

Agenda

Notice of Meeting

[Meeting Notice.pdf](#)

Not included

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 8th March, 2021

(ii) Minutes of adjourned Council meeting held on 22nd March, 2021

[Minutes 8 March 2021.pdf](#)

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[Minutes 22 March 2021.pdf](#)

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2.0 Correspondence

[April 2021 correspondence.pdf](#)

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3.0 To note the Draft Annual Financial Statement and approve over expenditures and transfers to Capital Account for the financial year 2020

[Draft AFS 2020 FINAL.pdf](#)

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[Transfers and overspends 2020.pdf](#)

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4.0 To approve the Draft Monaghan County Council Annual Report for 2020

[Draft ANNUAL REPORT 2020 Apr Co Co Meeting.pdf](#)

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5.0 To note the Draft Review of NOAC Performance Indicators 2019

[Draft PI Review April Co Co Meeting.pdf](#)

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6.0 To note the Annual Report of the County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee for 2020

[Draft JPC Annual Report 2020.pdf](#)

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7.0 To consider adopting Part IV of the Public Health Amendment

Acts 1890

 *Music and Singing licence appl.pdf*

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8.0 To approve nominations to the Transport and Community SPC

Note - there are currently 3 vacant positions on the Transport and Community SPC, as follows:

1. Trade Union seat - arising from the resignation of Eileen Riddell, SIPTU - nomination received from One Movement nominating Teresa Thompson, copy attached
2. Environmental seat - arising from the resignation of Michael Connolly - nomination received from the PPN nominating Terence Buckley - copy attached.
3. Community & Voluntary seat - arising from the death of Packie Boyle RIP - nomination received from the PPN nominating Fergal McMahon - copy attached

 *PPN Nominations to Transport SPC.pdf*

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 *Transport and Comm. SPC - Union vacancy.pdf*

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9.0 To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting on 30 March 2021

 *CPG 30 Mar 2021.pdf*

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10.0 To receive Management Report - March 2021

 *March Management Report.pdf*

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11.0 Business submitted by Chief Executive

12.0 Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held 8th March & 22nd March, 2021

Attach minutes of previous meeting - Item 1 above

13.0 To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

14.0 To receive update on North South Interconnector project

 *North South Interconnector.pdf*

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15.0 To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

16.0 Questions

 *Questions April2021.pdf*

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17.0 Notices of Motion

 *Notices of Motion.pdf*

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18.0 Votes of sympathy/congratulations

19.0 Conferences

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held via Microsoft Teams, on Monday 8th March, 2021 at 11.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr C. Carthy, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Campbell, Conlon, Coyle, Connolly, Gilliland, Keelan, Kerr-Conlon, Maxwell, McCooey, McKenna, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor, and Truell.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. P. Clifford, A. King, Ms. P. Monahan, Directors of Services, Mr. Cathal Flynn, A/Director of Services, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr. N. O'Connor, Oifigeach Gaeilge, Ms. M. McGarvey, Senior Staff Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllr McCooey and Cllr McElvaney

Sympathy – Mickey Kelly RIP and Raymond Logue, RIP:

The Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of sympathy with the families of Council employees - Mickey Kelly, former Dog Warden and Raymond Logue, General Operative, Ballybay – Clones MD who had both passed away in February. He expressed sympathy with Mickey's wife Deirdre, son Luke and the Kelly family and also with Raymond's wife Edel, daughter Aoife and son Ciaran and the Logue family.

All members of the Council associated themselves with the votes of sympathy. They spoke highly of the late Mickey and Raymond – recalling their personalities and their dedication to their work in their roles as Dog Warden and General Operative respectively. Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive and Mr. A. King Director of Services, associated themselves and the staff with the votes of sympathy.

Votes of sympathy were also extended to the following staff who had been recently bereaved -

- Geraldine Killen, Internal Auditor on the death of her father in law Alphonsus Killen, RIP
- Teresa McGuirk, Housing Section on the death of her mother May McKenna, RIP and Grainne McNamee, Planning Section on the death of her grandmother.
- Brian McCarron, Receptionist on the death of his mother Frances McCarron RIP and mother-in law of Fiona McCarron, Human Resources Section.

The Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for a short period as a mark of respect.

Seachtain na Gaeilge:

On resumption, the Cathaoirleach gave the following short address, as Gaeilge, in acknowledgement of Seachtain na Gaeilge -

A chairde tá muid i lár Seachtain na Gaeilge faoi láthair agus ba mhaith liom an cruinniú inniu a oscailt le cúpla focal Gaeilge. Ní cainteoir líofa mé ach déanaim iarracht cúpla focal a úsáid gach lá chun feabhas a chur ar mo chuid Gaeilge. Ba mhaith liom na comhairleoirí a spreagadh chun cibé Gaeilge atá acu a úsáid agus cuirim fáilte roimh na forbairtí le Gaeilge a chothú i bhfoireann Chomhairle Contae Mhuineacháin.

Agus ba mhaith liom Oifigeach Gaeilge na Comhairle Nial O'Connor agus Muineachán le Gaeilge a mholadh as ucht an comhoibriú leanúnach chun ár dteanga a chur chun cinn. Tá i bhfad níos mó daoine óga i gContae Mhuineacháin ag fáil a n-oideachais trí Ghaeilge so is cinnte go mbeidh an

Ghaeilge láidir i measc na nglúinte atá amach romhainn. Creidim gur chóir dúinn mar chomhairle tacú leis an fhás sin i gcibé gur féidir linn. Go raibh maith agaibh.

Colleagues, we are currently in the midst of Seachtain na Gaeilge and I want to open up today's meeting using a small piece of our native language. I am not a speaker of Irish and struggle with it but I use a cupla focal each and every day and continue to try and better myself. I want to encourage members to continue to use Irish whenever they wish and welcome advances made in supporting Gaeilge in the staff of Monaghan County Council.

I want to commend our Irish Language officer, Nial O'Connor, and Muineachain le Gaeilge for their continued collaboration in making our language more accessible. There are more and more young people being educated through Irish in Co Monaghan so our future generations will be far better equipped to use the language daily. I believe we, as a local authority, should continue to support that growth in whatever way we can. Thank you.

Urgent Business:

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received a notice of urgent business in the names of Cllrs P. Treanor, McKenna, Conlon and Carthy, as follows:

That Monaghan County Council writes to Bank of Ireland, The Financial Services Union, the Minister for Finance, Paschal Donohue TD and all local Oireachtas Members, demanding that Bank of Ireland reverse their decision to close their branches in Clones and Castleblayney.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed to go 'Into Committee' to discuss whether to accept the motion submitted as urgent business.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed to take the motion of urgent business at the end of the meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the Council revert to public session.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 8th February, 2021

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 8th February, 2021, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Letter from the Department of Transport confirming the Monaghan Regional and Local Roads Allocations for 2021.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding 2021 Allocation – Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People with a Disability Scheme.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D. regarding Rent Supplement.

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Science, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D. regarding Holiday earnings under the Student Grant Scheme.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Mr. Roderic O’Gorman, T.D. regarding Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence.
- Letter from An Post regrading Annyalla Post Office.
- Resolution from Limerick City & County Council regarding the suspension of preparation of the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 until restrictions are eased.
- Email from Brendan Buckley, Civil Defence Officer thanking MCC members for remembering his deceased mother-in-law Breda.
- Resolution from Limerick City & County Council regarding mother and baby homes.
- Resolution from Clare County Council regarding the current National Planning Framework.
- Resolution from Clare County Council regarding unauthorised occupation of public lands all over Ireland.
- Resolution from South Dublin County Council regarding Debenhams workers.
- Resolution from Tipperary County Council regarding extra support to regional newspapers who provide an essential service.
- Resolution from Tipperary County Council regarding PSO Levy on ESB bills for Community Halls and facilities.
- Resolution from Kerry County Council regarding student nurse’s payment.
- Resolution from Kerry County Council regarding making contact with Ms. Samantha Power, newly appointed Head of US Aid.
- Resolution from Kerry County Council regarding United Nations Security Council.
- Resolution from Laois County Council regarding the new Land Development Agency Bill 2021.

The following additional correspondence which had been received after the agenda had issued, was also circulated:

- Resolution from Sligo County Council regarding a meeting with an Independent Meat Regulator.
- Resolution from Sligo County Council regarding community groups in need as a result of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Resolution from Sligo County Council regarding local Post Offices.
- Resolution from Sligo County Council regarding proposed provisions of the Land Development Agency Bill 2021.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding MCC’s concerning the TB Herd History Risk Statement.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Defence and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D. regarding Jadotville.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that the Council support the resolution from Sligo County Council calling on the Minister for Agriculture to seek the appointment of an Independent Meat Regulator with statutory powers. The purpose of such an independent Regulator will be to have legislative powers to investigate anti-competitive behavior by meat processors, meat traders, bodies associated with the trade of meat, trade of meat by products and/or trade by retailers who operate along the meat supply chain.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that the Council supports the resolution from Kerry County Council calling on the Government to utilize its seat on the United Nations Security Council to deliver Statehood to the Palestinian people.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that this Council writes again to An Post and Minister Eamonn Ryan demanding the installation of a post box at Annyalla Village.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Connolly, it was agreed that the Council demand the withdrawal by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD and the Government of Section 56 of the Land Development Agency Bill published on the 2nd February 2021 which will remove the democratic powers of local authority members to have the final vote in regard to the sale/and or transfer of land in the ownership of the local authority to a third party. This section of the Bill is in direct contravention to the Programme for Government signed up to by the three government parties 10 months ago. It will remove Councillor's democratic power and is a direct attack on local government democracy. The motion, if adopted, to be forwarded to all Oireachtas members for Cavan-Monaghan and Minister O'Brien)

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the Council support the resolution from Limerick City and County Council calling on the Government to establish a national day of recognition for the women and their children impacted in mother and baby homes and that the Council writes to the Minister for Children asking that the survivors be given access to a written copy of the Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the Council support the resolution from Killarney Municipal District calling on the Minister for Health to arrange for the immediate introduction of payment to student nurses, once they take up placement duties.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the Council support the resolution from Tipperary County Council calling on the Minister for the Environment, Climate Action and Communication Eamon Ryan TD to provide for a 75% rebate in the PSO levy on ESB bills for community halls and facilities because of their inability to fundraise due to Covid 19.

Cllr Conlon requested that a reminder letter would be sent to Coillte seeking a response to his resolution passed at the January meeting seeking information on forestry plantations in Co. Monaghan. This was agreed.

3. To approve the MCC Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2021

Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director of Services, outlined the main elements of the Annual Service Delivery Plan (ASDP) for 2021, which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. He stated that the plan, which had been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 and in conjunction with the Draft Corporate Plan 2020-2024, identifies the services that the Council intends to provide to the public in the year ahead. He further stated that the Plan, which reflected the provisions of Budget 2021, sets out the objectives and priorities for each department; the strategies for achieving those objectives and the priorities and performance standards intended to be met.

Mr. Flynn then responded to queries from the elected members.

On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the Council adopt the Monaghan County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2021.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council writes to Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien TD and the Department of Housing and NOAC expressing our disappointment at the low targets established under the Rebuilding Ireland Programme resulting in Monaghan having the second lowest ownership of LA housing stock. That we seek appropriate funding increases and setting of increased targets to meet the considerable demand for social housing in County Monaghan that currently is only at 50% of the median state average and 1.2% of the State's housing stock.

4. To receive Notice of Intention to adopt Part IV of the Public Health Amendment Acts 1890

The Meetings Administrator referred to the Report which had been circulated. She explained that the Council had received a request from Seamus Mallon Solicitors Castleblayney, on behalf of Castleblayney Arts & Community Development Company Limited (Iontas Centre) for a declaration that Monaghan County Council (or it's predecessor Authorities) adopted Part IV of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890.

She stated that following a review of the legislation it was noted that the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 is divided into 5 Parts. Parts II, III and IV are adoptive by local authorities and only come into effect following a resolution of the local authority. Part IV (Section 51) deals with the issue of Music and Dancing Licences.

By virtue of Section 14 of the Public Dance Halls Act of 1935, licences for public dancing have been removed from the remit of the 1890 Act, but the licensing of public singing and music remains governed by the 1890 Act. This means that before a " Music and Singing licence" can be issued by the Courts under Section 51 of the 1890 Act, the Court must be satisfied that Part IV of that Act has been adopted by the local authority in the first place. It would require extensive resources to trawl through the minutes of Monaghan County Council and the former Town Councils to determine if indeed such resolution was passed, adopting Part IV. It remains open to Monaghan County Council to adopt Part IV now — the procedure is clearly laid out in the 1890 Act.

The Council's Solicitor has confirmed that *...the adoption of Part IV doesn't appear to have any downside for the Council but it would mean that any singing or public entertainment establishment which doesn't sell alcohol and which in the past didn't need a Part IV licence will now need one.*

The process for the adoption of Part IV is relatively straightforward and requires that the Council, following a period of notice to each member, pass a resolution, adopting Part IV of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 (as amended).

The Chief Executive explained that the purpose of having the item on the Council agenda was to give members the statutory 30 days period of notice which was required prior to the members taking a decision on the matter at the April Council meeting.

Cllr Maxwell requested that before the Council take a decision on this matter that clarification be provided in relation to the impact of such a decision on local community groups or community/church halls running an event to raise funds for charity or local causes.

5. **Diospóireacht as Gaeilge / Tuarascáil Bhliantúil - Coiste na Gaeilge**

The Irish Officer, Nial O Conchuir gave a presentation of the activities of the Coiste Gaeilge during 2020. The members had a debate after with contributions from the Chair of the Coiste Cllr Pat Treanor the Chief Executive and a number of members.

Rinne an tOifigeach Gaeilge, Nial Ó Conchúir, cur i láthair ar ghníomhaíochtaí Choiste Gaeilge na bliana 2020. Bhí díospóireacht ag na Comhairleoirí agus cuir an Chathaoirleach an Choiste, Cllr. Pat Treanor and Príomhfheidhmeannach agus roinnt Comhairleoirí leis an díaspóireacht.

The main item discussed was the possibility of exploring if the Council could secure extra resources and funding for a person to assist the Irish officer in collaboration with neighbouring local authorities. Members also referred to the Irish language classes that were organised last year and suggested that more classes could be organised via an online platform.

Ba í an phríomhábhar a pléadh ná féachaint an bhféadfadh an Chomhairle acmhainní breise agus maoiniú breise a fháil chun cabhrú leis an oifigeach Gaeilge i gcomhlúadar le húdaráis áitiúla chomharsanachta. Thagair na Baill freisin ar na ranganna Gaeilge a eagraíodh anuraidh agus mhol siad go bhféadfai níos mó ranganna a eagrú trí ardán ar líne.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council review how we implement our commitment to the Irish speaking community and investigate the benefits of a partnership with a neighbouring Council, like Cavan, Fermanagh/Omagh, Mid Ulster, etc, to improve our service with extra staff or staff hours.

6. **To endorse Housing Presentation on Home Heating and Energy Efficiency**

Cllr P. Treanor, Chair of the Housing SPC referred to the presentation to a recent Housing SPC meeting on Home Heating and Energy Efficiency in the Council's housing stock. The presentation contained the following proposals in relation to the future upgrading of heating systems in Council housing.

- Older persons, particularly those occupying Older Persons Dwellings (OPDs) will be allowed to continue with their preferred heating system where feasible, as OPDs become vacant they will be upgraded as the opportunity arises.
- At no cost to tenants, Monaghan County Council will continue to improve the Energy Efficiency of the dwellings it owns at every opportunity, towards eliminating fuel poverty, including the gradual phasing out of solid fuel heating systems because of the reasons set out in the preceding slides
- At no cost to tenants, heating systems will continue to be upgraded when they become damaged or come to the end of their life, the draught-proofing of the house will be improved and Monaghan County Council will ensure that the primary energy efficient heating system is working efficiently before removing the solid fuel fire because of the reasons set out in the preceding slides
- Monaghan County Council will provide zero interest loans up to the amount of €2000 for tenants who want to keep dual heating systems in their houses and will arrange repair and replacement work on their behalf (subject to compliance with applicable guidelines and regulations) to acknowledge the preference of some tenants

The Housing SPC had considered the matter and were in agreement with the proposals. He recommend that the Council endorse the proposals.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr S. Conlon, it was agreed that the Council endorse the proposals contained within the Housing Presentation on Home Heating and Energy Efficiency as outlined above.

7. To nominate one member to the Comhairle na nOg Steering Committee

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Campbell, it was agreed that this Council approve the nomination of Cllr Aoife McCooey to the Comhairle na nOg Steering Committee.

8. To receive presentation on Tourism Programme

Ms. Dympna Condra, Tourism Marketing Executive gave a comprehensive report to the members on the projects/activities carried out under the Tourism Statement of Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2022. She outlined in detail the collaboration with Failte Ireland and other agencies, and highlighted the projects which had been undertaken and completed during the period, under Product Development and Tourism Promotion. Following her presentation she responded to queries from the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach and a number of members thanked Dympna for her presentation and complimented her on the wide range of projects and promotional work undertaken in the past few years.

The Chief Executive thanked Dympna for the huge amount of work completed under the Tourism Programme. He pointed out that circa €4.8m had been directly invested in the various projects outlined by Dympna. This was a significant investment in County Monaghan and wouldn't have been possible without strong collaboration with Failte Ireland. He welcomed the figures announced by Coillte in respect of Rossmore Park where visitor numbers had doubled in the past year and the Park was second only to the Dublin mountains in terms of the increase in numbers.

Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded - that this Council writes to Failte Ireland and Tourism Ireland seeking to robustly re-assess their tourism promotion budget towards County Monaghan and to work with relevant stakeholders in a more appropriate branding for this County outside of the expansive Irelands Ancient East.

Also for Failte Ireland and Tourism Ireland to give a county by county breakdown of the tourism promotion allocation. That we also seek the development of a regional masterplan for Monaghan and neighbouring counties similar to the recently published multi-million euro funded Shannon Waterways Development Programme.

The Cathaoirleach put Cllr Conlon's proposal to the members – a recorded vote was taken which resulted as follows:

<i>For:</i>	<i>Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Keelan and P. Treanor</i>	<i>Total 6</i>
<i>Against:</i>	<i>Cllrs Campbell, Coyle, Maxwell, O'Hanlon, S. Treanor and Truell</i>	<i>Total 6</i>

The Cathaoirleach gave his casting vote in favour of the motion and declared it carried.

Meeting Adjournment:

It was agreed to adjourn the meeting to Monday 22nd March 2021 at 10.00 a.m., in order to consider the remaining items on the agenda.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____

Minutes of Adjourned Meeting of Monaghan County Council held via Microsoft Teams, on Monday 22nd March, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr C. Carthy, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Campbell, Conlon, Coyle, Connolly, Gilliland, Keelan, Kerr-Conlon, Maxwell, McCooey, McKenna, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor, and Truell.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. P. Clifford, A. King, Ms. P. Monahan, Directors of Services, Mr. Cathal Flynn, A/Director of Services, Ms. M. McGarvey, Senior Staff Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllr McElvaney

At the outset, Cllr Maxwell informed the members that he had received good news from Minister Heather Humphreys TD, that funding of €276,000 had been allocated for development works to Hollywood Park, Scotstown. All members and the Chief Executive welcomed the allocation of funding.

9. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 23rd February, 2021 which had been circulated.

Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded that Monaghan County Council remove the Council Library from the open market and that we do not sell this premises.

