

# COMHAIRLE CONTAE MHUINEACHÁIN MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL



## Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2018

## Annual Report 2018



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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 2018. I was greatly honoured to be elected as Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council and I would like to thank my Fine Gael party colleagues and fellow Councillors for giving me this opportunity.

I was delighted to accept two awards on behalf of Monaghan County Council at the 2018 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards ceremony for our 'Everybody Plays' Inclusive Playground Policy and for [www.repairmystuff.ie](http://www.repairmystuff.ie), Ireland's leading online repair directory. I would like to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of all staff in the delivery of services for the people and businesses in County Monaghan.

These awards showcase and celebrate the best of Local Government in Ireland.

It was my honour to have signed a Memorandum of Friendship on behalf of Co Monaghan with the City of Alytus, Lithuania at an event held on 06 July to celebrate the Lithuanian 'Statehood' Day. Monaghan County Council hosted an evening of celebration at the Museum with both Irish & Lithuanian flags flown and both National Anthems being sung.

Work continued throughout 2018 on the preparation of the new County Development Plan 2019-2025 and I am delighted to have the plan was formally adopted during my term as Cathaoirleach. 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.

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.



David Maxwell  
Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council

## Introduction by Chief Executive

I am delighted to present Monaghan County Council's Annual Report for 2018. The annual report is a great opportunity to present the activities and achievements of Monaghan County Council in delivering public services and infrastructural projects during the year. With the on-going full support of the Cathaoirleach and elected members, the council continues to deliver significant efficiencies and innovation while focussing its leadership role to drive local, community and economic development, ensuring the county remains an attractive place to live, work, do business and visit.

In 2018 significant progress has been made in delivery of capital building projects by the council, led by the Senior Management Team. The projects will deliver substantial benefits to the whole county.

The PEACE Campus project at the old Machinery Yard in Monaghan Town will be a flagship project and one of the largest building projects undertaken by the Council. Its goal is to build and enhance cross community relationships through a shared space and to be a catalyst for a more cohesive society and to have a transformative effect on the local area and be of regional significance and will bring together council services such as a town library and County Museum with Community and Youth services.

The Clones Market House, a landmark, historic building in the Diamond in Clones was officially opened on 05 October 2018, following an extensive refurbishment programme. The Ballybay-Clones Municipal District occupied the building on Wednesday, 08 August 2018.

New build projects, turnkey developments and the acquisition of single houses were the focus of the housing capital expenditure programme in 2018. Monaghan County Council has secured €70 million in association with the Rebuilding Ireland initiative over the programme period of 2016 - 2021. Through a combination of the direct acquisitions of individual properties and new build development of houses by the County Council; turnkey developments of new units by contractors on behalf of the County Council; additional development of housing units by Approved Housing Bodies; and other initiatives incorporating the renewal of vacant units in towns and villages, a significant increase in housing provision for households in need is being secured.

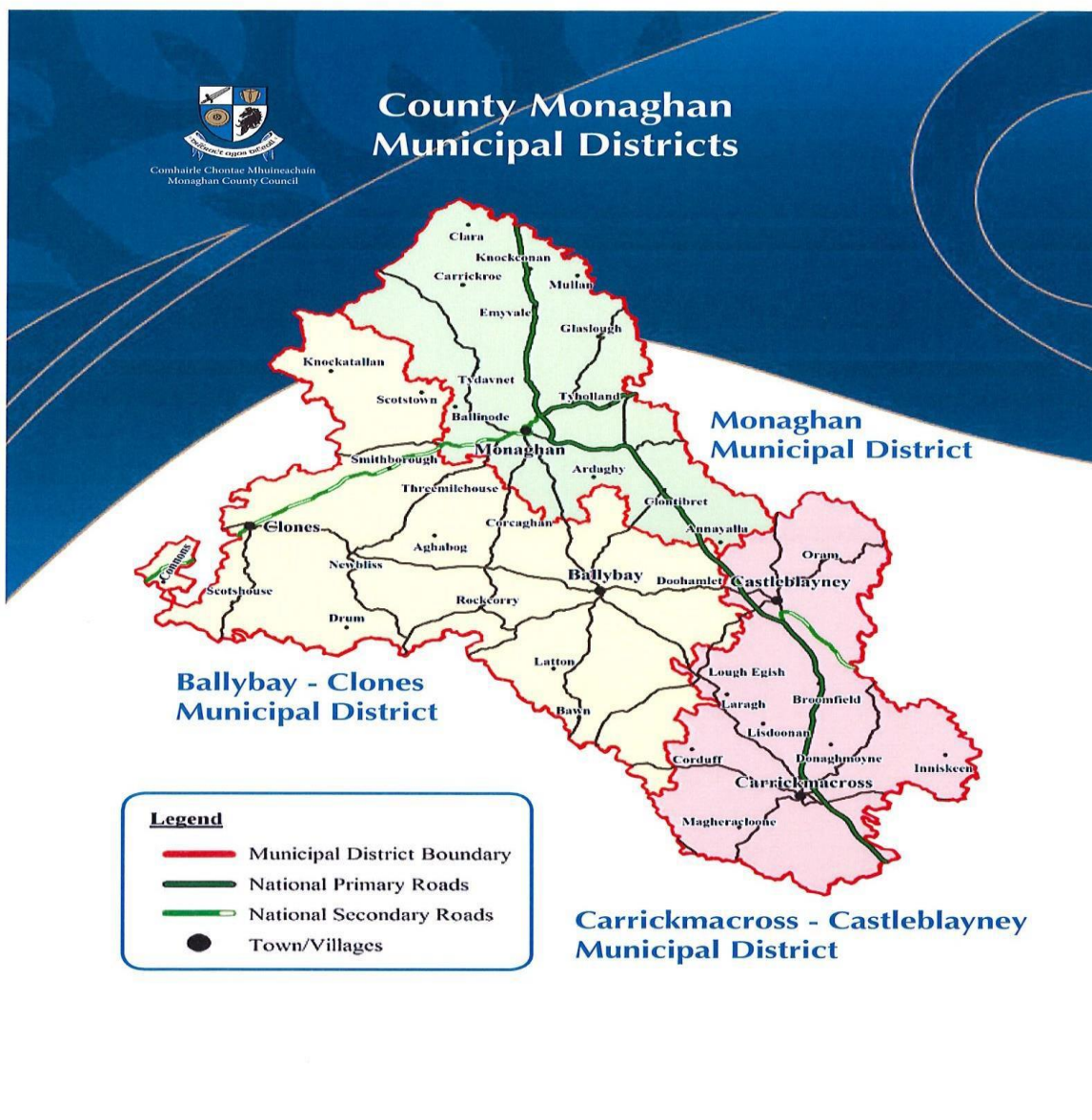
Monaghan County Council achieved CPD Accredited Employers Standard from Engineers Ireland from 01 January 2018 to 01 January 2020. The council is committed to the professional development of its staff and is seeking to harness this national CPD framework to raise competence levels and deliver tangible business benefits to the organisation. The Council wish to promote the implementation of this best practice framework in order to recruit and retain talented staff.

In October, Monaghan County Council was delighted to support Concra Wood Golf Club as hosts for the Monaghan Irish Challenge pro tournament, part of the prestigious European Challenge Tour. The event not only showcased Concra Wood to a global audience but also County Monaghan as a tourist destination with stunning images of Lough Muckno being broadcast around the world. The event was also a huge boost, not only to Concra Wood, but to all the guest houses, hotels, restaurants and ancillary outlets in the surrounding area.

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 would like to thank the Cathaoirleach, Councillor David Maxwell, his predecessor Councillor Cathy Bennett and the elected representatives for their support and commitment 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.) Drumdesco, Scotstown Tel: (086) 2079509 cathy.bennett@cllr.mona ghancoco.ie</p>		<p>Pat Treanor (S.F.) Bishopscourt, Clones Tel: (086) 2377177 pat.treanor@cllr.monagh ancoco.ie</p>
	<p>Seamus Coyle (F.F.) Mahon, Latton, Castleblayney Tel: (087) 6814067 seamus.coyle@cllr.mona ghancoco.ie</p>		<p>Sean Gilliland (F.G.) Boraghy, Loughmourne, Castleblayney Tel: (087) 9969946 sean.gilliland@cllr.mona ghancoco.ie</p>
	<p>Hugh McElvaney (Non- Party) Corcaghan, Monaghan Tel: (087) 2598858 hugh.mcelvaney@cllr.mo naghancoco.ie</p>		<p>Eva Humphreys (F.G.) Dernaroy, Newbliss Tel: 086 169 7603 eva.humphreys@cllr.mo naghancoco.ie Resigned: 26/10/2018</p>
	<p>Richard Truell (F.G.) Crappagh, Newbliss, Co Monaghan Tel: (086) 2035534 richard.truell@cllr.monaghan coco.ie Co-opted: 04/12/2018</p>		
Monaghan Municipal District			
	<p>Raymond Aughey (F.F.) Viscaya, Coolshannagh, Monaghan Tel: (087) 0992676 raymond.aughey@cllr.m onaghancoco.ie</p>		<p>Sean Conlon (S.F.) Rakeeragh, Monaghan Tel: (087) 2936792 sean.conlon@cllr.monag hancoco.ie</p>

	<p>Paudge Connolly 3 Coolshannagh View, Monaghan (Non-Party) Tel: (087) 2021414 paudge.connolly@cllr.monaghancoco.ie</p>		<p>David Maxwell (F.G.) Killymarley, Monaghan Tel: (086) 8224545 david.maxwell@cllr.monaghancoco.ie</p>
	<p>Brian McKenna (S.F.) Derryrellan, Killybrone, Emyvale Tel: (047) 82917 (087) 2746483 brian.mckenna@cllr.monaghancoco.ie</p>		<p>Seamus Treanor (Non-Party) 14 Old Cross Square, Monaghan Tel: (087) 2110077 seamus.treanor@cllr.monaghancoco.ie</p>
<p><b>Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District</b></p>			
	<p>Aidan Campbell (F.G.) 2 Blaeberry Walk, Castleblayney Tel: (087) 9003860 aidan.campbell@cllr.monaghancoco.ie</p>		<p>Colm Carthy (S.F.) 22 Inver Park, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan Tel: (087) 6837180 colm.carthy@cllr.monaghan.ie</p>
	<p>Jackie Crowe (S.F.) 4 Oliver Plunkett Park, Drumillard, Castleblayney Tel: (086) 6033398 jackie.crowe@cllr.monaghancoco.ie</p>		<p>Noel Keelan (S.F.) Donaghmoyne Road, Carrickmacross Tel: (087) 2468878 noel.keelan@cllr.monaghancoco.ie</p>
	<p>Padraig McNally (F.F.) Nafferty, Carrickmacross Tel: (087) 2800784 padraig.mcnally@cllr.monaghancoco.ie</p>		<p>P.J. O'Hanlon (F.F.) Castleblayney Road, Carrickmacross Tel: (087) 2416954 pj.ohanlon@cllr.monaghancoco.ie</p>

## **Finance**

### **Rates Revaluation 2019**

The revaluation process is part of a national programme to modernise the rateable valuation of all commercial and industrial property in Ireland. The revaluation process has already taken place in a number of counties during 2017. Revaluation 2019 will result in the revaluation of commercial and industrial properties in County Monaghan as well as some other counties. New Valuation Orders for properties in Monaghan will be signed following the completion of a statutory consultation between the Commissioner of Valuation, the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government and Monaghan County Council. The purpose of revaluation is to bring increased transparency and more equity to the local authority rating system. Following revaluation, there will be a much closer and uniform relationship between the current annual rental values of commercial properties and their commercial rates liability. The new valuations will become effective for rates purposes from 2020 onwards.

### **Payroll and Superannuation**

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 quarter two of 2019, 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 2018, 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 2018 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 2018 Monaghan County Council increased its Rates Collection percentage from 85% to 88%.



## Corporate Services

Corporate Services provides support to Senior Management, the Cathaoirleach and Elected Members. It is also responsible for the organising and managing of monthly Council Meetings, Corporate Policy Group Meetings, Strategic Policy Committee Meetings and Joint Policing Committee Meetings. The section is responsible for the collation of the Corporate Plan, Annual Report, Annual Service Delivery Plan and review of Risk Register.

Corporate Services also co-ordinates the compilation of the annual NOAC Performance Indicators for the Council and deals with the implementation of Freedom of Information, Data Protection and Access to Information on the Environment legislation.

### Register of Electors

The Register of Electors is compiled annually so as to ensure that members of the public can exercise their democratic right to vote in any elections/referendum that arise during the year. In compiling the Register we liaise with the Councils' Revenue Collectors who act as fieldworkers and undertake the necessary enquiries to ensure an accurate document is produced. Members of the public can check if they are registered at [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie)

### Freedom of Information

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 members of the public have a legal right of access to records held by the local authority. 94 applications were received by the Council in 2018, from members of the media, Oireachtas and the general public.

### Protected Disclosures

There were no protected disclosures received during 2018.

## Twinning

Monaghan County Council is officially twinned with the following areas –

- 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

### Alytus, Lithuania

On 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018, Monaghan County Council and Alytus, Lithuania entered into a 'Memorandum of Friendship' which was signed by the Mayor of Alytus Vytautas Grigaravicius and the Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council. The signing took place at an event to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Restoration of the Lithuanian State which was held in Monaghan County Museum. The objective of the Memorandum of Friendship is that both areas will examine issues of common interest and explore areas of potential future co-operation; reinforce existing bonds and contribute to the strengthening of friendly relations between the two parties.

In late November a delegation from the Council comprising the Cathaoirleach, members of the Twinning Committee and the Director of Corporate Services visited Alytus with a view to progressing the Memorandum of Friendship. The Council delegation visited different locations within Alytus and met with the Mayor and Deputy Mayors of the Alytus City Municipality.

### Miramichi, Canada

In July Cllr David Maxwell, Cathaoirleach, Cllr Sean Conlon and Ms Patricia Monahan, Director of Services visited Miramichi to attend the Annual Irish Festival held there. Whilst in Miramichi, the delegation visited the Miramichi City Council and met with the Mayor of Miramichi and Council officials. The Mayor of Miramichi gave a commitment to visit County Monaghan during 2019.

## Prince Edward Island

Cllr Cathy Bennett, Cathaoirleach and Mr Eamonn O'Sullivan, Chief Executive travelled to Prince Edward Island for the Annual Irish Settlers Day celebrations in May 2018. During their visit they attended a number of functions and met with officials from the Charlottetown City Council and renewed links with members of the Fort Augustus Irish Descendants group.

### **Internal Audit**

As part of good governance arrangements, Monaghan County Council maintains an appropriate and independent Internal Audit Unit. This assists with improvements in control systems, procedures, greater levels of accountability and confidence in the processes. It provides a level of assurance to the Council, Management Team and the Audit Committee.

### **Meetings in 2018**

The following is a summary of the meetings held in 2018

Council meetings (including AGM, Budget meeting & 2 Special Meetings):	15
Corporate Policy Group:	14
Monaghan Municipal District:	11
Carrickmacross-Castleblaney Municipal District	11
Ballybay Clones Municipal District	11
Joint Policing Committee:	3
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	11
Crime Prevention Working Group:	3
Policing Working Group:	3
SPC – Social, Cultural & Community Development:	3
SPC – Economic Development and Enterprise Support:	4
SPC – Housing, Fire & Civil Protection:	5
SPC – Transport & Environment:	3
Coiste Gaeilge:	2
Twinning Committee:	3
Audit Committee:	5

## **Minutepad Meetings system**

Following a pilot project in 2017 by the Council's Management Team and Corporate Policy Group, a paperless meetings software system 'Minutepad' was rolled out to the elected members. Members were supplied with an iPad which gave them access to their emails and agenda and all documents necessary for Council meetings. Following training on the use of the software and a transitional period of a few months to get familiar with the new system, members agreed to conduct Council meetings via their iPads from October 2018.

There were significant savings to be gained from the project. Direct cost savings include the cost of paper, printing, postage and disposal of paper meeting packs. However, in terms of operational efficiencies the amount of staff time spent per meeting on the physical creation, collation and distribution of meeting packs is significantly reduced. There are also time savings gained due to efficiencies in minute creation and handling queries about forthcoming and historical meetings.

There were also operational efficiencies for Councillors as they become more sophisticated users of the technology over time. It will no longer be necessary to retain old copies of agenda/meeting packs as these will be easily retrievable on their device. They will also be able to use a search function to find information that they are looking for, in relation to their meetings, very quickly.

Feedback from Councillors has been very positive.

### **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on the 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 replacing the existing data protection framework under the EU Data Protection Directive. The GDPR emphasises transparency, security and accountability by data controllers and processors while at the same time standardising and strengthening the right of European citizens to data privacy. For the purposes of the Data Protection Acts 1988 – 2018 (as amended) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) the Data Controller is Monaghan County Council.

In order to provide the most effective and targeted range of services to meet the needs of the citizens, communities and businesses within the county, Monaghan County Council collects, processes and uses certain types of information about people and organisations. Monaghan County Council collects and processes a significant amount of 'personal data' and 'sensitive personal data' in various multiple formats on a daily basis. Its commitment is to ensure that the personal data supplied is:

- Obtained lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- Collected for only specified, explicit and legitimate purposes,
- Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for the purpose for which it was obtained,
- Recorded, stored accurately and where necessary kept up to date,
- Kept for no longer that is necessary and in a form which permits identification of the data subject,
- Processed in a manner that ensures the appropriate security of the personal data including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing of the data.

In 2018 Monaghan County Council updated its privacy notice in order to demonstrate its firm commitment to individuals' privacy and to ensure that in all personal dealings with the Council that it will ensure the security of the personal data provided. The purpose of the notice is to deal with the Council's obligations under Article 13 and 14 of GDPR and is available on the Council's website.

## Corporate Assets

### Capital Projects

Corporate Assets Section leads the delivery, in partnership with other sections of the council, of capital projects as identified in the three-year Capital Programme. This section brings a consistency of approach to the procurement, management and delivery of projects across the organisation in line with the Public Spending Code and the improved procurement structures embedded into the organisation in recent years which have further ensured value-for-money.

**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 guidelines and procedures to ensure appropriate standards are applied and to ensure value-for-money, openness and transparency.

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

**Monaghan PEACE Campus** – Funding secured in December 2018, detailed design completed and will proceed to tender and construction in 2019.



**Office Refurbishment to 1 Dublin St.** – Redevelopment of old town hall building as modern office facilities. Contractor procured in 2018 and proceeded to construction in November 2018. Planning Section are scheduled to relocate to new building in Q 3 of 2019.

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



**Newbliss Courthouse, Arts Centre** – Redevelopment in partnership with Tyrone Guthrie Centre. Complete Part 8 planning in 2018 and proceed to finalise detailed design in 2019.



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



**Clones PO (Arts Centre)** - Redevelop Arts Centre. Design team appointed, Part 8 approved and construction commenced in 2018, with a completion date in 2019.

**New Civil Defence HQ** - Design team appointed to complete detailed design in 2018 and tender for contractor in late 2018, will proceed to construction in 2019.

**Castleblayney Fire Station** – Detailed design and tender for construction in late 2018, proceed to construction in 2019.

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.

### Property Asset Management

Corporate Assets section coordinates and manages the council property portfolio and has responsibility for the following strategic objectives;

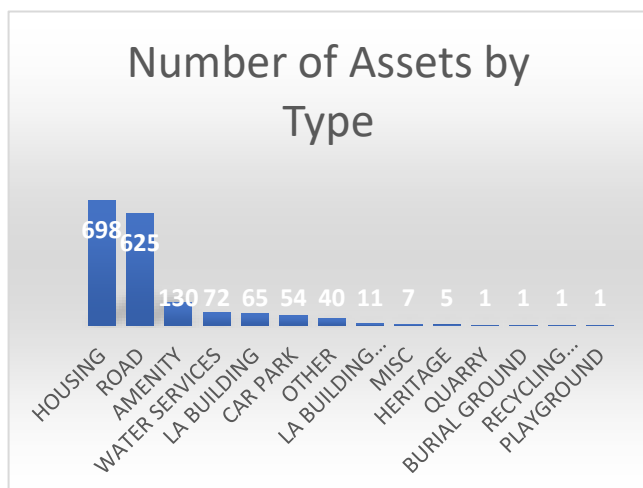
#### Key Actions

- Maintain and update a detailed inventory of all property
- Participate in the National Asset Management Programme
- Co-ordinate 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.

As of December 2018, Monaghan County Council currently have 56 buildings and 1,711 parcels of land in the Property Interests Register, totalling 1,160 hectares throughout the County. The table below shows breakdown of these Property Assets.

## Number of Assets by Type

Asset Type	No.
HOUSING	698
ROAD	625
AMENITY	130
WATER SERVICES	72
LA BUILDING	65
CAR PARK	54
OTHER	40
LA BUILDING CAMPUS	11
MISC	7
HERITAGE	5
QUARRY	1
BURIAL GROUND	1
RECYCLING CENTRE	1
PLAYGROUND	1
	1711



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 2018 to develop the property asset management system; including identifying and putting in place a new IT based asset management system (Property Interest Register) 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
- Co-ordination 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 existing office facilities and prepare a three-year plan of office facilities for the effective delivery of services.

The Corporate Assets 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 co-ordinated approach to building management and to ensure value for money.

A number of upgrade projects were successfully completed in 2018.

- Backup generator at Council HQ for Continuity of Services
- New boiler upgrade for Glen HQ building
- Upgrade of wiring in Glen HQ
- Reconfiguration of Motor Tax building to provide increased office facilities
- H&S measures to Glen HQ
- New LED lighting in Monaghan Fire Station



## Monaghan Leisure Complex

In 2018 Monaghan County Council appointed Coral Leisure Ltd to manage Monaghan Leisure Complex following a procurement competition which attracted considerable interest.



Coral Leisure have operated the facility since 2006 and are one of Ireland's leading service providers - managing nine publicly owned leisure facilities.

In 2018, the complex recorded 184,000 individual visits and had over 900 members.

The facility is the base for activities for 85 clubs,

schools, community groups and programmes – many of which were developed in co-operation with the Monaghan Sports Partnership office. During the year, 54 community events were facilitated.



Under, the agreement both parties work collaboratively in ensuring that existing services are expanded, and that the facility continues to receive investment. The agreement will allow Coral Leisure Ltd to better plan and develop long term programs to meet the council's objectives to:

***“Lead the increased participation in sports and physical activity among all sections of the community in the County”*** Monaghan County Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019

Under the agreement performance is measured against several key performance indicators (KPIs) which go beyond financial measures to focus on areas such as Compliance, Energy Conservation and Customer Service.

## Leisure Complex Committee

Activities at the complex are overseen by a Leisure Complex Committee consisting of four elected members. In 2018 the committee met on three occasions with the operator. The committee is advised by a Consultative User Group consisting of representatives of various clubs and organisations.

## Sports Capital Funding

Monaghan County Council co-operated with Sliabh Beagh SC to draw down Sports Capital funding to install a competition standard scoreboard and timing system in the complex.

This equipment has enabled the complex to host national swimming competitions. In January 2018,

100 competitors took part in a master's gala with competitors traveling from as far afield as Cork and Belfast.



Minister Humphreys and Cllrs at Master's Gala Jan 2018

## 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 2018, 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.

The Corporate Assets Section records and monitors all energy usage on a yearly basis used by the Council and reports this to SEAI for monitoring. The information is used to identify Significant Energy Users (SEU's) within the organisation and these are targeted for action to reduce energy usage.

Projects in the past year and into 2019 have targeted Council buildings and public lighting. The Council have worked closely with our energy partners REIL to identify energy reduction projects to Council buildings and through the SEAI's Better Energy Community (BEC) scheme to secure funding to assist in these works.

## 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 2018 will be completed by May 2019.

***The Council have improved energy efficiency between 2009 and 2017 by 26.9% (SEAI annual report) and continues to be ahead of target to meet the 33% target set for 2020. The action plan for 2018 seeks to achieve energy savings of a further 3.5% and stay ahead of target.***

### Key Actions

- SEAI Better Energy Community (BEC) scheme
- Capital funding for continuing upgrade on street lights on Non-National Routes
- Funding from TII for upgrade of street lighting on National routes



**Solar PV at Scotch Corner**

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

## **Public Street Lighting**

The upgrading of all Public Lights in the county is included in the three year Capital Programme 2018-2020 and is a strategic objective of the council. 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 2018 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.

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 2018 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 allows members of the public to report faults directly and provides for a more rapid response to carrying out lighting repairs

- Detailed surveys of lighting assets have been undertaken in accordance with National guidelines, to build a detailed inventory
- Priority given to replacing obsolete SOX lights
- 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 to 5,642 at the end of 2018. This is mainly due to the taking in charge of lights from housing developments.

