

# **Monaghan County Council**



## **Annual Report 2017**



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## 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 2017. I was greatly honoured to be elected as Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council and I would like to thank my Sinn Féin party colleagues and fellow Councillors for giving me this opportunity.

It was with great pride that I accepted the award of Local Authority of the Year 2017 on behalf of Monaghan County Council at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. These awards showcase and celebrate the best of Local Government in Ireland. Monaghan County Council was commended for its drive to continuously improve and deliver better services to the citizens of Monaghan.

2017 also saw Glaslough Village taking the Gold Accreditation in the Entente Florale competition and I had the pleasure of travelling to Slovenia to accept this award on behalf of Monaghan County Council and the Community of Glaslough.

The past year saw the commencement of the formal process of preparing a new County Development Plan 2019-2025. The Plan provides a vision and outlook for the future development of the county up to 2025 with a longer term view also taken beyond 2025. A series of public meetings were held throughout the county and members of the public were invited to make submissions and observations on the plan and its implications for the county.

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.

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 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 from my fellow Councillors and I commend them for their commitment.



**Cathy Bennett**  
**Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council**

### **Introduction by Chief Executive**

I am delighted to present Monaghan County Council's Annual Report for 2017. Within this report you will read about the activities and progress within the Council's wide range of functional areas. During 2017, Monaghan Co Co delivered on significant infrastructural improvements, maintained and enhanced key services and led the way in public service delivery.

In 2017 significant progress was made in delivery of capital building projects by the Council. A co-ordinated approach has been taken by the Senior Management Team in the: identification, selection, funding and progress of capital projects that will deliver tangible benefits to the county as a whole.

We have progressed to design stage several capital projects in the county including; Refurbishment of No. 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan Town as new civic offices; Gate House 2 Lough Muckno - develop as new town Library; Newbliss Courthouse - develop in conjunction with Tyrone Guthrie Centre as Arts Town House; Old Market House, Clones - develop as new Civic Building; Clones Old PO - renovation as Arts Centre; New Civic Defence HQ at Annahagh; New Fire Stations - Ballybay & Castleblayney; Old Market House renovation in Carrickmacross; Consultancy process for the redevelopment of Hope Castle and the Annex; Ulster Canal Greenway; Rossmore Park

The provision of social and affordable housing remains a key priority with all viable options for the delivery of housing units being pursued. In 2017 Monaghan County Council had 39 houses under construction through Turnkey Construction Projects within a Capital budget of €7,779,468 and 34 of the 39 houses in question were completed and occupied in 2017.

The past year saw the commencement of the formal process of preparing a new County Development Plan 2019-2025.

The aim of this Plan will be to ensure that the future development of County Monaghan is promoted and managed in a sustainable way,

so as to improve the living standards of the people of the county, as well as facilitating social and cultural development, without jeopardising the ability of future generations to do likewise.

Monaghan County Council is leading the way in the fight against rural crime, with the country's first county wide Property Marking Scheme. Monaghan County Council purchased a dot peen machine which is available to communities to organise property marking events in their areas.

Monaghan had the honour of hosting the Irish Rugby team when they held a training session at Monaghan Rugby club in February. This provided a great opportunity to promote the county. The visit was a great success with over 3,000 attending the squads training session at Monaghan RFC.

2017 saw Monaghan partner with 5 border local authorities and Waterways Ireland to progress the Smithboro to Middletown extension to the Ulster Canal Greenway. €4.9 million has been secured under the EU INTERREG VA programme for this project and a core project team is now in place.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the staff of Monaghan Co Co on winning Chambers Ireland, Excellence in Local Government Awards – Local Authority of the Year 2017. This award acknowledges the commitment and dedication of all staff in the delivery of services for the people and businesses in Co Monaghan.

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 Cathaoirleach and elected representatives for their continued support throughout the year.



**Eamonn O'Sullivan**  
**Chief Executive of**  
**Monaghan County**  
**Council**





### ***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  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
|    | <p>Cathy Bennett (S.F.)<br/> Drumdesco,<br/> Scotstown<br/> Tel: (086) 2079509<br/> cathy.bennett@cllr.mona<br/> ghancoco.ie</p>                   |    | <p>Pat Treanor (S.F.)<br/> Bishopscourt,<br/> Clones<br/> Tel: (086) 2377177<br/> pat.treanor@cllr.monagh<br/> ancoco.ie</p>                           |
|    | <p>Seamus Coyle (F.F.)<br/> Mahon,<br/> Latton,<br/> Castleblayney<br/> Tel: (087) 6814067<br/> seamus.coyle@cllr.mona<br/> ghancoco.ie</p>        |    | <p>Sean Gilliland (F.G.)<br/> Boraghy,<br/> Loughmourne,<br/> Castleblayney<br/> Tel: (087) 9969946<br/> sean.gilliland@cllr.mona<br/> ghancoco.ie</p> |
|   | <p>Hugh McElvaney (Non-<br/> Party)<br/> Corcaghan,<br/> Monaghan<br/> Tel: (087) 2598858<br/> hugh.mcelvaney@cllr.mo<br/> naghancoco.ie</p>       |   | <p>Eva Humphreys (F.G.)<br/> Dernaroy,<br/> Newbliss<br/> Tel: 086 169 7603<br/> eva.humphreys@cllr.mo<br/> naghancoco.ie</p>                          |
| Monaghan Municipal District   |  |  |  |
|  | <p>Raymond Aughey (F.F.)<br/> Viscaya,<br/> Coolshannagh,<br/> Monaghan<br/> Tel: (087) 0992676<br/> raymond.aughey@cllr.m<br/> onaghancoco.ie</p> |  | <p>Sean Conlon (S.F.)<br/> Rakeeragh,<br/> Monaghan<br/> Tel: (087) 2936792<br/> sean.conlon@cllr.monag<br/> hancoco.ie</p>                            |
|  | <p>Paudge Connolly<br/> 3 Coolshannagh View,<br/> Monaghan (Non-Party)<br/> Tel: (087) 2021414<br/> paudge.connolly@cllr.mo<br/> naghancoco.ie</p> |  | <p>David Maxwell (F.G.)<br/> Killymarley,<br/> Monaghan<br/> Tel: (086) 8224545<br/> david.maxwell@cllr.mon<br/> aghancoco.ie</p>                      |

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
|    | <p>Brian McKenna (S.F.)<br/> Derryrellan,<br/> Killybrone,<br/> Emyvale<br/> Tel: (047) 82917<br/> (087) 2746483<br/> brian.mckenna@crr.monaghancoco.ie</p> |    | <p>Seamus Treanor (Non-Party)<br/> 14 Old Cross Square,<br/> Monaghan<br/> Tel: (087) 2110077<br/> seamus.treanor@crr.monaghancoco.ie</p>         |
| <p align="center"><b>Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District</b></p>        |   |  |   |
|    | <p>Aidan Campbell (F.G.)<br/> 2 Blaeberry Walk,<br/> Castleblayney<br/> Tel: (087) 9003860<br/> aidan.campbell@crr.monaghancoco.ie</p>                      |    | <p>Colm Carthy (S.F.)<br/> 22 Inver Park,<br/> Carrickmacross,<br/> Co. Monaghan<br/> Tel: (087) 6837180<br/> colm.carthy@crr.monaghancoco.ie</p> |
|   | <p>Jackie Crowe (S.F.)<br/> 4 Oliver Plunkett Park,<br/> Drumillard,<br/> Castleblayney<br/> Tel: (086) 6033398<br/> jackie.crowe@crr.monaghancoco.ie</p>   |   | <p>Noel Keelan (S.F.)<br/> Donaghmoyne Road,<br/> Carrickmacross<br/> Tel: (087) 2468878<br/> noel.keelan@crr.monaghancoco.ie</p>                 |
|  | <p>Padraig McNally (F.F.)<br/> Nafferty,<br/> Carrickmacross<br/> Tel: (087) 2800784<br/> padraig.mcnelly@crr.monaghancoco.ie</p>                           |  | <p>P.J. O'Hanlon (F.F.)<br/> Castleblayney Road,<br/> Carrickmacross<br/> Tel: (087) 2416954<br/> pj.ohanlon@crr.monaghancoco.ie</p>              |

## Finance

### Upgrade of Financial Management System

Monaghan County Council commenced the Milestone 4 Project during 2015 and completed it in June 2016. This Project essentially involved 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 rollout 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 were tested.

### 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.

### **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 2017 Monaghan County Council made payments of less than €1,000 in relation to compensation and interest relating to late payments.

### **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 2017 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 2017 Monaghan County Council increased its Rates Collection percentage from 82% to 85%.

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.

## **Corporate Services**



The Corporate Services section also produces key documents as follows:

**2016 Annual Report** which covers the activities and progress of the Councils 19 sections and Municipal Districts during 2016 was presented and adopted by Council on 03 April 2017.

**The Annual Service Plan**, which sets out the work programme for 2017 in line with the agreed budget was presented and adopted by the Council on 06 March 2017.

The Corporate Services Section undertook an extensive review and update of its **Corporate Risk Register** and individual sections Risk Registers in Quarter 3 in 2017. The outcome of these reviews was presented to the Management Team and Audit Committee at its December 2017 meeting.

In line with its Governance Function, the section reviewed and produced a number of its policies and procedures during the year. These included a policy on the drafting of Chief Executive Orders and a policy on the Use of the Seal of Monaghan County Council.

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](http://www.noac.ie).

The National Oversight and Audit Commission produced its report for 2015 during the year. The Corporate Section reviewed the report and produced a summary comparing Monaghan County Council's performance against other Local Authorities and in relation to some indicators with other similar size Local Authorities (Level 5 Local Authorities)

## 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 2017:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Council Meeting (Inc AGM and Special Meeting) | 19 |
| Municipal District Meetings                   | 36 |
| Corporate Policy Group                        | 17 |
| Strategic Policy Committees                   | 16 |
| Joint Policing Committee                      | 5  |
| Twinning Committee                            | 4  |
| 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 2017/2018 was 49,119 an increase of 11 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 a number of areas during the year 2017 such as Capital Housing project at Kilnacloy and Landfill operations both under the Public Spending Code , Low

Value Purchase Cards , Cash point checking and Motor Tax Stock. Audit Reports were prepared for Management and the Audit Committee. The reports included recommendations for improvement where necessary.

Other work included:-

Supporting the Audit Committee and Management by following up on and reporting on the delivery of all agreed internal audit recommendations.

Assisting the Committee in developing and delivering the Annual work programmes.

### **Freedom of Information Requests**

A total of 75 '*Freedom of Information*' requests were received and processed during 2017 from a mixed source of business people, journalists, clients and other persons. This was a slight decrease on the figure of 83 requests received in 2016.

### **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 PJ O'Hanlon, Cathaoirleach visited Prince Edward Island for the Annual Settlers Day Celebrations. The Cathaoirleach was accompanied by Mr Eamonn O'Sullivan, Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Canada Day celebrations were held in Monaghan Town on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017. Expenditure on Twinning amounted to circa €19,671.08.

### **Gaeilge**

Activities undertaken by Monaghan County Council in terms of Irish Language Initiatives during 2017 include:

As part of the Council's Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme, thirty six part scholarships were awarded to local secondary school students at a ceremony in May 2017. The scholarships assisted the students in participating in Irish language tuition in a Gaeltacht college during the summer months.

The ceremony was a joint initiative between Monaghan County Council's Coiste Gaeilge and Muineachán Le Gaeilge.

The Minister of State at the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Mr. Joe Mc Hugh T.D., approved Monaghan County Council's scheme under the Official Languages Act. The scheme shall remain in force for a period of 3 years from **02 October 2017** or until a new scheme has been approved, whichever is the later.

### **Civic Receptions**

During 2017, Monaghan County Council held hosted the following Civic Receptions:

January – Civic Reception to honour the Monaghan Ladies achievements on winning the Ulster Final and reaching the All Ireland Final in the previous year.

February – Civic Reception to honour Donaghmoyne Ladies GFC on winning the All Ireland Senior Club Football Final

November – Civic Reception to honour the Glaslough Entente Florale Committee on winning a gold medal in the European Entente Florale Competition

#### **Local Authority of the Year**

Monaghan County Council was named Local Authority of the Year 2017 at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. The 14th annual Awards ceremony was held in association with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and showcases and celebrates the best of Local Government in Ireland. The Council had submitted seven nominations under the various categories promoted by Chambers Ireland. In addition to winning the overall award the Council also won the ***Joint Local Authority Initiative Award*** for the Cavan Monaghan Science Festival, in partnership with Cavan County Council.

## Corporate Assets

The Corporate Assets Section is part of Governance and Corporate Services and is responsible for:

- Property Asset Management
- Facility Management
- Capital Building Projects
- Energy Efficiency
- Public Street Lighting

## Property 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**
- **Procure a new IT based Property Asset Management System**
- **Seek opportunities to address derelict buildings and property.**

The Council has a property inventory in place, managed through a GIS database system. As of the end of 2017, the Council has in excess of 1,700 individual properties comprising of land and buildings. Of these, the Council has 70 buildings, of which 62 are owned and 8 are rented.

The Council works closely with the national property database and 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.

Significant work has been done in 2017 to develop the property asset management system; including identifying and putting in place a new IT based asset management system to allow for the effective management of the Council's property assets.

The Council is continuously and actively reviewing its buildings portfolio, seeking opportunities to carry out restoration works to buildings currently in use and also seeking out opportunities for funding for conservation of our older buildings to bring them back into active use.

## Facility Management

The Council seeks to ensure that all facility management services in corporate buildings are delivered in accordance with best value principles and to an appropriate quality. The Council's aim is to ensure that all corporate buildings are fit for purpose in terms of condition and suitability for customers and staff. This is achieved by reviewing facilities and identifying projects to undertake upgrades.

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**
- **Tender for new management contract for Monaghan Leisure Centre**



- **Review exiting office facilities and prepare a three year plan of office facilities for the effective 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 through the introduction of 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 puts in place programmes for building refurbishment, energy efficiency upgrades and building use.

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

The management contract for Monaghan Leisure Centre will be retendered before the end of 2017. This will ensure value for money and a continued effective and efficient delivery of leisure facilities. The Leisure Centre is currently managed by Coral Leisure.

A number of upgrade projects are successfully completed in 2017.

- Solar PV panels to Monaghan Fire Station.
- New windows, doors and LED lighting to Monaghan Branch Library.
- New boiler upgrade for Monaghan Branch Library.
- New boiler upgrade for Glen HQ building.
- Upgrade of wiring in Glen HQ.
- Roof insulation in Glen HQ.
- New LED lighting in Clones library.

## **Capital Projects**

In 2017 Corporate Assets progressed a number of projects that are in line with the strategic objectives in the Corporate Plan and

carried out the project appraisal process to have them included on the Capital Programme. These projects are being advanced in parallel employing Project Management principles, which allows for a consistency of approach to the management and delivery of projects across the organisation in line with the public spending code and the construction works management framework.

**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) 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.

Key Actions:

**Old Machinery Yard, Plantation, Monaghan –** Site clearance complete.

**Monaghan PEACE Campus** - Progressed to detailed design stage, funding decision expected in early 2018.

**Office Refurbishment to 1 Dublin St. –** Redevelop for planning section. Design team appointed & progress through Part 8 and detailed design in 2017. Go to construction in 2018.

**Hope Castle Gate Lodge No. 2 –** Redevelop as new branch Library. Design team appointed & progress through Part 8 and detailed design in 2017. Go to construction in 2018 subject to funding.

**Newbliss Courthouse, Arts Centre –** Redevelopment in partnership with Tyrone Guthrie Centre. Business case prepared for funding and design team procured in 2017. Complete detailed design and decision on funding to allow progress to construction in 2018.

**Clones Civic Building, former Market House** - Progressed to construction stage in 2017. Ballybay-Clones MD to relocate to facility in 2018.

**Clones PO (Arts Centre)** - Redevelop Arts Centre. Design team appointed progress through Part 8 and construction in 2017/2018.

**New Civil Defence HQ** - Design team appointed to complete detailed design in 2017 and commence construction in 2018.

**Castleblayney Fire Station** – Appoint design team to progress design and part 8. Subject to funding approval proceed to construction in 2018.

The Council continues to review its buildings portfolio to identify opportunities to carry out restoration works to buildings currently in use and also seeks a strategic alignment of use and funding opportunities for conservation of our older buildings to maximise our facilities.

## Energy Efficiency

National and EU legislation requires public bodies, including Monaghan County Council, to achieve a 33% energy efficiency improvement by 2020. All public bodies submit their annual energy usage to SEAI for monitoring, reporting and for independent verification.

In 2017, 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, improve our energy efficiency, and work towards the 2020 target.

Key Actions:

- Progress energy saving projects and secure part funding through the SEAI BEC scheme for Council facilities.
- Progress the upgrade of Public Lighting to energy efficient LED lights.
- The Council continues to strive to play a leadership role in energy efficiency and to be 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 its strategic objective.

### Breakdown of Energy by Use

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Thermal (Heating) | 12.1% |
| Transport         | 16.9% |
| Electricity       | 69.4% |
| Renewables        | 1.6%  |

### Significant Energy Users

Public Lighting

Monaghan Leisure Centre

MTEK II offices

Glen HQ

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 2017 will be completed by May 2018.

***The Council have improved energy efficiency between 2009 and 2016 by 24.4% (SEAI annual report) and continues to be ahead of target to meet the 33% target set for 2020. The action plan for 2017 seeks to achieve***

***energy savings of a further 5% and stay ahead of target.***

Key Actions:

SEAI Better Energy Community (BEC) scheme.

- Solar PV panels to Monaghan Fire Station.
- New windows, doors and LED lighting to Monaghan Branch Library.
- New boiler upgrade for Monaghan Branch Library.
- New boiler upgrade for Glen HQ.
- Roof insulation in Glen HQ.
- Upgrade of wiring in Glen HQ.
- New LED lighting in Clones Library.
- Smart street lighting and Wi-Fi in Clones.
- Capital funding for continuing upgrade on street lights on Non National Routes
- Funding from TII for upgrade of street lighting on National routes

## **Public Street 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.

Monaghan County Council in 2017 continued to implement an Asset Management approach to the management of the county's public street lighting. 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 has 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 34% of the Council's overall energy usage and is a key element in the Council achieving the energy efficiency target. Large parts of the Council's lighting assets are reaching the end of design life and becoming obsolete, and will need to be replaced with modern equivalents. A number of initiatives have been commenced and implemented in 2017 to improve the accuracy and efficiency of the public lighting stock.

Key Actions:

- Secure funding from TII to upgrade lights on national routes to LED lights.
- Upgrade of lights on non national routes with LED lights.
- Tender for new public lighting maintenance contract, in partnership with Louth and Cavan County Councils.
- [www.deadsureapp.com](http://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.

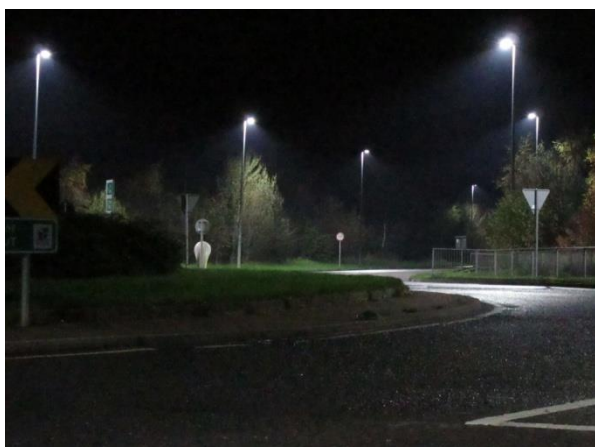
*Report a faulty street light*  
[www.deadsureapp.com](http://www.deadsureapp.com)

- 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.
- Working with Planning Section to take in charge lights in housing estates and to transfer these into the Council's maintenance and energy contracts. 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 5,700 at the end of 2016 to 6019 at the end of 2017. This is due to a combination of taking in charge lights from housing developments and bringing previously out of contract lights into contract.

**Pictures of Lighting Upgrade on Monaghan Town Bypass replacing old inefficient lights with modern efficient LED lights resulting in a 55% energy reduction and improved illumination** *(note that the new LED light given a clean white light that is easier on the eye).*



## Information Systems

The Information Systems (I.S.) department is responsible for providing ICT services to support the strategic goals of the organisation and the delivery of services to citizens. 2017 was a challenging year with the ever-growing threat from cyber-crime and the increasing demands on resources to ensure our systems are protected.



**Regional I.S. Staff Development Day 2017**  
*I.S. Staff pictured with Chief Executive Eamonn O'Sullivan*

Staff changes in 2017 included the promotion of Suzanne Monahan to I.S. Project Leader - Security Officer, and Noel Scott also took up a contract position as I.S. Project Leader.

## Business Applications and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

The I.S. department is responsible for the acquisition, support and development of software applications and GIS to meet the needs of the organisation. The core business systems supported include Agresso FMS, iPlan, iReg, iHouse, Laserfiche ECMS, ArcGIS, and GIS Viewers.

The I.S. department also provides and supports mobile devices and remote access solutions to facilitate field workers and enable more efficient business processes.



In 2017 the I.S. department: -

- Launched its redeveloped web site [www.monaghan.ie](http://www.monaghan.ie).
- Implemented Map Alerter, a multi-channel targeted citizen alert service
- Reviewed Social Media accounts and developed a campaign to grow followers and improve post engagement
- Developed a Road Incident App for location-based recording of road incidents. A public viewer will be made available for citizens in 2018.
- Implemented a paperless meetings solution
- Continued to roll-out Laserfiche Enterprise Content Management System
- Assisted with the implementation of the National Library Management System

| Website Statistics  | 2017    | 2016    |
|---|---------|---------|
| <b>Total Page Views</b><br><a href="http://www.monaghan.ie">www.monaghan.ie</a>                 | 493,924 | 427,222 |
| Social Media Statistics   | 2017    | 2016    |
| <b>Facebook Page Likes</b><br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/Monaghancoco">@Monaghancoco</a> | 5,502   | 2,924   |
| <b>Twitter Followers</b><br><a href="https://twitter.com/MonaghanCoCo">@MonaghanCoCo</a>        | 2,982   | 2,398   |

### Infrastructure and Security

The I.S. department is responsible for the Council's network infrastructure and for ensuring the availability and security of ICT systems and services. Much of the ICT estate has reached end of life and in 2017 the I.S. department initiated an extensive upgrade / replacement programme which will continue well into 2018. The main work accomplished in 2017 includes:

- Upgrade works to the Council's main comms room including replacement of the air conditioning system, installation of energy efficient LED lighting, works to ceiling to improve access to cables, and electrical works
- Replacement of core switches and repatching of cables
- Award of tender to upgrade main wide area network links

Considerable time and effort is spent implementing, upgrading, monitoring and managing a wide range of security measures from endpoint protection, and email and web filtering, to firewall management and ensuring systems are backed up successfully.