Cllr Maxwell proposed, Cllr Aughey seconded that Monaghan County Council place the Library building on the open market and see what offers are received.

A recorded vote was taken on Cllr Connolly's proposal which resulted as follows:

For:	Cllrs Connolly, Kerr-Conlon and S. Treanor	Total 3
Against:	Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Coyle, Gilliland, Keelan, Maxwell, McCooey, McKenna, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor.	Total 13

The Cathaoirleach declared Cllr Connolly's proposal defeated.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Aughey, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 23rd February, 2021 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

10. To fix a date for special meeting to consider the Capital Programme 2021-2023 and Civic Offices Project.

It was agreed that a special meeting for the purpose of considering the Capital Programme 2021-2023 and the Civic Offices Project would be held on Monday 19th April, 2021 in the Garage Theatre, Monaghan from 11 am to 1 pm.

11. To receive the Management Report – February 2021:

The members noted the Management Report for the month of February which had been circulated with the agenda. The Chief Executive and Directors of Services responded to queries from the elected members.

12. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive welcomed the allocation of €13.1 million towards the Dublin Street Regeneration Project in Monaghan Town from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.

13. Matters arising out of the minutes of Councils meeting held on 8th February, 2021

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8th February, 2021 were responded to by the relevant officials.

Cllr Keelan requested that a further letter would issue to Minister Stephen Donnelly TD in relation to his motion regarding the Medical Card review.

14. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Services informed the members that the update on this item had been included in the Management Report. She also informed them that the Council had received approval from TII to proceed to Phase 3 – Detailed Design phase for the N2 Clontibret to the Border and N2 Ardee to Castleblayney road schemes.

15. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

The members noted the following correspondence which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- a. Email from Michelle O'Neill, Sinn Féin regarding North South Interconnector.
- b. Email from Minister Heather Humphreys, T.D. regarding North South Interconnector.
- c. Letter from Senator Robbie Gallagher regarding North South Interconnector.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council renews its request to the Minister for Climate Action, Communications and Transport, Eamon Ryan TD & all Oireachtas Members for the Cavan-Monaghan Constituency for a meeting to again outline the total opposition of members to the over-grounding of the North-South 400Kv Interconnector and to again inform them clearly that this project will never proceed over the lands of Monaghan, Cavan and Meath.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to all party leaders requesting that they outline their party position / policy in relation to the under-grounding of the North - South interconnector.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council seeks a meeting (online) with Minister Nichola Mallon MLA and with Minister Eamon Ryan TD the line Ministers with responsibility for electricity infrastructure in order to discuss the north-south interconnector.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that the Council writes to Sinn Fein in Northern Ireland asking why they won't call for a petition of concern on the under-grounding of the North-South Interconnector.

Eirgrid Presentation to Council members:

The Chief Executive informed the members that subject to the agreement of the members it was proposed to receive a presentation from Eirgrid officials on the 21st April, 2021 at 2pm via Microsoft Teams. He stated that the presentation was part of Eirgrid's consultation process on its strategy – *Shaping our Electricity Future*. He further stated that he had informed Eirgrid that the North South Interconnector is a standing item on the Council's agenda and the elected members would expect this to be addressed in any presentation and discussions and questions which would follow the presentation.

16. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services informed the members that Waterways Ireland had sought tenders for Clones Marina Project on 9 March 2021 for the provision of Civil/Structural Engineer led Integrated Design Team services to support the delivery of the design and development of the restoration of an approximately 1km stretch of the Ulster Canal between Clones town and the Clonfad aqueduct just under 1km south west of Clones.

It was agreed to follow up on the request to Waterways Ireland and the North South Ministerial Council in relation to clarification on the progressing of the stretch of the Ulster Canal from Clones to Middletown, Co. Armagh.

17. Questions:

Cllr A. Campbell asked:

1. When Irish Water were upgrading the old leaking lead pipes in the centre of Castleblayney, there was a number of areas that was not finished. These leaking pipes are still causing a problem.
 - (a) what plans have Irish Water to finish off this work and replace and upgrade the unfinished works.
 - (b) when is envisaged that this work will now commence?

Reply: Irish Water have planned to replace all the pipework around Market Square but due to structural issues with the Courthouse we had to demobilise our contractor and finish out what works we could at that time. Since that time structural works have been completed at the courthouse.

Funding has been approved in 2021 to complete the replacement of the remaining old pipework (circa 200m of pipework). These pipe replacement works will be completed as part of the Leakage reduction Programme with the current estimated programme timeline as follows; - commencement in late Q3 2021 with circa 4-5 week construction period.

2. Regarding the awarding of contracts since the UK has left the EU and now Brexit is now a reality for local businesses and the difficulty that is now being encountered by these businesses. With the Local Enterprise Office now to organize workshops/training to both Micro and SME business in Monaghan on the preparation of tenders for public contracts.

- (a) When is this training due to commence?

Reply: The LEO has procured training for the delivery of a training workshop named **Effective E-Tendering for SME's**, which we plan to deliver in April/May. The trainer will be **Rocas Training & Consultancy**. Additional and bespoke procurement mentoring will be offered post workshop delivery. Customised Brexit related supports for Co. Monaghan businesses include Customs and/ or Supply Chain mentoring. Additional post Brexit supports include access to high level participative management development programmes that include, but are not limited to; **Financial Capability, Innovation and Green business**, the outputs, which can all be aligned to the procurement/sales strategies of Micro/SME's. LEO is hosting a focused Brexit session on **Distance Selling to UK** on 5th March 2021 and a **Post Brexit Cross Border Conference** will take place on the 10th March.

- (b) How will it be rolled out?

Reply: Procurement training will be rolled out virtually; using Microsoft Teams.

- (c) How will this be advertised to SMEs and small businesses and in particular new SMEs and businesses that have not engaged with LEO in the past.

Reply: Like all training and LEO programme offering, it will be advertised on Facebook and LinkedIn, organically and via paid advertising, thus reaching those who may not have previously engaged with LEO. Similarly, like previous Procurement training courses we have ran, it will be advertised in the Northern Standard. Direct mailings will be sent to 1500 businesses who are registered on our database. Additionally, we have had an initial meeting with the Procurement Office and have early stage plans to develop a partnership seminar/mini conference that will focus on supplier opportunities for the SME's with Monaghan County Council. One of the outcomes of this proposed event will be a call to action to avail of the procurement workshop training opportunity, thus enabling participants to increase the capability and competencies in pitching for MCC contracts.

- (d) What are the different amounts of contracts is this training geared towards?

Reply: Works/Works Related Services / Services for values less than €25k/ 25k-250k and 250k to EU threshold.

3. With the current pandemic lasting so long and with so much shopping being moved on line. What is the update on the trading online voucher scheme? What follow up processes is in place to help existing participants?

Reply: The **Trading Online Voucher Scheme (TOV)** is designed to assist small businesses with up to 10 employees to trade more online, boost sales and reach new markets. The scheme offers financial assistance of up to €2,500 with co-funding of 50% from the

business along with training and advice to help your business trade online. The scheme offered a 90% grant rate up to 31st December 2020 but is now 50% from 1st Jan 2021. In 2020 LEO received 166 TOV applications. Of those, 4 were ineligible and 5 didn't proceed. 157 applications were approved to a value of €333,528.28.

Follow up includes:

- I. Inclusion on the Shop County Monaghan directory which LEO and MCC promotes, furthering enabling their brand and profile to be developed and for sales to be achieved
- II. Bespoke series of capacity building workshops planned for Spring 2021 for the TOV recipients. 157 recipients were emailed directly advising of the initial training event named 3- Clicks -and -Your -IN and 43 Co. Monaghan participants attended this event on 2nd March. Additional direct email and marketing material will be distributed in regard to Distance UK Selling Rules on 5th March, Website Management on 16th March, Online Advertising on 30th March and Social Media 6th April. It is anticipated that these training workshops will not only increase capacity of the TOV recipients but will increase the return of investment by the Department.

4. Regarding the Market House in Castleblayney.

(a) What is the update on the survey/public consultation about the regeneration of the building which has been carried out recently by architectural consultants AP+E?

Reply: In December 2020 AP&E Consultants completed an online public consultation survey and held workshops with various community/stakeholder groups regarding the proposed regeneration of the Market House building. The consultants have completed an analysis of the consultation submissions and are currently progressing scenario planning for the building to evaluate potential future uses having regard to the importance of sustainable and viable options.

(b) What is the next stage of this process?

Reply: AP&E Consultants are scheduled to have their final report outlining the potential future uses of the Market House facility completed by the end of March 2021. Following this the Council will begin the procurement process for the engagement of Design Team Consultants to commence the preliminary design stage for the project.

(c) What is the timeline process for these stages?

Reply: AP&E Consultants are scheduled to present their report to the Council on the Market House and Market Square by the end of March 2021. It is anticipated that presentations of the final report will be scheduled with the Elected Members and relevant Community/Stakeholder Groups in April 2021 and following this the Council will begin preparation of tender documents for the engagement of Design Team Consultants. It is envisaged that the Design Consultants will be formally appointed in June/July 2021 to allow design works to commence for the refurbishment of the Market House building and associated public realm works in Market Square.

5. With the recent announcement from the Government of over €400,000 for the Retrofitting Programme for Social Housing which targets the energy efficiency of homes and is one of the many targets to reduce carbon emission.

- (a) What is the actual scope of work which will be carried out in each house?
The level of works being completed will vary between properties. Under the new programme of works, properties receiving energy efficiency upgrades generally must achieve a minimum Building Energy Rating (BER) of B2. In order to assess what works must be carried out to achieve this Building Energy Rating a Home Energy Report is prepared. Older and poorer performing housing stock may require deep retro-fit works including, external insulation, new windows and doors and an energy efficient heat pump, however, properties constructed more recently will not require the same level of retro-fit work to achieve the same BER. Properties are examined on a case-by-case basis, and the technical inspections and reports generated determine the extent of work required and available funding under the Energy Efficiency programme.
- (b) When this work is complete what will the energy rating of houses be compared to what they are now?
Reply: Under the new Energy Efficiency/Retro Fitting Programme, properties receiving upgrade works must achieve a minimum Building Energy Rating of B2 or Cost Optimal Equivalent. The Cost Optimal Equivalent element has been included within the requirements as the Department recognises that it may not be possible to achieve a B2 rating in every house due to varying factors within the property and those within the DEAP Software used to complete the assessments. Monaghan County Council will endeavour to achieve the maximum improvement in BER allowed under the programme. In properties upgraded to date there has been an improvement from BERs of D, E, F or G to B2.
- (c) What is the projected savings in terms of running costs of these homes and carbon footprint?
Reply: The Energy Efficiency/Retro Fitting Programme offers a number of different improvement options that can be completed to individual properties. All of these options will improve the running costs and carbon footprint of the property, but some will have greater improvements than others. The final savings will vary depending on the options completed at each property. In every case Monaghan County Council will complete the works that give the greatest return in terms of reducing running costs and securing environmental improvements. Tenant factors such as hot water usage, desired room temperature and hours of operating will create variables that will affect the final running costs and carbon footprint. In properties where deep retro fit works have been completed previously, and where the maximum upgrades available have been completed, (namely external insulation, new windows and doors and an energy efficient heat pump) the savings on running costs can be as much as, and in some cases more than, 50% per year with a reduction of 39.19 Kg/CO₂/m²/Year in carbon output.
- (d) Recognising that with Covid-19 only certain essential works can continue. What is the proposed timescale for these upgrades?
Reply: On some properties works have already commenced but as noted in the question the works have been paused due to Government restrictions under level 5 as Energy Efficiency works have not been deemed as essential. Proposed completion dates at these properties will be re-examined once restrictions have been lifted but initial indications are that works will be completed for late summer 2021. As the year progresses more properties will be added to the list with these properties being

completed toward the end of the year.

In terms of progressing other planned Energy Efficiency works Technical staff are examining alternative methods of surveying homes to progress works as much as possible during the current restrictions.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

6. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the publication of the community plans for the villages throughout the county; what is the next step for those villages that have had their community plans already published?

Reply: To date the following communities have had a commitment made to them by Monaghan County Council to produce a community plan.

<u>Community</u>	<u>Status</u>
Scotshouse	Plan completed & launched 2020
Oram	Plan completed & launched 2020
Newbliss	Final plan presented at community meeting late 2019. Those present wanted to bring it back to their respective groups for final sign off. The final sign off by the groups will be pursued when Covid restrictions are lifted.
Emyvale	Final draft plan presented at community meeting late 2019. Final sign off for the Plan will be pursued when Covid restrictions are lifted.
Lough Egish	The Plan was finished and delivered to the community in January 2021. Due to Covid restrictions, an official launch has not yet been organised.
Ballinode	Community Survey and a consultation with groups active in the area have been completed, and a draft Plan is being prepared. This will be open for community comment before being finalised. This process should be complete by summer 2021.
Smithborough	Work was delayed on this plan due to the outbreak of the pandemic in 2020. It is hoped to commence work shortly.
Donaghmoyne	Work will commence after Smithborough has been completed. As Donaghmoyne effectively consists of three separate communities, this will be a large undertaking and is expected to take the remainder of the year to complete.

With each of the above communities, projects identified in the process of engaging with the communities have been worked up into funding applications where appropriate, and several have been successful. Built into each Community Plan is the formation of a Community Council, with which Council staff will continue to meet to review progress of the Plan and identify how the Council can assist. The Council has also undertaken to appoint a Mentor/Facilitator to help the communities to get underway in implementing their Community Plan and to help them to set up and operate their Community Council.

7. In relation to the scourge of illegal dumping and recent media reports indicating that in some counties illegal dumping is up by 20% - 30%, what is the overall situation in county Monaghan; what enhancement measures, if any, are being taken to combat and catch those responsible?

Reply: In 2020 there was a reduction of 14% in the number of environmental complaints received by Environmental Services. Furthermore, across the Connaught Ulster Region there was no major upward trend in complaints received by neighbouring local authorities.

In relation to activities, there is a report on litter activities undertaken in 2020 in the Chief Executive's Report this month. In addition to this, Environmental Services is in the process of completing a pre-consultation with Tidy Towns, Comhairle na nÓg and PPN as part of a development of a new litter management plan for the County, which will be presented to members in 2021. This new plan will set out Monaghan County Council's plan for dealing with litter over the next three years.

8. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the roll out of an affordable housing scheme for county Monaghan given that so many individuals and young couples are locked out of secure rental and home ownership?

Reply: Affordable housing schemes aim to help lower-income households to buy their own homes. They offer eligible first-time purchasers the chance to buy newly constructed homes and apartments at prices less than their market value.

County Monaghan is an affordable place to live. In County Monaghan the average cost of a second-hand home is currently less than the cost of building a new home and there are more than 40 second-hand houses for sale in County Monaghan at present at prices less than the current cost of construction. New 3-bedroom houses recently completed in a private housing development in County Monaghan were sold at prices circa €230,000 each. The proposed new affordable housing scheme will provide a subsidy by way of shared equity to help people in need of affordable housing to buy houses in private developments.

A new Affordable Housing Bill was published on the 20th of January 2021, but this legislation has not been finalised and the details of the scheme are not available yet.

9. In advance of the upgrading of the N2, which is many years away, what enhanced safety measures will the Council, in conjunction with the TII, put in place including the provision of average speed cameras similar to those used in the port tunnel?

Reply: MCC will continue to liaise with TII Safety Section to monitor and manage road safety across the entire network including the N2. There are currently no plans to deploy an Average Speed Camera system along the N2.

10. In order to rejuvenate our deflated economy

- (a) What assistance has been forth coming from the local enterprise office, enterprise Ireland and other agencies to support the SME sector

Reply:

• **Summary of COVID-19 Supports to SME's**

Local Authority Supports

- **Restart Grant:** Offers financial assistance of up to €10,000 (based on commercial rates bill from 2019) to micro and small businesses to help with

costs associated with reopening and reemploying working following COVID-19 closures. Revised and replaced by Restart Grant Plus.

- Restart Grant Plus: The maximum grant up to €25,000 (up from €10,000) and the minimum payment will be €4,000 (up from €2,000). Firms that previously applied for the Restart Grant will be eligible to apply for a second top-up payment to a total combined value of the revised minimum and maximum grant levels. Closed to new applications from 31 October 2020.

SBCI Supports

- COVID-19 Working Capital Scheme: Provides working capital loans to COVID-19 -impacted businesses.
- Future Growth Loan Scheme -1: Provides longer-term loans for strategic investment. (Not a specific COVID-19 support but can be used as businesses respond to the pandemic).
- Future Growth Loan Scheme - Expansion: To provide for longer-term loans for strategic investment: the expansion was launched in July, during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- COVID-19 Credit Guarantee Scheme: Provides up to €2 billion in loans to businesses impacted by COVID-19 for liquidity and investment purposes.

Microfinance Ireland Support

- COVID-19 loan: Provides loans to microenterprises that do not meet the conventional risk criteria of banks

Local Enterprise Office Supports

- The Businesses Continuity Voucher: Provide support to firms who need assistance with business continuity and preparedness arising from the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Trading Online Voucher Scheme: Offers financial assistance of up to €2,500 along with training and advice to help your business trade online. Businesses that have already received a Trading Online Voucher can now apply for a second voucher, where upgrades are required.
- Micro-Enterprise Assistance Fund Available to Micro-Enterprises that have suffered a 30% reduction in turn-over due to COVID-19, provided that they commit to remaining open and to hiring and sustaining employment. This offers grant aid of between €500 - €1,000 of vouched expenditure on adaptation and reconfiguration costs, as well as COVID-19 consumables such as PPE, sanitiser and sterilisation equipment.

Enterprise Ireland Supports

- Online Retail Scheme €2m: The objective of the Scheme is to support companies in the indigenous retail sector with a pre-existing online presence to respond to both the domestic and international consumer demand for a competitive online offer. - reporting discontinued as scheme is closed.
- COVID-19 Business Financial Planning Grant: Grant to provide a strategic intervention to clients to work with third party consultants to prepare a detailed financial plan with forecasts and assumptions.
- LEAN Business Continuity Offer: The Lean Business Continuity Voucher will support enterprises to access up to €2,500 in training or advisory services support related to the continued operation of their business during the current pandemic.

- **Sustaining Enterprise Fund – Small Enterprise:** The purpose of the fund is to sustain eligible manufacturing and internationally traded services companies to provide support to companies: who have been impacted by a 15% or more reduction in actual or projected turnover or profit; and require access to liquidity to sustain business continuity.
- **Sustaining Enterprise Fund – HPSU:** Scheme is aimed at EI's HPSU companies who, due to the negative economic impact and uncertainty arising from COVID-19, are facing challenges in growing sales revenues as originally projected, require funding to execute a revised business plan and are facing challenges to securing this funding.

Intertrade Ireland Supports

- **E-merge:** Administered by Intertrade Ireland. Consultancy support and advice to help businesses develop online sales and ecommerce solutions.
- **Emergency Business Solutions:** Administered by Intertrade Ireland. Fully funded consultancy support and advice to address key business challenges in areas such as emergency cashflow, loan applications and HR/People IDA Ireland Support
- **Business Continuity Support:** Open to all IDA clients, the purpose of this support is to provide consultancy and training support to client companies of IDA to manage their operations and recover their business during this pandemic. Initial support of €2,500 can be approved up to a maximum support of €29,700.