## Information Systems

The Information Systems (I.S.) department is responsible for providing ICT services to support and enable the delivery of services by Monaghan County Council.

2018 was an extremely busy year for the I.S. department. Several major projects were completed during the year including the installation of a Generator and UPS in the Glen HQ, replacement of the legacy Server/SAN infrastructure with a modern hyperconverged system, implementation of a new IP telephony system, and the roll-out of Office 365 to Staff and Councillors.

### Network 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.

In 2017, the LGMA made a strategic decision to withdraw from IT operations which includes shutting down the National Active Directory Forest. As Monaghan County Council were part of the National Forest, this impacted upon all I.S. systems and services. In 2018, significant resources went into setting up a new locally hosted Active Directory Forest and migrating all user accounts, devices, systems and services into this new environment.

In 2018, the I.S. department implemented high speed gigabit network connections to 9 buildings within the county; the Glen HQ, Fire Station, Mtek1, Mtek2, Monaghan Branch Library, Motor Tax Office, Clones Library HQ, Clones Market House and Carrickmacross Civic Offices; providing users with faster access to data and internet services.

I.S. staff assist in the development of IT and communications infrastructure for all new buildings and refurbishment projects, including Clones Market House which re-opened in 2018.

Monaghan County Council provides public Wi-Fi in all major towns within the county. In 2018, a new Wi-Fi system was installed by Magnet Networks in Monaghan Town, which also expands the Wi-Fi network further along Dublin Street and Glaslough Street.

The I.S. department continues to support the Library section in the rollout of digital initiatives and technology. This includes the expansion of Wi-Fi services and the option to take tablets and laptops out on loan within the library. Preparations are complete for the implementation of Monaghan's first Open Library early in 2019.



**Library Tablet Hublet / Lending Station**

A Security Audit was carried out at the end of 2017 to identify risks and potential security vulnerabilities, and to recommend the necessary remediation actions and controls needed to protect against these vulnerabilities. 22 Risks were identified in this report. All recommendations were actioned upon and signed off in 2018.

New cloud-based Antivirus was rolled out to servers and extra security was deployed to protect users and servers against ransomware which was seen to be the biggest cyber security threat in 2018 after the WannaCry outbreak in 2017.

Security is an ongoing concern and it is a constant challenge to protect against new and emerging threats. Security Awareness is always at the top of Monaghan County Council's agenda.



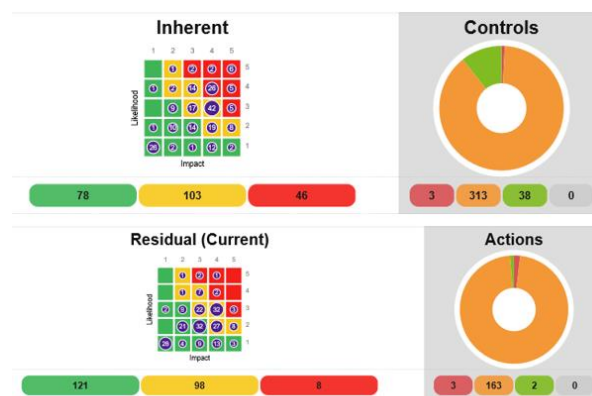
## Business Applications and Database Administration

The I.S. department is responsible for the acquisition, support and development of software applications to meet the needs of the organisation, and for maintaining and upgrading underlying technologies including Microsoft SQL Server database management systems. The core business systems supported include Agresso Financial Management System, iPlan, iReg, iHouse, Laserfiche Enterprise Content Management (ECM) System.

As part of its digital transformation, Monaghan County Council is committed to streamlining and automating internal processes and eliminating paper from the system. In 2018 the I.S. department implemented Laserfiche ECM in a number of business areas including Internal Audit, Public Liability & Insurance, and Rates. Work also commenced on the implementation of a Public Web Portal which will go live in 2019. Historical museum archives of the War of Independence will be available via the Museum Portal and planning application documents will be available via the Planning Portal.

In 2018, the I.S. department facilitated the implementation of a new Debt Management System and a new Handheld Revenue Collection System. The department also implemented online facilities for payment of litter fines and dog fines and assisted with the implementation of two new online customer applications that rent, and rates customers can access from any device to view their account information and download statements. These applications will go-live in 2019 and will result in improved customer service and administrative efficiencies and will also contribute to the Council's 'paperless office' agenda.

To help the Council maintain its Risk Registers more efficiently the I.S. department introduced a new online Risk Register System. This replaces the dependency on spreadsheets and offers real-time visibility of Risks, Controls and Actions.

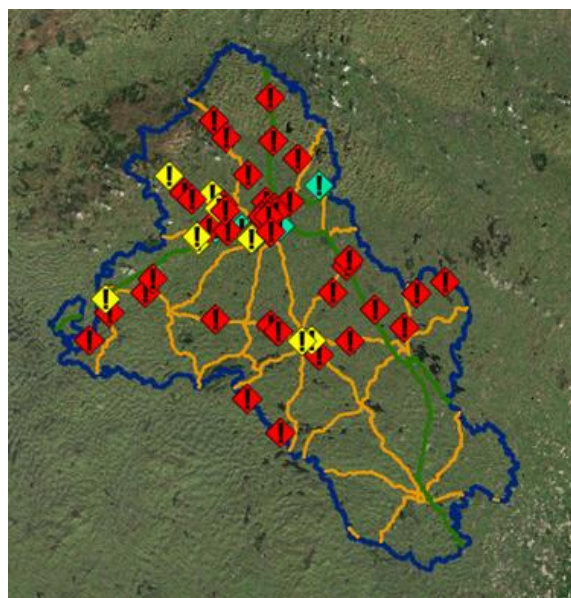


### Online Risk Register

## Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

The Road Incident App and Monaghan Alerts were used extensively in 2018 to relay information to citizens regarding trees down and road closures during Storms Ali, Bronagh and Callum. A public mapping viewer was also made available.

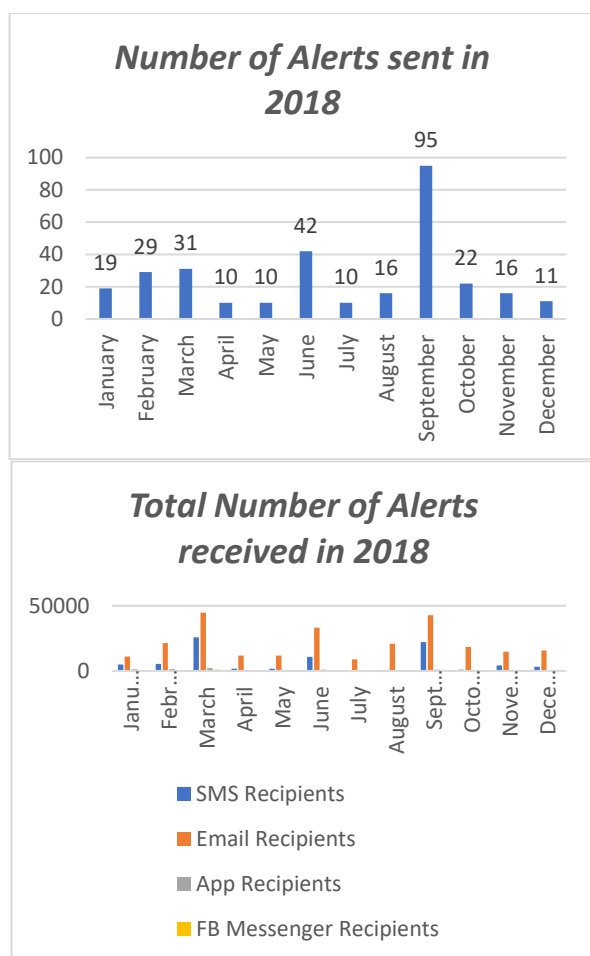
An internal Road Incident Management Dashboard was also developed to enable a more efficient and informed decision-making process.



### Road Closures during Storm Ali

Numerous Facebook campaigns in 2018 and a presence at the Taste of Monaghan have assisted in making citizens aware of the benefits of signing up to Monaghan Alerts.





### Monaghan Alerts 2018

A Property Asset Management System was implemented which geographically displays and maintains an inventory of all property owned by Monaghan County Council. The system also links to Agresso Financial Asset Management System.

Using mobile technology, a combined Fire and Water Services project was developed to facilitate the assessment of fire hydrants in the county and to ensure all hydrants are fully functional. An internal Hydrant Information Management Dashboard that displays project progress was also developed as a visual aid for staff responsible for managing hydrants.

GIS Staff also assisted with the development and production of the mapping for Stage 2 of the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025

### I.S. Service Desk

A core function of the I.S. department is to provide high quality technical support and assistance to Staff, Elected Representatives and Citizens. In 2018 the total number of calls logged increased by approximately 20% from 2017.

Call Statistics	2018	2017	2016
<b>Total Calls Logged</b>	4092	3458	2071
<b>Avg. Calls per Month</b>	341	288	173
<b>Avg. Calls per Day</b>	16	14	8
<b>Calls resolved within 24 hours</b>	51%	50%	69%

Service Desk Statistics

### Shared Service initiatives

The I.S. department achieves efficiencies and savings by working with other local authorities on areas of common interest such as policy development, staff training and procurement. In 2018, a new regional ICT steering group was set up to provide governance and oversight of ICT across the Monaghan, Cavan, Louth, Leitrim and Longford region. Membership of this Group includes Heads of I.S., and Directors of Services across multiple business areas from each of the participating local authorities. The Group is chaired by Monaghan County Council Chief Executive, Eamonn O'Sullivan.

In response to the EU Directive on e-Invoicing in public procurement which obligates all local authorities to be able to accept and process e-Invoices by April 2020, Monaghan County Council along with Consortium Members Sligo IT, LGMA, Kildare County Council, Fingal County Council, Tubbercurry Software Limited and Celeris Group Limited applied for, and were successful in getting, European funding under the Connecting Europe Facility.



**e-Invoicing Consortium Members**

The Consortium will develop the e-Invoicing solution in 2019 on behalf of all local authorities. This shared services approach will result in cost savings to the entire sector.

## **Human Resources**

### **Recruitment**

The Human Resource Management Section processed 1019 applications in relation to 16 recruitment competitions during 2018. 661 of these applications related to the Clerical Officer/Library Assistant recruitment competition.

As a result of the competitions held during 2018, 164 applicants were deemed qualified and placed on panels, 89 posts were offered and 69 staff were appointed. As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 there were 39 panels in place.

### **Training and Development**

During 2018, 42 Health and Safety, Skills related, and general training courses were delivered in-house to staff. In addition to the in-house courses, 165 staff attended various training courses, conferences, seminars, workshops outside of the county. 26 staff were approved assistance for courses of further education.

### **Accounting Technician Apprenticeships**

In 2018 Monaghan County Council employed two Accounting Technician Apprentices on a 2 year full-time work based learning programme. The Apprentices work (on-the-job training) four days a week in the Finance Section and study (off-the-job training) on one day at Monaghan Institute of Further Education and Training. The Accounting Technician Apprenticeship leads to a Level 6 QQI Advanced Certificate in Accounting and is a national apprenticeship funded by SOLAS.

### **Graduate Programme**

In July 2018 Monaghan County Council appointed two Graduates under the Local Authority Graduate Recruitment Programme to the areas of Economic Enterprise and Business Development and Communications and Marketing. Each graduate will participate in a three year structured graduate development programme which will provide the necessary opportunities to develop new skills and knowledge through a combination of on-site, office-

based and project specific experiential learning as well as formal training and accredited sector specific education.

### Monaghan County Council Staff Long Service Awards

Staff with 25 years service or more in Local Government were honoured at a very memorable ceremony in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan in April 2018. Individual awards were made to 68 staff members with 25 years service or more by Cllr. Cathy Bennett, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council and Eamonn O’ Sullivan, Chief Executive, Monaghan County Council. Both the Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive paid tribute to the dedication and commitment of the staff.

A special award was also made to 10 Fire fighters with 10 years service. The Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive and Dermot Brannigan, Chief Fire Officer paid tribute to the Fire Service staff acknowledging the tough job they do in very difficult circumstances.

The Hillgrove Hotel served a lovely meal and following the awards ceremony the celebrants danced the night away and a most enjoyable night was had by all.



<b>Staff Complement at 31st December 2018 was:</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>WTE</b>
<b>Core Staff</b>		
<b>Managerial</b>	5	5
<b>Clerical/Administrative</b>	159	145
<b>Professional/Technical</b>	74	72.75
<b>Outdoor</b>	143	132.75
<b>Total Core Staff</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>355.50</b>
<b>Contract Posts</b>	16	15.14
<b>Temporary/Seasonal</b>	31	29.62
<b>Retained Firefighters</b>	50	50
<b>Non DoEC&amp;LG</b>	7	4.15
<b>Total Other Posts</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>98.91</b>

The following staff retired during 2018:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Tom Duffy	General Operative
Michael Wynne	General Operative
Francis Corrigan	General Operative
Marie Smyth	Administrative Officer
Eugene Hickey	Senior Executive Engineer
John McGrory	Senior Executive Technician
Pat Brennan	Driver B
Joseph Maguire	Assistant Staff Officer

## Corporate Procurement

### Procurement Procedures 2018

Monaghan County Council's Procurement Procedures 2018 were completed and adopted by the Management Team in September 2018 and circulated to all staff. The procedures ensure that procurement is conducted in line with the requirements of Public Sector reform, the Office of Government Procurement, EU Directives and National Guidelines.

### Electronic Receipt of Tenders

Under EU directive 2014/24/EU, Monaghan County Council was required to facilitate the electronic receipt of tenders with a value above the EU thresholds (currently €221,000 for goods/services and €5,548,000 for works). While not mandatory for tenders of a lower value, as a matter of good practice, Monaghan County Council has adopted as policy the electronic receipt of all public tenders, i.e tenders for Supplies and Services with a value greater than €25,000 and Works with a value greater than €50,000.

The new policy for the electronic receipt of tenders was adopted by the Management Team and circulated to all staff on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2018.

### Training/Templates

A programme of Procurement training has continued throughout 2018. Procurement Templates are available on the Corporate Intranet for use by all staff and provide a consistent format for procurement procedures. New templates are drafted and approved as required.

### Procurement Steering Committee

The procurement steering committee have met quarterly during 2018. The committee have been very proactive particularly in the new areas of procurement and the preparation of procurement policies and templates.

## Model Publication Scheme

Monaghan County Council is obligated 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.

All Sections have assisted in the compilation of contracts awarded for 2018 and this information has now been published on the Council's website and can be found on the following link:- <https://monaghan.ie/corporateservices/procurement/>

### Supplygov.ie

During 2018 Local Authorities were notified that 51 RFQ (Request for Quotation) categories would be removed from the Supplygov.ie portal from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2019 as they have been identified as outside the scope of the LGOPC Category Councils. 23 RFQ categories are to remain. The LGOPC have agreed that new RFQ Categories **can be added** to [Supplygov.ie](https://supplygov.ie), once it falls within the scope of the two Category Councils the LGOPC are responsible for - Plant Hire and Minor Building Works & Civil.

### Office of Government Procurement (OGP)

Monaghan County Council are using a number of OGP frameworks both mini competitions and direct drawdowns including Business & Management Consultancy, Franking Machine, Legal Services, Security Cash & Coin Collection, Stationery and office supplies and fuel cards.

## Health & Safety Unit

### Operational Plan

Monaghan County Council continued in 2018 in its endeavour to create a suitable environment to promote the safety, health and wellbeing of employees, contractors and visitors whilst meeting the objectives of the Corporate Plan. This was achieved by each section implementing the requirements of the Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) and via the programme of work conducted by the Health and Safety Unit and set in the Health and Safety Unit Operational Plan 2018 Annual Service Delivery Plan (ASDP). The Operational Plan ensured that a suitable and current Corporate Safety Statement (CSS) was in place by means of a six-monthly review required under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005. Progress on the implementation of the Operational Plan was discussed and reviewed at each monthly Health and Safety Unit MonStat Meeting.

The Unit reviewed the Health and Safety Management System on a continuous basis. The basis of the review was to identify any gaps in documentation and update documents. The Unit also ensured that the HSMS Intranet Site was maintained with the most current documentation. The HSMS in 2018 consisted of the CSS, 13 Section Manuals, 52 Procedures, 34 Forms and eight Registers.

The Confined Space Register was further developed in 2018 with a substantial volume of work involved. This included a detailed review in order to identify all confined spaces in Monaghan County Council. Some new spaces were identified and added to the register. A review of Lone Working in Monaghan County Council was started in late 2018 with an interim report provided to the Management Team in December.

### Inspection and Audit Programme

The Audit and Inspection Programme of Work was accomplished by the Health and Safety Unit. Five audits were conducted in 2018 with overall positive feedback to sections along with recommendations for further improvement of health and safety within the sections. A target of 267 inspections was set.

Target Number of Inspections:	Actual Achieved:	% Achieved:
267	272	102%

The majority of inspections carried out were within a varied range of roadworks, with inspections also conducted in Water Services Section, Housing Section and Environment Section and Planning, Motor Tax, Corporate Assets, Library, Arts, Museum, Fire, Civil Defence Section.

### MD Section Health and Safety Manual

The Health and Safety Unit accomplished a sizeable piece of work with the development, review and issue of the Municipal District (MD) Section Health and Safety Manual. The manual contains 57 Procedures, 25 Hazard and Risk Assessments and 32 Material Safety Data Sheets. The manual was issued to the three MD's for review and was well received with prompt final agreement and issue. The manual was uploaded to the Corporate Intranet for staff to view.

### Hazard and Risk Assessment

A Hazard and Risk Assessment is a written document that records a three-step process:

1. Identifying the hazards in the workplace(s) under the employee's control.
2. Assessing the risks presented by these hazards.
3. Putting control measures in place to reduce the risk of these hazards causing harm.

A total of 29 Hazard and Risk Assessments were undertaken by the Health and Safety Unit. These assessments were documented and issued to the appropriate Line Manager.

Hazard and Risk Assessment Conducted:
16 x Landfill Assessments
09 x Waste Water Assessments
School Warden Assessment
N2 Emyvale Upgrade Compound Assessment
TII National Roads Assessment
Vehicle Assessment.



## Training

The following training on health and safety related topics was delivered by Monaghan County Council in 2018:

Training Course	Number(s) Attended
Safe Pass	140
Dignity at Work	All staff
Driver CPC Module 5	41
Managing Aggressive Behaviour	34
Serious Incident	57
Sludge Handling	11
Section Manual Training	26
Fire Warden Training	40
Water Awareness Training	84
Ride On Roller	24
First Aid	24
School Warden Training	18
Confined Space Training	19
Evacuation Chair Training	06
Winter Services Operator	12
Loading Shovel Training	03

## Summary

The continued work undertaken and delivered by the Health and Safety Unit in 2018 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 applicable legislation. The training, advice and recommendations provided to staff ensured that they have suitable and adequate knowledge of their legal duties required by health and safety legislation.

## Employee Support

Throughout the year, support was provided to employees who contacted the Health and Safety Unit with varied information and assistance requests. An average of 35 phone calls per month was received and addressed. The most frequent requests related to roadworks, other construction work, employee wellbeing and events.

## Safety Committee

The Safety Committee met on a quarterly basis. Committee and members were updated on the progress of the Operational Plan, sharing of information within sections and learning from incident investigations. Four additional Safety Representatives were appointed to the committee during 2018. This valued resource has provided a wider voice to staff in matters relating to workplace safety, health and welfare. The committee provided an invaluable means of communication to staff.

## The Municipal District of Castleblayney-Carrickmacross

### Road Infrastructure

In 2018 this District managed an investment of €2.35M in the local and regional road network (a rise of €140,000 on 2017). 15 roads (5 regional and 10 local) were strengthened under the R.I. programme and a further 10 roads (3 regional and 7 local) were strengthened under the Restoration Maintenance programme.

In 2018 we carried out a Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme on the Shercock Road in Castleblayney adjacent to the primary and secondary schools. The value of the grant was €85,000. The works included traffic calming measures, pedestrian crossings and new road lining.

Arising from the rebate from I.P.B. Significant investment in footpath infrastructure was possible in 2018. 9 sections of new footpath were provided and a further 10 sections of footpath were repaired for a total investment of €355,000.

The resurfacing of the Donaghmoyne Straight section of the N2 happened in 2018, seeing 4.2km of road resurfaced and drainage renewed, with a total scheme value of €1.4M.

The right-turn facility at Kinnagan, on the N2 was also completed.

### Buildings/Land

The Municipal District assists and supports other agencies in the investment and management of built assets, including the newly restored Market House in Carrickmacross and the recently acquired Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen. Works to the central section of the Market House, home to Carrickmacross Lace, was completed in 2018 and the new Lace Gallery and Craft Shop are now occupied and open for business.

Under the 2018 Town & Village Renewal programme further funding has been accessed to develop the next wing of the Market House as artist/artisan studios. The grant aid received for this project is €200,000. Works will include a new interpretive

exhibition at the Workhouse which will enhance the visitor experience at this historic building.



**New Craft Shop at Market House Carrickmacross**

Part 8 was granted for the Kavanagh Centre with works to commence in January 2019.

In 2018 funding for the exhibit element of the Kavanagh centre was confirmed, the grant announced is for €199,000 from Fáilte Ireland.



**Launch of Fáilte Ireland Funding at Kavanagh Centre**

The Hope Castle and Annex buildings in Castleblayney are important heritage properties in the ownership of the Council and their development into working tourism assets is a priority. Work to secure funding to restore and redevelop the entire castle demesne is ongoing and an application for funding under the Rural Regeneration programme was made in 2018. This funding application is also seeking funding to carry out an options study for the Market House in Castleblayney.

Design consultants have been appointed for the development of Gate Lodge 2 in Castleblayney and Part 8 for the proposed redevelopment was granted in 2018.

## Public Realm Investment

Public Realm & Economic Plans have been developed for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney following on from an extensive public consultation process in 2018. The intention is that the plans will provide the ideas and strategy for future investment. This is already being realised with the 2018 application for T&V funding in Castleblayney centring around the public realm improvements envisaged for the Market Square area; and the plan for Carrickmacross being used as the basis for the Rural Regeneration fund application.

A new public art piece commemorating the life and work of Big Tom McBride was commissioned and delivered this year. The statue sits on the newly renovated section of Market Square in Castleblayney. The art piece adds significantly to the public realm of the town and has attracted a lot of visitors since it was unveiled by the President of Ireland and Tom's family in September. The piece was funded 50:50 through the Municipal District Allocation and the Percent For Art scheme.



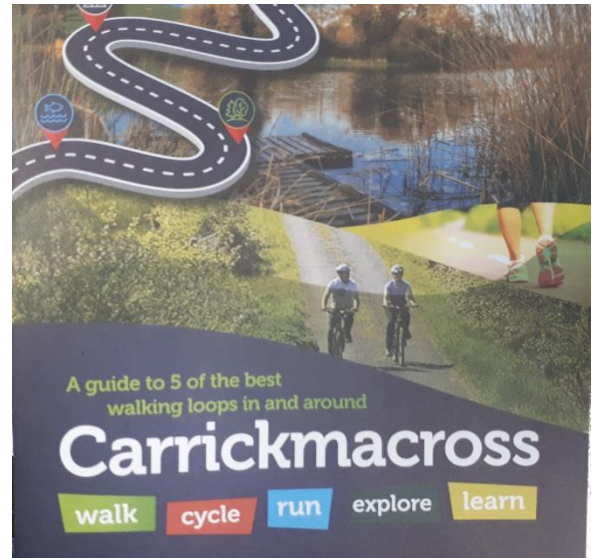
**Unveiling of the Big Tom Statue in Castleblayney**

There was also investment in the public realm in the village of Oram in 2018, with a schedule of works agreed with local community representatives delivered through the Town & Village Renewal scheme.

## Recreational Spaces/Open Spaces

Funding was received in 2018 for improvement works to the Convent Avenue in Carrickmacross. Confirmation that the Measure 2 project within the Hope Castle Demesne was also received later in the year and this project will be delivered in 2019.

A walking and cycling trail guide around Carrickmacross was also developed in 2018 and is now in circulation.



## Community Actions

The Municipal District works closely with local groups 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. The committee meets with the executive on a regular basis and leads initiatives such as the Town Voucher Scheme; Christmas lights; the new Wall of Fame – unveiled on the weekend of the Big Tom Festival; and the commemorative statue for Big Tom. In total €32,000 is invested annually by the Council in these two groups.



