MONAGHAN COUNTY
COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2016

WORK
LIVE
PLAY
VISIT

Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council

Contents

Foreword by Cathaoirleach

As Cathaoirleach of the County of Monaghan, it gives me great pleasure to introduce on behalf of Monaghan County Council, this Annual Report which records the progress of services delivered in 2016.

As a local authority we seek to continually improve the economic, social, cultural and physical infrastructure across the County through the provision of a range of services. Monaghan County Council, in addition to its traditional services, now has a broader role and a much greater responsibility as a leader of economic and community development in the county.

A number of projects were successfully implemented across the various services of the Council such as national road maintenance improvement projects, Tourism Development, Environmental Services and recreation and amenity, many of which are described within this report.

The achievements outlined in the Annual Report could not have been realised without the collective input of the Elected Members, Chairpersons and Members of the Strategic Policy Committees, Municipal Districts, Management Team and staff, together with the support of the many voluntary and community organisations.

I wish to express my appreciation to my colleagues, the Elected Members, for electing me to the position of Cathaoirleach and I have found the role both rewarding and fulfilling.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the assistance and co-operation which I have received from the Chief Executive, Eamonn O'Sullivan and his staff, both indoor and outdoor, and I commend them for their commitment.

P.J. O'Hanlon
Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council

Introduction by Chief Executive

It was with great pleasure that I took up my new role as Chief Executive in January 2016, and I am delighted to present Monaghan County Council's Annual Report for 2016. Within this report you will read about the activities and progress of the different directorates within Monaghan County Council. During 2016, these directorates have delivered significant infrastructural improvements, maintained and enhanced key services and led the way in public service delivery.

Funding for the many services and facilities provided by Monaghan County Council in 2016 remained challenging given the wider economic situation. However, the Council strove to protect and, in many cases, enhance the quality of the services and facilities we provide on a daily basis.

The past year saw the adoption of a new Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021, which charts a framework for the development of Monaghan as a social, cultural and economic hub for the region.

2016 was a special year in our shared history when our citizens came together to remember the events of 1916, and the impact they had on this country.

Monaghan County Council's official commemoration took place on 30th April 2016. The event was respectful and poignant, and remembered and honoured those who took part in the Easter Rising, especially those who gave their lives. Over 4,000 people attended this event which was a great success.

Monaghan County Council wishes to thank the Community, who with great enthusiasm, interest and vigour made Monaghan's Centenary Programme such a fantastic success.

Monaghan County Council continued its approach to supporting local communities through a number of initiatives and grants and through its support of the Public Participation Network.

The provision of social and affordable housing remains a key priority with all viable options for the delivery of housing units being pursued.

In 2016 Monaghan County Council successfully obtained €5.15 million of additional funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. This additional funding allowed for 36 flood repairs and the substantial completion of 36 flood prevention projects to be undertaken within the county.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the support, dedication and co-operation of my colleagues during the year, throughout the organisation - the Directors of Services, and Monaghan County Council staff, both indoor and outdoor. I also wish to thank the Cathaiorleach and elected representatives who have been a source of local knowledge and support to me during my first year in Monaghan.

Eamonn O'Sullivan
Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council

County Monaghan Municipal Districts
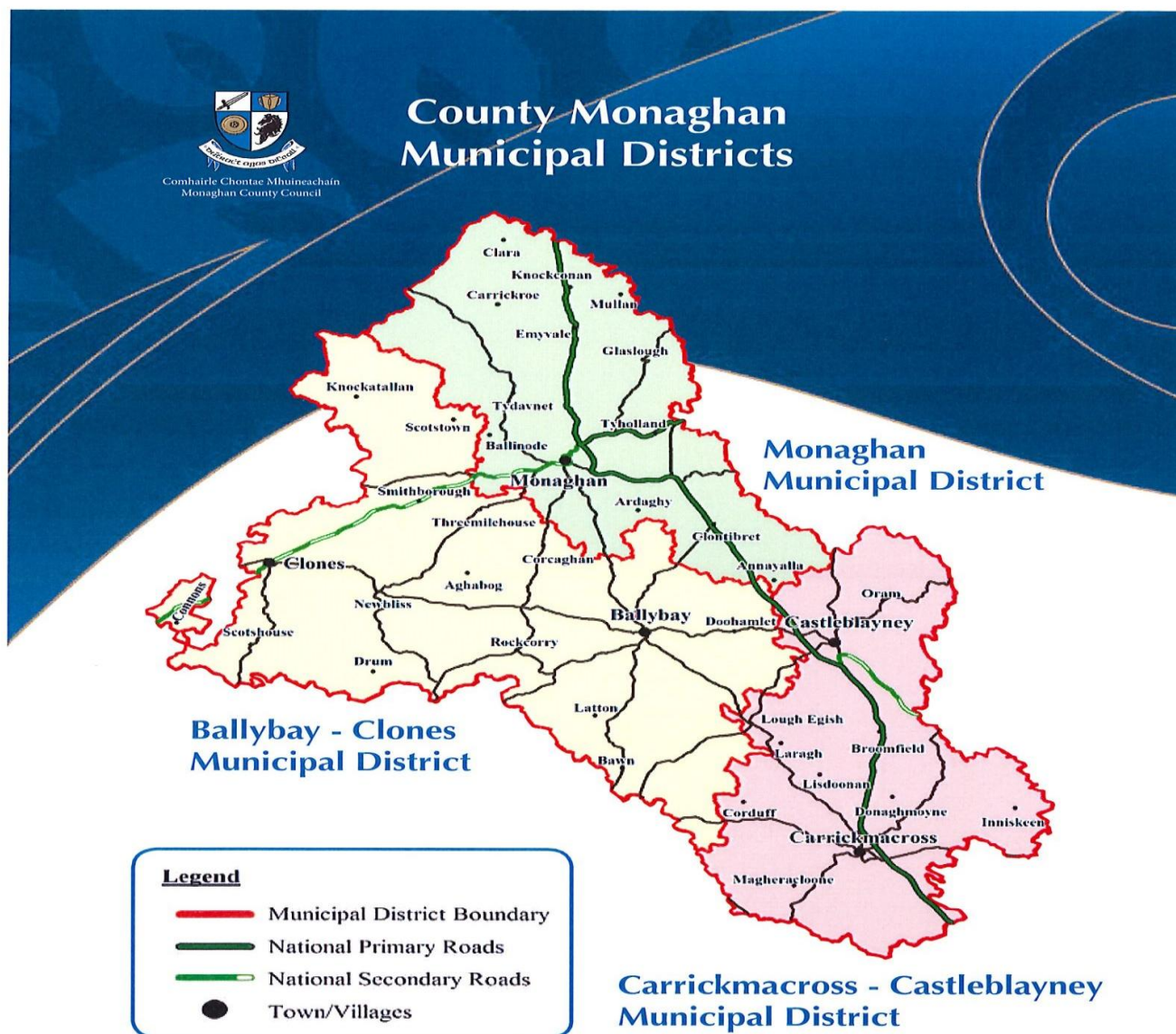
Mission Statement

"Monaghan County Council maximises and drives economic, community and cultural development within our county and provides high quality sustainable public services and infrastructure. We do this in an open and inclusive manner in partnership with our stakeholders. "

Monaghan County Council Members

Clones-Ballybay Municipal District

	Cathy Bennett (S.F.) Drumdesco, Scotstown Tel: (086) 2079509 cathy.bennett@cllr.monaghancoco.ie		Pat Treanor (S.F.) Bishopscourt, Clones Tel: (086) 2377177 pat.treanor@cllr.monaghancoco.ie
	Seamus Coyle (F.F.) Mahon, Latton, Castleblayney Tel: (087) 6814067 seamus.coyle@cllr.monaghancoco.ie		Sean Gilliland (F.G.) Boraghy, Loughmourne, Castleblayney Tel: (087) 9969946 sean.gilliland@cllr.monaghancoco.ie
	Hugh McElvaney (Non-Party) Corcaghan, Monaghan Tel: (087) 2598858 hugh.mcelvaney@cllr.monaghancoco.ie		Ciara McPhillips (F.G) Liscumiskey, Smithboro Tel: (086) 0842653 ciara.mcphillips@cllr.monaghancoco.ie

Monaghan Municipal District

	Raymond Aughey (F.F.) Viscaya, Coolshannagh, Monaghan Tel: (087) 0992676 raymond.aughey@cllr.monaghancoco.ie		Sean Conlon (S.F.) Rakeeragh, Monaghan Tel: (087) 2936792 sean.conlon@cllr.monaghancoco.ie

Paudge Connolly 3 Coolshannagh View, Monaghan (Non-Party) Tel: (087) 2021414 paudge.connolly@cllr.mo naghancoco.ie	David Maxwell (F.G.) Killymarley, Monaghan Tel: (086) 8224545 david.maxwell@cllr.mon aghancoco.ie
Brian McKenna (S.F.) Derryrellan, Killybrone, Emyvale Tel: (047) 82917 (087) 2746483 brian.mckenna@cllr.mon aghancoco.ie	Seamus Treanor (Non- Party) 14 Old Cross Square, Monaghan Tel: (087) 2110077 seamus.treanor@cllr.m onaghancoco.ie

Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District

Aidan Campbell (F.G.) 2 Blaeberry Walk, Castleblayney Tel: (087) 9003860 aidan.campbell@cllr.mo naghancoco.ie	Colm Carthy (S.F.) 22 Inver Park, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan Tel: (087) 6837180 colm.carthy@cllr.monag han.ie
Jackie Crowe (S.F.) 4 Oliver Plunkett Park, Drumillard, Castleblayney Tel: (086) 6033398 jackie.crowe@cllr.monag hancoco.ie	Noel Keelan (S.F.) Donaghmoyne Road, Carrickmacross Tel: (087) 2468878 noel.keelan@cllr.monag hancoco.ie
Padraig McNally (F.F.) Nafferty, Carrickmacross Tel: (087) 2800784 padraig.mcnally@cllr.mo naghancoco.ie	P.J. O'Hanlon (F.F.) Castleblayney Road, Carrickmacross Tel: (087) 2416954 pj.ohanlon@cllr.monag hancoco.ie

Finance

Upgrade of Financial Management System

Monaghan County Council commenced the Milestone 4 Project during 2015. This Project essentially involves the upgrade of the Council's Financial Management System (FMS) from Agresso 5.4 to Agresso Milestone 4. A dedicated project team was been put in place to deliver the roll-out of this large-scale project. The upgrade introduces enhanced procurement functionality and introduces workflow to the purchase to pay process. Improved budgetary control and purchase order approval also form part of the upgrade. Although the major enhancements are centred around procurement and purchase to pay, all modules of the FMS had to be tested before the upgrade was completed in June 2016.

Payroll and Superannuation

The National Local Authority shared service for payroll "My Pay" process the payroll on behalf of Monaghan County Council. The shared service is operated by Laois County Council. The payroll processing moved to My Pay in November 2014, with some input of data and preparatory payroll work remaining in Monaghan.

The Council is currently in the preparation phase of a shared service for superannuation. The shared service will centralise the pension function under My Pay. It is expected that the centralisation will happen in the last quarter of 2017, following the updating, verification and handover of all superannuation data.

Corporate Procurement

The Finance section provides advice and support on procurement to other sections of the organisation that are involved in the procurement process, and keeps all staff up to date on current developments in procurement. Procurement is a key value-adding function in Monaghan County Council. The Finance section produces and regularly updates procurement guidelines and procedures that are designed to provide all staff involved in the procurement process with a thorough understanding of public sector accountability, best methods and processes involved in acquiring goods and services. The section also assists and supports staff across the organisation in complying with the requirements of the Public Spending Code.

Prompt Payment Legislation

The Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997 and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2012 are aimed at combating late payment in commercial transactions. The legislation and Regulations provide that interest and compensation for late payment will become payable if supplier payments for commercial transactions are not made by the due deadline, generally 30 days.

Since 2011, the payment period applicable to Local Authorities has been reduced from 30 to 15 days, although interest and compensation for late payments still only apply to payments not met within 30 days. Monaghan County Council completes a quarterly return setting out details of its performance in paying suppliers. These quarterly returns are available on the Council's website.

During 2016 Monaghan County Council did not make any payments of prompt payment interest.

Revenue Collection

Revenue Collectors are the primary means of regular contact with the Council's commercial ratepayers and housing rent and annuity payees, and in certain cases housing loan payees. Revenue collection and debt management are increasingly important in the current financial climate. The impact of the economic downturn has been particularly pronounced and Local Authorities have long led the way in terms of the sympathetic and constructive treatment of borrowers in arrears.   In a small percentage of commercial rates arrears cases the Council has engaged the service of an external debt collection agency. During 2016 Monaghan County Council continued to implement the National Debt Management Project for the collection of Commercial Rates. This project set out guidelines for the treatment of all aspects of the debt management function regarding Rates. In 2016 Monaghan County Council increased it Rates Collection percentage from 77% to 82%.

Corporate Services

The Corporate Services Department is responsible for the provision of and management of a wide range of services, both internal and external to the organisation. These Services include providing support to the elected members and Council management, organising and servicing meetings of the Council and its sub-committees, compilation of the Register of Electors, Property Management, Customer Service, Internal Audit, Communications and Freedom of Information.

The section also co-ordinates the compilation of National Performance Indicators annually for the National Oversight Audit Committee. This information can be viewed at www.noac.ie.

Meetings
The Corporate Services Department is responsible for the administration of meetings of the full Council, the Corporate Policy Group, Joint Policing Committee and the Social, Cultural and Community Strategic Policy Committee.

The following is the breakdown of meetings held during 2016:

Council Meeting (Inc AGM and Special Meeting)	16
Municipal District Meetings	35
Corporate Policy Group	11
Strategic Policy Committees	15
Joint Policing Committee	3
Ireland 2016 Steering Committee	8
Twinning Committee	2
Audit Committee	5

Register of Electors
The publication date for the Register of Electors is 1st February and the Register comes into effect on the 15th February each year.

The total number of Electors on the final register 2016/2017 was 49,119 an increase of 328 on those registered in the previous year.

Internal Audit
Monaghan County Council is committed to promoting the highest standard of corporate governance throughout the organisation. Internal Audit reports to management and is an independent objectives assurance activity designed to add value and improve the Council operations. It strives to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of internal controls, risk management and the governance processes within the organisation. Internal Audit looked at five specific areas during the year 2016 (Arts, Public Spending, Housing Grants for Older People, Procurement and Sports Partnership) and prepared reports for Management and the Audit Committee. The reports included recommendations for improvement where necessary.

Freedom of Information Requests 2016

A total of 83 'Freedom of Information' requests were received and processed by during 2016 from a mixed source of business people, journalists, clients and other persons. This represented an increase of 25% on 2015.

Twinning

Monaghan County Council continued to progress and expand its twinning arrangements that have been developed over the years. The county is twinned with:–

- Geel, Belgium (the parish of Tydavnet in North Monaghan is also twinned with this area)
- Prince Edward Island, Canada
- Peterboro, Canada
- Miramichi, Canada
- Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan, Canada

In May, Cllr Noel Keelan, Cathaoirleach visited Prince Edward Island for the Annual Settlers Day Celebrations. The Cathaoirleach was accompanied by Liam Bradley, Curator, Monaghan County Museum.

The Cathaoirleach also accepted an invitation from the Monaghan Association of Beds and Herts (Luton) to attend their annual function on 7th May.

The inaugural celebrations of Canada Day were held in Monaghan Town on 1st July 2016.

Expenditure on Twinning amounted to circa €3,500.

Gaeilge

Activities undertaken by Monaghan County Council in terms of Irish Language Initiatives during 2016 include:

36 half scholarships to the Gaeltacht summer school for students attending County Monaghan Secondary schools.

A new part time Oifigeach Gaeilge was appointed by Monaghan County Council on 1st July 2016.

In 2016 a review of the Scèim na Gaeilge was undertaken by the Oifigeach Gaeilge and officials from Dept Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. It is expected that this new Irish Language Scheme will be adopted in 2017.

The Oifigeach Gaeilge responded to 3 complaints regarding Irish Language issues during 2016.

Civic Receptions

During 2016, Monaghan County Council held one Civic Reception in honour of Donaghamoyne Ladies Football Team

Ireland 2016

January 2016 saw the launch of the Monaghan Centenary Programme by Minister Heather Humphreys, TD, in the Iontas Centre, Castleblayney.

Funding for the commemorative events was allocated from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and distributed through the Council's Corporate Affairs office. Led by Monaghan County Council, and under the guidance of the local 1916 Co-ordinator and Steering Committee, the programme contained community events and initiatives ranging across all seven strands of the Ireland 2016 programme.

Throughout the year a number of activities were undertaken by the Museum, Arts, Heritage and Libraries departments. The highlight of the Council's programme was the official

Commemoration event which took place on 30th April 2016 in Monaghan Town centre.

This was a major event with over four thousand people moving through the site on the day. The focus for this historic day of remembrance and exploration was inclusivity. Rather than watching from the fringes, everyone stepped into history through the vast array of imaginative and interactive events. A wide range of re-enactors were on parade playing the parts of Irish Volunteers, Irish Citizen Army, Cumann na mBan and British Army members. The huge crowds engaged and interacted with these people and got the chance to affectively move back in time.

As part of their 1916 Centenary Programme, Monaghan County Council produced a booklet entitled *'1916-2016 – Monaghan's Reflections'* which included some of the events and activities that took place throughout the year.

Corporate Assets, Capital Projects and Energy Section

The Corporate Assets, Capital Projects and Energy section were set up in 2014 and are part of the Governance and Corporate Services Section. It has responsibility for the management of the Council's obligations concerning; Council's property & facility management, delivery of capital projects, energy efficiency and public lighting. All of these areas are a strategic part of the Council's operations and have statutory requirements to be met.

Property and Facility Asset Management

Corporate Assets Section coordinates and manages the council property portfolio and has responsibility for the following strategic objectives:

Key Actions

- **Maintain and update a detailed inventory of all property**

- **Participate in the national asset management programme**

- **Coordinate the purchase, sale lease or transfer of all properties**

- **Facilitate Water Services in the transfer of property assets to Irish Water**

The Council has a property inventory in place, and managed through a GIS database system. As of the end of 2016, the Council has in excess of 1300 individual properties comprising of land and buildings. Of these, the Council has 51 buildings of which 43 are owned and 8 are rented.

The Council have provided the necessary information to the national property database and are working with the National Property Management Network

to put in place modern and efficient systems and procedures to ensure that property assets are managed in a professional, co-ordinated and effective manner and to ensure value for money. Corporate Assets continues to work with Water Services in processing the transfer of water assets to Irish Water.

Facilities Management

The Facilities Management Section aims to ensure that all facility management services in corporate buildings are delivered in accordance with best value principles, are of appropriate quality and efficient. Developing and reviewing the organisation's asset management strategy is a core function of the Facilities Management Section. Our aim is to ensure that all corporate buildings are fit for purpose in terms of condition, suitability and sufficiency. A number of upgrade projects were successfully completed in 2016.

Key Actions

- **Optimise the use of all properties**

- **Coordination of Council buildings facility management**

- **Effective Facility Management of Council Buildings**

- **Seek to provide suitable and efficient facilities for the delivery of the council's services.**

- **Seek to provide sufficient office facilities for staff and delivery of services.**

The Facility Management section seeks to maximise the use and condition of the Council's property assets. As part of effective facility management ongoing upgrade works are undertaken to council facilities to improve their; energy efficiency, improve facilities to customers and staff and to maintain them in suitable condition.

The Council have put in place a number of joint contracts in conjunction with the OGP for the operation of building facilities, such as lift maintenance, to allow for a more coordinated approach to building management and to ensure value for money.

A number of upgrade projects were successfully completed in 2016.

- Energy Efficiency works at; County Museum including boiler upgrade and LED lights.
- PEACE Link Clones, Solar PV and Solar hot water systems.
- Monaghan Leisure Centre, insulation of heating system and upgrade of lighting.
- Refurbishment works to Glen HQ, including upgrade to common areas.

The Facilities Management Section is also responsible for introducing a more streamlined and uniform approach to building maintenance of all council owned properties. The section carries out regular reviews of the office and building facilities and put in place programmes for building refurbishment, energy efficiency upgrades and building use.

Capital Projects Team

The Capital Projects Team's role is to lead and deliver on capital projects as identified in the Capital Programme. This will bring consistency of approach to the management and delivery of projects across the organisation.

Public Spending Code - All public bodies are obliged to treat public funds with care,

and to ensure that the best possible value-for-money is obtained. The council uses the principles of the public spending code as a set of rules and procedures to ensure appropriate standards are applied and to ensure value-for-money.

The Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF) – The framework approach is employed by the council in procurement and consists of a suite of best practice guidance, standard contracts and generic template documents that form the four pillars that support the Framework.

Public Lighting

The upgrading of all Public Lights in the county is included in the capital works programme and a strategic objective of the council. This a multiyear programme with a target completion of 2020. This project will introduce modern lighting that will provide a better quality of light while at the same time reducing the energy demands.

Energy Efficiency of Council Buildings

The council takes its responsibility to reduce its energy footprint very seriously, this also at the same time improves the efficiency and quality of the council buildings. This project is considered as a multi annual programme to identify "energy opportunities" that will deliver energy efficiencies and offer value for money.

Council Facilities Improvement Works

The council is proactively and continuously reviewing its buildings portfolio and seeking opportunities to carry out restoration works to buildings current in use and to seek out opportunities for funding for conservation of our older buildings to maximise our facilities.

Energy Efficiency
Key Actions
National and EU legislation requires public bodies, including Monaghan County Council, to achieve a 33% energy reduction by 2020. All public bodies submit their annual energy usage to SEAI for monitoring, reporting and for independent verification.
In 2016, the Energy team has worked on a number of fronts at collecting and monitoring the Council's energy usage, at putting in place systems and procedures and at implementing actions to reduce our Energy usage and work towards the 2020 target. Some of the initiatives undertaken include-

- Progress in the upgrade of Public Lighting to energy effect LED lights.
- The Council continues to strive to play a leadership role in energy efficiency and to be an exemplar in reducing energy use.
- The SEAI's EnergyMAP system brings a structured approach to energy management. Key steps include; putting in place an Energy Policy, carrying out Energy Audits, identifying Significant Energy Users, having a Register of Opportunities, preparing and implementing an Energy Action Plan.
- The Energy Team work with all energy using sections of the Council to collect record and

report to SEAI the total energy usage.

- The council continues to seek opportunities for funding and to implement energy efficiency projects to aid the council in it strategic objectives.

Energy Usage

Monaghan County Councils total primary energy usage in 2015
9.24 GWh

Breakdown of Energy by Use
- Thermal (Heating)
    17%
- Transport
    30%
- Electricity
    53%

Significant Energy Users
- Public Lighting
- Monaghan Leisure Centre
- MTEK II offices
- General Office
- Landfill
- Scotch Corner Landfill

These make up 80% of the electricity consumed by the council

Energy Performance towards 2020
The council reports in spring of each year for the previous year's energy consumption. Reporting to SEAI on the energy usage for 2016 will be completed by May 2017. The 2015 results were published by SEAI in November 2016.

The Council have improved energy efficiency between 2009 and 2015 by 18.3% (SEAI annual report) and are now ahead of target to meet the 33% target set for 2020. The action plan for 2016

seeks to achieve energy savings of a further 5%.

SEAI Better Energy Community Grant

- Monaghan County Council actively participated in the SEAI's Better Energy Community (BEC) scheme with our energy partners REIL and successfully completed energy efficiency works to 6 council buildings. This delivers an energy efficiency of 220,000 kWh per year and a reduction of €22,000 a year in energy bills.
- The Council also supported 12 Community Groups to participate in the BEC scheme in 2016. The overall cost of the works was €230,000 but with support from the Council and the grant the communities paid just 28% of the cost and reap savings in energy costs going forward.

Public Street Lighting

Monaghan County Council has a dedicated Public Lighting team in place as part of the Corporate Assets section. In 2016, works have continued in implementing an Asset Management approach to the management of the Counties Public Street Lighting. The council updated its inventory with detailed survey of all public lights. There is also a national drive to replace public lighting with LED lights to maximise energy efficiency and Monaghan County Council have been working with the National bodies to implement these changes.

The introduction of LED street lights have the benefit of reducing energy usage, they are a "white light" rather than the old orange light making it easier to see colours at night and there will be less scatter of light. Traditional light types are

being phased out throughout Europe and replacements and parts will become increasing difficult to source in coming years. LED's will reduce the Public lighting energy usage by at least 50%.

Public lighting makes up 31% of the Council's overall energy usage and is a key element in the Council achieving the 33% Energy efficiency target. Large parts of the Council's lighting assets are reaching the end of design life and will need to be replaced. A number of initiatives have been commenced and implemented in 2016 to improve the accuracy and efficiency of the Public Lighting stock. **BEFORE**

AFTER
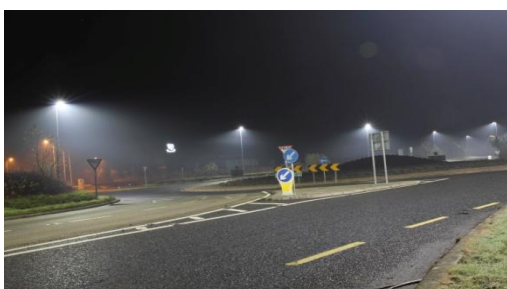
Pictures of Lighting Upgrade on Monaghan Bypass replacing old inefficient lights with modern efficient LED lights

Key Actions

- www.deadsureapp.com is a Google maps based system that

allow members of the public to report faults directly and provides for a more rapid response to carrying out lighting repairs.

- Detailed surveys of lighting assets have been undertaken in accordance with National guidelines, to build a detailed inventory.
- Priority given to bring long-term faulty and difficult to access lights back into operation.
- Ongoing projects to replace old inefficient lights with energy efficient LED lights across the county
- Working with Planning Section to take in charge lights in housing estates and to transfer these into the Council's maintenance and energy contracts. In 2016, 12 housing estates under the NTICI scheme are proposed to be Taking in Charge This is increasing the Council's energy and maintenance costs as well as the energy footprint.