• Summary of Brexit Supports to SME's

SBCI Supports

- **Brexit Loan Scheme:** open for eligible businesses with up to 499 employees to innovate, change or adapt in response to Brexit-related challenges. Loans range from €25,000 up to €1.5m, for terms of up to three years and a maximum interest rate of 4%. Loans up to €500,000 unsecured. This may be useful for businesses who have Brexit impacts on their cashflow (conditions apply).

Enterprise Ireland Supports

- **Ready for Customs Grant:** a new €20 million Customs Clearing Capacity Building Scheme to help SMEs involved in exporting and importing with the UK and further afield to put in place the staff, software and IT systems to be ready for new customs arrangements from 1 January 2021.
- **Online Customs Insights Course:** 40-minute online course on key customs concepts, documentation and processes.
- **Brexit Advisory Clinics:** took place nationwide providing information and practical support through individual meetings across Strategic Sourcing, Financial and Currency Management, Customs Transport and Logistics.

Local Enterprise Office Supports

- **Preparing your Business for Customs Workshops:** providing businesses with a better understanding of the potential impacts, formalities and procedures when trading with the UK post transition period.
- **Brexit Mentoring**

InterTrade Ireland Supports

- **Brexit Advisory Service:** practical advice, support and information on Brexit related issues.

- **Brexit Planning Voucher: offers 100% financial support up to £2,000/€2,250 (inclusive of VAT) towards professional advice in relation to Brexit matters.**

Microfinance Ireland Support

- **Brexit loan: Provides loans to microenterprises that do not meet the conventional risk criteria of banks**

- (b) What incentives are available for new start-ups that will encourage the uptake of vacant premises/retail units in our towns.?

Reply: There are no financial incentives available from LEO for new retail start-ups but the Leo offer training in Start your Own Business, Mentoring & Managing Development.

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

11. To ask Monaghan County Council for

- (a) An update in relation to the unfinished development, Chapel Court, Carrickroe and
 (b) What developments/progress has there been in relation to the proposed CPO of the derelict portion of this site?

Reply: Monaghan County Council is considering the possibility of acquiring the property through the derelict sites process. The feasibility of acquiring the property and bringing the vacant houses into use is under consideration and a valuation of the property has been sought to determine if it is feasible to acquire it and bring it into use.

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

12. With €218 million budgeted through the Department of Housing effort at tackling homelessness by way of the 'Housing First Model', what amount of this fund, and related support measures are allocated for Monaghan County Council for 2021?

Reply: Housing First is a national programme that is aimed at delivering support services to people who are homeless. The funding for this programme is provided to Local Authorities on a regional basis. Monaghan County is part of the North East region comprising the counties of Monaghan, Louth and Cavan. The funding provided for the Housing First programme for the period 2019 to 2021 is €387,763.00. The funding provides for the care and support element for people who are homeless. The Local Authority or the approved housing body provides the accommodation from their stock and the funding received is for the provision of support services. Monaghan County Councils target for this service over the three years is for three homeless people to be provided with this service. There are two people in Monaghan in the current Housing First programme.

13. With the declaration by Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien TD that the 2021 budget allocation "is the very definition of housing for all", what amount of the €50 million dedicated to the 'Serviced Sites Fund' is allocated for much needed social and private housing for County Monaghan.

Reply: The Serviced Sites Fund is intended to provide significant infrastructure such as roads, bridges or other services required to prepare and open up land for the development of housing in areas where the cost of purchasing a house is significantly higher than the cost of construction.

County Monaghan is an affordable place to live. In County Monaghan the average cost of a secondhand home is currently less than the cost of building a new home and there are more than 40 secondhand houses for sale in County Monaghan at present at prices less than the current cost of construction. New 3-bedroom houses recently completed in a private housing development in County Monaghan were sold at prices circa €230,000 each. The proposed new affordable housing scheme will provide a subsidy by way of shared equity to help people in need of affordable housing to buy houses in private developments.

County Monaghan has excellent roads and infrastructure in place which is currently facilitating the development of social and private housing. Monaghan County Council is encouraging Developers to complete unfinished housing developments throughout County Monaghan to provide social and private housing in or beside existing housing estates that have roads, services and all the necessary infrastructure in place.

€50million+ Social Housing projects in County Monaghan in 2021 include the following: (note that some sites have closed temporarily under current Covid19 restrictions)

- Clones Renewal Scheme 24 dwellings on 7 sites €6million (Monaghan CoCo Capital)
- Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme €3million nearing completion (MonCoCo Capital)
- Lui na Greine Scotstown 32 houses €7million (MonCoCo Capital)
- Gortakeegan Traveller halting site 14 houses €1.2million (MonCoCo Capital)
- Ard an Radhairc Carrickmacross 41 houses €9.8million (MonCoCo Capital)
- Liseggerton Clones 19 houses €3.3million (Oaklee Capital)
- Lough na Glack Carrickmacross 24 houses €4.5million (NEHA CALF) under SHCEP
- Magheross Carrickmacross 33 dwellings €6million (Tuath CALF) under SHCEP
- Radhairc an Bhrí Castleblayney 38 houses €8.1million (Tuath CALF) under SHCEP
- Lakeview Carrickmacross 12 apartments €2.4million (NEHA CALF) under SHCEP

In addition to the above Monaghan County Council has further social projects approved, planned and in the project pipeline equating to another €50million and it should be noted that social housing provided by Monaghan County Council in Capital projects funded under the Social Housing Investment Programme can be sold at a discount to tenants under the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme. County Monaghan's excellent roads and infrastructure currently in place and relatively low development costs readily facilitate the development of social and private housing.

14. What number of houses have been acquired by Monaghan County Council over the past three years for social housing units through Part V obligations from private developers in housing developments in excess of nine or more units, with a breakdown of these numbers and locations within each Municipal District area? At these locations have the social houses been clustered or dispersed throughout the developments?

Reply: Part V social houses are provided in all significant private developments of more than nine units. Over the past three years social houses were provided under Part V at the following locations:

- In 2018 the final 4 of 9 Part V houses were completed in a development in Carrickmacross; the first 5 were included in a phase completed in the previous calendar year.
- In 2019 the first 8 of 10 Part V houses were completed in a development in Carrickmacross and the first 2 of 4 were completed in a development in Castleblayney.

- In 2020 the final 2 of 10 Part V houses were completed in a development in Carrickmacross and the final 2 of 4 were completed in Castleblayney. Additional Part V houses will be provided in further phases of developments where required in compliance with the legislation.

No Part V houses were completed in the other two Municipal Districts during the last three years as no significant private housing developments were under construction. A new 73 house private development has commenced in Monaghan town in 2020 that will yield at least seven Part V houses to be delivered on a phased basis. The houses will be partly dispersed and partly clustered within the development, with four of the houses being provided in a cluster as they are intended to be single-storey accessible housing to be provided for older people and people with disabilities.

The decision as to whether Part V houses are to be dispersed or clustered depends on very large detached 4-bedroom houses and the social housing need identified is for smaller houses then the houses required under Part V might include pairs of semi-detached 3-bedroom houses or 4 or 5 no 2-bedroom houses as small clusters in the development to address the housing need identified and to incorporate the house types required into the development while maximising the number of houses delivered under Part V .

15. Please provide an update on what progress has been made with my proposal below, agreed at the February 2020 meeting: "That for the purpose of ensuring issues of accessibility are addressed on a regular basis, that a quarterly inspection is undertaken by designated Council staff persons with the requisite skill set, and that follow up remediation measures are taken to ensure optimum conditions exist in our towns and villages for those citizens faced with mobility challenges".

Reply: In response to the proposal to ensure issues of accessibility are identified and addressed on a regular basis, the Access officer developed a Streetscape Accessibility Checklist. The purpose of this checklist is to identify any barriers to accessibility on the streetscapes of the county, identify actions to remove any barriers identified and review progress on the remedial actions identified. The Streetscape Accessibility Checklist focuses on accessibility of the physical environment and includes:

- Footpaths
- Pedestrian crossings
- Designated accessible parking

Progress to date

- The Streetscape Accessibility Checklist was agreed by members of Monaghan Disability Network at the *Make Way Day* event on September 26th, 2020.
- Each Municipal District coordinator agreed to carryout quarterly inspections in each of the five towns in the county using the Streetscape Accessibility Checklist.
- The first inspections were carried out in the last quarter of 2020.
- Access issues identified have been incorporated into elements of work which will provide or improve accessibility within:
 1. Town & Village Renewal funding programme
 2. Active Travel Funding programme
- Due to the COVID restrictions and continued remote working arrangements no inspections have incurred in 2021.

- A copy of the Streetscape Accessibility Checklist is attached.

Clr C. Carthy asked:

16. Using currently active developments/sites in Co. Monaghan, what is the number of units that will, or are expected to, be made available for social housing for the remainder of 2021 with a breakdown of size and location; as well as expected delivery dates?

Reply: After the Government confirmed a shutdown in construction activity on Friday 8th January 2021 as part of the national effort to halt the spread of COVID-19 it was initially expected that all construction sites would remain closed until restrictions were eased. However social housing sites with dwellings that could potentially be completed by the 28th of February and subsequently 30th of April were allowed to remain open. Unfortunately, a small number of social housing sites in County Monaghan were not permitted to remain open as they were not nearing completion.

Monaghan County Council propose to deliver 121 Social Housing Units in 2021, subject to Construction works resuming in April 2021 and no further lockdowns/restrictions. See Table below for number of units, location and delivery breakdown.

The size of properties work out as follows; 40% of the properties will be 1 or 2 bedrooms, 50% will be 3-bedroom and 10% will be 4-bedroom

MD	Project Name	MCC or AHB	No of Units	Delivery Date
Ballybay - Clones	Clones Renewal Scheme ~ Boyle Sport Fermanagh Street *	MCC	3	Q1 2021
Ballybay - Clones	Clones Renewal Scheme ~ Davys Fermanagh Street *	MCC	3	Q1 2021
Ballybay - Clones	Liseggerton, Clones	AHB	19	Q2 2021
Ballybay - Clones	13 McCurtain St. Clones	MCC	1	Q3 2021
Ballybay - Clones	Clones Renewal Scheme ~ 2a & 3 Analore Street	MCC	2	Q4 2021
Ballybay - Clones	Clones Renewal Scheme ~ An Bonnan Bui & Flower Shop Fern	MCC	6	Q4 2021
Ballybay - Clones	Folly Court, Ballybay	MCC	6	Q3 2021
Total No of Units in Ballybay - Clones:			40	
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Plás an Bhri, Bree, Castleblayney *	MCC	26	Q1 2021
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Lough na Glack	AHB	24	Q1 2021
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Radharc an Bhri, Bree, Castleblayney	AHB	14	Q3 2021
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Drummond Close, Magheross, Carrickmacross	AHB	19	Q4 2021
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Lakeview Apartments, Drummond Radharc	AHB	12	Q4 2021
Total No of Units in Carrickmacross - Castleblayney:			95	
Monaghan	Cnoc na Greine, Tydavnet *	MCC	6	Q1 2021
Monaghan	Lui na Greine, Scotstown	MCC	18	Q4 2021
Total No of Units in Monaghan:			24	
* Units substantially completed in 2020:			38	
TOTAL to be Delivered in 2021:			121	

The total number of the dwellings above to be allocated in 2021 will total 159 which includes 38 that were substantially completed in December 2020 and reported as 2020 delivery.

It appears that the current Covid19 restrictions may remain in place for sites until April 2021 which is approximately a 14-week delay on the projects affected. Delays will be mitigated as far as possible and additional opportunities for provision of social housing continue to be explored

17. What is the total length of road network serviced by Monaghan County Council, in KM, and what percentage of this network is in need of repair (rated between 1-4): Can the road section give a breakdown as per Municipal District?

MD	Total Length (KM)	PSCI 1-4 (KM)	% PSCI 1-4
Monaghan	713	102	-
BBY-CLN	1062	149	-
CBY-CMX	788	189	-
Total	2563	440	17.17%

Road Length & PSCI rating 1-4 per District.

Reply: Total Length of Road serviced by Monaghan County Council: 2,563 Kms

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

18. Can Monaghan County Council give a detailed update on Local Improvement Scheme (LIS), which have greatly benefited many families in County Monaghan, but many families/businesses and landowners are awaiting to have access to their properties improved under this scheme-

- (a) How many applications are on the current scheme and awaiting an offer of works to be carried out?

Reply: There are currently 42 applicants on the current list and 118 applicants awaiting to be assessed for the new scheme.

- (b) How many applications have Monaghan County Council accepted prior to the closure of acceptance are awaiting assessment and when do the County Council expect to undertake this process?

Reply: Applications were received from 118 applicants prior to the scheme closing on the 31st December 2018. MCC hopes to carry out these assessments in 2021-2022.

- (c) In each of the past 5 years (2016,'17,'18,'19,'20), how much monies have County Monaghan received and how many lanes in each year have been completed?

Reply:

2017 – Allocation Received -	€366,312.00	-	21 Lanes Completed
2018 – Allocation Received -	€540,841.00	-	28 Lanes Completed
2019 – Allocation Received -	€250,000.00	-	14 Lanes Completed
2020 – Allocation Received -	€250,000.00	-	12 Lanes Completed
2021 – Awaiting Allocation			

- (d) When do Monaghan County Council expect to re-open the LIS to new applications?

Reply: Roads Department are continually monitoring waiting lists and assessing what can be done with available funding, and we propose to reopen the scheme when a significant portion of the current applicants have been cleared. Given the current rate of funding this may take several years.

19. How many roads in County Monaghan have had works carried out, including complete Restoration under the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS), in each of the years since the

County began participation and how much has been allocated to the County in each of those years?

Reply: **2018 - Allocation Received - €180,196.00 - 2 Schemes Completed**
 2019 - Allocation Received - €617,919.00 - 10 Schemes Completed
 2020 - Allocation Received - €544,000.00 - 7 Schemes Completed
 2021 - Allocation Received - €544,000.00

20. Can Monaghan County Council outline the stage at this point of the proposed housing units at Church Street, Ballybay, when works are expected to commence and be completed, with the details of the size of dwelling etc?

Reply: A Procurement competition for the demolition of the derelict fire damaged 12 Church Street, Ballybay property and construction of two number two storey two-bedroom townhouses was advertised on eTenders with tender prices returned recently. The Most Economically Advantageous Tender has been identified and Monaghan County Council has submitted the Tender Report to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for final Stage 4 Funding Approval. Providing Stage 4 funding is approved we expect to begin construction in Q2 2021

18. Notices of Motion

Cllrs P. Treanor proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded:

1. *That Monaghan County Council support the Beef Plan Movement association in their call for an Independent Meat Regulator. We further support their request that said Meat Regulator will have statutory and legislative powers to investigate anti-competitive behaviour by meat processors, meat traders, bodies associated with the trade of meat, trade of meat by-products and/or trade by retailers who operate along the meat supply chain.*

Following a short discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr Bennett seconded:

2. *That this Council records it's support for the World Health Organisation's plea for the equitable global distribution of all vaccines, treatments and therapies developed to combat the coronavirus scourge, and further notes:*
 - *that some 130 countries across the world have yet to receive a single vaccine;*
 - *that some countries have made arrangements for the delivery of vaccines far in excess of their populations need;*
 - *that multiple voices have raised concern that some of the world's poorest countries are unlikely to receive an adequate delivery of vaccines to meet their populations need until late 2023 or even into 2024;*
 - *the failure of the pharmaceutical companies behind the current batch of developed vaccines to share their research and findings with equally competent pharmaceutical manufacturers across the world to help speed up the production and distribution of vaccines and thereby the defeat of this global pandemic;*
 - *the European Commission's approval of an application by concerned citizens to secure one million signatures of EU citizens to compel the Commission to consider the steps it can take, including legislation, to address this global inequality;*

That this Council encourages all citizens to sign the EU hosted petition through Google Chrome on www.noprofitonpandemic.eu thereby helping to reach the one million signatures target at the earliest date possible.

That this motion is circulated to all County and City Councils in this State and all local authorities north of the border seeking their support and adoption.

Following a short discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

Cllr P. Connolly proposed, Cllr Coyle seconded:

- 3. That Monaghan County Council prepare a comprehensive report relating to its role and involvement in relation to the provision of services for mothers and babies from 1920-1970 and that this report together with archive material be placed on Council records, available and accessible to families seeking such information now and in the future.*

Following a short discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

19. Votes of sympathy/congratulations

It was agreed that a vote of sympathy would be extended to the following:

- Gareth McMahon, Council official on the death of his mother Maureen, RIP
- Liz Brannigan and Susan Duffy, Council officials on the death of their father Vincent RIP

It was agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to the following:

- Patrick Duffy, past pupil of Ballybay Community College on being awarded a scholarship and the NUI Mansion House Prize in Irish History and is now studying history at Lincoln College Oxford England.
- Paidí Walsh past pupil of Ballybay Community College on being awarded a Trinity College Dublin Entrance Exhibition Scholarship in recognition of his 2020 Leaving Certificate results.
- Kristofer Grigaitis, a 5th year pupil at Ballybay Community College on his qualification for the national finals of the All Ireland Olympiad held on 10th March 2021.

Urgent Business:

Cllr P. Treanor proposed, Cllr Carthy seconded

That Monaghan County Council writes to Bank of Ireland, The Financial Services Union, the Minister for Finance, Paschal Donohue TD and all local Oireachtas Members, demanding that Bank of Ireland reverse their decision to close their branches in Clones and Castleblayney.

Following a short discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council offer full support to An Taoiseach, Michael Martin TD, An Tanaiste, Leo Varadkar TD, Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs and totally condemn the threats made to these democratically elected representatives and all democratically elected representatives who uphold our democratic system, important to each of us, our families and communities, offer our full support to the investigating An Garda Síochána, also our full support, prayers and thoughts to the families of each individual involved and their constituents'.

(This motion if adopted be forwarded to each individual involved and An Garda Síochána).

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____

UNAUDITED

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Monaghan County Council

For the year ended 31st December 2020

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Draft Annual Financial Statement (AFS) 2020

Financial Review

Introduction

The 2020 Draft Annual Financial Statement (AFS) has been prepared, in accordance with the Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice (ACOP) and Accounting Regulations, on an accruals accounting basis.

The Draft AFS will be presented to a future meeting of the Council. The Audited AFS and Local Government Audit Report along with the Audit Committee's report will be submitted to the members of the Council for consideration in due course.

A summary of Expenditure and Income (including transfers) on the Revenue and Capital Accounts for the financial year 2020 is set out below along with 2019 figures for comparison

	Expenditure		Income	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
	€	€	€	€
Revenue	88,185,806	67,286,724	88,544,227	67,363,592
Capital	39,183,164	48,338,630	42,147,063	45,421,326
Total	127,368,970	115,625,354	130,691,290	112,784,918

The combined revenue and capital expenditure of nearly over €127 million makes a significant contribution to the economic and industrial development of the county.

The Statement of Comprehensive Income (Revenue Account)

The Revenue Account shows the level of expenditure and income across the eight service divisions and covers the day to day operations of the Council. The Statement of Accounting Policies on pages 8 to 11 sets out the relevant policies for the preparation of the Annual Financial Statement.

The opening revenue deficit for Monaghan County Council at 1st January 2020 was €2,223,600. The Council recorded a surplus of €358,421 for the year ended 31st December 2020 resulting in a reduced cumulative deficit of €1,865,179.