In 2017 an ICT security audit was carried out by external security experts. Several risks were identified and were categorised according to severity, i.e. potential impact on the business. Remediation actions commenced in 2017 and will be progressed throughout 2018.

It is widely acknowledged that end users present a major weakness in the security chain. In recognition of this, the I.S. department developed a security awareness programme and security awareness training was delivered to the vast majority of staff during the year.

### Shared Service initiatives

The I.S. department achieves efficiencies and savings by working with neighbouring local authorities on areas of common interest such as policy development, staff training and procurement. In 2017 Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim, Longford and Louth County Council jointly tendered for the provision of Advanced Network Support Services and Software Asset Management Consultancy services.

### I.S. Service Desk

The I.S. department allocates signification resources to providing technical support and assistance to Staff, Elected Representatives and Citizens.

### Service Desk Statistics

| Call Statistics          | 2017 | 2016 |
|--------------------------|------|------|
| Total Calls Logged       | 3458 | 2071 |
| Avg. Calls per Month     | 288  | 173  |
| Avg. Calls per Day       | 14   | 8    |
| Resolved within 24 Hours | 50%  | 69%  |

## Human Resources

### Recruitment

The Human Resource Management Section processed applications in relation to 34 competitions during 2017. From the 522 applications received, 266 were male and 256 were female.

As a result of the competitions held for the posts, 146 applicants were deemed qualified and placed on panels.

In 2017, 94 posts were offered and 88 staff members were appointed.

### HR Payroll and Superannuation System (Core)

The Superannuation Data Readiness Project commenced in October 2015 and is expected to be completed in June 2018.

The Health & Safety module of the Core project was rolled out 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 2018.

### Training and Development

During 2017 40 Health and Safety, Skills related and general training courses were delivered in-house to staff. In addition to the in-house courses 130 staff attended various training courses, conferences, seminars, workshops outside of the county.

17 staff members were approved assistance for courses of further education.

### Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Accreditation

- In early 2017, Monaghan County Council commenced work on gaining the Engineers Ireland CPD Accreditation for the local authority with a target date of December 2017 for full completion of the process. The CPD standard is Ireland's national standard recognising organisations which use workplace learning and development systems to drive engineering led business transformations and innovations. The standard is formally supported by the Irish Government, through the

Department of Education and Skills, as part of the strategy for a knowledge economy. A cross departmental committee of 10 people, to include engineering, planning and administrative staff, was put in place to work on the requirements for the accreditation application and the first meeting was held in May 2017. Seven criteria were set out by Engineers Ireland for Monaghan County Council to meet as follows:

- Compilation of CPD Policy Document, CPD Committee Charter and CPD Strategy for 2017 – 2020
- Identification of creative and innovation projects and works undertaken by Monaghan County Council employees
- Performance management aligning CPD outcomes to include the provision of records of training undertaken by staff
- Mentoring and coaching programmes
- Provision of competence maps and talent support programmes
- Knowledge sharing and knowledge management in the organisation
- Formalisation of external “learning” linkages
- The committee worked on each of these criteria through Summer and Autumn 2017 and on completion of all the requirements, a formal application was made to Engineers Ireland, Clyde Road for the accreditation award.
- An audit was undertaken by Engineers Ireland on Monaghan County Council CPD policies and procedures on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and the successful notification of a 2 year award was made to Monaghan County Council in early January 2018. The CPD committee must now work on maintaining the accreditation with

further Engineers Ireland audits scheduled for the end of 2018 and 2019.

- The Chief Executive, Eamonn O’ Sullivan, the Training Officer, Ann Durnin and the Head of the CPD Committee, Claire Hughes were presented with the CPD Accreditation parchment on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in the Engineers Ireland Head Office on Clyde Road in Dublin.



### Headcount

| The staff complement for Monaghan County Council at 31st December 2017 was: Core Staff | Number     | Whole Time Equivalent |
|--|------------|-----------------------|
| Managerial   | 4          | 4                     |
| Clerical/Administrative  | 157        | 142.78                |
| Professional/Technical   | 71         | 69.50                 |
| Outdoor  | 142        | 132.48                |
| Supernumeraries  | 2          | 2                     |
| <b>Total Core Staff</b>  | <b>376</b> | <b>350.76</b>         |
| Contract Posts   | 7          | 6.13                  |
| Temporary/Seasonal   | 28         | 27.07                 |
| Retained Firefighters  | 48         | 48                    |
| Non DoEC&LG  | 12         | 9.15                  |
| <b>Total Other Posts</b>   | <b>95</b>  | <b>90.35</b>          |

### Retirements during 2017

|                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dan Collins          | Town Foreman                |
| Patrick McCabe       | General Operative           |
| Brendan Callan       | General Operative           |
| Pat Brady            | Foreman/Craftsman           |
| Madeline Fitzpatrick | Senior Staff Officer        |
| Damien McBride       | Water & Sewerage            |
|                      | Caretaker Grade 5           |
| Maria McKenna        | Assistant Staff Officer     |
| Paul McGinn          | Station Officer             |
| Paul Rooney          | Fire Fighter                |
| Seamus Grogan        | Senior Executive Technician |

## **Corporate Procurement**

### **Procurement Officer**

A full time Procurement Officer was appointed in March 2017. This appointment ensures the implementation of Monaghan County Council's Corporate Procurement Plan, provide procurement advice and support to Council personnel to help ensure that goods, services and works are procured in compliance with all relevant legislation and guidelines, while managing risk and achieving value for money.

### **Corporate Procurement Plan**

A new Corporate Procurement Plan was approved by the Management Team on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, 2017. The Plan incorporates a series of actions, which will address items that were raised in the procurement audit.

### **Procurement Structure**

In order to streamline Procurement across the Council each Director has selected Technical Personnel (Procurement Lead) and Administrative/support personnel (Admin Lead) and where possible stand-ins to lead procurement in their respective MDs and Sections. These personnel form part of a new Procurement team for Monaghan County Council.

## **Training**

A programme of Procurement Training was carried out to Procurement Leads and Admin Leads during 2017. The training has provided a more focused expertise in each MD and section to lead, guide and support all procurement operations, and ensure consistent standards, for both the technical and administrative aspects of Procurement.

### **Procurement Procedures**

Monaghan County Council's Procurement Procedures manual was revised during 2017 and will be approved and published in early 2018. The procedures will take account of any changes in procurement nationally and any changes introduced as a result of the Council's upgraded Financial Management System, Milestone 4.

### **Publication of Contracts**

Monaghan County Council is obliged to report quarterly on public contracts (tenders) awarded, for the Model Publication Scheme, which is part of the Freedom of Information regime. The publication relates to goods/services contracts over €25k and works contracts over €50k. These contracts can be found on the following link:-

<https://monaghan.ie/corporateservices/procurement/>



## Municipal District of Castleblayney-Carrickmacross

### Road Infrastructure

In 2017 this District managed an investment of €2.21M in the local and regional road network resulting in 12 roads strengthened with a total length of 12.677km. 8 additional roads totalling 18km were surface dressed with a total investment of €324,450.

A 2017 safety enhancement scheme of the N2 between Castleblayney and Carrickmacross will see safety improvements to four dangerous junctions. Funding has also been provided by TII to begin developing a design to fully upgrade the N2 from Castleblayney to Ardee.

The N53 Dundalk to Castleblayney Road also received a significant investment with the resurfacing of 7.6Km between Castleblayney and the Ballinacarry Bridge on the Armagh border, with an estimated project cost of €1.2M.

The Ballybay Road junction in Carrickmacross was improved through a Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme with a budget cost of €85,000.

### Buildings/Land

The Municipal District assists and supports other agencies in the investment and management of built assets, many of which will contribute significantly to the tourism product of the region when works are completed.

The Carrickmacross Market House, home to Carrickmacross Lace, saw the first phase of a refurbishment scheme commence in 2017. Part-funding for the project was secured through the REDZ programme. The investment, in phase one will be circa €400,000.



Carrickmacross Lace Demonstration

An Options Study of the Hope Castle and Annex buildings was carried out by CHL Consulting in 2017. It is intended that the recommendations of this study will inform and guide future investment in this very important heritage and tourism site.

Design consultants were appointed for the redevelopment of the Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen. Phase 1 seeks to carry out structural works and to stabilise the building fabric in preparation for the installation of a new interpretive exhibition. €188,636 was received in grant aid from the 2017 Art and Cultural fund for this project.

Design consultants have been appointed for the development of Gate Lodge 2 in Castleblayney which will become the location for a new regional library.

### Public Realm Investment

In 2017 the Municipal District had four projects funded under the *Town & Village Renewal Scheme* with a total budget allocation of €386,000. Public lighting and street furniture renewal works took place in Castleblayney and Carrickmacross. Public Wi-Fi has been provided in both towns also. A Heritage Trail was mapped and signed in Castleblayney and a picnic and parking area was provided in Inniskeen.

### Recreational Spaces/Open Spaces

The Municipal District secured funding and delivered a number of recreational schemes in

2017, including the Tullynaskeagh Linear Park in Carrickmacross which received €104,548 in grant funding. Upgrade works to the Monaghan Way and to paths on the White Island at Lough Muckno were also funded under Measure 3 of the 2017 Rural Recreational Scheme.

### Community Actions

The Municipal District works closely with local groups in order to better target investment and improve service delivery. The MD part-funds and works very closely with the Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce to help create a trade-friendly environment in the town. The Chamber assists in planning and provides valuable business feedback on proposed initiatives.

In Castleblayney the Town Regeneration Committee has been very active in providing focus for the business and community groups as evidenced in the entry into Ireland's Enterprising Town competition for which they received a Merit award.

The committee meets with the executive on a regular basis and leads initiatives intended to enhance the town environment and local trade.

The Tidy Towns groups are vitally important for the towns that they represent. In 2017 the towns of Carrickmacross, Castleblayney and Inniskeen all scored very well in the Tidy Towns competition with Carrickmacross doing particularly well in receiving a Silver Medal award. The Municipal District helps fund these groups and also provides additional supports throughout the year in order to give them the best opportunity to achieve their goals.

The Municipal District provides financial and logistical support to assist in the hosting of a large number of festivals in the District including Muckno Mania, St Patricks Day; the Carrickmacross Festival; and the Carrickmacross Arts Festival.



Launch of the Carrickmacross Arts Festival August 2017



Carrickmacross Festival, June 2017

### Community Groups

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017, this Municipal District held a presentation event for grant aid to local groups. A total of €49,350 of grant aid was awarded to over fifty local groups. In addition the Municipal District invested a further €89,800 in town events and local groups such as Chamber of Commerce and Tidy Towns etc.



At the Community Awards Night May 2017



Inniskeen St Patricks Day 2017

### **Derelict Sites/Dangerous Structures**

A number of properties both in Carrickmacross and Castleblayney have been served with 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; others will be entered on to the Derelict Sites Register; and some have been purchased by the Council.

The dangerous wall at the convent school in Carrickmacross was reconstructed in 2017.

### **Miscellaneous**

New Christmas lights were provided in Castleblayney in 2017 and the impact was very positive with a large turnout on the evening of the turning on of the lights.

The turning on of the lights in Carrickmacross was equally well attended and a number of new lights were added to the display including an impressive new artificial tree.

The process to commission a figurative statue celebrating the life and achievements of Big Tom McBride was commenced in 2017 and it is hoped that this statue will be delivered in 2018.

Competitive angling continues to be a significant attraction into this district with Lough Muckno hosting a number of international events. The long-term sustainability of Lough Muckno was enhanced in 2017 with the publishing of new bye-laws governing fishing and other activities in and around the lake.

A number of walking routes in and around Carrickmacross and Castleblayney were mapped in 2017 and it is hoped that these will form the basis for an application for funding in the 2018 call for outdoor recreation projects.



## **Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones**

### **Roads Programme 2017**

In 2017 Ballybay-Clones Municipal District undertook a substantial programme of road infrastructural development. The Municipal District carried out works to the value of nearly €1.79million under the restoration improvement grants scheme. Two low cost safety improvement projects were carried out during 2017 at a cost of €65,000

### **Tidy Towns**

Ballybay Tidy Towns launched 3 Year Plan in 2017. Clones Tidy Towns have continued to grow in numbers and have carried out many projects to help enhance the town and surrounding areas. The Municipal District continues to work closely with the Tidy Towns Committees

### **Men's Sheds in the Municipal District**

The Municipal District assisted both Ballybay and Clones men's sheds securing new accommodation in 2017. Ballybay Men's Shed is now located to the rear of the civic building in Ballybay Town. Clones Men's Shed is located at the old slaughterhouse. The Men's Sheds are a valuable asset to both towns and are always on hand to assist during festivals and other events.

### **St Patricks Day Parades**

2017 saw the largest attendance to date at the St Patricks Eve Parade in Clones. The Municipal District was delighted to extend an invitation to The Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Douglas Isle of Man who were visiting the County during the St Patricks holiday. There was also a very large attendance at the Ballybay St Patricks Day Parade. The Municipal District staff worked closely with the Chambers of Commerce to promote the parade in every way possible.

### **Clones Labyrinth**

The Municipal District in association with Clones Tidy Towns was delighted to welcome a group of 30 American visitors to Clones on a Sacred Journey. As part of this journey the

visitors wished to build a Labyrinth near the border as symbol of peace

### **Green Ribbon Event**

The Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District, Cllr Pat Treanor, presented a certificate of Recognition to The Largy College Young Social Innovators for their 'Mend a Mind – It's a Disorder not a Decision' project.

### **Community Funding**

72 community groups in the Ballybay Clones Municipal District area benefited from funding of almost €50000.



### **Thomas Treanor Award**

Thomas Treanor worked as assistant County Surveyor for the Clones No.1 Rural District Council. He was influential in setting up the Irish Volunteers in Wexford. He was one of over two hundred volunteers to participate in the Enniscorthy Rising and was interned after the Rising. In recognition of Thomas Treanors contribution to the cause of Irish freedom the Municipal District agreed to sponsor "The Thomas Treanor Award" to the student from Largy College Clones who obtained the highest score in History in their Junior Certificate examinations. The Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District Cllr Pat Treanor presented the Thomas Treanor award Eoin Fitzpatrick.

### **Free Wi-Fi Ballybay-Clones**

Free Wi-Fi was launched in the towns of Ballybay and Clones in June of 2017. Users are entitled to 1 hour usage per day. It is planned to extend Wi-Fi further in Clones Town in the coming months.

### **Sliabh Beagh Master Plan**

Ballybay-Clones Erne East Partnership the Ballybay-Clones Municipal in conjunction with



Fermanagh and Omagh District Council procured the services of the Paul Hogarth Company to develop a Masterplan for the Sliabh Beagh area. The plan is due to be launched in early 2018.

#### **Official opening of Famine Archway**

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 the annual Famine commemoration took place which also marked the official opening of the new Archway which was erected & also the launch of the book "A Time of Desolation- Clones Poor Law Union 1845-1845" which was written by local historian Brian Mac Donald which took place afterwards in Clones Courthouse. Minister for the Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs was present for the Famine Commemoration & also officiated at the book launch.

This project was many years in the planning & was undertaken by Clones Famine Committee in conjunction with Ballybay-Clones Municipal District & ABP Ireland.



#### **Town and Village Renewal/Clar /Rural Recreation Projects**

##### **Ballybay Park – Mart Entrance Works**

As part of funding for Town and Village Renewal, Ballybay-Clones Municipal District carried out significant upgrade works at the entrance to the mart in Ballybay. We worked closely with the mart and local businesses to provide a dual purpose space that can be modified to accommodate mart traffic at mart

times and provide additional parking spaces for the town park.

##### **Scotshouse Teen Hangout**

The Municipal District has continued working closely with the Scotshouse Community in order to develop a Teen Hangout and basketball court adjacent to the playground. The Teen Hangout and basketball court provides a recreational area for teenagers of Scotshouse. Works also included two speed ramps to control the speed in this 50km/hr zone and an upgrade of public lighting along this road.

Town and Village funding was secured in 2016 for the provision of a footpath linking Scotstown Village to The Ferns Estate and Gola Crest Estate on the Roslea Road. Public lighting was also upgraded and two points designated for safe crossing to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

The Municipal District has constructed a new footpath along the Cootehill Road that connects the village to Rockcorry National School. A controlled pedestrian crossing was installed outside Crannmór Estate. Public lighting was installed on the R188 along the new footpath within the 50km/hr zone and also along the Monaghan Road. Additional parking was provided in the Crannmór Estate. A polyhouse was supplied and installed in the village for the tidy towns group.

##### **Billy Fox Memorial Park – Entrance and Car parking Facilities**

Utilising CLAR Funding, Ballybay-Clones Municipal District carried out surfacing works at Billy Fox Memorial Park.

##### **REDZ Funding Clones**

##### **Erne Cafe Car park**

With the assistance of this funding a new car park is being developed for the lower Fermanagh street/Fitzpatrick square area at a cost in the region of €110,000. The site for this development was on the derelict sites register and consists of a derelict building commonly known as the former Erne Cafe. By progressing this project the MD are working towards dealing with the dereliction issues in

this area of the town and improvement in the visual appearance of the area. The project also addresses the lack of parking for businesses in this lower Fermanagh street area.



*View of derelict building former Erne Cafe*

### **Clones Linear Park**

Clones Linear Park consists of a 300m linear park to include a walking and cycling greenway adjacent to the disused Ulster Canal. The park links the N54 to the R202. In a national context, the Clones Linear Park forms part of the proposed route of an off road walking and cycling path along the route of the discussed Ulster Canal as set out in the draft Development Strategy for the Ulster Canal Greenway.



### **Clones Town Trail**

Under Redz funding the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones are developing a new town trail which will complement the existing Clones heritage trail. The trail consists of 20

new Trail signs, 4 Orientation panels and 8 Welcome to Clones signs. There are also 4 heritage signs developed for Ballybay. In conjunction with this the Municipal District also procured additional 9 'Historic Clones' banners to replace the banners hanging on the lamp posts on Fermanagh St. From June to September weekly free heritage walking tours took place in the town of Clones. The Municipal District was delighted to fund this initiative which is organised by The Ulster Canal Stores.

## **Regeneration**

### **Clones Town Team**

The Municipal District has established a Town Team in October 2017. The Town Team replaces the former Clones Regeneration committee.

The purpose of the town team will be to develop a 5 year plan for the town. The team will be community led and assisted by the Municipal District.

The Municipal District is continuing to seek to address dereliction in the town. The Municipal District has been working along with the Councils Economic and Community Development department to address derelict properties using the derelict sites legislation. To date through negotiations with property owners and derelict sites orders a number of properties have been successfully acquired. The Municipal District is currently assisting the Housing Dept in developing social housing proposals and applications for funding to progress these sites to social housing units.

### **Ballybay Regeneration Committee**

The Ballybay Regeneration committee held 9 meetings in 2017. In partnership with the regeneration committee, the Municipal District is continuing to address dereliction in Ballybay Town. Arising from the recently awarded funding under the Town and Village Renewal Programme for 2017 the Municipal District will arrange for the preparation of a comprehensive development plan for the town. This plan will be subject to public consultation and will develop a number of projects for so as to ensure that Ballybay is

best placed to avail of future funding opportunities.

#### **Recreational Funding 2016/2017**

Recreational funding was received from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs to improve the jetty and provide car parking facilities at Mullanary Lough Ballybay. This facility is regularly used by the public and in particular Tanagh outdoor education and training centre.

#### **Redevelopment of Clones Market House for Ballybay-Clones MD Offices**

Ballybay-Clones MD has approved the relocation of the district offices to the market house building in Clones town centre. Development of this building will help improve the Diamond area of the town and avoid dereliction of this building. A design team was appointed to develop a design and progress the project to construction and ultimately completion. A design has been developed and a contractor has been appointed with construction due to commence in early November. The project involves the subdivision of the ground floor to accommodate a Council chamber, public counter and office space. The first floor will accommodate open plan office space with the retention of the existing architectural building fabric.

#### **Redevelopment of Clones Old Post Office for Clones Arts Studios**

Funding has been received from the Department under the arts and cultural scheme 2016 for renovation and improvement works to Clones old post office building. This building was acquired from An Post by Monaghan County Council with the view to develop an arts & culture facility for the wider community. Further funding has been received through the PEACE IV programme for the provision and installation of arts equipment, audio and visual equipment and all associated materials.

#### **Magherarney Car park**

The Magherarney Development Association was successful under the Clár programme and has been granted an allocation of €30,000

towards the construction of a car park to serve the local school and church. The Association also received a sum of €2,300 from Monaghan County Council under the Community and Environment Grant Scheme 2017.

In conjunction with the Scoil Mhuire Magherarney Parents Association a series of fundraisers have been held. From these various events and with the support of the local community together with generous donations and sponsorship from local businesses in the area the association managed to raise a further amount of €30,000. The Municipal District provided additional support of €10,000 and necessary technical assistance to assist Magherarney Development Association to deliver this project in 2017.

#### **Meeting with Oireachtas Members and MEPs**

A meeting was held with the members of the Oireachtas and MEP's from the area on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October. There was a great turn out at the meeting including MEP's Matt Carthy, Luke 'Ming' Flanagan and Marion Harkin. Discussions were had on the challenges facing the MD area, including Brexit and the North South Interconnector. There were also lengthy discussions on the reopening of the Ulster Canal to Clones.

## The Municipal District of Monaghan

Following on from the Municipal District taking the initiative to utilise revenue from pay parking to employ a Town Centre Coordinator and setting up a Town Team in Monaghan town, the following initiatives, projects and awards were achieved.

### Town Voucher Scheme

The Monaghan Town Voucher was established in October 2016 as a direct result of the Brexit vote in the UK and the impact it had on currency fluctuations in the region. The team had a modest goal of seeking to retain €150,000 in the local economy in year 1 through the development of the Town Voucher. In the first 6 months the team received tremendous support from local business & industry that acknowledged the threat of Brexit and supported the voucher with €370,000 in sales. The team set an ambitious target of €400,000 in sales for Christmas 2017.