Monaghan County Council has currently a contract with Airtricity Utility Solutions to maintain the public lighting stock. The total number of public lights in contract has increased from 4400 at the end of 2014 to 5700 at the end of 2016. This is due to a combination of taking in charge lights from housing developments and bringing previously out of contract lights into contract.

Information Systems

2016 was another busy year for the I.S. department and saw a number of projects completed and several more initiated during the year. Staff changes included the appointment of Head of I.S. Carmel O'Hare following the resignation of Paul Treanor after more than 40 years of dedicated service. A new role of Broadband Officer was assigned to I.S. project leader John McArdle. John is tasked with coordinating the national roll-out of broadband in county Monaghan and the development of a digital strategy for the county. Assistant Staff Officer Hazel Field and Intern Jason Devine also joined the team during the year.

Applications and Development

The I.S. department is responsible for the acquisition, support and development of software applications to meet the needs of the organisation.

One of the main projects initiated in 2016 was the redevelopment of the council's website www.monaghan.ie. Following consultation with the public and with staff the website was redesigned and is due to be launched in January 2017. Accessibility and ease of use across a range of devices and browsers featured highly among responses and was prioritised in the design.

Other key projects delivered in 2016 include:

- Upgrade of Agresso Financial Management System to Agresso Milestone 4 (Agresso MS4) and implementation of invoice scanning and procurement process workflows
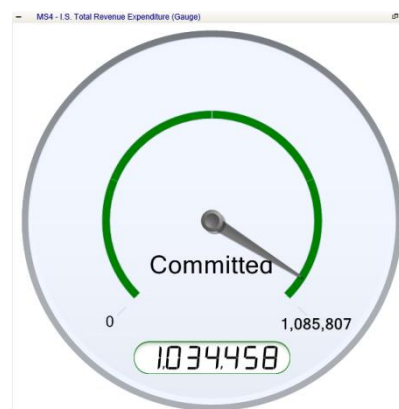
Figure 2.0: Agresso MS4 – 2016 I.S. Revenue Expenditure Vs Budget Report

- Pilot of Agresso FMS task approval mobile app on behalf of local government sector

- Continued roll-out of Laserfiche Enterprise Content Management System

- Implementation of ArcGIS online Geographic Information System (GIS) to replace the legacy LGMA gPlan system

- Data mapping exercises to facilitate external systems providers, update national systems and provide data to internal Council staff in a spatial format

- Implementation of Lighthouse Business Cards System to replace legacy LGMA low value payments processing system

- Upgrade of Qubos mobile revenue collection system

- Upgrade of gTicket parking fines and system and implementation of gTicket online payments system

17

One of the primary objectives of the applications team is to ensure efficient and effective business processes. To this end a number of mobile applications have been developed replacing existing inefficient paper-based manual processes including:

- Waste Management Inspections
- Litter Management Inspections
- Environmental Complaints
- Water Quality Sampling
- Fire Hydrant Inspections
- Playpark Inspections
- Safe System of Work Practice (SSWP)
- Vehicle Inspections
- Electricity Usage Management

Figure 3.0: Playpark Inspection App

Infrastructure and Security

The I.S. department is responsible for the Council's LAN and WAN infrastructures and for ensuring the availability and security of ICT systems and services.

The key projects delivered in 2016 include:

- Implementation of free Public Wi-Fi in Monaghan and Carrickmacross towns
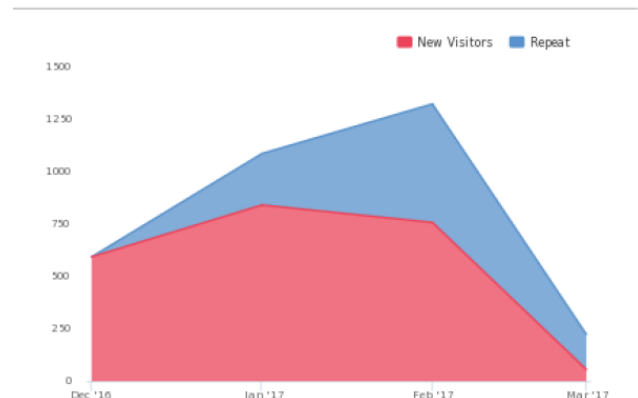
Figure 1.0: Public Wi-Fi Users

- Implementation of Enterprise Wi-Fi solution in Council headquarters and Carrickmacross Civic Offices

- Roll-out of PC power saving software across council offices

- Upgrade of the anti-virus system and implementation of additional threat detection and prevention systems

I.S. Help Desk

The I.S. department dedicates significant resources to providing an extensive range of support services to council staff, elected representatives and members of the public. In 2016 the helpdesk call logging system was reengineered and new self-service features deployed including online call logging and knowledge base search facility.

2,075 support calls were recorded in the system during the year.

Human Resources

Recruitment

The HR Unit processed applications in relation to 30 competitions that were held during the year. From the 682 applications received, 487 were male and 195 were female.

As a result of the competitions held for the posts, 258 applicants were deemed qualified and placed on panels. 72 posts were offered.

HR Payroll and Superannuation System (Core)

The implementation of Version 19 of Core was completed in September 2016. In addition, Core HPS training support was provided to all Line Managers and all staff using the system.

The Superannuation Data Readiness Project commenced in October 2015 and continued throughout 2016. The Council expect to complete this element of the project in October 2017.

The timetable for the rollout of the Health & Safety module of the Core project will be notified to the Council in 2017.

The PMDS module of the Core project is at pilot stage. It is expected that the rollout of the module will commence in Q4 2017.

Gateway Labour Activation Scheme

As part of the Government Action Plan on Jobs, Monaghan County Council is committed to the provision of 55 placements on the Gateway Scheme. At 31st December 2016, 27 participants remained on the scheme. The scheme offered an opportunity for the long term unemployed to gain or update experience of the workplace, to learn new skills and to return to the routine of work.

Training and Development

During 2016 the training programme delivered in-house training to staff covering Project Management, Data Protection, Health and Safety, and other skills related programmes

Twenty two staff members were approved assistance for courses of further education.

Employee Assistance Programme

Monaghan County Council values all their employees and recognises their contribution and commitment to achieving the goals and objectives of the organisation. In order to support staff and to assist them during difficult periods an Employee Assistance Programme is available to all staff through "Staffcare" confidential counselling service. The programme is designed to help staff deal with problems they may be experiencing whether work related or personal.

Headcount

The staff complement for Monaghan County Council at 31st December 2016 was:

Core Staff	Number	Whole Time Equivalent
Managerial	4	4
Clerical/Administrative	161	148.93
Professional/Technical	63	62.29
Outdoor	148	138.35
Supernumeraries	2	2
Total Core Staff	**378**	**355.57**
Contract Posts	5	5
Temporary/Seasonal	26	26
Retained Firefighters	49	49
Non DoEC&LG	12	9.15
Total Other Posts	**92**	**89.15**

Retirements

The following staff retired during 2016:

2016	Name	Grade	Retired/Resigned	Service
1	Gerry Mulligan	Staff Officer	Retired	38 years
2	Paul Treanor	Head of I.S.	Retired	43 years
3	Seamus Sherry	General Services Supervisor	Retired	48 years
4	Marie Linehan	Canteen Manager	Retired	12 years
5	Rosemary McDonnell	Part-time Branch Librarian	Retired	15 years

Municipal District of Castleblayney-Carrickmacross

Severe Weather Programme

In December 2015 and January 2016 the Municipal District dealt with flooding issues arising from storms *Desmond and Frank.* Pumping was required for extended periods at Inniskeen and Magheross during the first few weeks of January. This MD received an allocation of €1.67million and 26 projects were completed during 2016.

A programme of works involving six projects in relation to the OPW was commenced during 2016. Five projects were fully completed. The OPW have agreed to extend the completion date for the Mannan Castle project to 2017.

Roads Programme

An allocation of €1million was given in respect of the Restoration Improvement Grants. Twelve projects were completed.
- Three projects were completed under the Low Cost Initiatives Programme during 2016 – one in Castleblayney town and two in Carrickmacross.
- Construction of new footpath to connect Knocktornagh/Rosevale to the town centre commenced in late 2016 and is to be completed in early 2017.
- The Bog Road, Castleblayney was taken in charge as agreed at the September monthly meeting.

Buildings/Land

Restoration work on Hope Castle Gate Lodge Castleblayney commenced in October, 2015 and was officially opened by Minister Humphrey's on the 25th of July, 2016. This project received a grant of €40,000 from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the balance was funded from Monaghan County Council's internal capital receipts in the sum in excess of €200,000.

The Hope Castle at Lough Muckno was taken back into County Council possession on the 18th of May, 2016. The buildings were adequately boarded up to prevent unsocial activity. Structural report on buildings has been commissioned.

The official opening of CTek complex took place on Friday the 15th of April, 2016 by Minister Damian English, Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation.

REDZ

The Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) pilot initiative was completed in early 2016 after successfully being allocated €75,000 from the Department. Match funding was obtained from this MD in the sum of €80,000 and €8,000 from the MD of

Ballybay-Clones. The works carried out under this project were as follows:-

- 29 Enterprises supported with 24 training/capacity building days - 34 people trained
- Five town physical improvement schemes supported
- Construction of Lough Muckno Car Park
- Iconic Art Piece on Roundabout at Castleblayney
- Lamppost Banners – 32 erected
- Castleblayney Beautiful Streets – 23 premises refurbished
- *Other initiatives* - Centrecom Broadband Report for Lough Egish Food Park
- Town Voucher Scheme

Recreational Spaces/Open Spaces

A section 183 was passed by Monaghan County Council in April, 2016 for the sale of 5 acres to Carrick Rovers for soccer playing fields. A turning of the sod event took place on Monday the 23rd of May 2016 by Mr. John Delaney FAI.   Two bridges were constructed
at Tullynaskeagh to facility these recreational lands.

Section 183's were passed for the sale of the former Town Council offices in Castleblayney and a portion of land to Castleblayney Faughs.
The "Carrickmacross Biodiversity Trail" Convent Avenue was officially launched on Thursday the 12th of May, 2016.

The trail is a joint venture between Monaghan County Council and the Carrickmacross Tidy Town's Committee and is being led through the local library. To coincide with the launch, this MD organised two days of trail tours for local schools. The trail featured on the *'Monaghan Matters Programme'* on the 13th of April, 2016.

An extension to the Cloughvalley Play Park in Carrickmacross was completed in June 2016 with some remedial works on the existing park completed the following month. Additional lighting was also erected. A toilet block was ordered and will be in place in early 2017.

All other playgrounds in this MD received a general maintenance and tidy up in June, 2016. With Donaghmoyne Playpark now falling under the Council's remit this MD inspects 10 play parks on a weekly basis.

Two Aires de Service spaces for Carrickmacross were completed on the 7th of September at Lisanisk Lake. Two Aires de Services spaces were also included in the new Muckno car park.

Carrickmacross Tidy Towns held their AGM and awards function on the 14th of October and celebrated their 5th gold medal. Castleblayney and Inniskeen Tidy Towns both increased their adjudication marks by four in the National Tidy Towns competition.

"1916 Gardens of Remembrance" were completed in both Carrickmacross and Castleblayney sites and official openings took place on March 21st, 2016. Irish TV recorded the event in Carrickmacross.

Twinning

On Friday 25th of March a delegation from Carrickmacross representing members from the local Comhaltas Group, Town Twinning Members and the Coordinator travelled to Carhaix to celebrate 20 years of successful twinning between Carrickmacross and Carhaix.

On the morning of the 15th of April members of the Town Twinning committee met with the French Ambassador Mr. Jean-Pierre Thébault at a breakfast meeting in the Shirley Arms Hotel. Later in the afternoon the Ambassador met with the members and officials of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District in the Civic Offices. A presentation was made to the Ambassador by Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon on behalf of the Municipal District.

On Tuesday the 25th of October the Municipal District said farewell to a group of 32 - consisting of under 17 soccer students, mentors and twinning members of the Carrickmacross-Carhaix Twinning Association in a return visit to mark 20 years of twinning between the two towns. The French Ambassador visited the town again and a reception was given in his honour in the Civic Offices on Monday the 24th of October.

Derelict Site/Dangerous Structures

A number of properties both in Carrickmacross and Castleblayney were served with various notices in relation to the derelict state of these properties. Remedial works have been carried out on some of the properties to the satisfaction of the Council.

Miscellaneous

Books of Condolence for the victims of the Paris and Nice atrocities were opened in the Civic Offices, Carrickmacross and the Enterprise Centre, Castleblayney. The Paris Book of condolence was presented to the French Ambassador by the Chairman Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon and the Chairman of the Carrickmacross/Carhaix Twinning Committee Mr. Sean Egan in January 2016. The Nice Book of Condolence was presented to the French Ambassador during his visit to Carrickmacross in October 2016.

The Municipal District hosted an event on the 14th of June in the Civic Offices where the allocations of the community grants to local groups were made.

A Municipal District Promotional online brochure in conjunction with a County Brochure was launched on the 14th of June, 2016.

Lough Muckno received a Gold medal Award in the Best Local Authority Initiative for Responsible Tourism 2016 on the 6th of October, 2016.

The MD worked with the Castleblayney Regeneration Team in preparing for the switch on of Christmas Lights which took place on Friday the 25th of November. In Carrickmacross the switch on took place on the 27th of November.

Early 2016 saw the launch of a national Taking in Charge initiative and Monaghan County Council secured funding for €110,000 to fund completion works on identified sites.

Events

The MD assisted in thirty two events during 2016. Some of the highlights included 1916 flag raising ceremonies, St. Patrick's Day Parade and numerous festivals and community events.

Ballybay-Clones Municipal District

The Municipal District of Ballybay Clones encompasses some 48% of County Monaghan and is responsible for 1067km or 42% of the County's National, Regional and Local Road Network.

In February 2016 the Municipal District received an allocation of €3,193,014 from the **Department of Transport,** Tourism and Sport and Transport Infrastructure Ireland to undertake various projects to the network. This funding was supplemented by €459,377 from the Councils own resources and enabled 27Km of the non national roads to be resurfaced and 4½km of the Regional Roads.

Severe Weather Allocation 2016 Following from the severe weather event of 2015/2016, the Ballybay Clones Municipal District received an allocation of €2,350,000 for Storm Repair/Preventative works from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. Severe Weather Repair Works Cost €450,000 This funding enabled the Municipal District to undertake additional work on various local roads in the district.

REDZ funding Ballybay Regeneration Works

Subsequent to receipt of funding under the Department of Arts, Heritage Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs REDZ programme, the Ballybay Clones Municipal District organised the painting of 15 buildings on Ballybay Main Street. The buildings in question were selected in conjunction with Ballybay Regeneration committee. The overall cost of the project was €18,000, 50% of which was funded from the Municipal District General Allocation.

Severe Weather Preventative Works Cost €1,900,000

The Ballybay Cootehill Regional Road (R190) and the Ballybay Shercock Regional Road (R162) have been subject to major flooding over the last number of years. The project which commenced in June 2016 involved raising 7 sections of the Regional Road which were regularly affected by flooding for a combined length of 1500m, seeking agreement from 17 landowners for the required lands, hosting an information evening to outline the scheme details to the general public, preparing an independent Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) to ensure the project would not negatively impact properties. This was the largest project delivered by Monaghan County Council in 2016.

In conjunction with the award of funding to various groups, the Municipal District also made presentations to 18 businesses in Ballybay that successfully completed the Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme.

Age Friendly Nomination

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones was recently shortlisted for an award at the Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards ceremony.

Unveiling of County Monaghan's first ever Age Friendly Parking Space at The Peace Link, Sports Facility Clones.

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones together with Youth Work Ireland (Clones Branch) were delighted to unveil County Monaghans 1st Age Friendly Parking Space on 22nd June 2016 at the Peace Link, Clones.

Following on from the successful roll out of the Age Friendly Business Programme in Clones last year, Youth Work Ireland offered their assistance to support the programme whatever way possible.

Presentation Evening to Community Groups in the Municipal District

On 8th June 2016 the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones hosted a presentation evening in the Wetlands Centre, Ballybay. Over 100 people from different groups within the Municipal District attended this event.

Presentations were made to the groups by the Cathaoirleach Cllr Hugh McElvaney under the three headings, Community Infrastructure supports, Community Development Support and Environmental Support. At this event over €55,000 was distributed to various community based organisations.

Smithboro Playground

County Monaghan officially opened its newest playground on Tuesday 24th May 2016 on the village green in Smithboro, when parents and children of Mulladuff housing estate and the Elected Members of Ballybay Clones Municipal District and staff of Monaghan County Council gathered to unveil the new-look expanded play facilities.

1916 Memorial Wall and Garden

Despite the showery conditions, large crowds gathered at the official unveiling of the 1916 Memorial Garden at McCurtain Street, Clones on Thursday 30th June 2016.The Tidy Towns group worked on the Memorial Garden with Ballybay-Clones Municipal District gateway staff and the local CE Scheme workers. The design of this 1916 memorial allows all members the community to visit, sit and reflect on the events of 1916.

Scotshouse Playground

The Municipal District has continued working closely with the Scotshouse Community in order to develop a play park for the village. The project is estimated to cost €52,000 with the sources of funding been listed below:

€17,000 funded by the Scotshouse Community

€15,000 grant from Department of Children and Youth Affairs Capital Grant

€20,000 Ballybay – Clones Municipal District.

There are also plans for Monaghan County Council to purchase additional lands adjacent to the playground for community use, which opens up potential for future projects.

Clones Town Enterprise Event

Building on the success of the Enterprise Town Event "Bigger Better Clones" held last year Bank of Ireland in conjunction with representatives of the local community ran a further event in the Peace Link. 62 business and community groups had a presence at the event. Despite all the challenges that Clones faces, the event was well attended and was a clear demonstration of the business and community spirit that exists in Clones.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2016
Funding was secured for the upgrade of the play area at Ballybay Town Park and the installation of footpaths and Public lighting in Rockcorry & Scotstown.

Clar Funding
Funding secured for safety measures at Knockatallon, Scotshouse, car parking facility at Magherarney NS. Street lighting in Newbliss, play equipment at Ballybay Town Park, equipment for Scotshouse village park & Trails & Paths at Billy Fox Memorial Park.

Clones Famine Graveyard

The Municipal District office has been working in conjunction with the Clones Famine Committee to develop the stone arch at Clones Famine graveyard. The famine arch has been relocated from the ABP complex to the publicly accessible Clones Famine Graveyard. The original stone arch has been repaired and rebuilt. This project has been financially supported by ABP and match funding was made available by the Municipal District. **Total Cost of Project €37,000**

Redevelopment of Clones Market House

The members of the Ballybay Clones Municipal District have approved the proposal to relocate the offices of the Municipal District from its current location in the Pringle Building to the Market House

which is located in the lower diamond. A design Team has been procured and appointed. It is envisaged that construction works will commence on this project in 2017.

Peace Link

The Municipal District continues to work closely with the board of Management of the Peace Link to ensure that the terms and conditions of the facilities operating licence are complied with. 7 meetings have been held with the Board of Management and the Finance Subcommittee in 2016.

The Peace Link were nominated for the **2016 'Irish Building & Design Awards' under the cultural project of the year category and that the** Award Ceremony which took place on Friday 22nd April in the Ballsbridge Hotel, Dublin 2**.**

The Municipal District attending the following meetings in 2016:-

- Clones Regeneration Committee Q1-Q4 2 meetings
- Clones Connect Committee Q1-Q4 2 meetings
- Ballybay Regeneration Committee Q1-Q4 4 meetings
- Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership Q1-Q4 8 meetings
- Clones GAA – St Tiernach regeneration committee Q1-Q4 – 1 meeting
-

Ballybay Town Enterprise Event

In conjunction with the Bank of Ireland and representatives of the local community. Ballybay Town held its first Enterprise Event on Saturday 4th December which was very well attended

Launch of Municipal District Brochure

The launch the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District Brochure took place at the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District meeting on 18th July 2016. The brochure is called '20 Things to Know about Ballybay and Clones Municipal District' and is an on-line brochure which will assist in the promotion of the Municipal District as a place to live, work, visit and do business in and is featured on the www.monaghanbusiness.com website.

Community and Economic Activities

In 2016 the staff of Ballybay-Clones Municipal District has once again been at the forefront of many major events within the District. Together we have worked with many communities, voluntary and elected members to enhance and improve the economic and tourism aspects within our district.

Ballybay Town

In 2016 the Municipal District has facilitated 8 meetings with Ballybay Regeneration Committee/Chamber of Commerce. In conjunction with the Ballybay Regeneration Committee/Chamber of Commerce the following projects have been delivered in 2016:

Oktober-feast Ballybay

Oktoberfeast, a three day festival organised by Ballybay Chamber of Commerce took place in Ballybay from 30th September, 2016 to 2nd October, 2016.

The Municipal District of Monaghan

Retail Strategy for the Town/District
Monaghan Municipal District made the decision to utilise the funding from Pay Parking to recruit a Town Centre Coordinator. This position was filled in late 2015 to set up a Town Team as set out in the Retail Strategy for Rural Towns. In February, the Town Team held its first meeting and had a very busy and successful year, projects include:

Retail Investment Prospectus
- Development of a Retail Investment Prospectus for Monaghan Town and taking a promotional stand at the Retail Excellence Ireland Conference. Identified two potential business start ups for the town, currently seeking suitable properties.

Town Team Website
Maintaining the "Monaghan Has It Web Site"and promoting Monaghan in the digital marketing sphere. Creation of promotional videos highlighting depth and mix of retail available in Monaghan (Video released June 16, 126,000 reach). Food Destination Video (September 16, 52,000 reach), Shop Local, Love Local Promotional Video (December 2016, 44,000 reach).

Monaghan Town Voucher

- The Town Voucher scheme launched on 4th October, 2016. The initial print run of was €150,000. Vouchers gained exceptional support from industry with over €340,000 sold pre Christmas. Over 140 participants signed up to accept the town vouchers. The Team is working on strengthening this through the Shop Local Campaign.

Monaghan, RAI National Top Ten Foodie Destination

- The Town Team have decided to promote Monaghan as a Retail, Food and Heritage Destination. In June/ July 2016 a Food Network was established and with the help of the Town team they submitted an application for Foodie Destination 2016. Monaghan achieved National Recognition as a RAI Top 10 Foodie Destination Award.

Age Friendly Business County

Assist Monaghan County Council to achieve Monaghan Town as an Age Friendly Business Town. Canvassed businesses in Monaghan and notified them individually of the Age Friendly initiative. This was delivered in late 2016.

Promotion of Monaghan Town Events

General town promotion and coordination of events e.g. Black Friday Sale Events etc... 38 businesses worked together to promote a Town Wide Black Friday sale. This included road side signage, traditional print and radio advertising and social media.
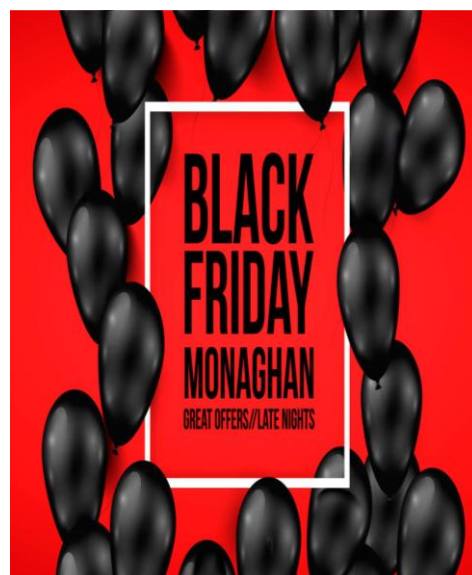
Monaghan Business Awards

The Monaghan Town Team initiated, organised, promoted and delivered the inaugural Monaghan Business Awards with 370 in attendance on the night.

Ongoing Projects

- Footfall counters were installed in Monaghan Town to monitor activity levels throughout the town.
- Work with Christmas Lights committee to help deliver the Christmas Light Switch On event and Shop local promotional campaign.

Car Parking

Car parking is critical for any town to function and to develop. The Municipal District carried out a CPO to acquire land to extend the Lower Courthouse car park. There was an objection to the proposal and the CPO was refused by An Bord Pleanála.

Following this the Municipal District commenced a Car Parking Strategy, it was tendered in May and Atkins has been taken on board to complete the report. The initial meeting has taken place, consultation with stakeholders and surveys are planned in November and the report is scheduled for completion in March 2017.

New upgrade to the Globetech system (GTicket 2) installed. Training for Wardens and office staff completed and ready for rollout in the New Year.
Five pay parking machines were replaced as part of the ongoing replacement program.

New Uniforms were introduced for the traffic wardens which will reflect the new approach to economic and community development.

The Municipal District operated a free Christmas parking campaign, commences after 12 o clock each day, from 14th December to 2nd January. This was part of the Christmas promotion for Monaghan town.

Community Grants

Summary of Events

- St Patrick's Day Parade, The Monaghan Municipal District set up the Committee and organised the parade and the day's events. Thanks to the students from St. Louis Convent, St. Macartan's and the Collegiate who helped a number of businesses to decorate their windows for St Patrick's festivities.
- The annual Monaghan Stages Rally 24th April 2016, it was base in the Courthouse car park, Monaghan Town.

- Monaghan County Council main 1916- Commemoration Event took place on 30th April, in Monaghan town.
- The official naming of the Margaret Skinnider Roundabout held by the Margaret Skinnider Appreciation Association on the 30th April.
- The annual Blackwater Run and family day took place in Rossmore Forest Park in May.
- Launch of the More to Monaghan brochure on 20th June.
- Community Grants presentation ceremony was held in the Four Seasons Hotel with thirty-eight grants provided to community groups.
- The inaugural celebrations of Canada Day 1st July held in Monaghan Town.
- Monaghan Town Country Music Festival, Thurs 14th to Sun 17th July.
- The Harvest Time Blues Festival 2nd to 4th September.
- Official launch of the Glaslough Heritage Trail App, Friday, 23rd September, 2016.
- Back to Back marathon 1st & 2nd October seen more than 800 participants from all over Ireland promoting the town and Rossmore Park.
- The annual Taste of Monaghan was held from the 7th to 9th October.
- Halloween Bats Festival was held on 31st October.
- The Christmas Lights Switch festival with Special Guest Michael Lawson was held on 20th November 2016.
- The Presentation of Age Friendly Business Charters to participating businesses was held in Monaghan Town in December. Monaghan Town now an Age Friendly Business Town.