Over expenditure occurred on Divisions A, B, D, F and H. This over expenditure as detailed in note 16 on page 23 will require the approval of the members by resolution in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 2001. A report on the over expenditure and Transfers to Reserves will be presented to the Council Members at a future Council meeting.

Covid 19 – Government Financial Assistance

Monaghan County Council has approximately 2,428 rated properties in the county, many of whom were eligible to avail of the Government COVID 19 financial supports during 2020. The Rates Waiver scheme applied to most businesses for a nine month period during 2020. The Waiver was applied as a credit and did not necessitate an application from the business owner. This intervention by the Government had a positive affect on the financial position of the Council as Rates bad debts write offs may have been higher otherwise. The total Rates Waiver applied to Monaghan Council Council rate payers for 2020 was €6,137,862. This amount was recovered in full from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

A second Government financial support for local businesses was the Restart Grants. Most businesses operating from rateable premises were eligible for the grant. Restart grant, Restart grant plus and various add-on payments were made available to businesses. The total payment by Monaghan County Council during 2020 was €9,357,677. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment provided up front finance to the Council to cover the cost of Restart Grant payments. Monaghan County Council developed an in-house system which facilitated the early payment of this much needed finance to the local business sector.

A payment of €1,158,798 was made by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to Monaghan County Council for 2020 to help minimise the impact of reductions in Goods and Services income and to help meet the costs associated with the response to the pandemic.

Balance Sheet

The balance sheet for 2020 shows details of the fixed assets, work in progress, long term debtors, current assets, current liabilities and creditors greater than one year. The net assets of the Council amount to €1,481,350,120. The balance sheet also shows how these assets are funded. The most significant element of the net assets is fixed assets which account for €1,472,521,307. Details of the funding of these fixed assets is set out in note 9 to the accounts.

Capital Account

The summary of Capital Expenditure and Income in Appendix 5 and Analysis of Expenditure and Income on Capital Account shows the expenditure and income under categories and under the eight programme groups. Capital Expenditure in 2020 including transfers was €39,183,164. The most significant items of Capital Expenditure in 2020 were House Build and Purchases including turnkey houses €15.4m, Housing Maintenance, Works Prior to Reletting and Energy Efficiency works €0.7m, Clones Renewal projects €2.1m, Approved Housing Body acquisitions and constructions €3.9m, National Primary Roads €7.3m, Town & Village Renewal, Rural Regeneration Development Fund and Urban Regeneration Development Fund €1.6m, Fire Station Castleblayney €0.7m, Outdoor Recreation projects €0.7m and Peace Campus €1.0m.

Capital debt at end 2020 amounted to €23,268,085. The corresponding figure at the end of 2019 was €23,671,081. Capital debt decreased in 2020 due to an excess of loan repayments over loan drawdowns. Loan drawdowns during 2020 amounted to €1.1m and were predominantly for Rebuilding Ireland mortgage loans.

John Murray
Head of Finance.

Monaghan County Council

Certificate of Chief Executive & Head of Finance for the year ended

31 December 2020

- 1.1 We the Chief Executive and Head of Finance are responsible for preparing an annual financial statement in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001
- 1.2 We are responsible for maintaining proper books of account that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the local authority and enable it to ensure that financial statements prepared comply with the statutory requirements.
- 1.3 We are responsible for the safeguarding of assets of the local authority and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.
- 1.4 When preparing financial statements we have:
 - stated that the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Code of Practice and the accounting policies have been applied consistently; and,
 - made judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 1.5 We certify that the financial statements of Monaghan County Council for the year ended 31 December 2020, as set out on pages 12 to 43, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements as directed by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government.



Chief Executive



Head of Finance

Monaghan County Council

Audit Opinion to be prepared separately and inserted

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. General

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Code of Practice ACoP on local authority accounting, as revised by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) at 31st December 2020. Non-compliance with accounting policies as set out in ACoP must be stated in the Policies and Notes to the Accounts.

2. Statement of Funds Flow (Funds Flow Statement)

A Statement of Funds Flow was introduced as part of AFS 2011. While the guidance of International Accounting Standard 7 Statement of Cash Flows has been followed, the business of local authorities is substantially different to most private sector organisations and therefore some minor changes to the format have been agreed to ensure the data displayed is meaningful and useful within the local government sector. For this reason the statement is being referred to as a 'Statement of Funds Flow'. The financial accounts now include a Statement of Funds Flow shown after the Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet). Notes 17 – 22 relate to the Statement of Funds Flow and are shown in the Notes on and forming part of the Accounts section of the AFS. Note 19 details Project/Non Project/Affordable/Voluntary balances, which can be either a debit or a credit balance. The funds flow assumes that these are debit balances and bases the (Increase)/Decrease description on this.

3. Accruals

The revenue and capital accounts have been prepared on an accrual basis in accordance with the Code of Practice, except for the following; Fire Charges, Parking Charge & Fines, Library Fees & Fines, Planning Fees, Dog Licences & Fines and other minor sources of income.

4. Interest Charges

Loans payable can be divided into the following two categories:

- Mortgage related loans
- Non- mortgage related loans

4.1 Mortgage Related Loans

Mortgage related loans have a corresponding stream of income from long term advances (i.e. monies lent by the local authorities to borrowers), for the purchase of houses. Only the interest element is charged or credited to the Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income and Expenditure Statement).

4.2 Non Mortgage Related Loans

Note 7 to the accounts sets out the types of borrowing under this heading. Loans relating to assets/grants, revenue funding will not have a corresponding stream of income. Bridging finance will eventually become part of permanent funding. Loans in respect of the other headings will have a corresponding value in Note 3.

5. Pensions

Payments in respect of pensions and gratuities are charged to the revenue account in the accounting period in which the payments are made. The cost of salaries and wages in the accounts includes deductions in respect of pension contributions (including Widows and Orphans) benefits under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme and the Single Public Service Pension Scheme.

The Single Public Service Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme") commenced with effect from 1 January 2013. Employee contributions for the Single Scheme continue to be deducted by local authorities but are remitted centrally to DPER.

6. Agency and Other Services

Expenditure on services provided or carried out on behalf of other local authorities is recouped at cost or in accordance with specific agreements.

7. Provision for Bad & Doubtful Debts

Provision has been made in the relevant accounts for bad & doubtful debts.

8. Fixed Assets

8.1 Classification of Assets

Fixed assets are classified into categories as set out in the Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet). A further breakdown by asset type is set out in note 1 to the accounts.

8.2 Recognition

All expenditure on the acquisition or construction of fixed assets is capitalised on an accrual basis.

8.3 Measurement

A Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) incorporating all of the assets of the local authority was included for the first time in the Annual Financial Statement for 2003. The assets were valued based on the 'Valuation Guideline' issued by the DHPLG. All assets purchased or constructed as from 1/1/2004 have been included at historical cost. Accounting policies relating to leases are currently being developed and will be reflected in the financial statements at a future date.

8.4 Revaluation

As set out in a revision to the Accounting Code of Practice it is policy to show fixed assets at cost. Maintenance and enhancement costs associated with infrastructure assets are not currently included in fixed assets but will be reviewed at a future date. Due to their physical nature the vast majority of assets are unique to local authorities and are not subject to disposal. Any loss or gain associated with the net realisable value of the remaining general assets subject to disposal, are accounted for at time of disposal.

8.5 Disposals

In respect of disposable assets, income is credited to a specific reserve and is generally applied in the purchase of new assets. Proceeds of the sale of local authority houses are to be applied as directed by the DHLGH.

8.6 Depreciation

Under the current method of accounting, the charge for depreciation is offset by the amortisation of the source of funding the asset. This method has a neutral impact on Income & Expenditure and consequently the charge for depreciation and the corresponding credit from amortisation is excluded from the Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Statement).

The policies applied to assets subject to depreciation are as follows:

Asset Type	Bases	Depreciation Rate
Plant & Machinery		
- Long life	S/L	10%
- Short life	S/L	20%
Equipment	S/L	20%
Furniture	S/L	20%
Heritage Assets		Nil
Library Books		Nil
Playgrounds	S/L	20%
Parks	S/L	10%
Landfill sites (*See note)		
Water Assets		
- Water schemes	S/L	Asset life over 70 years
- Drainage schemes	S/L	Asset life over 50 years

The Council does not charge depreciation in the year of disposal and will charge a full year's depreciation in the year of acquisition. The normal depreciation rate for Parks per the Accounting Code of Practice is 2%. However a 10% depreciation rate has been applied by Monaghan County Council in relation to projects which were funded by Failte Ireland and were considered to be Parks with a useful life of ten years. The landfill is included in Note 1 under land and has been depreciated to a zero balance because in the long term the landfill is considered to be a liability because of the aftercare requirement of the landfill licence.

9. Government Grants

Government grants are accounted for on an accrual basis. Grants received to cover day-to-day operations are credited to the Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Statement). Grants received, relating to the construction of assets, are shown as part of the income of work-in-progress. On completion of the project the income is transferred to a capitalisation account.

10. Development Debtors & Income

Short term development levy debtors are included in note 5. Income from development contributions not due to be paid within the current year is deferred and not separately disclosed in the financial statements.

11. Debt Redemption

The proceeds from the early redemption of loans by borrowers, are applied to the redemption of mortgage related borrowings from the HFA and OPW.

12. Lease Schemes

Rental payments under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Statement). Assets acquired under a finance lease are included in fixed assets. The amount due on outstanding balances is shown under current liabilities and long-term creditors.

13. Stock

Stocks are valued on an average cost basis.

14. Work-in-Progress & Preliminary Expenditure

Work-in progress and preliminary expenditure is the accumulated historical cost of various capital related projects. The income accrued in respect of these projects is shown in the Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) as 'Income WIP'.

15. Interest in Local Authority Companies

The interest of Monaghan County Council in companies is listed in Appendix 8.

16. Related Parties

A related party transaction is a transfer of resources, services or obligations between the local authority and a related party. The main related parties for a local authority include the following:

- i. Management and Personnel
- ii. Council members
- iii. Government Departments
- iv. Local Authority Companies

Local Authority council members and key personnel are bound under the relevant sections of the Local Government Act 2001 and subsequent amending legislation to:

- a. furnish an annual declaration of 'declarable interests' set out in section 175 of the Act;
- b. disclose under sections 167, 178 and 179 any beneficial interests that they or a connected person has; and
- c. follow a code of conduct issued by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage under section 169 of the Local Government Act 2001 in 2004.

'Declarable interests' cover both financial and certain other interests such as land etc.

Local authority management and personnel salary and remuneration is determined by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in line with central government policy on rates of pay.

Local Authority interests in companies and joint ventures are disclosed in Appendix 8 to the Annual Financial Statements.

Local Authority transactions with government departments are governed by central government controls and procedures driven by government accounting rules.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT) FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2020

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year. Transfers to/from reserves are shown separately and not allocated by service division. Note 16 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget.

Expenditure by Division

	Notes	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
		2020 £	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £
Housing & Building		8,588,870	9,317,363	(728,493)	(337,701)
Roads Transportation & Safety		23,790,351	17,339,149	6,451,202	6,378,025
Water Services		7,651,049	7,565,317	85,732	191,527
Development Management		21,055,684	16,301,398	4,754,286	4,384,626
Environmental Services		6,273,314	1,177,758	5,095,556	5,380,183
Recreation & Amenity		4,595,636	286,645	4,308,991	4,164,630
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare		481,072	333,815	147,257	156,425
Miscellaneous Services		11,880,850	9,856,125	1,924,725	2,863,458
Total Expenditure/Income	15	84,316,826	62,277,570		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Property Tax				22,039,256	22,981,173
Rates				14,295,891	13,047,421
Local Property Tax				11,813,214	11,238,572
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers	16			4,069,949	1,304,820
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	14			(3,711,528)	(1,227,954)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year				358,421	76,866
General Reserve @ 1st January 2020				(2,223,600)	(2,300,466)
General Reserve @ 31st December 2020				(1,865,179)	(2,223,600)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AT 31st DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
Fixed Assets	1		
Operational		269,817,844	256,518,766
Infrastructural		1,190,473,583	1,190,473,583
Community		3,168,502	3,250,902
Non-Operational		9,061,378	9,147,873
		1,472,521,307	1,459,391,124
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	10,242,013	4,770,889
Long Term Debtors	3	21,505,476	21,396,070
Current Assets			
Stocks	4	127,574	160,299
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5	8,432,111	8,405,423
Bank Investments		10,000,000	4,000,000
Cash at Bank		2,469,015	1,728,016
Cash in Transit		127,516	67,367
		21,156,316	14,361,105
Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)			
Bank Overdraft		-	-
Creditors & Accruals	6	11,329,900	8,620,418
Finance Leases		-	-
		11,329,900	8,620,418
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		9,826,416	5,740,687
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)			
Loans Payable	7	21,862,593	22,287,081
Finance Leases		-	-
Refundable deposits	8	5,863,308	4,989,870
Other		5,019,191	4,829,122
		32,745,092	32,106,073
Net Assets		1,481,350,120	1,459,192,697
Represented by			
Capitalisation Account	9	1,472,521,305	1,459,391,124
Income WIP	2	8,279,399	3,220,097
General Revenue Reserve		(1,865,179)	(2,223,600)
Other Specific Reserves		-	-
Other Balances	10	2,414,602	(1,194,916)
Total Reserves		1,481,350,120	1,459,192,697

**STATEMENT OF FUNDS FLOW (FUNDS FLOW STATEMENT)
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

	Note	2020 €	2020 €
REVENUE ACTIVITIES			
Net Inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	17		3,073,940
CAPITAL ACTIVITIES			
Returns on Investment & Servicing of Finance			
Increase/(Decrease) in Fixed Asset Capitalisation Funding		13,130,182	
Increase/(Decrease) in WIP/Preliminary Funding		5,059,302	
Increase/(Decrease) in Reserves Balances	18	<u>3,287,721</u>	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Returns on Investment and Servicing of Finance			21,477,205
Capital Expenditure & Financial Investment			
(Increase)/Decrease in Fixed Assets		(13,130,183)	
(Increase)/Decrease in WIP/Preliminary Funding		(5,471,124)	
(Increase)/Decrease in Other Capital Balances	19	<u>87,999</u>	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Capital Expenditure and Financial Investment			(18,513,308)
Financing			
Increase/(Decrease) in Loan Financing	20	(343,825)	
(Increase)/Decrease in Reserve Financing	21	<u>233,798</u>	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Financing Activities			(110,027)
Third Party Holdings			
Increase/(Decrease) in Refundable Deposits			873,438
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	22		<u><u>6,801,248</u></u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

1. Fixed Assets

	Land	Parks	Housing	Buildings	Plant & Machinery (Long & Short Life)	Computers, Furniture & Equipment	Heritage	Roads & Infrastructure	Water & Sewerage Network	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Costs										
Accumulated Costs @ 1/1/2020	82,964,314	2,442,073	202,945,635	45,576,420	7,337,002	3,815,995	1,210,116	1,190,730,582	-	1,477,022,137
Additions										
- Purchased	420,000	-	13,028,736	653,454	170,512	19,542	35,943	-	-	14,328,187
- Transfers WIP	-	-	-	1,719,921	-	-	-	-	-	1,719,921
Disposals/Statutory Transfers	(95,000)	-	(2,035,127)	98,882	(52,000)	-	-	-	-	(2,083,245)
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Historical Cost Adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accumulated Costs @ 31/12/2020	23,289,314	2,442,073	213,939,244	48,048,677	7,455,514	3,835,537	1,246,059	1,190,730,582	-	1,490,987,000
Depreciation										
Depreciation @ 1/1/2020	6,504,800	1,843,868	-	-	6,353,595	2,928,750	-	-	-	17,631,013
Provision for Year	-	173,078	-	-	461,682	251,920	-	-	-	886,680
Disposals/Statutory Transfers	-	-	-	-	(52,000)	-	-	-	-	(52,000)
Accumulated Depreciation @ 31/12/2020	6,504,800	2,016,946	-	-	6,763,277	3,180,670	-	-	-	18,465,693
Net Book Value @ 31/12/2020	16,784,514	425,127	213,939,244	48,048,677	692,237	654,867	1,246,059	1,190,730,582	-	1,472,521,307
Net Book Value @ 31/12/2019	16,459,514	598,205	202,945,635	45,576,420	983,407	887,245	1,210,116	1,190,730,582	-	1,459,391,124
Net Book Value by Category										
Operational	7,867,129	46,712	213,749,244	46,823,868	692,237	389,155	12,500	256,999	-	269,817,844
Infrastructural	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,190,473,583	-	1,190,473,583
Community	75,000	378,416	-	1,198,809	-	282,718	1,233,559	-	-	3,168,502
Non-Operational	8,842,385	-	190,000	26,000	-	2,993	-	-	-	9,061,378
Net Book Value @ 31/12/2020	16,784,514	425,127	213,939,244	48,048,677	692,237	654,866	1,246,059	1,190,730,582	-	1,472,521,307

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

2. Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses

A summary of work in progress and preliminary expenditure by asset category is as follows:

	Funded 2020 €	Unfunded 2020 €	Total 2020 €	Total 2019 €
Expenditure				
Work in Progress	8,626,755		8,626,755	2,486,350
Preliminary Expenses	1,813,782	1,476	1,815,258	2,284,539
	10,240,537	1,476	10,242,013	4,770,889
Income				
Work in Progress	7,303,708		7,303,708	1,687,407
Preliminary Expenses	975,691		975,691	1,532,690
	8,279,399	-	8,279,399	3,220,097
Net Expended				
Work in Progress	1,323,047		1,323,047	796,943
Preliminary Expenses	638,091	1,476	639,567	751,849
Net Over/(Under) Expenditure	1,961,138	1,476	1,962,614	1,550,792

3. Long Term Debtors

A breakdown of the long-term debtors is as follows:

	Balance @ 1/1/2020 €	Loans Issued €	Principal Repaid €	Early Redemptions €	Other Adjustments €	Balance @ 31/12/2020 €	Balance @ 31/12/2019 €
Long Term Mortgage Advances*	11,133,078	1,074,209	(653,219)	(152,768)	(428)	11,400,872	11,133,078
Tenant Purchases Advances	(100)		100				(100)
Shared Ownership Rented Equity	670,110			(8,876)		661,234	670,110
	11,803,088	1,074,209	(653,119)	(161,644)	(428)	12,062,106	11,803,088
Recoverable Loan Advances						5,417,530	5,748,064
Capital Advance Leasing Facility						5,019,191	4,829,122
Long-term Investments							
Cash							
Interest in associated companies							
Other						838	838
						10,437,559	10,578,024
						22,499,665	22,381,112
Less: Amounts falling due within one year (Note 5)						(994,189)	(985,042)
Total Amounts falling due after more than one year						21,505,476	21,396,070

* Includes HFA Agency Loans

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

4. Stocks

A summary of stock is as follows:

	2020 €	2019 €
Central Stores	107,448	114,810
Other Depots	20,126	45,489
Total	127,574	160,299

5. Trade Debtors & Prepayments

A breakdown of debtors and prepayments is as follows:

	2020 €	2019 €
Government Debtors	1,500,525	348,577
Commercial Debtors	3,604,438	3,520,039
Non-Commercial Debtors	375,011	491,302
Development Levy Debtors	2,422,711	1,961,757
Other Services	397,998	378,415
Other Local Authorities	48,228	25,465
Revenue Commissioners	-	-
Other	577,650	1,068,462
Add: Amounts falling due within one year (Note 3)	994,189	985,042
Total Gross Debtors	9,920,750	8,779,059
Less: Provision for Doubtful Debts	(2,754,066)	(2,264,883)
Total Trade Debtors	7,166,684	6,514,176
Prepayments	1,265,427	1,891,247
	8,432,111	8,405,423