Through the support of the local business community, industry and general public the team sold €485,000, as of February 2018 total accumulated sales of the voucher have reached €865,000, which has had a direct impact in supporting the local business community in supporting and sustaining local employment. Retail Excellence Ireland have indicated that every €1 generated and retained in the local economy has a shop local multiplier effect of €4, indicating the voucher has helped retain up to €3.2m in the previous 18 months. The voucher has over 150 participating businesses throughout the Municipal District and continues to grow month on month. The voucher is the largest of its kind in the country that is managed by a voluntary committee with the support of the local authority.



### Inaugural Monaghan Town Business Awards

The Monaghan Town Business Awards have been developed by the Monaghan Town Team to help promote business excellence in the district. The inaugural business awards were hosted in the Hillgrove Hotel in January 2017 with over 70 businesses and 370 guests from the business community in attendance. The second business awards will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April in the Hillgrove Hotel. The event is self funded through sponsorship and will be run on an annual basis with the potential to grow to a county wide event in 2019.



### Cottage Market

The cottage market is an initiative that is organised by a

voluntary committee of Olga McAdoo

and John Hahessey. They received the support

The Cottage Market  
Monaghan  
First Friday Monthly  
St. Patrick's Hall, 11am-3pm





of the town team during the funding application period and in the lead up to their monthly events. Each craft market event is held on the first Friday of the month in Church Square.



### Monaghan Town Team Retail Group

The Retail team developed a Golden Ticket Raffle to help reward customers for shopping locally. This project was delivered by the retail team over a 6 week period and had a public engagement of over **19,000 entries** with **six winners** of a **€4,500 prize fund**. The project was organised to link with other shop local campaigns and build a loyalty with customers in the lead up to Christmas trading 2017.



### Monaghan Food Network

Whilst the Food Network was established in July 2016, 2017 proved to be a very busy year for the group with Sean Redmond of Andy's Bar & Restaurant installed as chairperson of the team. The Food Network was established to promote Monaghan as a Top Food Destination due to the high level of agri-producers and as a USP for the county. Since the groups inception they have been awarded the prestigious RAI Top Ten Food Destination in 2016 & 2017. Monaghan now receives regular coverage in national papers for its

high levels of gastronomic excellence. The group meet on a regular basis and have helped to develop a North Monaghan Food Taste Trial, a Food Destination Booklet and a regular list of Taste Club events that have been created to help promote local food provenance whilst boosting mid week footfall.



### Taste Club Events

The Food Network has developed a series of events that are designed to increase footfall into Monaghan Town during mid-week. A special localised menu is designed along a different theme every month at a special discounted rate. The events are promoted online through a social media page and have sold out on 10 occasions thus far. A series of events are planned for 2018.



### Taste of Monaghan Fri 29th Sept to Sun 1st Oct

A new committee was established in July 2017 to organise the Taste of Monaghan event for September 2017. The committee was headed up by the Town Team with great support from the Monaghan MD office. It was based in the Lower Courthouse car park and the event increased footfall over the weekend by

approximately 15%. The event incorporated a number of new elements and worked well with the Food Network to garner the support of local chefs and restaurants who conducted 15 demonstrations over the three days.



### Monaghan Has It website & Facebook Page

Site has 4,500 followers. Regular posts are put up to increase engagement and reinforce the shop local campaign. During 2017, the total reach of digital content posted by the team had a reach in excess of 200,000.

### Awards for Town Team Urbact Program

The Town Team have been awarded a European Good Practice City Award by URBACT for Collaboration between the local authority and the business community under the title of **THE TOWN TEAM' AS A DRIVER OF MONAGHAN TOWN'S REVITALISATION**. The team was shortlisted to the Top 90 out of 291 projects for Good Practice throughout the EU.



### ATCM Ireland & UK

The Town Team was shortlisted to the final five for 2 Awards out of 6 Categories in the International ATCM awards. There are 750 member Towns and Cities and it is a tremendous achievement for a voluntary team to be shortlisted in both categories. The team where commended for Best Partnership in the ATCM and Best Campaign for the Shop Local and Town Voucher Campaign.



### All Ireland Community & Council LAMA Awards

The Town Team was shortlisted to the final 6 from 185 applications in the **Best Business Working in the Community in the All Ireland Community & LAMA Awards**.



### Chambers Ireland – Promoting Economic Development

The Town Team was shortlisted for their Shop Local and Town Voucher Campaigns encouraging customers to spend local to keep their towns vibrant.

### Bank of Ireland Enterprise Town Awards

Town team entered the Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Awards and was shortlisted into the Large Town Category.

### Christmas Market

The team supported the establishment of the first Christmas Market in Monaghan Town on the 2nd and 3rd of December. The Market had 14 participating businesses over the weekend and has identified areas to grow and improve next year to drive an increase in footfall. There was very positive feedback from the business community in relation to the excellent work of the Council in organising the Christmas Lights & music which added to a positive atmosphere in the town for visitors and shoppers alike.

### St Patrick's Day Parade

The Municipal District set up the committee and organised the St Patrick's Day. A special guest of honour was The Worshipful Mayor



Mr. Councillor John Skinner, from The Isle of Man. The committee choose the excellent theme **“Inclusion – A Monaghan for Everyone.”** Despite the weather there was a good turnout with over forty entrants taking part. We welcomed for the first time the Misty Creek String Band all the way from Knoxville, Tennessee. There were great community participants with Failte Isteach winning the Best Interpretation of Theme float, and Glaslough Tidy Towns winning the most Innovative float with a train made from aluminium cans. Best Marching Band went to the O’Neill Pipe Band Clontibret. The business owners had some excellent window displays with prizes going to Rocks and Wards.

### **Local Authority Labour Activation Scheme**

This scheme finished up in August after over two years in operation. At one stage there were 19 participants in the Monaghan MD and this proved a very effective scheme where the participants completed very visible and meaningful projects for the community. The Council and the public were very appreciative of the participants and the work completed.

### **Rossmore Forest Park**

Following on from signing the MOU with Coillte, the Municipal District and Tourism section advanced the **Master plan** for the Park. A Rossmore Stakeholders group was set up to guide and to give advice on the plan. This group were comprised of running groups, walking groups, Tidy Towns, Town Team, community, heritage, and fishing. This group were excellent and helped with all aspects including consultation days. The first consultation day was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> February in the Market House and this showed the huge interest that people have in the park with over 300 submissions received and a great attendance on the day. A Spring Clean day was held in the park on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April and all areas of the park received a good clean-up.

A consultation day was held in the park on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. This was planned as a family day and

included food, bouncy castles and a marquee for the consultation. Again we received a great response from the public.

The Municipal District continues to maintain the park. Works were completed on the cleaning back and stoning of all the walking trails, almost 20km of trials. Ongoing repairs were carried out to the facilities.

The Friends of Rossmore Forest Park set up their Facebook page and assisted by the Municipal District organised a **Haunting of Rossmore Park** on 30th October. This was an inaugural phenomenal event which was attended by over 1000 people.

A Park Run has been set up by Monaghan Town Runners and this takes place every Saturday morning at 9.30 am.

The Municipal District is assisting the tourism section on the delivery of the proposed play area for the park. Consultants are on board to deliver the project.



### **Monaghan Town Traffic Management**

The Municipal District continues to manage the Pay Parking for Monaghan Town. A scheme of replacement of the parking machines continues every year. Upgrades in the Globetech software system were implemented for the efficient management of the parking system.

A car parking strategy for the town was completed.

As part of the Christmas promotion, free car parking was provided in Monaghan town

which commenced after 12 o'clock each day, from 10th December to 2nd January.

### **Canada Day**

The Municipal District set up the committee and organised the Canada Day celebrations on the 1st July in Church Square, Monaghan town. The very active committee achieved in getting the National Radio station Today FM to broadcast from The Westenra, sponsored by Air Canada. Air Canada also sponsored two airline tickets. The Canadian Ambassador Mr. Kevin Vickers attended the day and performed a traditional Irish dance on the steps of the courthouse. The Old Monaghan Society gave a talk on *'From MacNamara Place, Monaghan Town to Yonge Street, Toronto – An early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Adventure'*. There was a great turnout for the family fun day and celebrations.

### **Monaghan Town Heritage Walking Tours**

The Municipal District assisted in the setting up of the Heritage Walking Tours of Monaghan Town. These walks are held every Saturday at 11am from April to September. The tour guides give a very informative and interesting tour of the town.

### **Monaghan Town Christmas lights**

The Municipal District tendered and erected the Monaghan Town Christmas lights again for Christmas 2017 and worked with the light switch on committee for the big switch on event on Sunday 26th November, a great success with local entertainment provided and fun for all the family.

### **Promotion of Monaghan Town, Events**

**Monaghan Stages Rally** - The annual Monaghan Stages Rally organised by Monaghan Motor Club took place on the 23rd April, based in the Courthouse Car Park. This event again takes huge crowds into the county.

**Monaghan Town Country Music and Jiving Festival** - This event grows every year and took place between the 13th and 16th July with record attendance. With good co-operation from all involved, the Diamond in

the heart of the town becomes a very successful music venue for four concerts.

### **The Taste of Monaghan Festival**

The Taste of Monaghan Festival ran successfully with a theme of Health and Wellbeing. The committee worked with the Back to Back Marathon Festival which took place the same weekend attracting many visitors from all over the world to our town.

**The Halloween Bats Festival** was a great success and attracted a great turnout for the annual fireworks display.

### **Dublin Street Regeneration**

The Municipal District worked with the Economic Development section to draw up plans for the Regeneration of Dublin Street. After much consultation with the various stakeholders a plan was developed and adopted by the County Council.

### **Clár Funding Program 2016**

Road Safety measures were completed at Clara NS, Deravoy NS, Tydavnet NS, Knockconan NS, and Glaslough village. New public lights were erected at Clontibret village and car parking facilities were provided at Clontibret community hall.

A total upgrade of the play area was completed at Ardbannagher, Glaslough





**New Play Area, Ardbannagher, Glaslough**

### **Emylough Loop Walk**

The Municipal District secured Clar funding and worked with Donagh Development Association to complete the car park at the Lough.

Outdoor Recreation Funding was also obtained to install safety signage, information signage, litter bins and minor drainage for the facility.

### **Community Grant Awards**

The Municipal District held their Community Grant Awards presentation evening on Monday, 29th May with seventy-six grants provided to community groups.

### **Town and Village program**

#### **Dawson Street Public Realm improvement**

Major works were carried out to improve the street scape, contractors and the ESB were engaged to remove the remaining overhead cables in Dawson St. These were placed underground and footpaths were upgraded.

A grant was secured for the replacement and upgrade of the play area at **Oaklands, Glaslough**.



**New Play Area Oaklands, Glaslough**

### **Tidy Towns**

The Municipal District continues to support the various Tidy Towns groups. The Municipal District staff plant and maintain the floral displays including flower beds and hanging baskets in Monaghan Town, maintain and cut a substantial amount of green area, carry out sweeping and scavenging including early morning sweeps throughout the town.

### **Clár Program 2017**

The Municipal District worked with a number of groups and funding was secured for various projects. Tydavnet Tidy Towns looked at developing their village and improving access to parking facilities. Other projects included Clontibret National School, Ardaghy Community Development and Edenmore National school facilities for the community. Tendering was completed and this work is well progressed

### **Dereliction**

MCC continue to work with the Economic Development section on tackling dereliction in Monaghan town and have secured a number of key buildings that have been derelict for some time.

### **Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2017**

Emyvale - €20,000 allocated to the Public Realm report/improvements. A public consultation evening is to be held in the Emyvale leisure centre, 28th of November Monaghan town, €100,000 allocated to the creative hub.

Irish Water's, Water mains rehabilitation scheme

30km/hr Speed limits in estates 2016 / 17 completed Jan

### **Sliabh Beagh**

Outdoor Recreation Funding was obtained to provide signage for Sliabh Beagh Walks. Ballybay-Clones MD is leading the development of a Master plan for the Sliabh Beagh area.

### **Ulster Canal Greenway**

A number of grants were secured through the **Outdoor Recreation Fund** to carry out maintenance works along the greenway. An additional grant was obtained to extend the Greenway to the Old Armagh Road adjacent to the Hillgrove Hotel. A contract was tendered to carry out an extensive litter clean-up under Horseshoe Bridge. Funding secured for the maintenance of a number of walks in the Monaghan MD, Emylough Loop Walk, Sliabh Beagh Walks and the Ulster Canal Greenway.

### **Monaghan Town CCTV**

The Municipal district have agreed match funding for new CCTV and are working with the Gardai to seek grant aid. The first stage of the funding submission was submitted.

### **Low cost safety schemes**

Driver feedback warning signs were erected at Drumacruttan School on the R188, Monaghan to Ballybay road.

Land acquisition and earthworks were carried out at Dundian crossroads to improve the visibility splay lines. This has made a huge improvement to the safety at this crossroads.

### **Road Works**

The 2017 Road Restoration and surface dressing programs were completed.

The rehabilitation work to the iconic bridge in Ballinode village was completed and the road opened to all traffic again.

Speed limit reviews carried out on Local, Regional and National Roads, and 30km/hr speed limits introduced to all public housing estates.

Repairs were completed to footpaths in Beechgrove Lawns estate.

Verge trimming and litter picking was carried out twice along the verges of the N2.

A line marking scheme was completed to introduce a new parking layout at New Terrace, Monaghan town.

## Monaghan County Museum

### The Watchmen – Policing Crime & Punishment in Monaghan

This display was based on an exhibition that was produced by the National Museum of Country Life in Turlough Park, entitled *Preserving the Peace – Policing on the island of Ireland 1814 – 2014*. Monaghan County Museum has worked with the National Museum for over two years to develop this fascinating story. Monaghan County Museum worked with Professor Terence Dooley of Maynooth University to develop a uniquely Monaghan story. Along with the National Museum, Monaghan County Museum also worked with Ballinode Heritage Museum and some of its cross border partners in Fermanagh County Museum, Armagh County Museum and Craigavon Museum Services to source incredible objects and imagery that have brought The Watchmen – Policing, Crime and Punishment to life. Cavan Monaghan Garda Division has also worked with the museum to develop a range of interactive events and workshops based around the theme of policing in Ireland including a family open day at Monaghan station, schools tours and talks based on crime scene investigation.



### Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI)

A key objective for 2017 was for the museum to achieve maintenance of accreditation under the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme for Ireland. The programme includes thirty two professional standards ranging from management to collection care,

building maintenance and display. Monaghan County Museum became the first local authority museum in the country to achieve full accreditation under the programme in 2008 and this year we became the first such museum to reach the level of second maintenance of full accreditation. There will be an awards ceremony at the Heritage Council's headquarters in Kilkenny in summer 2018, where the museum will officially receive this award for professional excellence.

### Other Events

The museum hosted a number of events throughout the year, which were funded by the Creative Ireland initiative. Those included creative workshops looking at how heritage and local history can be reflected through art. One of the main events happened on Culture Night where the museum hosted an event, which celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Japan. Throughout the day over seven hundred school children were treated to a demonstration of the Japanese martial art of Kendo, the history of the traditional Japanese Kimono and a performance of the world famous Taiko drums. This event also took place in the evening for the public and the museum experienced one of the largest attendances in its history with almost three hundred people through the door. The museum Curator as part of the Culture Team in Monaghan County Council has also been working to develop a five year strategic plan for Creative Ireland in Monaghan. This will be officially launched in the first quarter of 2018.

### Marron Collection

As we approach the centenary of the beginning of the War of Independence, the museum is hard at work developing a range of events and exhibitions to coincide with this nationally historic event. One of these projects is the digitisation of a collection of transcribed oral histories known as the Marron collection. In 1965, a local priest, Fr Marron along with Bishop Duffy visited a large number of veterans of the War of Independence in Monaghan. The idea was to collect all of the first person stories they could to create an archive for the fiftieth anniversary of the Easter Rising. What



eventually came out of this important work were over five hundred pages of personal stories relating to the war of Independence told through the words of the men who experienced it. The archive was donated to the museum in the mid 1980's. This collection has now been professionally digitised and will be made available through the museum's website in the latter part of 2018.

### **Monaghan County Council Corporate Plan**

The museum is actively involved in the Creative Ireland initiative which aims to promote arts and culture to the entire community with a special emphasis on the youth. The museum's current five year plan will be reviewed this year with the view of producing a new five year strategy to run from 2019 – 2023.



Museum workshop

## **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 27 service points around the county on a three-weekly basis.
- Primary Schools Library Service visiting each of the 63 primary schools twice yearly.

In conjunction with the Cavan/Monaghan ETB, a wide range of computer classes are provided 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.

### **County Library 5 Year Development Plan**

The Monaghan County Library Development Plan 2017 – 2022 was adopted by Monaghan County Council in July 2017 Council in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001(Section 78). This plan sets out a clear vision for the development of Monaghan Country Library Service over the next five years.

The plan is set within a framework of six key strategic aims and associated actions.

These will inform the implementation of the plan, which in turn will form the basis of the Library Service's Annual Operational Plan, providing clear, measurable targets year on



year. This plan has undertaken a complete review of the current status of the service and incorporates substantial input from key stakeholders, obtained through an extensive consultation process.

### Library Statistics 2017

- 265,683 Visitors to the 5 branch libraries
- 22,058 Internet Sessions booked
- 14,063 WIFI connections made
- 1,875 Local History enquiries answered
- 324 Computers classes taught
- 1,313 Library events organised, attended by 19,459
- 23,228 books issued to primary school children and teachers through the schools mobile service
- 27 pre-schools visited every three weeks, 9,515 books issued in 2017
- 87 Library Promotion events out in the community

### Creative Ireland Programme

On Thursday 25th May the launch of the 31 local Culture and Creativity 2017 plans took place in St. Patrick's Hall, Dublin Castle, where Deirdriu McQuaid, Creative Ireland Co-ordinator for Monaghan County Council, presented a very creative and diverse plan for County Monaghan to An Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys.



Carrickmacross Arts Festival 2017

The Culture and Creativity Plan 2017 was developed by Deirdriu and her colleagues on the Creative Ireland Steering Committee.



Tr@doodle Festival  
Monaghan Branch Library

This initiative was championed by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and The Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys TD.

In 2017 a grant of €64,000 was allocated to support the Creative Ireland Programme.



### Carrickmacross Library 5 year Anniversary Celebrations

Carrickmacross Library celebrated its first five years in its new home in the Civic Offices in April 2017.



Carrickmacross Library Birthday celebrations

The library's customer base extends beyond the County boundaries to include members from Counties Louth, Meath & Cavan. The Library has seen numerous advancements over the last 5 years as well as very successful partnerships with other agencies, such as CMETB, to offer a wide range of Adult Learning opportunities within the Library.

To celebrate their 5th Birthday, the library hosted Mad Hatter Themed Tea Parties throughout the day on Friday 28th April. The response was huge. Almost 600 people attended throughout the day and the feedback given to staff on the day was extremely positive. All refreshments & entertainment provided on the day was sourced locally thus supporting local businesses.

### Library Management System

In 2017 Monaghan County Library transferred all data from our existing Library Management system to the new National Shared System, with all work completed in March 2017.

The new system has provided major improvements to the lending services for customers:

- Library customers have a much wider range of books and other items to choose from, as the catalogue allows access to 15 million items of stock all across the country
- Customers are able to borrow a maximum of 12 items (including DVDs) for 3 weeks from any branch library
- An email reminder service is available to customers to let them know that their books or DVDs are due back before any fines are owed, that items are ready for collection and to let them know about library events
- A new National Delivery Service is available provide a twice weekly branch to branch collection and delivery service across the country
- Customers are able to return books, DVDs etc. to any branch library of their choosing
- Customers are able to reserve and renew books and other items 24/7 using the library online service
- All membership fees are now abolished and the service is free at the point of contact for every customer
- Fines for overdue items have increased from 10 cent to 30 cent per item per week



### Monaghan Cavan Science Festival

Monaghan County Council and Cavan County Cavan again joined forces, supported by funding of €35,000 from Science Foundation Ireland

(SFI), to coordinate and organise The Cavan & Monaghan Science festival from 7<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 with over 200 events taking place across the two counties to promote science, technology, engineering and maths.



The Science Festival was the winner of the Joint Local Authority Initiative Award in the 2017 the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.

The festivals steering Committee, chaired by Deirdriu McQuaid, Acting Senior Executive Librarian, and made up of staff from the Library and Environment services of both Monaghan and Cavan County Councils, worked tirelessly to ensure the success of this ambitious project, which showcased some of the best national and international scientists, researchers, speakers and artists.



Alma Jordon Visits Clones Library

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.

## Website:

[www.cavanmonaghansciencefestival.ie](http://www.cavanmonaghansciencefestival.ie)

## Readers Day

The town of Clones played host to some of Ireland's best loved and most acclaimed authors on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of October for the *Behind the Typewriter* Readers Day Event, which was organised and hosted by Clones Library, with support from Creative Ireland.



Key speakers included:

- Marita Conlon-McKenna
- Ally Bunbury, a native of Clones
- Art Agnew, Chair of the Patrick Kavanagh Centre
- Alison Jameson
- County Fermanagh author Ciarán McMennamin
- Liz Nugent

Award-winning Irish Times journalist Frank McNally was joined by Seán Rocks, presenter of Arena, RTE Radio One's flagship Arts and Culture programme, in leading conversations and asking the questions of the Authors on the day.



Sean Rocks in conversation with Art Agnew



### SurfBox Printing Service

A new printing service was installed in Carrickmacross Branch Library on 30th January, provided through SurfBox, a well established provider of internet and printing solutions. The service includes a Self Service Printing/Scanning/Copying Station for printing Black & White and Colour A4 sheets, which is coin operated. Customers can print directly to the Print station from the Libraries Internet PC's or from any home computer or mobile device. Subject to review, this service will be rolled out to the other branches in 2018.

### Monaghan Makers

A grant was awarded in 2017 under Peace IV for €100,000 for a Monaghan Makers Design Lab. This service is aimed young people and will provide a wide range of IT resources such as a 3D scanner and printer, large scale graphics tablets etc. to assist in the development of digital literacy and design skills. Eoin Ward was appointed as project coordinator in September 2017 and will coordinate the roll out of the programme in 2018.