Museum

Monaghan County Museum Achieve Historic Treble Scooping Major National Award

This has been a historic time at the place where history is their business. Monaghan County Museum won a major national award for their current exhibition *From a Whisper to a Roar* at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards held in the Crown Plaza Hotel, Dublin recently.

In doing so they have completed a treble of awards in as many weeks; beginning with the Monaghan Tidy Towns Award for Best Public Building, they then moved on to the Public Sector Magazine Award for Best Exhibition and capped it all off with the Special Commendation Award for National Commemorative Events at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. Not since its early years when the museum won the Council of Europe Prize in 1980 has the service enjoyed such enormous local, regional and national recognition for the remarkable programme of exhibitions and events that it hosts at its headquarters on Hill Street, Monaghan Town.

From a Whisper to a Roar – Exploring the untold story of Monaghan 1916

Monaghan 1916, when the whisper of an Irish Republic exploded into a roar following the bombshell of the Rebellion. A never before told story about the lives of Monaghan people caught up in the Rising as well as the Monaghan people who fought in the British Army during the Battle of Somme. This ground breaking exhibition looks at life in the county during this turbulent time and how these violent and chaotic events affected everyone in Monaghan and changed their lives forever. Monaghan County Museum has been working in collaboration with renowned historian and Monaghan man, Professor Terence Dooley of Maynooth University to research and develop this gripping story of passion, sacrifice and patriotism.

For many in Monaghan though, both Nationalist and Unionist, the summer of 1916 brought their focus to the battle fields of France. Thousands of men from Monaghan signed up and went to fight in the British Army during World War I. Many of them formed part of the 36th (Ulster) Division who went over the top on the first day of the Somme offensive on July 1st and never came back. For the men who were lucky enough to survive, the Monaghan they came home to was a very different place.

Monaghan 1916 – Brought Back to Life

Monaghan County Council's main event marking the commemoration and celebration of the 1916 Rising was entitled *Monaghan 1916 – Brought Back to Life*. On Saturday, April 30th, the centre of Monaghan Town was taken back in time to a place where the county was still part of the British Empire and where the news of the Rising in Dublin was met with fear and anger rather than celebration by the majority of the population.

This was a major event with over four thousand people moving through the site on the day. The focus for this historic day of remembrance and exploration was inclusivity. Rather than watching from the fringes, everyone stepped into history through the vast array of imaginative and interactive events. A wide range of re-enactors were on parade playing the parts of Irish Volunteers, Irish Citizen Army, Cumann na mBan and British Army members. The huge crowds spoke to these people and interacted with them and got the chance to speak to the men and women who were there in Dublin during that fateful week, hearing first-hand accounts of their experiences.

Throughout the site the curious public could print their own proclamations, find out about fashion from the era, join the Volunteers and try on their uniforms, go back to school in 1916 and meet the strict school master or sit back and listen to the travelling minstrels who were plying their trade. They could also visit the travelling cinema and enjoy some the earliest films ever made in Ireland as well as enjoy the famous *Mise Eire,* which was first released in 1959, depicting some of the stunning early moving pictures shot during the Rising in Dublin. Plays exploring various parts of the 1916 story were available for everyone to enjoy including a celebrated piece by world renown local playwright Pat McCabe called *Pull Down a Horseman.*

The centrepiece for the day was the county Courthouse that was transformed into a barricaded GPO. As a climax to the event, Padraig Pearse, flanked by James Connolly and a wary collection of rebels burst out the doors of Monaghan's GPO and read the proclamation to a stunned crowd of thousands, plastered it to the pillar of the building and then retreated back into their stronghold.

This incredibly successful event will now form part of the history of the county as we remembered and commemorated the sacrifices of those brave men and women a century ago.

Monaghan and the Somme, Remembered
Friday, July 1st 2016 marked the 100th anniversary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme. It was commemorated in Monaghan by a poignant and emotional event held by Monaghan County Museum at Peter's lake in the centre of town, timed for exactly 7:30am, the moment that the first waves of men were ordered over the top a century ago. The event included a brief re-enactment, where those present were ordered by local archaeologist Felim MacGabhann, dressed and playing the part of a Captain in the Royal Irish Fusiliers to step out over the trench which was symbolised by a row of sandbags near the lake shore.

The Battle of the Somme was one of the largest battles of the World War I. Fought between the 1st of July and the 18th of November 1916 with over 1.5 million casualties. In the summer of 1916 Monaghan families both Catholic and Protestant were very concerned about the fate of their sons at the Front. Many of these Monaghan men were fighting in the 36th (Ulster) Division, which had formed part of the massive army of men, over 100,000 strong, who had gone over the top at 7:30am on Saturday, July 1st 1916. On the first day of the offensive, the British Army suffered over 57,000 casualties, 5,000 of whom were from the 36th (Ulster) Division. The 1st of July 1916 went down as the bloodiest day in British Army history.

In total around 2,500 Monaghan men served in the Great War. In all nearly 540 Monaghan men were killed in the war, about half and half Protestant and Catholic.

Library

The Library Service is administered from the library headquarters in Clones. Its services include:

- Five fully automated branches located in the principal towns of Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay. The five branches provide a continually updated collection of popular fiction and non-fiction books, a full range of online resources, audio books, DVDs, CDs and magazines for lending.
- Mobile Library Service to pre-schools, playschools, crèches and afterschool services operating from 28 service points around the county on a fortnightly basis.
- Primary Schools Library Service visiting each of the 63 primary schools twice yearly.

In conjunction with the ETB a wide range of computer classes in all five library branches, either through our 55 branch library Internet PCs, through the 26 laptops shared by the library branches or through iPads provided for the classes by the ETB.

Library Statistics 2016
- 277,223 Visitors to the 5 branch libraries
- 330,716 Items borrowed
- 11,070 Active Members of the library
- 26,452 Internet Sessions booked
- 17,234 WIFI connections made
- 1,660 Local History enquiries answered
- 343 Computers classes taught
- 2,893 Book requests answered

- 1,396 Library events organised, attended by 26,618

Free Library Membership
From the 1st January the Adult library membership fee of €3.00 was abolished. Library services are now completely free at the point of contact for all customers.
This free membership allows customers to borrow up to 12 items at a time. Customers can also avail of Internet access, either through our suite of 55 PCs throughout the library branches, or through our free WIFI access.

E- Resources
A full suite of free e-resources became available to all library customers with effect from January 2016. The services available include e-books, e-audio-books, e-magazines/journals, e-newspapers, e-online courses and e-languages.

Monaghan Cavan Science Festival

Monaghan County Council and Cavan County Cavan joined forces, supported by funding €35,000 from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), to coordinate and organise a new, weeklong Science festival in November with over 140 events taking

place across the two counties to promote science, technology, engineering and maths. Over 6,000 members of the public participated in the events in County Monaghan alone.

The counties of Cavan and Monaghan have been identified by research carried out by SFI as low intervention counties in terms of STEM participation and career progression. The festival programme was designed to stimulate interest, excitement and debate about STEM or indeed STEAM (Science technology engineering arts maths) through accessible and entertaining interactions with the public. It is hoped that the festival will become an annual event hosted by both counties.

Readers Day

Monaghan Library presented their inaugural Reader's Day event - a day which brought together authors to talk about their inspirations, their research processes and what the life of an author is really like.
The authors participating were Martina Devlin, Sarah Webb, Declan Hughes, Evelyn Conlon, Jean O'Brien and Frankie Gaffney and Shane Martin, who launched his new book 'Your Precious Life and how to live it well' as part of the event.

WIFI Printing Service

 A new WIFI printing service was launched in Monaghan, Carrickmacross and Clones branch libraries. The service allows customers from the comfort of their own home, or any other location, to order a print copy of virtually any document or web page from their Internet connected Laptop, Tablet or Mobile device for collection at the Library of their choice.

Monaghan County Library Lady Cafe Project

Monaghan County Library's EU funded project, **"Lady Cafe (motivating activities for women aged 45+)"** was selected as a "success story" by a panel of experts from the Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission and was marked as such in the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform.

The project, completed with Library Service partners in Bulgaria, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Latvia, Romania and Slovenia, brought women together to learn, and to share their own knowledge and experience in an educational, social and economic programme**.**

Library Capital Programme 2016 – 2021

In January 2016 the Minister for the Environment Community and Local Government, Mr. Alan Kelly, T.D., allocated €1,000,000 to Monaghan County Council under the new Library Capital Programme, for the redevelopment of Monaghan Branch Library.

A multi-annual allocation has been approved for the period 2018 – 2020, although it is understood that funding may be made available earlier if the project is progressed speedily to full design specification and planning permission. The new branch library will form part of the Peace Campus project, being developed on the Machinery Yard site.

Rosemary McDonnell, Branch Librarian, Ballybay Library, with some of the participants in the Library Summer Reading Challenge
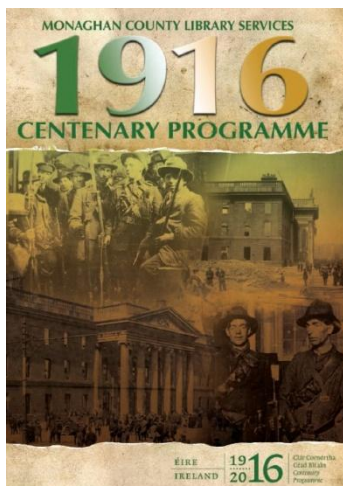
1916 Commemoration Programme
The Library service organised an extensive education and community programme to commemorate 1916. Over 4,000 participants took part in 180 workshops which included History talks, secondary school table quiz, secondary school poetry, history talks, Easter & Summer camps for children, creative writing, art workshops, re-enactments, storytelling and photography workshops. The largest event was the 'One Book One County' reading initiative, where 1,200 young people in 40 primary schools participated in reading 'The Guns of Easter' by Gerard Whelan.

The programme allowed people to learn, discuss and share their thoughts and feelings on Irish history on a local, national and international context.

Summer Reading Challenge
The annual Summer Reading Challenge was launched in all five branch libraries in July. The programme is open to all school children and is designed for all reading abilities, encouraging children to read a minimum of six books over the period of the summer holidays. Participating children received stickers and rewards over the period of the summer and those finishing the programmed were presented with a certificate and medal. This year 993 child successfully completed the challenge.

My Open Library Proposal
Funding of €53,961 plus VAT was allocated to Monaghan County Library for the development of a *My Open Library* service in Carrickmacross Library.

My Open Library is an innovative development that seeks to improve the link between communities and the local library. It is customer focused and offers local communities and individuals a more flexible library service, offering extended opening hours to library members during unstaffed hours while continuing to provide the regular staffed times for ongoing delivery of the service, assisting customers, developing community engagement and providing events and activities. Under this new service it will be possible to provide customers with access to the library from 8 am to 10 pm Monday to Sunday.

School Table Quiz Winners

All technical and physical works to the branch in preparation for the service were completed in December 2016. The service itself will be launched in 2017.
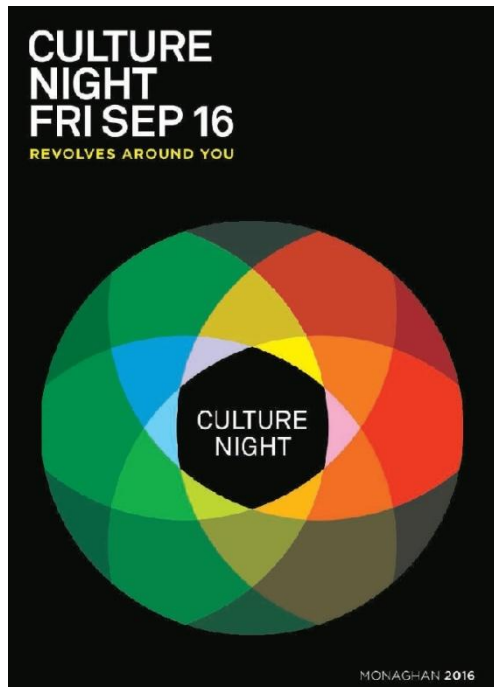
Culture Night
2016 saw Monaghan County Library oversee the first fully coordinated programme of events across the county for Culture Night.

Culture Night sparked interest not only amongst the public but amongst many other organisations and groups, who see the value of being part of one big event to promote their cultural venue/services.
In all, ten events took place across the County on the night, with 757 participants.

Job Seeker Services
The Library Service produced promotional material, such as leaflets, book marks and Pull Ups, highlighting the range of services provided to Job Seekers. These include a comprehensive range of books, free access to Internet PCs and WIFI, free online courses, newspapers and magazines, printing and scanning facilities, Driver Theory Test practice, access to information on their rights and entitlements etc.

Monaghan County Library Service

Positive State of Mind

Using literature to help you through a tough time.
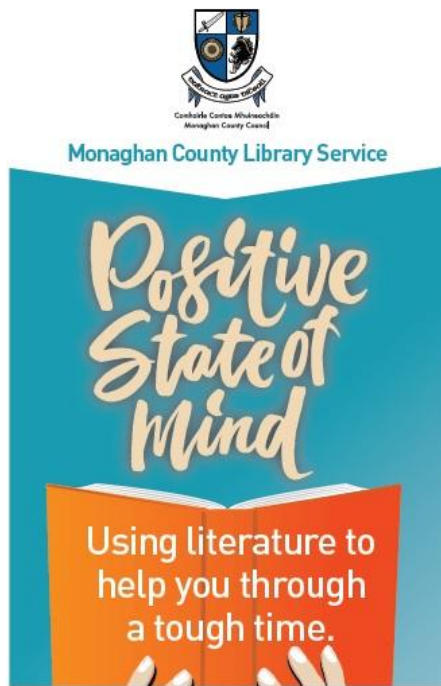
Bibliotherapy Collection

The library service launched its expanded Bibliotherapy Collection, available in all branch libraries, as part of Positive Mental Health Week. This collection of self help books cover a wide range of topics, from dealing with addiction, anger and panic attacks, depression and anxiety, to improving relationships , increasing your self esteem or dealing with eating disorders. Leaflets advertising the service have been distributed to GPs and health service providers throughout the County.

Library Promotion Events

Monaghan County Library Services hosted information stands in Monaghan Shopping Centre, at the Enterprise Town events in Clones and Ballybay and at the Taste of Monaghan event. Library staff were available to assist those wishing to join the library and to demonstrate the range of eBooks, digital magazines, courses, newspapers etc. now available for free online. Many lapsed members took the opportunity to renew their membership and register for the online services.

Library Participation in Carrickmacross Festival

Carrickmacross Library were delighted to host a Pop-Up Children's Library as part of the

Carrickmacross Festival 2016. The library was set up in premises on the Main Street and offered a range of children's facilities including a collection of Story Books, Art Activities and Storytelling sessions by Library Staff throughout the day. While the children were busy listening to stories, library staff took the opportunity to demonstrate the new online library services to patient parents. The Library also ran a Treasure Hunt around the town, hiding 70 different Mr. Men Characters for the children to locate over the course of the weekend. This is the first year the Library has been directly involved with the festival.

Arts Office

Monaghan County Council through its Arts Office supported Arts projects in the county through The **Arts Partners Grant** scheme. A **total of €61,000K** was invested in 2016 in the projects listed below.

- **The Garage Theatre**
- **Clones Film Festival**
- **Muckno Mania**
- **Castleblayney Arts & Resource Centre** (Iontas)
- **Patrick Kavanagh Weekend**
- **Scoil Cheoil Na Botha**
- **Carrickmacross Arts Festival**
- **Féile Patrick Byrne**
- **Castleblayney Drama Festival**

The Arts & Community Development Section made a capital grant scheme submission to the Department of AHRRGA to renovate The Old Post Office in Clones into Artist Studios. We were later informed that were successful in securing this funding.

The Market House

A unique venue owned and operated by Monaghan County Council continued to be programmed with both music and exhibitions. It is now being used by many and varied groups nearly every evening and at weekends, whether for rehearsals or workshops.

Some groups we host are **Monaghan Arts Network**, they are up and running nearly three years and they hold their monthly event in the Market House. The last Wednesday of each month four acts from various arts backgrounds are chosen. They each give a short presentation of their area of expertise; this event has gone from strength to strength and provides entertainment as well as education to the wider public audience. **MOPOSOP's** a poets and song writers group who regularly run workshops and mentoring sessions for artists. **Spectrum,** who host painting workshops every Monday. We also host many craft and painting workshops in association with **U3A.** From with Monaghan County Council the Library & Museum hold regular talks.

As part of the **1916** celebrations the Arts Office held 3 main events.

Disorder, a short film with an Artistic response to life in Ireland. The project reflects the creative expression and reaction to all that is 'in between' society's general concept and practice of 'social order'.

Women Rising up, an exhibition to celebrate women who participated in the 1916 rising. These particular 1916 women were all incarcerated during the Irish civil war in Kilmainham Gaol for their anti-treaty beliefs and threat to the Irish government of the time.

Wilderless, for many, the 1916 rising and its centenary broaches the question of how a nation should define itself, how people define their home. This exhibition aimed to further examine Ireland's relationship with the home.
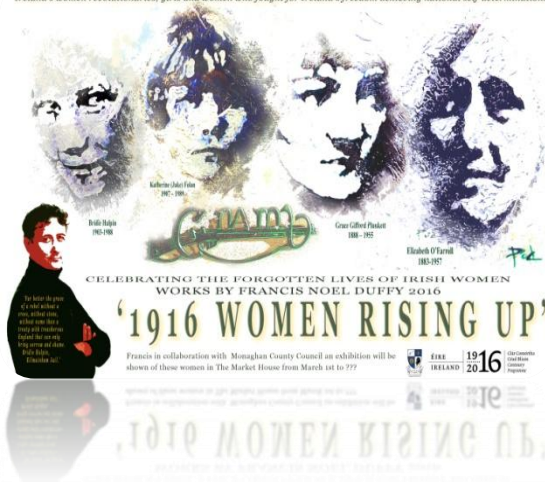
In producing the new **Arts Policy 2016-2010** we held both public and sectoral meetings in order that inform us in producing this policy. **'Renewing the Case for the Arts'** Monaghan Co. Council's Arts Development Plan 2016-2020 focuses on the remit and responsibilities of Monaghan Co. Council to stimulate, develop and promote the arts, set within the broader contexts of culture and civic society. We now have this published and distributed among the many arts groups.

A major project run directly by the Arts office is the international "**Harvest Time Blues Festival**" which is held in September each year. It has become widely recognised now as one of the Top Blues festival in Europe. It continues to grow and is considered a major cultural and tourist product in Ireland.

We continue to **assist individual Artists** e.g. writers, theatre practitioners; visual Artists. Some have received grants from both the Arts Council and Culture Ireland. It ranged from travel assistance to material purchases and direct funding matched with secured arts council funding. We offer the facilities of The Market House to artists throughout the year.

COUNTY HERITAGE OFFICE

Monaghan County Council Heritage Office continued to implement the County Monaghan Heritage Plan in 2016, and to support and advise the local authority and wider society about heritage assets, policy and legislation and their promotion, benefit and conservation.

County Heritage Plan implementation is co-financed with the Heritage Council. The County Heritage Plan is a five year strategic plan developed in consultation with the multi-stakeholder heritage forum and the general public.

EARLY CHRISTIAN SITES

The communities of Clones, Errigal Truagh, Inniskeen, Killahear were brought together to understand the values of their early monastic medieval sites and to develop conservation plans. A programme of field visits and lectures, the development of site specific reconstruction drawings by an archaeological illustrator brought the sites alive for all involved.

The Early Christian Sites project at Killahear, Aughnamullen parish.

Outline of the reconstruction drawing for Clones Monastic site, based on archaeological evidence and documentary information (Philip Armstrong).
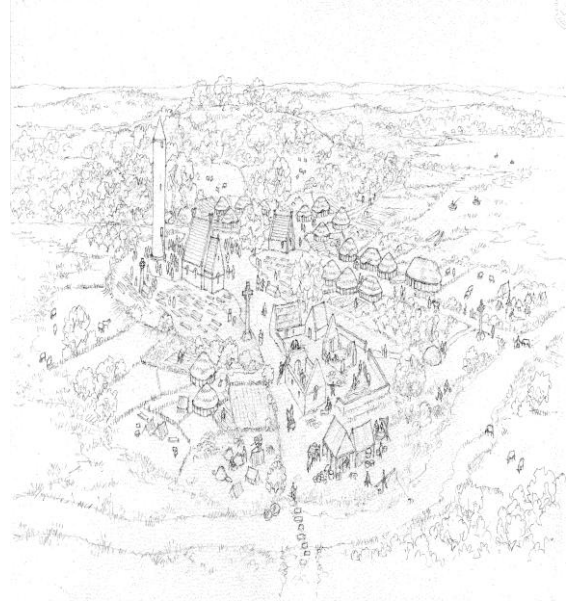
CLONES CASTLE

The Heritage Officer has been working with Clones Community Forum, Failte Cluain Eois and local historian George Knight since March to survey the possible extent of the plantation castle in Clones.   Following a successful grant application to the Heritage Council, archaeologists were procured to undertake historical and archaeological survey of upstanding remains on the site located behind the Diamond.   The discovery of castle bawn walls, an internal stone vaulted chamber and other features including musket loops and embrasures has created a stir locally, nationally and internationally. Local people, diaspora and the media created a groundswell of curiosity and pride in the site and wider cultural heritage of Clones as a result of the discovery of the "lost castle".

The Heritage Officer was interviewed on the Morning Ireland programme on RTE Radio 1, RTE evening news, and BBC Newsline. The story appeared on the BBC world

service and website. It was a news story in the Irish Times and the Telegraph (UK). The Heritage Week open day attracted between 300-400 people for tours, and almost 100 people came to an additional open day during October. The voluntary effort by the community has been commendable.

The site has been designated as an archaeological monument by the National Monuments Service. The report from the archaeologists will recommend the next steps that need to be taken to understand and conserve the site. It is intended that the project will continue as a partnership project with the community.

The first group to tour the castle site with George Knight, during the Heritage Week Open Day.

South wall of the castle in Clones.

DOCUMENTARY ON GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE

The Heritage Office is producing a film on the gothic architectural gems of County Monaghan, in collaboration with architectural historian Kevin V. Mulligan and filmmaker Dara McCluskey. In 1817 a young English architect Thomas Rickman published a book, later known as Rickman's Gothic became a classic. It is still used by architectural historians as a reliable guide to Gothic architecture. His only Irish building is Lough Fea House, Carrickmacross and the documentary has filmed at that location and many other buildings across the county. The aim of the film is to raise awareness of the rich architectural heritage of the county, and to reach new audiences locally and further afield.

Heritage Officer, Shirley Clerkin and Kevin V.Mulligan on location, Cahans Meeting House.

historical significance of the place and the conservation priorities for the church.

Minister Humphreys launching Monaghan Heritage Week 2016 at Cahans Meeting House.

HERITAGE WEEK

Heritage week is an annual celebration of our cultural and natural heritage, nationally co-ordinated by the Heritage Council and locally co-ordinated by the Local Authority Heritage Officers. Held over ten days in August, Heritage Week in Monaghan attracted record numbers of participants and maximum publicity. The Heritage Office organised a number of flagship events and co-ordinated and promoted all events through a public awareness campaign on the radio, social media and in the press. Twenty-three events were held in County Monaghan.

The **launch of Monaghan Heritage Week** was held by the Heritage Office in conjunction with Cahans Restoration Committee, in the Presbyterian meeting house that has been undergoing a programme of conservation works for the last number of years. The Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and Rural Affairs launched the programme of activities for Monaghan Heritage Week at the event. David Nesbitt from Cahans highlighted the

The **Rossmore Bioblitz** was a day of nature recording and discovery at Rossmore Forest Park, organised by the Heritage Office. The Monaghan County Council environment section, Inland Fisheries and BirdWatch Ireland assisted as expert guides during the day. This event highlighted the rich biodiversity and variety of species in the park to people of all ages and allowed people to experience wildlife identification methods. Species were identified, recorded and added to the National Biodiversity Data Centre database. A number of volunteers helped with the event, including Comhairle na nóg and the Tidy Towns.

national heritage week
people & place

Satisfaction

100%
of respondents would recommend National Heritage Week to a friend

95%
of respondents found events to be Excellent or Very Good

Looking through the magnifier to see water invertebrates at the Rossmore Bioblitz.

Inside the marquee waiting for the next guided nature walk.

Aileen Owens, Monaghan County Council makes a species list of the macro-invertebrates collected from the stream in Rossmore Park at the Rossmore Bioblitz, Heritage Week 2016.

The **Clones Plantation Castle Open Day** was held in conjunction with Clones Community Forum and the owners of the site Failte Cluain Eois. It presented the historical and archaeological heritage of the site to a continuous stream of visitors who received guided tours from George Knight and Shirley Clerkin throughout the day.

George Knight with a group at the bawn wall of the Clones Plantation Castle.

http://www.rte.ie/news/player/2016/0825/21043138-clones-forgotten-castle-opens-to-the-public/

http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/heritage/17th-century-plantation-castle-found-hiding-in-plain-sight-1.2762110

http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-37186135

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/26/amateur-historian-stumbles-across-irish-towns-castle-that-was-lo/

The Heritage Office event with the **Tyrone Guthrie Centre**, Annamakerrig was booked out for the second year in a row. It provides an opportunity for the public to see how an historic property can be transformed into a vibrant creative venue. Historical and cultural tours were provided onsite, a number of artists opened their studios to the public, and some music and literature was performed.

INTERREG V - Collaboration for Natura Network (CANN)

The Heritage Officer has been instrumental in the development of this ROI/NI/Scotland application to INTERREG V since 2015. The full application and business plan was submitted in 2016. The purpose of the initiative is to develop conservation plans for European protected sites, and to manage site to achieve an improved conservation status for their habitats and species. Sites to benefit in County Monaghan are Sliabh Beagh Special Protection Area (SPA) and Kilroosky Lough Cluster Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Clones. The five-year 100% funded multi-million euro project has been approved for funding and will commence in 2017.