The Tidy Towns groups are vitally important for the towns that they represent. In 2018 the towns of Carrickmacross, Castleblayney and Inniskeen all scored very well in the Tidy Towns competition with Carrickmacross doing particularly well finishing as Runners Up in the Small-Town category and receiving a gold medal. Castleblayney Tidy Towns also achieved their target for the year of surpassing 300 points for the first time. The Municipal District helps fund these groups with an annual investment of €14,000; and also provides additional supports throughout the year in order to give them the best opportunity to achieve their goals.

In 2018 this Municipal District supported 75 local groups through the community grants scheme with a total investment of €64,290. For many of the groups supported the investment from the Council is the only public funding they receive and is therefore vital for their group activities. The grants are presented at an awards night in May each year.



**At the Community Awards Night May 2018**

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; and the Carrickmacross Festival. The annual budget set aside to assist these events is €73,600.



**The Carrickmacross Arts Festival 2018**

### **Tourism Initiatives**

Monaghan County Council and this Municipal District provide ongoing financial and logistical support to tourism initiatives within the district. The investment in the Kavanagh Centre; the Lace Gallery; and the Workhouse in Carrickmacross reflects the core tourism strategy for the South of the county, namely to develop a cluster of tourism products that, combined, will form a significant cultural tourism attraction for the district.

In addition the Council is seeking to develop Lough Muckno and the Hope Castle demesne as a significant regional attraction and the development of this resource formed the mainstay of the application for funding under the Rural Regeneration fund in 2018.

The council continues to support sport angling in the district, with Lough Muckno once more hosting a large number of international class events and attracting up to 500 anglers per week to the lake between April and October with on average 50 to 60 of these taking up accommodation from hotel and B&B operators locally. To further enhance the fishing facilities at Lough Muckno an additional 40 fishing pegs are being installed at the South lodge with a circa €110,000 grant received from Inland Fisheries Ireland to cover 75% of the cost of the works.

Golf tourism also continues to be a significant attraction for this District with Concra Wood hosting the Monaghan Irish Challenge in October, an event that was supported by the Council, and televised on Sky Sports and which was won by the former Ryder Cup player, Oliver Wilson. The positive feedback from the participants and the tour organisers along with the global reach of Sky Sports means that Concra Wood should continue to attract golfers

from near and far resulting in a significant economic benefit to the District.



At the Monaghan Irish Challenge at Concra Wood

### 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 Municipal District of Ballybay Clones

### Roads Programme 2018

In 2018 Ballybay-Clones Municipal District undertook a substantial programme of road infrastructural development. The Municipal District carried out drainage, bitmac overlay and surface dressing works on ten local roads and two regional roads in the district to the value of nearly €2.1million under the restoration improvement grants scheme. The Ballybay - Clones Municipal District also carried out a full road reconstruction at Bellatrain Cross, at Shantonagh, on the R181. This scheme will benefit the Lough Egish industrial park. There were a further 30km of roads surfaced dressed throughout the Municipal District. The Municipal District also undertook extensive general repairs/maintenance to the road network in the district such as gully repairs/cleaning, road patching, hedge cutting, sweeping and scavenging.

### Carn Heights Playground

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones worked together with Youth Work Ireland to create new playground facilities at Carn Heights. This project has been funded from allocations under the Dept Outdoor recreation scheme and Clár programmes. The aim of this project was to develop safe play opportunities for children living in the area. The project involved members of the community volunteering their time and services to create the facility at minimal cost. The project included site preparation, fencing and the installation of new equipment which consists of a multi-use play unit incorporating climbing frame and slide and Double Swing.



## **Sliabh Beagh Masterplan Launched**

On completion of the Masterplan by The Paul Hogarth Company and in partnership with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Monaghan County Council hosted the launch of the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan in October 2018. The event was jointly launched by the Chairman of Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and the Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council Cllr David Maxwell. The event was well attended by interested parties from both sides of the border.



One issue that was clear from the Masterplan was the need for an identity for Sliabh Beagh in the form of branding that

was unique to the area. As part of the development of the Sliabh Beagh branding, Ballybay-Clones Municipal District held a series of consultation events in Knockatallon with a focus group. These were extremely well attended and the input from the local community representatives within the focus group has proved to be invaluable.

The theme of the brand has now been agreed and Ballybay-Clones Municipal District are currently agreeing the locations of the sculptures and gateways at the various locations around the various identified locations. Part of the project also is to upgrade the current visitor's facilities within Sliabh Beagh including way markers, picnic areas and rest points.

## **Billy Fox Memorial Park**

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones have been working closely with Bawn Area Community to develop the aging facilities at Senator Billy Fox Memorial Park, Drumcunnion, Co. Monaghan. The park was opened in 1977 and much of its features are the original from the time the park was opened, so need upgrading. The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones were successful in securing funding from Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme to

improve safety around the park, drainage, provide bitmac footpaths, fencing, viewpoint at the waterfall and vehicle height restriction barriers. This work complements works being carried out by Bawn Area Community and both projects dovetail to complete the final development. Works are currently underway and will be completed in November 2018.

## **Market House – The Diamond, Clones**

Clones Market House is a landmark, historic building in the Diamond in Clones, Co. Monaghan which became vacant in 2008. Ballybay/Clones MD procured a multidisciplinary design team, led by Alastair Coey Architects to design and oversee the remodelling and refurbishment of the building, to create civic offices for the Municipal District of Ballybay/Clones. FJ Haughey Construction Ltd commenced construction of this project at the end of 2017. The works were successfully completed in mid-2018 with the relocation of the Municipal District Offices taking place shortly afterwards. The Official Opening of the Market house took place on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The local community came out in force to see the renovation for themselves when it was officially launched by Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Gilliland. Speakers on the day included MC Adge King, CEO of Monaghan County Council Eamonn O Sullivan and Architect Alastair Coey.

## **Former Clones Post Office**

The Old Post Office in Clones is a building of important social significance to the town of Clones. For just over a century, from 1903 to 2008, it served the town and wider environs of Clones.

Since 2012 the building has been used as studios by a community of artists and it periodically facilitates cultural events.

With funding secured from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and SEUPB and Monaghan County Council's own resources, Ballybay/Clones MD procured Keys and Monaghan Architects as lead Architects for the design of renovation works within the Post Office to create a cultural hub for Clones Town. The hub will be utilised for cross community engagement and participation in cultural arts project, to include

drawing, pottery, music and dance.

### **Doohamlet**

Monaghan County Council in partnership with Doohamlet Development Society secured funding of €100,000 through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for the widening works to the existing footpath to create a shared cycle track/footpath through the village linking the school to the community centre. The Ballybay/Clones MD allocated €30,000 additional funding to the project.

### **Ballybay Public Realm and Economic Plan**

Ballybay/Clones Municipal District appointed the Paul Hogarth Company to prepare a Public Realm and Economic Plan for Ballybay. This Plan will deliver a range of benefits for the Community and Council, providing a clear vision for the development of the town in the short, medium and long term. The Plan will ensure that the town of Ballybay is in a strong position to apply for various tranches of



funding as they arise over the coming years.

The Municipal District has facilitated the consultants with public consultation with the Community and other stakeholders to provide them with a clear understanding of the qualities and strengths of Ballybay as it is now and the areas that can be improved. This included organising of a family fun day in the Town Park to encourage participation in the consultation process. The Public Realm Plan will capture a vision for Ballybay, which is distinctively rooted in its sense of place – its people, culture, and heritage.

### **Ballybay Town Park Masterplan**

Ballybay- Clones Municipal District appointed Earthlinks to prepare a masterplan for the development of the town park. Three concept

designs were produced and presented to the community at 3 different public consultation events to allow to community to have their say on this important amenity for the town. The preferred option was identified and will be brought through the Part VIII statutory process.

### **Tidy Towns Ballybay – Clones**

Once again both towns received increase points in this years

competition. The committees work closely with the indoor and outdoor staff of the Municipal District. This year the MD was delighted to purchase extra planters for both towns which provided lovely colour throughout the towns.



Clones Tidy Towns in conjunction with Clones Town Team and kindly supported by Nial O Connor Environment Section Monaghan County Council undertook to transform disused or previously dull spaces into a colourful area. Dublin based Subset art collective group were approached and were only delighted to turn four neglected walls into huge canvasses. The work attracted national media attention and has received positive comments from all.

### **The National Enterprise Town Awards**

Clones Town Team in conjunction with the Municipal District entered the Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards 2018. The Judging took place on the afternoon of August 24<sup>th</sup> and included a presentation and Q&A on Clones Town. The Judges and BOI officials were taken on a whistle stop tour of Clones. At the awards ceremony held in November Clones Town was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> runner up in the Ulster Connaught region population category under 3000k.

## The Municipal District of Monaghan

### Retail Strategy for the Town/District - Town Team

The members of Monaghan Municipal District have committed to continue to support the position of Town Centre Co-ordinator. The following was achieved in 2018:

#### Monaghan Town Voucher

The Monaghan Town Voucher had sales of €580,340 during Christmas 2018. Sales throughout 2018 recorded an additional €165,860 outside of the traditional sale time from January - November. Redemptions for the year totalled €498,000.

#### BOI Enterprise Towns

Monaghan Town Team submitted an application to the Bank of Ireland Enterprising Town Awards. The team delivered a judges visit and presentation highlighting how the local authority, community, education and business sectors work together to develop and deliver projects to enhance Monaghan Town & District.



Combilift site visit, BOI August 2018

#### Retail Committee Monaghan

The Town Team established a Retail subcommittee and carried out a variety of projects throughout the year focused on retention of economic spend.

#### Spring into Summer event

The Team organized the Spring into Summer event to reward families for visiting Monaghan Town Centre.

#### Monaghan Food Network

**Top 5 Foodie Destination.** The Food Network have overseen Monaghan & Glaslough being designated as an RAI TOP 5 Food Destination in Ireland. This is the culmination of 3 years great work in building a sustainable food network and helps to build Monaghan's USP and reputation as a Food Destination. This built on previous awards as a top 10 destination in 2016 & 2017.

Monaghan Food Network has worked hard throughout the year to promote Monaghan as a Foodie Destination through the creation of a themed Calendar of Events called "**Monaghan Taste Club**". The events are held to highlight locally sourced produce, increase footfall into Monaghan Town midweek and to build Monaghan's Reputation as a Food destination.



Foodie Destination Judges Visit August 2018

#### Cottage Market

Working with and secured €2,000 funding for the Grow It Yourself network to establish a Cottage Market in Monaghan Town. This Market is now a permanent fixture in the town held on the last Friday of every month.

#### Monaghan Town Business Awards 2018

The team held their second Monaghan Town Business Awards in April 2018. The awards had 16 different categories across a variety of sectors. Over 430 people attended the awards ceremony in the Hillgrove Hotel. Micheal Briody of Silverhill Farm won Business Person of the Year, Lifetime Contribution went to Gordon Fleming, Flemings Department Store.





**Launch of MTBA 2018**

### Rossmore Giants Trial

Monaghan Town Team have helped to develop the 1st Rossmore Giant with a vision and plan for 9 additional giants. This project is being ably supported by Monaghan Tourism Section and Monaghan Municipal District in a collaborative effort to develop a regional visitor attraction for the town, district & county.



**Roddy Den Drum, Rossmore Park 2018**

### Promotion via numerous platforms

General town promotion and coordination of events. Maintaining the 'Monaghan Has It' Web Site and promoting Monaghan in the digital marketing world. Creation of social media profile for Food Network through the Taste of Monaghan website which has been redesigned and branded. Promotional videos for the town and District have proved very effective with large hits noted.

### Car Parking

The Municipal District continues to operate the pay parking for Monaghan Town. The Municipal District operated a free Christmas parking campaign, which commenced after 12 noon each day, from 8<sup>th</sup> December to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019.

## **Community**

### Tidy Towns

Again, the local villages and town achieved high results in the Tidy Towns awards 2018. Glaslough won Ireland's Tidiest Village title, the Regional Award for the highest placed entry in the West & North West Region and retained their Gold Medal status for the sixth consecutive year.

Monaghan Town again achieved very high marks taking the Commended slot, retaining their Silver Medal with gold in their sights.

Emyvale won the Endeavour award for making the most improvement in marks from 2017.

### Best Kept Town 2018

Monaghan Town qualified to take part in an all-island Ireland's Best Kept Town Competition. Award's ceremony took place in Belfast on the 26<sup>th</sup> June and Monaghan won runner-up Prize.

### Ulster Canal Greenway

Public Meetings took place on the proposed 22km extension to the Ulster Canal Greenway In October in various locations. The Municipal District continues to maintain and trim verges on the existing Greenway.

### Community Grants

The Municipal District held the annual Community Grant Awards presentation evening on Monday, 21st May at 7pm, Four Seasons Hotel. 81 grants issued to groups in the Monaghan Municipal District.



**Community Awards Presentation Night**

### Clár Program 2018

Clár Funding secured for safety measures at Annyalla NS, Scoil Mhuire NS and Deravoy NS. Also, Outdoor Play Area and Equipment for Knockconan NS.

### Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2018

Playground and Adult Gym Equipment at Oriel Park, Emyvale and Village Enhancement works at Glaslough.

### **Events**

#### St. Patrick's Day Parade

The theme was **More to Monaghan**.

The Monaghan Municipal District set up the Committee and organised the Parade and the day's events. Many thanks to all who helped with the planning, promotion and management of the Parade. It was great to see more community involvement in the Parade.

#### Monaghan Stages Rally

22nd April 2018, based in the Courthouse Car Park, Monaghan Town. Brought increased footfall to the town and surrounding area.

#### Canada Day

The 3rd annual celebrations of Canada Day on 1st July held in Monaghan Town. Brought increased visitation to the town with Ambassador Kevin Vickers in attendance for the official Flag Raising Ceremony. The team also increased engagement with business by providing Canadian themed snacks to visitors.

#### Monaghan Town Country Music Festival

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sun 15<sup>th</sup> July. A successful festival that is organised by a voluntary committee. Brought a great atmosphere to the town for the weekend.

#### Harvest Time Blues Festival

The Harvest Time Blues Festival took place from the 6th to 10th September.

#### Taste of Monaghan

The Town Team, the new Taste of Monaghan Committee and Monaghan Municipal District organized and held the event over the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> of September, attracting approximately 8,000 visitors over the weekend with 60 exhibitors.

### Back to Back Marathon

Monaghan Phoenix, Back to Back Marathon, A huge success with over 500 participating over the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> of Sept. Participants came from Ireland, U.K, Ohio, Wisconsin, Australia, South Africa, Philippines and other Eastern Europeans. This year seen the addition of a third marathon on the Friday.

### Haunting of Rossmore Park

The Friends of Rossmore Forest Park organised a very successful Haunting of Rossmore Park on 29<sup>th</sup> October, tickets sold out with approximately 1500 people attending.

### Halloween Festival

A Family Event with Fantastic Fireworks display and Funfair in McNally's Car Park.

### Christmas Lights Switch on

Christmas Lights Switch took place on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Promotion & Town Enhancement**

#### Monaghan Town Heritage Walking Tours

Walking Tours continue every Saturday at 11am from Easter through to the end of September. Walks were free to join and started from the Westenra hotel.

#### Dublin Street Regeneration

Monaghan County Council lodged an Application for funding in respect of Dublin Street to the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund. The Application is intended to develop Residential, Retail and Office Development together with Municipal Car Parking on both sides of Dublin Street. Decision is due at end of November.

#### Monaghan Town Dereliction

The Municipal District is working with the Economic Development section to reduce dereliction in the town. A number of derelict sites have been acquired under the Acts.



## Rossmore Forest Park

Monaghan Municipal District continue to manage the recreational element of the Park.

A Friends of Rossmore Forest Park Facebook page has been set by the public. The group organised a Spring Clean on the 29th April with a good turn out from the public. The Municipal District work closely and assist the group with activities. The Park Runs are held there every Saturday at 9:30am from the main car park.

Maintenance works were carried out to cut back vegetation along walks and signage and way markers installed.

€301,000 Peace IV funding has been secured for the installation of a playarea in the Park. Following a tendering process, a contractor has been selected for these works. Works to be completed in March 2019. Further funding of €421,000 was secured from the Outdoor Recreational Fund.

## Road Infrastructure Works

- 8.5km of Local roads and 3km of Regional Roads were overlaid under the Road Restoration 2018 program.
- 12.5km of Local Roads and 3.8km of Regional Roads were surfaced dressed under the Restoration Maintenance 2018 programme.
- National road drainage rehabilitation was carried out on the N12 at Tyholland.
- Verge Trimming on National Roads. Two verge grass cuts were completed included litter removal in 2018.
- The Municipal District also completed a program of hedge cutting works on their own property and in strategic locations within the District.
- Low Cost Safety Schemes.
- Driver feedback warning signs were installed on the R937 Dublin Road.
- Traffic calming speed ramps were installed at LP3500 Annyalla National School and LT16102 Ballinode Village.
- 30km/hr Speed limits in estates, additional 30kmph signs were erected in housing estates taken in charge.

- Reinstatement of the urban roads in Monaghan Town was completed under the water rehabilitation scheme works.
- Winter Maintenance program commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and will continue until 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019.
- Surfacing of N54 from Coolshannagh Roundabout to Glaslough St. (Flacks Garage) was completed.
- New layout for the Scotstown road/Clones road junction to improve road safety both for pedestrians and road traffic was completed.
- Road overlay scheme for the Monaghan N2 By-pass was completed.
- Dredging of the Shambles River from Castle Road (Credit Union) to Graham's Roundabout was completed to help alleviate flooding in Monaghan Town.



Regional and local road restoration



## Municipal District Meetings

The Municipal District hold their monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month. At our AGM meeting in June Cllr B McKenna was elected Cathaoirleach for one year. There were a number of

other subcommittee meetings to discuss roads, budgets and other program issues. The Schedule of Municipal District Works was presented and approved at the March Meeting.

## Museum

### Peace Campus

Monaghan County Council received confirmation in December 2018 from the SEUPB that they had been successful in their application towards capital funding for the new Peace Campus project in Monaghan Town. The Campus will include a new purpose built museum including staff offices and collection storage. The museum will be working with all of the relevant stakeholders in the coming months as we begin the process of fulfilling our commitments within the application and planning for the new museum displays and programmes. This will be a new page in the history of Monaghan County Museum and the new facilities at the Peace Campus will allow us to reach a much wider audience as well as facilitate a number of major joint projects with the other services within the Peace Campus including the Library and Youth Services.

### International Women's Day

2018 marked a very important centenary in the history of women in Ireland. The 1918 Representation of the People Act allowed Irish women to vote for the first time. Also in that year, the Parliament Act permitted women to run for office for the first time. A number of women did run as candidates but only one woman in Britain or Ireland was returned; Constance Markievicz.

However, as a member of Sinn Féin, Markievicz refused to take her seat in the House of Commons and instead became the first female government minister in the western world when the Dáil sat for the first time in 1919. To mark this truly historic International Women's Day, the museum invited Minister Heather Humphreys, Ailbhe Rogers from Maynooth University and Cathaoirleach Cathy Bennett to speak at a very



poignant event celebrating women's equality in Ireland.

### **60 Years of Women Guarding the Peace**

Monaghan County Museum were very happy to host numerous members of An Garda Síochána and the Police Service of Northern Ireland for an event held recently to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Garda Síochána Act 1958, which paved the way for women to join the force for the first time. Speaking at the event were a number of high ranking Gardai including Assistant Commissioner Finbarr O'Brien, Chief Superintendent Collette Quinn, Superintendent Noel Cunningham as well as Inspector Kieran Quinn from the PSNI. Speaking on behalf of the first women to join the force was retired Sergeant Mary D'Estelle Roe, who spoke about her career and some the challenges and successes she experienced. There were also a number of serving female Gardai and PSNI officers in attendance. Along with marking this important milestone in equality legislation the museum also used the event as the official closure of their extremely success exhibition; *The Watchmen – Policing Crime and Punishment in Monaghan*. The exhibition was developed in partnership with the National Museum of Ireland and in collaboration with the Cavan Monaghan Garda Division. The exhibition also explored the cross border relationship with the PSNI and we were delighted to have a number of members representing the force present on the night.

### **'The Monaghan Spitfire' Exhibition and Launch**

The museum's new exhibition; *The Monaghan Spitfire – Life on the Border with a World at War* launched on Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. This was a full day event which along with the exhibition launch itself, the museum had an actual Spitfire plane parked outside the front of the building as well as WW2 era anti- aircraft gun. The plane and gun were open to the public throughout the day with an estimated two and half thousand people attending both the on- street display and the exhibition launch that evening. The event also attracted national press coverage with RTE Six One News, RTE Nationwide, BBC NI, The Irish Times, The Sunday Business Post and the Associated Press all in attendance. Indeed,

such was the interest that the museum has seen a surge in visitors over the summer months from all over the country and further afield to visit the exhibition. The success of a major event such as this and the resulting national and international visitors it has and continues to attract demonstrates how the museum can contribute both economically as well as culturally to the wider the community.



### **Do Borders Matter – The Role of Museums and Heritage in Crossing the Line Conference**

The Local Authority Museums Network LAMN is the national representative body for all of the local authority museums in the state. At present, the Curator of the Monaghan County Museum is the Chairperson of this body. As part of the process of investigating the challenges and opportunities that Brexit will present to the museum and wider cultural sector, the LAMN organised a national conference to examine this question. The event, which was jointly supported by the Heritage Council and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, was hosted by Louth County Museum in Dundalk and featured speakers from Ireland and all over Europe.

It was a hugely successful event and the findings will aid the museum sector greatly as we move forward to the uncertain reality of Ireland post Brexit.

### **Monaghan County Council Corporate Plan/ 2018 Service Delivery Plan**

The museum has continued to implement the Monstat and PMDS structures through a programme of bi weekly meetings and review of agreed objectives outlined in each staff's PDP on monthly basis. This is then reported to the Director of Service through the Curator's Monstat meeting. Under priority five the museum is a key player in the proposed new Peace Campus building planned for Monaghan Town. The museum is also 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 2020 – 2023. Now that the application for capital funding towards the Peace Campus Project has been successful, our new strategic plan will outline all of the key actions required to relocate the entire museum service to the new site.

## **Library Service**

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 31 service points around the county on a three-weekly basis.
- Primary Schools Library Service visiting each of the 63 primary schools twice yearly.
- A wide-ranging programme of events for all ages.

In partnership with the Cavan/Monaghan ETB, a wide range of Adult Learner classes are provided in all five library branches, through our 55 Internet PCs, and through our suite of laptops, iPads and tablets shared by the library branches.

### **Library Development Plan 2018-2022 Launched**

The new five year library development plan was officially launched at an event on Thursday 31st May 2018 in Clones Library. This ambitious plan outlines six objectives for the next five years with key actions including; the development of new branch libraries in Monaghan and Castleblayney, development of Digital Learning resources in all branches, the creation of an online digital local history collection, the purchase of a new mobile library van, increased and revised opening hours, a Right to Read Literacy Plan, and a Creative Ireland Cultural Plan.

### **Monaghan Libraries Serving the Community Since 1928**

In 2018 Monaghan County Library celebrated 90 years of service to the community.



Over the years a lot has changed - the physical infrastructure, the library contents, the technology used to access information, the format of



information and the activities and events associated with the library. Throughout 2018, the service marked the occasion with events for the public to participate in, commencing with celebrations on the 31 May 2018.

### Digital Services and Facilities in Public Libraries

In July 2018 the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Mr Michael Ring TD, announced a major investment package for digital services and facilities in public libraries.



The investment is to enable ICT infrastructure upgrades, meeting space technologies and digital learning suites in 309 public libraries across the country. The €7.8 million investment comprises €5.85 million from Minister Ring's Department and a further €1.95 million contribution from Local Authorities.

Monaghan County Library Service was allocated €188,147 in funding to enhance technological capacity across the library network.

### Europe Direct Information Centre

In January 2018 Clones Library became home to the Europe Direct Information Centre, (EDIC), for the Cavan/Monaghan/Louth region for the period 2018-2021.



opportunities.

EDICs give information, advice, assistance and answers to questions about the EU and the rights of EU citizens, the EU's priorities, legislations, policies, programmes and funding

The EDIC receives annual funding of €31,200 from the European Commission to support the service provided and cover the cost of annual event programming.