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

6. Creditors and Accruals

A breakdown of creditors and accruals is as follows:

	2020	2019
	€	€
Trade creditors	1,929,488	2,532,240
Grants	33,302	3,065
Revenue Commissioners	1,913,322	2,089,279
Other Local Authorities	14,702	248,035
Other Creditors	59,898	80,077
	3,950,712	4,952,696
Accruals	2,474,554	1,138,730
Deferred Income	3,499,143	1,144,993
Add: Amounts falling due within one year (Note 7)	1,405,491	1,383,999
	11,329,900	8,620,418

7. Loans Payable

(a) Movement in Loans Payable

	HFA	OPW	Other	Balance @ 31/12/2020	Balance @ 31/12/2019
	€	€	€	€	€
Balance @ 1/1/2020	23,318,581	-	352,500	23,671,081	20,524,645
Borrowings	1,074,209	-	-	1,074,209	5,257,770
Repayment of Principal	(1,418,455)	-	(58,750)	(1,477,205)	(2,111,334)
Early Redemptions	-	-	-	-	-
Other Adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
Balance @ 31/12/2020	22,974,335	-	293,750	23,268,085	23,671,081
Less: Amounts falling due within one year (Note 6)				1,405,491	1,383,999
Total Amounts falling due after more than one year				21,862,594	22,287,082

(b) Application of Loans

An analysis of loans payable is as follows:

	HFA	OPW	Other	Balance @ 31/12/2020	Balance @ 31/12/2019
	€	€	€	€	€
Mortgage loans*	11,477,539	-	-	11,477,539	11,281,721
Non-Mortgage loans					
Asset/Grants	5,500,165	-	293,750	5,793,915	6,027,713
Revenue Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Bridging Finance	-	-	-	-	-
Recoupable	5,417,528	-	-	5,417,528	5,748,062
Shared Ownership – Rented Equity	579,102	-	-	579,102	613,584
	22,974,334	-	293,750	23,268,084	23,671,080
Less: Amounts falling due within one year (Note 6)				1,405,491	1,383,999
Total Amounts falling due after more than one year				21,862,593	22,287,081

* Includes HFA Agency Loans

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

8. Refundable Deposits

The movement in refundable deposits is as follows:

	2020 €	2019 €
Opening Balance at 1 January	4,989,869	4,968,174
Deposits received	1,010,297	1,097,366
Deposits repaid	(136,858)	(1,075,670)
Closing Balance at 31 December	5,863,308	4,989,870

Note: Short Term Refundable Deposits are included as part of Cash Investments on the Balance sheet

9. Capitalisation Account

The capitalisation account shows the funding of the assets as follows:

	Balance @ 1/1/2020 €	Purchased €	Transfers WIP €	Disposals/Statutory Transfers €	Revaluations €	Historical Cost Adj €	Balance @ 31/12/2020 €	Balance @ 31/12/2019 €
Grants	289,708,046	12,800,167	1,719,921	-	-	-	304,228,134	289,708,046
Loans	5,961,751	-	-	-	-	-	5,961,751	5,961,751
Revenue funded	1,655,214	27,326	-	-	-	-	1,682,540	1,655,214
Leases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Development Levies	1,344,998	300,000	-	-	-	-	1,644,998	1,344,998
Tenant Purchase Annuities	227,353	-	-	-	-	-	227,353	227,353
Unfunded	886,462	-	-	-	-	-	886,462	886,462
Historical	1,168,186,918	-	-	-	-	-	1,168,186,918	1,168,186,918
Other	9,051,394	1,200,693	-	(2,083,245)	-	-	8,168,842	9,051,394
Total Gross Funding	1,477,022,136	14,328,186	1,719,921	(2,083,245)	-	-	1,490,986,998	1,477,022,136
Less: Amortised							(18,465,693)	(17,631,013)
Total *							1,472,521,305	1,459,391,123

* Must agree with note 1

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

10. Other Balances

A breakdown of other balances is as follows:

		Balance @ 1/1/2020 €	Capital re-classification * €	Expenditure €	Income €	Net Transfers €	Balance @ 31/12/2020 €	Balance @ 31/12/2019 €
Development Levies balances	(i)	5,608,588	-	12,841	1,025,968	(148,188)	6,473,527	5,608,588
Capital account balances including asset formation and enhancement	(ii)	(8,485,775)	(493,937)	27,888,649	28,026,252	1,244,712	(7,597,397)	(8,485,775)
Voluntary & Affordable Housing Balances	(iii)	-	-	3,586,556	2,786,177	-	(800,379)	-
- Voluntary Housing		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Affordable Housing		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves created for specific purposes	(iv)	7,733,828	(29,723)	1,146,204	1,552,971	2,045,738	10,156,810	7,733,828
A. Net Capital Balances		4,856,641	(523,660)	32,634,250	33,391,368	3,142,262	8,232,361	4,856,641
Balance Sheet accounts relating the loan principal outstanding (including Unrealised TP Annuities)	(v)						(5,817,759)	(6,051,557)
Interest in Associated Companies	(vi)						-	-
B. Non Capital Balances							(5,817,759)	(6,051,557)
Total Other Balances							2,414,602	(1,194,916)

* (i) Denotes Debit Balances

- (i) This represents the cumulative balance of development levies i.e. income less expenditure and transfers to date.
- (ii) This represents the cumulative position on funded and unfunded capital jobs consisting of project (completed assets) and non-project (enhancement of assets) balances. Debit balances will require sources of funding to clear.
- (iii) This represents the cumulative position on voluntary and affordable housing projects.
- (iv) Relates to reserves and advance funding for future Local Authority assets, insurance liabilities, other purposes and includes realised tenant purchase annuities.
- (v) Loan related balances including outstanding principal on leases and non-mortgage loans remaining to be funded, historical mortgage funding gap, unrealised principal on tenant purchase annuities to be repaid in the future and shared ownership rented equity.
- (vi) Represents the local authority's interest in associated companies.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

11. Capital Account Analysis

The capital account has been de-aggregated and is comprised of the following accounts in the balance sheet:

	2020 €	2019 €
Net WIP & Preliminary Expenses (Note 2)	(1,962,615)	(1,550,793)
Net Capital Balances (Note 10)	8,232,361	4,856,641
Capital Balance Surplus/(Deficit) @ 31 December	6,269,746	3,305,848

A summary of the changes in the Capital account (see Appendix 6) is as follows:

	2020 €	2019 €
Opening Balance @ 1 January	3,305,848	6,223,151
Expenditure	39,025,714	47,492,928
Income		
- Grants	35,597,017	35,508,756
- Loans	-	4,300,000
- Other	2,914,854	3,766,059
Total Income	38,511,871	43,574,815
Net Revenue Transfers	3,477,740	1,000,809
Closing Balance @ 31 December	6,269,745	3,305,847

12. Mortgage Loan Funding Surplus/(Deficit)

The mortgage loan funding position on the balance sheet is as follows:

	2020 Loan Annuity €	2020 Rented Equity €	2020 Total €	2019 Total €
Mortgage Loans/Equity Receivable (LT Mortgage Shared Own Note 3)	11,400,872	661,234	12,062,106	11,803,188
Mortgage Loans/Equity Payable (Mort Loans Shared Own Note 7)	(11,477,539)	(579,102)	(12,056,641)	(11,895,305)
Surplus/(Deficit) in Funding @ 31st December	(76,667)	82,132	5,465	(92,117)

€

NOTE: Cash on Hand relating to Redemptions and Relending

13. Summary of Plant & Materials Account

A summary of the operations of the Plant & Machinery account is as follows:

	2020 Plant & Machinery €	2020 Materials €	2020 Total €	2019 Total €
Expenditure	(877,575)	(55)	(877,630)	(947,821)
Charged to Jobs	1,136,086	-	1,136,086	1,198,479
	258,511	(55)	258,456	250,658
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	(258,511)	55	(258,456)	(250,658)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	-	-	-	-

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

14. Transfers from/(to) Reserves

A summary of transfers to/from Reserves is as follows:

	2020	2020	2020	2019
	Transfers from Reserves	Transfers to Reserves		
	€	€	€	€
Principal Repayments of Non-Mortgage Loans (Own Asset)	-	(233,787)	(233,787)	(227,144)
Principal Repayments of Non-Mortgage Loans (Recoupable Non Asset)	-	-	-	-
Principal Repayments of Finance Leases	-	-	-	-
Transfers to Other Balance Sheet Reserves	-	-	-	-
Transfers to/from Capital Account	157,451	(3,635,191)	(3,477,740)	(1,000,810)
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	157,451	(3,868,978)	(3,711,527)	(1,227,954)

15. Analysis of Revenue Income

A summary of the major sources of revenue income is as follows:

	Appendix No	2020		2019	
		€	%	€	%
Grants & Subsidies	3	48,610,506	55.00%	27,873,035	41.90%
Contributions from other local authorities		412,301	0.47%	359,670	0.54%
Goods & Services	4	13,254,762	15.00%	13,999,193	21.05%
		62,277,569	70.47%	42,231,898	63.49%
Local Property Tax		11,813,214	13.37%	11,238,572	16.90%
Rates		14,295,991	16.17%	13,047,421	19.61%
Total Income		88,386,774	100.01%	66,517,891	100.00%

From 2017 onwards, local authorities will no longer retain PRD locally. Accordingly, an upward adjustment was made to the LPT baseline of each local authority, to include an additional amount equivalent to the PRD income retained by local authorities in 2014.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

16. Over/Under Expenditure

The following table shows the difference between the adopted estimates and the actual outcome in respect of both expenditure and income.

	EXPENDITURE				
	Excluding Transfers	Transfers	Including Transfers	Budget	(Over)/Under Budget
	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	8,588,870	72,625	8,661,495	7,805,047	(856,448)
Roads Transportation & Safety	23,790,551	463,166	24,253,717	19,255,129	(4,998,588)
Water Services	7,651,049	75,230	7,726,279	8,763,784	1,037,505
Development Management	21,055,684	229,271	21,284,955	10,355,027	(10,929,928)
Environmental Services	6,273,314	221,792	6,495,106	6,591,480	96,374
Recreation & Amenity	4,595,636	381,996	4,977,632	4,912,016	(65,616)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	481,072	10,438	491,510	517,254	25,744
Miscellaneous Services	11,880,650	2,414,462	14,295,112	6,978,286	(7,317,026)
Total Divisions	84,316,826	3,868,980	88,185,806	65,779,023	(22,406,783)
Local Property Tax					
Rates					
Dr/Cr Balance					
(Deficit)/Surplus for Year	84,316,826	3,868,980	88,185,806	65,779,023	(22,406,783)

	INCOME				
	Excluding Transfers	Transfers	Including Transfers	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020
	€	€	€	€	€
	9,317,363	-	9,317,363	8,249,873	1,067,490
	17,339,149	69,039	17,408,188	12,872,905	4,535,283
	7,565,317	-	7,565,317	8,588,623	(1,023,306)
	16,301,398	5,466	16,306,864	5,655,900	10,650,964
	1,177,758	-	1,177,758	981,567	196,191
	296,645	-	296,645	245,061	40,984
	333,815	-	333,815	312,680	21,155
	9,956,125	82,347	10,038,472	2,841,770	7,196,702
	62,277,570	157,452	62,435,022	39,758,959	22,676,063
	11,813,214	-	11,813,214	11,813,213	1
	14,295,931	-	14,295,931	14,206,851	89,140
	88,386,775	157,452	88,544,227	65,779,023	22,765,204

NET	
(Over)/Under Budget	2020
	€
	211,042
	(462,505)
	4,199
	322,036
	292,555
	(24,632)
	46,889
	(120,324)
	269,280
	1
	89,140
	-
	358,421

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

	2020 €
17. Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities	
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	358,421
(Increase)/Decrease in Stocks	32,725
(Increase)/Decrease in Trade Debtors	(26,688)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors Less than One Year	2,709,482
	<u>3,073,940</u>
18. Increase/(Decrease) in Reserve Balances	
Increase/(Decrease) in Development Levies balances	864,939
Increase/(Decrease) in Reserves created for specific purposes	2,422,782
	<u>3,287,721</u>
19. (Increase)/Decrease in Other Capital Balances	
(Increase)/Decrease in Capital account balances including asset formation and enhancement	888,378
(Increase)/Decrease in Voluntary Housing Balances	(800,379)
(Increase)/Decrease in Affordable Housing Balances	-
	<u>87,999</u>
20. Increase/(Decrease) in Loan Financing	
(Increase)/Decrease in Long Term Debtors	(109,406)
Increase/(Decrease) in Mortgage Loans	195,818
Increase/(Decrease) in Asset/Grant Loans	(233,798)
Increase/(Decrease) in Revenue Funding Loans	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Bridging Finance Loans	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Recoupable Loans	(330,534)
Increase/(Decrease) in Shared Ownership Rented Equity Loans	(34,482)
Increase/(Decrease) in Finance Leasing	-
(Increase)/Decrease in Portion Transferred to Current Liabilities	(21,492)
Increase/(Decrease) in Other Creditors - Deferred Income	190,069
	<u>(343,825)</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

2020
€

21. (Increase)/Decrease in Reserve Financing

(Increase)/Decrease in Other Specific Reserves	-
(Increase)/Decrease in Balance Sheet accounts relating the loan principal outstanding (including Unrealised TP Annuities)	233,798
(Increase)/Decrease in Reserves in Associated Companies	-
	<u>233,798</u>

22. Analysis of Changes in Cash & Cash Equivalent

Increase/(Decrease) in Bank Investments	6,000,000
Increase/(Decrease) in Cash at Bank/Overdraft	740,999
Increase/(Decrease) in Cash in Transit	60,249
	<u>6,801,248</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

23. Accounting for the Rates Waiver/Credit in Lieu in relation to Commercial Rates

To support both the local government sector and commercial rate payers, a funding package of €900m was allocated by the Government to fund the cost of a waiver of commercial rates for 9 months (27th March 2020 – 27th December 2020) for businesses forced to close and business that experienced significant negative economic disruption due to public health restrictions imposed in response to COVID-19.

The cost of this support is reported in Appendix 1 as a Payment of Subsidies and Grants under the Operational Expenses heading.

The income appears in Appendix 3 under the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage as a grant called Covid-19.

The credit in lieu is reported in Appendix 7 under Waivers/Credits.

The full Rates Accrued Income for 2020 appears in the Income and Expenditure Account as normal.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1
ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE
FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

	2020 €	2019 €
Payroll Expenses		
Salary & Wages	20,869,401	20,041,860
Pensions (incl Gratuities)	3,592,325	3,580,477
Other costs	2,321,187	2,667,611
Total	26,782,913	26,299,948
Operational Expenses		
Purchase of Equipment	605,164	539,346
Repairs & Maintenance	802,332	1,061,921
Contract Payments	11,559,126	9,292,475
Agency services	235,673	242,758
Machinery Yard Charges incl Plant Hire	1,376,878	1,031,475
Purchase of Materials & Issues from Stores	2,805,959	2,453,748
Payment of Subsidies and Grants	25,187,466	10,920,288
Members Costs	121,294	137,398
Travelling & Subsistence Allowances	496,761	827,394
Consultancy & Professional Fees Payments	1,109,621	952,891
Energy / Utilities Costs	664,014	921,111
Other	3,465,204	3,350,869
Total	48,429,492	31,731,674
Administration Expenses		
Communication Expenses	477,150	446,562
Training	206,460	336,922
Printing & Stationery	191,157	244,429
Contributions to other Bodies	687,041	465,709
Other	1,323,401	1,033,963
Total	2,885,209	2,527,585
Establishment Expenses		
Rent & Rates	580,095	588,044
Other	546,858	457,846
Total	1,126,953	1,045,890
Financial Expenses	4,341,853	3,212,609
Miscellaneous Expenses	750,406	395,364
Total Expenditure	84,316,826	65,213,070

**APPENDIX 2
SERVICE DIVISION A
HOUSING and BUILDING**

		EXPENDITURE	INCOME		
DIVISION	TOTAL €	State Grants & Subsidies €	Provision of Goods and Services €	Contributions from other local authorities €	TOTAL €
A01	Maintenance/Improvement of LA Housing	1,517,403	138,581	36,184	174,765
A02	Housing Assessment, Allocation and Transfer	746,428	-	73,221	73,221
A03	Housing Rent and Tenant Purchase Administration	240,818	11,190	4,548,873	4,560,063
A04	Housing Community Development Support	212,485	-	6,510	42,764
A05	Administration of Homeless Service	82,267	-	458	56,215
A06	Support to Housing Capital & Affordable Prog.	878,748	83,136	34,514	117,650
A07	RAS Programme	2,413,102	2,111,960	251,933	2,363,893
A08	Housing Loans	519,434	142,944	262,693	405,637
A09	Housing Grants	1,883,997	1,472,110	7,104	1,479,214
A11	Agency & Recoupable Services	187	-	-	-
A12	HAP Programme	166,627	24,600	6,446	5,925
SERVICE DIVISION TOTAL INCLUDING TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES		8,661,496	3,984,521	5,227,936	104,904
Less Transfers to/from Reserves		72,625	-	-	-
SERVICE DIVISION TOTAL EXCLUDING TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES		8,588,871	-	5,227,936	9,317,361

APPENDIX 2
SERVICE DIVISION B
ROAD TRANSPORTATION and SAFETY

DIVISION	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
	TOTAL €	State Grants & Subsidies €	Provision of Goods and Services €	Contributions from other local authorities €	TOTAL €
B01 NP Road - Maintenance and Improvement	617,611	515,408	-	-	515,408
B02 NS Road - Maintenance and Improvement	187,452	152,282	-	-	152,282
B03 Regional Road - Maintenance and Improvement	8,308,961	4,685,355	52,738	-	4,738,093
B04 Local Road - Maintenance and Improvement	11,344,647	10,292,921	157,283	-	10,450,204
B05 Public Lighting	772,352	64,110	-	-	64,110
B06 Traffic Management Improvement	2,367	-	-	-	-
B07 Road Safety Engineering Improvement	245,915	196,361	1,960	-	198,321
B08 Road Safety Promotion/Education	79,676	-	-	-	-
B09 Maintenance & Management of Car Parking	746,652	-	375,303	-	375,303
B10 Support to Roads Capital Prog.	73,810	35,200	2,388	-	37,588
B11 Agency & Recoupable Services	1,874,073	-	877,480	-	877,480
SERVICE DIVISION TOTAL INCLUDING TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES	24,253,516	15,941,637	1,467,152	-	17,408,789
Less Transfers to/from Reserves	463,166		69,639		69,639
SERVICE DIVISION TOTAL EXCLUDING TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES	23,790,350		1,397,513		17,339,150