### Summer Stars Reading Challenge

The annual Summer Reading Challenge was launched in all five branch libraries in June 2017. The programme is open to all school children and is designed for all reading abilities, encouraging children to read a minimum of eight books over the period of the summer holidays.



Fairy Book Club Members, Clones Library



Summer Reading Challenge certificate presentation ceremony, Ballybay Library

In all, 813 children successfully completed the summer reading challenge.



## Culture Night

This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year for the County Council to coordinate Culture Night, an annual all-island public event that celebrates culture, creativity and the arts. This year, it took place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September and 17 venues across County Monaghan opened late with a host of free events. It was a great success, with an increase from 10 events in 2016 to 17 (59% increase) and the number of attendees increased by 138% from 757 in 2016 to 1,806 this year.



Donal McEnroe Photography Exhibition, Íontas Arts Centre

The County Council received €6,500 funding from the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht and total expenditure was €13,000.00

## Right to Read

In 2017 Catherine Elliott, Acting County Librarian, was appointed Coordinator for the Right to Read Programme.

The programme is an initiative under *Opportunities for All* to deliver more systematic literacy support at local level. A key objective is to bring together the existing knowledge and experience of skilled staff in local authority services and other agencies to deliver literacy support in the County. Right to Read will complement and support existing national literacy strategies and initiatives, including the Department of Education and Skills' National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy.

The programme will focus initially on support for children and families, but will broaden year on year to cover all aspects of literacy need in the County.

The main actions completed in 2017 were:

- The establishment of a Right to Read Network within the County, bringing together all key literacy support stakeholders
- Completion of an initial action plan for 2017
- Development of an Annual Local Literacy Plan
- Submission of an Annual Report to the National Steering Group, detailing the measures taken to support the Right to Read initiative

A one off grant of €12,000 was allocated in 2017 by Department of Rural and Community Development for the purchase of children's books to assist the Right to Read programme.

## Work Matters

In 2017 Kay Cassidy, Staff Officer, Monaghan Branch Library, was appointed coordinator of



Work Matters, a new service aimed at helping customers wishing to start or grow their own business.

In addition to providing resources on starting and running a business, Monaghan County Library will provide a full range of stock on all interests from craft and design to food, technology, environment and much more. The service will also provide access to a range of e-resources, all available for free to library members.

A one off grant of €10,000 was allocated in 2017 by Department of Rural and Community Development for the purchase of materials to set up hot desk facilities in three branches, in addition to the already established free Internet and WIFI services available to customers in all branches.

## Healthy Ireland Initiative

In 2017 Angela Reilly, Staff Officer, County Library HQ, was appointed as coordinator for the Healthy Ireland Initiative.

An initial grant of €400,000 was allocated in 2017 by Department of Rural and Community Development to Irish Libraries, to promote the Healthy Ireland Campaign through the national library service network. €3,375 of this funding was allocated in 2017 to Monaghan County Library for the purchase of Health related stock as part of the initiative. The programme will be expanded and developed further in 2018, with an estimated €5,000,000 to be made available to library services across Ireland.



## Arts Office

Monaghan County Council through its Arts Office supported Arts projects in the county through The **Arts Partners Grant** scheme. A **total of €61,000** awarded to eleven projects.



The Arts office 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.

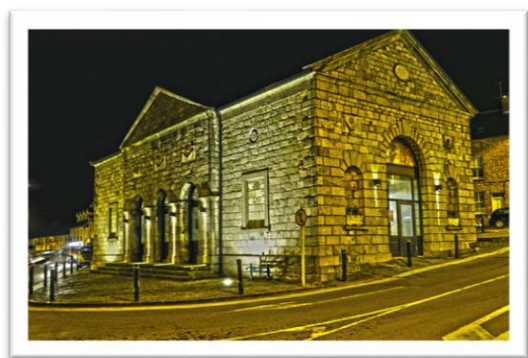
September brought good news when **Music Generation** announced that Counties Cavan and Monaghan would together receive **€450,000** in philanthropic funding from U2 and The Ireland Funds over three years to create increased access to high-quality, subsidised vocal and instrumental tuition for children and young people throughout the region. Operating on a 50/50 matched funding basis, Cavan/Monaghan Music Education Partnership will also generate a further €450,000 locally over the three year period. Cavan/Monaghan is among 9 new areas of the country selected for participation in Music Generation's second phase.





### 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 hold their monthly event in the Market House. **MOPOSOP's** a poets and song writers group who regularly run workshops and mentoring sessions for artists. **Spectrum**, host painting workshops every Monday. We also host many craft and painting workshops in association with **U3A**.



The international “**Harvest Time Blues Festival**” was held in September. 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 event for the region. The festival delivered a high calibre programme of blues artists both in the Market House and the festival marquee.



2017 was the first year of **Tradoodle**, Monaghan's Traditional Arts Festival for Children and Young Audiences. This exciting programme featured a mix of magical musical feasts, sean-nós dancing for early years, live band extravaganzas, online tin-whistle lessons

for schools and families, art exhibitions, special animation screenings, and lots more.



The arts office assisted the Laragh community to roll out their AIMSIR programme (Irish language experience where kids become more familiar with the Irish language through non-classroom based activities) and with our support they could offer a two day AIMSIR Samhain crafts opportunity for children 10-13 from the local schools. They used environmentally friendly products; some from the woodland of Laragh itself and the paper lanterns and scarecrows were used to decorate Laragh Village on Samhain night for storytelling in the TIn Church of the origins of Samhain and all its traditions.



### Black Pigs Dyke

Under the Creative Ireland scheme, MCC commissioned Artist Siobhán Mac Donald to respond to/engage with the Black Pigs Dyke, specifically with the findings and results from recent surveys. This involves the artist engaging with an archaeologist regarding the earthworks known as the **Black Pigs Dyke**. This commissioned piece/work will be in an agreed medium, with a focus on the Black Pigs Dyke's archaeology, folklore; natural setting which will include scientific results from the past investigations.



### Teatro Due Mondi

*CAROSELLO* features the characters of *The Bremen Town Musicians* and transforms the traditional fairytale into a new and contemporary story which took place in the streets of Carrickmacross in 2017.



## COUNTY HERITAGE OFFICE

In 2017, the Heritage Office continued to implement the **County Monaghan Heritage Plan 2012-2017**, to advise the local authority with regard to heritage policy and practice, and to liaise closely with the Heritage Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht regarding national policy implementation at a local level.

The Heritage Office contributes to the enhancement and conservation of the environment through its work with communities and nature. The major INTERREG **Collaboration for Natura Network** project began this year - a partnership involving Monaghan County Heritage Office and ten other partners across Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The aim of the project is to conserve wildlife habitats of European importance, such as blanket bog and fen, and populations of important species such as the Hen Harrier and the freshwater white-clawed crayfish. Sliabh Beagh in north Monaghan is one of the main upland blanket bogs sites in the project, and work started researching and mapping the habitats, and building local engagement.



*Caption:* Sliabh Beagh, north Monaghan, part of the INTERREG CANN project (pic: R.Sheehan)

Training to identify the protected butterfly Marsh Fritillary took place on Sliabh Beagh in September. The Kilroosky Lough Cluster adjacent to Clones is one of the project freshwater sites and work with the Institute of Technology Sligo commenced.

A significant cultural collaborative initiative in Drum village between the local community,

Drum Heritage Group, the Gallery of Photography and the arts and heritage offices of Monaghan County Council made a real impact in Dublin, Monaghan and Drum. **Drum – Portrait of a village**, engaged with local people to scan and record their old family album photographs, to bring Krass Clements' work DRUM back to Anderson's pub where it was made in 1991, to run workshops and historical talks in the village and to commission a photographer to take new portraits of the village and its people to create a record of authentic representation.



*Caption:* Photo album scanning in former Stewart's Shop, Drum.

DRUM was presented in the Gallery of Photography, Meeting House Square, Dublin in November 2017, with an outdoor screening of family album and contemporary portraits.



*Caption:* Outdoor screening of Drum: Portrait of a Village, Gallery of Photography, Dublin, November 2017 with the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The **Heritage Week** theme "It's in your nature" was embraced by event organisers in Monaghan and the Heritage Office organised

and supported over forty events. The central event was a Wild Child Day in Rossmore Park, which brought hundreds of families to the park to explore nature with naturalists and artists. Other events included a water heritage day in Ballybay, Mullan village tour and shoe-making demonstration, open day at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, weaving demonstration at Swallow Studios, Lost Gardens of Glaslough and tour of the Monaghan Masonic Lodge.

The **Gothic Monaghan** film documentary was launched at the opening night of the Clones Film Festival. By filmmaker Dara McCluskey, and presented by Kevin V. Mulligan and Shirley Clerkin the film illustrates the story of gothic architecture in Monaghan. Shot on location at sites across the county it explores many lesser known heritage buildings and graveyards. It was also shown at the Garage Film Festival.

Quarterly meetings of the **County Monaghan Heritage Forum** were organised to advise on the implementation of the heritage plan. New members from the PPN joined the forum.



## 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 **Tourism Development** the following were delivered in 2017:

### Castleblayney & Clones Heritage Trails

A new Heritage Trail was delivered in Castleblayney in conjunction with the local Heritage Group. In addition, working with the Ballybay-Clones MD, the existing heritage trail in Clones was extended and additional sites were added to the trail with new information panels and welcome signage to the town.



### Rossmore Forest Park

Funding of €300,000 was secured under the PEACE IV Programme to develop a Play park at Rossmore. In September 2017, a Design Team was appointed to draw up designs for the new park and to oversee the construction works. This project is on-going.

### Carrickmacross Market House

Upgrading works on the Market House in Carrickmacross commenced in October 2017 and is being project-managed by the Tourism section. Two large new units are being developed and these will be occupied by the Carrickmacross Lace Gallery and a Monaghan Craft outlet.

### Patrick Kavanagh Centre

Funding of €188,000 was secured to upgrade the existing Patrick Kavanagh Centre and work is on-going in this regard. Separately, additional funding has been sought to develop the visitor experience at the centre and the Council is working closely with the local Kavanagh committee to bring this to fruition.

In terms of **Tourism Promotion & Visitor Servicing** the following was delivered in 2017:

### Tourist Office

The Tourist office in the Market House was open from mid April to end September in 2017. The number of visitors was just under 1,000 and the most common queries were as follows:

- (1) Advice on things to do and see
- (2) Information on places to eat
- (3) Genealogical Enquiries

### Branded Memory Sticks

Branded memory sticks (using the More to Monaghan logo) have been produced for promotional purposes. These have been pre-loaded with 2 folders entitled (1) Invest in Monaghan and (2) Visit Monaghan.

### Journalist Familiarisation Visits and Corresponding Publicity

Several press trips were organised and took place in the county over the months of July and August. Features were included in the following publications: Sunday World, The Telegraph, Irish Daily Star, Irish Sun, Stellar Magazine. In addition, blogger – Sarah Slattery – The Travel Expert – posted extensively on social media during her visit in August and published more blog entries in September.



Irish Daily Star Newspaper  
Tuesday 1st August 2017

### Cross-border itineraries - Shared Waters – Shared Landscapes Project

Monaghan County Council with its partners, **Newry Mourne & Down District Council** and **Local Authority Waters and Communities Office** received funding under the 2016 Co-operation with Northern Ireland Scheme to develop visitor itineraries in this cross-border area. Three itineraries were developed after consultation with tourism providers and these cover culture & heritage, family fun and the wide range of activities in the region. The itineraries entitled **Cultural Connections**, **Off the Beaten Track** and **Family Fun** are in PDF format and were uploaded onto the tourism website [www.monaghantourism.com](http://www.monaghantourism.com)

### Ireland's Ancient East

The Tourism Section liaised with Fáilte Ireland in terms of the roll-out of the Orientation signs for Ireland's Ancient East and two were installed in the county in 2017. In addition, an Ireland's Ancient East Champions/Service Excellence workshop was held in the Nuremore Hotel in May. There was good trade attendance at the event.

Four itineraries for Monaghan highlighting key sites in the county which correspond to the Ireland's Ancient East themes, were developed and printed. On-line PDF versions are also available.

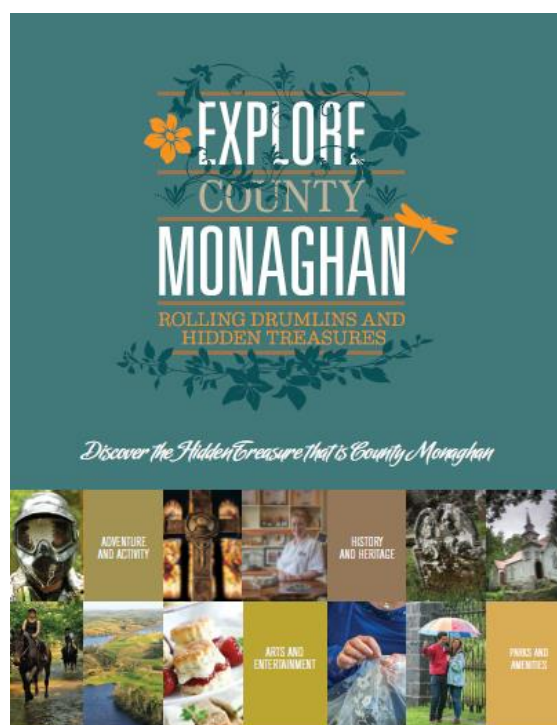


### Monaghan Literature/Promotional Material

In addition to the above itineraries the Tourism section produced the following in 2017:

#### New Tourism Folder

A new folder for the county has been produced and is available for handouts to visiting delegations, groups etc.



### Calendar of Events

A Calendar of Events (May to December) 2017 was published and circulated. A PDF version was uploaded on the tourism website





### **Patrick Kavanagh 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration**

The Tourism Section worked with the Arts Office and the Patrick Kavanagh Centre to organise an event to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kavanagh's death. There was a huge turn-out on the day and the event achieved great publicity both locally and nationally.

### **Irish Rugby Team Visit**

A PR campaign (with the assistance of Unicorn PR) was organised to gain as much publicity as possible from the Irish Squad visit to the county in February. There was excellent traction on the tourism facebook and twitter pages with 80,000 + views of the videos, posts and photographs. There were 500+ entries for the competition for tickets.

### **Diaspora Framework**

A Monaghan County Council Framework for Diaspora Engagement was developed

## **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. There are two full time persons in the Health and Safety Unit consisting of the Head of Health and Safety and Assistant Health and Safety Officer

The Health and Safety Unit set out its targets and goals for the management of health and safety in 2017 in the Unit's Annual Service Delivery Plan (ASDP). To achieve the objectives of the ASDP the Health and Safety Unit prepared an Operational Plan.

Progress on the implementation of the operational plan was reviewed at the monthly Health and Safety Unit MonStat Meeting attended by the Director of Service, the Head of Health and Safety and the Assistant Health and Safety Officer. The unit provided a Risk Register to the Corporate Section to include as part of the Corporate Risk Register 2017.

In 2017 the unit reviewed Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) consisting of 50 procedures and 22 forms. This is a continuous review and improvement process. A gap analysis of the HSMS identified that a Workplace Wellbeing Procedure is required. This procedure will be drafted, developed and approved in the 2018 as set out in the 2018 Operational Plan.

The Unit's Hazard and Risk Assessment Plan for 2017 was fully achieved, as set out in the table below:

| <b>Target Number of Assessments:</b> | <b>Actual Achieved:</b> | <b>% Achieved:</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 05                                   | 05                      | 100%               |

The Corporate Safety Statement was reviewed and updated. This is a legal requirement under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act

2005. The Health and Safety Unit delivered monthly updates on its work to the Management Team and CPG

The following training on H&S-related topics was delivered by Monaghan County Council in 2017:

| Training Course   | Number(s) Attended |
|---|--------------------|
| School Warden   | 03                 |
| Signing Lighting & Guarding at Roadworks                    | 22                 |
| Front Loading Shovel  | 19                 |
| Safe Pass Training  | 59                 |
| Driver CPC (Module 3)                                       | 38                 |
| Manual Handling   | 406                |
| Electro Fusion Training                                     | 11                 |
| Abrasive Wheels   | 28                 |
| Managing Risk in Confined Spaces                            | 19                 |
| Defibrillator Training                                      | 20                 |
| Working Safely in Local Authorities                         | 18                 |
| Security Awareness  | 151                |
| Risk Assessment Training                                    | 142                |
| Managing Risk for Public Events                             | 22                 |
| Ride On Roller  | 6                  |
| First Aid   | 12                 |
| Mobile Elevated Work Platform                               | 9                  |
| Emergency Chainsaw  | 4                  |
| Playground Inspection Training                              | 8                  |
| Lawnmower/Strimmer Training                                 | 13                 |
| Banksman Training   | 12                 |
| Managing Safely for Construction Managers (Recertification) | 14                 |
| Jeep & Trailer Licence Training                             | 10                 |
| Winter Services Operators Training                          | 6                  |

#### Inspection and Audit Programme:

A total of 290 Inspections were conducted by the Health and Safety Unit in 2017. The unit noted an overall high level of compliance with legislation, codes of practice and best practice. A small number of non compliances were resolved in a timely manner. Four Section Health and Safety Manuals were audited. Each

section had a report issued on completion of audit with results and recommendations.

#### Employee Support:

Throughout the year, support was provided to employees contacting the Health & Safety Unit with requests. An average of 30 phone calls per month were received. The most frequent requests related to employee wellbeing at work and roadworks.

#### European Health and Safety Week:

Monaghan County Council participated in European Health and Safety Week 2017. The theme for the week was *Healthy Workplaces for All Ages*. The Health and Safety Unit planned and organised a number of events including Toolbox Talks and visits by a Nutritional Specialist to each of the main buildings to offer advice on healthy eating, diet, weight loss etc. The initiatives were warmly received by employees with positive feedback to the unit.

#### Safety Committee:

The Safety Committee met on a quarterly basis. Committee members were updated on the progress of the Operational Plan, sharing of information within sections and learning from incident investigations.

#### Summary:

The continued work undertaken and delivered by the Health and Safety Unit in 2017 facilitated Monaghan County Council in adhering to the legal requirements of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007 and other legislation.

## MONAGHAN FIRE & CIVIL PROTECTION

Monaghan Fire and Civil Protection (MFCP) Service provide a range of services for the citizens of Monaghan. These services include Fire Safety and Building Control functions, that encompasses 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.

### 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 315 incidents in 2017, an increase of 8% on 2016.

The breakdown of total calls per station was as follows:

| Fire Station   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Turn-out | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Turn-out |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ballybay       | 38                       | 18                       |
| Carrickmacross | 67                       | 6                        |
| Castleblayney  | 49                       | 16                       |
| Clones         | 36                       | 7                        |
| Monaghan       | 123                      | 7                        |

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). The largest fire of the year occurred at Albany Home Decor, Park Street, Monaghan which required the deployment of all fire stations within Monaghan.

In 2017 five fire-fighters were recruited to fill vacancies as they have arisen. An extensive training programme was carried out in 2016 for all fire-fighters with training hours equating to approximately 6764hrs or 845days.



### 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 32 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 41 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.

In October the Local Coordination Centre was utilised for Storm Ophelia and the Crisis Management Team deployed to assist in the coordination and to maintain communication with the County Council, An Garda Siochana and the HSE.

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

### **Building Control**

Monaghan Building Control Authority received a total of 209 valid Commencement Notices in 2017, which is a reduction of 3% from 2016. An

inspection rate of 16% of new builds was achieved during the year. In addition there were 78 applications for Fire Safety Certificates under Building Control legislation, with 17 applications for Regularisation Certificates, 43 Disability Access Certificate applications and 11 Seven Day Notices.



The Building Control Management System (BCMS) continued to be updated in 2017 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 55% for Monaghan dwellings. By opting out of this requirement the homeowner cannot register a Certificate of Compliance on Completion with the Local Authority.

Surveillance of the Construction Product Regulations (CPR) has been maintained through 2017. Surveillance and advice is ongoing with manufacturers, importers, distributors, builders and designers in Co. Monaghan to ensure compliance with the CPR.

### **Capital Investment**

There was significant Capital investment in MFCP during the year including the delivery of Fire Appliance for Clones Fire Service, Flex-Mort and response vehicle, Incident Support Units for Clones brigade and a significant investment in Breathing Apparatus Equipment

Works have also been completed on the Compartment Fire Behaviour Training facility at rear of Monaghan Fire Station

### **Personnel**

There were three new recruit's in 2017 bring our staffing complement of fire-fighters up to 48.

### **Health and Safety**

MFCP have developed a rigorous Health and Safety Management System and successfully achieved OHSAS18001 accreditation in 2017. 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 92 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.

In December 2017 we had the opportunity to present 1916 commemoration medals and long service awards to our volunteers.





## Water Services

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

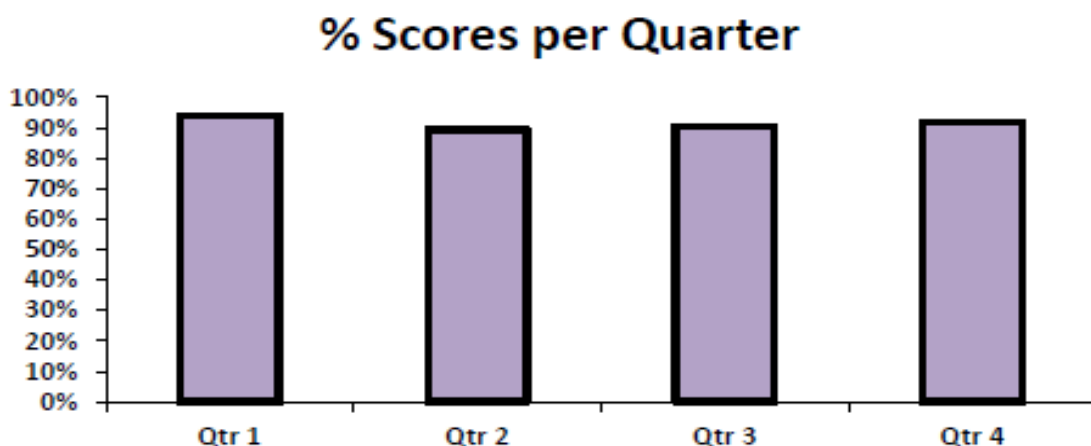
- Management of national water and wastewater assets;
- Maintenance of the water and wastewater system;
- Investment and planning;
- Managing capital projects; and
- Customer care and billing.