### What services are provided at the Europe Direct Centre in Clones Library?

- A selection of free EU publications and brochures covering a wide range of EU related topics.
- Free public computers to search for specific information about EU related matters.
- Free public telephone where you can call the Europe Direct Citizen's Helpline with queries on any aspect of the EU that are of interest to you: 0080067891011.
- A programme of talks and events to offer citizens an opportunity to discuss the EU and to inform its future direction.

You can email the EDIC at

[eudirect@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:eudirect@monaghancoco.ie) or contact the service

via

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ClonesEDIC/>

### Creative Ireland

Monaghan County Council Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018 – 2022 was launched in 2018. The strategy is based on a collaborative and partnership-based programme, which will enable greater awareness of and participation in the cultural life of the County.





**Carrickmacross Arts Festival**

In 2018 the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht issued a grant of €111,121 to Monaghan County Council to support the 2018 programme.

Deirdriu McQuaid, Creative Ireland Coordinator, chairs the Creative Ireland Steering Committee, whose members include Somhairle MacConghail, Arts Officer; Liam Bradley, Curator, Monaghan County Museum; Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer; Fintan McPhillips, Economic and Community Development; Dympna Condra, Tourism Officer; Laura Carey, Monaghan County Library and Carmel Thornton, Corporate Services. The Committee reports to and is led by Adge King, Director of Services.

## Culture Night 2018

This was the 3rd 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 21<sup>st</sup> September with venues across County Monaghan opening late with a host of free events. The feedback from the attendees was very positive. There was an increased awareness about Culture Night this year, and about the cultural centres and organisations working within the county.

The County Council received €6,500 funding from the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht.



## Monaghan Makers



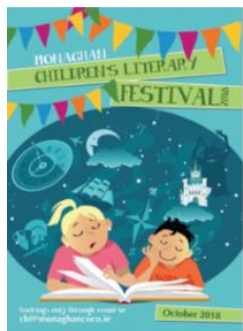
The roll out of the Monaghan Makers Project continued throughout 2018 in three locations, Carrickmacross, Monaghan and Clones. The project is funded through a grant of €100,000 awarded under Peace IV.

This service is aimed at young people and provides access to a wide range of IT resources to assist in the development of digital literacy and design skills. A sum of €13,000 is required for matched funding for the life of the project.

## Summer Stars Summer Reading Adventure

The annual Summer Stars Reading Adventure was launched in all five branch libraries in June 2018. The programme is open to all school children and is designed for all reading abilities, encouraging children to continue to read over the period of the summer holidays. Participating children who finished the challenge were awarded with a certificate and medal at presentation ceremonies held in each branch library. In all, 998 children took part in the reading adventure. In addition, the library service coordinated an extensive activity-based programme for all children and young people to engage in; from robotics workshops, film clubs, Lego family story camp, toddler story-time, to numerous creative and making workshops.

## Children's Literary Festival:



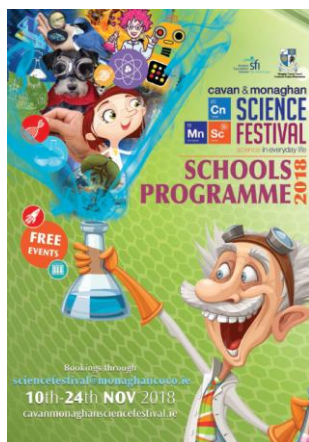
Monaghan County Library reinstated the annual Children's festival in October 2018 and what a response we received!

Over the week of the festival, approximately 2,500 primary and secondary school children came through the doors of the libraries, to a host of

workshops facilitated by renowned authors, illustrators and storytellers. The aim of the festival is to inspire and engage children and young people in reading, writing, and the creative arts. Feedback from schools has been extremely positive, with requests for more similar programming to support the school curriculum.

## Monaghan Cavan Science Festival

This award-winning festival ran for its 3<sup>rd</sup> year from 10<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> November across counties Monaghan and



Cavan, led by the Monaghan County Library Service. The festival is supported by funding of €35,000 from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), to coordinate and organise over 150 events taking place across the two counties to promote science, technology, engineering and maths.

The festival 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, works tirelessly to ensure the success of this ambitious event, which showcases some of the best national and international scientists, researchers, speakers and artists.

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)

## Public Libraries 2020 and Google Project Launched

Monaghan County Library Service was one of 10 libraries across Ireland and UK to be chosen to pilot a project with Google (6 from the UK and 4 from Ireland).

The service was chosen due to its experience in delivering ICT and STEAM education and outreach programming. This pilot project tested out Google educational programmes with young people in libraries under the headings of Computer Science, Applied Digital Skills and Internet Safety.

The goal of the project was to produce a resource toolkit for public libraries across Europe which can be utilised to run similar programming in the future. The project was officially launched at the EU Commission in Brussels on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018 as part of EU Coding Week. Google provided €10,000 in funding to Monaghan county Library to support the project.

## One Book One County Programme

The Library Service coordinates the *One Book One County* reading programme as part of the Decade of Commemorations. Each year, one book is chosen that relates to early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Irish History, which schools and the public are invited to read and participate in supporting workshops and events. This year over 30 primary schools participated in the programme, which involved approximately 1,000 children reading the book *A Winter of Spies*, by Gerard Whelan, based on the War of Independence. The students then discussed the themes of the book and took part in a series of workshops and re-enactments.

## Engineers Week 2018 in County Monaghan

Engineers' Week (24th February – 2nd March 2018)



encourages primary and post-primary students, their teachers and parents to explore the exciting world of engineering as well as highlighting the diverse career opportunities engineering offers.

Monaghan County Council, facilitated through the libraries and Engineering departments, hosted events to promote

Engineering Week with the aim of inspiring young people to think about engineering as a career path. Events ranged from free screenings of 'Dream Big: Engineering our World' movie, career talks by engineers to engineering workshops with DKIT Engineering Department.

## Right to Read Programme

The key objective of this programme 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 complements and supports existing national literacy strategies and initiatives, including the

Department of Education and Skills' National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy. The programme is focusing initially on support for children and

families but will broaden year on year to cover all aspects of literacy need in the County.



Monaghan County Council received the **Right to Read Award 2017** from the Department of Rural and

Community Development in December 2018, in recognition of its implementation of a core programme of Right to Read Literacy support services throughout the local authority.

## Healthy Ireland Initiative

A grant of €2,200 was allocated in 2018 by Department of Rural and Community Development to Monaghan County Library to promote the Healthy Ireland Campaign through the national library service network. An additional book fund grant of approximately €2,500 was allocated for the purchase of Health Specific Stock for all five branches.

## SurfBox Printing Service

A new Self-Service printing station was installed in Monaghan Branch Library in September, provided through SurfBox, a well-established provider of internet and printing solutions. The service has been available in Carrickmacross branch library since January 2017 and has proved popular with customers and staff alike. The Self-Service Printing/Scanning/Copying Station provides Black & White and Colour A4 sheets. The units are note and coin operated at present, but an upgrade to allow card payment will be installed in early 2019. The service allows customers to print directly to the Print station from the Libraries Internet PC's or from any home computer or mobile device. The service will be installed in Clones branch in 2019.

## County Heritage Office

In 2018, the Heritage Office continued to implement the **County Monaghan Heritage Plan**, to advise the local authority regarding 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.

### Funding

Funding was received from the Heritage Council towards the implementation of the County Monaghan Heritage Plan, Creative Monaghan, and INTERREG VA for the Collaborative Action for Natura Network project.

### Research

Black Pig's Dyke Archaeological Monograph – the research archive from 1982 onwards has been assessed and catalogued, and the manuscript chapters drafted. This will be produced into a publication in 2019.

### Policy

#### Sustainable Cultural Tourism

The Heritage Officer continued to chair the European Union Open Method of Coordination group on Sustainable Cultural Tourism, where one specialist from each member state contributes to a report and recommendations on an emerging topic. The report recommendations, part of the EU Work Plan for Culture, were launched in Vienna at the closing ceremony of the European Year of Cultural Heritage in December. The report newly defines Sustainable Cultural Tourism as “the integrated management of cultural heritage and tourism activities in conjunction with the local community creating social, environmental and economic benefits for all stakeholders, to achieve tangible and intangible cultural heritage conservation and sustainable tourism development”. The Tin Church in Laragh is one of the case studies examined as part of the process.

#### **Monaghan County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan**

Public consultations were held in five towns towards the development of the new five-year plan in May 2018.

### Outreach

Black Pigs Dyke – A multi-disciplinary event was held in the Market House in October to describe and illuminate new research on this fascinating archaeological earthwork which runs for 10km close to Scotshouse. Speakers were historian and author Turtle Bunbury, archaeologists Aidan Walsh and Cólín O'Drisceoil, and artist Siobhan McDonald.

Butterfly Monitoring scheme – a full day training was held in conjunction with the National Biodiversity Data Centre on how to identify and record butterflies for this important citizen scientist initiative.

ICOMOS – International Council of Monuments and Sites – The Heritage Officer made a presentation to a conference in Dublin Castle on heritage and the sustainable development goals.

Cultural Implications of Brexit – The Heritage Officer made a presentation to the Association of Irish Local Government at their Autumn conference.

Culture and Natura 2000 - The Sliabh Beagh Site Co-ordinator made a presentation to this conference with EU Commission representation using Sliabh Beagh as a case study.

Local Authority Heritage Officer Network - The Heritage Officer continued to chair this network in 2018, and made a number of presentations to national agencies, the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and others.

Joint Committee for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht - The Heritage Officer presented the role of the local authority heritage officers to this committee in the Dáil, on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

DRUM – Portrait of a Village exhibition by Kevin Fox - a series of contemporary images of people from Drum was exhibited in the Market House in the Spring. This work which was made in conjunction

with the Gallery of Photography was the second phase of the project and installation that happened in the village in 2017.

### **Heritage Week 2018 – August**

The Heritage Week theme this year was “Sharing Stories – Making a Connection”. The Heritage Office along with the various community groups organised over 45 events throughout the county. The launch event in Knockatallon highlighted the value of wetlands for communities, in a presentation by Chris Uys from Abbeylax Bog. The Heritage Office organised Wild Child Day in Rossmore Park where over 250 children took part in activities such as nature walks, pond dipping and electro fishing. Water Heritage Day took place in Ballybay Wetlands Centre with over 120 children taking part in pond dipping and bee monitoring.

The other events the Heritage Office organised were Poll an Aifrinn to St Dymphna’s Well Walk, Clones Lace beginners class, showing of gothic architecture film in Monaghan & Carrickmacross, Tyrone Guthrie Centre open day, Monaghan Rare Birds talk and walk given by Dr Marc Ruddock, Golden Eagle Trust and Dr Rory Sheehan, Monaghan Co Council, Bat Talk & Walk, by Tina Aughey Bat Conservation Ireland, Children’s Movie “Early Man”, tour of Coolshannagh Graveyard and biodiversity detectives on “Da Loose” as well as a colouring competition in conjunction with the Northern Standard.

### **Conservation**

#### Collaborative Action for Natura Network (INTERREG VA CANN)

The Collaborative Action for the Natura Network (CANN) is an INTERREG VA funded project led by Newry, Mourne & Down District Council. The consortium also consists of Monaghan County Council; the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI); Argyll & the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust; Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council; East Border Region, Golden Eagle Trust; the Institute of Technology Sligo; Scottish Natural Heritage; Ulster University and Ulster Wildlife.

The project aims to strengthen cross-border co-

operation to facilitate the recovery of selected habitats and priority species and meet the targets of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and the EU Biodiversity Strategy. This will be achieved through development of Conservation Action Plans/Species Action Plans, direct conservation work at protected sites, development of best practice guidance and communication and outreach programmes. The protected habitats as prioritised through INTERREG VA include alkaline fens, blanket bog, active raised bog, marl lakes, calcareous fens and transition mires/quaking bogs. The priority species include white-clawed crayfish, hen harrier, breeding waders (curlew, redshank, snipe), golden plover, and red grouse.

Sliabh Beagh is a large upland site contained within counties Monaghan, Fermanagh and Tyrone. Monaghan County Council is responsible for delivering direct conservation actions on this site. The actions include fire risk management, drain blocking, invasive species removal, and direct species actions. Conservation action plans (CAPs) are being drafted for the NI Special Area of Conservation and ROI Natural Heritage Area.

Monaghan County Council’s partners AFBI have mapped Sliabh Beagh. This has allowed for the preparation of tenders to procure services to deliver these direct conservation actions. These mapping exercises, along with considerable stakeholder engagement proceeded during 2018.

A range of events were attended by Monaghan County Council staff as part of the CANN project, including the all island uplands forum meeting in Mulranny, Co. Mayo along with a joint CANN-CABB project two-day event in NI.

It is envisioned that drain blocking, self-seeding conifer removal, rhododendron removal and fire risk management will commence in 2019.



## Arts Office

The Arts office invested much of its time and resources into the many and varied collaboration projects which stemmed from the National Creative Ireland initiative and were very much aligned with some of the stated objectives and outcomes of the Arts Development Plan.

Through Direct funding to our **Arts Partners** we collaboratively delivered on many of the key objectives as set out in our Arts Plan. Monaghan County Council invested €65K

- Ballybay Arts Programme
- The Garage Theatre
- Clones Film Festival
- Muckno Mania
- Castleblayney Arts Centre
- Patrick Kavanagh Weekend
- Scoil Cheoil Na Botha
- Carrickmacross Arts Festival
- Féile Patrick Byrne
- Castleblayney Drama Festival
- Clones Art Studios
- Monaghan Arts Network

In supporting these listed Arts projects, we have endeavoured to compliment the work of the Arts Office with those very organisations that are rooted in their respective communities by:

1. Supporting the artist in extending opportunities for them to develop their practise.
2. Supporting the provision of adequate spaces for the creation, production and presentation of creative work for artists and communities.
3. Supporting venues, festivals and arts organisations in providing high-quality arts experiences to the public.
4. Supporting and assisting the arts in economic and social regeneration.
5. Supporting opportunities for children and young people to access and participate in the arts.
6. Supporting amateur and voluntary arts groups in the pursuit of their artistic objectives while enhancing the artistic life of the County.

We continually support the work of other sections within Monaghan county and those of the Cultural team in assisting in the creation of the environment

that allows the arts to flourish.

As part of our support to artists in submitting their applications seeking funding, three County Monaghan Artists were awarded substantial funding by the Arts Council in 2018.

1. Playwright & Director Declan Gorman was awarded €20,000 by the Arts Council under their Theatre Artist in Residency scheme. This is a year long residency (September '18 – August '19) partnered with the Iontas Arts centre & The Garage Theatre and is being supported financially by Monaghan County Council under their Arts programme. This is the first time a residency scheme with this level of investment has been delivered to Monaghan by the Arts Council.

2. Knockatallon Artist Thomas Johnston, musician, playwright and composer was awarded €64,000 under their Strategic partnership schemes this year. One of the key funded events from his productions is **Tradoodle**, a traditional Music & Arts Festival for young people. This event is a co-production with Monaghan County Council where additional funding was secured under both our Arts programme and the Creative Ireland initiative.

3. Castleblayney Composer Michael Gallen was awarded €105,000 towards the performance and operatic production of Elsewhere, the story of the “soviet involvement” of the strike that occurred in St Davnet’s in 1919. Funding was also awarded to this production under our creative Monaghan programme. A French arts production company are co-producers with Michael on this project.

Monaghan County Council continued to support the development and building work that has commenced in the “Old Post office” in Clones in transforming it into a working artist facility and space supporting the work of the Monaghan Artists collective in their pursuit of managing the space as artists’ studios. This project is being led and managed by the Clones/Ballybay MD.

Through this partnership we were fortunate to receive funding under the Peace IV programme in developing this project under the shared spaces element.

The Arts Office assisted individual Artists e.g. writers, theatre practitioners; visual artists with

support in their pursuit of awards under the various Arts Council schemes. It ranged from travel assistance to material purchases and direct funding matched with secured Arts Council funding. We also offered administrative and office support to artists throughout the year.

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 in the evenings and at weekends, whether for rehearsals or workshops. One of the groups hosted is Monaghan Arts Network. They are up and running for five years and they hold their monthly event in the Market House. The last Wednesday of each month, four acts from various arts backgrounds are chosen. They each give a short presentation of their area of expertise. This event has gone from strength to strength and provides entertainment as well as education to the wider public audience. Other groups hosted are MOPOSOP's, a poets and song writers' group, who regularly run workshops and mentoring sessions for artists and Spectrum, who host painting workshops every Monday. We also host many craft and painting workshops.



The Music Generation programme, funded by Cavan and Monaghan Local Authorities in association with CMETB advertised the post of the Music Development Officer. A successful candidate has been offered the post and will take up the position in the new year. A sum €450,000 in philanthropic funding from U2 funds and The Ireland Funds will be used to match the regional funding we achieve over three years. This will create increased access to high-quality, subsidised vocal and instrumental tuition for children and young people throughout the region and will have a positive impact on the well being of our young

Citizens.

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.

## Tourism Section

The Tourism Unit within Monaghan County Council implements the Tourism Statement of Strategy and Work Programme 2017 - 2022. 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

## Tourism Development

### Carrickmacross Market House Refurbishment Project

Upgrading works on the Market House in Carrickmacross commenced in October 2017 and were completed in Summer 2018. Two large new units were developed and these are now occupied by the Carrickmacross Lace Gallery and by Collective at MarketSquare – a retail outlet for local artists and crafters. The building was officially opened in November 2018 and the project was shortlisted for the Excellence in Local Government awards and the LAMA & IPB Awards 2018.



### Patrick Kavanagh Centre

Funding of €198,645 was awarded by Fáilte Ireland to develop a new visitor exhibition at the Patrick Kavanagh Centre and a specialist Design Team was appointed to progress this element. The team is currently working in conjunction with council staff and representatives from the Inniskeen Enterprise Development Group and the Patrick Kavanagh Society to deliver this exciting new visitor experience for the county.



In addition to developments at the centre, €75,000 funding was also secured under the Town & Village Renewal Programme 2018 to upgrade the existing Kavanagh Trail in Inniskeen, to improve signage and to enhance the branding of the area.

### South Lodge Angling Stretch, Lough Muckno

Contractors were appointed in May to develop another competition angling stretch on Lough Muckno. This development of 40 new angling pegs brings the number of spaces for anglers at the lake to 270, making it one of the most important wild angling fisheries in Europe.



On the basis of this and other developments at the lake, a meeting was held in early November with the European Police Angling Championships Committee who have confirmed that the 2019 Championship will be held on Lough Muckno.

Lough Muckno was shortlisted in the **Best Environmental Tourism Innovation** category in the 2019 Irish Tourism Industry Awards.

#### Rossmore Forest Park

Funding of €300,000 was secured under the PEACE IV Programme to develop a Playpark at Rossmore. In June 2018, Part 8 Planning Permission was granted and contractors for the works were appointed in October with work commencing shortly thereafter. The playpark is on schedule for completion in Q2 2018.

#### **Funding Secured for Future Tourism Developments**

Under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Fund (Measure 3), Monaghan County Council was awarded **€421,000** in December 2018 to undertake more upgrading works in Rossmore Forest Park and this project will be a key focus for the Tourism unit in 2019.

Under the Town & Village Renewal Funding 2018, Monaghan County Council was awarded **€200,000** for further phased development of the Market House in Carrickmacross and to develop a visitor interpretation experience at the Carrickmacross Workhouse. Work has commenced on both these projects in conjunction with the Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD and the Farney Community Development Group.

#### **Tourism Promotion & Visitor Servicing**

##### #MyMonaghan PR campaign

The #MyMonaghan campaign commenced on 5<sup>th</sup> July with the first video release and each week thereafter a new #MyMonaghan video was showcased, featuring different characters involved in tourism in the county. The Facebook Advertising Campaign performed very well, achieving a high level of marketing reach and engagement.



#### Journalist Familiarisation Visits and Corresponding Publicity

To support the video campaign, a PR campaign was run and articles on Monaghan featured in the following: Irish Independent, Woman's Way, thetaste.ie, whereistara.com, thelifeofstuff.com, Huffingtonpost.com, Sunday Times, Irish Times.



#### **Other Promotional Campaigns**

##### Monaghan Irish Golf Challenge at Concra Wood

Monaghan County Council sponsored the above event which took place from 4-6 October in Concra Wood. Local hotels were invited to develop golf packages in conjunction with the different golf clubs and these were then promoted both online and by use of flyers. National coverage was received in: Irish Independent, Irish Daily Star, the sun.ie, Irish Golfer magazine and Buzz.ie. The event also received significant television coverage overseas as part of the European Pro Challenge Tour.





## **Tourist Office**

The Tourist office in the Market House in Monaghan was open from mid March to end September in 2018.

## **Monaghan Literature/Promotional Material**

### Calendar of Events

A Calendar of Events 2018 was published and circulated (online & print).



### ***Things to Know about Monaghan***



This brochure, previously only available on-line, was updated and a print version was published in 2018.

### ***Filming in Monaghan Lookbook***



A Film Location Lookbook was developed to help promote Monaghan as a location for filming.

## 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 and Civil Protection were mobilised to 364 incidents in 2018 a 15% Increase on 2017. 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	41	12
Carrickmacross	81	5
Castleblayney	72	18
Clones	36	0
Monaghan	133	4

In 2018 the top five incident types attended by Monaghan Fire Service were chimney fires, road traffic collisions, fire alarm activations, severe weather events and tertiary fires (i.e. small fires/bin/skip). The severe weather events significantly contributed to the increase in calls numbers for 2018.

Strom Emma necessitated the deployment to station of all brigades in Monaghan during the Severe Weather 'Red Alert' period. During the Red Alert storm period the fire service and civil defence responded to assist the Ambulance Service and Gardai with 4x4 Vehicle support and medical support.



The drought period in June and July involved significant resources being deployed to several gorse fire incidents most notably to the mid-Monaghan Area.

**Training:** The 2018 training programme incorporated 'confined space' training and the first introduction to the new Hydra Command Development in Clonmel, offering a learning environment for reviewing and developing critical decision-making skills for fire personnel. Both Compartment Fire Behaviour Training (CFBT) and Emergency Service Driving Standard (ESDS) were also delivered in-house during 2018.

## Water Services

Irish Water is responsible for the operation and maintenance of public water and wastewater services.

Their role is to:

- Manage national water and wastewater assets
- Maintain the public water and wastewater system
- Invest and plan future investments
- Manage capital projects
- Provide Customer care and billing

Monaghan County Council provides water and waste water services, locally, on Irish Waters behalf through a Service Level Agreement (SLA). The SLA underpins a collaborative relationship between Irish Water and Monaghan County Council.

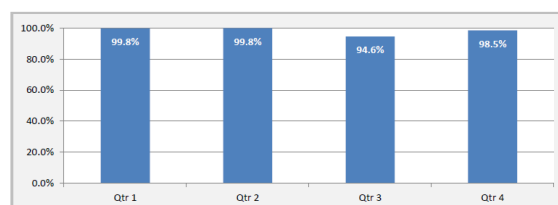
A core part of the Service Level Agreement is the Annual Service Plan (ASP), which documents the agreed objectives of Irish Water and Monaghan County Council. The Annual Service Level Plan commits both parties to deliver specific objectives and standards of performance against a budget covering headcount, investment, goods and services.

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 2018
- Transformation initiatives

Monaghan County Council's performance is measured monthly by Irish Water's balance scorecard. Under the Service Level Agreement performance for 2018 is outlined below:

**Dec-18 KPI Quarterly Report**



## Water Services Policy Statement 2018-2025

The Government launched the Water Services Policy Statement 2018-2025 in 2018.

The Policy Statement gives clear direction to strategic planning and decision making on water and wastewater whether supplied by Irish Water or otherwise under the Rural Water Programme.

It is an integral element of the broader reforms which have seen the ending of domestic water charges and confirmation of Irish Water as a publicly-owned national water services authority.

The Policy Statement underpins strategic planning for investment against three policy objectives Quality, Conservation and Future proofing when planning capital investment and framing current spending plans.

Within 3 months of publication Irish Water submitted a 'Strategic Funding Plan' - to the Minister for approval. This sets out its proposed operational and capital expenditure for the period up to 2025.

There is full alignment between the Policy Statement and commitments in the National Planning Framework 2018-2040, the National Development Plan 2018-2027, and recently approved River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021.

## **Standardised Water & Waste Water Connection Charges**

The CRU (Water Utility Regulator) published its decision on Irish Water's Connection Charging Policy in 2018 - following a public consultation process. The new system ensures standard connection fees are applied nationally - currently these fees are based on those applied by Local Authorities before the establishment of Irish Water in 2014. It also standardises the scope of work involved in each connection.

This decision impacts customer wishing to connect to the public water and / or wastewater network and will come into effect on the 1st April 2019.

