was a specific action arising from “To the Waters and the Wild” REDZ Strategy.

- A presentation was given to the Management Team on the implementation of the Vacant Site Levy in County Leitrim. A further and more detailed presentation will be presented to the Strategic Policy Committee in early December. It is expected that a draft Variation to the County Development Plan 2015-2021 will be prepared early in the New Year subject.

- Work has also commenced on the 2 Year Progress Report for implementing the objectives of the County Development Plan 2015-2021.

Heritage

- 2 editions of the Leitrim County Council newsletter (Heritage Matters) were published during November. The newsletter advertised the closing date (November 18th) for applications to the GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings Grant Scheme and details of the Book of Fenagh featured on Nationwide. In addition, the newsletter notified interested stakeholders of various events being held over the coming weeks.

Development Contributions Scheme

- The Development Contributions Scheme 2016-2019 was adopted at the November bi-monthly meeting.

ENVIRONMENT:

National Inspection Program (DWWTS) – The Council are inspecting 28 No DWWTS in 2016 and these inspections will take place during the summer months. We will be selecting these sites based on EPA Risk based methodology mapping across the Country. These DWWTS inspections have now all been completed. Where Advisory Notices were issued in 2015/2016 there will be ongoing inspections where works have been completed and re-inspections are requested.

RMCEI Plan – Works will be targeted in the Environment Department based on the 2016 RMCEI Plan. The 2016 RMCEI Plan was submitted to EPA in January 2016.

CFRAMs – OPW and their Consultant Jacobs Engineering are working on the development of suitable flood mitigation options regarding the management of flood risk in the Shannon River Basin District in the Leitrim area.
The Flood Risk Management Options had Public Consultation meetings which took place within Leitrim on in November 2015. The Office of Public Works (OPW) is leading the CFRAM Programme in part to meet Ireland’s obligations under the 2007 EU Floods Directive, in accordance with the European Communities “Assessment and Management of Flood risks) Regulations 2010, SI No. 122 of 2010, which transposed the EU Floods Directive into Irish Law, as amended by SI No. 495 of 2015.

Draft Flood Maps went on Public Display as part of the Statutory Public Consultation from Friday 20th November 2015 to Wednesday 23rd December 2015 inclusive and were available at all Local Authority offices for viewing.

A Stakeholder Workshop took place with OPW/Jacobs Engineering in Athlone on Wednesday 25th May 2016 on Preliminary Options report Stage.

The OPW in conjunction with their Consulting Engineers have Draft Flood Risk Management Plans completed. Public Consultation on the Draft Flood Risk Management Plan for the Shannon CFRAM catchment took place between Friday 15th July 2016 and 23rd September 2016 both dates inclusive with final adoption of plans by end of 2016.

The OPW/Consultants arranged Public Consultation days on FRMP as follows:

- **Shannon CFRAM**
  - Lead Authority: OPW
  - Consultants: Jacobs Consulting Engineers
  - Location: Carrick on Shannon – County Buildings
  - AFA Towns: Carrick on Shannon, Drumshanbo, Leitrim Village, Mohill, and Dromod
  - Date: Tuesday 6th September 2016
  - Time: 2:00 pm – 7:30pm

- **Western CFRAM**
  - Lead Authority: OPW
  - Consultants: JBA Consulting Engineers
  - Location: Bee Park Resource Centre, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim
  - AFA Towns: Manorhamilton
  - Date: Wednesday 7th September 2016
  - Time: 3:00 pm – 8:00pm

The North Western – Neagh Bann CFRAM Draft Flood Risk Management Plan was on public Display from Friday 19th of August to Friday 28th October 2016 with submissions to be lodged with OPW by 5.30pm Friday 28th October 2016.

The Western CFRAM Draft Flood Risk Management Plan was on public Display from Tuesday 13th of September to Tuesday 22nd November 2016 with submissions to be lodged with OPW by 5.30pm Tuesday 22nd November 2016.

The OPW/Consultants made a presentation to the elected members of the Council on Monday 5th September 2016 on the Draft Flood Risk Management Plans. This was followed where the OPW/Consultants had a public Consultation day in County Buildings on Tuesday 6th September 2016 where the Public were encouraged to make submissions on the Draft FRMP and have their say.

Further details on the Draft Flood Risk Management Plans consultation process, including the date which observations or comments are required, are now available on the website: [Link]

**ENERGY:**

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

All works are now completed on this Project which included as follows:

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

The majority of works have been inspected and have passed.