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 Annual Service Plan (ASP), 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 2017/2018;
- Transformation initiatives;

Monaghan County Council are performance measured monthly by Irish Water's balance scorecard. Monaghan County Council's Service Level Agreement performance for 2017 is outlined below: -



## **Capital Investment Programme**

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

During 2017, several key projects were started and completed. Investing in Ireland's ageing water and wastewater infrastructure is a key priority for Irish Water.

Irish Water, working in partnership with Monaghan County Council, invested €5.5 million in the water infrastructure in Monaghan and Clones water supply networks.

9.1km of new water mains (4.8 km of ageing water mains in Monaghan Town and 4.3km of distribution network in the Clones rural area) were laid under the project, commissioning of 570 new service connections, including the replacement of 134 backyard services and 39 public side lead service pipes.



***New mains replacement Monaghan Town***

Monaghan County Council in collaboration with Irish Water upgraded the Kilcitt treatment plant and Lough Bawn abstraction pump station. The €3.5m investment will secure the water quality

and supply for the foreseeable future. This project will ensure enhanced compliance rate with the EPA and Drinking Water Quality Regulations. The project is yet another example of the focus and dedication of Irish Water and Monaghan County Council in ensuring the delivery of clean and wholesome water in the county.



***New raw water pumps at Corlea***

Monaghan County Council working in partnership with Irish Water is commencing work to upgrade the Castleblayney Wastewater Treatment Plant. The €3,850,000 investment will improve the level of treatment at the plant and improve the discharge quality of treated water from the plant into Lough Muckno. The upgrade will also improve the energy efficiency of the plant which will deliver long term savings on operational costs. The project includes upgrades to the existing pumping station, a new inlet works and grit removal system, new storm water storage and upgrade to the aeration system which will improve the overall treatment processes at the plant.

Throughout 2017, Irish Water and Monaghan County Council advanced the 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 existing wastewater treatment plant and provision of in Health and Safety, quality / compliance, reliability, maintainability, operational costs and sustainability. The programme delivered significant

improvements in a) emergency showers at each water and wastewater treatment

plant; b) accurate flow measurement at each of the Waste Water Treatment plants; c) storm overflow event monitoring and d) new aeration equipment at the main WWTP in Monaghan. It also commenced the construction of new sludge reception facilities at Monaghan WWTP treatment during 2017.



***New dewatering facility Monaghan WWTP***



***New aeration equipment Monaghan WWTP***

### **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. In 2017, the Council prepared a further 6 assets for transfer to Irish Water which will be transferred on the next Ministerial Order. There are approximately 130 folios yet to be transferred as some assets contain more than one folio.

In 2017, detailed work was ongoing 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 2017, €2,288,512 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 2017, Grants to the value of €356,939 were paid to 7 Group Water Schemes. Grants totalling €5,128 were also paid to private householders for the provision or necessary improvement of individual water supplies to their house.

## Housing

### 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, persons in housing need no longer apply for Rent Supplement but their needs are being addressed through HAP. In 2017 202 households entered HAP, with a cumulative total of 401 households in the scheme in County Monaghan as at 31/12/2017.

### Rental Accommodation Scheme

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) continues to be an important mechanism for the delivery of social housing support in County Monaghan. The total number of properties providing social housing under the RAS scheme was 215 at year end 2017 with 132 in Private Rented accommodation and 83 in properties held by approved housing bodies.

### 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.

Between 01/01/2017–31/12/2017 Housing Section received 255 applications for private house grants. 236 grants were approved at a cost of € 1,798,085.

### Homeless Services

At local level, there were 94 households presented as homeless in 2017. 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

Work continued on the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018. The target allocation for 44 traveller's households being supported was

exceeded with 52 households supported to date. There is also approval in principle for the redevelopment of Gortakeegan halting site

### 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 2017, 103 cases were investigated comprising of 84 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, 4 informal notifications were issued, 7 formal warnings; 1 repossession order; 1 abandonment notice a 1 voluntary repossession were secured

Planned maintenance involves the delivery of targeted programmes for specific improvement and replacement works. In 2017 targeted planned maintenance works including heating upgrades and insulation works were carried out to 20 houses at an average cost of €5,000/unit.

### Housing Maintenance

Monaghan County Council is responsible for the maintenance requirements of the Council's 1533 housing units. In 2017 a budget allocation of €1,195,000 provided for reactive, planned and general maintenance of this stock. The Housing section received and logged in excess of 1869 repair reports in 2017. 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 2017, 34 properties were brought back into use under



a separate allocation of 220,000. A combination of Department programme funding and Councils own resources of €0.94million provided for the improvement of 66 vacant houses that were re-let and returned to housing stock.

### **(3) Planned Maintenance**

Total Budget €450,000

Planned maintenance involves the delivery of targeted programmes for specific improvement and replacement works. In 2017 targeted planned maintenance works including heating upgrades and insulation works were carried out to 20 houses at an average cost of €5,000/unit.



## **Planning**

### **Development Plan**

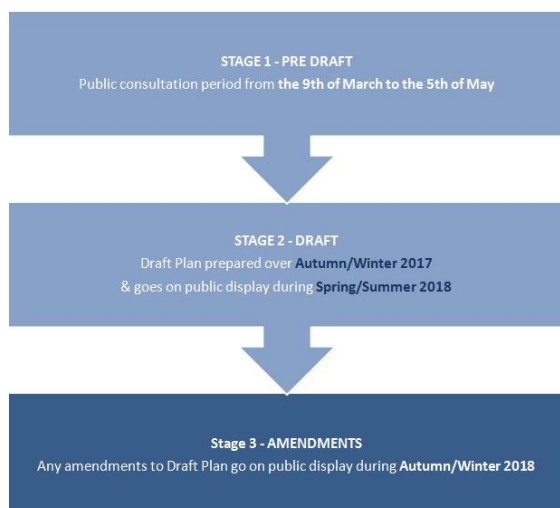
The purpose of a Development Plan is to set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of its functional area. This is done in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Acts, the National Spatial Strategy, the Regional Planning Guidelines and any 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.

Monaghan County Council gave notice of its intention to review the existing Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 and to prepare a new County Development Plan for the period 2019-2025 on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2017.

The review will take up to two years and will conclude with the adoption of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025. The key stages in the review process are summarised in Figure 1 below



Pre-Draft Development Plan consultation was undertaken over an eight week period from the 9<sup>th</sup> of March to the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2017, following this period the Chief Executives Report on Pre-Draft Consultation was issued to the members of the Planning Authority for consideration on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2017. Following consideration of this report the Elected Members issued directions to the manager to prepare the Draft Plan on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2017. Preparation of the Draft Plan continued during the remainder of the year with a view to issuing a Draft Plan in spring 2018.

### Variations

Three variations were made to the County Development Plan in 2017.

- Variation 4 – Active Land Management / Vacant Sites

This variation provides for the inclusion of objectives for the regeneration and renewal of land and the active land management of vacant sites within the Settlement/Core Strategy of the County Development Plan.

- Variation 5 – Unfinished Housing in Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence

This variation provides for incorporation of Policy RHP14 - Unfinished Housing in Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence into the County Development Plan, thereby permitting the completion of unfinished dwellings that

have become unsightly and environmentally unacceptable.

- Variation 6 – Dublin Street Regeneration Plan

The variation incorporates the Dublin Street Regeneration Plan, the purpose of which is to provide guidance on the regeneration options for the future development of the Dublin Street Regeneration Plan area.



The Dublin Street Regeneration Plan was rewarded with the Design Award at the Irish Planning Institute National Planning Awards in recognition for showing how an areas can be developed, both in terms of an ultimate spatial form, but also as a series of potential interim positions, is a vital element of good town planning.

### Material Contraventions

Two development proposals which were contrary to the provisions of the Monaghan County Development Plan were granted planning permission in 2017 through the material contravention process.

Material Contravention No. 9 – Planning permission, 17/202, for a new two storey extension to the existing food production facility at Mullaghadun, Monaghan to include:

- 4no. production lines with marshalling areas, chill rooms, and storage at first floor level, with ancillary plant space, storage, circulation and stairs.

- ii. The conversion of existing box store to cold store, the addition of a single storey extension to provide 3 number loading bays from the existing box store and minor internal alterations to the existing facility to accommodate same.
- iii. Site works will include landscape reinforcement at the southern boundary, storm and foul drainage, minor amendments to road and associated works (previously approved under planning reference 10/30013), car parking provision, new service yards and walls, with any other ancillary site works

Material Contravention No. 10 - Permission for amended replacement dwelling design approved under planning permission 16/349 and Retention of Farm building for agricultural use at Tullyhirim, Monaghan (17/181)

### **Built Heritage**

The Planning Section administered two built heritage grant schemes in 2017; The Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Structures at Risk Fund (SRF). Approx. €130,000 of funding was secured from central funds which benefitted eleven projects. The projects ranged from essential intervention work at both the Church of Ireland chapel and Catholic Church at St. Davnet's in Monaghan to the refurbishment of historic windows in a protected terraced house in Carrickmacross. The stone retaining wall at St. Louis Convent Carrickmacross was also refurbished, whilst repairs were also carried out to the Bell Tower at Hilton Park in Clones.

### **Agents' Forum**

An Agents' Forum took place at the end of 2017. Matters relating to Validation of Planning Applications, Submission of Further Information, Electronic Planning Applications, Fire & Building Control, Environmental Impact Assessment, Rural Areas Under Strong Urban Influence, National Planning Framework,

County Development Plan and other matters arising were discussed.

### **Development Management**

Planning applications 2017

Received: 649

Invalid: 14\*

Granted: 498

Refused: 30

39 Section 5 Declarations for exempt development were dealt with and one entertainment licence was issued for Monaghan's Country Music Festival.

It should be noted that only those applications deemed invalid after site inspection are recorded on the iPlan system. Eighty six applications were deemed invalid prior to registration and returned, as required, to applicants along with their fees.

Planning application numbers continued to increase in 2017. They were up by approximately 12% on last year. This represents on average an increase of 10% per annum i.e. from 2014 – 2017 the number of applications received has increased by 46%. The majority of applications received were for single dwellings and home extensions, followed by agricultural developments. Seven applications were received for housing developments.

### **Unfinished Housing Developments**

During 2017, a total of 13 unfinished residential developments had works undertaken to resolve the remaining small number of unfinished housing developments within the County.

### **Taking in Charge**

The Planning Department progressed works in conjunction with the Municipal Districts and Water Services to 11 housing developments within the County during 2017, under the funding provisions of the National Taking in Charge Initiative. (NTICI)

Further to this scheme, a total of ten housing developments were subsequently taken in charge in 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. Early invoicing and continued enforcement action in relation to recovery of unpaid development contributions successfully contributes to a higher collection rate. Receipts in 2017 amounted to €625,131

- Ballybay: Public Realm & Economic Plan
- Carrickmacross: Public Realm & Economic Plan
- Castleblayney: Public Realm & Economic Plan
- Clones: Exhibition & Museum of Clones Lace
- Doohamlet: Public Realm & Development of a public open space
- Emyvale: Public Realm enhancements
- Knockatallon: Sliabh Beagh brand & trail development – way marking
- Monaghan: Creative Hub
- Newbliss: Public Realm enhancements
- Oram: Public Realm enhancements

| 2017 Enforcement Statistics           |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| No. of cases subject to complaints    | 87 |
| Warning Letters under Section 152     | 65 |
| Enforcement Notices under Section 154 | 19 |
| Legal proceedings                     | 17 |

### Derelict Sites

There were 34 properties on the Derelict Sites Register at the end of 2017. 5 properties were removed from the Register following satisfactory completion of works to address the dereliction. 20 properties were compulsorily acquired under the Derelict Sites Act and the Planning Act. Works are on-going in conjunction with the Housing section to convert a number of derelict properties in Clones into social housing units.

### Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2017

In 2017, €580,000 in funding was received under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme which will deliver improvements in ten towns and villages across the county as follows:-



## 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 and horse control, promoting environmental awareness and food safety.

### From Farm to Restaurant Plate: Sustainability in Food Sector in County Monaghan

Recognising County Monaghan's role at the forefront of food production in Ireland, and Monaghan County Council has established a Monaghan Food Network comprising of large and small scale food producers and local restaurants and hotels. In 2017 Environmental Services organised a conference for the Group, "From the Farm to Restaurant Plate: Environmental Sustainability in the Food Sector" The aim of the evening was to bring together local farmers, food producers and restaurants to help ensure that the industry continues to improve its environmental sustainability. This project was funded by the EPA through the Local Authority Prevention Network.



### Utilising social media for litter awareness

Environmental Services carried out three social media campaigns during 2017, focusing

on Cigarette litter, dumping on Sliabh Beagh and littering by motorists.



*Social media campaign highlighting cigarette related litter*

### Anti Dumping Initiative 2017.

In 2017 Environmental Services received €40,000 in funding to remediate known litter blackspots. A total of 50 tonnes of illegally dumped material was removed and disposed of.

### Waste Enforcement

Monaghan County Council continued to work with the Waste Enforcement Regional Authority and other enforcement agencies such as Revenue and Gardai in the area of waste enforcement during 2017. A successful project was undertaken to target thirteen sites that had the potential to pollute through the storage of End of Life Vehicles. Thirty nine inspections were conducted resulting in 12 of the 13 sites removing the pollution threat.

### Landfill facility

Monaghan County Council operates a landfill facility at Letterbane, Scotch Corner. In October 2017 the facility reached capacity and was closed to all waste. Capping works are scheduled to commence on site in mid 2018 and due to be substantially completed in late 2018. In October 2017 works were also completed on a trial project at Scotch Corner aimed at reducing the volume of leachate on the site of the old landfill. The project has the

potential to realise significant cost savings in terms of leachate transport and leachate treatment.

### **Recycling Facilities**

The recycling centre at Scotch Corner comprises of a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and a Civic Amenity site whilst there is also a Civic amenity site in Carrickmacross. At the MRF recyclables are separated into individual waste streams to meet the requirements of secondary markets whilst a Civic Amenity Site is primarily a facility where members of the public can recycle household wastes including WEEE and certain hazardous materials. During 2017, following a detailed procurement process Monaghan County Council entered into a new concession contract with McElvaney Waste and Recycling for the operation of the Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross recycling facilities. In February 2017 infrastructural improvement works were also completed at the Scotch Corner Materials Recovery Facility/Civic Amenity site.



*Infrastructural Improvement Works at the Scotch Corner Recycling Facility completed in Spring 2017*

During 2017 Monaghan County Council continued its program of bring site improvement works. All recycling banks in the county were cleaned and infrastructural improvement works were carried out at the Ballybay site at the entrance to the mart. Capacity at a number of the busier sites was also increased in 2017 through the provision of additional receptacles.

### **Water Quality**

During 2017 Monaghan County Council continued its programme of water quality monitoring, development control, catchment surveys, WFD sampling programme, discharge licensing and the investigation of water pollution complaints. In 2017, 411 river and lake water samples, 61 discharge license samples and 40 bathing area samples were collected as part of the sampling programmes.

Environmental Services in collaboration with various stakeholders including the Local Authorities Water Communities Office (LAWCO) and the EPA was involved in the identification of priority water bodies for consideration in the next River Basin Management plan which is due to be issued in Spring 2018 and is required under the Water Framework Directive. In 2017 the water team carried out 11 days of priority-driven, planned investigative assessments including biological sampling and assessment, river walking and spot sampling on water bodies in the county, with a particular focus on areas that need further investigation in relation to water quality problems. Further characterisation of water bodies and liaising with the new regional body LAWCO and the EPA will lead to identification of mitigation measures which can be costed and assessed further.

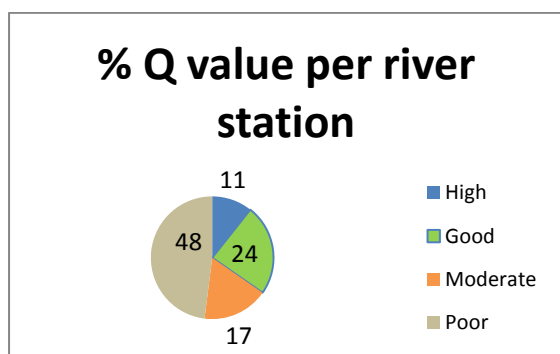
Working with the farming community again was a major work area for Environmental Services in 2017. A total of 144 farms were inspected under the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations and an additional 149 farmyards were surveyed under the 2017 farm survey program. Results for 2017 farm survey program indicate a high rate of compliance with 93% given a low risk rating. This ongoing work is part of the Council's continual engagement with the farming community to address potential sources of pollution and to encourage and promote best agricultural practice.

In addition, Environmental Services progressed a pilot project in conjunction with farmers based in the Derryvalley catchment during 2017. This project involved the

production of fertiliser plans for 46 farmers, in order to study more closely diffuse pollution (land runoff) related problems. The project demonstrated that the sustainable use of fertiliser has also the potential for significant cost savings to farmers.

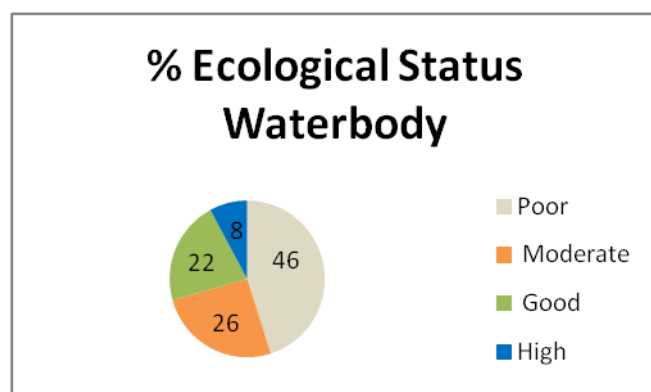
Dealing with potential water pollution again formed a significant part of the work program for staff working in the area in 2017 with 133 separate water quality related complaints investigated in 2017. Of the 133 complaints investigated, 125 cases had been resolved by the end of 2017.

All of the works detailed above are aimed at protecting water quality where quality is good and improving water quality where improvement is needed. 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 below depicts the classification of rivers using the biological Q rating system.



An overall ecological status is assigned to each water body using a combined score from chemistry, Q score and other biological elements. These are mapped and outlined on [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie). Monaghan has 51 water bodies with 4 water bodies achieving the highest status possible water quality standard and are located at the Mountain Water river and the Scotstown river, which flow from above Emyvale and Scotstown respectively. The Mountain water is also home to crayfish which are a protected species. It is a key

objective to protect these areas from any deterioration.



Throughout 2017 the water quality team continued to engage with the communities to raise awareness of water quality. A number of workshops were held in schools throughout the county using our CSI Water theme, and during the Cavan Monaghan Science festival.



*Students from Largy School is Rossmore river searching for invertebrates and crayfish*



*Scoil Mhuire Boys school visit Lough Muckno to explore what lives in the water.*



*Students from Scoil Rois examine what bugs live the Proules river.*

### **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 Council employs a County Veterinary Officer (CVO) and two temporary veterinary inspectors, who carry out ante and post mortem 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.

Three new food businesses were approved by Monaghan County Council in 2017.

### **Dog Control Service**

The Council employs one full-time Dog Warden for the county. 5,843 dogs were licensed in the county in 2017, a slight decrease on 2016. 239 on-the-spot fines were issued for keeping a dog without a licence, or failing to keep a dog adequately controlled/identified. There were 9

prosecutions in 2017, 8 of which resulted in convictions.

575 dogs were admitted to the Dog Pound in 2017, of which 78 were reclaimed by their owners, and 472 were re-homed with the assistance of Carrick Dog Shelter, Dogs Trust and MSPCA. All dogs leaving the Dog Pound were micro chipped and registered to their new owners as required under the Micro chipping of Dogs Regulations 2015.

### **Horse Control Service**

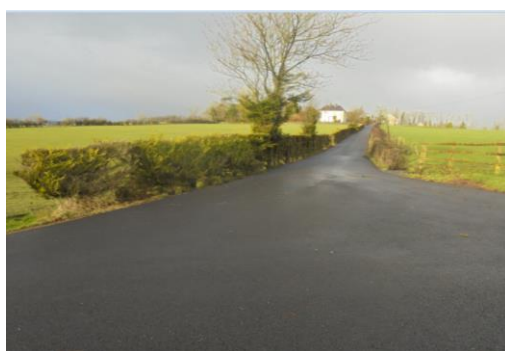
The Council provides a horse control service with the assistance of Hungry Horse Outside, a horse welfare organisation based in Co. Longford. Horses that are stray are seized or collected and held for a period of 5 days to allow the owner to reclaim the horse, otherwise it is re-homed. In 2017, 11 stray horses were collected by the Council and re-homed. The numbers of horses straying in the county has been steadily decreasing over the last 5 years.



## Roads and Transportation

In 2017 the Roads and Transport Section:

- Completed Restoration Improvement works to 42kms of Regional and Local Roads.
- Completed Restoration Maintenance works (Surface dressing) to 12.4kms of Regional and 46.4kms of Local Roads.
- Completed 21 Local Improvement Schemes.



Completed LIS

- Delivered 6 Road Safety Improvement Schemes, 1 on National Roads, 5 on Non-National Roads.
- Identified and completed 24 maintenance repairs on the National Road Network, including drainage works on the N54 approach to Clones Town.
- Replaced 7 of the Council's vehicular fleet as part of the machinery yards annual plant replacement programme.
- Completed 63 Call-outs for Winter Maintenance between October 2016 and April 2017.
- 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        |
| <b>Total Road Length</b> | <b>2552</b> |

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's 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 2017.

| Funding Source   | Amount             |
|------------------|--------------------|
| TII              | €4,200,356         |
| DTTaS            | €7,684,950         |
| Monaghan Co. Co. | €3,020,207         |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>€14,905,513</b> |

## **Works Completed/Under Way**

### **N2 Major Schemes**

In June 2017, the TII reactivated the N2 Clontibret to the NI Border Scheme and committed to the development of an upgrade of the N2 from Ardee to Castleblayney with Monaghan County Council acting as lead authority. Contract documents are being prepared for the appointment of consultants to progress the schemes in 2018.

### **N2 Monaghan to Emyvale Phase 3**

An allocation of €500,000 in 2017 allowed for the completion of the tender documents and the publishing of the contract in August 2017, which allowed progression of the acquisition of land required for the project. Construction of the scheme is due to commence in quarter 2 of 2018.