## **Drought Summer 2018**

The dry summer negatively affected large parts of the country in terms of water supply and resulted in the introduction of a national hose pipe ban. However, Monaghan did not experience significant supply issues.

Although our water sources did deplete slightly, there was an adequate supply countywide. Monaghan has one of the lowest UFW's (Unaccounted for water) levels in the country and there is a constant drive daily on water conservation to reduce the UFW even further.



**Sod Turning Castleblayney Waste Water Treatment Plant April 2018**

## **Capital Investment Programme**

Irish Water's Capital Investment Programme delivers improvements in drinking water quality, leakage, wastewater compliance, business efficiencies and customer service. To date Irish Water has invested or committed to invest over €15.7m in water and waste water projects in County Monaghan.

During 2018, several key projects were started and completed by Monaghan County Council on behalf of Irish Water.

On the 27th April works to upgrade Castleblayney Waste Water Treatment plant commenced at a cost of €3.6m.

The contract provides for the mechanical and electrical overhaul of the existing wastewater treatment plant and provision of storm holding tanks, new access road and relocation of Muckno St pumping station. EPS is the Main contractor and the plant is being upgraded under a Design, Build Operate Contract.

When completed the newly upgraded plant will also be fully compliant with the EU Urban Wastewater Directives and ensure the continued protection of Lough Muckno.

The upgrade will also improve the energy efficiency of the plant which will deliver long term savings on operational costs.

Construction shall be completed early 2019.



**New Clarifier installed Kilcitt Water Treatment Plant**



Kilkitt Water Treatment Plant which serves the Lough Egish Regional Water Supply Scheme is being upgraded at a cost of €4.5 million and will benefit approximately 12,000 consumers in Co Monaghan including Ballybay, Rockcorry and Castleblaney. This scheme shall continue to be operated by Coffey Water for a one-year period upon substantial completion in November 2018 until hand over to Irish Water in 2019. Following an EPA audit in July 2018, Kilkitt Water Treatment Plant was removed from the EPA Remedial Action List for Public Water Supplies.

In 2018 works were completed in Monaghan and Clones Watermains Rehabilitation Project.

Irish Water, working in partnership with Monaghan County Council, invested €6.1 million in the water infrastructure in Monaghan and Clones water supply networks.



**New mains replacement Monaghan Town**

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. Road reinstatement was completed in 2018.

In November contractors replaced 360m of pipe work in Muckno St, Castleblaney and commenced site investigations on replacement of 1100m of water mains on Main St, Castleblaney to be replaced in early 2019.

Under its lead services replacement program Irish Water identified and replaced 83 lead service pipes in O'Neill Park, Clones towards the end of 2018.

## Summary Capital Works Ongoing

Contract	Description of Works	Estimated Value
<b>Threemilehouse WWTP RBC Replacement</b>	RBC Replacement, Nutrient Removal and installation of a new storm tank	€498,000
<b>Castleblaney WWTP Upgrade</b>	Full Mechanical & Electrical Upgrade of the existing plant, Installation of a new pumping station within the plant, Construction of a new picket fence thickener and construction of a new access road from Muckno St.	€3,635,588
<b>Monaghan Import Upgrade Works</b>	The contract involves an upgrade to the existing inlet works for the delivery of water treatment sludges and landfill leachate and also a new import facility for the receipt of primary wastewater sludges and domestic wastewater sludge for treatment within the plant	€574,000
<b>Monaghan &amp; Clones Watermain Rehabilitation Project</b>	Watermain Rehabilitation 9km	€6,100,000
<b>Monaghan Aeration Upgrade</b>	Installation of new diffused air system and blowers	€469,561
<b>Lough Egish Regional Water Supply Scheme – Kilkitt Water Treatment Plant</b>	Upgrade works at the Kilkitt Water Treatment Plant and Lough Bawn abstraction	€4,500,000

Throughout 2018, Irish Water and Monaghan County Council advanced the Minor Capital Programme which consists of programmes aimed at optimising the performance of existing facilities.

These projects included completion of substantial works to Threemilehouse Waste Water Treatment plant at a cost of €498,000. In addition, construction commenced in June to upgrade the sludge import facilities at Monaghan Waste at a cost of €574,000. The works also involved improvements to screening facilities will enable the accurate logging of sludge volumes imported to the facility through an automated card swipe system.



Imports works upgrade Monaghan WWTP

### **New Vehicle Fleet on order from Irish Water**

Monaghan County Council has placed an order with Irish Water to deliver 9 new vans in February 2019. The fleet team has worked with IW Asset Operations and Local Authority staff to develop standard specifications to ensure these vans meet operational requirements.

A safe, well managed modern fleet, with fewer breakdowns should lead to greater operational availability. This fleet will enable operational LA staff to inspect, service and maintain the operational assets efficiently and effectively. The fleet also enables staff to respond to emergencies in line with Irish Waters' regulatory requirements with the CRU.

### **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 91 folio numbers have been transferred to Irish Water. There are approximately 102 folios yet to be transferred.

In 2018, 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.

The programme provides 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 2018, €2.6M of subsidies were paid to Group Water Schemes in the County. This included a retrospective payment of €473,000 in respect of circular L9/17 which facilitated a restoration of maximum subsidies which had been reduced between 2015 – 2016.

Group Water Schemes continue to carry out necessary upgrading and improvement works which are grant aided by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. In 2018 Grants to the value of €347,072 were paid to four Group Water Schemes.

### **Well Grants**

Fifteen (15) individuals submitted applications to the Rural Water section in 2018 to install or upgrade existing individual water supplies to single domestic dwellings.

## **Inspection of Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems**

Under the Waters Services Amendment Act 2012: - Monaghan County Council undertakes inspections of private waste water treatment systems. In 2018, 29 inspections were undertaken by Local Authority staff with 6 advisory notices issued.

Owners of properties which have been inspected and subsequently issued an advisory notice by Monaghan County Council can apply under the Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Financial Assistance) Regulations 2013 towards the costs of remedial works.

### **New Subsidy Circular L2/18**

In August 2018 the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) issued Circular L2/18 which outlines revised maximum subsidies payable towards the operational costs of group water schemes providing water for domestic use, with effect from 1 January 2018, subject to compliance with revised Terms and Conditions issued by the DHPLG.

## **Housing**

### **Capital Building programme**

New build projects, turnkey developments and the acquisition of single houses were the focus of the capital expenditure programme in 2018.

A development of 8 housing units in Bree, Castleblayney commenced in 2018; 16 houses were completed through turnkey arrangements in Maple Grove and The Meadows, Smithborough. 16 individual house acquisitions were made during the year and 4 individual housing units were secured under Part V arrangements

The construction of 43 houses commenced at Latlorcan, Monaghan. It is anticipated that these houses will be completed and occupied in quarter 4, 2019.

Proposals for 21 new houses on six derelict sites as part of the Clones Renewal Scheme received approval in 2018 and stage 1 approval was given to prepare proposals for the completion of a derelict site in Scotstown with potentially 31 houses being developed.

The Repair and Lease Scheme was introduced in 2017 and a development of 4 houses was completed in Carrickmacross in 2018, all of which are now occupied

Under various Long-term leasing initiatives 44 units were provided by Approved Housing Bodies throughout the county including 38 units at Lough na Glack by North and East Housing Association. 6 units were provided at Liseggerton, Clones under the CALF initiative.

### **Housing Assistance Payment**

The Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP) was introduced in Monaghan County Council in October 2014 as a replacement for Rent Supplement which was administered by the Department of Social Protection. In 2018 198 additional households were supported through HAP and at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 there were a total of 530 active HAP tenancies in County Monaghan.

## **Rental Accommodation Scheme**

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) continues to be an important mechanism for the delivery of social housing support in County Monaghan. The total number of properties providing social housing under the RAS scheme was 216 at year end 2018 with 123 in private rented properties and 93 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. In 2018 the Housing Section received 292 Applications; 278 Applications were approved; 213 Applications were paid out. These grants were to a value of €1.7m with €1.503m recouped from the Department.

## **Homeless Services**

At local level, 103 adults and 83 households presented as homeless in 2018. Solutions utilised in most 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. It should be noted less than 20% of the total households presenting were assessed as being homeless.

## **Traveller Accommodation**

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 set a target allocation for 44 traveller's households being accommodated in standard housing units and 3 in single/rural purchased housing units. The actual number of families accommodated was 57 by the end of the plan period. A new plan is being prepared for the 2019-2024 period. 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.

The Council ensure that all new and transferring tenants are aware of their obligations under the tenancy agreement by making it compulsory to attend Pre- Tenancy Sessions. In 2018 there were circa 50 such sessions held with over 100 new tenant households participating.

Under Part 2 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 2014 a Local Authority can take action against those who breach the conditions and of their tenancy. In 2018 the Tenant Liaison section issued 11 statutory warnings (not rent related) to tenants under Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2014. 9 dwellings were voluntarily surrendered following the service of Statutory Tenancy Warnings. 1 Dwelling was re-possessed following execution of Court Order.

## **Remedial Works**

The Mullaghmatt estate-wide Remedial Works Project is on-going and work continued in 2018 to progress to the final stage of the scheme which will commence in 2019.

## **Housing Maintenance**

Monaghan County Council is responsible for the maintenance requirements of the Council's 1564 houses and 86 other housing units. In 2018 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 1995 repair requests in 2018. The three key areas of housing maintenance include:

**(1) 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**

Includes required programmes and works on vacant properties, new purchases, rural dwellings and the traveller halting site.

In 2018, a long-term vacant property in Castleblayney, a protected structure constructed in 1877 was completed and brought back into use.

## **(3) Planned Maintenance**

Involves the delivery of targeted programmes for specific improvement and replacement works. In 2018 targeted planned maintenance works included the replacement of windows and doors for 55 properties was undertaken at a cost of €125,5000.

## **Planning**

### **Development Plan**

Monaghan County Council gave notice of the publication of the draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2018.

The process will conclude with the adoption of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 in Spring 2019

The Draft Development Plan consultation was undertaken over a twelve week period from the 15<sup>th</sup> of March to the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2018, and a total of 94 submissions were received. The Chief Executive's Report on the Draft Plan Consultation was issued to the members of the Planning Authority for consideration in November 2018.

Following consideration of this report the Elected Members agreed to make proposed amendments to the draft plan, which were considered to be material alterations. These material alterations were put on public display for comment at the end of December for a period of four weeks.

### **Variations**

#### **Variation No. 7 Glaslough Architectural Conservation Area.**

Glaslough village is designated as an Architectural Conservation Area, the purpose of which is to protect the special character and interest of Glaslough village and to set out conservation and planning policies to protect its special character, which will guide future development. The variation incorporated policies to protect the ACA and was accompanied by the document Glaslough ACA Statement of Character which includes the ACA boundary map and provides guidance on the future management of the ACA.

### **Dublin Street Regeneration Plan**

At the KPMG/Irish Independent Property Excellence Awards in November 2018, the Dublin Street Regeneration was recognised with the Excellence in Planning Award. Funding was subsequently awarded from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund to progress detailed design and compulsory purchase of lands for the Dublin Street Regeneration Plan.



## Development Management

Planning application numbers kept parity with the number received in 2017, having consistently risen over the previous three years.

The majority of applications received were for single dwellings and home extensions, followed by agricultural developments.

### Planning applications 2018

Received	644
Invalid	28
Granted	502
Refused	24

Two development proposals which were contrary to the provisions of the Monaghan County Development Plan were granted planning permission in 2018 through the material contravention process.

31 Section 5 Declarations for exempt development and one entertainment licence for Monaghan Country Music Festival were issued.

## Unfinished Housing Developments

At the beginning of 2018 there were five unfinished housing developments in the County and the current status is as follows.

Forest Walk, Monaghan Town: A planning application was lodged under reference number 19/1 seeking to complete the existing development to provide 22 No. dwellings.

Drummond Ross, Carrickmacross Town: Contracts were signed between developer (East Coast Estates) and Tuatha Housing Body on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 to complete this development and provide 33 No. residential units. Works are due for completion by mid 2019.

Bothar Na Mullen, Scotstown: The site has been acquired by the Local Authority via CPO under the Derelict Sites Act in October 2017. Funding was allocated in October 2018 to progress house building on the lands. Surveys and design options are ongoing.

Corr na Ghlass, Ballybay: A significant portion of the site was acquired by the Council via CPO under the Derelict Sites Act in October 2017. Extensive discussions have taken place and remain ongoing with adjoining landowners and interested persons to determine the optimum way forward.

Cnoc Na Greine, Tydavnet: The Planning Authority received bond funds in October 2017 following a 5-year long delay in obtaining a settlement from the bank. Remedial works were carried out on the estate in late 2018 consisting of landscaping, kerbing, road surfacing and boundary treatments.

## Taking in Charge

A total of five housing developments were taken in charge in 2018. An additional seven housing developments were advertised to be taken in charge and are at an advance stage of being finalised.

## Planning Enforcement

When the Planning Authority becomes aware of a breach of permission or unauthorised development, discussions with 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 set out below. Benefits continue to accrue from early invoicing and enforcement action in recovery of unpaid development contributions. Receipts in 2018 amounted to €960,597

### **2018 Enforcement Statistics**

No. of cases subject to 85  
complaints  
Warning Letters under 65  
Section 152  
Enforcement Notices 15  
under Section 154

### **Refundable Deposits Project**

Work has commenced on the reconciliation of refundable deposits collected through the planning process. An amount of €2.3m needs to be reconciled and a total of 25,259 files are being examined. The reconciliation process commenced November 2018 and a new process was developed in Agresso Financial Management System to aid with the reconciliation. All files received in 2018 have been reconciled and work is ongoing on the 2017 files.

### **Derelict Sites**

At the end of 2018, there were 31 properties on the Derelict Sites Register. A number of sites were removed from the Register in 2018 following satisfactory improvement works. The Housing section is progressing social housing projects with a number of compulsorily acquired derelict sites in Clones and Scotstown.

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

In 2018, €868,500 in funding was approved under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme which will deliver improvements in 9 towns and villages in 2019. Funding allocation:

- Ballybay: Public realm works
- Carrickmacross: Market House development works and Workhouse exhibition works
- Castleblayney: Plinth for Big Tom statue, multi-use public realm space
- Clones: Development of serviced industrial sites
- Emyvale: Upgrade playground, outdoor gym
- Glaslough: Village enhancements
- Inniskeen: Branded signage for Kavanagh trail
- Latton: Public realm works
- Scotshouse: Community park

### **Built Heritage**

Monaghan County Council's Planning Section administer two annual heritage grant schemes, the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Structures at Risk Fund (SRF).

### **Built Heritage Investment Scheme**

The BHIS encourages the investment of private capital in a number of small scale, labour intensive projects to repair and conserve historic structures.



In 2018 five projects received funding under the BHIS, including:

- St. Peter's Tin Church, Laragh
- Christs Church, Aughnacullen
- Glaslough Railway Station
- Creighton Hotel, Clones
- Catholic Church, St. Davnet's, Monaghan

### **Structures at Risk Fund**

The SRF is intended to assist with works to safeguard protected structures into the future where, an urgent need has been demonstrated.

In 2018 two projects were successful in obtaining funding under the SRF, including:

- Hilton Park, Clones

- St. Patrick's Church of Ireland, Ardragh



### Section 57 Declarations

Eight Section 57 Declarations were issued in 2018.

## Environmental Protection

Environment Services has a key role in protecting and enhancing the natural environment in the county. This has been identified in the Corporate Plan 2015-2019 as Strategic objective number 2 *Promote and protect a clean safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable.* Environmental Services continues to strive towards meeting this Strategic objective by implementing the Annual Service Deliver Plan which focus on National and Local Environmental policies and plans in the areas of litter, waste, water and air quality. In 2018 there were 3 NOAC performance indicators for Environmental Services.



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

2018 saw the launch on a national online repair directory [www.repairmystuff.ie](http://www.repairmystuff.ie) by Monaghan County Council as part of the National Waste Prevention Programme and delivering on the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan. To date there are over 700 businesses listed and 18,000 visitors to the site during the year. The project was funded by the Environmental Protection Agency.





## Tidy Towns Celebrate Success

2018 marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the National Tidy Towns competition, with a record number of entries from towns and villages throughout the country, 19 of which were from Monaghan. Monaghan towns and villages continued their proud tradition in the competition. Well done to all volunteers from across the County who are helping the Local Authority in meeting its strategic objectives by keeping the County clean and litter free. This work undertaken in cooperation with the local authority supports the Litter Management Plan and NOAC E3: % of Local Authority Area Within The 5 Levels of Litter.

### ***Tidy Towns Results for County Monaghan 2018***

#### ***Local Winners***

<b>Category</b>		<b>Monaghan Winners</b>
<i>Ireland's Tidiest Village</i>		Glaslough
<i>Gold Medal Winners</i>		Population Category B: Glaslough Population Category D: Carrickmacross.
<i>Silver Medal Winners</i>		Population Category E: Monaghan Town
<i>Regional Award (North West and West)</i>		Winner: Glaslough.
<i>County Awards</i>		Winner: Glaslough. Commended: Monaghan Town
<i>Endeavour Award</i>		Winner: Emyvale
<i>Community Award</i>	<i>Heroes</i>	Highly Commended – Anne McGhee, Glaslough.

### **Sing – Environmental Music Competition.**

Environmental Services continues to provide an environmental education service to schools, Youth reach and youth cafés throughout the County. One of the highlights of the year was an Environmental Song Competition which was won by Gaelscoil Ultan, Muineachán. As part of the prize a music video was produced with the students which proved to be extremely popular on Facebook when launched.



## Environmental Inspection Programme

Annually, Environmental Services as part of the ASDP prepare An Environmental Inspection Plan which is submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. The Inspection Plan prioritises resources and delivers a risk-based approach to environmental protection. In 2018 Environmental Services complete 2725 inspections across the areas of waste, water, litter, air and noise. Furthermore, 577 complaints were investigated, with all but 8 remaining open at end of year. This statistic is a National NOAC Indicator E2: % Environmental Pollution Complaints Closed

## Mattress Amnesty

A Mattress Amnesty at the County Council's two recycling Centres proved to be very popular with the public. A total of 628 Mattresses were deposited at both facilities, Scotch Corner was slightly the busier of the two facilities with 238 doubles and 150 singles being deposited, whilst Carrickmacross had 126 singles and 114 doubles deposited. These events were in support of the Litter Management Plan and were funded through the Anti-Dumping Initiative.



## Water Quality

During 2018 Monaghan County Council continued its programme of water quality monitoring, development control, catchment surveys, Water Framework Directive Sampling, discharge licensing and the investigation of water pollution complaints. All of these work programs are aimed at protecting water quality, where quality is good and improving water quality where improvement is needed in line with the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan. In Spring 2018 the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 was published which sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2027. To help achieve this target additional resources have been provided at national level in the form of the Local Authorities Waters Program (LAWPRO) which is a shared service working with Local Authorities and state agencies to develop and implement River Basin Management Plans in Ireland. A regional LAWPRO office was set up at the Carrickmacross Civic offices during 2018. In Monaghan, the LAWPRO team commenced work on the 5 designated priority areas for action as identified in the River Basin Management plan. Whilst the LAWPRO team is working solely in the 5 designated Priority Areas for Action in the County, Monaghan County Council's own water quality team continues to work throughout the county. In 2018, Environmental Services staff carried out priority-driven, planned investigative assessments including biological sampling and assessment which involved 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.

Working with the farming community again was again a major work area for Environmental Services in 2018. Over 160 farms were inspected under the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations and an additional 100 farmyards were surveyed under the 2018 farm survey program, primarily in the Finn catchment area. Results of the 2018 farm survey program indicate a high rate of compliance with 94% of the farms surveyed posing little or no risk to waters. 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.

Environmental Services water team also progressed Phase 2 of the Derryvalley pilot project in 2018. This project involved carrying out soil testing and preparation of nutrient management plans for participating farms in the catchment. The project demonstrated that the sustainable use of fertiliser has the potential for significant cost savings to farmers as well as contributing to improvements in water quality. This project was shortlisted for the 2018 Chambers Ireland Award and the All Ireland Community and Council Awards 2019.



Environmental services staff working with farmers in the Derryvalley Catchment

## Scotch Corner Landfill

Capping works at Scotch Corner landfill commenced in late 2018. It is expected that the capping works will be substantially complete by April 2019. The value of the capping contract is approximately €1M.



Capping works at Scotch Corner Landfill Site.

The EPA annual audit of the landfill site and recycling centre at Scotch Corner in 2018 was very positive with no non-compliances recorded. The concession contract for the operation of the

Carrickmacross recycling centre and the Scotch Corner recycling centre saw Monaghan County Council continue to receive an income from the Concessionaire in 2018.

### **Glass Bring Banks**

Following a procurement process in 2018 Monaghan County Council entered into a new contract with Glassco Recycling for the servicing of the bring site network in the county. This new contract has led to an improved collection service and will also see many of the older receptacles at bring sites being replaced over the lifetime of the contract.

### **Historic Landfills**

During 2018 Monaghan County Council commenced site investigation works on several historic landfill sites in the County.

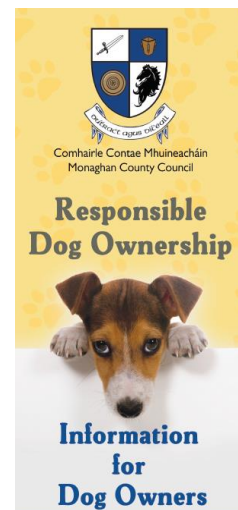
The completion of the site investigation works will enable Monaghan County Council to determine if any additional remediation works are required on the sites and will help progress site authorisations through the EPA as required under the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations, 2008. All costs associated with the site investigation were being funded through an allocation of approximately €140,000 secured in May 2018 from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment.

### **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, ranging from fresh meat to ready-to-eat and ready-to-heat foods containing cooked meat. A list of approved food businesses is available on the Council's website. The Council employs veterinary inspectors to check animals before and after slaughter, audit the structural and operational hygiene standards in premises, and operate sampling and training programmes to assist owners and staff in attaining the required standards set out in national and EU legislation. The purpose of the service is to ensure the safety of the food produced by these food businesses, the welfare of the animals slaughtered and the safe and proper disposal of animal by-products.

### **Dog Control Service**

The Council employs one full-time Dog Warden for the county. Shelter facilities for the detention and care of stray and unwanted dogs are provided on behalf of Monaghan County Council by Carrick Dog Shelter in Lisdoonan and MSPCA in Emyvale. In 2018, the trend of reducing numbers of dogs being impounded by the Council continued. 475 dogs were impounded in 2018. This compares to almost 900 dogs impounded in 2008. All except 7 of the 475 dogs were reclaimed by their owners or rehomed to members of the public or dog rescues. 7 dogs were euthanised because they were unsuitable for rehoming. The number of dogs licenced in Monaghan is slightly less than 6,000. The Council produced an information leaflet on dog owners' responsibilities in 2018 and continued its advertising campaign to highlight the danger of straying dogs to sheep.



### **Horse Control Service**

The Council employs the services of Hungry Horse Outside, a horse charity based in Longford, to collect stray horses in the county. 5 stray horses were collected in 2018, of which 3 were rehomed and 2 euthanised. This continues the reducing trend of stray horse numbers, which peaked in Monaghan in 2013 when 96 stray horses were collected.



## Roads & Transportation

During 2018 the Roads & Transport Section:

- Completed Restoration Improvement works on 40.24km of Regional and Local roads.
- Completed Restoration Maintenance works (Surface dressing) to 13.51Km of Regional and 49.1Km of local Roads.
- Delivered 2 Flood mitigation projects in the county.
- Completed 4.71km of Restoration Improvement works as part of Severe Weather Funding.
- Completed 123 callouts completed by the Winter Maintenance team, 73 of these during the months of January to March in some of the harshest storms and weather conditions in recent years.
- Delivered 7 Road Safety Improvement schemes, 1 on National Roads, 6 on Non-National roads.
- Completed general maintenance repairs on the National Road Network.
- Progressed the Machinery Yard Annual Plant replacement programme with the purchase of 2 Tipper lorries, 3 crew cabs, 2 snow ploughs and a salt gritter.
- Adopted the Noise Action Plan for Co. Monaghan.
- Adopted a Traffic calming policy for Co. Monaghan.
- Road Safety - Road Safety Ireland based in Scotstown, was winner in the Business category of the 'Leading Lights in Road Safety'. 2 fatalities were recorded in 2018 on Co. Monaghan's roads which represented a reduction of six road deaths on 2017 figures.
- Ensured the safety, health and welfare of all employees in the workplace complying with Health & Safety legislation.