**APPENDIX 2
SERVICE DIVISION C
WATER SERVICES**

DIVISION	EXPENDITURE TOTAL €	INCOME			
		State Grants & Subsidies	Provision of Goods and Services	Contributions from other local authorities	TOTAL
		€	€	€	€
C01 - Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply	1,396,972	-	39,697	-	39,697
C02 - Operation and Maintenance of Waste Water Treatment	1,668,835	-	26,121	-	26,121
C03 - Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges	-	-	-	-	-
C04 - Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences	53,914	-	349	-	349
C05 - Admin of Group and Private Installations	3,792,209	3,677,109	25,136	-	3,702,245
C06 - Support to Water Capital Programme	743,789	-	24,599	-	24,599
C07 - Agency & Recoupable Services	70,561	23,916	3,748,389	-	3,772,305
C08 - Local Authority Water and Sanitary Services	-	-	-	-	-
SERVICE DIVISION TOTAL INCLUDING TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES	7,726,280	3,701,025	3,864,291	-	7,565,316
Less Transfers to/from Reserves	75,230	-	-	-	-
SERVICE DIVISION TOTAL EXCLUDING TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES	7,651,050	-	3,864,291	-	7,565,316

APPENDIX 2

SERVICE DIVISION D
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

DIVISION	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
	TOTAL	State Grants & Subsidies	Provision of Goods and Services	Contributions from other local authorities	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€
D01 Forward Planning	345,061	-	19,431	-	19,431
D02 Development Management	1,571,046	-	366,958	-	366,958
D03 Enforcement	161,589	-	13,916	-	13,916
D04 Op & Mtce of Industrial Sites & Commercial Facilities	-	-	-	-	-
D05 Tourism Development and Promotion	363,278	-	44,546	-	44,546
D06 Community and Enterprise Function	2,995,198	1,298,827	451,927	-	1,750,754
D07 Unfinished Housing Estates	-	-	-	-	-
D08 Building Control	220,557	-	30,519	-	30,519
D09 Economic Development and Promotion	14,743,559	13,426,379	88,662	58,329	13,573,370
D10 Property Management	-	-	48	-	48
D11 Heritage and Conservation Services	679,299	355,285	15,610	-	370,895
D12 Agency & Recoupable Services	205,368	126,879	9,547	-	136,426
SERVICE DIVISION TOTAL INCLUDING TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES	21,284,955	15,207,370	1,041,164	58,329	16,306,863
Less Transfers to/from Reserves	229,271		5,466		5,466
SERVICE DIVISION TOTAL EXCLUDING TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES	21,055,684		1,035,698		16,301,397

APPENDIX 2
SERVICE DIVISION E
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

DIVISION	EXPENDITURE		INCOME			
	TOTAL	State Grants & Subsidies	Provision of Goods and Services	Contributions from other local authorities	TOTAL	
	€	€	€	€	€	
E01	Operation, Maintenance and Aftercare of Landfill	450,666	12,267	69,773	-	82,040
E02	Op & Mtce of Recovery & Recycling Facilities	68,574	190,537	37,129	-	227,666
E03	Op & Mtce of Waste to Energy Facilities	-	-	-	-	-
E04	Provision of Waste to Collection Services	98,374	133,355	2,224	-	135,579
E05	Litter Management	460,672	6,000	26,652	-	32,652
E06	Street Cleaning	978,710	-	-	-	-
E07	Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement	397,369	-	60,955	-	60,955
E08	Waste Management Planning	105,002	-	3,574	-	3,574
E09	Maintenance and Upkeep of Burial Grounds	12,293	-	381	-	381
E10	Safety of Structures and Places	383,779	151,554	10,156	-	161,710
E11	Operation of Fire Service	2,771,787	18,215	156,136	-	174,351
E12	Fire Prevention	91	-	129,708	-	129,708
E13	Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution	409,610	908	40,534	-	41,442
E14	Agency & Recoupable Services	346,688	109,785	17,915	-	127,700
E15	Climate Change and Flooding	11,492	-	-	-	-
SERVICE DIVISION TOTAL INCLUDING TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES		6,495,107	622,621	555,137	-	1,177,758
Less Transfers to/from Reserves		221,792		-		-
SERVICE DIVISION TOTAL EXCLUDING TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES		6,273,315		555,137		1,177,758

APPENDIX 2

SERVICE DIVISION F
RECREATION and AMENITY

DIVISION	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
	TOTAL €	State Grants & Subsidies €	Provision of Goods and Services €	Contributions from other local authorities €	TOTAL €
F01 Operation and Maintenance of Leisure Facilities	279,281	-	21,021	-	21,021
F02 Operation of Library and Archival Service	2,641,217	44,212	76,985	-	121,197
F03 Op. Mice & Imp of Outdoor Leisure Areas	960,715	-	654	-	654
F04 Community Sport and Recreational Development	23,506	14,378	-	-	14,378
F05 Operation of Arts Programme	1,042,994	74,357	25,118	-	99,475
F06 Agency & Recoupable Services	29,920	29,920	-	-	29,920
SERVICE DIVISION TOTAL INCLUDING TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES	4,977,633	162,867	123,778	-	286,645
Less Transfers to/from Reserves	381,996		-		-
SERVICE DIVISION TOTAL EXCLUDING TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES	4,595,637		123,778		286,645

APPENDIX 2
SERVICE DIVISION G
AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, HEALTH and WELFARE

DIVISION	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
	TOTAL €	State Grants & Subsidies €	Provision of Goods and Services €	Contributions from other local authorities €	TOTAL €
G01 Land Drainage Costs	-	-	-	-	-
G02 Operation and Maintenance of Piers and Harbours	-	-	-	-	-
G03 Coastal Protection	-	-	-	-	-
G04 Veterinary Service	491,510	160,487	173,327	-	333,814
G05 Educational Support Services	-	-	-	-	-
G06 Agency & Recoupable Services	-	-	-	-	-
SERVICE DIVISION TOTAL INCLUDING TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES	491,510	160,487	173,327	-	333,814
Less Transfers to/from Reserves	10,438				
SERVICE DIVISION TOTAL EXCLUDING TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES	481,072		173,327		333,814

APPENDIX 2
SERVICE DIVISION H
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

DIVISION	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
	TOTAL €	State Grants & Subsidies €	Provision of Goods and Services €	Contributions from other local authorities €	TOTAL €
H01 Profit/Loss Machinery Account	63,377	-	63,377	-	63,377
H02 Profit/Loss Stores Account	57	-	57	-	57
H03 Administration of Rates	8,959,987	6,137,862	14,679	-	6,152,541
H04 Franchise Costs	59,940	-	510	-	510
H05 Operation of Morgue and Coroner Expenses	111,547	-	1,922	-	1,922
H06 Weighbridges	-	-	-	-	-
H07 Operation of Markets and Casual Trading	-	-	30,443	-	30,443
H08 Malicious Damage	-	-	-	-	-
H09 Local Representation/Civic Leadership	2,240,018	-	87,946	-	87,946
H10 Motor Taxation	634,840	-	20,178	-	20,178
H11 Agency & Recoupable Services	2,225,547	2,692,114	740,317	249,068	3,681,499
SERVICE DIVISION TOTAL INCLUDING TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES	14,295,313	8,829,976	959,429	249,068	10,038,473
Less Transfers to/from Reserves	2,414,462		82,347		82,347
SERVICE DIVISION TOTAL EXCLUDING TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES	11,880,851		877,082		9,956,126
TOTAL ALL DIVISIONS	84,316,830	48,610,504	13,254,762	412,301	62,277,567

APPENDIX 3 ANALYSIS OF INCOME FROM GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES

	2020 €	2019 €
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage		
Housing Grants & Subsidies	10,047,124	3,283,525
Local Improvement Schemes	273,858	366,230
Water Services Group Schemes	3,701,026	4,964,658
Environmental Protection/Conservation Grants	446,851	469,594
Library Services	15,000	-
Miscellaneous	2,668,772	1,099,134
	<u>17,152,631</u>	<u>10,183,141</u>
Other Departments and Bodies		
Road Grants	15,603,266	12,437,869
Local Enterprise Office	11,315,974	913,155
Civil Defence	151,554	115,779
Miscellaneous	4,387,082	4,223,091
	<u>31,457,876</u>	<u>17,689,894</u>
Total	<u><u>48,610,507</u></u>	<u><u>27,873,035</u></u>

APPENDIX 4

ANALYSIS OF INCOME FROM GOODS AND SERVICES

	2020	2019
	€	€
Rents from Houses	4,798,732	4,579,783
Housing Loans Interest & Charges	249,026	266,045
Irish Water	3,764,292	3,623,826
Planning Fees	346,516	340,944
Parking Fines/Charges	363,668	752,740
Library Fees/Fines	1,372	4,683
Agency Services	29,391	1,049
Pension Contributions	756,238	779,761
Property Rental & Leasing of Land	63,408	70,694
Landfill Charges	59,530	74,375
Fire Charges	226,022	176,226
NPPR	404,661	328,232
Misc. (Detail)	2,191,905	3,000,835
	13,254,761	13,999,193

APPENDIX 5 SUMMARY OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

	2020	2019
	€	€
EXPENDITURE		
Payment to Contractors	17,346,775	30,640,772
Purchase of Land	52,318	79,606
Purchase of Other Assets/Equipment	12,910,541	7,930,522
Professional & Consultancy Fees	3,294,965	4,066,324
Other	5,421,114	4,775,704
Total Expenditure (Net of Internal Transfers)	39,025,713	47,492,928
Transfers to Revenue	157,451	845,702
Total Expenditure (Incl Transfers) *	39,183,164	48,338,630
INCOME		
Grants and LPT	35,597,017	35,508,756
Non - Mortgage Loans	-	4,300,000
Other Income		
(a) Development Contributions	1,025,968	696,886
(b) Property Disposals		
- Land	85,000	63,888
- LA Housing	895,776	568,270
- Other property	12,342	142,350
(c) Purchase Tenant Annuities	1,155	2,150
(d) Car Parking	-	-
(e) Other	894,613	2,292,515
Total Income (Net of Internal Transfers)	38,511,871	43,574,815
Transfers from Revenue	3,635,192	1,846,511
Total Income (Incl Transfers) *	42,147,063	45,421,326
Surplus\Deficit) for year	2,963,899	(2,917,304)
Balance (Debit)\Credit @ 1 January	3,305,848	6,223,151
Balance (Debit)\Credit @ 31 December	6,269,747	3,305,847

* Excludes internal transfers, includes transfers to and from Revenue account

**APPENDIX 6
ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ON CAPITAL ACCOUNT**

	BALANCE @ 1/1/2020 €	EXPENDITURE €	INCOME				TRANSFERS			BALANCE @ 31/12/2020 €
			Grants and LPT €	Non-Mortgage Loans* €	Other €	Total Income €	Transfer from Revenue €	Transfer to Revenue €	Internal Transfers €	
Housing & Building	1,725,384	23,444,119	22,093,027	-	901,099	22,994,096	-	-	-	1,275,341
Road Transportation & Safety	(504,609)	8,395,203	7,835,381	-	888,980	8,724,361	331,787	69,639	-	86,637
Water Services	1,133,902	388,088	355,740	-	40,084	395,824	-	-	-	1,131,831
Development Management	4,647,667	2,994,727	2,268,554	-	886,094	-3,164,648	1,249,044	5,466	(256,540)	5,804,511
Environmental Services	(1,167,515)	998,233	1,342,230	-	27,599	1,369,829	101,498	-	-	(692,421)
Recreation & Amenity	(1,108,832)	1,783,024	1,665,636	-	-	1,665,636	218,333	-	203,407	(812,480)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Services	(1,430,030)	1,014,314	36,448	-	161,028	197,477	1,742,529	82,347	53,142	(523,549)
TOTAL	-3,305,847	39,025,715	35,597,017	-	2,914,354	38,511,871	-3,635,191	157,452	-	6,298,742

Note: Mortgage-related transactions are excluded.

APPENDIX 7

Summary of Major Revenue Collections for 2020

A Debtor type	B Incoming arrears @ 1/1/2020	C Accrued - current year debit (Gross)	D Vacant property adjustments	E Write offs	F Waivers and Credits	G Total for collection =(B+C-D-E-F)	H Amount collected	I Closing arrears @ 31/12/2020 = (G-H)	J Specific doubtful arrears*	K % Collected = (H)/(G-J)
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
Rates	3,302,230	14,295,991	1,440,306	467,355	6,137,862	9,552,698	5,998,337	3,554,361	2,026,344	80%
Rents & Annuities	215,884	4,835,158	-	13,185	-	5,037,857	4,881,888	155,969	-	97%
Housing Loans	247,644	890,616	-	-	-	1,138,260	948,756	189,504	-	83%

*Specific doubtful arrears = (i) Vacancy applications pending/criteria not met & (ii) Accounts in examinership/receivership/liquidation and no communication regarding likely outcome

** To alleviate the impact of Covid19 on eligible businesses during 2020 the Government announced a 9 month rates waiver scheme. The amounts waived are shown in the Waived/ Credit column in the table above and results in a corresponding reduction in the total for collection. This also has the effect of reducing the % collected in the final column. The Council received a grant equal to the amount waived and this is included in the grant income in Appendix 3. For prior year comparison purposes if the income was included in the Amount Collected column rather than the Waived/ Credits column the % collected would have been 89%.

Details of Transfers from Revenue Account - AFS 2020

One of the requirements of the AFS is that transfers from Revenue Account are shown separately. A summary of these transfers is shown in Note 14 to the accounts and details of transfers per Division are contained in Note 16. A detailed breakdown of these transfers is shown below

	Transfer Amount	Budget Provision	Difference	
1	Monaghan Town Improvement	167,689	0	-167,689
2	Direct Admin and Overheads Roads	571	0	-571
3	Interreg VA Cann 5A Project Administration	44	0	-44
4	Library Headquarters	40,000	0	-40,000
5	Machinery Account Surplus	258,513	0	-258,513
6	Pension Gratuity Provision	225,693	0	-225,693
7	Regional Lighting Running costs	54,535	54,535	0
8	Local Lighting Running cost	108,993	108,993	0
9	Municipal District Allocations (unspent)	999,000	999,000	0
10	Rates Limitation order	538,000	538,000	0
11	Loan Repayment Reserve	233,787	233,787	0
12	Disability Initiatives	10,000	10,000	0
13	Gortakeegan Halt Maintenance	3,164	3,164	0
14	Promotion of Local Community	90,000	90,000	0
15	Local Elections	20,000	20,000	0
16	Members Gratuity Scheme	100,000	100,000	0
17	Fire Station Officers and General	40,000	40,000	0
18	General Maintenance - Fire station	14,053	14,053	0
19	Fire Service Gratuities	50,000	50,000	0
20	Library Headquarters	19,835	21,683	1,848
21	Clones Sports Project	30,000	30,000	0
22	Computing - Provision for Capital Balance	100,000	100,000	0
23	New Offices Provision	300,000	300,000	0
24	Transfer to Capital	100,000	100,000	0
25	Industrial and Economic Development	150,000	150,000	0
26	Loan Charges Swimming Pool	107,000	107,135	135
27	Swimming pool non capital charges	11,502	11,502	0
28	Monaghan Branch Library	10,754	10,754	0
29	Ballybay Branch Library	1,847	1,847	0
30	Monaghan Museum	6,550	6,550	0
31	Ballybay Clones MD Office	1,847	1,847	0
32	Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney MD office	4,173	4,173	0
33	Offices Building Maintenance	18,877	14,065	-4,812
34	Landfill Scotch Corner Operation	19,218	7,720	-11,498
35	Peace Campus loan charges	33,333	44,489	11,156
	3,868,978	3,173,297	-695,681	

- 1 Surplus of income over expenditure transferred to fund capital balances
- 2 Small unfunded capital balance cleared
- 3 Small unfunded capital balance cleared
- 4 Capital provision omitted from budget
- 5 Machinery surplus transferred to fund further plant purchases. Machinery Account not included in Budget
- 6 Underspent pensions budget provision transferred to fund future costs (From division H)
- 7 - 8 Funding LED installation, public lighting costs, amount transferred determined by energy cost savings
- 9 Municipal District Allocations transferred to Capital Funds.
- 10 Rates Limitation Order budget provision to create reserve for Reval appeals
- 11 Loan Repayment Reserve represents the Principal element of loan charges provision in 2019 Budget
- 12 - 33 These transfers were all provided for in the 2020 Annual Budget
- 34 Transfer to capital €11.5k to clear capital balance
- 35 Budget for loan repayment - loan not yet drawdown so transferred principal element to capital

Details of Transfers to Revenue Account - AFS 2020

	Transfer Amount	Budget Provision	Difference
A AFS Transfer from Revenue	69,639	0	69,639
B Interreg VA Cann SA Project Administration	5,466	7,136	-1,670
C Central Stores Overhead charges	57	57	0
D Members Gratuity Scheme	82,290	0	82,290
	157,452	7,193	150,259

- A First charge on 2021, overexpenditures in 2020
- B Interreg project funds 15% admin - income received in capital and transferred to revenue
- C Correction for Stores Account misposting
- D Gratuities funded from Capital provisions. Accounting requirement to process through Revenue Account

Approval to over expenditure is required for Divisions A, B, D, F & H

Division		Expenditure	Income	Net Position
		(Over)/Under	Over/(Under)	
		Estimates	Estimates	
		2020	2020	2020
		€	€	€
A	Housing and Building	-856,449	1,067,490	211,041
B	Roads Transportation & Safety	-4,998,388	4,535,883	-462,505
D	Development Management	-10,328,928	10,650,963	322,035
F	Recreation & Amenity	-65,615	40,984	-24,631
H	Miscellaneous Services	-7,317,026	7,196,702	-120,324
		-23,566,406	23,492,022	-74,384

DIVISION A - HOUSING AND BUILDING

€183k additional housing adaption grants paid and 80%recouped from DHLG&H
 €730k Additional short term leasing payment to AHBs, recouped from DHLG&H
 €182k additional rental income received

DIVISION B -ROADS TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

Increase in Road grants income & expenditure €4.5m
 Increase in Regional Roads supervision and Local Roads GM costs €332k in total
 Additional income to cover these costs included in Division H, Covid related income

Division D - Development Management

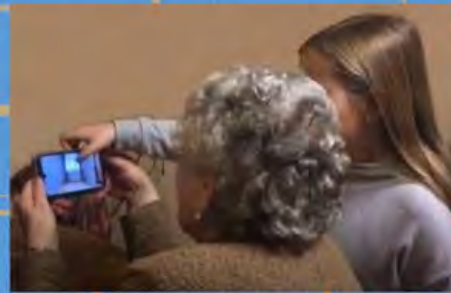
Business Restart Grants €9.81m received. €9.36m paid out & €.45m returned to DETE
 LEO grants €0.5m higher than budgeted

Division F - Recreational and Amenity

Library €40k budget transfer omission and payroll accrual €35k
 Additional costs for Parks & Open spaces - budgeted more accurately in 2021
 Savings due to non occurrence of Festivals and Concerts

Division H - Miscellaneous Services

Rates Waiver income and payments €6.1m
 Bad debt write off budgeted at €2.53m - actual w/o €2.44m
 Bad debt provision reviewed and increased by €489k to reflect uncertainty regarding collection
 Covid related expenditure not including outdoor payroll €746k
 Covid related grant received from DHLG&H €1.16m (includes provision for outdoor payroll & loss of income
 NPPR income budget €250k, income €405k
 Underspent pensions provision in Division J transferred to Reserve from Division H €225k



TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2020

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



COMHAIRLE CONTAE MHUINEACHÁIN MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

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Foreword

We welcome the publication of Monaghan County Council's Annual Report for 2020.

2020 will be remembered as a difficult year for many of us, but also, as a year that has brought out the best in us. Living with Covid 19 presented many new challenges for Local Government. Our achievements in 2020 involved an unprecedented collaboration and cooperation across the entire public service, operating to provide a single integrated response to the pandemic. We embraced new ways of working and implemented business continuity plans to ensure unwavering service delivery in line with the objectives detailed in our Corporate Plan.