### **N2 Safety Improvement Works**

Safety improvement works were completed on both the northern and southern junctions of the N2 Carrickmacross bypass at the end of the year as recommended by the N2 Safety Review Report completed in May 2017.

### **N54 Tullybryan**

Funding of €500,000 was provided from the TII allowing for the completion of the preliminary design and the preparation of the Part 8 for the scheme, which will be published in March 2018.



### **N53 Castleblayney to the Border**

A 7.7km overlay of the N53 from the N2 in Castleblayney to Ballinacarry Bridge (Connabury to Ardkirk) was completed in November 2017 at a cost of €1.36 million.

### **N54 Monaghan Town**

A 1.8km overlay of the N54 from the Margaret Skinnider roundabout to the Threemilehouse junction completed in November 2017 at a cost of €925,000. The scheme also included safety improvement works at the R186 Tydavnet junction.

### **Bridge Strengthening (National Roads)**

An allocation of €1 Million was received from the TII in 2017 which allowed for the completion of rehabilitation works to the following bridges: Moy, Lisrooskey, Killydonagh, Blackwater Bridge, Lismenan Bridge, Ulster Canal & Skeagh Bridge.

Funding was also secured to progress the design of a replacement bridge on the N2 over the Blackwater in Monaghan Town which is currently at Part 8 planning.



### **N54 Skeagh Bridge**

### **Bridge Rehabilitation (Local Roads)**

An allocation of €85,000 allowed for works to proceed on Ballinode Bridge.



**Works underway at Ballinode Bridge**



### **Speed Limit Review**

The Speed Limit bye laws for Local and Regional roads were approved at the June Meeting of Monaghan County Council with an implementation date of 1st September 2017.

### **Road Safety**

The County Monaghan Road Safety Plan 2017-2020 was officially launched in October 2017. Events which took place during the year included:

A Road Safety Awareness event took place at McCaughey's N2 Service station.

The first Transition Year Road Safety Event took place in Castleblayney in March.

A Primary Schools Art Competition with the theme 'Safe Cycling in Co Monaghan' was held as part of National Bike week in June 2017

The first memorial event as part of World Day of Remembrance for road Traffic victims in the Monaghan region was organised by Martina Crudden from Clones and Monaghan County Council.

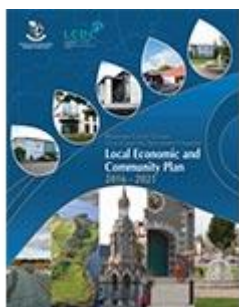
## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Local Community Development Committee

The Local Community Development Committee plays a co-ordinating role at county level helping to ensure that there is a coherent approach to local and community development in the county. During 2017 the Local Community Development Committee managed the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), LEADER, PEACE IV, Communities Facilities Scheme, and the RAPID Programme.

### LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 (LECP) was launched in July, 2016. The Monaghan LECP 2016-2021 sets out the identified high level goals, the related strategic objectives and key actions that will promote and support economic and community development of County



Monaghan for a six-year period. The Plan provides a focus for a shared vision of a better quality of life for our communities and opportunities to address issues affecting community development and economic and enterprise development.

### Main achievements of the LCDC in 2017

#### Monaghan LCDC Drugs and Alcohol Forum

Monaghan LCDC Drugs and Alcohol Forum launched their Drugs and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2016-2021 on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 Catherine Byrne T.D. Minister of State for Communities and the National Drugs Strategy

officialated at the launch. The Strategy is the result of a comprehensive consultation and analysis carried out by a wide range of stakeholders in the county.

Monaghan Drugs and Alcohol Forum is made up of representatives of the key statutory and community organisations with direct and indirect involvement in dealing with issues arising from substance misuse. Facilitated by the Community Department of Monaghan County Council the forum is supported by the HSE, Gardai, Probation and Welfare Service, Local Drugs Task Force, Youth Work Ireland, Teach na Daoine Family Resource Centre, Monaghan Children and Youth Services Programme, Cavan Monaghan Drugs Awareness Group, Elected Representatives and Monaghan Public Participation Network. The strategy aims to address significant issues in County Monaghan arising from the misuse of drugs and alcohol.



#### Monaghan LCDC Equality Sub Committee

Monaghan LCDC identified the need to raise greater awareness of equality and social inclusion in the Monaghan Local Economic and Community plan.

*“KNOW ME, Not the Stereotype”* focuses on a series of fictional characters experiencing exclusion in County Monaghan. The booklet challenges the reader to look beyond stereotypes and get to know a person. The characters in the booklet are fictional but the discrimination and stereotype language are real life experiences from people living in Monaghan. The booklet was launched in December. The equality sub group are working with the county museum to develop a public exhibition based on the “KNOW ME” booklet to go on display in 2018.



## Monaghan LCDC (Peace IV Partnership) Board



Monaghan LCDC Peace IV Programme was launched in September, 2017; it was the first of the local partnerships Multi-annual Plan to be approved by the SEUPB.

There are three main themes in the Plan.

- Children and Young with a budget of €638,544.89
- Shared Spaces and Services with a budget of €1,078,906.06
- Building Positive Relations with a budget of €1,321,117.01



Launch of PEACE IV Monaghan – Paul Clifford Monaghan County Council, Niamh Smyth TD, Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD, Gine McIntyre SEUPB, Heather Humphreys TD, Cathy Bennett Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council

## COMMUNITIES FACILITIES SCHEME 2017

The Communities Facilities Scheme was delivered in 2017 by Monaghan LCDC. €64,500 was available and the aim of this fund was to enhance grass roots communities, address disadvantage and improve social cohesion at local level by providing small scale capital grants. Ninety three Community Groups were awarded funding under the scheme in 2017.

## RAPID 2017

The RAPID programme was new to County Monaghan in 2017. This LCDC used the programme to target disadvantaged urban areas, and €64,500 was available for capital projects in the five main towns. A total of nine groups were awarded funding under the Rapid Programme 2017.

## HEALTHY IRELAND 2017

Monaghan LCDC and the Children and Young People Services Committee (CYPSC) in the county made a joint application to the Department of Health for funding under the Healthy Ireland Fund –

Strand 1. They were successful in obtaining €138,400 to deliver actions contained in the Healthy Monaghan application. €100,000 of this was directed at LCDC projects and €38,400 was directed at CYPSC projects.

## SOCIAL INCLUSION COMMUNITY ACTIVATION

### PROGRAMME (SICAP)

The 2017 budget for SICAP in Monaghan was €619,271. The

contractual arrangements between the LCDC and the Programme Implementer, (Monaghan Integrated Development CLG) provide for reporting, audit and monitoring functions of the programme, ensuring efficient targeted delivery while achieving best value for money. Mid-year and End of Year reviews of the programme took place in 2017 and all targets set under the programme were either reached or exceeded.



## Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme 2018-2022 (SICAP)

In July 2017, the new SICAP Programme for 2018-2022 was advertised on eTenders. Following

an evaluation by the SICAP Evaluation Sub Committee, the tender submitted

by Monaghan Integrated Development CLG was approved by Monaghan LCDC.



## SICAP Plan 2018

The SICAP Programme Budget for 2018 was set at €631,656 with the new programme

targeting 13 target groups one of these being “Substance misusers” which was selected by Monaghan LCDC as an additional emerging needs group for the new programme which commenced from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018.

## MONAGHAN LEADER Programme 2014-2020



Forbairt Chomhtháite Mhuineacháin Theoranta  
Monaghan Integrated Development CLG  
Supporting Growth and Opportunity

The Monaghan LEADER Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 was launched in September 2016. A total budget of €7.59 million is available for implementation and delivery of the programme in Monaghan which will run until the end of 2020.

Monaghan Local Community Development Committee (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. A total of 18 LEADER Applications were approved by the Local Action Group (LAG) in 2017 totalling €999,107.03.

### LEADER Co-Operation Projects

A number of LEADER Co-Operation projects are currently being explored by Partners and are expected to be delivered in 2018 and 2019.



### CLÁR 2017

CLÁR funding in the amount of €596,065 was received to fund a total of 18 projects in the CLÁR areas in County Monaghan under Measures 1, 2 and 3. Projects included Support for Schools / Communities Safety Measures (Measure 1); Play Areas (Measure 2) and Targeted Community Infrastructure Needs (Measure 3).

A further €57,554 was received under Measure 4 - First Response Support. This provided a range of life saving equipment for first responder groups in the county and the application was co-ordinated by the Community Development Section in the Council.

### Tidy Towns

Carrickmacross and Glaslough retained their Gold Medals and Monaghan town retained its Silver Medal, Emyvale Tidy Towns were runners up in the Sustainable Development Award for the excellent walk around Emy Lough and took up the inaugural Waters and Communities national prize for their work monitoring the water quality on the same lake. Glaslough was within a brace of marks of the national winner.



*Members of Emyvale Tidy Towns proudly displaying their Waters & Communities national award at the National Tidy Towns awards in The Helix last September*

## Entente Florale

Co. Monaghan, specifically the picturesque village of Glaslough, had the honour of representing Ireland in the Entente Florale Europe competition in 2017. Working together, staff from the Heritage, Planning, Economic, Community and Municipal District sections of the Council supported the local community to prepare the village and the various documents which were required in order to be ready for the arrival of the jury in July. The efforts of Council and community were handsomely rewarded by a Gold Medal.



*Information booklet produced by the Council to inform the Jury before arriving in Glaslough*



*A very large contingent from Glaslough travelled to Slovenia to attend the awards ceremony in September. They were rewarded with a Gold Medal.*

## Pride of Place

Monaghan County Council was very proudly represented in this year's competition by Iontas Castleblayney in the 'Creative Place' category, Mullaghmart Cortolvin in the Housing Estates category and the community of Bawn & Latton in the 200-1000 population category. The small but mighty community of Bawn & Latton claimed top spot.



*Representatives from Latton Bawn receive their award from Pride of Place organisers*

## 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.



*Civil Defence members demonstrate the latest CPR manikins purchased through the CLAR funding at the launch of the equipment in December.*

## Age Friendly Programme

The Monaghan **Age Friendly Guide to Communication** booklet was identified as a model of good practice by Age Friendly Ireland. The template for the *Age Friendly Guide to Communication* booklet was shared with every Age Friendly programme and has subsequently been replicated by eight other local authorities.

*Age Friendly Guide to Communication Training*  
To support the *Age Friendly Guide to Communication* booklet Monaghan Age Friendly programme developed an age friendly communication training programme.



Front line staff from Monaghan County Council, HSE, Monaghan Garda Station and the Department of Social Protection took part in the training programme in Monaghan.

### **Age Friendly Business week 2017**

Monaghan's second Age Friendly Business Week ran in **December 2017**. During this week participating businesses highlighted the initiatives they have rolled out or wish to roll out as part of the Age Friendly Business Programme. Businesses also put in place some special one off initiatives during this week. Monaghan County Council promoted the Age Friendly Business Calendar through the local media, social media and across our community groups to ensure as many people as possible was aware of all the things happening in the business community for older people living in and visiting Monaghan.

### **House of Lords -Ageing Better Symposium**

Monaghan Age Friendly Programme was invited to address an Ageing Better Symposium in the House of Lords in London in March 2017. Monaghan Age Friendly Programme Manager presented the conference with information on Monaghan Age Friendly Guide to Communication and Monaghan Age Friendly Business Programme. Following the presentation, The Centre on Ageing brought the work of Monaghan's Age Friendly programme to the Cross Party Parliamentary Committee on Ageing for inclusion in their programme of work.

### **Public Sector Duty Pilot project**

The Board of the LGMA selected Monaghan County Council to participate in a Pilot Project to work collaboratively with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) to develop a process for implementing the Public Sector Duty. Monaghan is one of two Local Authorities participating and was selected on account of the commitment to equality and inclusion demonstrated within the work of the Council.

### **Community Development and Environment Fund 2017**

The Community and Environment Funding Scheme 2017 opened for applications in late February.

Applications were accepted across three distinct measures, 1. Community Infrastructure Supports, 2. Community Development Supports and 3. Environmental Supports. Two hundred and forty completed applications were received. A budget of €175,000 was allocated to 230 community and voluntary groups across the county.

### **Integrated Play in Ballybay**

Monaghan's first Inclusive playground opened in Ballybay Town Park on November 13th. The new playground is the result of a yearlong project led by the Social Inclusion Department and Ballybay Clones Municipal District. The lead in public consultation had a particular focus on the needs of children with a disability. The new playground has been developed with equipment that provides play opportunities for children with physical disabilities, sensory disabilities and intellectual disabilities. The play equipment has been carefully selected to ensure integrated and inclusive play opportunities where all children play together. The community consultation process highlighted the difficulties that people were experiencing in the park, in particular parents of children with special needs.

### **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

Comhairle na nÓg committee work on Promoting Positive Body Image in young people during 2017.



For 2017 the Comhairle project focussed on BODY IMAGE promoting a message of positive body image amongst young people. The group presented their project idea to a number of stakeholders at the Children & Young Peoples Services Committee (CYPSC) meeting in March.



They collaborated with Bodywhys (the national organisation which supports young people affected by eating disorders and body image) and together they have produced a series of DVD's and lesson plans which can be used as a resource for SPHE teachers to discuss with 1<sup>st</sup> year students.

### **Transition Year Short Film Competition**

The Inaugural short film competition took place in November 2017. In its first year, over 100 students attended representing 4 schools in the County. The participating schools were The Patrician High School, Carrickmacross, Largy College Clones, Colaiste Oiriall and St Macartans College in Monaghan. The topic for this year was Body Image with the announcement of winners taking place in the Garage Theatre on the 28<sup>th</sup> November. The winning entry selected was from Colaiste Oiriall, entitled "You're beautiful just the way you are".



### **Carrickmacross Walking & Cycling Strategy**

As part of the government's Smarter Travel Initiative, The Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney are to put in place a range of measures and supports which will facilitate more people to use sustainable forms of transport for more of their daily journeys. The first step of the process was to prepare a Walking & Cycling Strategy for Carrickmacross. The Comhairle na nÓg committee members assisted the Municipal District in carrying out an audit of the current situation, and consulting with the public, the schools, employers and employees in the town regarding their needs and what they would like to see provided in their town.

### **Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg AGM**



In October, over 130 young people from across the County representing each of the 12 Secondary Schools and youth organisations attended the annual Comhairle na nÓg AGM. The 2017 – 2019 committee was elected and 40 young people from across the County will meet with the youth development officer monthly to progress issues of importance and be the representative voice of the young people in the County.

### **Ulster Canal Greenway**

Monaghan County Council, along with partners Waterways Ireland, Cavan County Council, Fermanagh & Omagh Council, Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon District Council and Mid Ulster Council, have devised a Strategic Plan to develop a 190km greenway across central Ulster, using the entire length of the Ulster Canal and many disused railway lines which intersect it at various points.

In December 2016 INTERREG VA funding of €4.95m was awarded to Phase 2 of the Ulster Canal Greenway. This 22km project is being delivered in partnership between Waterways Ireland, Monaghan County Council, Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and East Border Region Ltd. The Greenway will connect the Phase 1 Monaghan Town Greenway and will extend from Smithborough in County Monaghan to Middletown in County



Armagh, with a 2km spur proposed along the route of the Monaghan Town Bypass.

A Project Manager and Financial Administrator have been appointed to the project by Monaghan County Council. Preliminary design works commenced on Phase 2 in 2017. Construction is planned to commence in early 2020 and the Greenway is due to open in 2021.

## Monaghan Sports Partnership



The Monaghan Sports Partnership delivered and supported 62 activity programmes, events and training courses throughout County Monaghan in line with our strategic objectives and service delivery plan and included the following;

### Increasing Activity

Active Adults 50+ Programme – 23 activity programmes.

Girls in Action – Post Primary School activity for 150 teenage girls in 4 Schools

On Your Bike – safe cycling training for 206 primary school children at 12 local Schools

### Sports Inclusion Programme (for people with a disability)

A range of activities were provided for people with learning / intellectual disability, physical disability, sensory disability and mental health illness in a programme of work that is shared with our partners in Cavan Sports Partnership & Cavan County Council.



## Sports Club Development

The Sports Clubs Grants Scheme 2017 was made available to all sports clubs that provide activities of a sporting or physical activity nature and in particular projects that attract new members and increased participation. Funding recommendations were approved by the board and made to 20 Clubs County wide.

## Training & Education

### Safeguarding Children in Sport 1, 2 & 3

Monaghan Sports Partnership delivered Safeguarding 1, 2 and 3 Child Protection Courses in 2017.

In all, 222 people attended these 18 courses representing various clubs throughout the county.

**Basic First Aid** – 4 First Aid Courses were provided in 2017 with a total of 46 participants

**Disability Awareness Training** – 5 workshops were delivered to disability services, schools and communities groups to raise awareness of disability and to create more opportunities for inclusive activities

### Supporting National events / initiatives

*Operation Transformation National Walk* (Jan) – held in Monaghan along the Greenway– 110 people of all ages and abilities participated in this annual popular event.

**National Bike week** (June)–17 events were held throughout County Monaghan at which over 1,000 people took part including Primary Schools, Pre-schools and local Cycling Clubs.



## 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 2017**

| <b>LEO Monaghan - Stats for 2017</b>     | <b>Training Programmes</b> | <b>Participants</b> |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|
| SYOB                                     | 5                          | 50                  |
| Video Marketing using a Smartphone       | 2                          | 20                  |
| Video Marketing                          | 1                          | 9                   |
| Pricing for Profit                       | 1                          | 7                   |
| Search Engine Optimisation               | 1                          | 7                   |
| Sage 50 Improvers Programme              | 2                          | 23                  |
| Online Social Media & Marketing          | 1                          | 13                  |
| How to make E Commerce Happen            | 1                          | 17                  |
| Taking Ireland to a 2 Speed Economy      | 1                          | 42                  |
| Retail is E-Tail                         | 1                          | 178                 |
| Creating an Impact with a Marketing Plan | 1                          | 9                   |
| Women in Business Events                 | 9                          | 258                 |
| Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur         | 1                          | 22                  |
| Online TOV Seminar                       | 1                          | 13                  |
| Border Biz Camp                          | 1                          | 188                 |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>29</b>                  | <b>856</b>          |



## Events, seminars and clinics

| LEO Monaghan - Stats for 2016               | Events, seminars and clinics | Participants |
|---|------------------------------|--------------|
| Mentoring                                   | 31                           | 31           |
| Plato EBR                                   | 10                           | 135          |
| Primary Schools Enterprise Programme        | 1                            | 633          |
| Showcase                                    | 1                            | 2            |
| Student Enterprise Programme Senior         | 1                            | 325          |
| LEO village National Ploughing Championship | 1                            | 1            |
| Co-Innovate programme                       | 1                            | 24           |
| Microfinance Ireland                        | 4 applicants                 | 1 approvals  |

| Jobs & Grants:                            | Output 2016 | €             |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| <b>Total Employment in LEO Clients</b>    | 1052        |               |
| <b>Net Increase (after Job Losses)</b>    | 142         |               |
| Grant Applications Approved:              |             |               |
| <b>Feasibility: Number / Value</b>        | <b>2</b>    | <b>14000</b>  |
| <b>Priming: Number / Value</b>            | <b>5</b>    | <b>167837</b> |
| <b>Business Expansion: Number / Value</b> | <b>6</b>    | <b>223798</b> |

## **Strategic Policy Committees**

The role of Strategic Policy Committees is to formulate policy proposals, evaluate and report on policy implementation for consideration. Provide policy centered 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 has 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**

### **Housing, Fire & Civil Protection SPC (4 meetings held 2017)**

The following policies were approved at meetings of the SPC during 2017:

- Revised Tenancy Deposit Scheme

The SPC committee received Presentations on:

- The joint response of Monaghan Fire and Civil Protection and Housing Section to requirements arising from Departmental Circular in relation to the Grenfell Towers tragedy in London.
- The Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with a Disability.

Motions submitted to Council during 2017:

- Letter to be issued to the Minister requesting additional resources to Fire Departments to ensure fire hydrants are checked on a regular basis

- Letter to be issued to the Minister recommending that it should be come compulsory for all landlords participating on the Housing Assistance (HAP) Scheme to register with the Residential Tenancies Board
- Letter to be submitted to the Minister for Housing requesting a strengthening of the role of Local Authorities in relation to landlords on the HAP Scheme

## **Social Cultural & Community Development SPC (3 meetings held in 2017)**

The following policies were approved at meetings of the SPC during 2017:

- Museum Disaster Plan
- Museum Collections Policy
- Care of Collections Strategy
- Education Policy

## **The Music Generation Scheme**

The Music Generation scheme was officially launched on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and an application for funding was successful. This is a two year programme 2017-2019. The project is a partnership between Monaghan County Council, Cavan County Council and Cavan/Monaghan ETB, with the ETB being the lead agency. It is recognised by the Department of Education and Skills as non-mainstream music education, and is aimed at people under 24.

## **Creative Ireland 2018-2022**

The Creative Ireland Programme is a five year programme from 2018-2022 which places creativity at the centre of public policy. Monaghan County Council has set up a Cultural Team, made up from Arts and Heritage Officers, Curators and Librarians supported by a Director of Services to develop a 5 Year Creative & Cultural Plan 2018-2022 for County Monaghan.

### **Planning and Economic Development SPC (5 meetings held in 2017)**

The main topics for discussion included

- Tourism
- Dereliction and urban regeneration
- Broadband provision
- Impact of Brexit
- County Development Plan

Regular reports were received from the Tourism Officer in relation to projects underway and meeting the targets of the Tourism strategy. The Broadband Officer also kept the committee informed on progress made on the National Broadband Project. The County Development Plan team kept the committee aware of its work in preparing the 2020-2025. The committee was also briefed on The National Planning Framework. The Dublin Street regeneration plan was discussed and approved.

Much discussion on the potential impact of Brexit took place and various strategies to minimise the impact and also to capitalise on any opportunities were put forward.