RSA Road Safety Roadshow in Monaghan



Gritting lorry being loaded to carry outwinter maintenance

### Road Infrastructure

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 and Monaghan County Council co-fund Regional and Local Roads. Road Safety is funded from the Councils own resources.

### Project Milestones completed on Schemes in 2018

**N2 Monaghan to Emyvale Phase 3:** Construction works commence on the realignment of 3.3km of the N2 National Primary route. Phase 3 is the final phase of the realignment of the road between Monaghan and Emyvale. Overall project costs including construction, design, land acquisition, archaeology is €13.6 Million.



**N2 Clontibret to the Border:** Development of new route for the N2 From Clontibret Village to the border with NI border with Aughnacloy. (Scheme length is approx.. 28km). The project was reactivated in 2017 in conjunction with

**N2 Ardee to Castleblaney:** An upgrade of the N2 (Castleblaney/ Tullyvin Roundabout) to Ardee / N33 Roundabout. With a scheme length of 32kms. Both projects are listed as major infrastructural schemes in Project Ireland 2020. Project management services are provided by Westmeath National Roads Office. Jacobs have been appointed as consultants to deliver the design and statutory process for both schemes.

**N2 Blackwater Bridge Replacement:** Replacement of the bridge at Coolshannagh, Monaghan Town. The overall Project Costs including construction, design, accommodation works, Archaeology and Advance Works total €6.0 million. The Tender has been awarded and construction due to commence in January 2019.

**N54 Tullybryan:** This Road Realignment (Safety Scheme) of the N54 at Tullybryan Road .05kms west of Monaghan Town. This scheme comprises of the realignment of the 3.1km of carriageway. The overall Project Costs including construction, design, accommodation works, Archaeology and Advance Works is €10 million. Part VIII published for the realignment of 3.1 km of the N54 National Secondary Route.

**Bridge Rehabilitation:** Rehabilitation works completed on 6 bridges on regional & local roads.

**Local Improvement Scheme:** Completion of 28 Lane Improvement Schemes on private lanes throughout Co. Monaghan.

**Community Involvement Scheme:** Completion of 2 roads under the Community Involvement scheme totalling 1.833km of road.

**Pavement Renewals** on National Routes: 4 major projects totalling 9.6kms were completed on National Roads Including: N2 Monaghan Bypass, N2 Donaghmoyne, N54 Monaghan Urban and N54 Clones Urban.



General Maintenance on the N2 at Castleshane



Underpass being constructed on the N2 Phase 3 realignment.



**Earthworks on the N2 Phase 3 Realignment Scheme**

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

### **Local Community Development Committee**



The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) 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 2018 the LCDC managed the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), the LEADER Programme, PEACE IV, and the Community Enhancement Programme.

The LCDC is comprised of 17 members (9 non-statutory and 8 statutory). During 2018 the LCDC met 11 times and operated effectively in managing various programmes including SICAP, LEADER, PEACE IV, Community Enhancement Programme.

### **LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)**

Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) was launched in July, 2016. The LECP sets out the objectives and actions to promote and support economic and community development of County Monaghan for a six-year period. Work is on-going with the Lead Partners to advance and deliver actions. Progress reports on LECP actions are presented to LCDC Members bi-annually. A review of the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 will be carried out in 2019.

### **Monaghan LCDC (Peace IV Partnership) Board Local Peace IV Action Plan**

In 2018 great progress was made on delivering actions from our Local Peace Action Plan. Project activity was delivered by partners such as Cavan Monaghan ETB, The Peace Link, Monaghan Integrated Development, County Monaghan Community Network and Monaghan County Council. We also awarded funding in total of €580,000 to successful projects in our small grants call. Successful applications were received from Clones Failte, Blayney Blades, Teach na Daoine, Johnston Madden Memorial Hall, Latton Social Services, Castleblayney Community Enterprise,

Iontas, Doohamlet DCDA, Glaslough Orange Hall, Mullapike Protestant Hall, Clones Town FC and St Macartans College. These grants will be used to facilitate cross community engagement on the ground in the heart of our communities.

## Monaghan Peace Campus

In December 2018 Monaghan County Council's application for funding under the SEUPB's regional Shared Spaces application was successful. The application is to build a 'Peace Campus' which will be an integrated facility providing a Cultural Heritage area, Youth Facility, Community Rooms, Library and outdoor space. Work on this €14.3 million project will commence in 2019 with a projected timescale for build of 20 months.



Artist impression of Peace Campus

## SOCIAL INCLUSION COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME (SICAP)



Special EU Programmes Body  
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE  
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projects



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund  
Investing in your future

The 2018 budget for SICAP in Monaghan was €631,656.

### WHAT IS SICAP?

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



The contractual arrangements between the LCDC and the Programme

Implementer, (Monaghan Integrated Development CLG) provide for reporting, auditing and monitoring 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 2018 and all targets set under the programme were either reached or exceeded.

The objective of the SICAP programme is to provide social inclusion support to disadvantaged individuals and groups throughout County Monaghan. The programme targets for 2018 were to assist 34 groups and 428 individuals.

## MONAGHAN LEADER Programme 2014-2020

Monaghan LCDC is the Local Action Group (LAG) and is the decision maker in respect of delivery of LEADER RDP 2014-2020. Monaghan Integrated Development CLG (MID) is the implementing partner and Monaghan County Council is the financial partner for the Programme. Monaghan LEADER aims to develop sustainable rural communities throughout the county, by promoting social inclusion, economic development and stimulating Enterprise, Tourism, and Community Services while protecting the natural and built heritage of the county. The funding was awarded based on a Local Development Strategy (LDS) for Monaghan which sets out the priority areas for the programme. The priorities in the strategy were identified through consultation with the local community in late 2015.

By December 2018 Monaghan LEADER Project Approvals/Committed Funding stood at 37 projects to a value of €2.3m.

41% of the budget is approved to-date

There is €3.3m remaining to be committed for the remaining period.

Two co-operation projects have also been approved by Monaghan LAG

## Community Enhancement Programme 2018

Monaghan LCDC implemented the Community Enhancement Programme in 2018. A total of €238,172 was made available by the Department of Rural and Community Development for the county to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas. A total of 85 applications were received and assessed with



77 receiving funding.

### **CEP 2018 – Men’s Shed Fund**

Monaghan LCDC also implemented the Men’s Shed Fund under the CEP in 2018. Additional funding of €8,696 was made available to Men’s Sheds across the county.

### **CLÁR 2018**

Over €500,000 was allocated by the Department of Rural & Community Development under CLÁR in 2018 for 15 projects. CLÁR provides funding for small projects in rural areas, Monaghan County Council received funding under two measures; -

Measure 1 – Support for Schools/Community Safety measures

Measure 2 – Play Areas



**Photo: Astro Turf at St. Daigh’s National School, Inniskeen funded under the CLÁR Scheme 2018**



**Photo: Deravoy National School, funded under CLÁR 2018**

### **Town & Village 2018**

Monaghan County Council successfully applied for €868,500 under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme for 9 projects within the County. Match funding from the Council will bring this fund to close to €1m. The aim of this scheme is to support the revitalisation of towns and villages.



**Newbliss Village play area funded under Town & Village 2017 completed in 2018**

### **Healthy Monaghan**



#### **Monaghan Healthy Ireland Sub Committee**

The promotion of Health and Wellbeing had been identified as a key strategic goal in the LECP and in that respect the LCDC has committed to working on implementing the Healthy Ireland programme and on developing and promoting a Healthy Monaghan Plan. As part of this process Monaghan LCDC also agreed to establish a subcommittee dealing with Health and Wellbeing in the county. The first meeting of the committee took place in June 2018. A Healthy Monaghan Co-ordinator has been appointed and with the support of this committee will oversee the delivery of initiatives aimed at improving the Health and Wellbeing of the people living in and visiting County Monaghan. €75,000 has been secured from the Healthy Ireland fund to deliver 7 actions in County Monaghan. These actions will be delivered between October 2018 and the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and are in addition to similar actions delivered in the 2017-18 programme.

### **Cruinniú na nÓg – Step Into The Spotlight**

Cruinniú na nÓg is a national day of creativity providing an opportunity to young people to express themselves through a specially curated programme



of cultural and creative activities where they can share their ideas, learn new skills and have fun! On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June the Cultural Team of Monaghan County Council and Comhairle na nÓg organised a special event for the young people of our county. This was a showcase event organised by young people for young people and “Step Into the Spotlight” took place in the Garage Theatre in Monaghan. Acts from all over the County performed to a large audience showcasing their talent in song, dance, music and recitation.

### **Comhairle na nÓg project supports LGBT young people**



Each year Comhairle na nÓg take on a project with the to increase awareness or making a change on their chosen topic for the betterment of young people in the County. In 2018 their project aimed to support LGBT young people.

### **A Colourful Celebration of Equality & Inclusion**



Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg in association with Monaghan Sports Partnership hosted a 5k fun Colour Run in Rossmore Forest Park in September. Equality and inclusion was the theme of the Colour Run with the park coming alive to a backdrop of colour everywhere in an exciting fun-filled event. Over 300 participants, young and old, soaked up the carnival atmosphere in the park, enjoying the entertainment from the start to the finish line.

### **Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg AGM**

Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg AGM took place in the Four Seasons Hotel in Monaghan in October. Over 130 young people participated in a wonderfully interactive day.

### **Creative Ireland – Creative Youth**

With funding received by the Creative Ireland budget a youth drama project commenced with a group of TY students from Beech Hill College in October. The eight weeks of workshops helped young people develop and improve their storytelling skills, using techniques such as guided imagery, journaling, and hot seating. This led to workshops in character development, with equality as the primary theme, and prepared the young people for the next stage of the project - devising their own script. Activities are ongoing and with a public screening provisionally planned before the end of May 2019.

### **Property Marking Scheme**

An initiative of the Joint Policing Committee, this innovative new scheme was the first of its kind in Ireland. It uses a dot peen machine to punch the owner's Eircode into items to be marked. The scheme also acts as a deterrent to thieves, with signs carrying the Garda crest being erected by the Council in participating areas. The machine is available free of charge to community groups, sports clubs etc. who wish to organise property marking events in their area. Contact the Community Dept to make arrangements.



### **Pride of Place**

The Irish Public Bodies Pride of Place competition, organised by Co-Operation Ireland, seeks to acknowledge the work of communities all over the

island of Ireland. Entries are nominated by the local authority across a range of categories. In 2018 Monaghan was represented by the community of Drumhowan in the population category, and by Killanny CPR group in the Community Health Initiative category.

### **Tidy Towns Network**

Monaghan County Council provides support in many ways to Tidy Towns groups and Residents Associations. One of our innovations is the Tidy Towns Network, where groups come together to learn from one another, share ideas, and receive training and guidance. In August, a group of volunteers went to Hillsborough village, the National Trust property Rowallane Gardens, and Belfast's Botanic Gardens.



The highlight of the year was Glaslough winning the national title of Ireland's Tidiest Village, as well as taking top prize in the North West region. Carrickmacross retained its gold medal for the sixth successive year and Monaghan retained its silver medal.

### **Community Planning**

In 2018 the Council embarked on an ambitious programme to provide every community in the county with a Community Plan. The plans are being prepared in consultation with the local communities, so that there is full buy-in to the actions which are included in it. The planning process includes a community needs survey and consultation with stakeholder groups, the preparation of a draft plan, consultation on the draft before production of a final Community Plan, complete with a set of agreed actions and costed

projects with a clear roadmap for advancing each to 'shovel ready' stage.

The objective is to have a number of projects ready to go whenever new funding opportunities come along, so that communities are in a position to benefit fully from available resources. The first four communities to participate have already seen some investment even before their Plans have been completed. The four communities undertaken in 2018 were:

- Oram
- Newbliss/ Killeevan
- Scotshouse
- Emyvale

The 2019 communities commenced at the end of the year were Smithborough, Ballinode, Donoghmoynne and Augnamullen.



### **Public Sector Duty Pilot**

Monaghan County Council completed its pilot project on developing a Public Sector Duty in conjunction with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission in 2018. The pilot project recorded the process used in Monaghan which has been developed into a case study for other local authorities. The Public Sector Duty is a statutory obligation that requires public bodies to promote equality, protect human rights and eliminate discrimination for all service users and staff.

### **Accessibility**

#### Everybody Plays- Inclusive Playground Policy

Following a public consultation process on the redevelopment of Ballybay town park a new policy for the design, development and upgrading of playgrounds in the county was adopted. The policy sets out the steps and information to ensure all playgrounds provide inclusive and accessible play opportunities. The development of the policy won the Excellence in Local Government Award Disability Services category in 2018.



**Launch of Play Policy – Ballybay Play Park**

### **Make Way Day**

Monaghan County Council worked with Monaghan Disability Network to participate in the National Make Way Day

initiative in September 2018. The event involved people with disabilities and staff from Monaghan County Council walking through the streets of Monaghan and Clones towns to identify barriers and obstacles experienced by people with disabilities on the streets. The participants will present their findings and recommendations for change to the Council early in 2019.

### **Age Friendly programme**

Monaghan hosted the National Age Friendly Awards in 2018 and over 200 older people from all over the country attended the event. Monaghan was awarded the Business Award for the Age Friendly Business Programme.

The first Age Friendly Strategy for Monaghan was completed in 2018. A progress report on the achievements of the programme was produced. In 2019 the focus will be on consultation and development of a new Age Friendly Strategy for the county.



**National Age Friendly Awards Ceremony**

### **Equality sub group**

Monaghan Equality sub group of Monaghan LCDC continues to work on the collective approach to promotion of equality in the county.

The KNOW ME campaign developed by the sub group in 2017 was presented as model of good practice at the World Community Development Conference in June 2018.

The campaign was also used by the staff of the Department of Community and Rural development as part of their staff training programme.

### **Social Inclusion Week 2018**

Social Inclusion Week was a huge success in 2018. Over 40 events took place throughout the county with over 1000 people participating.

Monaghan Equality sub group held an event in the County Museum in December 2018 to mark the 70th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Human Rights. Members of the community from many different areas, groups and services took part in the event. Each of the 30 articles of the declaration were read by representatives of the community protected by the relevant article.

### **Monaghan County of Sanctuary**

Monaghan County Council is implementing Monaghan LCDC's PEACE IV County of Sanctuary programme which will see Monaghan become the first County of Sanctuary in Ireland. This programme is supported by the European Union's Peace IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Over twenty-five events and activities took place during 2018 which included a celebration of UN World Refugee Day in June at St Patrick's Accommodation Centre, a Lithuanian Statehood Day event which took place in July in the County Museum and a 'Hats Off to Equality' event which took place during Social Inclusion week in September.





Hats Off to Equality Event – County of Sanctuary

### Monaghan Sports Partnership (MSP)

Monaghan Sports Partnership delivered the following projects during 2018:

#### Targeting low participation Groups Community Activities

MSP coordinated a series of activity programmes aimed at the 50+ age group.

In 2018, 25 different community activity programmes were delivered for over 450 people aged 50+ in Towns and rural areas. Activities include pilates, yoga, walking football, line dancing, aqua aerobics, strength & flexibility.



#### Social Inclusion through Sport & Physical Activity

A series of activities took place throughout the year to provide opportunities for adults and children with a disability. Activities provided included soccer skills, line dancing, pitch and putt, introduction to water-based activity, outdoor bowls, cycling. A total of 16 activity programmes were arranged for 280 participants.

#### Supporting Schools Programme

Monaghan Sports Partnership and Monaghan Education Centre jointly hosted a 'Physical Activity and Opportunities' Forum for Primary Schools in County Monaghan. Guest speaker was renowned

health and exercise advocate and proud Monaghan man Professor Niall Moyna who is Head of School of Human Health and Performance in DCU. Prof. Moyna stressed the need for our children to be active to ensure optimal health into adulthood. We also launched our Primary Schools Physical Activity Programmes for 2018/2019 at the forum and plan to deliver a number of new opportunities for Schools during this School year to include, The Daily Mile, Tug of War, Volleyball.

#### Supporting Club Development through Education & Training Safeguarding Courses

MSP delivers Safeguarding (Child Protection) courses throughout the year on behalf of Sport Ireland. In 2018 ten Safeguarding Workshops for 138 sports club volunteers were provided.

#### Sports Leader training programme

Under funding received from dormant accounts fund, Monaghan Sports Partnership completed the delivery of Sports Leadership Training for 40 Post Primary School Transition Year students at Beech Hill College, Monaghan and Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney in 2018.

#### Disability Awareness

Disability Awareness training courses and *Games 4 All* courses have been successfully completed by 35 participants, including the learners of Moving on Programme, Castleblayney, Transition Year Students at Patrician High School Carrickmacross and members of local sports clubs.



#### Monaghan Sports Partnership Sports Club Grant Programme

The Sports Club Grant Programme was delivered for sports clubs that provide activities of a sporting or physical activity nature and in particular projects



that attract new members or which increase participation in their sport. Local Sports Clubs were awarded funding to a total of €17,332 under two separate strands.

## MONAGHAN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

Public Participation Networks were established by the Irish Government under the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014 to be the main link through which the Local Authority connects with the community and



voluntary sector. Monaghan Public Participation Network (PPN) is a network of community & voluntary, environmental and social inclusion groups active within the county. In 2018 membership increased to 436 community and voluntary groups.

Monaghan PPN is administered and managed by a voluntary board, the Secretariat, who all are elected from the local PPN membership. It is its responsibility to oversee the development of the network and ensure that the objectives of the PPN work programmes are carried out.

### Some of the Key Activities for Monaghan PPN in 2018 include:

**Representation:** the number of PPN Representatives increased to 43 on 13 committees with 9 new Representatives elected in 2018.

**Consultations:** We encouraged member groups to take part in many County Council consultation calls which will shape our county, and how future resources are allocated.



PPN Public Consultation Event

**Training:** The PPN delivered FREE training on topics such as:

**Changes in Legislations in General Data Protection Regulations-** one in each Municipal District – 88 participants participated

**Developing Grant Applications** – one in each Municipal District. We also produced a Developing Grant Applications Booklet – 66 members participated.

**QQI Accredited Level 5 Community Development Course** – we collaborated with Cavan Monaghan Education Training Board to deliver this training with 22 members participating.

**Events:** Key speakers were invited to some of our meetings to inform members on important issues such as: LEADER, the work of the LCDC, the Irish Environmental Network, Monaghan County Council Social Inclusion Officer and Monaghan County Council Environmental Awareness Officer.



Participants in a Community Development course

Further information on Monaghan PPN can be obtained from the dedicated support worker at 047 73750.

## Local Enterprise Office

### Financial Supports & Job Creation

In 2018 over €400,000 was approved in grant aid with a potential to create an additional 39 jobs.

### Training and Mentoring

We delivered 50 programmes to 1068 participants. This includes 6 Start Your Own Business Programmes to 100 participants. Dedicated programmes were designed and run to support target groups such as the food and construction sector, engineering, women in business, etc.

Once again, the LEO hosted two major flagship conferences; Border Bizcamp and Retail is eTail. Border Bizcamp, is one of the largest networking events in the North East, with over 160 businesses attending this year. All these supports were promoted to, made available for, and tailored specifically towards the needs of small, micro and start-up businesses in Monaghan.



Attendees at the Retail is eTail Conference

### Mentoring

Throughout 2018, there was a significant demand for our mentoring programme of which 100 businesses completed. The LEO's mentoring service is designed to complement the enterprise training and management development supports it offers. The areas of Mentoring are Business Planning, Finance, Sales & Marketing, IP, HR and Brexit related.

## Local Enterprise Week

A hugely successful Local Enterprise Week ran from 5-9<sup>th</sup> March. Over 400 individuals & students attended 10 enterprise orientated events during the week. This national initiative seeks to encourage nascent entrepreneurship and foster an entrepreneurial culture in County Monaghan.

### Women's Programme



Monaghan Women in Business (MWIB) is an informal network which aims is to provide information, support, promotional and networking opportunities to all who take part. Participation in MWIB continued to increase in 2018 with over 370 attending a number of events

As part of the programme, Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphreys, T.D., opened National Women's Enterprise

### Student Enterprise Programmes



With an aim to foster and develop enterprise awareness, LEO Monaghan continues to work with the local secondary schools through the SEA competition. This provides second level students with practical knowledge and experience of what it is really like to run a business including: finding the

business idea; doing the market research; preparing the business plan; selling the products or services; managing the business; maintaining proper books of accounts; and hopefully making some money and having some fun along the way. It also promotes entrepreneurship as a viable career option. 308 secondary school students participated from 8 Co. Monaghan schools.



Additionally in 2018, we ran a pilot Primary School Enterprise Development Programme to 19 schools. Feedback from the teachers and 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class students was extremely positive and included enhancing skills in creativity, problem solving, team building and leadership. No doubt this will assist them as they pursue their chosen careers or develop their own businesses in the future.

## Brexit

LEO Monaghan is committed to supporting SMEs to continue growing their business against this backdrop of uncertainty as the terms of the UK's new relationship with Europe evolves. As part of this support the Head of LEO participated in a panel discussion at the Department briefing, Brexit-Getting Ireland Ready. The LEO also had a stand at this successful event which was held in the Four Seasons Hotel on 19<sup>th</sup> October and was attended by up to 400 local businesses. Information and advice was imparted on all relevant Brexit supports including the Brexit Loan Scheme, Brexit Mentor Programme, Lean for Micro, Co-Innovate Programme and the Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters among others.

## Trading Online Vouchers

In 2018 LEO Monaghan approved 17 Trading Online Vouchers supporting our drive to get more businesses engaged in ecommerce.

## Co-Innovate Programme

Monaghan LEO is a partner on Co-Innovate, an innovation programme supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body. The aim of the Programme is to develop the innovation capability of the local businesses and increase the number actively participating in cross-border research. This is one of our main Brexit proofing supports although not a LEO core programme. We are in the process of putting through over 60 Co. Monaghan companies across Manufacturing, Traded Services and ICT sector. We have exceeded our target, even at this early stage. For those who have identified a viable project there is the potential to get support for a manager to run a specific Innovation project inhouse. A few topline figures include: 70 businesses out of 12 counties, to get a graduate placement and we have got sanctioned for 7 currently (12%) and on Stand 5 the Collaborative cluster there are 15 business places overall and we have 2 sanctioned. This programme has leveraged an additional €247,000 for Monaghan based



businesses.

## **PLATO EBR**

LEO Monaghan, in conjunction with Louth, Meath and Cavan LEOs has established a collaborative partnership, providing a dedicated business support network for entrepreneurs in the region. The programme offers owner managers a business support forum where they can network and discuss business ideas with established large 'parent' companies. These 'parent' companies are leaders in their industry sectors and support the programme by sharing their skills and experience within the network. In 2018, PLATO EBR partnered with Armagh Craigavon and Banbridge Borough and Mid Ulster Borough councils to collaborate on a cross border basis, to encourage export trade to NI and Britain.

## **Strategic Policy Committees**

The role of Strategic Policy Committees is to formulate policy proposals, evaluate and report on policy implementation for consideration. Provide policy centred committees which can harness the experience of external bodies in the formulation of policy. The Committees are not designed to deal with routine operational matters in relation to the delivery of services.

The SPCs which consists of elected members of Monaghan County Council and others who are nominated by / or representative of the sectors relevant to the work of the particular SPC. Monaghan County Council 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 2018**

#### **Housing, Fire & Civil Protection SPC (5 meetings held 2018)**

The following policies were approved at meetings of the SPC during 2018:

Fire & Emergency Operations Plan 2018 – 2022  
Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy  
Regional Homeless Action Plan 2018 – 2020.

The SPC committee received Presentations on:

- Overview of Monaghan Fire Safety Management System
- Vacant Homes Plan
- Housing Applicants and Tenants – Disability Statistics
- SSHA 2018 – Summary of Social Housing Needs Assessment
- Presentation on Passive Housing
- Update on Housing Capital Projects
- Summary of Task Force Report on Fire Safety.
- Memorandum of Understanding with Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS)



- Building control activity 2018 – Commencement Notices issued during the 2018 period.
- Fire Certs and Disabled Access Certificates (DAC) Issued during the 2018 period.
- Construction Product Regulations Policy (CPR) the role and implementation of regulations.

A copy of the Construction Product Regulations Policy was circulated to the Members.  
Preparation of a Traveller Action Plan 2019 – 2024.

The Housing, Fire and Civil Protection SPC also had a change of Chair mid-year, Cllr Sean Gilliland replaced Cllr David Maxwell as Chair mid-year.