Although the timeline was short and challenging, works were completed by the deadline date of 14th October 2016. Funding is currently been recouped from SEAI for this Project subject to their audit inspections.

ROADS:

- Area Road Works Programme finished at the end of November. Some schemes to be completed in December.
- N16 Drummahon Realignment Scheme – Part 8 Approval obtained at November Council meeting.
- N4 Embankment Failure at Carrick on Shannon – Works under way.
- Works at N4/R201 Junction at Masonite to be completed in December.
- Works at Edentinny junction to be completed in December.

Rural Water Programme:

All group schemes that have been approved for funding are progressing matters currently. The following are the schemes involved:

Environmental and Public Health Compliance - Cornashamsogue GWS

Enhancement of Schemes - Works on the following schemes are currently underway: Antfield GWS, Drumaleague GWS, Drumkeelan GWS, , Mohercregg GWS and Tarmon GWS and expenditure claims have been submitted to the Department for the enhancement works that have progressed to the end of November.

Discussions are ongoing with Kilmaddaroe GWS and Lismoyle/Coolcreeve GWS and it is hoped that works will commence soon.

Pullboy GWS is now been finalized having been carried as a commitment from 2015 programme.

Progress continues to be made with the Hartley Cartown Sewerage Schemes and recent site meetings have been held with the group and Leitrim County Council in order to progress matters.

Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services Directorate

HOUSING:

Housing Capital
November 2016 - Housing Capital & Improvement Works Programme 2016

Energy Efficiency Works
Leitrim County Council has proactively sought to improve the Council’s Social Housing Stock by securing funding from the Department under the Energy Efficiency Programme in addition to providing a level of match funding from the Council’s own financial resources. The Programme has been particularly beneficial to upgrade older social housing stock. Following requests for proposals from the Department in March, the Council has made a submission to upgrade 153 units under Phase 1 energy efficiency works and 27 potential units for Phase II upgrade works at an estimated cost of €390,000 approx. The Council has received approval to progress with phase 1 works up to a total
cost of €198,800; no allocation was received for phase 2 works. A Contractor has been procured under National Frameworks and the Council is now in the process of appointing this Contractor to undertake upgrades to the 153 units.

These will complete the energy upgrade works on all Leitrim County Council housing stock requiring Phase 1 energy works. The remaining 27 for phase 2 (External insulation) will be proposed for funding in 2017.

**Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Better Energy Communities Area Based Scheme**

A submission for grant aid was lodged under the SEAI Better Energy Communities Scheme for an extensive energy retrofitting project on 43 Council housing stocks in Manorhamilton and Carrick on Shannon during 2016. The submission also included for energy retrofitting to a further 4 Private houses consisting of Fuel poor and non-Fuel poor homes, a further 10 no Private homes which will be done in conjunction with the LEO office and a Credit Union Initiative Scheme and also 3 no Community beneficiaries projects consisting of a Community Centre and two number schools.

SEAI announced on the 9th June 2016 that Leitrim County Council and its Beneficiaries would be awarded a grant of €283,964.33 towards eligible costs of €691,903.78 total with under this SEAI Project.

Contractors were appointed to undertake this energy retrofitting works across a total of 7 contracts; all works and payments were complete and grants drawn down in advance of the deadline of 14th October 2016.

**Voids**

The Council made a comprehensive submission in February for maximum funding to continue the refurbishment programme of 32 housing units requiring significant remedial works including 3 dwellings classed as derelict.

In June 2016 the Council received confirmation from the Department of an allocation of €531,700 towards works on 29 void units. Works are progressing on the 29 houses under a number of different contracts with Contractors procured through eTenders and under National Frameworks. These works are progressing well with approximately 21 of the units complete and the remaining substantially complete.

In July the Council received confirmation from the Department of an allocation of €130,000 towards works on 3 derelict units. Tender Documentation was prepared by Housing Department and was advertised on eTenders, contractor is currently on site completing this project.

Also in July the Council made a submission to the Department to include an additional 7 no. houses in the 2016 Voids Programme and an additional 1 no. house in the Derelict Scheme 2016. Approval was received for the additional derelict house with an allocation of €40,000. This derelict house will be complete by extending the contract of the contractor already undertaking the works on the 3 derelict houses.

Approval was been received for these additional 7 Voids; Tender Documentation for these works was prepared by the Housing Department and advertised on eTenders, a contract is about to be awarded to undertake these works.