Three items were agreed and referred to the CPG for consideration:

- A proposal to relax policy in relation to one off unfinished houses in areas under strong urban influence
- The review of the Development Contribution Scheme
- Designation of Glaslough as an Architectural Conservation Area

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

### **Environment & Transport SPC (4 meetings held in 2017)**

The committee received the following presentations:

- Presentation on “Waymarkers” Community Map
- Proposed work plan for production of County Walking and Cycling Strategy
- Presentation Derryvalley River Catchment Pilot Project
- River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021
- Litter Awareness Campaign 2017
- Environmental Enforcement Policy 2017
- Veterinary Services
- N2 Scheme Feasibility report
- Map Road Licensing System

#### **Road Safety Action Plan**

The Road Safety Plan 2017 – 2020, was presented to members. The plan is a co-ordinated multi agency road safety policy, prepared by the Monaghan Road Safety Working Together Group, which is comprised of representatives from An Garda Síochána, Monaghan County Council, Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection, The Road Safety Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, The National Ambulance Service and Cavan & Monaghan Education Training Board. It was formally launched by the Cathaoirleach in October 2017.

## **Councillor Representation on External and Council Committees**

### **Cathaoirleach 2017/2018(June 2017-June 2018)**

Cllr. P.J O'Hanlon

### **Leas-Chathaoirleach 2017/2018(June 2017-June 2018)**

Cllr. Aidan Campbell

### **Corporate Policy Group**

Cathaoirleach of the Day

Cllr. Padraig McNally

Cllr. David Maxwell

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. Pat Treanor

### **Cavan/Monaghan Education and Training Board.**

Cllr. Cathy Bennett

Cllr. Aidan Campbell

Cllr. Colm Carthy

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

Cllr. Seamus Coyle

### **Peace IV Peace Partnership Board**

Cllr Aidan Campbell

Cllr Pat Treanor

Cllr Paudge Connolly

Cllr Seamus Coyle

Carrickmacross-Castleblaney M.D.

Ballybay-Clones M.D.

Monaghan M.D. (replaced Cllr S. Treanor)

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. Eva Humphreys

Cllr. Seamus Treanor

### **Audit Committee**

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Cllr. Sean Gilliland



**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. D. Maxwell

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. O'Reilly

Supt. Noel 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. Pdraig McNally  
Cllr. Raymond Aughey  
Cllr. Jackie Crowe  
Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Cllr. Seamus Treanor

**Disability Act 2005 Steering Committee.**

Cllr. Eva Humphreys  
Cllr. Paudge Connolly  
Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Cathy Bennett

**Twinning Committee**

Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Cllr. Pdraig McNally  
Cllr. Aidan Campbell  
Cllr. Seamus Treanor  
Cllr. Sean Conlon (added 2/2/15)

**Clones Erne East Partnership**

Cllr. Eva Humphreys  
Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney  
Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Sean Gilliland  
Cllr. Cathy Bennett

**County Monaghan Heritage Forum**

Cllr. Eva Humphreys  
Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Seamus Treanor

**Lough Muckno Sub Committee**

Cllr. Pdraig McNally  
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon  
Cllr. Sean Gilliland  
Cllr. Brian McKenna  
Cllr. Jackie Crowe  
Cllr. Aidan Campbell

**Standing Orders & Procedures Committee**

Cllr. Pdraig 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

Cllr. Paudge Connolly (Cathaoirleach 2017/2018)

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. Raymond Aughey (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2017/2018)

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Cllr. Seamus Treanor

### **Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District**

Cllr. Aidan Campbell  
Cllr. Pádraig McNally (Cathaoirleach 2017/2018)  
Cllr. Colm Carthy (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2017/2018)  
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon  
Cllr. Jackie Crowe  
Cllr. Noel Keelan

### **Ballybay-Clones Municipal District**

Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Cllr. Seamus Coyle (Cathaoirleach 2017/2018)  
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney  
Cllr. Eva Humphreys  
Cllr. Sean Gilliland (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2017/2018)  
Cllr. Cathy Bennett

### **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. David Maxwell (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)

### **SPC for Local Improvements Schemes**

Caithaoirleach of the day  
Cllr J Crowe  
Cllr S Coyle  
Cllr A Campbell  
Cllr P Connolly

## Conferences/Training attended by Members in 2017

| <u>Title</u>   | <u>Venue</u>                        | <u>No.'s attended</u> |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
|  |                                     |                       |
| AILG-National Planning Authority                           | Hotel Kilmore, Cavan                | 4                     |
| AILG-National Planning Authority                           | Dooley's Hotel, Waterford           | 6                     |
| Celtic Conferences-Constituents Tax Entitlements & Reliefs | Clonakilty, Cork                    | 1                     |
| Centre for Cross Border Studies                            | Armagh City Hotel, Armagh           | 2                     |
| LGMA-Collaborate Locally to Compete Globally               | The Riverside PK Hotel, Enniscorthy | 1                     |
| AILG Spring Seminar  | Tracey's West County Hotel, Ennis   | 12                    |
| LAMA Spring Seminar  | City North Hotel, Gormanston        | 9                     |
| AILG-From Plans to Actions                                 | Westport                            | 7                     |
| EBR-Border Corridor Brexit Event                           | Lough Erne Resort, Enniskillen      | 7                     |
| AILG-Rural Action Development Plan                         | Arklow                              | 1                     |
| AILG-Rating Powers Reform & Revaluations                   | The Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran  | 10                    |
| McGee Summer School  | Carlingford, Co. Louth              | 1                     |
| LAMA Autumn Seminar  | Hotel Manila, Clonmel               | 9                     |
| AILG-Wellbeing for Councillors                             | Ard Rí House Hotel, Tuam            | 4                     |
| AILG-Wellbeing for Councillors                             | Clayton Silver Springs Hotel, Cork  | 7                     |
| AILG Autumn Seminar-Brexit                                 | Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo             | 11                    |

## Appendix I

### Members Expenses 2017

| Payments to Monaghan County Council Members in 2017 - January - December |               |             |            |             |               |             |             |             |                |              |                  |
|--|---------------|-------------|------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
|  | Travel &      |             |            |             |               |             | Chair of    |             | Foreign Travel |              |                  |
| Name of  | Subsistence   | Annual      | Mobile     | SPC Chair   | Cathaoirleach | Leas        | Municipal   | Retirement  | Twinning etc   | TOTAL        | Representational |
| Councillor   | (Cross border | Allowance   | Phone      | Allowance   | (Subject to   | Allowance   | Allowance   | (Subject to | Flights &      | ALLOWANCES   | Payment (salary) |
|  | Meetings      |             | Allowance  |             | PAYE)         | (Subject to | (subject to | PAYE)       | Cost of        | & EXPENSES   | Gross subject    |
|  | Conferences   |             | claimed    |             |               | PAYE)       | PAYE)       |             | Expenses       | ETC          | to PAYE***       |
|  | & Training)   |             |            |             |               |             |             |             |                |              |                  |
| P. McNally   | € 0.00        | € 5,580.16  | € 353.76   | € 6,000.00  |               |             | € 1,590.00  |             |                | € 13,523.92  | € 16,645.00      |
| N. Keelan  | € 0.00        | € 5,580.16  | € 187.86   |             |               |             |             |             |                | € 5,768.02   | € 16,645.00      |
| C. Carthy  | € 0.00        | € 5,485.60  | € 381.06   |             |               |             |             |             |                | € 5,866.66   | € 16,645.00      |
| P.J. O'Hanlon  | € 0.00        | € 5,580.16  | € 0.00     |             | € 9,923.84    |             |             |             |                | € 15,504.00  | € 16,645.00      |
| J. Crowe   | € 0.00        | € 4,776.76  | € 297.92   |             |               |             |             |             |                | € 5,074.68   | € 16,645.00      |
| H. McElvaney   | € 0.00        | € 4,386.48  | € 0.00     |             |               |             |             |             |                | € 4,386.48   | € 16,645.00      |
| B. McKenna   | € 0.00        | € 4,658.68  | € 134.54   | € 6,000.00  |               |             |             |             |                | € 10,793.22  | € 16,645.00      |
| S. Coyle   | € 0.00        | € 5,202.16  | € 224.00   |             |               |             | € 2,700.00  |             |                | € 8,126.16   | € 16,645.00      |
| S. Conlon  | € 0.00        | € 4,351.48  | € 289.00   |             |               |             |             |             |                | € 4,640.48   | € 16,645.00      |
| P. Treanor   | € 0.00        | € 4,682.32  | € 0.00     | € 6,000.00  |               |             | € 2,815.00  |             |                | € 13,497.32  | € 16,645.00      |
| D. Maxwell   | € 0.00        | € 4,351.48  | € 347.64   | € 4,500.00  |               |             | € 2,815.00  |             | € 416.51       | € 12,430.63  | € 16,645.00      |
| S. Treanor   | € 0.00        | € 4,351.48  | € 116.78   |             |               | € 1,875.02  |             |             | € 476.51       | € 6,819.79   | € 16,645.00      |
| P. Connolly  | € 0.00        | € 4,351.48  | € 210.45   |             |               |             | € 2,700.00  |             | € 1,676.81     | € 8,938.74   | € 16,645.00      |
| C. McPhillips*   | € 0.00        | € 1,427.16  | € 0.00     | € 1,500.00  |               |             |             |             |                | € 2,927.16   | € 7,698.31       |
| C. Bennett   | € 0.00        | € 4,351.48  | € 386.76   |             | € 8,999.30    |             |             |             | € 3,074.79     | € 16,812.33  | € 16,645.00      |
| S. Gilliland   | € 0.00        | € 5,202.16  | € 0.00     |             |               |             |             |             |                | € 5,202.16   | € 16,645.00      |
| A. Campbell  | € 0.00        | € 4,730.40  | € 0.00     |             |               | € 1,801.65  | € 2,930.00  |             |                | € 9,462.05   | € 16,645.00      |
| R. Aughey  | € 0.00        | € 4,351.48  | € 0.00     |             |               |             |             |             |                | € 4,351.48   | € 16,645.00      |
| E. Humphreys**   | € 0.00        | € 1,143.26  | € 0.00     |             |               |             |             |             |                | € 1,143.26   | € 4,466.00       |
| Totals   | € 0.00        | € 84,544.34 | € 2,929.77 | € 24,000.00 | € 18,923.14   | € 3,676.67  | € 15,550.00 | € 0.00      | € 5,644.62     | € 155,268.54 | € 295,129.31     |
| *resigned wef 12 June 2017   |               |             |            |             |               |             |             |             |                |              |                  |
| **co-opted wef 2 October 2017  |               |             |            |             |               |             |             |             |                |              |                  |

\*\*\* Note Rep. Payment rate changed wef 1 April 2017 - (Jan - March the rate was €16,565)



## **Appendix II**

### **Financial Statement 2017**

#### **Summary of Expenditure, Income and balances**

**\*\*\*\*\* to follow**

## Appendix III

### Corporate Plan 2015-2019

#### Progress Report 2017

| Objective 1: The organisation, manages through strong leadership, good governance and democratic accountability will fulfil its mission in an 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. | Improve Estate management procedures   | <p>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</p> <p>Use of Laserfiche and I-house to manage representations from elected members</p> <p>Regular Communication with staff in the Housing Department on issues concerning member's constituents.</p> <p>Ongoing support of residents associations through the Tenant Liaison Officer</p> |
| Health and Safety Unit   | 1.3 Manage and implement the Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) and Risk Management System.  | Maintain and update the HSMS's procedures, guidelines, registers and forms in line with OHSAS 18001. | <p>Corporate Safety Statement (CSS) in place and compliant in 2017.</p> <p>52 HSMS Procedure and 32 Forms/Templates in place.</p>  |

|                        |   |   |  |
|------------------------|---|---|--|
|                        |   |   |  |
| Health and Safety Unit | 1.5 Manage and implement the Health and Safety Management System (HSMS).  | Provision of Communication and Training necessary to ensure compliance and consistency. | <p>12 x Health and Safety Unit Monthly Reports issued.</p> <p>The Health and Safety Intranet was populated with current and relevant safety, health and welfare information.</p> <p>Annual Newsletter delivered.</p> <p>Event Management Procedure Training organised and provided.</p> <p>5 x Safety Committee Meetings held.</p> <p>European Health and Safety Week delivered.</p> |
| Health and Safety Unit | Manage and implement the Health and Safety Management System (HSMS).  | Develop and implement an Audit, Inspection and Review Process.                          | <p>Review of HSMS documentation was completed in 2017.</p> <p>Five Hazard and Risk Assessments conducted.</p> <p>290 Health and Safety Site Inspections conducted.</p> <p>Four Section Health and Safety Manual Audit complete.</p>  |
| 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 | Complete a 5 year Library development strategy  | Completed and approved   |

|                    |  |  |  |
|--------------------|--|--|--|
|                    | across the organisation.   |  |  |
| 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.<br><br>Manage the Annual Register of Electors<br><br>Fulfil the organisation's responsibilities under the Ethic's Framework | Council/Committee Meetings held, agenda business transacted effectively, follow up actions implemented.<br><br>Up to date Register published in accordance with the statutory dates<br><br>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<br>Internal Audit workplan approved and implemented.<br>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  | Prepare reports, works programmes and reviews in line with corporate governance requirements   | Annual Report Adopted<br>Annual Service Delivery Plan adopted<br>Monitoring and review of performance – NOAC/Mon Stat  |

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|                       | across the organisation.  |   |   |
| Corporate Services    | 1.6 Prepare and Implement a Customer Care Policy based on Customer Relationship Management System   | <p>Develop appropriate and effective communications and customer care services and systems</p> <p>Respond to information requests, complaints and protected disclosures in line with statutory requirements</p> | <p>A number of corporate policies and procedures were developed. Customer Care Charter updated and implemented</p> <p>All FOI requests, Ombudsman complaints and protected disclosures addressed within the relevant timeframes</p> |
| 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   | Work on the Draft Communications Strategy was deferred to 2018.   |
| 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 practice and are applied consistently across the organisation | 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  |
| Community Development | 1.4 Provide strong leadership and create greater levels of accountability and responsibility at all grades within Monaghan County Council through   | The organisation managed through strong leadership, good governance and democratic accountability will fulfil its mission in an open honest and   | Ongoing implementation of corporate management structures.  |



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|             | implementing MonStat.  | 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 | Monaghan County Museum became the first local authority museum in the country to achieve the status of second maintenance of Full Accreditation under the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland in 2017. The awards ceremony will take place in summer 2018.        |
| 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 Council role in economic development and how it can               | Provide Environment services support to SPC & CPG committees.                 | - Continued support provided to SPC and CPG and elected members 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. |

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|          | be delivered.   |  |   |
| Planning | <p>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</p> <p>1.3 Maintain and improve service delivery systems to ensure compliance with legislative and statutory obligations</p> | <p>Develop a planning policy framework within legislative and policy requirements</p> <p>Operate a Development Management System in compliance with legislative and policy framework</p> | <p>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</p> <p>Ongoing processing of all planning applications, material contraventions, appeals, declarations, extensions of duration applications, Part 8s, etc. in compliance with legislative and policy framework</p> <p>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</p> <p>Ongoing operation and updating of online planning application information system and maintenance of planning page on county Council website</p> <p>Facilitation of two Agents' Forum meetings and one Agents' Workshop per annum</p> |

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

| <b>Department</b>       | <b>Corporate Plan Sub-Category</b>   | <b>Business Plan Objective</b>   | <b>Progress</b>  |
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| 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            | Consultation process completed with fire personnel and draft plan presented to SPC. Draft Section 26 Plan to be presented to CPG for approval to precede Council meeting for adoption in 2018. Implementation of plan ongoing. |
| 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 | School Fire Safety programme completed. Pre-Fire-Inspection and Community Group visits completed.  |
| 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   | Inspection programme completed.  |
| Fire & Civil Protection | 2.11 Develop and Implement a Civil Defence Strategy  | Civil Defence Strategy   | Monaghan Civil Defence Strategy completed  |
| 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   | Manage Housing Supports<br><br>Delivery of the Housing Capital programme                 | Ongoing assessment and update of housing applications<br><br>Implementation of the Housing Assistance Payment<br><br>Ongoing liaison with  |

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|                    | community.   |                                | <p>Voluntary Housing Associations and provision of new housing units through the Capital Assistance Scheme/Capital Advance Leasing Facility</p> <p>Provision of Homeless Service and Tenant Liaison Service</p> <p>Administration of the Mobility Aid Grant, Housing Adaptation Grant and Housing Aid for Older People</p> <p>Ongoing implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2014-2018</p> <p>Establishment of the Housing and Disability Steering Group</p> <p>Respond to housing need by delivering the house building and Acquisition programme and the provision of houses through Part V of the planning process.</p> |
| 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. | Improve Housing Stock Standard | 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 drafting of the policies within the development plan and identification of sites for the provision of social housing.   |
| Corporate Services | 2.4 Promote the  | <b>ENERGY:</b> To reduce       | 24.4% achieved towards   |

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|             | sustainable use of energy by reducing Monaghan's energy usage in line with National targets by 2020   | <p>Monaghan County Council's Energy usage in line with National and European stands. Have in place a structured energy management programme using EnergyMAP process</p> <p><b><u>PUBLIC LIGHTING:</u></b> To optimise the energy efficiency &amp; implement an asset management system for Monaghan County Council's public lighting. Public Lighting inventory review completed in accordance with new TII guidelines</p> | <p>33% target in 2020. Ahead of schedule</p> <p>Detailed inventory of all lights in place. Programme of upgrading lighting underway and on target.</p>   |
| 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  | <p>Upgrade of lighting, heating and glazing in Monaghan Branch</p> <p>Upgrade of lighting in Clones Library and Library HQ</p> <p><b>Regular meter readings for library buildings</b></p>  |
| Environment | 2.3 Implement the Connacht/Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implement Priority objectives in areas of enforcement, compliance, waste infrastructure and awareness.</li> <li>- Manage Scotch Corner Landfill in accordance with Waste License W0020-02</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued implementation of waste management policies in line with the objectives of the Connacht Ulster Waste Management Plan.</li> <li>- Continued upgrade works completed at some of our bring sites in 2017.</li> <li>- Significant infrastructural improvement works at the Materials Recovery Facility and Civic Amenity site at Scotch Corner</li> </ul> |



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|  |  |  | <p>completed in February 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New concession contract signed in July 2017 for the operation and management for the management of the Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross Recycling Centers.</li> <li>- Progression of new novel waste prevention projects through LAPN funding secured through the EPA. In 2017 significant progress has been made on a National online repair Directory, which Monaghan County Council is project lead.</li> <li>- Historic litter/dumping blackspots cleaned up in 2017 through grant monies secured via the Anti Dumping Initiative scheme.</li> <li>- Ongoing review of old legacy landfill in county with environmental assessments carried out during 2017 on historical sites at Tiragarvan and the old tannery site in Ballybay through grant assistance from the Department.</li> <li>- Ongoing management of the Scotch Corner landfill facility as per the conditions of our EPA license.</li> </ul> |
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|             |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Completion of additional leachate management improvement works at Scotch Corner in 2017 to further reduce leachate generation.</li> <li>- Progression of a gas utilisation tender process in 2017 to determine the economic viability of utilising landfill gas generated at Scotch Corner.</li> <li>- Continued implementation of robust measures to enforce waste and litter regulations including both covert and overt CCTV monitoring programme.</li> <li>- Expansion of the Spring Clean campaign to include litter picking on the National Road network in county.</li> <li>- Implementation of RMCEI waste enforcement plan in conjunction with Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority and Environmental Protection Agency.</li> <li>-</li> </ul> |
| Environment |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure the production of safe food and compliance with legal requirements by food businesses</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inspections, audits and sampling of food businesses were completed as planned and results of inspections and sampling reported to relevant</li> </ul>  |

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|             |                                       | supervised by Monaghan County Council  | stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3 new food businesses were approved</li> <li>- 1 enforcement order was issued to a Food Business Operator.</li> </ul>  |
|             |                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued provision of a dedicated dog warden service for the investigation of stray dog complaints and the enforcement of dog control legislation. 2017 saw a slight decrease (&lt;1%) in dog licenses issued to 5,860. 487 (100%) dog related complaints investigated and closed.</li> <li>- In 2017 527 dogs were admitted to the Dog Pound of which 96% were reclaimed or re-homed.</li> <li>- Continued inspection of 14 registered dog breeding establishments.</li> <li>- One successful prosecution for operating an unregistered dog breeding establishment.</li> <li>- 11 stray horses were seized in Monaghan in 2017. This is a significant reduction on the 29 stray horses seized in 2016.</li> </ul> |
| Environment | 2.5 Develop and provide environmental |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A networking event for local food businesses was held</li> </ul>  |

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|             | education and training programmes.  |   | entitled “From Farm to Restaurant Plate: Environmental Sustainability in the Food Sector”<br>- Focus in 2018 on use of social media to make general public aware of Environmental Issues.  |
| Environment | 2.6 Develop strategies to strive towards meeting objectives of the Water Framework Directive to improve Monaghan County’s water quality status. | - Support Implementation of the Water Framework Directive | - Water Quality staff contributed to the development of the Draft River Basin Management Plan including identifying priority areas for further action in conjunction with the EPA<br>- Completion of farm inspection program as required under the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations. 144 farms inspected in 2017.<br>- Completion of Intensive Agriculture Enterprise Inspection Program with particular focus on the Poultry sector in 2017.<br>- Completion of Farm survey program in Finn catchment with 149 farms visited in 2017.<br>- Continued monitoring of 32 Section 4 effluent discharge licenses in County Monaghan with |

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|          |   |  | <p>discharges to waters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Successful Completion of WFD River and lake monitoring program with 411 inspections in 2017.</li> <li>- Assessment of 275 planning applications in 2017.</li> <li>- 133 water/wastewater environmental pollution complaints investigated in 2017 with 125 resolved.</li> <li>- Progression of the Derryvalley Catchment Pilot Project in 2017 which involved working with the farming community with the overall aim of improving water quality in the catchment through an increased awareness of Nutrient Management Planning. 45 farmers in the catchment participated in project.</li> </ul> |
| 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 | <p>Ongoing monitoring and investigation of unauthorised development and taking appropriate enforcement action within legislative framework and in compliance with legislative requirements and deadlines</p> <p>Ongoing taking in charge of</p>  |



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|  |   | Take in charge developments as required and resolve remaining unfinished housing developments in the county | housing developments following receipt of application<br><br>Ten housing developments were taken in charge in 2017   |
|  | 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<br><br>Review of current County Development Plan commenced in 2017 |

**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. | Improve Housing Stock Standards           | Support small businesses through housing grants, void repairs and energy efficiency works<br><br>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  | Delivery of the Housing Capital programme | Through the construction of quality social housing, the upgrading and acquisition programme, implementation of Part V of the planning process and the Capital    |