TOURISM SECTION

The Tourism Unit within Monaghan County Council implements the Co Monaghan Tourism Strategy 2015 – 2020. The principal functions of the unit are:

- **To raise customer awareness of the Monaghan area as a tourism destination**
- **To develop and contribute towards the development of the county's tourism product**

In terms of <u>Tourism Development</u> the following were delivered in 2016:

Community Tourism Diaspora Funding
22 festivals were funded through the Community Tourism Diaspora Funding 2016. The Tourism Section was responsible for implementing this fund and monitoring and processing claims.

Rossmore Forest Park

The Tourism section worked with Coillte and the Municipal District of Monaghan to establish a Memorandum of Understanding for Rossmore Forest Park. Funding of €115,935 was also secured to upgrade the walkways and existing signage in the park through the Rural Recreation Scheme 2016. The section also worked with the Peace Programme to work up an application for an Adventure Play Park in Rossmore Forest Park.

Glaslough App
A new audio walking trail app, with associated interpretative signage in Glaslough was completed at the end of July and is available free of charge and across all phone and tablet formats. It was officially launched by Minister Heather Humphreys at the end of September.

INTERREG V & PEACE IV

The unit worked with other councils and partners in the East Border Region and ICBAN to work up potential transnational projects for funding under INTERREG V. One project – a **European Literary Tourism Initiative (with ICBAN and partners)** – has progressed to stage II of the application process.

In terms of <u>Tourism Promotion & Visitor Servicing</u> the following was delivered in 2016:

Tourist Office
The Tourist office in the Market House was open from mid March to end September in 2016. There was a steady stream of visitors with visitors recorded from the following countries (in addition to domestic and NI visitors):

England, Scotland, Spain, Germany, France, Slovakia, Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Finland, Turkey

My Monaghan Campaign

The' My Monaghan' campaign commenced on 29 June. Six '*My Monaghan*' videos of local people were recorded across key themes of music, gastronomy, heritage, arts, golf and these featured across the different media with ads and interviews on Northern Sound, a press release and image pages in the Northern Standard and an on-line campaign across the social media sites. Just over 427,000 people were reached by the campaign and over **180,000** people viewed the videos produced.

A My Monaghan Image Competition was run concurrently. The winners were announced in September and these images can now be used by Monaghan County Council in its promotions.

Journalist Familiarisation Visits and Corresponding Publicity

Several journalist visits to the county were organised which resulted in a number of articles on visiting Monaghan in national publications. These included

- PRESS ARTICLES in Sunday Times, Irish Independent, Irish Times, Irish
- Sun, Irish Daily Mirror, Sunday Business Post, Dublin Gazette and Tatler
- WEB ARTICLES in evoke.ie and Image.ie
- RADIO INTERVIEW on The Business with Richard Curran

Ireland's Ancient East

The Tourism Section liaised with Failte Ireland and the Roads Section to ensure that the new Ireland's Ancient East signage was rolled-out on National and regional roads in the county. Two Ireland's Ancient

East trade workshops were organised (in Carrickmacross and Clones) and a new section was added to the tourism website which highlighted key Ireland's Ancient East stories in Co Monaghan www.monaghantourism.com

Things to Know about Monaghan Literature

Four on-line brochures were developed to promote Monaghan as a good place to visit, live, work and invest in. These were as follows:

- Main County Brochure
- Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD Brochure
- Monaghan MD Brochure
- Ballybay-Clones MD Brochure

These brochures can be viewed on-line on www.monaghanbusiness.com

Economic Videos

Four economic videos were also developed to promote the county. The videos, voiced by RTE Presenter, Audri Carville, highlight the advantages of Co Monaghan under the following themes:

- A Taste of Monaghan
- Home Fires Burning
- Innovation & Enterprise
- Working & Living

The videos can also be viewed on
www.monaghanbusiness.com

A PRESS RELEASE and link to
www.monaghanbusiness.com was emailed
out to diaspora contacts and diaspora press
overseas and to Enterprise Ireland and IDA
offices in their international offices.

Connect Ireland Video
The Tourism section worked in
collaboration with Connect Ireland to create
a video to attract new businesses to the
county. The video featured Martin McVicar
from CombiLift, Paul Shortt from Castlecool,
Liam Murray from Cased Dimensions and
Eamonn O'Sullivan from Monaghan County
Council. The video is being used by Connect
Ireland to promote County Monaghan and
can also be viewed on
www.monaghanbusiness.com

Health and Safety Unit

Monaghan County Council endeavours to create a suitable environment to promote the health and safety and wellbeing of its employees, contractors and visitors whilst meeting the objectives of the Corporate Plan.

In 2016 the Health and Safety Unit set out its targets and goals for the management of health and safety in Monaghan County Council in its Annual Service Delivery Plan (ASDP). In addition, the unit prepared an Operational Plan for 2016, setting out the detailed work that it would need to do to achieve the requirements of the ASDP Progress on the implementation of the operational plan was reviewed at the monthly Health and Safety Unit Review Meeting attended by the Director of Service and the Head of Health and Safety.

There are now two full time persons in the unit, following the appointment of a permanent Assistant Health and Safety Officer in May 2016.

In 2016 the unit reviewed and improved the Health and Safety Management System (HSMS). This is a continuous review and improvement process. Three procedures (as listed below) were identified by gap analysis of the HSMS. The procedures were then drafted, developed and approved:

- HSP47 Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan.
- HSP49 Events Management Procedure.
- HSP50 Health and Safety Unit Audit Adoption Procedure.

To improve the inspection process the unit produced 12 new Inspections templates e.g. Play Areas and Parks, Civic

Amenities, Machinery Yard Inspection Templates. This methodology of inspection ensures a systematic and unified process. All procedures and templates were developed in consultation with employees. Consultation and communication of this documentation was vital to the 'buy in' process.

The addition, these procedures and templates further assisted Monaghan County Council in meeting its legal and moral safety, health and welfare at work requirements.

The largest documentation exercise undertaken to date was the production of Section Health and Safety Manuals. Safety Steering Committees for each section were set up to aid the process and to facilitate communication and consultation.

Following a significant body of work between late 2014 and December 2016, 12 manuals have been completed. The Section Health and Safety Manuals superseded the Ancillary Safety Statements that had previously been in place. Section manuals hold all health and safety documentation applicable to the particular section e.g. Hazard and Risk Assessments, Standard Operating Procedures.

The Unit's Hazard and Risk Assessment Plan for 2016 was more than fully achieved, as set out in the table below:

Target Number of Assessments:	Actual Achieved:	% Achieve:
64	69	107%

The Health and Safety Unit developed and delivered following training in 2016:

Training Course	Number Attended
Emergency Response Procedure Training	15
Hazard and Risk Assessment Training	107

The addition of the Assistant Health and Safety Officer enabled the unit to conducted 95 inspections from June to December 2016. These inspections were carried out by the Assistant Health and Safety Officer.

In accordance with the requirement of a formalised HSMS, the Chief Executive and Management Team conducted a review of the HSMS for 2016. No concerns were noted.

European Health and Safety Week
Monaghan County Council participated in European Health and Safety Week 2016. The theme for the week was *Healthy Workplaces for All Ages*. The Health and Safety Unit planned and organised a number of events. This included Daily Toolbox Talks e.g. Personal Hygiene and Food, Slips and Trips, Working in Winter Conditions.

An art competition on the theme of safety at work was arranged, which got the young family members of employees thinking about safety. The artwork was displayed in the Council offices and demonstrated a strong awareness of safety issues.

Delivery Plan 2016 and Operational Plan 2016 developed and implemented.

- Health and Safety Unit Corporate Risk Register 2016 developed and implemented.

- Health and Safety Unit Hazard and Risk Assessment Review Plan 2016 conducted and fully achieved.

- Monthly Health and Safety Unit Reports issued to the Management Team.

- Review conducted of the HSMS including Corporate Safety Statement.

- Ongoing support services provided to employees requesting information and advice. An average of 55 phone calls per month were received, principally relating to wellbeing at work and roadworks-related calls.

- Comprehensive Inspection Program achieved.

- Five Safety Committee Meetings held.

- Five Toolbox Talks developed and issued by the Health and Safety Unit. The Talks were delivered by each section to all employees during European Health and Safety Week in October 2016.

- 17 Safety Intranet Newsfeeds/Alerts issued to employees.

- Safety Link Newsletter (issued Dec 2016)

- Health and Safety Unit Corporate Risk Register implemented.

MONAGHAN FIRE & CIVIL PROTECTION

Monaghan Fire and Civil Protection Service (MFCP) provide a range of services for the citizens of Monaghan. These services include Fire Safety and Building Control functions; implementing the statutory requirements of the Building Regulations and Building Control Regulations, inspection of new and existing building stock for compliance with fire safety requirements, licensing of petrol stations, inspection of licensed premises including pubs and clubs, advice and enforcement under the Fire Services Acts and the promotion of fire safety in the community. Operational services include; responding to emergency calls, providing assistance to other emergency services and reviewing and enhancing Major Emergency Planning in consultation with the other Principal Response Agencies.

Building Control
Monaghan Building Control Authority received a total of 216 valid Commencement Notices in 2016, which is an increase of 15% from 2015. An inspection rate of 16.5% of new builds was achieved during the year.

In addition there were 84 applications for Fire Safety Certificates under Building Control legislation, with 19 applications for Regularisation Certificates, 53 Disability Access Certificate applications and 6 Seven Day Notices.

The Building Control Management System (BCMS) continued to be updated in 2016 and used by those engaged in building projects to upload commencement notices and supporting documents directly onto the system.
The level of one off houses 'opting out' of statutory certification is high at 68% for Monaghan dwellings. In opting out of the

requirements for statutory certification of S.I. 9 (Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2014) the homeowner is making the decision to not have a Design Certifier certify the design of the building and to not have an Assigned Certifier inspect and oversee the works. In addition, the owner cannot register a Certificate of Compliance on Completion with the Local Authority.

Surveillance of the Construction Product Regulations (CPR) has been maintained through 2016. Manufacturers of construction products which are covered by harmonised European product standards (hens), are required, when placing a product on the market, to make a Declaration of Performance (DoP) for the product and affix the Ce mark. Surveillance and advice is ongoing with manufacturers, importers, distributors, builders and designers in Co. Monaghan to ensure compliance with the CPR.

Fire Safety and Emergency Management - Fire Prevention
Our Fire Prevention Section reviewed and processed all valid fire safety certificate applications received and provided advice on achieving compliance with Part B: Fire Safety of the Building Regulations.

Fire safety inspections were carried out on a range of building types including; licensed premises, residential care homes, preschools, petrol stations and community buildings. Fire Service comments were also provided on 26 planning applications informing the planning office of relevant fire safety requirements for the proposed development. All notified licensing referrals for pubs, clubs, dances etc were assessed by a fire officer and recommendations provide to the Courts service. Performance Inspections were carried out at 65 pubs/clubs by Station Officers and their crews locally at evenings/weekends around

the county to check on fire safety management and ensure public safety.

Community Fire Safety

A range of fire safety talks were delivered to schools and community groups. Smoke detectors were distributed as part of the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme and the key messages of Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week and Fire Safety Week were promoted at local level and on social media. The Primary Schools Programme on home fire safety was delivered to all schools in the County.

Emergency Management

Monaghan County Council chaired both the North East Region Major Emergency Working Group and Steering Group and participated in all organised meetings and training events. MFCP continue to participate at the National Working Group and Cross-Border Emergency Management Working Group with a view to continuously improving emergency planning preparedness.

Major Emergency Management continues to be a priority item which requires inter-agency cooperation and continued education of the key stakeholders.

Operations Section

Monaghan is served by five retained fire stations at Clones, Monaghan, Ballybay, Castleblayney and Carrickmacross providing an operational fire and emergency response service at all times.

Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection were mobilised to 289 incidents in 2016.
The breakdown of total calls per station was as follows:

- Monaghan 116
- Clones 42
- Ballybay 73
- Castleblayney 77
- Carickmacross 61

The top five incident types attended by Monaghan Fire Service are chimney fires, road traffic collisions, dwelling fires, fire alarm activations and tertiary fires (i.e. small fires/bin/skip). Unfortunately there was one life lost due to a house fire in Monaghan in 2016.
Due to the high number of road fatalities Monaghan Road Safety Working Together Group was established and MFCP are one of the stakeholders working towards clear targets for reducing both fatalities and serious injuries.

In 2016 five firefighters were recruited to fill vacancies as they have arisen. An extensive training programme was carried out in 2016 for all firefighters with training hours equating to approximately 6764hrs or 845days.

Capital Investment

There was significant Capital investment in MFCP during the year including:

- Delivery of newly refurbished Water Tanker in August 2016
- Delivery of second hand Emergency Tender for Carrickmacross brigade area in June 2016
- Delivery of two Incident Support Units for both Castleblayney and Monaghan brigade areas.
- Large investment in water awareness equipment & training to support local communities in event of severe flooding
- Upgrade of all front line Breathing Apparatus equipment for Ballybay, Clones and Castleblayney stations
- Procurement of new Road Traffic Collision equipment for stations along N2
- Works commenced on site to develop Compartment Fire Behaviour Training facility at rear of Monaghan Fire Station

Health and Safety

MFCP have developed a rigorous Health and Safety Management System and successfully commenced the process of achieving OHSAS18001 accreditation in 2016 (Stage 1). Through our Occupational Health & Safety program we are reducing injuries and illnesses related to fire service work activities and promoting a safety culture to benefit everyone.

Monaghan Civil Defence

Civil Defence continued to build and develop a strong and responsive volunteer Civil Defence Unit, providing assistance for local communities and supporting the front line emergency services.

Monaghan Civil Defence is a volunteer based organisation where members support the primary emergency services and the local community. Monaghan Civil Defence currently has 68 volunteers.

Training

Volunteers are multi-skilled and the main programmes of activities undertaken are:
- Casualty First Aid
- Search and Rescue
- Water & Flooding incidents
- Auxiliary Fire Service
- Welfare and Communications
- Radiation monitoring
- Radio communications & GPS

Courses were provided for volunteers throughout the year at local level and at Civil Defence Branch Headquarters in Roscrea and Phoenix Training Centre, Phoenix Park, Dublin.

Events

Monaghan Civil Defence assisted at 80 community and sporting events providing first aid cover, traffic control, stewarding, etc and also assisted at a number of weather related emergencies.

Membership

The benefits of being a volunteer with Civil Defence include:

- High standard of training
- Personal development and teamwork
- Learning new skills such as Technical Rescue, Boat Training, Emergency First Responder
- Giving back to your community
- Getting involved in local and national events

Water Services

Irish Water is responsible for the operation and maintenance of public water and wastewater services, including:

- Management of national water and wastewater assets;
- Maintenance of the water and wastewater system;
- Investment and planning;
- Managing capital projects; and
- Customer care and billing.

A Service Level Agreement (SLA) sets out the arrangements by which water and waste water services are provided by Monaghan County Council, on Irish Water's behalf. A key objective of the SLA is to underpin an enduring collaborative relationship between Irish Water and Monaghan County Council. A core part of the Service Level Agreement is the Multi-Annual Service Plan (MASP), which documents the agreed objectives of Irish Water and Monaghan County Council. The Multi Annual Service Level Plan commits both parties to deliver these specific objectives and standards of performance against a budget covering headcount, goods and services and investment. The Service Plan identifies:

- The detailed and specific targets and objectives;
- The performance indicators being monitored to ensure achievement of objectives;
- The methodology for measurement and calculation of performance;
- The process of reporting against the agreed performance indicators;
- The budget and headcount agreed by Irish Water and Monaghan County Council for 2016/2017;
- Transformation initiatives;

Monaghan County Council are performance measured monthly by Irish Water's balance scorecard. Monaghan County Council's Service Level Agreement performance for 2016 is outlined below: -

% Scores per Quarter
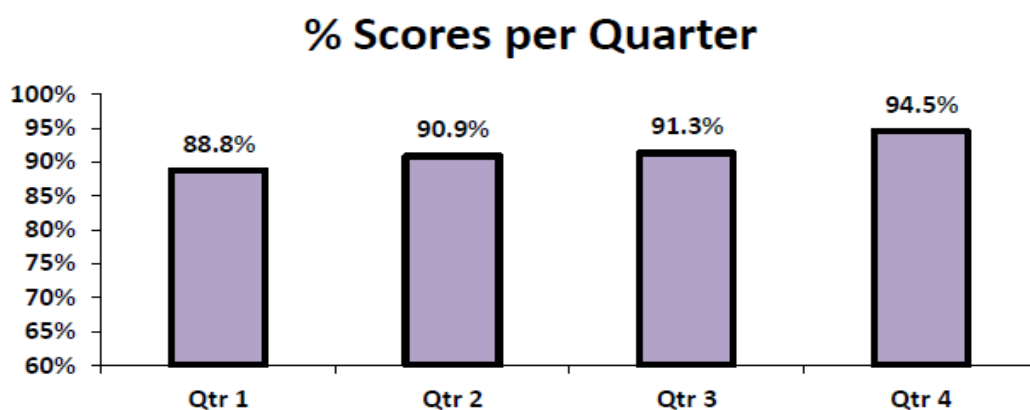
Capital Investment Programme

Irish Water's Capital Investment Programme delivers improvements in drinking water quality, leakage, wastewater compliance, business efficiencies and customer service.

The County Monaghan priority projects include; watermain rehabilitation in Monaghan Town and Clones; an upgrade to the Lough Egish Regional water treatment plant at Kilkit, and; upgrades to the existing wastewater treatment plants at Carrickmacross and Castleblayney. All of the above projects, with the exception of Carrickmacross WWTP, proceeded through procurement in 2016. Construction will commence on all projects in 2017.

Irish Water has a Minor Capital Programme which consists of programmes aimed at optimising the performance of existing

assets with targeted low level investment. These programmes aim to address known asset deficiencies to deliver improvements in Health and Safety, quality / compliance, reliability, maintainability, operational costs and sustainability. The programme delivered significant efficiency improvements in flow monitoring and sludge treatment in 2016.

STAFF REPAIRING A WATER LEAK IN MONAGHAN TOWN

Non Domestic Billing System

Under Section 23 of the SLA, Irish Water and Monaghan County Council have worked together to facilitate the billing, debt collection and handling of customer meter and bill queries of non-domestic customers and ancillary/miscellaneous charges for both water and waste until this billing function fully transitioned to Irish Water. In July 2016, the migration of the billing, payments and collection function transferred to Irish Water. While the responsibility of billing customers transferred to Irish Water, Monaghan County Council remains responsible for carrying out meter reading and meter operations and supports IW in the billing of ancillary/miscellaneous charges.

Asset Transfer

Section 12 of the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 provides for the transfer of Water Services Assets to Irish Water, which is given effect by Ministerial Order. To date 63 folio numbers have transferred to Irish Water. There are at least 80 more assets that have yet to transfer.

In 2016, detailed work was undertaken in the preparation of supporting material for the transfer of these assets which included the subdivision of folios and associated mapping, the registration of unregistered sites, the establishment of legal rights of way and the resolution of outstanding title anomalies.

Rural Water Programme

The Rural Water Programme in County Monaghan is administered by Monaghan County Council and is comprised of a number of measures to address deficiencies in:

- Group Water Schemes
- Group Sewerage Schemes
- Private Supplies where no alternative group or public supply is available.

Annual subsidies are administered by Monaghan County Council towards the cost of providing domestic water to Group Water Schemes. In 2016, €2,311,644 was paid to Group Water Schemes in the County.

Group Water Schemes continue to carry out necessary upgrading and improvement works which are grant aided by the Department of the Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. In 2016, Grants to the value of €415,128 were paid to 10 Group Water Schemes. Grants totalling €14,981 were also paid to private householders for the provision or necessary improvement of individual water supplies to their house.

Housing

The Housing Department aims to provide social housing support to persons who are unable to meet their housing need through their own resources. In the current economic climate, demand for social housing supports has increased. In 2016 the primary focus was to increase housing stock and availability of existing stock through the acquisition of houses/development of housing schemes, and bringing vacant and derelict houses back into use.

Social Housing
The current social housing stock provided by Monaghan County Council at year end 2016 stands at 1,438 units

At year end 2016, the total number of applicants on the housing waiting list was 922.

In 2016 the Estate Management Section completed a full rent review of all existing tenants and also completed the Housing Needs Assessment of all applicants on the waiting list.

Delivery of Social Housing Strategy 2015-2020-Capital Delivery
The council has been allocated a capital budget of **€31 million** for the period 2016-2018. This encompasses funding for construction, acquisition, Part V acquisitions, Capital Assistance Schemes (CAS) and the return of void properties. In 2016 the acquisition of houses was the primary focus of the Capital Budget and 47 houses were progressed in this period.

The following building projects were also advanced in 2016:

- The progression of 55 houses in 4 separate turnkey developments in Monaghan MD and Clones Ballybay MD; 15 houses to be completed in 2017 and the remainder in 2018.

- 8 new houses (4 OPDs/4 adaptable units) in Bree approved by the Department with a completion date in 2018
- 16 social houses and 63 private houses progressed under Phase 4 of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme. Completion of scheme in 2017/2018
- Commencement of construction of 7 bed group home for people with Physical and Sensory Disabilities in Carrickmacross by RESPOND Housing Association
- Approval of funding for completion of Housing Developments for two Unfinished housing Developments at Magheross, Carrickmacross and Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross providing an additional 71 social housing units in 2017/2018
- Approval of funding to Tuath Housing for the completion of 6 houses in an unfinished housing development at Liseggerton, Clones and additional funding for a further 16 housing units at the same location

Housing Assistance Payment

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) was introduced in Monaghan in October 2014 as a replacement for the Rent Supplement. Under the scheme, person in housing need no longer apply for Rent Supplement but their needs are being addressed through HAP. In 2016 167 households entered HAP, with a cumulative total of 279 households in the scheme in County Monaghan.

Rental Accommodation Scheme

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) continues to be an important mechanism for the delivery of social housing support in County Monaghan. Under this scheme the council provides private rented accommodation to persons who are in receipt of rent supplement for 18 months or longer. The total number of properties providing social housing under the RAS scheme was 232 at year end 2016.

Housing Grants

Housing Adaptation Grants, Housing Aid for Older People Grants and Mobility Aid Grants contribute to meeting housing needs by adapting existing homes to meet the need of the occupant. Within a committed budget of €l,437,963 in 2016, 226 applications were received of which 106 were Housing Aid for Older People Grants; 56 Housing Adaptation Grants; and 64 Mobility Aid Grants .

Homeless Services

At local level, there were 82 adults and 71 children presented as homeless in 2016. Solutions utilised in the majority of these cases were individuals sourcing private rented accommodation with HAP support, a smaller number being accommodated in emergency accommodation and/or returning to home.

Traveller Accommodation

The Traveller Accommodation programme 2014-2018 was reviewed in 2016. This review was presented to the Traveller Consultative Committee. Target delivery of 40 individual traveller households received housing support by 2016 which exceeded the target identified programme. Work continued on the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018.

Tenancies

Monaghan County Council continued to monitor and support tenancies through the Tenant Liaison Officer (TLO). Issues relating to anti social behaviour and breach of tenancies are also dealt with by the TLO service. In 2016, 106 cases were investigated comprising of 87 Breach of tenancy cases and 19 Anti Social behaviour cases. The majority of the cases were dealt with by the Tenant Liaison Officer through informal discussions however, 6 informal warnings were issued, 6 written formal warnings and 4 abandonment notices issued and 5 demands for possessions of housing were issued.

Housing Maintenance

Monaghan County Council is responsible for the maintenance requirements of the council's 1,438 housing units. In 2016 a budget allocation of €500,000 provided for reactive, planned and general maintenance of this stock. The Housing section received and logged in excess of 1,450 repair reports in 2016. The three key areas of housing maintenance include:

(1) Reactive Maintenance

Reactive maintenance involves responding to tenant emergencies and reported repair requests. The Housing Maintenance Department continues to engage with tenants to provide appropriate information in relation to these responsibilities.

(2) General Maintenance

General maintenance includes required programmes and works on vacant properties, new purchases, demountables, rural dwellings and the traveller halting site. In 2016, 42 properties were brought back into use under the" Returning Vacant Social housing to Productive Use" programme at a cost of approximately €250,000. 7 additional derelict social houses were brought back into use under a separate allocation of 470,000. A combination of Department programme funding and councils own resources of €1.1 million provided for the improvement of 60 vacant houses that were re-let and returned to housing stock.

(3) Planned Maintenance

Planned maintenance involves the delivery of targeted programmes for specific improvement and replacement works. In 2016 targeted energy efficiency works including internal and external insulation works were carried out to 25 houses at an average cost of €10,000/unit.

BEFORE
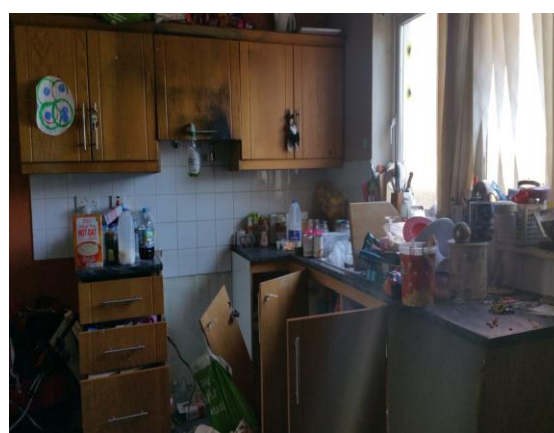
AFTER

Planning

Development Plan
The purpose of a Development Plan is to set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of its functional area. This is done in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Acts, the National Spatial Strategy, the Regional Planning Guidelines and any other national, regional and local policies and EU requirements. In summary, the main objectives in a plan are:

- Zoning of land
- Provision of infrastructure
- Conservation and protection of the environment
- Management of features of the landscape
- Compliance with environmental standards
- Integration with social, community and cultural requirements
- Protection of structures
- Architectural conservation
- Regeneration
- Accommodation for Travellers
- Provision of recreational amenities
- Provision of community services
- Promotion of sustainable development
- Preservation of public rights of way

The current County Development Plan for Monaghan is for the period 2013 to 2019 and was adopted by the Council in March 2013.

Variations
Two variations were made to the County Development Plan in 2016.
- Variation 2 – County Monaghan Retail Development Strategy

This variation incorporates the Retail Development Strategy into the County Development Plan and provides objectives, policies and the context for assessing retail development proposals in the County.