In September the Council made a further submission to the Department to include an additional 4 no. houses in the 2016 Voids Programme. Approval for these additional 4 houses has been received, Tender Documentation was prepared by the Housing Department and the works will be complete by extending the contract of the contactors currently appointed to existing Voids Contracts.

In October the Council made a further submission to the Department to include an additional 8 no. houses in the 2016 Voids Programme. Approval for these additional 8 houses has been received from the Department.
When complete these works will return 52 units back to productive use, in what will be the most comprehensive void refurbishment in any one year therefore significantly reducing the Council's vacant properties requiring extensive repair and refurbishment works.

Disability Works in Council Houses
An Adaptation Works (Disability related) scheme for Council housing stock will continue to be funded by the Department in 2016 to facilitate the Local Authority in carrying out adaptation works for tenants to address mobility problems, primarily associated with medical need and disability related. The works will render the dwelling more suitable to the particular needs of the Tenant, with typical works including, depending on the individual circumstances, installation of level access shower, installation of rails in bathrooms, installation of ramp access to front/back doors, installation of oil heating systems or storage heating and associated works. The funding for these works is based on the provision of 90% funding by the Department with the remaining 10% to be funded by the Local Authority.

The Council made a submission in February following a call for suitable projects from the Department, identifying 17 suitable tenancies for proposed disability works costing an estimated €150,000.

In June the Council received confirmation of grant approval of €134,100 (90% funding) with €14,900 (10% from Council's own resources) totalling €149,000 to complete identified works. A contractor has been procured and is currently on site undertaking works at a number of these houses. The adaption works to the remaining 12 no. houses is also progressing.

In July tender documentation was complete by the Housing department for the extension of an existing house to provide accessibility for a tenant, this contract has been awarded, works are progressing with a completion date of the end of November.

All other works under this programme for 2016 will be minor in nature and will be completed by appointed contractor.

Acquisitions
3 no. family type houses were purchased in Carrick on Shannon in 2015. A building contractor was procured and is finalising works on these properties to return them to productive use. The Council is continuing an acquisition programme subject to Departmental approval and targets identified in the Social programme 2015 – 2017, to date the Council has purchased / is engaged in purchasing 25 number houses across the county. These houses will require some energy and remedial works to return them to productive use in 2017.

Construction - Taobh Tire, Manorhamilton: This project to construct an additional 7 units of social housing has received Stage 2 approval from the Department and the Design Team can now proceed to Stage 3; detailed design and completion of tender documentation. A submission for Stage 3 approval was forwarded to the Department in early November 2016. Approved construction costs have now been set at close to €1 Million. Construction works are anticipated to commence on site by early 2017.

Capital Assistance Schemes
Two properties in Carrick-on-Shannon were acquired by North West Simon in late 2015 / early 2016 through a Capital Assistance Scheme funded by the Department through Leitrim County Council. These properties are currently going through refurbishment contracts to be tenant ready in Q4 2016.

A further approval was received in February 2016 for a project led by St. Vincent de Paul Ballinamore for demolition of derelict properties and site preparation in Canaboie Terrace, Ballinamore and the construction of two family type two storey dwellings on the site. In July this project received Stage 2 approval from the Department and the Design Team can now proceed to Stage 3; detailed design and completion of tender documentation. A submission for Stage
3 approval was forwarded to the Department in early November 2016. Construction costs of €276,486 were applied for and received along with an allowance of €5000 for local authority administration costs. Construction works are anticipated to commence in early 2017.

The Council will have 100% tenancy nomination rights on all these CAS scheme properties from the Housing Waiting List.

Community:

Public Participation Network
- A total of 189 groups are registered with the PPN
- Training to implement a new management system was attended
- One linkage group meeting took place
- Two meetings of the secretariat took place.

Peace IV
- The Leitrim application was assessed by SEUPB and a letter issued stating that it had been approved subject to conditions. The nature of the conditions will not be known until a draft Letter of Offer is received. This will be followed by a meeting with SEUPB to clarify these and any other issues and to agree the approach to mobilization.
- SEUPB carried out a capacity check on Leitrim County Council. This is normal procedure when a grant is being made to an organisation.
- Groups were met with a view to developing capital projects under the Shared Spaces category within the plan.

Pride of Place
- Awards night was held in Belfast on Saturday 26 November.
- All three Leitrim entrants attended as part of a party of 21 people.
- Two of the three wcw awards with both Drumshanbo Community Council and Carrick on Shannon being named as runners up in their categories.
- Disappointingly, Rossinver did not receive an award.