### **Environment & Transport SPC (3 meetings held in 2018)**

The committee discussed the following strategic policy documents:

Litter Management Plan 2018-2020  
Noise Action Plan

Presentation were received on the following topics  
Environmental Enforcement Priorities 2018  
Update on River Basin Management Plan  
Presentation from County Monaghan Conservation Officer, National Wildlife and Parks Service

### **Social, Cultural & Community Development SPC (3 meetings held in 2018)**

Regular reports were received from the Cultural Team and the Community Development team in relation to projects underway in these areas.

The committee discussed the following strategic policy document:

- The five year Strategic Museum Management Plan

The committee received presentations on :

- National Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Museum Research Policy and Procedures
- Google Project/Public Libraries 2020 project
- Co Monaghan Library Service

### **Planning and Economic Development SPC (5 meetings held in 2018)**

The main topics for discussion included

- Impact of Brexit
- Tourism
- Broadband provision
- County Development Plan
- Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

As the withdrawal date for Britain to exit the EU drew close the topic remained high on the agenda in 2018. The lack of clarity and planning for the process and the potential outcomes, both positive and negative, which may have an impact locally were the subject of much discussion. The committee was kept informed of the work being carried out by LEO in supporting local businesses to prepare for Brexit. Regular reports from those liaising with concerned groups kept the committee updated.

The Tourism Officer updated the Committee throughout the year in relation to new projects undertaken, successful funding applications and of the Tourism Strategy targets met.

The Broadband Officer also kept the committee informed on progress made on the National Broadband Project.

The committee received regular briefings from the planning team working on The County Development Plan 2019 -2025.

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

### **Cathaoirleach 2018/2019(June 2018-June 2019)**

Cllr. David Maxwell

### **Leas-Chathaoirleach 2018/2019(June 2018-June 2019)**

Cllr. Colm Carthy

## **Municipal Districts**

### **Monaghan Municipal District**

Cllr. David Maxwell

Cllr. Paudge Connolly

Cllr. Brian McKenna (Cathaoirleach 2018/2019)

Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Cllr. Seamus Treanor (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2018/2019)

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

Cllr. Aidan Campbell

Cllr. Pdraig McNally

Cllr. Colm Carthy (Cathaoirleach 2018/2019)

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

Cllr. Jackie Crowe (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2018/2019)

Cllr. Noel Keelan

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

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Cllr. Richard Truell

Cllr. Sean Gilliland (Cathaoirleach 2018/2019)

Cllr. Cathy Bennett (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2018/2019)

### **Corporate Policy Group**

Cathaoirleach of the Day Cllr. David Maxwell

Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Cllr. Pdraig McNally

## **Strategic Policy Committees**

### **SPC for Social Cultural and Community Development**

Cllr. Brian McKenna (Chair)  
Cllr. Jackie Crowe  
Cllr. David Maxwell  
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney  
Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Paudge Connolly  
Kevin Gartlan (Environment Pillar)  
Fiona Keenan O'Brien (Community – Cultural)  
Brian MacDomhnaill (Community – Cultural)  
Alex Watson (Community)  
Ursula McKenna (Community)  
Lorraine Cunningham (Community)

### **SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise Support**

Cllr. Pat Treanor (Chair)  
Cllr. Sean Conlon  
Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon  
Cllr. Aidan Campbell  
Cllr. Seamus 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. Hugh McElvaney  
Cllr. Cathy Bennett  
Cllr. Colm Carthy  
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon  
Cllr. Seamus Treanor  
Barry McCarron (Environment Pillar)  
Malachy Marron (Community)  
Fiona McCaffrey Jones (Community)  
Teresa Carolan (Community)  
Tom Freeman (Community)

### **SPC for Transport and Environment**

Cllr. Pdraig McNally (Chair)  
Cllr. Raymond Aughey  
Cllr. Richard Truell  
Cllr. Paudge Connolly  
Cllr. Noel Keelan  
Cllr. Cathy Bennett  
Sean McKenna (Environment Pillar)

Kathleen Ward (Farming Pillar)  
Paddy Sherry (Community)  
Jean Rooney (Federation of GWS)  
Colm Lynch

**Co. Monaghan Joint Policing Committee –**

Cllr. P.J. O’Hanlon (Chair)  
Cllr. Brian McKenna (Vice Chair)  
Cllr. Noel Keelan  
Cllr. Jackie Crowe  
Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Cllr. Cathy Bennett  
Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Raymond Aughey  
Cllr. Aidan Campbell  
Cllr. David Maxwell  
Cllr. Sean Gilliland  
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney  
Cllr. Paudge 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

**Local Monitoring Committee (Rural Water Programme).**

Cllr. Brian McKenna  
Cllr. Aidan Campbell  
Cllr. P.J. O’Hanlon  
Cllr. Paudge Connolly

**Lough Muckno Sub Committee**

Cllr. Pádraig McNally  
Cllr. P.J. O’Hanlon  
Cllr. Sean Gilliland  
Cllr. Brian McKenna  
Cllr. Jackie Crowe  
Cllr. Aidan Campbell



### **Twinning Committee**

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

### **Clones Erne East Partnership**

Cllr. Richard Truell  
Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney  
Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Sean Gilliland  
Cllr. Cathy Bennett

### **Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.**

Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Colm Carthy  
Cllr. Richard Truell  
Cllr. Seamus Treanor

### **Local Community Development Committee**

Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Brian McKenna  
Cllr. David Maxwell

### **Audit Committee**

Cllr. Sean Conlon  
Cllr. Sean Gilliland

### **Museum Advisory Committee**

Cllr. Jackie Crowe  
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon  
Cllr. David Maxwell  
Cllr. Seamus Treanor

### **Monaghan Leisure Complex Management Committee**

Cllr. David Maxwell  
Cllr. Sean Conlon  
Cllr. Raymond Aughey  
Cllr. Seamus Treanor

### **Monaghan Local Sports Partnership Board**

Cllr. Sean Conlon

### **Disability Act 2005 Steering Committee.**

Cllr. Richard Truell  
Cllr. Paudge Connolly

Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Cathy Bennett

#### **Road Safety Committee**

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

#### **Speed Limits Committee**

Cllr. Padraig McNally  
Cllr. Raymond Aughey  
Cllr. Jackie Crowe  
Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Cllr. Seamus Treanor

#### **County Monaghan Heritage Forum**

Cllr. Richard Truell  
Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Seamus Treanor

#### **Local Improvements Schemes**

Caithaoirleach of the day  
Cllr. Jackie Crowe  
Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Aidan Campbell  
Cllr. Paudge Connolly

#### **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

#### **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

#### **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	Carrickmacross-Castleblaney M.D.
Cllr. Pat Treanor	Ballybay-Clones M.D.
Cllr. Seamus Treanor	Monaghan M.D.
Cllr. Seamus Coyle	1 from among MCC reps on LCDC

**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. Seamus Coyle – (July 2016)

**Blackwater Regional Partnership**

Cllr. David Maxwell

Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Cllr. Seamus Treanor

**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

### **An Coiste Logainmneacha**

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Cllr. Jackie Crowe

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

### **Standing Orders & Procedures Committee**

Cllr. Padraig McNally

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Cllr. David Maxwell

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. Jackie Crowe

Cllr. Paudge Connolly

### **Monaghan Age Friendly Alliance**

Cllr. Cathy Bennett

### **North Eastern Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force**

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. Brian McKenna

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Cllr. Seamus Treanor

### **Monaghan Peace Campus Steering Committee**

Cllr. David Maxwell

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Cllr. Paudge Connolly

### **Ulster Canal Advisory Forum nominees**

Cllr. Sean Coyle

Cllr. Pat. Treanor



## Conferences/Training Attended by Members in 2018

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>No.'s attended</u>
1	AILG - Conveying Messages through Media	Lakeside Manor Hotel, Virginia, Co. Cavan	3
2	AILG - Conveying Messages through Media	The Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow	4
3	Celtic Conferences - Nursing Homes Support Schemes	The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
4	Centre for Cross Border Studies - The Good Friday Agreement	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth	3
5	LAMA - The New National Planning Framework	The Central Hotel, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal	12
6	AILG - Annual Training Conference 2018	Park Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford	11
7	ICLRD - Rural Society in Transition: Planning for 21st Century	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth	1
8	AILG - Councillors & Community Safety - "Use your Brain Not your Fists"	Westport, Co. Mayo	10
9	AILG - Single Public Water Utility	Bundoran, Co. Donegal	8
10	Magill Summer School 2018 - The Future of Ireland in a New Europe	Glenties, Co. Donegal	1
11	Darcy Magee International Forum 2018 - Canada and Ireland	Carlingford, Co. Louth	1
12	AILG - The new ePlanning & The National Building Management	Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Donegal	9
13	AILG - The new ePlanning & The National Building Management	Clayton Silver Springs Hotel, Cork	1
14	LAMA - Tourism - Economic Benefits & Role of Local Authorities	The River Island Hotel, Castleisland, Co. Kerry	10
15	Celtic Conferences - EU Cohesion Policy	The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
16	AILG - The new ePlanning & The National Building Management	Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Donegal	1
17	LAMA - Tourism - Economic Benefits & Role of Local Authorities	The River Island Hotel, Castleisland, Co. Kerry	2
18	AILG - Local Authority Finance & Budgeting, EM Gratuity Scheme	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo	6
19	AILG - Autumn Seminar	The Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan	9
20	Kerry County Council - Let's Talk Tourism	Great Southern Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry	2
21	AILG - General Data Protection Regulation and Elected Member	Springfield Hotel, Leixlip, Co. Kildare	1
22	AILG - General Data Protection Regulation and Elected Member	Hotel Kilmore, Cavan	7
23	ICBAN - Future of Cross-Border Cooperation	Slieve Russell Hotel Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan	2
24	LCDC - LCDC Meeting	Tullamore, Co. Offaly	1

## Appendix I Members Expenses

### Payments to Monaghan County Council Members in 2018 from 1 January - 31 December 2018

							Chair of		Foreign			
	Travel &				Cathaoirleach	Leas	Municipal	Retirement	Travel			
Name of	Subsistence	Annual	Mobile	SPC Chair	Allowance	Chathaoirleach	District	Gratuity	Twining etc	TOTAL		Representational
Councillor	(Cross border Meetings Conferences & Training)	Allowance	Phone Allowance claimed	Allowance	(Subject to PAYE)	Allowance (Subject to PAYE)	Allowance (subject to PAYE)	(Subject to PAYE)	Flights & Expenses	& EXPENSES ETC		Gross subject to PAYE***
P. McNally	€ 4,019.76	€ 5,820.88	€ 0.00	€ 6,000.00			€ 4,410.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 20,250.64		€ 16,867.34
N. Keelan	€ 4,000.38	€ 5,820.88	€ 567.45					€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 10,388.71		€ 16,867.34
C. Carthy	€ 4,090.17	€ 5,687.32	€ 134.42			€ 1,811.65	€ 2,600.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 14,323.56		€ 16,867.34
P.J. O'Hanlon	€ 2,788.14	€ 5,755.00	€ 123.15					€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 8,666.29		€ 16,867.34
J. Crowe	€ 3,967.42	€ 4,486.09	€ 496.63					€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 8,950.14		€ 16,867.34
H. McElvaney	€ 0.00	€ 3,993.67	€ 0.00					€ 0.00	€ 690.12	€ 4,683.79		€ 16,867.34
B. McKenna	€ 3,319.58	€ 4,517.80	€ 123.06	€ 6,000.00			€ 2,720.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 16,680.44		€ 16,867.34
S. Coyle	€ 6,280.19	€ 4,907.18	€ 439.86				€ 3,300.00	€ 0.00	€ 935.12	€ 15,862.35		€ 16,867.34
S. Conlon	€ 3,354.08	€ 4,168.72	€ 181.83					€ 0.00	€ 1,464.08	€ 9,168.71		€ 16,867.34
P. Treanor	€ 2,749.92	€ 4,551.28	€ 0.00	€ 6,000.00				€ 0.00	€ 1,303.85	€ 14,605.05		€ 16,867.34
D. Maxwell	€ 4,358.28	€ 4,168.72	€ 315.51	€ 3,000.00	€ 5,721.93			€ 0.00	€ 3,208.44	€ 20,772.88		€ 16,867.34
S. Treanor	€ 226.67	€ 4,168.72	€ 155.19					€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 4,550.58		€ 16,867.34
P. Connolly	€ 6,530.96	€ 4,168.72	€ 187.97				€ 3,300.00	€ 0.00	€ 344.22	€ 14,531.87		€ 16,867.34
C. Bennett	€ 907.53	€ 4,168.72	€ 339.93		€ 10,451.61			€ 0.00	€ 5,338.20	€ 21,205.99		€ 16,867.34
S. Gilliland	€ 1,530.07	€ 5,286.28	€ 0.00	€ 3,000.00			€ 2,785.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 12,601.35		€ 16,867.34
A. Campbell	€ 1,243.71	€ 4,618.12	€ 0.00			€ 2,198.31		€ 0.00	€ 344.22	€ 8,404.36		€ 16,867.34
R. Aughey	€ 0.00	€ 4,168.72	€ 0.00					€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 4,168.72		€ 16,867.34
R. Truell*	€ 0.00	€ 350.23	€ 0.00					€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 350.23		€ 0.00
E. Humphreys**	€ 0.00	€ 2,985.01	€ 0.00					€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 2,985.01		€ 14,251.70
Totals	€ 49,366.86	€ 83,792.06	€ 3,065.00	€ 24,000.00	€ 16,173.54	€ 4,009.96	€ 19,115.00	€ 0.00	€ 13,628.25	€ 213,150.67		€ 300,996.48

## Financial Statement 2018

### Summary of Expenditure, Income and Balances

The activities of the Council, on both Capital and Revenue, in 2018 accounted for a turnover of over €86 million.

The Capital Account expenditure of €27,168,033 reflects the investment by the Council in improving the infrastructure in the County. The major areas of activity were Housing and Roads.

### Capital Account

Activity by Programme Group	2018 Expenditure	2018 Income	2018 Net cost
Housing & Building	13,659,324	12,159,333	(1,499,991)
Roads Transportation & Safety	7,851,253	8,290,771	439,518
Water Services	686,581	107,101	(579,480)
Development Management	1,376,222	2,785,622	1,409,400
Environmental Services	531,573	149,037	(382,536)
Recreation & Amenity	531,751	666,011	134,260
Miscellaneous Services	2,531,329	261,777	(2,269,552)
<b>Total Expenditure / Income</b>	<b>27,168,033</b>	<b>24,419,652</b>	<b>(2,748,381)</b>
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	
<b>Balance (Debit) / Credit January 1</b>	<b>14,500,661</b>	<b>8,402,005</b>	
Expenditure	31,483,034	27,168,033	
Income	24,575,501	24,419,652	
Transfers to Revenue	(617,005)	(1,052,799)	
Net Transfers from Revenue Account	1,425,882	1,622,327	
<b>Balance (Debit) / Credit December 31</b>	<b>8,402,005</b>	<b>6,223,152</b>	

### Revenue Account

Activity by Division	2018 Expenditure	2018 Income	2018 Net cost
Housing & Building	8,353,659	8,631,748	278,089
Roads Transportation & Safety	20,110,604	14,232,225	(5,878,379)
Water Services	6,924,372	6,586,368	(338,004)
Development Management	9,451,993	4,744,283	(4,707,710)
Environmental Services	6,302,347	1,046,008	(5,256,339)
Recreation & Amenity	4,616,582	450,840	(4,165,742)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	469,634	329,460	(140,174)
Miscellaneous Services	4,673,601	2,248,461	(2,425,140)
<b>Total Expenditure / Income</b>	<b>60,902,792</b>	<b>38,269,393</b>	<b>(22,633,399)</b>
<b>Net Cost of Programmes to be funded from County Rates and Local Government Fund</b>			<b>(22,633,399)</b>

	€
Rates	12,281,534
Local Property Tax	11,238,572
Pension Related Deduction	
Surplus / (Deficit) for Year	886,707
Transfer to Reserves	(809,835)
Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)	76,872
Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 1st January	(2,377,346)
<b>Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 31st December</b>	<b>(2,300,474)</b>

## Revenue Account

Income and Expenditure Account	2018		2017	
<b>Income</b>				
State Grants and Subsidies	24,448,812	39.6%	18,896,478	33.4%
Contributions from other Las	273,665	0.4%	161,176	0.3%
Goods and Services	13,546,916	21.9%	14,204,933	25.1%
Local Property Tax	11,238,572	18.2%	11,238,572	19.8%
Rates	12,281,534	19.9%	12,143,061	21.4%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>61,789,499</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>56,644,220</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Payroll Expenses	26,437,942	43.4%	25,389,479	45.7%
Operational Expenses	27,082,048	44.5%	22,854,559	41.2%
Administration Expenses	2,381,895	3.9%	2,261,572	4.1%
Establishment Expenses	1,276,128	2.1%	1,363,213	2.5%
Financial Expenses	3,246,547	5.3%	3,206,317	5.8%
Miscellaneous	478,232	0.8%	427,532	0.8%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>60,902,792</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>55,502,672</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Surplus for Year before Transfers</b>	<b>886,707</b>		<b>1,141,548</b>	
Transfers to Reserves	(809,835)		(1,299,847)	
<b>Overall Deficit for Year</b>	<b>76,872</b>		<b>(158,299)</b>	
<b>General Reserve at 1st January</b>	<b>(2,377,346)</b>		<b>(2,219,047)</b>	
<b>General Reserve at 31st December</b>	<b>(2,300,474)</b>		<b>(2,377,346)</b>	



## Appendix III

### Corporate Plan 2015-2019

#### Progress Report 2018

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 (4 meetings – 2018), Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (4 meetings - 2018), 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Corporate Safety Statement (CSS) in place that is compliant.</li> <li>▪ HSMS up-to-date</li> <li>▪ HSP51 Workplace Wellbeing Procedure developed and approved.</li> <li>▪ Municipal District (MD) Section Health and Safety Manual developed and approved.</li> </ul>
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 12 x Health and Safety Unit Monthly Reports produced.</li> <li>▪ 2017 Annual Health and Safety Unit Report produced.</li> <li>▪ Health and Safety Intranet populated with current and relevant safety, health and welfare information.</li> <li>▪ 2 x electronic Health and Safety Newsletters.</li> <li>▪ 4 x Toolbox Talks.</li> <li>▪ 4 x Safety Committee Meetings.</li> <li>▪ European Health and Safety Week.</li> <li>▪ Consult and assist HR with Health and Safety related training</li> </ul>
Health and Safety Unit	Manage and implement the Health and Safety Management System (HSMS).	Develop and implement an Audit, Inspection and Review Process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 36 x Procedures reviewed and 37 associated Forms and Templates.</li> <li>▪ The following Hazard and Risk Assessments (H&amp;RA) were conducted and issued: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nine x Waste Water for Non-TIC Plants and Stations.</li> <li>- School Warden.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- N2 Emyvale Works Compound.</li> <li>- 16 x Landfill.</li> <li>- Machiney Yard (Van).</li> <li>▪ 272 Inspections conducted across all sections achieving 102% of target.</li> </ul>
Library	1.5 Develop and implement appropriate policies, procedures and internal audit mechanisms to ensure standards of organisational performance are in line with corporate governance and best practice and are applied consistently across the organisation	Complete a 5 year Library development strategy	<p>Plan published and launched.</p> <p>Key actions so far completed include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self Service Units installed in 4 out of 5 branches</li> <li>• Workforce Plan submitted</li> <li>• Funding secured for new Monaghan Town library as part of Peace Campus</li> <li>• My Open Library works completed in Carrickmacross for launch in early 2019</li> <li>• Hot desk facilities installed in Clones and Carrickmacross libraries</li> <li>• New self- service printing, copying and scanning services installed in Clones and Monaghan branch libraries.</li> </ul>

Corporate Services	1.1 Support Elected Members, Corporate Policy Group and Strategic Policy Committees, Joint Policing Committee and other committees as prescribed in legislation, in their leadership and representative role to ensure democratic accountability and effective governance. Develop a common understanding of Council role in economic development and how it can be delivered.	Administer and support meetings of the Council and all Committees.  Manage the Annual Register of Electors  Fulfil the organisation's responsibilities under the Ethic's Framework	Council/Committee Meetings held, agenda business transacted effectively, follow up actions implemented.  Minutepad Meetings system rolled out to elected members.  Up to date Register published in accordance with the statutory dates  Up to date and completed Ethics Register in place
Corporate Services	1.5 Develop and Implement appropriate policies, procedures and internal audit mechanisms to ensure standards or organisational performance are in line with corporate governance and best practice and are applied consistently across the organisation.	Operate an independent internal audit service	Audit Committee operating Internal Audit workplan approved and implemented. Internal Audit staff trained and in place
Corporate Services	1.5 Develop and Implement appropriate policies, procedures and internal audit mechanisms to ensure standards or organisational performance are in line with corporate governance and best practice and are applied consistently across the organisation.	Prepare reports, works programmes and reviews in line with corporate governance requirements	Annual Report Adopted Annual Service Delivery Plan adopted Monitoring and review of performance – NOAC/Mon Stat Risk Register software introduced and risk register reviewed Monthly management reports submitted to Council

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, AIE and Data Protection requests and Ombudsman complaints addressed within the relevant timeframes.</p> <p>Data Protection Officer appointed.??</p> <p>No protected disclosures received in the period.</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	<p>Communications Graduate recruited</p> <p>Significant progress achieved in improving MCC profile on social media</p> <p>Work on the Draft Communications Strategy was deferred to 2019.</p>
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. The implementation and progress of the internal auditors' recommendations are being adhered with including an updated briefing with current Director



Community Development	1.4 Provide strong leadership and create greater levels of accountability and responsibility at all grades within Monaghan County Council through implementing MonStat.	The organisation managed through strong leadership, good governance and democratic accountability will fulfil its mission in an open honest and transparent manner.	Ongoing implementation of corporate management structures.
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 staff along with the Cathaoirleach and Dir of Services were presented with their award for Maintaining Full Accreditation at an awards ceremony in Kilkenny Castle in July 2018

Environment	<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. Develop a common understanding of Council role in economic development and how it can be delivered.</p>	<p>Provide Environment services support to SPC &amp; CPG committees.</p>	<p>Continued support provided to SPC, 3 meetings held in 2018. One major policy document "Litter Management Plan" adopted by Reserved Function during 2018.</p> <p>CE report submitted monthly to keep members informed of progress under all areas of Environmental Services including Waste, Water, litter, Air, Food Safety and Dog Control.</p>
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Planning	1.1 Support the Elected Members, Corporate Policy Group and Strategic Policy Committees, Joint Policing Committee and other committees as prescribed by legislation, in their leadership and representative role to ensure democratic accountability and effective governance	Develop a planning policy framework within legislative and policy requirements	Ongoing engagement of stakeholders in formulation and adoption of County Development Plan, Variations to the County Development Plan, and other policy documents in compliance with legislative requirements and deadlines
	1.3 Maintain and improve service delivery systems to ensure compliance with legislative and statutory obligations	Operate a Development Management System in compliance with legislative and policy framework	<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 one Agents' Workshop per annum</p>

<b>Objective 2: Promote and protect a clean safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable.</b>			
<b>Department</b>	<b>Corporate Plan Sub-Category</b>	<b>Business Plan Objective</b>	<b>Progress</b>
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	Section 26 Operational Plan adopted. 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  Delivery of the Housing Capital programme	Ongoing assessment and update of housing applications  Implementation of the Housing Assistance Payment  Ongoing liaison with

	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; identification of sites for the provision of social housing; improvement



			of dereliction in towns and villages
Corporate Assets	2.4 Promote the sustainable use of energy by reducing Monaghan's energy usage in line with National targets by 2020	<p><b>ENERGY:</b> To reduce 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>PUBLIC LIGHTING:</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>26.9% achieved towards 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	<p>Implement Priority objectives in areas of enforcement, compliance, waste infrastructure and awareness.</p> <p>Manage Scotch Corner Landfill in accordance with Waste License W0020- 02</p>	<p>Continued implementation of waste management policies in line with the objectives of the Connacht Ulster Waste</p> <p>New contract signed for servicing of Bring Site Network in 2018.</p> <p>Support of Circular Economy through delivery of waste prevention projects including Making Waves Festival in Glaslough and <a href="http://www.repairmystuff.ie">www.repairmystuff.ie</a></p> <p>Historic litter/dumping blackspots cleaned up in 2018 through grant monies secured via the Anti-Dumping Initiative scheme</p> <p>Funding received to progress risk assessment process on Historic Landfills which operated in the County.</p> <p>Commencement of landfill capping environmental improvements works contract at Scotch Corner Landfill.</p> <p>Ongoing management of the Scotch Corner landfill facility as per the conditions of our EPA license.</p> <p>Annual Environmental Inspection Plan 2018 submitted to EPA .</p>
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Environment		<p>Ensure the production of safe food and compliance with legal requirements by food businesses supervised by Monaghan County Council</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Inspections, audits and sampling of food businesses were completed as planned and results of inspections and sampling reported to relevant stakeholders</p> <p>Two food businesses ceased production in 2018.</p> <p>Continued provision of a dedicated dog warden service for the investigation of stray dog complaints and the enforcement of dog control legislation. 2018 saw a slight increase (2%) in dog licenses issued to 5,950.</p> <p>380 dog related complaints investigated and closed.</p> <p>In 2018, 475 dogs were admitted to the Dog Pound of which 98% were reclaimed or re- homed.</p> <p>Continued inspection of 14 registered dog breeding establishments.</p> <p>5 stray horses were seized in Monaghan in 2018. This is a reduction on the 11 stray horses seized in 2017.</p>
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Environment	2.5 Develop and provide Environmental education and training programmes		<p>Continued support of initiatives such as Spring Clean and Green Schools. Sing Environmental Music Competition held in 2018.</p> <p>Continued use of Social Media Platforms for awareness programme, in 2018 awareness around issue of illegal dumping carried out.</p> <p>Large awareness event “Making Waves” held in Glaslough to support Tidy Towns in 2018</p>
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	<p>Water Quality staff contributed to the progression of the objectives of the Draft River Basin Management Plan including working with the Local Authorities Water Program (LAWPRO) in the 5 priority areas for action.</p> <p>Completion of farm inspection program as required under the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations. 161 farms inspected in 2018.</p> <p>Completion of Farm survey program in Finn catchment with 120 farms visited in 2018.</p> <p>Continued monitoring of 32 Section 4 effluent discharge licenses in County Monaghan with discharges to waters.</p>

			<p>Successful Completion of WFD River and lake monitoring program with 411 inspections in 2018.</p> <p>Assessment of 313 planning applications in 2018.</p> <p>103 water/wastewater environmental pollution complaints investigated in 2018.</p> <p>Progression of Phase 2 of the Derryvalley Catchment Pilot Project in 2018. Project won the best national Environmental Project at the All Ireland Community and Council Awards 2019.</p>
Planning	2. Promote and protect a clean safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable	<p>Operate an enforcement system in line with legislative and policy requirements</p> <p>Take in charge developments as required and resolve remaining unfinished housing developments in the county</p>	<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 housing developments following receipt of application</p> <p>Five housing developments were taken in charge in 2018</p>
Heritage Office	2. Promote and protect a clean safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable	Ensure the conservation status of the European Habitats and species on Sliabh Beagh	Ongoing participation in Interreg CANN project, leading uplands site work package for the three regions and implementing conservation actions on Sliabh Beagh.