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|         |  |  | 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 |  | <p>Print and on-line Calendar of Events for 2017 produced</p> <p>Tourist Office operated from mid March to end September</p> <p>Tourism enquiries dealt with on a daily basis</p> <p>Ongoing meetings with tourism trade providers to provide advice and support with funding applications – particularly LEADER</p> <p>Up to date information provided on website and social media sites – Facebook, Twitter and Instagram</p> <p>Public relations Campaign for Tourism delivered with articles on Monaghan published in national press and on travel blog sites</p> <p>Travel itineraries for Monaghan produced – available on-line and in print</p> <p>Diaspora Engagement Framework Document produced</p> |
| Tourism | 3.8 Develop a Brand  |  | Branded Memory  |

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|         | Image for the county which will assist in maximising investment and development potential   |  | Sticks produced and pre-loaded with Tourism and Economic literature and videos<br><br>New branded Folder produced  |
| Library | 3.2 Deliver on Monaghan County Council's Tourism Strategy in partnership with stakeholders  | Maintain Clones and Carrickmacross branch libraries as tourist offices<br><br>Expand the range of Local History resources available to the public              | Ongoing<br><br>Ongoing   |
| 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  | Courses provided in all branches, in partnership with CMETB and MID<br><br><i>Work Matters</i> service to jobseekers and small businesses initiated<br><br>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.       | As part of the Service Level Agreement between Monaghan County Council and Enterprise Ireland a detailed Local Enterprise Development Plan has been developed. | Targets and initiatives outlined in the plan have been met for 2017 and new targets set for 2018. Outputs are reviewed on an ongoing basis.  |
| LEO     | 3.3 Promote the Local Enterprise Office as a  | The LEO undertook a vigorous media   | LEO Monaghan is recognized as the first  |

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|          | <p>'One Stop Shop' to meet the needs of small businesses in the County.</p>  | <p>campaign to highlight the assistance that is on offer to local businesses either through Financial Support or through Soft Supports. This year in addition to traditional newspaper and radio campaigns, we engaged with our clients through regular ezines and our revamped website with an integrated facebook page, adopting social media strategies.</p> | <p>point of contact for small businesses in County Monaghan, providing a range of information, advisory, training, mentoring and management development supports to clients, in addition to a business referral service.</p>  |
| LEO      | <p>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.</p> | <p>Skills Audit undertaken and results published.</p>   | <p>Skill Audit forwarded to ETB, DSP and Director of Economic Development is a member of Regional Skill committee.</p> <p>The LEO is liaising with the CMETB in the Development of a Digital Marketing Traineeship</p>  |
| Museum   | <p>8.2 Deliver on Monaghan County Council's Tourism Strategy in partnership with stakeholders.</p>   | <p>Prepare marketing strategy for promotion of museum both locally and nationally</p>   | <p>Museum events and programmes are promoted through local and national press, online and in cooperation with Monaghan Tourism</p> <p>The museum is currently reviewing its strategic management plan with a view to investigate more effective ways to promote the service to visitors from other countries.</p> |
| Planning | <p>3.5 Devise a strategy to improve the quality and diversity of</p>   | <p>Develop a planning policy framework within legislative and</p>   | <p>Review of availability of zoned Industry, Enterprise, and</p>  |

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|  | employment in the County | policy requirements | Employment lands in the county, and related supporting employment related policies as part of the review of the County Development Plan |
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**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   |
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| 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. | Improve Estate management procedures | 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  |                                      | <p>€188,000 funding secured for the Patrick Kavanagh Centre under Arts &amp; Culture Capital Scheme 2016. Tourism unit working in conjunction with the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD to deliver this Phase 1 Structural upgrade project</p> <p>Unit worked in conjunction with the Monaghan MD to complete Masterplan for Rossmore Forest Park</p> <p>€301,526 funding secured under the PEACE IV Programme to deliver an Adventure Play Area in Rossmore Forest Park</p> <p>A major Refurbishment works project at the Market House in Carrickmacross on-going.</p> <p>Carrickmacross Lace Co-Op assisted and</p> |



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|          |   |  | <p>supported with their LEADER application for fit-out for their new space in the Market house building</p> <p>On-going work with LEO to develop a Made in Monaghan Craft Outlet in Market House building</p>  |
| 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. | <p>Develop key cultural infrastructure</p> <p>Create increased opportunities for engagement by communities</p> | <p>Application made to Dept under stream 1 for Clones Artist studios</p> <p>Application submitted to Peace IV on Clones Studios &amp; Community Arts Hub</p>   |
| 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                               | <p>The museum will be launching a new exhibition 'Know Me', which explores the challenges that socially excluded sectors of our community experience. The project is being carried out in partnership with the Equality Subcommittee of the LCDC</p>   |
| 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  | Develop a planning policy framework within legislative and policy requirements                                 | <p>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</p> <p>Three variations to the County Development Plan (incorporation of the</p> |

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|                       | 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   | <p>Vacant Sites Register, Unfinished Rural Housing Policy, Dublin St., Regeneration Plan) were adopted in 2017</p> <p>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</p> |
| 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   | <p>Manage and administer the LCDC and sub structures</p> <p>Deliver and monitor community actions of the Local Economic and Community Plan</p> | <p>LCDC process operated in line with guidelines as revised and issued by the DECLG</p> <p>NOAC Y3 % of nominees to LCDC membership via the PPN Structure from the most marginalised SICAP Groups</p>  |
| Community Development | 4.3 Lead and manage Economic, Social and Community Development programmes.   | <p>Implement and monitor the LEADER programme</p> <p>Monitor delivery of the Social Inclusion &amp;</p>  | <p>Programme delivery ongoing with 18 projects approved in 2017 totalling €999,108.</p> <p>Achievement by implementer of headline</p>  |

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|                       |  | <p>Community Activation Programme (SICAP)</p> <p>Implement and monitor the PEACE IV Programme</p> <p>Complete and submit application for funding under Shared Spaces priority of Peace IV</p> <p>Support delivery of Interreg Project and extension of Ulster Canal Greenway</p>   | <p>targets and actions<br/>Expenditure v agreed<br/>SICAP Budget<br/>Applications submitted</p> <p>Applications invited<br/>Project activity undertaken<br/>Spend targets achieved<br/>Progress monitored</p> <p>Application submitted by due date</p> <p>Project commenced in line with programme requirements</p>   |
| Community Development | 4.4 Support the Local Community Sector in developing local initiatives ranging from community facilities to community enterprise | <p>Manage and administer the Community and Environment Fund</p> <p>Work with agencies and partners to develop suitable project ideas and make successful funding applications</p> <p>Support Local Community sector and Provide development support to community networks</p> <p>Work with cross-border bodies and structures to develop</p> | <p>€175,000 allocated to 230 different community projects across the county.<br/>Community funding presentation event held in each Municipal District.</p> <p>Funding applications made<br/>Improved governance<br/>Action plans prepared</p> <p>Smarter Travel &amp; Active Travel Town programmes rolled out<br/>Entry to Pride of Place Competition managed<br/>Better Energy Communities funding bid to SEAI supported</p> <p>Ongoing networking and meetings with neighbouring Local</p> |

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|                       |   | <p>suitable project ideas</p> <p>Work with cross-border bodies and structures to develop suitable project ideas</p>  | <p>Authorities on cross border basis – LEADER, Peace IV, Tourism promotion etc.</p> <p>Funding applications made</p> <p>New Memorandum of Understanding with Armagh</p>                            |
| Community Development | 4.6 Support the Public Participation networks and community participation engagement in the decision making process.                            | <p>Support the Public Participation Network (PPN) in realising its role and function</p> <p>Framework for public participation has been drafted</p> <p>Administer the PPN structure and process in line with legislation and related directives</p> <p>Provide Development support to Community Reps Network</p> | Ongoing support for PPN through Support Worker and Committees and Structures of Monaghan County Council.   |
| 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 | <p>Support young people in having a voice in their community</p> <p>Develop and implement Comhairle na nOg action plan</p> <p>Integrate youth development in other relevant Council services</p> <p>Develop and enhance youth facilities in the county</p>   | <p>NOAC Y1 Participation in Comhairle na nOg Scheme</p> <p>Projects identified and progressed</p> <p>Needs analysis completed</p> <p>Youth Network developed</p> <p>Funding sources identified</p> |

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| Community Development | 4.9 Lead the increased participation in sports and physical activity among all sections of the community in the County. | <p>Target low Participation Groups</p> <p>Support mass participation events/national events</p> <p>Support Club Development</p> <p>Develop Strong communications and information systems</p> | Programme of activity delivered through Monaghan Sports Partnership targeting the entire community with particular focus on low participation groups. |

**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. | Improve Housing Stock Standards   | 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.                    | Improving housing Stock standards | 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 |                                   | <p>Maintenance works on Monaghan Way Walk organised through Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD</p> <p>On-going work on Rossmore Management</p>  |

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|                |   |  | Committee in conjunction with Monaghan MD and Coillte to maintain and develop facilities in Rossmore Forest Park  |
| Tourism        | 5.2 Prioritise and progress our key infrastructural projects to facilitate economic development   |  | <p>Part 8 Planning permission achieved for South Lodge Angling Project – Lough Muckno In conjunction with the MDS, Rural Recreation funding successfully secured for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monaghan Way,</li> <li>• White Island- Lough Muckno,</li> <li>• Knockatallon Walks, Emylough</li> <li>• Loop Walk,</li> <li>• Ulster Canal Greenway,</li> <li>• Rockcorry Footpath,</li> <li>• Sliabh Beagh signage,</li> <li>• Hollywood Park Trail</li> <li>• Scotstown Mass Path.</li> </ul> <p>Sliabh Beagh Masterplan developed in conjunction with Ballybay-Clones MD</p> |
| 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 |  | On-going work on application to LEADER (Co-Operation Measure) for Access improvements to key Heritage sites   |
| 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 | Monaghan County Council are performance measured monthly by Irish Water's balanced scorecard. In 2017 the   |



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|                 |  | for 2016   | average total monthly scores were 90%  |
| Water Services  | Manage and implement the Rural Water Programme | Implement the Rural Water Programme                | <p>Annual Subsidies totally €2,288,512 were administered towards the operational cost of supplying water for domestic use to Group Water Schemes.</p> <p>Grants to the value of €356,939 were paid to 7 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.</p>   |
| Heritage Office | Protect and enhance our environment            | Implement County Monaghan Heritage Plan 2012 -2017 | <p>County Monaghan Heritage Forum supported and Heritage Council funding received to implement heritage plan.</p> <p>Heritage research and collecting information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transcript of book on Monaghan Wetlands co-authored for publication.</li> </ul> <p>Conservation and management of heritage assets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation plans developed in conjunction with local groups for three medieval church sites.</li> </ul> <p>Building capacity and awareness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gothic</li> </ul> |

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|                 |   |   | <p>Monaghan, architectural documentary film produced and shown at Clones Film Festival and Garage Film Festival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DRUM – Portrait of a village – programme of events and weekend of workshops with exhibitions.</li> <li>• Coordination and launch of Heritage Week.</li> <li>• Programme of heritage events held including Rossmore Wild Child Day, Ballybay Wetlands Water Heritage Day, Mullan village tour, Tyrone Guthrie Centre open day, Clones Castle guided tours.</li> </ul> |
| Heritage Office | Protect and enhance our environment                     | Draft new County Biodiversity Action Plan.  | Agreed at SPC to combine County Biodiversity Plan with County Heritage Plan for development in 2018.  |
| Heritage Office | Contribute to implementation of County Development Plan | Provide assistance to planning authority with regard to heritage policy and legislation | <p>6 Heritage reports on planning applications submitted.</p> <p>Worked with planning section to draft new Heritage chapter for County Development Plan.</p> <p>Community groups and individuals advised.</p>   |
| Heritage Office | Support the maintenance and management of               | Rossmore Park Master Plan   | Advised committee and consultants on heritage issues.   |

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|                    | Monaghan County Council's property portfolio including parks and public spaces  | Sliabh Beagh Master Plan.  |   |
| 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 CANN project commenced, local stakeholder group established, site-co-ordinator employed, public meetings held   |
| Corporate Services | To effectively maintain and manage the Council's property portfolio.  | To maintain a <u>Strategic &amp; Coordinated approach to the Management of the Council's Assets Portfolio</u> , 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 | Projects team in place. Property Asset Management System in place. Procurement process underway for new ICT based Property Asset Management System.   |
| Corporate Services |   | <b><u>Capital Works Schedule</u></b> for Council properties. Maintain a schedule of Council owned properties for refurbishment and progress opportunities to secure funding for refurbishment  | Capital Projects team in place<br>Old Machinery Yard site; site clearance complete. Design Teams in place for following Projects:<br>1 Dublin Street; New Offices. Gate Lodge No. 2, Castleblayney; New Town Library. Old Courthouse, Newbliss; New Arts Centre. Clones PO; Develop as Arts studio. |
| Corporate Services |   | Monaghan Leisure Centre. Provide quality sports and exercise facilities  | Ongoing investment in facility. Procure new management contract for facility.   |
| Corporate Services |   | Clones Market Building Restoration of building   | Progressed to construction stage  |
| Corporate Services |   | Borderlands Peace Museum   | Integrated into Monaghan PEACE  |

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|         |   |  | 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. | <p>Refurbish Monaghan Branch</p> <p>Refurbish Gate Lodge 2 as new branch library for Castleblaney Town</p> | <p>€1 million grant re-allocated to the Peace Campus for the redevelopment of Monaghan Branch under the library Capital Grant Programme</p> <p>Peace IV application submitted</p> <p>Stage 1 funding application for approval in principle submitted for Departmental approval</p> |
| 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.                        | Deliver Creative Ireland Programme 2017 - 2022   | <p>Cultural team in place</p> <p>Cultural and Creative Plan in Place</p>   |
| 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 acquisitions 90% completed. Tender Published August 2017. Construction Q2 2018.   |
|         |   | N2 Castleblaney to Aclint Safety Review  | Review completed. Junction upgrades on Carrickmacross By-pass completed.   |
|         |   | Progress N54 Tullybryan National Secondary Safety Improvement Scheme                                       | Route Selection, Preliminary Design completed. Part 8 underway.  |
|         |   | Deliver N54 Monaghan Town Pavement Improvement Scheme  | 1.8Km of Overlay Completed .   |
|         |   | Deliver N53 Pavement Improvement Scheme  | 7.7kms of overlay from Castleblaney to   |

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|                |  |  | Ballinacarry Bridge completed.   |
|                |  | Deliver Regional and Local Road Restoration Improvement and Maintenance Programmes     | 42Km of Restoration Improvement works and 58.8Km of Maintenance works completed to Regional and Local Roads          |
|                |  | Progress the Fleet Replacement Programme   | 7 Vehicles replaced as part of on-going replacement programme  |
|                |  | Deliver Bridge Rehabilitation Programmes   | 10 national roads bridge strengthening programmes delivered  |
|                |  | Ensure availability and access to stocks   | Stock levels maintained at maximum level   |
|                |  | Deliver Safety Improvement Schemes on road network                                     | Completed 6 Road Safety Improvement Schemes, 1 on National Roads, 5 on Non-National Roads                            |
|                |  | Progress Speed Limit Review project  | Completed Speed Limit Bye-laws for Regional & Local Roads September 2017   |
|                |  |  |  |
|                |  | Launch Roads Safety Plan 2017-2020   | Plan launched and 2017 actions implemented   |
| Roads<br>Roads | 5.5 Develop and progress strategic infrastructural routes, smarter travel and sustainable transport initiatives<br>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. | Complete Monaghan Town Land Use and Transportation Study                               | Traffic Model completed  |
|                |  | Implement Road Improvement Schemes identified in the County Development Plan           | Reactivation of Clontibret to the Border scheme and upgrade of works on the N2 Ardee to Castleblaney approved by TII |
|                |  | Work in close partnership with OPW in delivering the objectives of the CFRAM Programme | CFRAM options completed. Waiting on funding announcement.  |
|                |  | Identify and map all areas prone to  | Mapping of flood prone areas continuing  |

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|          |   | flooding   |   |
| 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.                        | Initiate key objectives of the Arts Development Plan 2016-2020                                   | Tradoodle festival for young people.<br>Music Generation.<br>Dabbledoo workshops for Culture Night.<br>Creative initiatives for youth.<br>Halloween workshops in the Tin Church Laragh.   |
| 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 | Application of funding for a new Peace Campus building in Monaghan Town was submitted to SEUPB in May 2017.<br><br>The museum is currently developing a new exhibition based on the border over the last five thousand years.<br><br>This will be the new long term exhibition for the museum section of the Peace Campus   |
| 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  | 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<br><br>Three variations to the County Development Plan (incorporation of the Vacant Sites Register, Unfinished Rural Housing Policy, Dublin St., Regeneration Plan) were adopted in 2017 |



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|        | 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     | 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      |
| 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 | <p>Approx. 7,000 students attended workshops and programmes organised by the museum during 2017.</p> <p>Those programmes were held both within the museum and throughout the community at various outreach events</p> |

**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. |                         | <p>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</p> <p>Completion of health and safety manual for the housing section and education of staff in the information in that manual</p>   |
| 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      | <p>Monaghan County Council conducted 34 recruitment competitions during 2017.</p> <p>In 2017; 94 offers were made and 88 candidates accepted offers as follows:</p> <p>11 posts filled permanently by external candidates including 3 in General Operative posts</p> <p>28 posts filled by promotion of existing staff</p> <p>7 seasonal posts were filled by external candidates including 6 in General Operative posts</p> <p>19 posts were filled on a temporary basis by external candidates including 2 Clerical Officers</p> <p>16 positions were filled on an acting basis</p> <p>7 posts were filled in the Fire Service – 1 Station Officer; 2 Sub Station Officer; 1 Driver Mechanic &amp; 3 Retained</p> |



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|        | 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 90% 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.**

| <b>Department</b>   | <b>Corporate Plan Sub-Category</b>   | <b>Business Plan Objective</b>   | <b>Progress</b>   |
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| Housing             | 7.1 Provide a modern and secure ICT infrastructure which complies with industry standards and best practice. | Improve Estate management procedures   | 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.  | Improve Estate management procedures   | 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                                  | Delivery of the Housing Capital programme  | 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<br><br>Implement power management software<br><br>Carry out a security audit | Commenced work to Exit from LGMA National Forest. Exit due to be completed by Q4 2018.<br><br>Initiated competitive dialogue tender process for provision of hybrid cloud infrastructure solution to replace end-of-life data centre infrastructure and |

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|                     |   | <p>Review current Anti-virus solution and upgrade or replace</p> <p>Migrate Web hosting from LGMA</p> <p>Update Uninterruptable Power System</p>   | <p>provide disaster recovery for critical systems</p> <p>ICT security audit carried out by external experts and remediation actions commenced to mitigate risks identified.</p> <p>Awarded contract for upgrade of Wide Area Network Links</p> <p>Supported and maintained phone systems</p>  |
| Information Systems | 7.2 Develop and implement a Product Replacement programme | <p>Upgrade Agresso Financial Management System</p> <p>Continue implementation of Laserfiche Enterprise Content Management System</p> <p>Replace gPlan application</p> <p>Replace LGMA ePayments system with Agresso WebPay solution</p> <p>Replace LGMA Low Value Payments processing System</p> | <p>Continued roll-out of Laserfiche Enterprise Content Management System</p> <p>Implemented Paperless Meetings solution for Senior Management Team and a pilot group of Elected Representatives</p> <p>Assisted with preparation of business case for the development of a Property Interests Register Solution for the Local Government Sector</p> <p>Assisted with the implementation of the National Library Management System</p> <p>Piloted Office 365 with I.S. Staff</p> |



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|                     |  | <p>Support implementation of National Library Management System</p> <p>Upgrade parking fines system</p> <p>Review handheld revenue collection system</p> | <p>Developed PC and Laptop replacement programme and replaced stock as appropriate</p> <p>Reviewed Enterprise Project Management solutions</p> <p>Reviewed Unified Communication Systems</p>  |
| Information Systems | 7.3 Provide Wi-Fi facilities for public access to the internet | Install Wi-Fi in major Council buildings   | <p>Installed Public Wi-Fi in Castleblayney, Clones, and Ballybay Towns</p> <p>Expanded Corporate Wi-Fi solution</p> <p>Continued to support and maintain public Wi-Fi in Branch Libraries</p>   |
| Information Systems | 7.4 Improve and expand our customer online services            | <p>Continue website development</p> <p>Enhance interactive mapping applications</p>  | <p>Launched redesigned mobile-friendly Monaghan County Council website, <a href="http://www.monaghan.ie">www.monaghan.ie</a></p> <p>Implemented MapAlert location based free citizen alerting system (e.g. severe weather, floods, road closures, community events)</p> <p>Replaced LGMA ePayments system with Agresso MS 4 WebPay solution</p> <p>Managed main corporate social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram)</p> <p>Enhanced on-line interactive mapping application</p> |

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| Information Systems | 7.5 Develop a mobile applications plan | Implement a Mobile Device Management Solution<br><br>Develop and pilot test applications | Continued to manage and support Council mobile phones, tablets and SIMs<br><br>Continued to develop, support and maintain location-based mobile inspections using Korec technology<br><br>Continued to support and maintain mobile solutions using Laserfiche system<br><br>Implemented Road Incident App for on-site recording of road incidents<br><br>Upgraded and enhanced the Fire Hydrant App |
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**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. | Improve Estate management procedures | 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  | Improve Estate management procedures | Implementation of framework agreements for the procurement of housing maintenance  |

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|                | money.  |  | services<br><br>Progression of the tender for Turnkey projects in the provision of 55 social housing units by private house builders |
| <b>Finance</b> | 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 2018  |
| 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   | Facilitate budget monitoring by budget holders through training in Milestone 4 enquiries, making               | Agresso training ongoing when required/ requested. Quarterly management accounts to be   |

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|          | relevant areas   | available CCAS systems and developing suitable enquiries  | prepared   |
| 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  | <p>Budget is reviewed in a monthly basis and cost saving are indentified where viable.</p> <p>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</p> |
| 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 | <p>Ongoing application of Development Contribution Scheme for County Monaghan and collection of contributions</p> <p>Financial management software purchased and implemented</p>   |