- Variation 3 – Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets

This variation incorporates the Departmental Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets into the County Development Plan in respect of the assessment of development proposals in urban areas which involve vehicular movements.

Material Contraventions
Two development proposals which were contrary to the provisions of the Monaghan County Development Plan were granted planning permission in 2016 through the material contravention process.

Material Contravention No. 7 - Extension to the existing food production facility, landscaping, minor amendments to road and associated works (previously approved under Planning Reference 10/30013), car parking provision, new service yards and walls at Mullaghadun, Monaghan

Material Contravention No. 8 - Proposed Replacement Dwelling and Retention of Former Dwelling for Agricultural Use at Tullyhirim, Monaghan

Review of Land Zonings in Monaghan Town
A review was carried out of lands zoned in the current Monaghan Town Plan in order to identify what lands were most suitable and most likely to be developed over the

next 10-20 years. A survey of Industry, Enterprise and Employment zoned lands and zoned residential lands within Monaghan town was completed in order to determine how much of the land currently zoned is suitably serviced and available for development during the next plan period. The research and analysis was carried out in association with the Roads Section, to inform both the preparation of a Land Use and Transportation Strategy (LUTS) for Monaghan Town and the upcoming review of the County Development Plan.

An analysis of population trends within Monaghan town was also completed in order to estimate the overall housing land demands for the town based on population and household projections. A medium growth rate was forecast using this analysis up to 2035 and from this forecast a housing land requirement has been determined for Monaghan town and its environs. This housing land requirement will inform the LUTS study and provide initial background information to inform the forthcoming review of the County Development Plan.

Architectural Conservation

40 structures/properties were added to the Record of Protected Structures in July 2016, with another 39 proposed for protection in December. These additions were recommended by the now Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs on foot of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage's (NIAH) survey of Co Monaghan. 572 structures in total have been recommended for protection via the NIAH survey and, accordingly, more additions are likely in 2017.

A selection of the structures/properties identified for protection in 2016

A selection of the structures/properties identified for protection in 2016

Planning Section administered two built heritage grant schemes in 2016; The Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Structures at Risk Fund (SRF). Central funding of €55,000 was secured for seven projects, which was matched by more than €80,000 of private funds. The projects ranged from essential intervention work at one of the Rossmore Estate gate lodges, to the refurbishment of historic windows in a protected terraced house in Carrickmacross. Masonry at Cahans' 18th century church in Stranooden was also restored, whilst the cast iron windows at St Peter's Tin Church in Laragh were painted and sealed.

A new gate lodge chimney which addressed serious water ingress, health and safety and aesthetic issues at the Newbliss (Road Gate) Lodge, Rossmore Park, Monaghan.
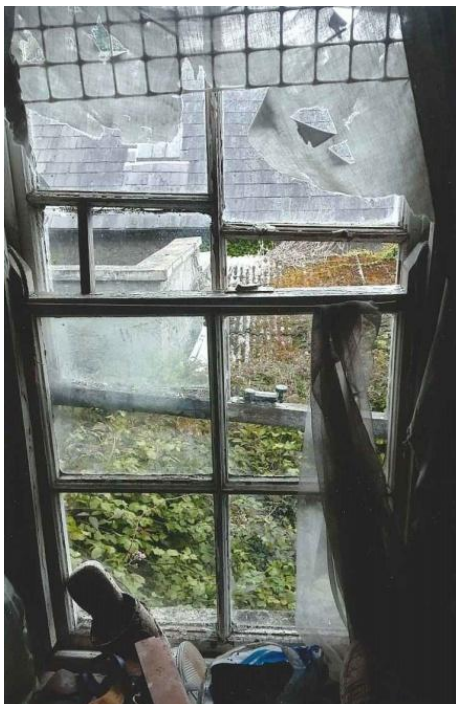
Refurbished historic windows at 6 Farney St, Carrickmacross.

Agents' Forum
Two meetings of the Agents' Forum took place in 2016 to discuss issues of general concern, inform formulation of Planning Policy, and provide input to Agents Workshops.

Agents' Workshop
An Agents' Workshop took place at the end of 2016. Matters relating to the Derelict Sites Register and the Vacant Sites Register, Fire & Building Control, validation of planning applications, exempt development and other matters arising were discussed.

Development Management
Planning applications 2016
Received: 578
Invalid: 9
Granted: 447
Refused: 30
33 Section 5 Declarations for exempt development were dealt with and one entertainment licence was issued for Monaghan's Country Music Festival

The increase in planning applications in 2016 is evidence of a recovery in the economic climate. The majority of applications received were for single dwellings and home extensions, followed by agricultural developments. There were eleven applications received for housing developments.

Unfinished Housing Developments
At present, five unfinished residential developments have site resolution plans in place; namely
- Lough na Glack at Carrickmacross
- Knockcarrick at Annyalla
- Sruth an Iuir at Oram
- Ros Cluain at Carrickmacross
- Ard Na Gaoithe at Knockatallan.

Other works have been ongoing throughout 2016 to resolve the remaining small number of unfinished housing developments within the County.

Taking in Charge
The Planning Department also progressed works in conjunction with the Municipal Districts and Water Services to a further eleven housing developments within the County during 2016, under the funding

provisions of the National Taking in Charge Initiative.

Further to this scheme, the relevant eleven housing developments are anticipated to be taken in charge by May 2017.

Planning Enforcement

When the Planning Authority becomes aware of a breach of permission or unauthorised development, discussions with the offender(s) are often sufficient to ensure remedy. However, where issues are not addressed by the offender(s) then formal enforcement action is taken. Enforcement statistics for the year are shown below.

Enforcement action increased in 2016 as a result of allocation of a dedicated staff member and the introduction of a software system to track and recover unpaid development contributions.

2016 Enforcement Statistics	
No. of cases subject to complaints	103
Warning Letters under Section 152	111
Enforcement Notices under Section 154	44
Legal proceedings	6

Derelict Sites

Seventeen properties were entered on the Derelict Sites Register in 2016 and another sixteen were going through the legal process of being entered onto the Derelict Sites Register by the end of 2016.

An endangerment notice was served on one property, and the process to serve notices to compulsorily acquire it and one other property also began in 2016.

Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) 2016

Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) funding was received for projects in Carrickmacross (€150,000) and Clones (€140,000) in 2016. Together with matched funding from the Municipal Districts, Carrickmacross will see the delivery of a dedicated gallery, craft shop and work units serviced sites within the town of Carrickmacross to meet the demands for workspace and display for local crafts. Clones will see a linear park from Canal Stores to Scotshouse road, a car park to serve the town centre, industrial sites and branding, signage and heritage trail.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2016

In 2016, €380,000 in funding was received under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme which will deliver improvements in eight towns and villages across the county as follows:-

- Monaghan: Wifi provision, Town Voucher Promotion, Dawson St Refurbishment and Dublin St. Regeneration Plan
- Glaslough: playground
- Carrickmacross: Wifi provision, pavement, lighting and planting
- Castleblayney: Christmas lighting, street furniture and signage
- Inniskeen: parking and planting
- Ballybay: parking and heritage trail
- Scotstown: streetscape enhancement
- Rockcorry: streetscape enhancement and planting

CLAR 2016

Funding of €356,440 was received for a total of 29 projects in the CLAR area which included school safety measures, playgrounds and access to amenity sites.

Broadband

An application was made to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources for 20 community hotspots, which will be prioritised for delivery of Broadband under the National Broadband Plan.

In November 2016, the County Council, in conjunction with the Monaghan I.T. Forum hosted a seminar on Broadband for Rural Business with contributions by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Eir and the County Council. Results of a rural business broadband survey were also presented to the fifty attendees. The seminar highlighted the on-going rural broadband issues of rural businesses. A Broadband officer has been appointed within the County Council to work with broadband providers and businesses.

Monaghan Town Centre Health Check Programme

Monaghan Town participated in the national pilot Town Centre Health Check programme led by the Heritage Council. UCD students carried out land use surveys of Monaghan Town centre. Further works will continue in 2017 in conjunction with UCD and the Heritage Council to complete a Town Centre Health Check study.

Retail Development Strategy

The Retail Development Strategy was adopted on 7th March 2016 as a variation (No. 2) to the County Development Plan 2013-2019. The overall aim of Retail Development Strategy is to create the appropriate conditions necessary to foster a healthy and vibrant retailing environment in County Monaghan over the period of the strategy, 2016-2022.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2016

A working draft of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for County Monaghan (SFRA) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the planning guidelines, The Planning System and Flood Risk Management.

This draft provides a broad assessment of all types of flood risk which will be used to inform strategic land use planning decisions, and will be applied in respect of sites for development at risk of flooding. The draft will also be used to identify how flood risk can be avoided or reduced as part of the development plan process. Maps of all settlements have been produced to accompany the SFRA.

1D205279 Photo: © Peter Barrow Photography 26th October 2011. Tel: 0872-559638

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management Strategy (CFRAMS)
The Planning Section, in co-operation with Roads Section and the Municipal Districts, assessed and submitted a response to the draft Flood Risk Management Plans, prepared by the Office of Public Works (OPW) under the ongoing CFRAMs process, for the towns of Monaghan, Ballybay, and Carrickmacross and the village of Inniskeen.

Environment Section

Environmental Protection

Environment Services has a key role in protecting and enhancing the natural environment in the county. The section has a broad range of environmental functions including waste management, litter control, river and lake water quality monitoring, dog control, promoting environmental awareness and food safety.

Tidy Towns Sustainable Waste Resource Management Conference

On Saturday 9th April the Environment Section organised a very successful National conference for Tidy Towns groups on the SWRM category of the National Competition. 65 delegates from Mayo, Longford, Cavan, Dublin, Meath, Leitrim, Fingal and Monaghan attended the conference. The conference opening address was made by Cathoirleach Cllr. Noel Keelan. Speakers included representatives from the EPA, Community Reuse Network and Local Authorities.

Litter Awareness and Enforcement Activities

1. A CCTV Project was undertaken from May to August 2016. The Environment Section placed a strong emphasis on publicity for the project.
2. During 2016, the total spend on litter related activities in County Monaghan was €878,000.
3. 168 on the spot litter fines were issued in 2016.
4. Monaghan County Council responded to almost 365 litter related complaints during 2016.
5. Ten bottle banks were upgraded at a cost of €12,000.
6. A grant of €15,000 was drawn down for litter related awareness activities. The grant was spent on Tidy towns

7. activities, Green Schools Programme, Spring and Autumn Clean, radio, billboarb, print advertising and sponsorship
8. 13 schools received a green school flag during 2016. During the academic year 2015-2016, 42 different events were organised for schools at an estimated cost of €15,000.
9. Spring Clean was a great success in 2016 with over 50 groups participating. A major clean up of the Castleblayney bypass took place on Saturday 14th May. The bypass was closed for the operation with over 100 volunteer's taking part in litter collection. The Environment Section ensured litter picking was included in the tender for verge trimming, along the N2 during Spring Clean. During 2016 the total expenditure on Spring Clean was €52,000.
10. The Environment Section completed 40 environmental awareness workshops with the Monaghan Community Childcare Committee during the summer.
11. The Environment Section delivered an awareness campaign on dog fouling during May through billboards and social media outlets.

Utilising ICT in Waste Enforcement

Focusing on National priorities, the waste enforcement section continued work on delivering its waste enforcement/inspection plan during the year. The priorities in 2016 included; Pay per Weight regulations, Food and Bio Waste, Tyre Regulations and combating illegal activity. To make waste enforcement more efficient the Council has invested in ICT which now records all complaints and inspections onto a Geographical Information System Database utilising handheld technologies. The project cost circa €20,000.

Landfill facility

Monaghan County Council operates one landfill facility at Letterbane, Scotch Corner under EPA waste licence W0020-02. The landfill continues to accept incinerator bottom ash until the end of Q1 2017. The acceptance of MSW ceased in April 2016 and street cleanings in June 2016. In October 2016, works commenced on resurfacing the MRF. The works were completed by the end of February 2017, at an approximate cost of €400,000. The procurement of consulting engineering services for capping works was completed in May 2016. A leachate management study was also completed in 2016 resulting in leachate infrastructural repairs on the current landfill site and on the old landfill. This resulted in a significant reduction in leachate generated for Q4 2016 which produced a significant saving in leachate transport and treatment costs. Landfill gas investigations were on-going in 2016.

Scotch Corner Recycling Centre and Carrickmacross Recycling

The recycling centre at Scotch Corner comprises of a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and a Civic Amenity site. There is also a Civic amenity site in Carrickmacross.

Both facilities are operated by McElvaney Waste and Recycling. At the MRF recyclables are separated into individual waste streams to meet the requirements of secondary markets whilst the Civic Amenity Site is primarily a facility where members of the public can recycle household wastes including WEEE and certain hazardous materials. The MRF facility at Scotch Corner is operated under waste licence W0020-02, granted by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Carrickmacross Recycling Centre is operated under Certificate of Registration R00705-02. During 2016, Monaghan County Council commenced the procurement process for the management and operation of the recycling facilities for the next five years.

Water Quality

Monaghan County Council continues its programme of water quality monitoring, development control, catchment surveys, licensing and the investigation of water pollution complaints. A total of 486 river and lake samples were collected as part of the Water Framework Directive Sampling Programme and in excess of 578 investigations and inspections were carried out in 2016. In addition to this 293 environmental planning permission inspections were completed. The water team continue to work with farmers and businesses to address sources of water pollution and to promote best practice. The review of discharge licences is nearing completion in addition to new applications being processed.

Q Value Co.
Monaghan Rivers
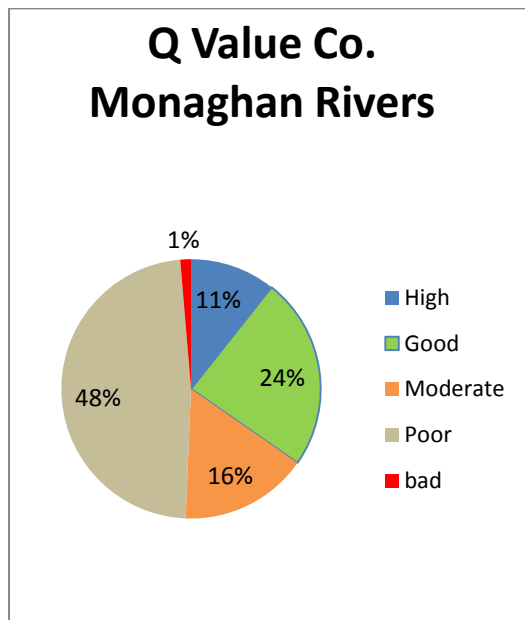
In recent years, there has been significant progress in tackling serious sources of pollution but numerous small point and diffuse source pollution remain. The pie chart above depicts the percentage of rivers classified using the biological Q rating system. This system was developed by the EPA and in addition to the river chemistry and other biological parameters; it gives a better indicator of a rivers health. There was an increase in the number of high sites in 2016 from 5 to 8 sites. There are 75 biological monitoring sites in the county and this monitoring is carried out by the EPA. Currently 35% of river stations in the county are at least good or above.

In 2016 the water team carried out 20 investigative assessments, these assessments are carried out in collaboration with the EPA. This work area is planned work on areas that need investigation related to water quality problems. The work is a requirement that feeds into the EPA catchment characterisation process. The results are reported back to the EPA to gain a better shared understanding of what is causing water quality deterioration.

In 2016 the Water team ran the streamscapes project which brought 10 primary schools and one secondary school to their local river to explore the river and the associated habitat. The unit engaged the Coomhala Salmon Trust to carry out streamscapes project. They conduct the workshops and liaise with local schools. The project also allowed staff to interact with 3 community groups. The unit also ran a series of CSI Water workshops with primary school children in the local libraries.

Dog Control Service

In 2015 ,the Microchipping of Dogs Regulations were issued, requiring that from 31st March 2016 onwards, all dogs over 12 weeks of age, kept in Ireland must be micro chipped and registered with an approved database. Monaghan County Council launched a lifetime dog licence with a free micro chipping & registration offer in April 2016 and subsequently was shortlisted for the Chambers Ireland's Excellence in Local Government Awards. The council employs one full-time Dog Warden for the county. 5,880 dogs were licensed in the county in 2016 and 300 on-the-spot fines were issued to people for keeping a dog without a licence. The number of fines for 2016 was a significant increase on the figure of 197 fines, issued in 2015. There were 13 prosecutions in 2016, 12 of which resulted in convictions.

597 dogs were admitted to the Dog Pound in 2016, of which 62 were reclaimed by their owners, and 524 were rehomed with the assistance of Carrick Dog Shelter and Monaghan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. 2 dogs were dead on admittance to the Pound and a further 8 dogs were put to sleep at the Pound. This represents the lowest number ever, for dogs put to sleep in Monaghan Dog Pound. All dogs leaving the Dog Pound were micro chipped and registered to their new owners.

Food Safety

Monaghan County Council has a contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI), to provide food safety control and support services to small food business operators in the County engaged in the slaughtering, processing and wholesaling of meat and meat products. The products range from fresh beef; lamb and poultry meat to cooked sliced ham and cooked sausages. These businesses supply the Irish market mainly but are now entitled to sell their products anywhere within the European Community.

The Council employs a County Veterinary Officer (CVO) and two temporary veterinary inspectors. The inspectors carry out ante and post mortem (i.e. before and after death) examinations on all livestock slaughtered in the three local abattoirs in Monaghan (details are available on the Council website). The CVO carries out regular inspections of structural and operational hygiene standards in premises, and operates sampling and training programmes to assist owners and staff in attaining the required standards set out in national and EU legislation.

New EU rules on the protection of animals at the time of killing have recently come into force. These rules require all slaughterhouse staff involved in the handling of live animals and slaughter of animals to undergo specific training and assessment to ensure that they have the appropriate level of competence to carry out slaughter and related operations. 10 members of staff in Monaghan County Council monitored slaughterhouses were issued with certificates of competence by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, on the recommendation of the CVO in 2016.

Roads and Transportation

In 2016 the Roads and Transport Section:

- Completed Restoration Improvement works to 35Km of Regional and Local Roads.

- Completed Restoration Maintenance works (Surface dressing) to 10Km of Regional and 43Km of Local Roads

- Delivered 36 Flood repair and 36 Flood prevention projects in the county as part of Severe Weather Funding

R190 Flood Prevention Scheme

- Delivered 10 Road Safety Improvement Schemes, 3 on National Roads, 7 on Non-National Roads

- Identified and completed 93 maintenance repairs on the National Road Network

- Replaced 9 of the council's vehicular fleet as part of the machinery yards annual plant replacement programme

- Appointed a Road Safety Officer on a shared basis with Louth County Council and re-established the Road Safety Working Together group

- Ensured the safety, health and welfare of all employees in the workplace by complying with Health and Safety legislation

Road Infrastructure

County Monaghan has approximately 2552 Kilometres of public road network as classified below.

Road Classification	Total (Km)
National Primary	73
National Secondary	35
Regional	298
Local Roads	2145
Total Road Length	**2552**

County Monaghan is dependent on its extensive network of roads to support economic growth and provide mobility within and between local communities. The network requires significant ongoing investment in maintenance and improvement with funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTaS), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the council own resources.

Funding

The road network in the county is funded from three main sources. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) funds the design, construction and maintenance of the National roads while the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport (DTTaS) and Monaghan County Council co-fund Regional and Local roads. Road safety is funded from the Councils own resources.

The table below outlines funding provided in 2016.

Funding Source	Amount
T.I.I.	€4,166,973
D.T.T.a.S.	€7,163,432
D.T.T.a.S. (Severe Weather)	€5,150,000
Monaghan Co. Co.	€3,286,910
Total	**€19,767,315**

Works Completed/Under Way

N2 Monaghan to Emyvale Phase 3
An allocation of €600,000 in 2016 allowed for the progression of the acquisition of land required for the project and to complete the tender documents.

N54 Tullybryan
Funding of €500,000 was provided from the TII enabling the appointment of consultants to develop a scheme for the realignment of a 3.0Km section of the N54 west of Monaghan town extending from Tullygrimes to Annaghervy.

N54 Magherarney Smithboro
An overlay of a 1.0km section of the N54 west of Smithboro Village was completed in April of 2016.

Bridge Strengthening
A Bridge Survey carried out by Transport Infrastructure Ireland in 2015 identified 10 number bridges on National Roads in County Monaghan that required rehabilitation works. An allocation was made available in 2016 to appoint

consultants to carryout detail design and prepare contract documents. Works are due to commence in quarter 2 of 2017.

Bridge Rehabilitation
An allocation of €236,000 allowed for works to proceed on Lackan Bridge (€200,000) and to R181 Lisnadarragh Bridge (€36,000). The works at Lackan Bridge required the complete replacement of the existing structure while only minor repair works were required to Lisnadarragh Bridge.

Lackan Bridge

Speed Limit Review

The Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Housing estates Co. of Monaghan Bye-laws No. 1 2016 were adopted by the Council and became operative on 6 October 2016.

Road Safety

The Road Safety Working Together Committee was reactivated and its first meeting was held in November 2016. Two number driver awareness events for Transition year students were organised during 2016 in co-operation with the Gardai, HSE and Fire Service and proved very successful.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Monaghan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Monaghan Local Community Development Committee, established in September 2014, is a 17 member Committee of 8 Statutory and 9 Non Statutory Members. LCDCs were established in all Local Authorities as part of Local Government Reform. The LCDC's main task is to develop and implement a 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for County Monaghan.

The LCDC Committee has primary responsibility for co-ordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development funding in County Monaghan i.e. SICAP, LEADER, and PEACE IV Programmes. It will bring a more joined-up approach and better co-ordination to the implementation, delivery and evaluation of local and community development programmes.

The LCDC was increasingly used in 2016 as a way for members to share information, agree on collaborative initiatives and to highlight service deficits in Monaghan at national level. The LCDC in Monaghan held 11 meetings during 2016.

MONAGHAN LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

The LECP has set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support economic and community development in County Monaghan. Monaghan LECP was jointly launched in July, 2016 by Emer Brennan, Chairperson of the LCDC and Cllr. Pat Treanor, Chairperson of Monaghan Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development and Enterprise Support.

Photo: Launch of Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

SOCIAL INCLUSION & COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME (SICAP)

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is the successor programme to the Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP). SICAP is a local social inclusion programme focussed on the most marginalised in society. It aims to tackle poverty and social exclusion through local engagement and partnership between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies.

WHAT IS SICAP?

SICAP is a programme aimed at reducing disadvantage and poverty in Ireland

From April 2015, Local Authorities, through the Local Community Development Committees LCDCs, have been tasked with managing SICAP. The Monaghan budget for 2016 was €619,271. The contractual arrangements between the LCDC and the Programme Implementer, (Monaghan Integrated Development Limited)   reporting, audit and monitoring functions of the programme, ensuring efficient targeted delivery while achieving best value for money. Mid-year and End of Year review of the programme took place in 2016 and all targets set under the programme were either reached or exceeded. SICAP continues into 2017.

LEADER Programme 2014-2020

*Photo of the launch of the Monaghan LEADER programme 2014-2020

The LEADER Programme 2014-2020 was launched by Minister Heather Humphreys TD on the 6th September, 2016, in Sliabh Beagh Hotel, Knockatallon.   A total budget of €7.59 million has been allocated for implementation and delivery of the Monaghan LEADER Rural Development Programme which will run until the end of 2020.

Monaghan LCDC is the Local Action Group (LAG) and is the decision maker in respect of delivery of LEADER RDP 2014-2020. Monaghan Integrated Development Ltd (MID) is the implementing partner and Monaghan County Council is the financial partner for the programme. Monaghan LEADER aims to develop sustainable rural communities throughout the county, by promoting social inclusion, economic development and stimulating Enterprise, Tourism, and Community Services while protecting the natural and built heritage of the county. The funding was awarded based on a Local Development Strategy (LDS) for Monaghan which sets out the

priority areas for the programme, the priorities of which were identified through public consultation with the local community in late 2015.

Monaghan PEACE IV Programme
Monaghan LCDC Peace IV Partnership Board submitted an application in 2016 for Peace IV funding to deliver the Peace IV Action Plan in the county. This action plan was successfully approved for funding by the SEUPB steering committee in November 2016 and was awarded €3,038,568. The needs and priorities for this plan were informed from a number of consultation events that had taken place during 2016 with groups such as the Public Participation Network, Young People and wider public consultations. This action plan will deliver activities in County Monaghan and also with neighbouring partnerships in Northern Ireland to promote social and economic stability in the region, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities. Actions will include cross community engagement programmes for children and young people, youth wellbeing and positive mental health programmes, community leadership training, intergenerational programmes and cultural awareness programmes.

Community Development Fund

Following a review of Monaghan County Council funding to community groups completed in 2015, a revised scheme of allocating community funding was piloted in 2016. The revised scheme aimed to maximise the benefit of Monaghan County Council funding to local community groups in the county. The revised scheme amalgamated the budgets from the annual Community Development Fund, Environment Fund, Tidy Areas Fund and the Community Grants awarded by each Municipal District. A total of €175,000 was allocated to 238 different projects across the county in 2016. Each

Municipal District held a presentation network event for grant recipients.

Public Duty

Monaghan County Council will become involved in a pilot programme on developing a Public Duty. A Public Duty sets out how an organisation is committed to the promotion and delivery of equality and human rights within their organisation Under the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014 each public body is required to prepare a Public Duty. The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission notes the focus on equality and inclusion within Monaghan LECP and invited Monaghan to take the lead nationally in developing a Public Duty. Work will begin on this pilot project in 2017.

<u>Age Friendly Programme</u>

Age Friendly Business County

Monaghan has achieved its goal of becoming the first Age friendly business county in the country. Each of the five towns in the county have signed up to the programme, with a total of 131 businesses making small changes to how they do business, making it easier for older people to access the services on offer. Monaghan has been highlighted by Age Friendly Ireland as a model of good practice at national and international level.

Age Friendly Business week

Monaghan's first Age Friendly Business Week took place from December 6th-10th 2016. Participating businesses put in place special offers and activities for older people in their businesses during the week. These special offers and activities were promoted by the Community Department on the media encouraging older shoppers to visit the age friendly businesses in the county.