This annual report presents an opportunity to present the activities and achievements of Monaghan County Council in delivering public services and infrastructural projects during these unprecedented times. Monaghan County Council continues to provide high quality public services and develop infrastructure for the people of County Monaghan.

In 2020, Monaghan County Council advanced the delivery of significant building projects. Monaghan County Council awarded the main construction contract for the Peace Campus project on Friday 10th July 2020. 'The Peace Campus' will bring much needed neutral shared space to Monaghan. The €17.6 million project is supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) which awarded €9.5 million to Monaghan County Council to deliver the project. The four-storey development, located at the Council's former machinery yard site will provide community space, a youth facility, a new town library and a cultural heritage area. The construction contract was awarded to Felix O'Hare & Co. Ltd. Construction work commenced on site on the 27th July.

New build projects were the main focus of the Housing capital expenditure programme. A total of 97 social houses were added to the housing stock of 1615 units through acquisitions and new builds in 2020. Monaghan County Council continued to make significant progress in delivering the Rebuilding Ireland programme. Construction is well underway for the €6 million Clones Renewal Scheme, providing 24 social housing homes in the centre of Clones Town. 6 units were delivered in 2020 and a further 24 units to be delivered in 2021. The scheme has been a focus of attention nationally winning Excellence in Planning Award at the Property Industry Excellence Awards and very much focused on town renewal and breathing life back into Clones Town. Monaghan County Council will continue to seek additional funding for Social Housing at every opportunity that arises and proactively pursue opportunities for additional social housing provision in areas of Housing Need throughout County Monaghan.

Our work to progress major road infrastructure continued throughout 2020. Emerging Preferred Route Corridors were published for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney and N2 Clontibret to Border Road Schemes on the 24th August 2020, and a period of public consultation ran until 5th October 2020. Monaghan County Council is working in partnership with Louth County Council and in association with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Westmeath National Roads Office (WNRO) to develop the 32km N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme. Monaghan County Council is also working in association with TII and WNRO to develop the 28km N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme. Together with the other improvements planned for the N2/A5 route, these proposed road schemes will significantly improve transport connectivity along the N2 and provide safer and more efficient access to other strategic national roads.

Climate change continues to be a major challenge for us at National and International level with policy responses required in terms of, not only, mitigating the causes of climate change, but also in adapting to the inevitable consequences of our changing climate. Monaghan County Council is committed to playing a lead role in the

protection of the environment and the enhancement of Monaghan's natural and built environment. Monaghan County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 represents a proactive step in the process of adaptation planning to build resilience and respond effectively to the threats posed by climate change. During 2020, despite the Covid pandemic, significant progress was made in progressing the measures and actions contained within the strategy and within the national Climate Action Plan 2019. The council has made substantial progress over a relatively short period but these are only the first steps in a journey where the country is now legally committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

Monaghan County Council continue to support business and enterprise against the unprecedented challenges presented by Brexit and the Covid 19 pandemic. In tandem with government departments and State Agencies, Monaghan County Council is working to support business throughout the county at this uncertain time, through the Restart Grants processes and the Local Enterprise Office system of supports. Financial supports and rate remissions provide short-term assistance to the business community. However, no-one is certain what the post-Covid economic recovery will look like, with sectors of the economy undoubtedly more impacted than others.

The environment in which the public service operates is increasingly complex and interconnected. Public Service innovation will strengthen the strategies, structures and tools we use to meet citizen demands and respond to challenges in the medium and long term. Monaghan County Council was selected to work with the LGMA and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to help develop a Public Service Innovation Strategy framework which can be rolled-out to all public service bodies. An innovation maturity assessment survey was completed, the outcome of which, has assisted the Council in preparing a draft Innovation Strategy for the organisation. Monaghan County Council's success in securing funding under the Department's Our Public Service 2020 Innovation Fund Schemes is testament of the appetite for innovation among staff. The successful projects included the Komeer Community Alerts Application and the 360 degree virtual house tour and inspection application.

Monaghan County Council achieved CPD Accredited Employers Standard from Engineers Ireland from 01 October 2020 to 01 October 2023. 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.

The Patrick Kavanagh Centre, which re-opened its doors on 20 July 2020, following a €1m restoration, triumphed in the Film and Video category at the Heritage in Motion Awards 2020. A joint initiative of the European Museum Academy and Europa Nostra, the Awards are a celebration of the best examples of innovative multimedia and digital projects in cultural heritage in Europe. The centre tells the story of one of the best-loved poets of the 20th century, through an immersive, multimedia experience.

Looking back on a year like no other, we realise how we have had to adapt to working with and enduring the restrictions which have affected every aspect of our family, work and social lives. Many staff and members have suffered the loss of family and friends and the grieving process has been severely disrupted by the Government restrictions around funeral rites and ceremonies. Monaghan County Council were deeply saddened by the untimely loss of staff members in 2020, Paul Mulligan and Roger McQuaid. We will keep them and their families in our thoughts and prayers always.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the support, dedication and co-operation of all staff, throughout the organisation - the Directors of Services, and Monaghan County Council staff, both indoor and outdoor. We would like to thank the elected representatives for their ongoing co-operation and support throughout the year. Much of what we do can only be achieved by working in partnership with our various stakeholders and we would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their on-going support and co-operation.



Eamonn O'Sullivan
Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council



Colm Carthy
Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County
Council

DRAFT

District Map / Mission Statement



Mission Statement

*Monaghan County Council provides
High Quality, Sustainable Public Services
to enhance the
Economic, Environmental and Cultural Wellbeing
of our People and County.*

LIST OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

The following are the Elected Representatives for the County of Monaghan:

BALLYBAY-CLONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Seamus
COYLE (FF)



Cllr Pat
TRENOR (SF)



Cllr Sean
GILLILAND (FG)



Cllr Hugh
MCELVANEY (IND)



Cllr Richard
TRUELL (FG)

MONAGHAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Sean
CONLON (SF)



Cllr Cathy
BENNETT (SF)



Cllr Brian
MCKENNA (SF)



Cllr Raymond
AUGHEY (FF)



Cllr David
MAXWELL (FG)



Cllr Seamus
TRENOR (IND)



Cllr Paudge
CONNOLLY (IND)

CARRICKMACROSS-CASTLEBLAYNEY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Aidan
CAMPBELL (FG)



Cllr Mary
KERR-CONLON (FG)



Cllr Aoife
MC COOEY (FF)



Cllr Pj
O'HANLON (FF)



Cllr Noel
KEELAN (SF)



Cllr Colm
CARTHY (SF)

Finance

Rates Waiver 2020

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage offered support for businesses affected by the COVID 19 restrictions through the commercial Rates Waiver. This Waiver was available to the majority of Rate payers in Co. Monaghan and amounted to €6,137,862 for the nine-month period it applied to in 2020. The waiver was applied as a credit directly to the rate payers accounts and did not necessitate an application from the business.

Business Restart Grants

Another form of support offered by the government was the Business Restart Grants. Businesses in Co. Monaghan received a total of €9.4m in Restart Grants during 2020.

The Restart Grants were based on the Rates liability that was payable by the business in 2019. Restart Grant I offered a maximum of €10,000 per business and Restart Grant Plus (RGP) offered a further maximum of €15,000 per business. The majority of businesses received grant payments of at least €7,200. Further add-on RGP payments were also made available to various businesses such as 'wet pubs'. An application and declaration were required in order for the Council to administer these grants. Monaghan County Council operated their own bespoke system using Laserfiche in order to administer these grants which proved very successful.

MCC Covid related costs

In December 2020 Finance submitted a claim to the Department for additional expenditure and unrealised income in 2020 resulting directly from COVID 19. The expected recoupment in relation to this claim is unknown at this point. This will assist in reducing the deficit for 2020.

Reconciliation of Statement of Financial Position (SoFP) and review of Statement of Comprehensive Income (SoCI)

The Finance section carry out regular

reconciliations and reviews of balances on the SoFP, thus adhering to best practice recommendations. This ensures that debts are collected as quickly as possible, funding for capital projects is identified and transactions are monitored and reviewed on a timely basis, loans are reconciled to statements and fixed assets are reconciled to other available registers such as iHouse and the Property Asset Register.

In addition to this, Finance carry out a quarterly analysis of actual versus budgeted revenue expenditure and income to ensure that all expenditure and income are accurately posted and are recognised in the correct period. No audit adjustments have been required in the Council's accounts.

Treasury Management

From April 2017, Bank of Ireland have applied negative interest charges to Local Authorities with credit balances on their bank account over €1m. In order to eliminate these interest charges, Finance staff monitor the bank balance and transfer excess funds to an Investment bank where it can earn interest on deposits.

Finance also monitor capital balances to ensure that sanctioned loans required to fund projects are drawn down at the optimum time.

Reduction of cumulative deficit

Due mainly to the abolishment of the Town Councils in 2014, Monaghan County Council including the former Town Councils had a cumulative opening deficit at the beginning of 2014 of €3,309,389. The Council is committed to reducing the deficit on an annual basis. Normally, this cumulative deficit reduction is achieved by attaining a revenue surplus in the annual accounts. The surplus is achieved through accurate budget preparation, cost reduction awareness and careful monitoring of actual spend versus budget. The cumulative deficit has been reduced from the highest level of €3.3m in 2013 to €1.9m at 2020 year-end.

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 the review of Risk Register.

Corporate Services also co-ordinates the compilation of the annual NOAC Performance Indicators for the Council and has a significant role in terms of governance, ensuring the Council is compliant with the Ethics Framework, Children First Act, General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Freedom of Information 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. The Register is published every year on 1st February and comes into effect on 15th February of that 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. The total number of Electors in the County for the 2021/2022 Register of Electors was 50,832:

- Monaghan Electoral Area = 18,615
- Ballybay – Clones Electoral Area = 14,830
- Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Electoral Area = 17,387

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. **61 requests** were received by the Council in 2020, from members of the media, Oireachtas, business reps and the general public.

Protected Disclosures

There were no protected disclosures received during 2020.

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

Having regard to Covid 19 restrictions in place, no twinning exchanges were undertaken during the year.

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, Chief Executive, Management Team and the Audit Committee.

Meetings in 2020

2020 saw many meetings move from traditional venues to online TEAMS platforms in an effort to reduce the potential spread of Covid-19 and to ensure that Monaghan County Council would continue to provide high quality service to the people of Monaghan. From June 2020, Monaghan County Council's monthly meetings were held in the Garage Theatre to ensure that social distancing and other Covid-19 health and safety protocols could be observed.

The following is a summary of the meetings held in 2020:

Council meetings (including AGM & Budget meeting):	11
Corporate Policy Group:	12
Monaghan Municipal District:	10
Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District:	08
Ballybay Clones Municipal District:	08
Joint Policing Committee:	02
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC):	11
SPC – Climate Change & Environment:	03
SPC – Economic Development and Enterprise Support:	01
SPC – Housing, Social & Cultural:	03
SPC – Transport & Community:	03
Coiste Gaeilge:	03
Twinning Committee:	0
Audit Committee:	04

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Monaghan County Council is committed to the protection of personal data and respects the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals. It collects and processes a significant amount of personal data and Special Category personal data in various multiple formats on a daily basis 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.

In 2020, Monaghan County Council continued to achieve compliance and demonstrate accountability under GDPR and data protection. This work included the development and implementation of a suite of policies and procedures, processing data subject access requests, awareness raising and training and notification of data security breaches.

The Council dealt with the following requests/incidents:-

Data Subject Access Requests	7
CCTV requests	12
Data Breach Notifications to the Data Protection Commission	3

Ethics

Section 19 of the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999 requires each elected member to furnish to the Local Authority, not later than January 31st, a donation statement indicating whether during the preceding calendar year, the member received a donation exceeding €600. 18 completed forms were received by the closing date of 31 January 2020.

Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 obliges each member of the council and relevant staff to complete a form in respect of their declarable interests held during the prescribed period and furnish the annual declaration to the Ethics Registrar no later than the last day of February. 18 completed forms were received from elected members. 75 relevant staff were requested to complete a declaration form.

In 2020, two possible Part 15 contraventions were reported to the Ethics Registrar. Following consideration by the Chief Executive and the Cathaoirleach, the investigations were brought to a conclusion and no further action was required.

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Coiste na Gaeilge 2020

Díríonn Coiste na Gaeilge Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin ar úsáid na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn sa Chontae. Bunaíodh an Coiste agus toghadh na Comhairleoirí seo a leanas: An Comh. Pat Treanor, An Comh. Cathy Bennett, An Comh. Richard Truell, An Comh. Raymond Aughey agus An Comh. Hugh McElvaney.

Bhí dúshláin romhainn i 2020 ach is fíor, áfach, gur éirigh leis an gCoiste réimse leathan gníomhaíochtaí a sholáthar as Gaeilge agus orthusan bhí:

1. Scéim deontas do Sheachtain na Gaeilge trínar bronnadh naoi gcinn de dheontais €200 ar Ghrúpaí Pobail chun imeachtaí as Gaeilge sa Chontae a reachtáil.
2. Is mór an trua go raibh orainn an scéim bhliantúil scoláireachtaí chun mic léinn

dara leibhéil a chur go dtí cúrsaí samhraidh sa Ghaeltacht a chur ar ceal, ach táimid tiomanta don bhfilleadh ar an scéim úd nuair a beidh na cúrsaí samhraidh ar siúl arís.

3. Tharla oiliúint sa teanga do bhail fhoirne agus bail tofa Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin go luath sa bhliain agus 12 a bhí páirteach inti. Mí na Samhna tharla oiliúint ar leith don bhfoireann tosaigh sa phlé le custaiméirí as Gaeilge, an eagraíocht Gaelchultúr a sholáthraigh í sin ar bhonn náisiúnta.
4. Le linn an frithdhúnadh mí an Mheithimh d'eagraigh an Coiste trí oíche ceoil, amhrán agus filíochta i sraith beo ar *Facebook* darb ainm Le Chéile Muineachán. Bíodh is go raibh an-chuid srianta i gceist ba mhór an gaisce é a leithéid de chlár ardchaigdeáin a chur ar fáil. Gabhaimid buíochas le gach éinne a bhí ag baint leis na hócáidí.
5. Don Oíche Chultúir bhí an Coiste páirteach in ócáid san Ionad Patrick Kavanagh. Ba mhór an pléisiúr fáiltiú roimh an file áitiúil Caitriona Ní Chléiricín maraon leis an nGaeilgeoir ceolmhar cáiliúil Phillip King agus a bhanna ceoil Scullion.
6. Anuraidh cheannaigh an Leabharlann 250 leabhar nua as Gaeilge do pháistí ar chostas €1466. Anuas air sin d'eagraigh an Leabharlann ócáid le Gráinne McElwaine do mhic léinn meánscoile. D'fháiltíodh freisin roimh dhá Sheimineár Gréasáin leis an údar as Gaeilge Sadbh Devlin mar chuid d'Fhéile Leabhar na bPáistí ar tharla sreabhadh orthu isteach go Bunscoileanna ar fud na tíre.
7. I ndiaidh tréimhse comhairliúcháin phoiblí sheol an Coiste Scéim nua Teanga go dtí an Aire Stáit Jack Chambers TD. Ghlac an tAire leis an Scéim ar an 27 Nollaig. Tá sé rí-thábhachtach go gcuirfear i bhfeidhm na geallúintí a luadh sa phlean seo go ceann na dtrí bliana atá romhainn amach.

Corporate Assets

Capital Projects

Corporate Assets Section leads the delivery of capital projects as identified in the three-year Capital Programme. It also seeks to bring a consistency of approach to the procurement, management and delivery of projects in line with the Public Spending Code and the improved procurement structures embedded into the organisation in recent years.

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. Several major capital projects have been progressed in 2020:

Key Projects



Monaghan PEACE Campus

The execution of the construction stage of the project was delayed due to Covid-19 from April until July of 2020. Works started on site in July and the piling and below ground works have been substantially completed by the end of 2020. Substantial completion is scheduled for April 2022.



Progress in August 2020



Progress in December 2020

Office Refurbishment to 1 Dublin St. –

Redevelopment of Monaghan Town Hall building as modern office facilities was completed in January 2020 and staff from the Planning & Tourism Departments moved into the building in February 2020.



Dublin Street & Roosky Land – Urban Regeneration

South Dublin Street & Backlands Regeneration Scheme

Preliminary designs for various elements within the regeneration scheme area were progressed by RPS Design Consultants throughout 2020. Some of the major works completed in 2020 were Ecological and Archaeological Surveys, Traffic Modelling Report, Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment of Gavan Duffy Building, Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screenings. An Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in December 2020. Detailed Designs will be progressed during 2021, it is envisaged that presentations to the Elected Members and Public Consultation will be held in April 2021 and that a formal planning application for the scheme will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála by the end of Q2 2021.

North Dublin Street & Backlands Regeneration & Roosky Land – Masterplans

Sheridan Woods Urban Planning Design Consultants progressed regeneration proposals and masterplanning concepts for both North Dublin Street and the Roosky Lands during 2020. The masterplan proposals were substantially completed by December 2020. It is anticipated that the final draft of regeneration master plans will be completed in March 2021 and following this it is proposed to arrange presentations to the Elected Members and hold Public Consultation regarding the masterplan proposals.



Castleblayney Market Square Regeneration – Gate Lodge 2 Library & Public Realm

The enabling works phase of the project relating to undergrounding of overhead cables and installation of decorative public lighting in Market Square was completed in October 2020. Broomfield Construction Ltd commenced the main works contract relating to the library building and public realm elements in November 2020. General site clearance and stripping of the old roof structure was completed in December 2020. The anticipated project duration is 16 months and the project is envisaged to be completed in early 2022.

Castleblayney Market Square Regeneration Phase 2 – Castleblayney Market/Courthouse

A Category 2 RRDF application submitted to the Department in February 2020 was successful in securing grant funding to facilitate design works for the Castleblayney Market House/Courthouse and public realm works in Market Square. The Council engaged AP & E Consultants in November 2020 for a public consultation and stakeholder engagement exercise to determine potential future uses of the Market House. In December 2020 the consultants completed an online public consultation survey and held workshops with various community/stakeholder groups. It is anticipated that the consultants will present their final report to the Council in March/April 2021.



4/5 Mill Street – Emergency Stabilisation Works

Following a structural assessment of the building in November 2020, McGuigan Builders were engaged in December 2020 to execute emergency stabilisation works to the building in the interest of public safety. Preliminary scaffolding and stabilisation measures were completed prior to the Christmas period. The emergency works include removal of internal debris, installation of stability bracing and replacement of the roof structure, all stabilisation works are scheduled for completion in March 2021.



Property Asset Management

The Council Property Management Software System has been further developed and embedded

into the organisation in 2020 to enable effective



management of our property portfolio and to link it to the Financial Assets Register (FAR). The Council has worked 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, coordinated and effective manner and to ensure value for money.

As of December 2020, Monaghan County Council currently has 68 buildings and 1,737 parcels of land in the Property Interests Register. The table below shows breakdown of these Property Assets.