	2.7 Implement the policies of the County Development Plan	Operate a Development Management System in compliance with legislative and policy framework	<p>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</p> <p>Review of current County Development Plan commenced in 2017 and continued through 2018</p>
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**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	<p>Support small businesses through housing grants, void repairs and energy efficiency works</p> <p>Provision of loans for private dwellings under approved schemes</p>
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

			<p>Assistance Scheme for Approved Housing Bodies support small local construction companies in a tangible manner</p>
Tourism	<p>3.2 Deliver on Monaghan County Council's Tourism Strategy in Partnership with stakeholders</p>		<p>Print and on-line Calendar of Events for 2018 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>#My Monaghan videos developed and circulated on -line</p> <p>Print and on-line Calendar of Events for 2018 produced</p> <p>Tourist Office operated</p>

			from mid March to end September
Tourism	3.8 Develop a Brand Image for the county which will assist in maximising investment and development potential		<p>Branded Memory Sticks produced and pre-loaded with Tourism and Economic literature and videos</p> <p>New branded Folder produced</p>
Library	3.2 Deliver on Monaghan County Council's Tourism Strategy in partnership with stakeholders	<p>Maintain Clones and Carrickmacross branch libraries as tourist offices</p> <p>Expand the range of Local History resources available to the public</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
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	<p>Biennial meetings between the Library Service and CMETB completed, as per ETBI/LGMA Protocol Agreement</p> <p>Courses provided in all branches, in partnership with CMETB and MID</p> <p>Cavan/Monaghan Science Festival Completed, promoting STEM careers</p>
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. Remained on Board of Garage Theatre. Local Arts in Education Board set up and fully endorsed by ETB in partnership with MCC & CCC.

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 2018 and new targets set for 2019. 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
	'One Stop Shop' to meet the needs of small businesses in the County.	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.	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.
LEO	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.	Undertake needs analysis of digital skills required for marketing of local businesses	The LEO has liaised with the CMETB in the Development of a Digital Marketing Traineeship which is in its first year.

Museum	8.2 Deliver on Monaghan County Council's Tourism Strategy in partnership with stakeholders.	Prepare marketing strategy for promotion of museum both locally and nationally	<p>Museum events and programmes are promoted through local and national press, online and in cooperation with Monaghan Tourism</p> <p>The museum is working with a media consultant on a project by project basis to ensure that major events achieve national and where possible international coverage. E.g. the launch of the Monaghan Spitfire Exhibition</p>
Planning	3.5 Devise a strategy to improve the quality and diversity of employment in the County	Develop a planning policy framework within legislative and policy requirements	Review of availability of zoned Industry, Enterprise, and Employment lands in the county, and related supporting employment related policies as part of the review of the County Development Plan



<b>Objective 4: Ensure that everyone in our Community has an opportunity to become actively engaged in shaping the future development of the County.</b>			
<b>Department</b>	<b>Corporate Plan Sub-Category</b>	<b>Business Plan Objective</b>	<b>Progress</b>
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>198,000 funding secured for the Patrick Kavanagh Centre under Failte Ireland – Ireland’s Ancient East small capital grants fund. Tourism unit working in conjunction with the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD and the local development group to deliver this major tourism project.</p> <p>Progress delivery of Playpark in Rossmore Forest Park with €301,526 funding under the PEACE IV Programme and working with the Monaghan Town team to deliver their Rossmore Giants project.</p> <p>Completed a major Refurbishment project at the Market House in Carrickmacross which is now open as a dedicated crafts space</p> <p>Worked with LEO to develop a dedicated retail Craft Outlet in the Market House</p> <p>Assisted the Carrickmacross Lace Co-op with promotion and further development of their organisation</p> <p>In conjunction with Ballybay-Clones MD, assisted the Clones Development Society with the development of their Lace Museum</p>
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Arts	4:1 Lead economic, social, cultural and sustainable development in the County by facilitating partnership and co-operation among Local Government, Local Development, Statutory Bodies, Community and Social Partnership.	Develop key cultural infrastructure  Create increased opportunities for engagement by communities	Application made to Dept under stream 1 for Clones Artist studios  Application submitted to Peace IV on Clones Studios & Community Arts Hub  Progress of Clones Artist Studios on course, there will be delay in implementation of agreement with Monaghan artists collective. waiting for final approval from SEUPB on structures and spend under the shared space peace IV programme
Museum	4.5 Lead the promotion and support of Social Inclusion and access to services through the review, development and implementation of strategies.	Promote our programme of events and activities to as wide an audience as possible	The museum will be hosting a major training programme in partnership with the Heritage Council which will use the museum's programme of attracting all members of the community to the service through our exhibitions and events programme as an example of best practice.
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  Implementation of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Structures at Risk Fund

Heritage Office	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.	Draft County Monaghan Heritage and Biodiversity Plan with public participation.	Consultation evenings held in five towns towards development of new plan.
	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>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> <p>Implementation of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Structures at Risk Fund</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	Continued roll out of LEADER and other funding streams, e.g., Clár, Town & Village, Community Enhancement Programme, enabling local communities to participate to a greater extent in the development of their areas.
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; Community Activation Programme (SICAP)</p>	<p>Programme delivery ongoing with 37 projects approved in 2018 totalling €2.3m.</p> <p>Achievement by implementer of headline targets and actions Expenditure v agreed SICAP Budget Applications submitted</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>Applications invited Project activity undertaken Spend targets achieved Progress monitored</p> <p>Monaghan County Council was successful in its application for €9.5m towards the development of the Shared Spaces Peace IV project in Monaghan town, The Peace Campus, at a total</p>



		Support delivery of Interreg Project and extension of Ulster Canal Greenway	<p>projected cost of €14.3m</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>Develop Community Plans in each area.</p> <p>Support Local Community sector and Provide development support to community networks</p>	<p>€175,000 allocated to 175 different community projects across the county. Community funding presentation event held in each Municipal District.</p> <p>Funding applications made</p> <p>Improved governance Action plans prepared</p> <p>Processed commenced with four draft plans at public consultation at year end.</p> <p>Entry to Pride of Place Competition managed</p> <p>Better Energy Communities funding bid to SEAI supported</p>
		Work with cross-border bodies and structures to develop suitable project ideas	<p>Ongoing networking and meetings with neighbouring Local Authorities on cross border basis – LEADER, Peace IV, Tourism promotion etc.</p> <p>Funding applications made</p> <p>Consider 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>	<p>Ongoing support for PPN through Support Worker and Committees and Structures of Monaghan County Council.</p> <p>Recruit admin support for the PPN support worker, through funding provided by DRCD and MCC.</p>
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>Comhairle na nOg programme delivery outsourced to YWI with oversight maintained by MCC.</p> <p>Projects identified and progressed</p> <p>Needs analysis completed Youth Network developed Funding sources Identified. Transformation Peace Campus funding secured. Project due for completion in 2021.</p>

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>	<p>Programme of activity delivered through Monaghan Sports Partnership targeting the entire community with particular focus on low participation groups.</p>
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**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.**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Corporate Plan Sub-Category</b>	<b>Business Plan Objective</b>	<b>Progress</b>
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 2018 €450,000 spent on planned maintenance programme
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. In 2018 21 houses on 6 derelict sites in Clones received funding
Tourism	5.1 Maintain, manage and develop Monaghan County Council's property portfolio including parks and open spaces		Maintenance works on Monaghan Way Walk organised through Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD  On-going work on Rossmore Management

			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>Delivered new angling stretch at South Lodge, Lough Muckno for which €111,000 funding was received from Inland Fisheries Ireland</p> <p>Funding successfully secured under the Town &amp; Village Renewal Funding 2018 and the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Funding 2018 for the following tourism projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase II CMX Market House &amp; improved coach access</li> <li>• CMX Workhouse Visitor Interpretation Project</li> <li>• Branded Kavanagh Trail in Inniskeen</li> <li>• Upgrade works at Rossmore Forest Park</li> </ul> <p>In conjunction with Ballybay-Clones MD, provided advice and support in the development of the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan</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	Deliver on the Commitments of Irish Water / Monaghan County Council Annual Service Plan 2018.	Monaghan County Council are performance measured monthly by Irish Water's balanced scorecard. In 2018 the average total monthly scores were 98%
Water Services	Manage and implement the Rural Water Programme	Implement the Rural Water Programme	<p>Annual Subsidies totally €2,600,000 were administered towards the operational cost of supplying water for domestic use to Group Water Schemes.</p> <p>Grants to the value of €347,072 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: Black Pigs Dyke research archive &amp; draft for archaeological monograph.</p> <p>Conservation and management of heritage assets:</p>



			<p><b>Butterfly Monitoring scheme</b> – a full day training was held in conjunction with the National Biodiversity Data Centre on how to identify and record butterflies.</p> <p><b>Culture and Natura 2000</b> - The Sliabh Beagh Site Co-ordinator made a presentation to this conference with EU Commission representation using Sliabh Beagh as a case study.</p> <p>Building capacity and awareness: In search of the Black Pigs Dyke event, October 2018.</p> <p><b>ICOMOS – International Council of Monuments and Sites</b> – The Heritage Officer made a presentation to a conference heritage and the sustainable development goals.</p> <p><b>Cultural Implications of Brexit</b> – The Heritage Officer made a presentation to the Association of Irish Local Government at their Autumn conference.</p> <p><b>Local Authority Heritage Officer Network</b> -The Heritage Officer continued to chair this network in 2018, and made a number</p>
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			<p>of presentations to national agencies, the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and others.</p> <p><b>Joint Committee for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht</b> - The Heritage Officer presented the role of the local authority heritage officers to this committee in the Dáil, on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018.</p> <p><b>DRUM – Portrait of a Village exhibition by Kevin Fox</b>, a series of contemporary images of people from Drum was exhibited in the Market House in the Spring. This work which was made in conjunction with the Gallery of Photography was the second phase of the project and installation that happened in the village in 2017.</p> <p><u>Coordination and launch of Heritage Week.</u> 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.</p>
Heritage Office	Protect and enhance our environment	Draft County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan	Consultation evenings held in five towns towards development of new plan.

Heritage Office	Contribute to implementation of County Development Plan	Provide assistance to planning authority with regard to heritage policy and legislation	7 Heritage reports on planning applications submitted including N54.  Community groups and individuals advised.
Heritage Office	Support the maintenance and management of	Rossmore Park Master Plan	Advised committee and consultants on heritage issues.
	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 year 2, Sliabh Beagh actions include fire risk management, drain blocking, invasive species removal, and direct species actions. Conservation action plans (CAPs) are being drafted for the NI Special Area of Conservation and ROI Natural Heritage Area.
Corporate Assets	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. New ICT based Property Asset Management System being developed.

Corporate Assets		<b>Capital Works</b> <b>Schedule</b> for Council properties. Maintain a schedule of Council owned properties for refurbishment and progress opportunities to secure funding for refurbishment	Capital Projects progressed Progress on projects as follows; PEACE Campus – funding secured. Old Machinery Yard; site clearance complete. 1 Dublin Street – Construction. New Offices - Appraisal. Gate Lodge No. 2, Castleblayney; New Town Library. – Detailed Design. Old Courthouse, Newbliss; New Arts Centre – Detailed Design. Clones PO; Develop as Arts Studio – Construction.
Corporate Assets		Monaghan Leisure Centre. Provide quality sports and exercise facilities	Ongoing investment in facility. Procure new management contract for facility.
Corporate Assets		Clones Market Building Restoration of building	Construction complete and occupied
Corporate Assets		Borderlands Peace Museum	Integrated into Monaghan PEACE Campus Project and brought to design stage
Library	5.2 Prioritise and progress our key infrastructure projects to facilitate economic development (including Lough Muckno, Ulster Canal, Broadband, energy, re-development of Monaghan Branch Library, etc.) and to take advantage of funding opportunities as they arise.	Refurbish Monaghan Branch  Refurbish Gate Lodge 2 as new branch library for Castleblayney Town	Peace IV application for Peace Campus Approved  Combined Stage 1 and 2 funding application submitted for Departmental approval  Planning Permission for project granted

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	Cultural team in place  Monaghan Cultural and Creative Plan 2018 -2022 published 22 projects funded in 2018
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	Construction underway on an 18 month build programme.
		N2 Castleblaney to Aclint Safety Review	Ghost turning lane at Kinnegan Junction completed.
		Progress N54 Tullybryan National Secondary Safety Improvement Scheme	Part VII planning approved.
		Deliver Pavement Improvement Scheme's on the N2 & N54.	9.6Km of Overlay completed.
		Deliver Regional and Local Road Restoration Improvement and Maintenance Programmes	40Km of Restoration Improvement works and 62.6Km of Maintenance works completed to Regional and Local Roads
		Progress the Fleet Replacement Programme	5 Vehicles replaced as part of on-going replacement programme
		Deliver Bridge Rehabilitation Programmes	2 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 7 Road Safety Improvement Schemes, 1 on National Roads, 6 on Non-National Roads.

		Progress Speed Limit Review project	National speed limits reviewed and presented to TII.
		Launch Roads Safety Plan 2017-2020	2018 actions implemented.
Roads	5.5 Develop and progress strategic infrastructural routes, smarter travel and sustainable transport initiatives	Complete Monaghan Town Land Use and Transportation Study	LUTS at and advances stage and due for finalisation Qtr. 1 2019
Roads	5.6 Develop and implement a flood management strategy in partnership with key stakeholders for the maintenance and improvement of storm water infrastructure and arterial drainage districts.	Implement Road Improvement Schemes identified in the County Development Plan	Consultants appointed to deliver phases 1-4 of Clontibret to the Border scheme and upgrade of works on the N2 Ardee to Castleblaney.
		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 flooding	Mapping of flood prone areas continuing
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	We have progressed with Music Generation and a director has been appointed. The L.A.E.P. has advanced which is focusing on children & young people in education setting and continued to advance through Creative Ireland and arts funding to focus on similar age projects



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	<p>Funding has been secured through the Peace IV Capital Grants programme for the new Peace Campus, which will incorporate the new museum service.</p> <p>Working is currently ongoing on developing the museum's new exhibitions in collaboration and consultations with its stakeholders</p>
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	The museum's current educational programme has attracted over 8,000 users throughout 2018 and is now fully booked until mid 2019

**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.		Ongoing use 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 Health and safety manual completed for the housing section and education of staff in the information in that manual
Human Resource Management	6.1 Develop a workforce that is equipped with the skills and competencies to meet the challenges of our evolving work environment	Manage Recruitment	<p>Monaghan County Council processed 1019 applications in relation to 16 recruitment competitions during 2018.</p> <p>In 2018, 101 offers were made and 81 candidates accepted offers as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*16 posts filled permanently by external candidates including 3 General Operative posts.</li> <li>*3 Retained Fire Fighter posts were filled in the Fire Service.</li> <li>*27 posts filled by promotion of existing staff.</li> <li>*7 seasonal General Operative posts were filled by external candidates.</li> <li>*16 posts were filled on a temporary basis by external candidates including 5 Clerical Officers</li> <li>*12 positions were filled on an acting basis</li> </ul>

		<p>Improve the quality and diversity of employment</p>	<p>The Council appointed 2 Graduates under the Local Authority Graduate Recruitment Programme to the areas of Economic, Enterprise and Business Development and Communications and Marketing. Each graduate will participate in a three year structured graduate development programme which will provide the necessary opportunities to develop new skills and knowledge through a combination of on-site, office-based and project specific experiential learning as well as formal training and accredited sector specific education.</p> <p>In 2018 Monaghan County Council employed two Accounting Technician Apprentices on a 2 year full-time work based learning programme. The Apprentices work (on-the-job training) four days a week in the Finance Section and study (off-the-job training) on one day a at Monaghan Institute of Further Education and Training. The Accounting Technician Apprenticeship leads to a Level 6 QQI Advanced Certificate in accounting and is a national apprenticeship funded by SOLAS.</p> <p>The Council held an Awards Ceremony in April 2018 to recognise their staff with 25 years service or more in Local</p>
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			<p>The HR, Payroll, Superannuation Shared Service (HPSS) Programme Board and the LGMA have approved an upgrade from CoreHR Version 19 on LGMA's hosting structure to Core HR's Version 28.</p> <p>This upgrade will improve functionality, enhance threat management and have faster connectivity. It is intended to have the system rolled out mid 2020.</p> <p><b>PAYE Modernisation</b></p> <p>Preparatory works were carried out at the end of 2018 on the Core System by Staff in Human Resources Section in advance of the implementation of PAYE Modernisation in January 2019.</p>
	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 was completed on Garda Vetting of all relevant staff in 2018.

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.
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**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>
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 2018 – RAS section fully incorporating Laserfiche process
Housing	7.5 Develop a mobile applications plan.	Improve Estate management procedures	Continued development of laserfiche into the grants/inspection process on technical staff mobile devices; and health and safety forms/repair workflow 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	Replace legacy information and communications infrastructure with modern technologies, implement advanced data protection and security systems	<p>Installed Generator to provide backup power supply to HQ</p> <p>Carried out extensive works to Comms Room in HQ including installation of UPS and environmental monitoring systems.</p> <p>Replaced Server/SAN infrastructure with a modern hyperconverged</p>

			<p>solution</p> <p>Implemented modern cloud data backup solution for off-premise backups</p> <p>Replaced Legacy Phone System with leading IP solution</p> <p>Upgraded Security platform and implemented Advanced Threat Protection. Continued user awareness campaign. Upgraded patch management and software updates system.</p> <p>Upgraded Network Links in HQ and several remote offices</p>
Information Systems	7.2 Develop and implement a Product Replacement programme	Maintain a suite of products which are current version and are supported by the vendors	<p>Rolled-out Office 365</p> <p>Continued roll-out of Laserfiche Enterprise Content Management System</p> <p>Migrated several application servers to Windows Server 2016 and replaced all unsupported servers</p> <p>Upgraded Operating System on Laptops to Windows 10</p> <p>Initiated Upgrade of Operating Systems on PCs to Windows 10</p> <p>Replaced Debt Management System and Revenue Collection Handheld System</p> <p>Upgraded National Systems where available</p>

Information Systems	7.3 Provide Wi-Fi facilities for public access to the internet	Public Wi-Fi available for citizens in all County Monaghan towns and in all branch libraries  Corporate / Guest Wi-Fi available all Monaghan County Council Offices	Implemented new public Wi-Fi system in Monaghan Town  Extended corporate/Guest Wi-Fi to additional council offices including MTek2 and the new Clones MD Office  Continued to support and maintain Wi-Fi systems
Information Systems	7.4 Improve and expand our customer online services	Increase the number of services that can be accessed online	Implemented online customer reporting application in relation to storm damage  Implemented 'Find My' location-based online mapping application (i.e. Find my Schools, Find my Bring-banks, etc)  Implemented Online Payments for dog fines and litter fines  Continued to promote and support Monaghan Alerts - Citizen Alerting System  Implemented Online Road Incident Mapping Application
Information Systems	7.5 Develop a mobile applications plan	Increase number of services accessible via mobile devices	Implemented Road Incident App  Upgraded Korec Mobile Inspections  Upgraded Fire Hydrant Inspection App  Continued to support and maintain Laserfiche Mobile Apps

Information Systems	7.6 Develop a data management strategy which complies with the relevant Data Protection legislation	Compliance with Data Protection Legislation	<p>Implemented 3-2-1 best practice data backup solution</p> <p>Initiated implementation of disaster recovery solution for critical systems</p> <p>Implemented Access Rights Management System</p> <p>Continued database administration</p>
Information Systems	7.7 Develop an Open Data Plan in line with Government initiatives	Publish open data for public consumption	Appointed Open Data Liaison Officer. Open Data Liaison Officer attended national information seminars and received training from external experts
Information Systems	7.8 Establish and lead a cross departmental panel to assess and approve all IT Business requests	Centralise and formalise approval of IT solutions to ensure they are aligned with corporate objectives	
Information Systems	7.9 Continue to provide high quality technical support to all our customers	<p>IT staff skills maintained to ensure efficient and effective support</p> <p>Service levels agreements in place with third party service</p>	<p>Staff training provided</p> <p>Support requests logged and monitored via I.S. Help desk</p> <p>SLAs renewed as and when required</p>

Information Systems	7.10 Continue to develop and enhance Geographical Information Systems	Modern GIS systems implemented, supported and maintained	<p>Provided GIS support for County Development Plan</p> <p>Implemented eircodes in GIS viewers and databases</p> <p>Continued to incorporate 3<sup>rd</sup> party data into GIS viewers</p>
Information Systems	7.11 Seek to maximise the financial resources available to the organisation	<p>Compliance with Monaghan County Council procurement procedures</p> <p>Seek to maximise return on investment with regards to information systems and services</p>	<p>Procured Fixed Voice Solution via Framework</p> <p>Procured Hybrid Cloud Infrastructure Solution using Competitive Dialogue process</p>

**Objective 8: Develop and implement sound financial, management and control systems to enable organisational and operational efficiency.**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Corporate Plan Sub-Category</b>	<b>Business Plan Objective</b>	<b>Progress</b>
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 money.	Improve Estate management procedures	Implementation of framework agreements for the procurement of housing maintenance services
			Progression of the tender for Turnkey projects in the provision of 55 social housing units by private 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 2019
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
	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	Budget is reviewed in a monthly basis and cost saving are indentified where viable.

			Funding for specific programmes of activities is sourced on an annual basis from organisations such as the Heritage Council and the Dept of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
Planning	8.3 Ensure that Financial Management and Control Systems are up to date and have the necessary functional capacity.	Implement development contribution scheme and ensure compliance through appropriate legislative processes	<p>Ongoing application of Development Contribution Scheme for County Monaghan and collection of contributions</p> <p>Financial management software purchased and implemented</p> <p>Commencement of the reconciliation of refundable deposits project</p>