Age Friendly Older Peoples Network AGM

Monaghan Older people's network AGM took place in May. Over one hundred and seventy older people from all across the county attended. In addition eighteen different service providers across a wide range of areas hosted information tables at the AGM where older people could come and talk to them about accessing services, supports or information. A number of speakers presented on the day on topics of interest identified by the older people of Monaghan. Speakers included Community Garda on safety and security, Family Carers Ireland on caring for a loved one and Citizens Information Service on knowing your rights and entitlements.

Age Friendly information talks

The second series of Age Friendly information talks took place in May as part of the Bealtaine festival. Talks took place in eight different locations throughout the county and were hosted by local community groups. The two key topics being covered in the information talks were: **Safety and Security at Home & in the Community**- An information talk from the Gardai on staying safe in your home and community. **Rights and Entitlements for Older people** – An information talk from Citizens information service on rights and entitlements available to older people. These talks involved collaboration between Monaghan County Council, Monaghan Older people network, Monaghan Gardai and Monaghan Citizens Information Services.

Age Friendly procurement

Following the delivery of Age Friendly training on housing and the public realm in September Monaghan Accessible procurement and Age Friendly proofing document has been prepared. This document looks at how we can ensure the needs of older people are embedded into the procurement process within the County Council.

A guide to Age Friendly Communication

Monaghan Age Friendly Alliance Guide to Age Friendly Communication was launched on 6th May. This booklet has been designed and developed by Monaghan Older People's Network to highlight to services providers and retailers some of the difficulties older people experience when trying to access information and services. Age Friendly Ireland has welcomed this resource as a model of good practice. Monaghan Age Friendly Alliance has agreed to share the booklet as a template to be duplicated by other local authorities. A training programme in Age Friendly Communication has been developed by Monaghan Age Friendly programme. The programme deals with the barriers to communication experienced by older people and how agencies and organisations can ensure older people can access and understand the services they provide.

Drugs and Alcohol Forum

Monaghan Drugs and Alcohol Forum was established in 2016. The forum made up of key statutory and community organisations working directly and indirectly with substance misuse in the county. Following a consultation process Monaghan Drugs and Alcohol Forum prepared a five year strategy aimed at developing a collective approach to tackling issues of substance misuse in County Monaghan.

Positive Mental Health Week 2016

Positive Mental Health Week 2016 will took place from Monday 10th October to Saturday 15th October 2016. For 2016 Monaghan Positive Mental Health Committee gave out smiles, with the message "If you don't have a smile, take

one of mine". A specially designed sticker with a smile emoji was distributed across the county through schools, shops, libraries and community groups. There were a wide variety of events, activities and opportunities to promote positive mental health during the week. This year had great engagement from both businesses and schools in the county.

Ulster Canal Greenway

2016 was another successful year for the Ulster Canal Greenway. Phase I of the route, which runs for 4.2km through Monaghan town, enjoyed its 2nd full year of operation, attracting 104,385 users. Monaghan Tidy Towns commissioned Inniskeen artist Geraldine Martin to add one of Patrick Kavanagh's canal poems to a section of closed board fencing near Sheriff's bridge, which has proven very popular. A walking guide covering sites of interest along the route was also produced during 2016. Monaghan County Council secured a 2 acre field in the vicinity which it is intended to develop into an amenity and educational area.

During 2016, the Council partnered up with Cavan County Council, Fermanagh & Omagh Council, Mid Ulster Council, Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon District Council, East Border Region Partnership and Waterways Ireland to develop a strategic long distance greenway route stretching across central Ulster. This route fed into a consultation process to develop a Greenways Strategy for Northern Ireland, and has been adopted as a priority route in the Strategy, which was published in November. The route will use the disused Ulster Canal, and abandoned railway lines.

A funding application to the EU INTERREG VA Programme for Phase II of this long distance strategic route, which is to be the section from Middletown to Smithboro, connecting into Phase I through Monaghan town, was successful in

securing €4.6 million. The project is expected to take 4 years to complete.

The new Kavanagh Mural along Greenway

Cover of Walking Guide, available to download
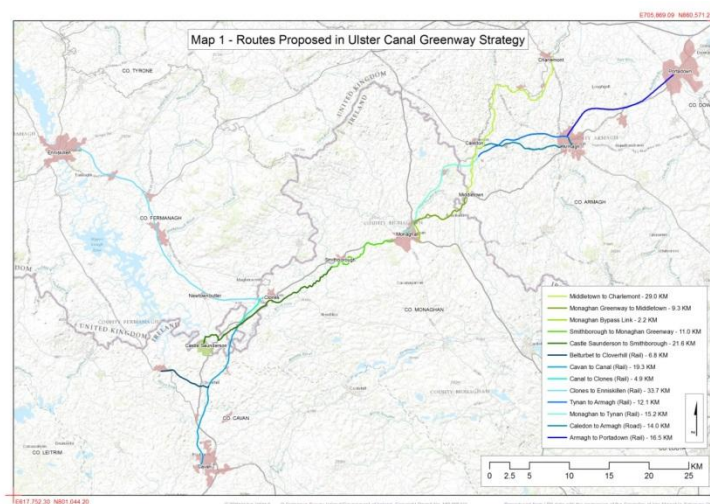
from www.ulstercanalgreenway.com

The full strategic route of the Ulster Canal Greenway

Tidy Towns

Co Monaghan enjoyed another very successful year in the National Tidy Towns competition, with Carrickmacross and Glaslough retaining their Gold Medals and

Monaghan town achieving a Silver award for the first time. Glaslough and Monaghan shared a national Youth award, while Glaslough brought home the CanIt! National award. Monaghan Tidy Towns achieved a double, bringing home the Pollinator Award and the Climate Change award. Glaslough were just two marks behind the national overall winners for the second year running, bringing them to the attention of the Dept, which has put them forward to represent Ireland in Entente Florale in 2017.

The Tidy Towns Network, which is supported by the Community Dept, continues to provide support to groups, and facilitate training and development opportunities. During May, it brought the National Biodiversity Data Centre to the Ballybay Wetlands Centre to run a Bees & Butterflies Identification training event for groups. Groups also visited Bloom to seek inspiration for planting schemes, and the Network underwrote the cost of a National Adjudicator mentoring a new entrant to the national competition during 2016.

Dr Tomás Murrah from the National Biodiversity Data Centre, and Eamonn McNally from Tydavnet Tidy Towns examine a cuckoo bee found during a walk in Ballybay. This was the first recorded sighting of this species in Co Monaghan.

Pride of Place

Monaghan County Council was very proudly represented in this year's competition by Monaghan U3A, a group for over 50's which aims to share educational, creative and leisure activities with each other and thus to contribute greatly to members' overall health and wellbeing. The judges were very impressed by the range of activities the group offered, and by the number of people who came out to meet them on judging day, to talk to them about how important the group is to them.

Pride of Place judges with Monaghan U3A pictured at the Monaghan Market House

Public Participation Network

The PPN continues to go from strength to strength, and now has just over 360 groups registered. The focus continues to be on embedding the structures of the PPN and ensure that it is an effective voice for the community and voluntary sector on local decision-making bodies. In addition to monthly Secretariat meetings, four county-wide Plenary meetings were held for the entire membership. Each Plenary had a specific theme, as follows:

- March: How to access funding
- June: Meet your community reps
- September: LEADER programme
- November: Celebration evening on the importance of being part of a community

In addition to the Plenary events, workshops and consultations were held on the following:

- Charities Regulatory Authority
- Monaghan Arts Plan 2016-2020
- Monaghan PEACE IV Action Plan
- LCDC's Local Community Plan

Peace IV consultation with PPN in Iontas

Castleblayney June 2016

The PPN also encouraged Members to respond to a number of important consultations which may impact on Monaghan communities.

The PPN also carried out a survey on the training needs of member groups and organised a Community Training Week in October.

Representatives were elected onto a number of decision-making bodies during 2016, including PEACE IV Partnership Board, Cavan Monaghan Transport Co-Ordination Unit, SPCs and others.

PPN E-Newsletter

PPN campaign graphic - Use Your Vote - run in advance of General Election

Community Safety Network

As one of its commitments under the Joint Policing Committee's Strategic Plan, the Council has set up a Community Safety Network. This consists of the many community groups which have an interest in issues to do with keeping the community safe, such as Community Alert and Text Alert groups, as well as Defibrillator groups and First Responder groups.

During 2016, focus has been on mapping the territories covered by the groups, and adjusting their boundaries to eliminate overlap and gaps. Digital maps have now been issued to all groups of their territories. The Network received funding support from the Council's Community & Environment Fund for purchasing signs and poles. These have been distributed to groups, with priority given to new groups, and groups which have adjusted their boundaries as a result of the mapping exercise.

Better Energy Communities

The Council assisted ten community groups to avail of funding support from the SEAI's Better Energy Communities fund to carry out energy upgrades to their community buildings. Upgrades included insulation, new boilers, heating controls and energy efficient lighting. Grant aid of almost €250,000 was brought into the county under the scheme. Council's support of €65,000 reduced the match funding contribution that the community groups had to raise. In many cases, this made the difference between the groups being able to proceed with the works, and having to turn down the opportunity to upgrade their premises.

Don't Pour Your Dreams Away

An initiative which grew originally from Monaghan Town JPC and Comhairle na nÓg, the Don't Pour Your Dreams Away campaign now covers county Monaghan and involves Monaghan Integrated Development, Cavan Monaghan Education & Training Board, Youth Work Ireland Monaghan, An Garda Síochána and Monaghan County Council. This year once again, every secondary school in the county participated in the campaign.

Monaghan County Council provided an additional €2,000 to fund a new feature to the campaign this year; an online social media campaign. Throughout the summer, young people were encouraged to like and share messages from the 'DPYDA' Facebook page promoting safe socialising in order to enter competitions for a range of activity-based prizes. The prizes were provided by local businesses at a discounted rate, in support of the DPYDA message.

The Facebook page received just under 478,000 impressions over the campaign, and had 6,797 post engagements, generating 714 new 'Likes' for the page. The campaign also carried out the traditional school visits in the week leading up to the release of the Junior Cert results.

Council staff, along with staff from MID, presented to Cavan JPC who are interested in replicating the programme, which is being hailed as an example of best practice.

Comhairle na nÓg

The Comhairle na nÓg, which is made up of representatives from each of the 12 Secondary Schools and various youth organisations in the county, identified **Intergenerational Stereotyping** as their project area for 2016.

Their project involved working with the Older Peoples Network which is supported by Monaghan Age Friendly Alliance. They assisted the network in compiling a list of clubs and community

groups that have activities and opportunities for older people in Monaghan. In conjunction with network members they also produced a DVD entitled "Breaking the Stereotypes".

The DVD addressed the stereotypes that exist for older and younger people and reinforced the message that age is no barrier to accomplishing great things. They highlight some of the achievements made by younger and older people in our community at a local and national level. It was launched during Positive Ageing Week by Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys T.D.

Collaborative Work

To address the area of safe socialising for young people attending under age discos, a collaborative piece of work resulted in the production of a leaflet entitled "Discussing the Disco". This leaflet provides tips to parents on how to protect their teenager on a night out.

Produced in partnership with an Garda Siochana, Comhairle na nÓg, Youth Work Ireland, Foroige, Tusla and the local FRC with funding provided from Monaghan Children and Young Peoples Services Committee. 3,000 copies were printed and distributed to parents via schools, youth networks, libraries and at under age events throughout the County.

Feasibility Study for the development of a shared youth facility

Monaghan County Council, in partnership with the Youth Network, identified the need for a significant youth facility in the
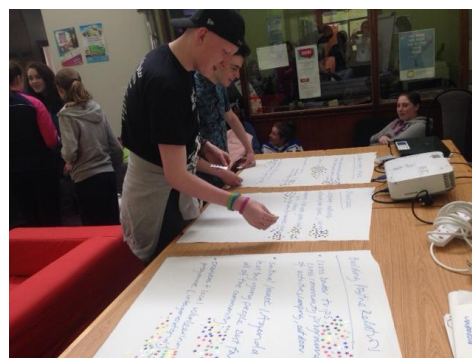
county. A consultant was engaged to conduct a feasibility study investigating options and providing advice and recommendations to the group.

The outcome is that a proposed youth facility is now incorporated into a larger project, which has been submitted for EU Peace IV Funding under the Shared Spaces Priority. If the application is successful the proposed new building will include a youth zone, library, heritage and cultural centre, community space and outdoor recreational areas.

1916 Celebrations

Young people from around the County took part in a variety of planned events to commemorate 1916 including a 1916 Table Quiz and Football Challenge at the GAA grounds at Cloghan, which was supported by local juvenile football, camogie and hurling clubs.

Members from Comhairle na nÓg were invited to attend a special event entitled "Children seen and heard 1916 – 2016" in the presence of President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins. The ceremony took place in Áras an Uachtaráin and remembered the children who died during the 1916 Rising and to re-imagine the future of Ireland with the children of 2016.

Monaghan Sports Partnership (MSP)

Progress

In 2016, Monaghan Sports Partnership (MSP) continued to roll out programmes and courses as part of its remit to offer opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity. Our focus is to offer opportunities to participate to all regardless of age, social background, disability, gender or environment.

Targeting Low participation Groups
Community Activities

MSP coordinated a series of activity programmes aimed at the 50+ age group, 19 community activity programme were delivered for over 200 people in towns and rural areas. MSP also supported The Park Run at Lough Muckno and the Healthy Families HSE initiative.

Community Coaching Programme

Delivered local training initiatives supported 35 in Castleblayney, Clones and Monaghan in gaining sports coaching knowledge and as a result, potential employment, coaching, volunteering and further education opportunities in the sports sector.

Get Monaghan Walking

As part of the 'Get Monaghan Walking' campaign, MSP organised various events including

- Operation Transformation National Walk,
- the Spring Walk six week series,
- the *Boots & Bogs Walking Festival* with Knockatallon Ramblers and Monaghan U3A,
- *Walk the Earth* Primary Schools programme with 11 Schools, and 880 children.
- The Active Communities Walking Programme and
- Community Walking Leader Training in Monaghan in conjunction with Irish Heart Foundation.

Other Schools based physical activity
- *On Your Bike* – Primary School Safe Cycle Training
- *Be Active ASAP* – 20 schools
- *Schools Triathlon* event – for Post Primary Schools with 200 participants
- *Girls in Action* –70 teenage girls trying out new activities in 3 Post Primary Schools

Social Inclusion through Sport

MSP worked with other organisations to establish:
- A series of activities addressing the needs of adults and children with a disability, including soccer skills, line dancing, archery, pitch and putt and IPB funded activity camps.
- Cycling for children with autism, in conjunction with SNAP (Special Needs Active Parents) group, resulted in children learning how to cycle thus improving their opportunity for family-based activity.
- Meditative walking at Rossmore Park and Lough Muckno as part of Positive Mental Health Week.
- The Multi-sport club for children with a disability, in partnership with the Peace Link Clones continued throughout 2016 and is currently running independently on a monthly basis.

Children participating in the Multi-sports club at the Peace Link Sports Centre, Clones

Supporting Club Development Education & Training

MSP provided generic workshops for sports club volunteers including, Child Protection, First Aid, Disability Awareness, Youth Leadership, to over 250 sports club volunteers.

Supporting National / Mass Participation Events

MSP coordinated and supported the following events on behalf of Monaghan County Council;
- National Bike Week
- National Play Day
- National Recreation Week
- Blackwater 10k

Participants attending the Cavan / Monaghan IPB funded Adult Summer Camp activities at Tanagh OEC

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

The aim of LEO Monaghan is to promote entrepreneurship, foster business start-ups and develop existing micro and small businesses to drive job creation and to provide accessible high quality supports for your business ideas.

The Key deliverables are as per the Service Level Agreement.

Business Information & Advisory Services:

First Stop Enterprise & Business Support Solution

- Provision of first stop shop activities in respect of Business Support, Enterprise Development and Promotion, including Signposting
- **Make It Easier to do Business**
  Provide supports, guidance and solutions that make it easier for entrepreneurs, owners and managers to identify opportunities and implement actions to start-up, grow and survive within a competitive business environment.

Enterprise Support Services:

- **Maximise Business Potential**
  Deliver support services that equip entrepreneurs, owners and managers with the knowledge to plan, grow and sustain productivity, innovation and

competitiveness, as well as encourage greater technology uptake.

- **Collaborate with Enterprise Ireland**
  Enhance communication with Enterprise Ireland to facilitate potential progression of companies from LEO to EI, facilitating access to relevant EI financial, business and innovation/research facilities, and two-way transfer of clients to ensure appropriate services and maximum impact.

Entrepreneurship Support Services:

- **Promote a Best Practice Enterprise Culture**
  Act as the catalyst and advocate for the establishment of a best practice enterprise culture among start-ups, micro and small businesses; also promoting enterprise and self-employment as a viable career option among the wider population.

Local Economic Development Services:

- **Environment for Start-Ups**
  Leverage the full range of potential enterprise support/economic development promotion mechanisms across the Local Authority economic development remit, including enterprise space, Rates framework, economic development etc. to start-ups and small businesses in county.

LEO Monaghan Stats for 2016

LEO Monaghan - Stats for 2016	Training Programmes	Participants
SYOB	4	45
Basic Computer Skills	1	5
Computerised Accounts	1	12
Entrepreneur Programme	1	17
Food Programme	2	11
How to create a free Business Website	1	11
Industry Skills needs	1	52
Enterprise Europe Network Event	1	12
Office Management	2	13
Online Trading Voucher Seminar	1	24
Producing a Video for your Website	1	6
Sales & Marketing	3	19
Search Engine Optimisation	2	14
IBYE	1	44
Workplace Relations Act	1	39
Social Media for Business	3	28
Management Developement Programme	1	10
Tendering Programme	1	20
Total	28	382

Events, seminars and clinics

LEO Monaghan - Stats for 2016	Events, seminars and clinics	Participants
Mentoring	149 mentoring sessions	71
Monaghan Women in Business	9	304
PLATO EBR		16 Participants + 2 Parent companies
TOV's	34 enquiries	20 approved
Showcase	1 Event	2 participants
National Women's Enterprise Day	1 Event	14 participants supported
Retail is E-Tail	1 Event	178 participants
Border Bizcamp	1 Event	160 participants
Student Enterprise Awards	9 schools	302 students participated
Microfinance Ireland	4 applicants	1 approvals

Jobs & Grants:	Output 2016	€
Total Employment in LEO Clients	790	
Net Increase (after Job Losses)	132.5	
Grant Applications Approved:		
Feasibility: Number / Value	3	**25494**
Priming: Number / Value	5	**198798**
Business Expansion: Number / Value	**6**	**339136**

Strategic Policy Committees

The role of Strategic Policy Committees is to formulate policy proposals, evaluate and report on policy implementation for consideration. Provide policy centred committees which can harness the experience of external bodies in the formulation of policy

The Committees are not designed to deal with routine operational matters in relation to the delivery of services.

The SPCs which consists of elected members of Monaghan County Council and others who are nominated by / or representative of the sectors relevant to the work of the particular SPC. Monaghan County Council have 4 Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs):

SPC 1 - Housing , Fire and Civil Protection
SPC 2 – Social, Cultural and Community Development
SPC 3 – Economic Development and Enterprise Support
SPC 4- Environment and Transport

Report of Strategic Policy Committee Activities during 2016

Dog Control Policy
Updated policy for Environment staff on dog control including initiation of prosecutions, issuing of fines and dog notices, was circulated by the County Veterinary Officer. This updated policy was adopted.

Pay per Weight

The Environmental Awareness Officer updated SPC members on the new system for household waste charging proposals which were due to be introduced from 1st July 2016.

Water Framework Directive – Second Cycle.
Members were informed by Acting Executive Chemist, Environment Section that consultation on the second cycle of the River Basin Management Plan had commenced and that Water Community Offices were being established on a regional level.

Mirco – Chipping for Dogs
New legislation introduced on April 1st 2016 was discussed by the County Veterinary Officer which stated that all dogs must be micro chipped and registered with a database approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Signage for Littering
It was agreed that the three MD offices would be contacted in relation to erecting signage for littering on all approach roads to the three districts.

CCTV Litter Project
Presentation and update from the Environmental Awareness Officer, Environment Section in relation to CCTV Litter Project which was in its second year. He advised that advertising campaigns through the use of media, facebook and newspapers were used to inform motorists of the campaign. The 2016 project was a great success with 50 litter detections being generated.

Dog Control Stats 2015
The County Veterinary Officer circulated Dog Control Statistics for 2015 which were released from the Department. Statistics for Monaghan showed a reduction in the number of dogs admitted to the Dog Pound and 5,605 dog licences issued, this being the second highest rate in the country.

Road Safety Action Plan
Road Safety Officer for Monaghan/Louth did a presentation and advised the meeting of his role as educational and awareness officer for both counties. He informed the members that a draft Road Safety Action plan was in the process of being compiled - this would outline the local objectives in line with National Strategy.

Social Cultural and Community Development SPC (3 meetings held in 2016)

At the SPC meeting held on 6th October 2016, three policies were approved by the SPC in relation to:
a) Disposal Policy
b) Loans Policy
c) Exhibitions Policy

Agreement between Arts Council and Local Government
The Arts Officer referred to the Agreement between Arts Council & CCMA details of which he outlined to the meeting in a powerpoint presentation. He stated that the Agreement will include opportunities to test new models of support for the arts, and conduct useful research at local and regional level, which can be used to inform future policy and improve communication. Three strategic priorities were contained in the Agreement –
- Provide an overarching vision and framework for effective strategic partnership between Arts Council and local authorities throughout the country.
- Develop co-ordinated, spatially informed strategy to support and develop the infrastructure for the arts.

- Develop relevant shared policy positions to inform and inspire national cultural policy.

Arts Policy 2016-2025
Monaghan County Council's Arts Plan was adopted, this plan provides a strategic framework designed to align available resources with the priorities identified through the consultation process, and to build capacity within the arts sector.

Leader/Rural Development Programme
Monaghan's Local Development Strategy was approved by the Department and Monaghan County Council is now working towards a launch of Leader Programme.

Planning and Economic Development SPC (3 meetings held in 2016)

The Planning and Economic SPC has a broad remit it was decided to seek wider representation from the business communities of the four large towns. This ensures a broad range of participation and introduces an element of firsthand experience and knowledge to the committee. Items discussed at the forum and referred to the County Council in 2016 included:
- Local Economic and Community Plan
- Draft Retail Strategy
- Draft Tourism Strategy
- Urban Regeneration
- Potential Impact of Brexit
- Rural Broadband

A subcommittee has been set up to Monitor the progress on the economic Actions proposed in the Local Economic And Community Plan.

Councillor Representation on External and Council Committees

Cathaoirleach 2016/2017(June 2016-June 2017)

Cllr. P.J O'Hanlon

Leas-Chathaoirleach 2016/2017(June 2016-June 2017)

Cllr. Seamus Treanor

Corporate Policy Group

Cathaoirleach of the Day

Cllr. Padraig McNally

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Cavan/Monaghan Education and Training Board.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips

Cllr. Colm Carthy

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Peace IV Peace Partnership Board

Cllr Aidan Campbell	Carrickmacross-Castleblayney M.D.
Cllr Pat Treanor	Ballybay-Clones M.D.
Cllr Paudge Connolly	Monaghan M.D. (replaced Cllr S. Treanor)
Cllr Seamus Coyle	1 from among MCC reps on LCDC

Monaghan Local Sports Partnership Board

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Cllr. Colm Carthy

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips

Cllr. Seamus Treanor

Audit Committee

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips

Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Cllr. Jackie Crowe

East Border Region Members Forum.

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

Cllr. Padraig McNally

Cllr. Noel Keelan

Cllr. J. Crowe (Director to the Board of East Border Region Ltd.)

Cllr. Aidan Campbell

Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Management Board of ICBAN Ltd., (Irish Central Border Areas Network).

Cllr. David Maxwell

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Cllr Raymond Aughey

Blackwater Regional Partnership

Cllr. David Maxwell

Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Cllr. Seamus Treanor

Local Community Development Committee

Cllr Seamus Coyle

Cllr Brian McKenna

Cllr David Maxwell

Regional Health Forum – Dublin and North East

Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. David Maxwell

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances

Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Association of Irish Local Government (Annual Conference)

Cllr. Padraig McNally

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

Cllr. Cathy Bennett

Association of Irish Local Government (Standing Policy Council)
Cllr. Padraig McNally
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon
Cllr. Cathy Bennett

Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)
Cllr. Sean Conlon

Co. Monaghan Joint Policing Committee –

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon (Chair)
Cllr. B. McKenna (Vice Chair)
Cllr. N. Keelan
Cllr. J. Crowe
Cllr. P. Treanor
Cllr. C. Bennett
Cllr. S. Coyle
Cllr. R. Aughey
 Cllr. A. Campbell
Cllr. C. McPhillips
Cllr. S. Gilliland
Cllr. H. McElvaney
Cllr. P. Connolly
Mr. PJ Harte
Mr. Michael Watters
Mr. Eugene Treanor
Mr. Brendan Mc Nally
Ms. Edel Fitzsimons
Chief Supt. Christopher Mangan
Supt. Noel Cunningham
Supt. Alan Cunningham
Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D.
Mr. Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, TD

Local Steering Group for the Use of Irish in Monaghan County Council (Coiste Gaeilge)
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney
Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Jackie Crowe
Cllr. Cathy Bennett
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

An Coiste Logainmneacha

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Cllr. Jackie Crowe

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Museum Advisory Committee

Cllr. Jackie Crowe

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

Cllr. David Maxwell

Cllr. Seamus Treanor

Local Monitoring Committee (Rural Water Programme).

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. Aidan Campbell

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

Cllr. Paudge Connolly

Speed Limits Committee

Cllr. Padraig McNally

Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Cllr. Jackie Crowe

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips

Cllr. Seamus Treanor

Disability Act 2005 Steering Committee.