Comhairle na nOg
- National Showcase took place in Croke Park on Thursday 24 November and was attended by 15 members of the Comhairle. Minister Zappone gave the keynote speech at the event, which was attended by 500 young people from all 31 Comhairli.
- A short video on homelessness that was completed with NUIG was shown at MD meetings in Carrick on Shannon and Ballinamore. It will be shown in Manorhamilton in January 2017.

Age Friendly
- All members of the Age Friendly Alliance have been requested to submit brief reports on activity that took place as part of the Leitrim Age Friendly plan 2014 – 2016. This will be drawn together to produce an overall report on the plan.

Leitrim Sports Partnership

North and South Club Forum Meetings
Leitrim Sports Partnership delivered the North and South Leitrim sports forum meetings for local sports clubs and community groups. The meetings were to discuss local issues affecting clubs, exploring potential club development initiatives for clubs, and ways the LSP can support the clubs going forward. We had 19 people from 9 clubs in North Leitrim and 17 participants from 10 clubs in South Leitrim forum meeting. The two meeting were hugely successful.

Total participants 36

LSP Sports Star Awards 2016
The purpose of the Leitrim Sports Star Awards is to acknowledge Individuals, Sports Clubs, Teams, Schools and Community Volunteers for their outstanding contributions and achievements to sport and recreation in Leitrim for
2016. On the night, we had 174 people that attended the awards night in Landmark Hotel and our guest of honour was Packie Bonner former Celtic and Ireland Soccer goalkeeper and legend.

**Total Participants 174**

**Code of Ethics Workshops (Safe Guarding 1, & 3 Workshops)**
Leitrim Sports Partnership held 1 safe guarding 1 workshop in Rossinver with 16 people attending, one safe guarding 2 workshop with 10 people attending in Carrick on Shannon and one Safe guarding 3 course in November in Carrick on Shannon with 10 participants involved from 8 different clubs.

**Total participants 36**

**Ag Sugradh Le Cheile Workshop.**
This programme is about parents and children playing together in tutor lead fun classroom activities and games during school hours or as after School programme. We held the following workshops in the County, Gaelscoile Cluainne N.S., with 24 parents and 43 children, and in Largy N.S. we had 5 parents and 11 children participating in the workshops.

**Total Participants – 29 adults & 54 children.**

**Carrick on Shannon Active Age Dance programme**
We delivered a 6 week active age social dancing programme for the Carrick on Shannon active age group with 24 older adults participating on the programme.

**Total participants 24**

**Community Coaching Multi –Sport programme**
We delivered our multi – sport schools programme in 6 primary schools with 222 children benefiting over the 6 weeks.

**Total participants 222**

**Mohill Health Day**
This was a health workshop for local people living in Mohill, where the local residents received information on mental, physical and social health and wellbeing and the local supports that are available for everybody in the local area.

**Total participants 32**

**The Arts**

**Creative Frame**- In partnership with Leitrim Local Enterprise Office, Leslie Ryan has been appointed Creative Frame Manager to develop the Creative Frame programme – a user driven continuous professional development network designed to facilitate the ongoing training and development requirements of practitioners in the creative sector in Leitrim and the wider region. A series of workshops and seminars have been organised.

**Spark – Artist** Tinka Bechert has begun work with Prior PLM Medical as part of the 2016 Spark Programme.

**Festivals and Events** – 9 Festivals from across the County have been granted funding under the 2016 scheme

**Artists in Schools** – 4 Artists and schools have commenced the 2016 Residencies and the initial facilitated planning meeting has taken place

**Artist in the Community** – 4 artists were selected to work with 4 community groups across 3 Municipal Districts.

**Drumshanbo Artist Studios** – Artist Kate Wilson and writer Gerry Boland are continuing their Residencies

**Leitrim Equation 4** – The Leitrim Equation DVD has been successfully launched and is now being made available in retail outlets.

**Youth Theatre**- Autumn/winter term is in place for 5 existing Youth Theatre groups in Manorhamilton, Carrick on Shannon and Carrigallen with a new junior group in Manorhamilton.
Appendix 7 - 9th Jan 2017

**Artist Bursary Scheme** – A total of 46 applications were received totalling €72,849. Of these, 27 artists will be allocated funding.

**Film** – Tenders were invited from individuals and/or companies to develop and manage the initial phase of a new Film Development Programme for the Northwest region shared between Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon Local Authorities.

**Library Service:**

**Event Programming**
A busy programme of activities took place in all branches across the county during the month of November, including Reading Group meetings, Whist classes, I.T. classes, Astronomy Club meetings, lectures, Spanish language classes, craft activities and Comháirdeas in Kinlough Library.