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips

Cllr. Paudge Connolly

Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Cllr. Cathy Bennett

Twinning Committee

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Cllr. Padraig McNally

Cllr. Aidan Campbell

Cllr. Seamus Treanor

Cllr. Sean Conlon (added 2/2/15)

Clones Erne East Partnership

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Cllr. Cathy Bennett

County Monaghan Heritage Forum

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Cllr. Seamus Treanor

Lough Muckno Sub Committee

Cllr. Padraig McNally

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. Jackie Crowe

Cllr. Aidan Campbell

Standing Orders & Procedures Committee

Cllr. Padraig McNally

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Cllr. David Maxwell

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. Jackie Crowe

Cllr. Paudge Connolly

Road Safety Committee

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Monaghan Leisure Complex Management Committee

(Cllr. David Maxwell

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Cllr. Seamus Treanor

Monaghan Age Friendly Alliance

Cllr. Cathy Bennett

North Eastern Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force

Cllr. Paudge Connolly

Appointment of members to witness the affixing of the Official Seal

All Members of Monaghan County Council appointed to witness the affixing of the Official Seal

Appointment of Members to Witness the opening of Tenders

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Cllr. Seamus Treanor

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Cllr. David Maxwell

Cllr. Paudge Connolly

EirGrid Sub Committee

Cathaoirleach of the day

Cllr. Noel Keelan

Cllr. Jackie Crowe

Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Cllr. Aidan Campbell

Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Cllr. Paudge Connolly

Landfill Sub-Committee

Cllr B. McKenna

Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon

Cllr S. Gilliland

Cllr S. Treanor

Municipal Districts

Monaghan Municipal District

Cllr. David Maxwell (Cathaoirleach 2016/2017)

Cllr. Paudge Connolly (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2016/2017)

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Cllr. Seamus Treanor

Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District

Cllr. Aidan Campbell (Cathaoirleach 2016/2017)

Cllr. Padraig McNally (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2016/2017)

Cllr. Colm Carthy

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

Cllr. Jackie Crowe

Cllr. Noel Keelan

Ballybay-Clones Municipal District

Cllr. Pat Treanor (Cathaoirleach 2016/2017)

Cllr. Seamus Coyle (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2016/2017)

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips

Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Cllr. Cathy Bennett

Ireland 2016 Steering Committee

Cllr. Padraig McNally

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Cllr. Seamus Treanor

Monaghan Peace Campus Steering Committee

Cllr D. Maxwell

Cllr S. Conlon

Cllr R. Aughey

Cllr P. Connolly

Ulster Canal Advisory Forum nominees

Cllr S. Coyle and Cllr P. Treanor

Strategic Policy Committees

SPC for Social Cultural and Community Development

Cllr. Brian McKenna (Chair)

Cllr J. Crowe

Cllr S. Gilliland

Cllr H. McElvaney

Cllr S. Coyle

Cllr P. Connolly

Kevin Gartlan (Environment Pillar)

Fiona Keenan O'Brien (Community – Cultural)

Noel Carney (Community – Cultural)
vacant (Community)
Ursula McKenna (Community)
Lorraine Cunningham (Community)

SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise Support
Cllr. Pat Treanor (Chair)
Cllr S. Conlon
Cllr S. Coyle
Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon
Cllr A. Campbell
Cllr S. Treanor
Michael Connolly (Environment Pillar)
Joe Rudden (Farming Pillar)
Orla Cassin (Community)
Colm McBride (Business- Construction)
Aidan Quigley (Trade Union)

SPC for Housing and Fire & Civil Protection
Cllr. Ciara McPhillips (Chair)
Cllr H. McElvaney
Cllr C. Bennett
Cllr C. Carthy
Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon
Cllr S. Treanor
Barry McCarron (Environment Pillar)
Marc Mullen (Community)
Fiona McCaffrey Jones (Community)
Teresa Carolan (Community)
Tom Freeman (Community)

SPC for Transport and Environment
Cllr P. McNally (Chair)
Cllr R. Aughey
Cllr D. Maxwell
Cllr P. Connolly
Cllr N. Keelan
Cllr C. Bennett
Conan Connolly (Environment Pillar)
Kathleen Ward (Farming Pillar)
Paddy Sherry (Community)
Jean Rooney (Federation of GWS)

Conferences/Training attended by Members in 2016

Title	Venue	No's attended
Housing Grants and Schemes	Clonakility, Cork	1
AILG-Councils and Public Safety	Hillgrove, Monaghan	7
URBACT Info Day III	Maynooth University	1
LAMA Spring Training Seminar	Sligo Park Hotel	10
AILG- Annual Conference	Buncrana	10
AILG: Module 2 LA Cultural Services	Letterkenny	7
AILG: LA Planning Services- An updated Briefing for the Elected Member	Virginia, Cavan	7
AILG: LA Planning Services- An updated Briefing for the Elected Member	Crown Plaza, Dundalk	3
AILG: LA Housing with a Briefing from the Dept. Housing, Planning, Community and LG	Galway	10
LAMA 2016 Autumn Seminar	Bantry, Co. Cork	11
AILG Autumn Seminar	Gorey, Co. Wexford	12
AILG Autumn Seminar	Sligo	11
Revitalising Small Towns across the Island of Ireland: The role of LG Waterways Ireland	Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan	3
Revitalising Small Towns across the Island of Ireland: The role of LG Waterways Ireland	Clonakility, Co. Cork	4
First Time Home Buyer Mortgage- Getting on the Property Ladder	Clonakility, Co. Cork	2
AILG: Regional Assemblies and their role with LA's and the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016-A Briefing for Elected Members	Moran's Hotel, Dublin	1
Irish Council for Social Housing- Partnership Working for LA Elected Members and Housing Associations	Ashling Hotel, Dublin	1

Financial Statement 2016

Summary of Expenditure, Income and balances

The activities of the Council, on both Capital and Revenue, in 2016 accounted for a turnover of almost €76 million.

The Capital Account expenditure of €15,586,319 reflects the investment by the Council in improving the infrastructure in the County. The major areas of activity were Housing, Roads and Water Services.

Capital Account

Activity by Programme Group	2016 Expenditure	2016 Income	2016 Net cost
Housing & Building	10,106,019	7,857,477	(2,248,542)
Roads Transportation & Safety	1,574,075	1,180,040	(394,035)
Water Services	1,143,349	649,507	(493,842)
Development Management	1,038,201	1,695,529	657,328
Environmental Services	468,565	417,356	(51,209)
Recreation & Amenity	381,568	160,051	(221,517)
Miscellaneous Services	874,542	255,441	(619,101)
Total Expenditure / Income	**15,586,319**	**12,215,401**	**(3,370,918)**

	2015	2016
Balance (Debit) / Credit January 1	**12,333,242**	**14,418,351**
Expenditure	12,394,236	15,586,319
Income	12,180,642	12,215,401
Transfers to Revenue	(217,744)	(210,963)
Net Transfers from Revenue Account	2,516,447	921,270
Balance (Debit) / Credit December 31	**14,418,351**	**11,757,740**

Revenue Account

Activity by Division	2016 Expenditure	2016 Income	2016 Net cost
Housing & Building	7,303,147	6,588,471	(714,676)
Roads Transportation & Safety	20,497,254	15,454,282	(5,042,972)
Water Services	7,074,914	7,555,535	480,621
Development Management	7,216,328	3,586,143	(3,630,185)
Environmental Services	6,928,231	2,577,943	(4,350,288)
Recreation & Amenity	4,127,607	432,055	(3,695,552)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	513,579	175,962	(337,617)
Miscellaneous Services	6,631,877	2,869,431	(3,762,446)
Total Expenditure / Income	**60,292,937**	**39,239,822**	**(21,053,115)**

Net Cost of Programmes to be funded from County Rates and Local Government Fund			**(21,053,115)**
			€
Rates			12,410,006
Local Property Tax			9,969,218
Pension Related Deduction			712,822
Surplus / (Deficit) for Year			2,038,931
Transfer to Reserves			(1,198,372)
Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 1st January			(2,704,442)
Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 31st December			**(1,863,883)**

Revenue Account

Income and Expenditure Account	2016		2015	
Income				
State Grants and Subsidies	22,078,078	35.4%	16,837,621	29.5%
Goods and Services	17,161,744	27.5%	16,299,744	28.6%
Local Property Tax	9,969,218	16.0%	10,247,882	18.0%
Pension Related Deduction	712,822	1.1%	935,693	1.6%
Rates	12,410,006	19.9%	12,686,201	22.3%
Total Income	**62,331,868**	**100.0%**	**57,007,141**	**100.0%**
Expenditure				
Payroll Expenses	24,875,688	41.3%	23,673,459	43.8%
Operational Expenses	28,226,435	46.8%	22,574,019	41.8%
Administration Expenses	2,104,432	3.5%	2,203,495	4.1%
Establishment Expenses	1,329,938	2.2%	1,144,856	2.1%
Financial Expenses	3,435,828	5.7%	3,734,208	6.9%
Miscellaneous	320,616	0.5%	710,245	1.3%
Total Expenditure	**60,292,937**	**100.0%**	**54,040,282**	**100.0%**
Surplus for Year before Transfers	**2,038,931**		**2,966,859**	
Transfers to Reserves	(1,198,372)		(2,791,386)	
Overall Deficit for Year	**840,559**		**175,473**	
General Reserve at 1st January	**(2,704,442)**		**(2,879,915)**	
General Reserve at 31st December	**(1,863,883)**		**(2,704,442)**	

Corporate Plan 2015-2019

Progress Report 2016

Objective 1: The organisation, manages through strong leadership, good governance and democratic accountability will fulfil its mission in a open, honest and transparent manner.			
Department	**Corporate Plan Sub-Category**	**Business Plan Objective**	**Progress**
Housing	1.1 Support the Elected Members, Corporate Policy Group and Strategic Policy Committees, Joint Policing Committee and other committees as prescribed by legislation, in their leadership and representative role to ensure democratic accountability and effective governance. Develop a common understanding of Council role in economic development and how it can be delivered.		Ongoing engagement with elected members through Housing and Fire Strategic Policy Committee, Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Joint Policing Committee and through the Regional Homelessness Forum Use of Laserfiche and I-house to manage representations from elected members Regular Communication with staff in the Housing Department on issues concerning member's constituents. Ongoing support of residents associations through the Tenant Liaison Officer
Health and Safety Unit	1.3 Maintain and improve service delivery systems to ensure compliance with legislative and statutory obligations.	Maintain and update the HSMS's procedures, guidelines, registers' and forms in line with the requirements of OHSAS 18001.	▪ Corporate Safety Statement (CSS) in place that is compliant ▪ HSMS up to date

		Provision of Communication and Training necessary to ensure compliance and consistency.	▪ 160 employees trained in Hazard and Rick Assessment ▪ Health and Safety Intranet up to date ▪ Safety Committee Meeting in place ▪ Newsletter issued in Dec
Health and Safety Unit	1.5 Develop and implement appropriate policies, procedures and internal audit mechanisms to ensure standards of organisational performance are in line with corporate governance and best practice and are applied consistently across the organisation.	Develop and implement an Audit, Inspection and Review Process.	Three new procedures developed: ▪ HSP47 Emergency Plan Procedure. (Training provided and procedure operational) ▪ HSP49 Events Management Procedure. (Procedure developed and approved. Not operational due to training related issues. Currently in discussion with IPB to progress) ▪ HSP50 Audit Adoption Procedure. (Procedure Live)
Health and Safety Unit	1.5 Develop and implement appropriate policies, procedures and internal audit mechanisms to ensure standards of organisational performance are in line with corporate governance and best practice and are applied consistently across the organisation.	Maintain and update the HSMS's procedures, guidelines, registers' and forms in line with the requirements of OHSAS 18001.	▪ HSMS documents, registers, forms and templates reviewed and up to date ▪ Hazard and Risk Assessments reviewed and up to date ▪ Audit program due to start in Feb 2017

Library	1.5 Develop and implement appropriate policies, procedures and internal audit mechanisms to ensure standards of organisational performance are in line with corporate governance and best practice and are applied consistently across the organisation.	Complete a 5 year development strategy complete a Collection development policy WIFI Policy	Some portions of the Plan completed. Online customer survey completed Being developed as part of 5 year strategy Completed
Corporate Services	1.1 Support Elected Members, Corporate Policy Group and Strategic Policy Committees, Joint Policing Committee and other committees as prescribed in legislation, in their leadership and representative role to ensure democratic accountability and effective governance. Develop a common understanding of Council role in economic development and how it can be delivered.	Administer and support meetings of the Council and all Committees. Manage the Annual Register of Electors Fulfil the organisation's responsibilities under the Ethic's Framework	Meetings held, agenda business transacted effectively, follow up actions implemented Up to date Register published in accordance with the statutory dates Up to date and completed Ethics Register in place
Corporate Services	1.5 Develop and Implement appropriate policies, procedures and internal audit mechanisms to ensure standards or organisational performance are in line with corporate governance and best practice and are applied consistently across the organisation.	Operate an independent internal audit service	Audit Committee operating Internal Audit workplan approved and implemented. Internal Audit staff trained and in place

Corporate Services	1.5 Develop and Implement appropriate policies, procedures and internal audit mechanisms to ensure standards or organisational performance are in line with corporate governance and best practice and are applied consistently across the organisation.	Prepare reports, works programmes and reviews in line with corporate governance requirements	Annual Report Adopted Annual Service Delivery Plan Monitoring and review of performance – NOAC/Mon Stat
Corporate Services	1.6 Prepare and Implement a Customer Care Policy based on Customer Relationship Management System	Develop appropriate and effective communications and customer care services and systems Respond to information requests, complaints and protected disclosures in line with statutory requirements	Develop corporate policies and procedures Customer Care Charter updated and implemented All FOI requests, Ombudsman complaints and protected disclosures addressed within the relevant timeframes
Corporate Services	1.7 Develop and Implement an Organisational Communications Strategy to manage PR, promote open information and ensure the appropriate and effective use of Social Media	Develop appropriate and effective communications and customer care services and systems	Draft Communications Strategy is currently being developed.
Arts	1:5 Develop and Implement appropriate policies, procedures and internal audit mechanisms to ensure standards or organisational performance are in line with corporate governance and best	Implement strategic plan objectives 2016-2020	Internal Audit report adopted and being implemented on a regular basis with updates and further analysis with corporate section with agreed timeline

	practice and are applied consistently across the organisation		
Community Development	1.4 Provide strong leadership and create greater levels of accountability and responsibility at all grades within Monaghan County Council through implementing MonaghanStat.	The organisation managed through strong leadership, good governance and democratic accountability will fulfil its mission in an open honest and transparent manner.	
Museum	1.1 Support the Elected Members, Corporate Policy Group and Strategic Policy Committees, Joint Policing Committee and other committees as prescribed by legislation, in their leadership and representative role to ensure democratic accountability and effective governance. Develop a common understanding of Council role in economic development and how it can be delivered.	Maintain Full Accreditation under the Museums Standards Programme for Ireland	The museum has brought 6 separate museum policies through the SPC and CPG for review and approval as part of the process of making an application to the Heritage Council to maintain all standards under MSPI
Environment	1.1 Support the Elected Members, Corporate Policy Group and Strategic Policy Committees, Joint Policing Committee and other committees as prescribed by legislation, in their leadership and representative role to ensure democratic accountability and effective governance. Develop a common understanding of	Provide Environment services support to SPC & CPG committees.	Continued support provided to SPC with continued progress made in issues in relation to litter management, waste management, water quality, dog control and food safety through high level productive discussions and decision making.

	Council role in economic development and how it can be delivered.		
Planning	1.1 Support the Elected Members, Corporate Policy Group and Strategic Policy Committees, Joint Policing Committee and other committees as prescribed by legislation, in their leadership and representative role to ensure democratic accountability and effective governance	Develop a planning policy framework within legislative and policy requirements	Ongoing engagement of stakeholders in formulation and adoption of County Development Plan, Variations to the County Development Plan, and other policy documents in compliance with legislative requirements and deadlines

Ongoing processing of all planning applications, material contraventions, appeals, declarations, extensions of duration applications, Part 8s, etc. in compliance with legislative and policy framework |
| | 1.3 Maintain and improve service delivery systems to ensure compliance with legislative and statutory obligations | Operate a Development Management System in compliance with legislative and policy framework | Ongoing operation of a public consultation and information service with a daily public counter facility, public telephone call mornings operated twice weekly, and pre-planning meetings operated once weekly

Ongoing operation and updating of online planning application information system and maintenance of planning page on county council website

Facilitation of two Agents' Forum meetings and one Agents' Workshop per annum |

Objective 2: Promote and protect a clean safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable.

Department	Corporate Plan Sub-Category	Business Plan Objective	Progress
Fire & Civil Protection	2.8 Prepare, adopt and implement a fire and emergency Operational Plan for County Monaghan in accordance with Keeping Communities Safe (KCS), the framework document published by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management	Prepare, adopt and implement a Section 26 Fire and Emergency Operational Plan	Draft document in place but not yet adopted. Further discussion required.
Fire & Civil Protection	2.9 Prepare, adopt and implement a Community Fire Safety Strategy for County Monaghan	Prepare, adopt and implement a Community Fire Safety Strategy (CFSS) for County Monaghan	Community Fire Safety Policy 2015-2019 in place with continued implementation.
Fire & Civil Protection	2.10 Develop and implement a Building Control Inspection Plan in accordance with CCMA guidance to improve the standard of building construction in County Monaghan	Implement Building Control Inspection Plan	In place and ongoing
Fire & Civil Protection	2.11 Develop and Implement a Civil Defence Strategy	Civil Defence Strategy	Monaghan Civil Defence Strategy 2015-2018 in place.
Housing	2.1 Seek to ensure that every household will have access to secure, good quality housing suited to their needs at an affordable price in a sustainable community.		Ongoing assessment and update of housing applications Implementation of the Housing Assistance Payment Ongoing liaison with Voluntary Housing Associations and provision of new housing units through

			the Capital Assistance Scheme
			Provision of Homeless Service and Tenant Liaison Service
			Administration of the Mobility Aid Grant, Housing Adaptation Grant and Housing Aid for Older People
			Ongoing implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2014-2018 Establishment of the Housing and Disability Steering Group
			Respond to housing need by delivering the house building and Acquisition programme and the provision of houses through Part V of the planning process.
Housing	2.4 Promote the sustainable use of energy by assisting Monaghan County Council and local communities in reducing their energy consumption in line with national targets.		Ensuring the incorporation of energy efficiency measures in the housing building and housing maintenance programmes
Housing	2.7 Implement the policies of the County Development Plan.		Ongoing liaison with the Planning Section in the identification of sites for the provision of social housing.
Corporate Services	2.4 Promote the sustainable use of energy by reducing Monaghan's energy usage in line with	**ENERGY:** To reduce Monaghan County Council's Energy usage in line with National and European stands. Have	18.3% achieved towards 33% target in 2020. Ahead of schedule

		in place a structured energy management programme using EnergyMAP process	
		PUBLIC LIGHTING: To optimise the energy efficiency & implement an asset management system for Monaghan County Council's public lighting. Public Lighting inventory review completed in accordance with new TII guidelines	Systems in place, detailed inventory of all lights completed and on target to complete lighting upgrade
Library	2.4 Promote the sustainable use of energy by assisting Monaghan County Council and local communities in reducing their energy consumption in line with national targets	Participate in MCC energy reduction initiatives	Upgrade of lighting in Carrickmacross Branch

Regular meter readings for library buildings

Use of Laser fiche for meter readings in Clones Branch |
| Environment | 2.3 Implement the Connacht/Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan | Implement Priority objectives in areas of enforcement, compliance, waste infrastructure and awareness.

Manage Scotch Corner Landfill in accordance with Waste Licence W0020-02 | Continued implementation of waste management policies in line with the objectives of the Connacht Ulster Waste Management Plan. Upgrade of the 10 Bring Facilities in 2016.

Completion of significant infrastructural improvement works at the Materials Recovery Facility and Civic Amenity site at Scotch Corner.

Progression of concession contract for the management of the Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross Recycling Centres. |

		114	Progression of new novel waste prevention projects through LAPN funding secured through the EPA. Ongoing review of old legacy landfill in county Ongoing management of the Scotch Corner landfill facility including the procurement of consultants to design Phase 3 capping works . Completion of Leachate management study. Completion of leachate reduction works at Scotch Corner. Completion of leachate transportation tender. Continued implementation of robust measures to enforce waste and litter regulations. Expansion of the Spring Clean campaign to include litter picking on the National Road network in county. Progression of National Waste priorities which in 2016 were Pay Per Weight regulations, Food and Bio Waste, Tyre Regulations and illegal activity Completion of N2 CCTV litter management project. -

			Introduction of Korec of ICT to improve efficiencies in the areas of waste management and litter management. Continued monitoring of waste facilities with 11 new authorisations issued in 2016.
Environment		Ensure the production of safe food and compliance with legal requirements by food businesses supervised by Monaghan County Council	Completion of inspections, audits and sampling of food businesses based on risk assessment. Results of inspections and sampling reported to relevant stakeholders 1 no enforcement order issued to Food Business Operator.
		Implement Monaghan County Council's duties and responsibilities under the Control of Dogs Act, 1986, the Control of Horses Act, 1996 and the Dog Breeding Establishments Act, 2010	Continued provision of a dedicated dog warden service for the investigation of stray dog complaints and the enforcement of dog control legislation. 2016 saw a 5% increase in dog licences with 100% of dog related complaints closed. In 2016 Dog Pound continued to be compliant with dog breeding establishment requirements Continued inspection of dog breeding establishment.

			In 2016 Monaghan County Council was nominated for an excellence in Local Government Award for its Lifetime Dog Licence with free Microchipping and Registration project.
Environment	2.5 Develop and provide environmental education and training programmes.		Hosting of Tidy Towns Sustainable Waste conference in May . Increased participation in the Green schools programme with 13 schools receiving green flag in 2016. 42 separate awareness events held in schools in 2016. Dog fouling awareness project completed Hosting of 40 workshops across the County focusing on waste management, biodiversity, water quality, and climate change. Participation in Science week in 2016 (CSI Water) 438 waste/litter complaints investigated with 436 resolved.
Environment	2.6 Develop strategies to strive towards meeting objectives of the Water Framework Directive to improve	Support Implementation of the Water Framework Directive	Continued implementation of River Basin Management Plans and program of measures for the North Western RBMP and the Neagh Bann RBMP.

	Monaghan County's water quality status.		Completion of farm inspection program as required under the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations. 35% of farms did not require any follow up following inspections in 2016 Completion of Intensive Agriculture Enterprise Inspection Program. Completion of Farm survey program in Finn catchment with 142 farms visited with a pass rate of 85%. Continued monitoring of 32 Section 4 effluent discharge licenses in County Monaghan with discharges to waters. Completion of WFD River and lake monitoring program in Assessment of 293 planning applications from water quality viewpoint in 2016. 101 water/wastewater environmental pollution complaints investigated in 2016 with 70 resolved
Planning	2. Promote and protect a clean safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable	Operate an enforcement system in line with legislative and policy requirements	Ongoing monitoring and investigation of unauthorised development and taking appropriate enforcement action within legislative framework and in compliance with

117

			legislative requirements and deadlines
		Resolve remaining unfinished housing developments in the county and take in charge developments as required.	Works have been agreed under the funding provisions of the National Taking in Charge Initiative to progress taking in charge in a further 11 housing developments
			Five unfinished housing developments have site resolution plans in place
			Seven housing developments have been taken in charge since 2015
			Ongoing taking in charge of housing developments following receipt of application
	2.7 Implement the policies of the County Development Plan	Operate a Development Management System in compliance with legislative and policy framework	Ongoing processing of all planning applications, material contraventions, appeals, declarations, extensions of duration applications, Part 8s, etc. in compliance with the objectives and policies of the County Development Plan
			Two year progress report on achieving the objectives within the County Development Plan produced in 2015
			Review of current County Development Plan commenced in 2016

Objective 3:   Provide support to the Business Community to stimulate growth, encourage start-up's, maximise job creation and improve competitiveness.

Department	Corporate Plan Sub-Category	Business Plan Objective	Progress
Housing	3.1 Develop a strategy to promote entrepreneurship, foster business start-up and develop existing business including those sectors with significant export potential.		Support small businesses through housing grants, void repairs and energy efficiency works Provision of loans for private dwellings under approved schemes
Housing	3.5 Devise a strategy to improve the quality and diversity of employment in the County		Through the construction of quality social housing, the upgrading and acquisition programme, implementation of Part V of the planning process and the Capital Assistance Scheme for Approved Housing Bodies support small local construction companies in a tangible manner
Tourism	3.2 Deliver on Monaghan County Council's Tourism Strategy in Partnership with stakeholders		Community Tourism Diaspora Funding delivered Print and on-line Calendar of Events produced Tourist Office operated from mid March to end September Tourism enquiries dealt with on a daily basis Ongoing meetings with tourism trade

			providers to provide advice and support with funding applications Up to date information provided on website and social media sites Public relations Campaign for Tourism delivered Diaspora Engagement Project delivered
Tourism	3.8 Develop a Brand Image for the county which will assist in maximising investment and development potential		6 My Monaghan promotional videos produced and disseminated My Monaghan media campaign undertaken 1 Connect Ireland video produced 4 Economic videos produced and disseminated Business campaign for Monaghan undertaken
Library	3.2 Deliver on Monaghan County Council's Tourism Strategy in partnership with stakeholders	Maintain Clones and Carrickmacross branch libraries as tourist offices Expand the range of Local History resources available to the public	Ongoing Carrickmacross & Castleblayney Workhouse Minute Books conservation completed through 'Local Diaspora Strategy Development Fund'

Library	3.6 Foster linkages with Cavan Monaghan ETB and other higher education institutions to develop courses and apprenticeships relevant to present and future industrial needs.	Partner with other agencies in education and resource sharing initiatives	It courses provided in all branches, in partnership with CMETB and MID Erasmus+ project (services to the unemployed) completed Job seeker services actively promoted, new promotional material designed and distributed Cavan/Monaghan Science Festival Completed, promoting STEM careers
Arts	3:6 Foster linkages with Cavan Monaghan ETB and other higher education institutions to develop courses and apprenticeships relevant to present and future industrial needs	Implement objectives from arts policy 2016/20	Links developed & maintained with ETB through Garage Board , L.A.E.P & Monaghan Institute
LEO	3.1 Develop a strategy to promote entrepreneurship, foster business start-up and develop existing business including those sectors with significant export potential.	Implement Service Level Agreement between Monaghan County Council and Enterprise Ireland.	Monaghan LEO is monitored on implementing SLA by Enterprise Ireland and is reviewed annually.
LEO	3.3 Promote the Local Enterprise Office as a 'One Stop Shop' to meet the needs of small businesses in the County.	Funding secured from Enterprise Ireland to implement media strategy.	Advertising campaign undertaken at local level in the local press, website and social media.
LEO	3.6 Foster linkages with Cavan Monaghan ETB and other higher education institutions	Skills Audit undertaken and results published.	Skill Audit forwards to ETB, DSP and Director of Economic Development is a

	to develop courses and apprenticeships relevant to present and future industrial needs.		member of Regional Skill committee.
Museum	8.2 Deliver on Monaghan County Council's Tourism Strategy in partnership with stakeholders.	Prepare marketing strategy for promotion of museum both locally and nationally	Museum events and programmes are promoted through local and national press, online and in cooperation with Monaghan Tourism The Curator has attended workshops hosted by Failte Ireland on how we can help promote Ireland's Ancient East to overseas visitors
Planning	3.5 Devise a strategy to improve the quality and diversity of employment in the County	Develop a planning policy framework within legislative and policy requirements	Review of availability of zoned Industry, Enterprise, and Employment lands in the towns of Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay, assess future demand, and identification and zoning of suitable lands in 2016

Objective 4:   Ensure that everyone in our Community has an opportunity to become actively engaged in shaping the future development of the County.

Department	Corporate Plan Sub-Category	Business Plan Objective	Progress
Housing	4.1 Lead economic, social, cultural and sustainable development in the County by facilitating partnership and co-operation among Local Government, Local Development, Statutory Bodies, Community and Social Partnership.		Through the meetings various groups including Housing Action teams , Disability Steering Group, Residents Associations identify and address housing needs/priorities within the County
Tourism	4.4 Support the Local Community Sector in developing local initiatives ranging from community facilities to community enterprise		Patrick Kavanagh Centre assisted in applying for funding under Arts & Culture Capital Scheme 2016 Consultants to develop Masterplan for Rossmore Forest Park procured Carrickmacross Lace Co-Op assisted and consulted in the development of The Market House project, Carrickmacross Muckno Heritage assisted in the development of a Heritage Trail for Castleblayney

Arts	4:1 Lead economic, social, cultural and sustainable development in the County by facilitating partnership and co-operation among Local Government, Local Development, Statutory Bodies, Community and Social Partnership.	Develop key cultural infrastructure Create increased opportunities for engagement by communities	Application made to Dept under stream 1 for Clones Artist studios Application submitted to Peace IV on Clones Studios & Community Arts Hub
Museum	4.5 Lead the promotion and support of Social Inclusion and access to services through the review, development and implementation of strategies.	Promote or programme of events and activities to as wide an audience as possible	Programmes aimed at older people, people with a disability, single parent families and ethnic minorities are run on annual basis with service providers in the county
Planning	4.1 Lead economic, social, cultural and sustainable development in the County by facilitating partnership and co-operation among Local Government, Local Development, Statutory Bodies, Community and Social Partnership 4.6 Support the Public Participation Networks and community participation engagement in decision making process	Develop a planning policy framework within legislative and policy requirements Develop a planning policy framework within legislative and policy requirements	Ongoing engagement of stakeholders in formulation and adoption of County Development Plan, Variations to the County Development Plan, and other policy documents in compliance with legislative requirements and deadlines Two variations to the County Development Plan (incorporation of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets and the County Monaghan Retail Development Strategy into County Development Plan) adopted in 2016 Ongoing involvement of public in formulation of objectives and policies of

			County Development Plan and other policy documents through public participation events and engagement of Public Participation Network
Community Development	4.1 To lead economic, social, cultural and sustainable development in the county by facilitating partnership and co-operation among Local Government, Local Development, Statutory Bodies, Community and Social Partnership.	Ensure everyone in our community has an opportunity to become actively engaged in shaping the future development of the County	
Community Development	4.2 Facilitate and support the work of the Local Community Development Committee	Manage and administer the LCDC and sub structures

Deliver and monitor community actions of the Local Economic and Community Plan | LCDC process operated in line with guidelines as revised and issued by the DECLG

NOAC Y3 % of nominees to LCDC membership via the PPN Structure from the most marginalised SICAP Groups |
| Community Development | 4.3 Lead and manage Economic, Social and Community Development programmes. | Implement and monitor the LEADER programme

Monitor delivery of the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Implement and | Programme delivery commenced

Achievement by implementer of headline targets and actions Expenditure v agreed SICAP Budget Applications submitted

Applications invited Project activity |

		monitor the PEACE IV Programme	undertaken Spend targets achieved Progress monitored
		Complete and submit application for funding under Shared Spaces priority of Peace IV	Application submitted by due date
		Support delivery of Interreg Project and extension of Ulster Canal Greenway	Project commenced in line with programme requirements
Community Development	4.4 Support the Local Community Sector in developing local initiatives ranging from community facilities to community enterprise	Manage and administer the Community and Environment Fund	€175,000 allocated to 238 different community projects across the county. Community funding presentation event held in each Municipal District.
		Work with agencies and partners to develop suitable project ideas and make successful funding applications	Funding applications made Improved governance Action plans prepared
		Support Local Community sector and Provide development support to community networks	Smarter Travel & Active Travel Town programmes rolled out Entry to Pride of Place Competition managed Better Energy Communities funding bid to SEAI supported
		Work with cross-border bodies and structures to develop suitable project ideas	No. of meeting held Training event held

		Work with cross-border bodies and structures to develop suitable project ideas	Funding applications made New Memorandum of Understanding with Armagh
Community Development	4.6 Support the Public Participation networks and community participation engagement in the decision making process.	Support the Public Participation Network (PPN) in realising its role and function Framework for public participation has been drafted Administer the PPN structure and process in line with legislation and related directives Provide Development support to Community Reps Network	
Community Development	4.7 Ensure that young people are enabled to have a voice in their community where the Local Authority have a role-full participation in society	Support young people in having a voice in their community Develop and implement Comhairle na nOg action plan Integrate youth development in other relevant Council services Develop and enhance youth facilities in the county	NOAC Y1 Participation in Comhairle na nOg Scheme Projects identified and progressed Needs analysis completed Youth Network developed Funding sources identified
Community Development	4.9 Lead the increased participation in sports and physical activity among all sections of the community in the County.	Target low Participation Groups	• Walking – activated 5 new walking groups in town / rural areas

		128	• Delivered 19 activity programmes for over 200 people aged 50+ in Town and rural communities • Delivered 8 activity programmes for people with a disability including two Cross County 3-day camps for adults (200 attended)
		Support mass participation events/national events	• Delivered safe cycling training to 5 Primary Schools (102 pupils) • Supported Post Primary School Triathlon event (20-0 students)
		Support Club Development	• Launched new walking programme (Walk the Earth) with 11 Schools (880 pupils)
		Develop Strong communications and information systems	• Coordinated / delivered or supported the following events: • Operation Transformation National Walk • National Bike Week • National Play Day

			• National Recreation Week • Blackwater 10k
			• Supported the set up of 2 new sports clubs (Basketball and Rounders) • Held sports networking event (20 clubs attended) • Delivered training courses for sports club volunteers (21 courses delivered in Safeguarding, First Aid, Disability Awareness) for 270 attendees
			• News column published in local newspaper (48 issues) • Newsletter published and distributed to 700 contacts – Schools, community groups etc. • Regular e-bulletin updates to 1600 email contacts •

Objective 5: Develop and manage county Monaghan's built and natural assets in partnership with other agencies to best utilise and promote economic, social and cultural benefit of our citizens.			
Department	**Corporate Plan Sub-Category**	**Business Plan Objective**	**Progress**
Housing	5.1 Maintain, manage and develop Monaghan County Councils property portfolio including parks and open spaces.		Developed an ongoing, funded planned maintenance programme to ensure the upkeep of the existing housing stock in the ownership of the Council
Housing	5.13 Maximise the potential of our towns and villages and address dereliction and vacancy.		In conjunction with other sections of the Council identify derelict properties, and options for their renovation /remediation. Where resources allow to utilise department/local authority funding to renovate properties for social housing use
Tourism	5.1 Maintain, manage and develop Monaghan County Council's property portfolio including parks and open spaces		Maintenance works on Monaghan Way Walk organised through Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD
Tourism	5.2 Prioritise and progress our key infrastructural projects to facilitate economic development		South Lodge Angling Project worked up to planning application stage MoU for Rossmore Forest park established with Coillte Rural Recreation funding successfully secured for upgrading of walks and signage Tendered for consultants to develop Sliabh Beagh Masterplan

			Audio walking trail App and associated signage for Glaslough delivered
Tourism	5.12 Continue to access programmes which support cross-border co-operation and develop a two-way flow of people, ideas, information and experiences		2 transnational INTERREG projects worked up in conjunction with East Border Region and ICBAN 1 ICBAN transnational project – Literary Tourism Initiative – progressed through to Stage II of the application process with pilot project for Patrick Kavanagh Centre included
Water Services	Fulfil our obligations under the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water	Implement Specific objectives of Multi Annual Service Plan and monitor performance targets for 2016	Monaghan County Council are performanced monthly by Irish Water's balances scorecard. In 2016 the average monthly scores were in excess of 90%
Water Services	Manage and implement the Rural Water Programme	Implement the Rural Water Programme	Annual subsidies totally €2,311,644 were administered towards the operations cost of supplying water for domestic use to Group Water Schemes. Grants to the value of €415,128 were paid to 10 Group Water Schemes to carry out necessary upgrading and improvement works which were grant aided by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
Heritage Office	Protect and enhance our environment	Implement County Monaghan Heritage Plan 2012 -2017	County Monaghan Heritage Forum supported and Heritage Council funding received.

			Heritage research and collecting information: Clones Plantation Castle archaeological survey and open days with Clones Community Forum. Conservation and management of heritage assets: • Conservation management plans developed in conjunction with local groups for three medieval church sites. Building capacity and awareness: • Coordination and launch of Heritage Week. • Programme of heritage events held including 1916 Reflecting Ulster Exhibition, Tyrone Guthrie Centre Open day, Rossmore Bioblitz, Clones Castle events and talks.
Heritage Office	Protect and enhance our environment	Draft new County Biodiversity Action Plan.	Consultation and presentations to Environment SPC and County Monaghan Heritage Forum.
Heritage Office	Contribute to implementation of County Development Plan	Provide assistance to planning authority with regard to heritage policy and legislation	18 Heritage reports on planning applications submitted. Community groups and individuals advised.
Heritage Office	Support the maintenance and management of Monaghan County	Re-use and conservation of Clones Market House.	Architect appointed and purpose of building agreed.

	Council's property portfolio including parks and public spaces	Conservation of Lough Muckno gate lodge.	Conservation works completed and building re-opened.
Heritage Office	Develop and enhance relationships with regional authorities to maximise resources of the region, especially border communities.	Work with EBR Biodiversity working group to develop and submit funding applications to EU funding bodies.	INTERREG Va application submitted to conserve cross-border EU habitats and species (CANN). LIFE funding application submitted to provide green infrastructure in selected Monaghan towns (GIFT).
Corporate Services	To effectively maintain and manage the Council's property portfolio.	To maintain a Strategic & Coordinated approach to the Management of the Council's Assets Portfolio, introduce professional standards, upload to national database, environmental and energy efficiency and offer value for money. Council Property Assets (PIR) in single register in the appropriate format & upload to national database	Capital Projects team in place, Project plans prepared and progress made on works.
Corporate Services		**Capital Works Schedule** for Council properties. Maintain a schedule of Council owned properties for refurbishment and progress opportunities to secure funding for refurbishment	Ongoing investment in facility.
Corporate Services		Monaghan Leisure Centre. Provide quality sports and exercise facilities	Ongoing investment in facility.
Corporate Services		Clones Market Building Restoration of building	Progressed to design stage
Corporate Services		Borderlands Peace Museum	Integrated into Monaghan PEACE Campus Project and brought to design stage

Library	5.2 Prioritise and progress our key infrastructure projects to facilitate economic development (including Lough Muckno, Ulster Canal, Broadband, energy, re-development of Monaghan Branch Library, etc.) and to take advantage of funding opportunities as they arise.	Refurbish Monaghan Branch	€1 million grant allocated for the redevelopment of Monaghan Branch under the library Capital Grant Programme Specification for new library developed as part of the Peace Campus project Peace IV application
Library	5.3 Develop Arts and Culture in Monaghan by giving greater effect to National Policies with special emphasis on engaging younger generations to become involved and aware of the benefits of Arts and Culture in self-development and education.	Participate fully in the 1916 Commemorative Programme	Completed
Roads	5.4 Maintain and Improve the structural quality and operational use of the road infrastructure and implement safe effective network and traffic management systems.	Progress Phase 3 of the Emyvale to Monaghan National Primary Improvement Works Scheme	Land acquisition ongoing, tender documents complete, awaiting TII approval for tender stage
		Progress N54 Tullybryan National Secondary Safety Improvement Scheme	Consultants appointed in 2016, Route Selection, Preliminary Design and Part 8 underway
		Deliver N54 Magherarney Smithboro Pavement Improvement Scheme	1.0Km of Overlay Completed in April 2016
		Deliver Regional and Local Road Restoration Improvement and Maintenance Programmes	35Km of Restoration Improvement works and 53Km of Maintenance works completed to Regional and Local Roads
		Progress the Fleet Replacement Programme	9 Vehicles replaced as part of on-going replacement programme

		Provide a range of suitably located depots	MD's considering options for depot facilities
		Ensure availability and access to stocks	Stock levels maintained at maximum level
		Deliver Safety Improvement Schemes on road network	Severe weather flooding plan update completed Completed 10 Road Safety Improvement Schemes, 3 on National Roads, 7 on Non-National Roads
		Progress Speed Limit Review project	Completed Special Speed Limit Bye-laws for Housing estates in 2016
		Implement a range of Safety Enforcement measures	Adopted new Hedge Cutting policy to improve compliance
		Appoint Road Safety Officer	Road Safety Officer Appointed, Road Safety Working Together Committee re-established
Roads	5.5 Develop and progress strategic infrastructural routes, smarter travel and sustainable transport initiatives	Complete Monaghan Town Land Use and Transportation Study	Study to be completed in Quarter 2 2017
		Implement Road Improvement Schemes identified in the County Development Plan	Efforts to secure funding for N2/A5 continuing. Draft Design complete for N2/N53 Link
Roads	5.6 Develop and implement a flood management strategy in partnership with key stakeholders for the maintenance and improvement of storm water infrastructure and arterial drainage districts.	Work in close partnership with OPW in delivering the objectives of the CFRAM Programme	CFRAM options completed awaiting funding for next stage of process
		Identify and map all areas prone to flooding	Mapping of flood prone areas continuing
		Deliver Bridge Rehabilitation Works Programme	Works completed to Lackan Bridge and Lisnadarragh Bridge. Consultants appointed and tender process completed for works to

			10 no. National Road Bridges
		Deliver Minor Flood Mitigation Works Programme	Minor improvement works completed at 3 locations to reduce flood risk
Arts	5 :3 Develop Arts and Culture in Monaghan by giving greater effect to National Policies with special emphasis on engaging younger generations to become involved and aware of the benefits of Arts and Culture in self-development and education.	Greater engagement with children and youth Partnership with local agencies	Local Arts in education partnership initiated with CMETB, Music Generation partnership set up with Cavan CC & CMETB
Museum	5.2 Prioritise and progress our key infrastructure projects to facilitate economic development (including Lough Muckno, Ulster Canal, Broadband, energy, re-development of Monaghan Branch Library, etc.) and to take advantage of funding opportunities as they arise.	Aid in application to Peace IV for funding towards construction of Peace Campus in Monaghan Town	First Phase of application to Peace IV has been submitted Second phase application is currently being developed Part 8 Planning has been applied for.
Planning	5. Develop and manage County Monaghan's built and natural assets in partnership with other agencies to best utilise and promote economic, social and cultural benefit of our citizens.	Manage and protect the built heritage within the County	Ongoing review of the record of protected structures. 40 structures have been added to the register. A further 39 are proposed and are in process Implementation of Built Heritage Investment schemes and Structures at Risk Funds in 2015 and 2016. Schemes implemented and funds distributed for 2015 and 2016. Applications for 2017 schemes received

			Ongoing processing of Section 57 declarations within legislative timescales
	5.4 Maintain and improve the structural quality and operational use of the road infrastructure and implement safe effective network and traffic management systems	Develop a planning policy framework within legislative and policy requirements	Assistance provided to Roads Section in the preparation of a Draft Land Use and Transportation Strategy (LUTS) for County Monaghan Preparation of a strategic flood risk assessment for the County in 2015 and 2016
	5.6 Develop and implement a flood management strategy in partnership with key stakeholders for the maintenance and improvement of storm water infrastructure and arterial drainage districts	Develop a planning policy framework within legislative and policy requirements	Provision of advice and input into the preparation of the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management Strategy (CFRAMS) in 2015 and 2016
	5.13 Maximise the potential of our towns and villages and address dereliction and vacancy	Manage and protect the built heritage within the County	Preparation and adoption of a County Monaghan Retail Development Strategy in 2016 Ongoing identification and addition of properties and buildings onto the Derelict Sites Register. 17 sites added to the Register and 16 at an initial stage of the process in 2016. One Endangerment Notice issued in 2016

Museum	5.3 Develop Arts and Culture in Monaghan by giving greater effect to National Policies with special emphasis on engaging younger generations to become involved and aware of the benefits of Arts and Culture in self-development and education.	Develop a programme of educational and engaging activities aimed at younger people	Over 7,500 students from around the county and surrounding hinterland have taken part of museum led programmes of the last 12 months New programme of activities for 2017 has been published

Objective 6: Ensure there is an appropriately resourced, skilled and motivated workforce to meet the priorities and objectives of the organisation.			
Department	**Corporate Plan Sub-Category**	**Business Plan Objective**	**Progress**
Housing	6.4 Create a positive and safe working environment including good employee relations, agreed HR policies and procedures, and good health, safety and welfare practices.		The development of a SSWP for outdoor staff, and an IT supporting base through Laserfiche to ensure clear and easily utilised recording process for health and safety Completion of health and safety manual for the housing section and education of staff in the information in that manual
Human Resource Management	6.1 Develop a workforce that is equipped with the skills and competencies to meet the challenges of our evolving work environment	Manage recruitment	Monaghan County Council conducted 30 recruitment competitions during 2016; 81 offers were made and 68 candidates accepted offers as follows: 12 posts filled permanently by external candidates including 6 in General Operative posts 9 posts filled permanently by promotion of existing staff 7 seasonal posts were filled by external candidates including 6 in General Operative posts 13 posts were filled on a temporary basis by external candidates including 9 Clerical Officers 22 positions were filled on an acting basis 4 Retained Fire Fighters

			were recruited
		Improve the quality and diversity of employment	The Council provided training opportunities under the Jobbridge, Gateway and Graduate programmes throughout 2016
	6.2 Implement staff development strategies through training and development, induction, probation, performance management, attendance management and leadership development.	Implement annual training and development programme	During 2016 the training programme delivered in-house training to staff covering Project Management, Data Protection, Health and Safety, and other skills related programmes
			Twenty two staff members were approved assistance for courses of further education.
		Operate attendance management system	Absenteeism reduced to 3.5%
	6.3 Create a positive and safe working environment including good employee relations, agreed HR policies and procedures, and good health, safety and welfare practices.	Implement efficient and effective workplace practices	The implementation of Version 19 of Core was completed in September 2016. In addition, Core HPS training support was provided to all Line Managers and all staff using the system.
			The Superannuation Data Readiness Project commenced in October 2015 and continued throughout 2016. The Council expect to complete this element of the project in October 2017.
			The timetable for the rollout of the Health & Safety module of the Core project will be notified to the Council in

| | | | 2017.

The PMDS module of the Core project is at pilot stage. It is expected that the rollout of the module will commence in Q4 2017. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 6.4 Create a positive and safe working environment including good employee relations, agree HR policies and procedures, and good health, safety and welfare practices | Implement retrospective Garda Vetting where appropriate | Work is ongoing on retrospective Garda Vetting of staff involved in relevant work, with 50% completed to date |
| Museum | 6.2 Implement staff development strategies through training and development, induction, probation, performance management, attendance management and leadership development. | Source training opportunities for the development of all staff | Each staff member has received both in house and off site training in the development of their roles on annual basis based on a needs analysis. |

Objective 7:   Provide appropriate resources combined with agile information systems aligned to the organisation's strategy and requirements.

Department	Corporate Plan Sub-Category	Business Plan Objective	Progress
Housing	7.1 Provide a modern and secure ICT infrastructure which complies with industry standards and best practice.		Continuing the development and use of the Laserfiche document management and work flow system within the housing section in 2016 – Planned maintenance/ Grants sections.
Housing	7.5 Develop a mobile applications plan.		Increasing usage of laserfiche into the grants process on technical staff mobile devices; and health and safety forms incorporated onto mobile platforms for outdoor staff
Housing	7.11 Seek to maximise the financial resources available to the organisation		Ensured that full allocation of funding to Monaghan County Council was drawn down and expenditure secured under the various operational headings in an effective and efficient manner
Information Systems	7.1 Provide a modern and secure ICT infrastructure which complies with industry standards and best practice	Review wide area network connectivity across the organization Implement power management software Carry out a security audit	• WAN connectivity documented and plan in progress for upgrade of links • PC power saving software rolled out • Deferred to 2017 •

		Review current Anti-virus solution and upgrade or replace	Existing solution upgraded and additional functionality being reviewed
		Migrate Web hosting from LGMA	Implemented on-premise hosting facilities
		Update Uninterruptable Power System	UPS replaced in HQ
Information Systems	7.2 Develop and implement a Product Replacement programme	Upgrade Agresso Financial Management System	Managed system upgrade including implementation of Invoice scanning, workflow and procurement

Piloted agresso mobile task approval solution on behalf of Local Government Sector |
		Continue implementation of Laserfiche Enterprise Content Management System	Ongoing support and development of Laserfiche in Housing Department and Debt Management Unit, and implementation initiated in Motortax and Corporate Governance
		Replace gPlan application	ArcGIS system implemented
		Replace LGMA ePayments system with Agresso WebPay solution	Deferred to 2017 as per national roll-out plan by LGMA.
		Replace LGMA Low Value Payments processing System	Implemented Lighthouse BCS system and automated interfaces to Bank of Ireland transaction processing system and Agresso

		Support implementation of National Library Management System	Delayed to 2107 due to Cavan/Monaghan Library Merger issues.
		Upgrade parking fines system	System upgrade in progress. To be completed Q1 2017.
		Review handheld revenue collection system	Upgraded IRIS system and replaced hand held devices
Information Systems	7.3 Provide Wi-Fi facilities for public access to the internet	Install Wi-Fi in major council buildings	Public Wi-Fi implemented in Monaghan and Carrickmacross Towns

Staff and Guest Wi-Fi implemented in HQ and Carrickmacross Civic Offices |
Information Systems	7.4 Improve and expand our customer online services	Continue website development	Complete website redevelopment project initiated. To be completed Q1 2017.
		Enhance interactive mapping applications	Improved Content delivered
Information Systems	7.5 Develop a mobile applications plan	Implement a Mobile Device Management Solution	Review of MDM Solutions in progress. Selection and implementation of solution scheduled for Q1 2017
		Develop and pilot test applications	A suite of mobile solutions implemented including Environmental Inspections, Playpark inspections, ESB Meter Readings, Vehicle Inspections, Safe System of Work Practice, and Fire Hydrant Inspections

Objective 8: Develop and implement sound financial, management and control systems to enable organisational and operational efficiency.			
Department	**Corporate Plan Sub-Category**	**Business Plan Objective**	**Progress**
Housing	8.2 Adopt a co-ordinated approach to ensure financial control is implemented consistently and effectively across the whole organisation.		Specific progress improvements made through use of IT in the information transfer between Estate Management Section (Housing) and Revenue Collectors (Finance) to secure improved financial control/management of rent payments.
Housing	8.5 Develop and implement strategies to achieve effective procurement that delivers value for money.		Implementation of framework agreements for the procurement of housing maintenance services Progression of the tender for Turnkey projects in the provision of 55 social housing units by private housebuilders
Finance	8.2 Adopt a coordinated approach to ensure financial control is implemented consistently and effectively across the whole organisation	Prepare and submit draft budget data to annual budget meeting in accordance with Accounting Code of Practice	Budget Adopted
Finance	8.6 Ensure that Financial Management and Control Systems are up to date and have the necessary functional capacity	Maintain and upgrade Agresso system to ensure maximum functionality / Implement Milestone 4	Milestone 4 update successfully completed

Finance	8.4 Maintain a financial accounting and management framework that is consistent with the objectives established for the public sector by the government and consistent with the accounting code of practice	Compile the Annual Financial Statement in accordance with the Accounting Code of Practice	Annual Financial Statement to be completed by 31st March 2017
Finance	8.5 Develop and implement strategies to achieve effective procurement that delivers value for money	Provide a procurement service to the organisation and supports to the public in the area of public procurement	Procurement conducted in line with the requirements of Public sector reform, the OGP, EU Directives and National Guidelines,
Finance	8.6 Ensure regular monitoring of budgets, follow-up on exceptions and timely reporting in all relevant areas	Facilitate budget monitoring by budget holders through training in Milestone 4 enquiries, making available CCAS systems and developing suitable enquiries	Milestone 4 training ongoing
Finance	8.7 Ensure that all payroll and suppliers are paid promptly and in compliance with both legal and regulatory obligations and internal control procedures	Ensure regular and timely payment of payroll and supplier payments	Payroll and supplier payments completed on time each week
Museum	8.3 Ensure that Financial Management and Control Systems are up to date and have the necessary functional capacity.	Manage monitor the museum budget	Budget is reviewed in a monthly basis and cost saving are indentified where viable. Funding for specific programmes of activities id sourced on an annual basis from organisations such the Heritage Council and the Dept of Arts,

			Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
Planning	8.3 Ensure that Financial Management and Control Systems are up to date and have the necessary functional capacity.	Implement development contribution scheme and ensure compliance through appropriate legislative processes	Ongoing application of Development Contribution Scheme for County Monaghan and collection of contributions

Financial management software purchased and implemented |