**Highlights:**

**Leitrim 2016 Centenary Programme**
- Lecture on Seán Mac Diarmada took place in Ballinamore Library.
- Lecture on Ireland in 1916 took place in Mohill Library.

**Science Week 2016**
Special Science Week Events organised with local primary and post-primary schools, included:

- Deadly Moon drawing workshops, held in Drumshanbo and Manorhamilton Libraries (Total of 71 and 90 students attended respectively)
- True Physics workshops, held in Manorhamilton Library (Total of 145 students attended)
- Fitness Challenge Workshop, held in Ballinamore Community School (Total of 150 students attended)

**Library Ireland Week 2016**
- A number of libraries delivered demonstrations on the various online resources available at the library, including a demonstration to the Foróige group in Mohill Library.
- Mohill Library marked 20 years with a wonderful birthday celebration, which included music, refreshments and birthday cake!
- Carrick Library hosted an exciting Bunnyhop show with children from Leitrim Village School.
- Award-winning author Dave Rudden presented workshops in Ballinamore Library (136 children from local schools attended.)
- Local author Gerry Boland facilitated writing workshops for children aged 10-11.

**Class Visits**
Schedule of class visits by local pre-schools, primary and post-primary schools continued in Branch Libraries across the county.

**Local Studies - ‘Item of the Month’**

**Fire Service**

**Building Control**
- Received 1 Opt Out commencement notices (valid), 1 Short Commencement notice (invalid), 1 Seven Day notice (valid)
- Received 3 Disabled Access certificates, processed 1 Disabled Access certificates
- Received 3 Fire Safety Certificate, processed 1 Fire safety Certificate
A number of BC inspections were carried out.

**Health & Safety**
Work was completed on noise assessments in our five fire stations (28th – 30th November).
Fire Stations
  Manorhamilton
  • Assessment of site for fire station in Manorhamilton is ongoing and report approved by Chief Executive.

  Drumshanbo
  • Preparatory works are ongoing with regards to proposed extension of fire station and submission will then be prepared for capital funding to the Department.

  Ballinamore
  • A report on the condition of the existing station was completed by Housing Technical Staff followed by on site review to assess proposals. Discussions are to take place with the National Directorate to review possible funding of the alternatives.

CAMP Outstation equipment
The installation of outstation equipment was completed in all stations.

Major Emergency Management
SACFO attended MEM regional Sub Group meeting in Donegal on 11th November. Two Circular Letters were received from the National Directorate in relation to ‘Winter Ready’ campaign.

Training – October 2016
Our fire service personnel completed the following training courses during November 2016
  • MEM national conference in Athlone – CFO and SACFO
  • Senior Fire Officer seminar in Tullamore – all senior officers
  • Competency Based Interview training - CFO

Road Based Incidents – Leitrim
A review of LCC road based incidents in Leitrim from 2015 onwards is taking place with a view to updating our Council policy.

Cross Border Emergency Management Group
A meeting of our Cross Border Group was held in the Council Chamber in Carrick-on-Shannon on November 9th, updating progress achieved on our current Business Plan.

Long Service Awards
Four fire service personnel attended Long Service Awards in Dublin – two with 30 year’s service, Finian Joyce, John Conway and two with 20 year’s service, Michael Quinn and Michael Duignan.

Civil Defence
  • On 9th November a number of Volunteers attended the Annual Civil Defence Officers Training and Education Conference in Athlone. Presentations were delivered by a selection of international speakers on a variety of topics
  • On the 12th November a Volunteer completed the recently introduced First Aid Responder Instructor qualification at Civil Defence Headquarters.
  • On the 13th November Volunteers participated in the National Radiation Exercise. Soil, vegetation samples and background Radiation readings were collected in all Local Authority areas and delivered to the Radiological Protection Institute.
  • On the 26th November the Civil Defence Officer attended the launch of the Civil Defence Small Unmanned Aircraft Team (Drones). These Teams will be based in each Region and will respond to requests for aerial video and photographic images at incidents in all Local Authority areas.
  • On the 26th November a number of Volunteers participated in Avian Flu training with the Department of Agriculture. These Volunteers will be available to assist the Department in the event of a suspected outbreak of Avian Influenza where Bird carcasses may need to be recovered from lakes or rivers.
  • Assistance was provided during the month to the Environment Section in order that the lake water sampling programme could continue.

Signed: ____________________________
Frank Curran
Chief Executive

Date: 13th December 2016