Number of Assets by Type

Asset Type	No. of Asset end of 2020
AMENITY	140
BURIAL GROUND	1
CAR PARK	54
HERITAGE	5
HOUSING	707
LA BUILDING	68
LA BUILDING CAMPUS	14

LAND	3
LAND BANK	3
LANDFILL	3
OTHER	45
PLAYGROUND	1
ROAD	622
WATER SERVICES	71
TOTAL	1737

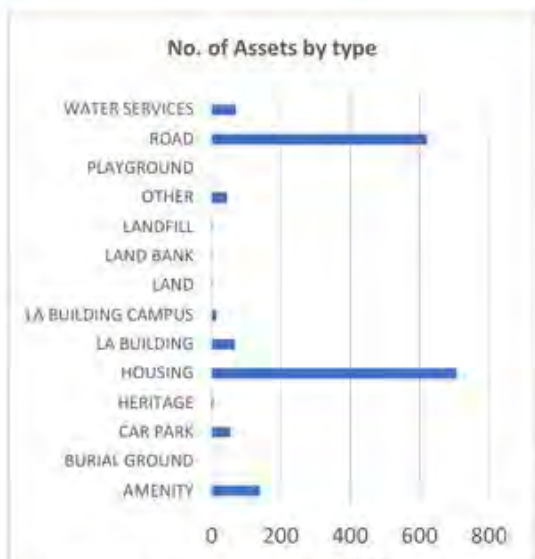


Table of assets totals for 2020

Buildings Asset Management

The Council continues to work towards maximising the use and condition of the Council’s buildings. Although Covid-19 has disrupted this work in 2020.

A significant challenge is the provision of suitable office facilities for the effective delivery of services and the Capital Projects section is currently undertaking works to create additional office space in existing buildings to cater for current and expected demand.

Building improvement and upgrade works continue to be undertaken to; improve their energy efficiency, improve facilities to customers and staff and to maintain them in suitable condition.

Monaghan Leisure Complex

Coral Leisure Ltd manages Monaghan Leisure Complex on behalf of Monaghan County Council.

Coral Leisure has operated the facility since

2006 and are one of Irelands leading service providers - managing nine publicly owned leisure facilities. During late 2020, repairs to the roof and wall cladding were carried out thereby eliminating infiltration problems that had existed for many years.

Also, in 2020, works were commenced to restore the Ground Source Heat Pump system to operational status. These works, which will improve the operational efficiency of the Leisure Complex, will be completed in 2021.



Operations at the Complex were particularly affected by the Covid 19 Pandemic which resulted in significant trading losses and a reduction in footfall of 64% in 2020.

In response to the crisis the operator adapted to meet existing customer needs through on-line training sessions on its social media platforms.

The complex is a base for 86 clubs, schools, community groups and programs – many of which were developed in co-operation with the Monaghan Sports Partnership office. During the year 14 community events were facilitated despite the national health crisis.

Energy Efficiency

Monaghan County Council has made excellent progress towards achieving energy efficiency targets of 33% by 2020. An energy reduction of 37.1% up to end of 2019 has been achieved, and we are one of 13 LA’s to have reached the 2020 target, one year ahead of the end of 2020 deadline.



Photo of Solar PV Installation – Scotch Corner

SEAI M&R Report 2020

Energy Section compiles, records and monitors, on an ongoing basis, all energy used by the Council and reports this annually 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 2021 have targeted Council buildings and public lighting. The Council have worked closely with our energy partners 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.



The **Climate Action Plan 2019** sets new targets after 2020 and the new **Public Sector Energy and Climate targets** sets new targets for **2030 of 50% improvement in public sector energy efficiency and 30% reduction in CO2**. Monaghan County



New Energy & Carbon Targets

Council actively continues to improve its energy performance and carbon footprint.

Public Street Lighting

Public Lighting is the single biggest energy user in Monaghan County Council, equating to 35% of total energy usage. The Council has an ongoing programme to convert all public lights in the county to energy efficient LED lights by early 2021. This is funded directly by the Council for Non-National Roads and paid back through energy and maintenance cost savings. TII have funded the upgrade of public lights on National Roads to energy efficient LEDs and in 2020 all lights on National Roads have been changed to LED lights.

Overall, 90% of lights were converted to LED by the end of 2020 and all lights to be converted in 2021.

the Council's extensive suite of software applications and GIS. The team continued to redesign and automate manual paper-based processes throughout the organisation including the Chief Executive Order process and Staff Increment Approval process. This work was chosen as one of the case studies in the Overview of Local Authority COVID-19 Innovations published by the Local Government Management Agency in May 2020.

Case Study 3
Monaghan County Council Automation of Chief Executive Orders and HR Increment Forms



Laserfiche forms portal was implemented in January 2020 and this proved invaluable during the pandemic and office closures, enabling the Council to provide online access to services. Online application forms and processes were developed for the COVID-19 Emergency Fund, the COVID-19 Business Re-start Grants, the COVID-19 Mortgage Payment Breaks as well as applications for community grants including the Town & Village Renewal Schemes, the Community Enhancement Programme 2020, CLÁR and the Healthy Ireland Fund.

The Re-Start Grant system developed provided a flexible end-to-end solution from online application, validation and approval to payment of the grants. The flexibility of the system meant that it was easily adapted to meet the requirements of additional Re-Start Grants and Grant Top-ups and ensured the Council delivered an efficient, accessible application process for businesses during what was a very difficult and stressful time for many.

On Friday evening 27th March the Government announced a new community support service to be delivered by community groups and led

by local authorities. The service, known as the Community Call, was set up to help meet the needs of vulnerable and older citizens advised to cocoon. The I.S. team worked tirelessly throughout the weekend to ensure that the IT requirements were in place so the service could go live on Monday 30th March. Work involved setting up a freephone and free text service, a call centre, and a GIS-based CRM solution for managing citizen requests.



COVID-19 Community Call

The Community Call system was further developed to facilitate the Library Home Delivery Service. The system includes dashboards and reports enabling library staff to manage and monitor the status of book requests, deliveries and returns. A mobile app with satellite navigation was also developed to help the library van drivers carry out deliveries and returns.

COVID-19 related national and local council initiatives were promoted on monaghan.ie website including the Re-Start Grants, Rates Waivers, Keep Well in Your Community and Shop Local campaigns. Online application forms for grants and funding were made available on the website.

Several business applications were upgraded in 2020 including the Housing Management System, Planning Management System, Register of Electors and Museum cataloguing system. A new version of the National Building Control Management System was implemented which included provision of large monitors for staff, TVs for public viewing, and tablets.

An interactive planning information dashboard which offers a visual aid to decision-making was developed. The dashboard has created efficiencies in the planning section by allowing staff to view at a glance the current status of all planning applications including application type, category, decision due date, and the planner to whom it is assigned.



Planning Information Dashboard

Security, Networks and Infrastructure

The Security, Networks and Infrastructure team is responsible for ensuring availability and security of ICT systems and services, on-premise and in the Cloud, and for managing the network infrastructure in all Council offices throughout the county including County Offices, MTek1 and 2 Buildings, Planning Office, Municipal District Offices, Fire Stations, Libraries, Museum, and Water Treatment Plants. They also manage the Council’s telephony systems, mobile phones, tablets, logger devices and sims.

Cyber-security is a top priority for the Council. A multi-layered cyber-security model is used to protect the Council’s systems and data from cyber-attacks, and includes anti-virus, advanced threat protection, group policies, mail-filtering, dns and web-filtering, firewalls and more. In 2020 Pen testing was carried out to identify and address any vulnerabilities or gaps in the network perimeter. Simulated phishing exercises were also carried out in 2020 to maintain user awareness and training regarding one of the most common sources of attack. Work continued replacing and upgrading servers, PCs and laptops to eliminate unsupported systems from the network.

A new asset management system was

procured in December 2020. Work will commence in 2021 to ensure all IT assets are recorded and tracked in the new system.

This team also worked tirelessly throughout 2020 to meet additional challenges of COVID-19. Work included setting up laptops for all office-based staff, implementing and rolling-out multi-factor authentication for remote access, implementing and rolling-out softphones so staff could answer council phone calls remotely, and providing training and support on these services. Training and support was also provided for Microsoft Teams. Council meeting rooms were kitted out with large screens and video conferencing facilities.

Additional work carried out by the team included assisting with the relocation of Community & Environment section to MTek2 and trialling a new wide area network solution, SD-WAN, in the Market House and Crosses Water Treatment Plant. A pilot of windows virtual desktop was also carried out and this is now being implemented as an alternative remote working solution where bandwidth is low.

I.S. Service Desk

The technical support team continued its commitment to delivering a high-quality technical support service to users. 2020 was a challenging year in this regard as staff adjusted to working from home. The number of issues logged with the helpdesk rose significantly in 2020. 4,760 calls were logged, an increase of close to 1,000 calls on the previous year.

Call Statistics	2020	2019
Total Calls Logged	4760	3808
Avg. Calls per Month	397	317
Avg. Calls per Day	19	15
Resolved within 24 hrs	59%	55%

I.S. Service Desk Statistics

Innovation

In its response to the global pandemic the Council demonstrated enormous capability and willingness to innovate. This was clearly visible in the rapid provisioning of the new

aforementioned services such as the Community Call, Business Re-Start Grants and Library Home Delivery Service in addition to other novel services delivered by Sports Partnership, Youth Officer and Cultural Services. Every section in the organisation adapted and innovated to ensure services could be delivered in a safe manner.

A new all-staff text alert service was set up in February. As not all employees have access to council emails this alerting service proved extremely useful for communicating urgent COVID-19 related messages such as office closures to all staff. Recognising the limits of a one-way texting service a new employee app called Reach was piloted and is now available to all employees of Monaghan County Council.

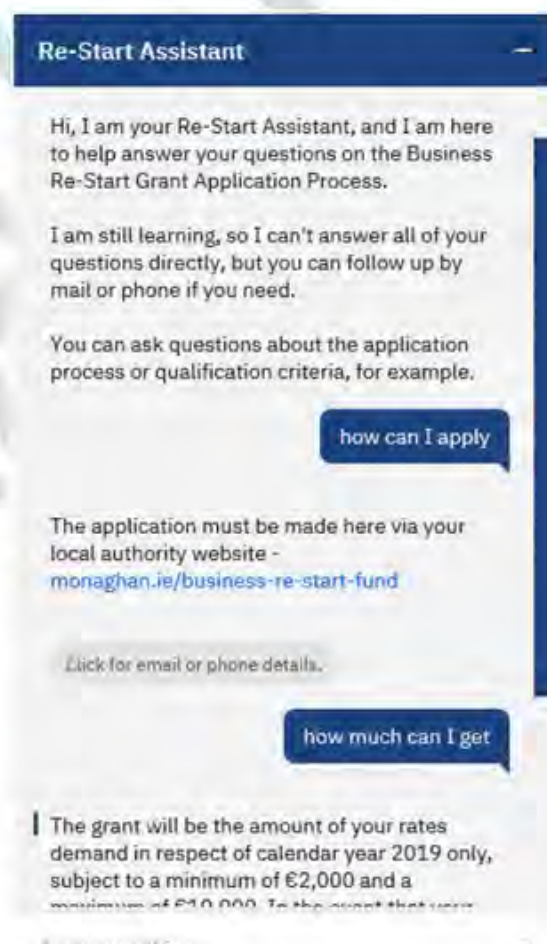


Reach Employee App

The app can be downloaded on personal as well as corporate owned devices and allows staff to respond to corporate news items and to create and respond to staff posts. A team

comprising IT, HR, Finance and Corporate staff was setup to develop and promote the app and improve its reach throughout the organisation. Campaigns were run to increase awareness and engagement by staff including a very successful Christmas photo competition.

The section investigates the use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and virtual reality to improve service delivery. A chatbot/virtual assistant was developed for the Council’s website to answer queries on the COVID-19 Re-Start Grant. Some of the benefits of virtual assistants are that they can answer multiple simultaneous queries in a consistent manner and are available 24/7. They free up staff from dealing with repetitive queries so they can get on with other work.



Re-Start Grant Virtual Assistant

In 2019 the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) launched an innovation fund to help promote a culture of innovation

across the public sector. Monaghan County Council achieved success in 2020 for the second year running receiving €29,900 to develop a 360-degree virtual tour and house inspection app. The app allows housing engineers carry out inspections more efficiently using voice recognition technology and 360-degree photos. Tasks can be assigned to Council craftworkers and external contractors and an estimate of costs to carry out works is automatically generated. A major benefit of the application is the facility to create virtual tours. A secure link to the tour is emailed to prospective tenants so they can take a virtual tour of the house using their smart phone or virtual reality headset.



Virtual Tour and House Inspection App

Monaghan County Council was one of the pilot public sector organisations along with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), the Courts Service and the Department of Agriculture who worked with DPER and consultancy firm EY to develop a national innovation strategy for the sector. As well as the national innovation strategy, a set of tools and guidance notes were developed to assist public sector organisations develop their own local innovation strategy in line with the national strategy. The Council participated in DPER run webinars to help promote the strategy and provide training on innovation strategy development to all public sector organisations.



National Public Service Innovation Strategy

National Public Service Innovation Week took place 19th to 23rd October. The section ran a series of live events to showcase the innovation taking place in the organisation. Staff from IT, Corporate, Finance, Libraries and Community & Environment were among those who provided interesting interactive presentations on innovations taking place in their areas. The section launched the Council's innovation fund and opened the call for applications to the fund. An innovation corner on the Staff Portal was also launched.



Public Service Innovation Week 19-23 October

Corporate Procurement

Overview

Despite the initial lockdown and subsequent challenges resulting from the outbreak of Covid 19, Monaghan County Council's procurement activity for 2020 remained consistent with 2019 figures. Monaghan County Council's policy decision taken in 2018 that all procurement competitions above the national threshold be conducted electronically, ensured our procurement activities could proceed smoothly during this turbulent time.

In order to mitigate the risk of Covid 19 on Monaghan County Council procurement competitions, the Procurement Officer prepared a comprehensive report detailing all procurements that may be impacted by Covid 19. Specific advice was issued to all sections as to how to proceed with their procurements, based on both advice from the Office of Government Procurement and independent legal advice received by Monaghan County Council. The advice varied depending on whether the procurement was planned, live or contract had been awarded at the time of the lockdown.

In 2020, Monaghan County Council published over 110 Requests for Tenders through both the eTenders (57) and www.supplygov.ie (56) platforms). Five of the competitions advertised on eTenders competitions were for value which exceed the EU procurement thresholds (i.e. €5,350,000 for works or €214,000 for goods or services).

Monaghan County Council staff conducted 53 quote competitions through the etenders platform using the quick quotes option. Of these competitions, 23 were for the procurement of services, 16 for supplies and 14 for works. Conducting quote competitions through this platform ensures transparency for all our purchases regardless of value.

Corporate Procurement Plan 2020 - 2022

Monaghan County Council's Corporate Procurement Plan (CPP) was adopted by the

Management Team on the 1st of September 2020. The CPP is a framework document that sets out how Monaghan County Council will conduct its procurement function over the three-year period of the plan. The plan sets out 25 actions to be completed over the lifetime of the plan with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) associated with each. This plan replaces Monaghan County Council's previous Corporate Procurement Plan 2017-2019.

Following the adoption of the Climate Action Charter, encouraging Green Public Procurement will be priority of the Procurement Unit in 2021.

Procurement Procedures

Monaghan County Council's Procurement Procedures Rev 3 were issued to all staff in January 2020, taking account of the updated EU thresholds for procurement. 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.

Procurement Steering Committee

The Procurement Steering Committee continue to meet on a quarterly basis. The committee take a proactive role in the area of procurement and the preparation of procurement policies and templates.

Procurement Team

Together with the Procurement Officer, this team continues to lead, guide and support all procurement operations to help ensure that goods, services and works are procured in compliance with all relevant legislation and guidelines, while managing risk and achieving value for money. Through ongoing learnings from the management of all Monaghan County Council procurement competitions, the Procurement Leads and Admin Leads in each department have developed significant expertise in procurement.

Public Spending Code

In accordance with the Public Spending Code, Monaghan County Council issued a Quality Assurance Report in August 2020 to NOAC for review to check compliance with the Public Spending Code. In this report Monaghan County Council must submit an inventory of all projects/programmes costing greater than €0.5m distinguishing between capital and current expenditure and categorised by expenditure being considered, expenditure being incurred, and expenditure recently ended was met without exception. The PSC also requires Monaghan County Council to publish procurements more than €10m and to submit self-assessment checklist.

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 all public works contracts with a value over €25k.

All Sections have assisted in the compilation of contracts awarded for 2020 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/>

Office of Government Procurement (OGP)

In July 2020, Monaghan County Council signed a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with the Office of Government Procurement. This document sets out the principles governing the procurement relationship between the two parties. It recognises that Monaghan County Council and the OGP are engaged in a partnership focussed on delivering efficient and suitable procurement services and value for money, ultimately to assist the local authority in meeting service delivery needs.

Monaghan County Council are using a number of OGP frameworks at present. Business & Management Consultancy, Franking Machine, Legal Services, Security Cash & Coin Collection, Stationery and office supplies and fuel cards have all been procured off these frameworks, either through mini competitions or direct

drawdowns.

Covid 19 PPE

Due to a worldwide shortage of Covid related PPE, PPE for the entire Local Government Sector was sourced centrally by the OGP. The Procurement Unit collated all Monaghan County Council's PPE requirements, across all sections, to ensure adequate PPE was ordered to meet our needs. The Procurement Unit coordinate the distribution of the PPE to the various sections where it is needed.

Human Resources

Recruitment

The Human Resource Management Section processed 355 applications in relation to 12 recruitment competitions during 2020

As a result of the competitions held in 2020, 52 applicants were deemed qualified and placed on panels, 16 posts were offered and as at 31st December 2020, 10 staff were appointed. At the end of 2020 there were 24 panels in place.

The staff complement for Monaghan County Council at 31st December 2020 was

Core Staff	No.	WTE
Managerial	5	5
Clerical/Admin	173	162.79
Prof/Tech	83	82.55
Outdoor	141	131.05
Total Core Staff	402	381.39
Contract Posts	13	12.14
Temporary/Seasonal	4	4
Retained Firefighters	51	N/A
Non DoEC&LG	8	5.15
Total Other Posts	76	21.29

Retirements during 2020

The following staff retired during 2020:

Joan Ryan, Administrative Officer
 Brendan Murphy, Senior Executive Technician
 Kathleen McCrudden, Clerical Officer



Training and Development

Training during 2020 had proved challenging to co-ordinate due to Covid-19 lockdown but nevertheless we were still able to deliver a total of 19 In-house Training Courses to staff as detailed below. This figure included relevant In-House Health and Safety Courses. In addition to the in-house courses 127 staff attended various training courses, conferences, seminars, workshops and online webinars/courses

- Temporary Traffic Management Design Level 1 & 2
- Climate Action Adaptation training
- Safe Pass
- City & Guilds Chainsaw Training
- Hazard & Risk Assessment Training
- Irish Classes
- Child Protection Training
- COVID-19 Compliance Officer Training
- COVID-19 Return to Work Safely
- Essentials of Innovation
- Road Opening Reinstatement – Basic
- Road Opening Reinstatement – Advanced
- Driver CPC
- School Warden Training
- First Aid Refresher Training
- Manual Handling Training
- Interviewee Preparation
- Microsoft Teams Training
- Abrasive Wheels Training

Courses of Further Education

A total of twenty-seven staff were approved assistance for courses of further education nine, of which were subsidised or eligible for grant funding.

Engineers Ireland 3 Year CPD Re-Accreditation

Following a CPD accreditation audit on 3rd September 2020, Monaghan County Council were awarded Engineers Ireland “CPD Accredited Employer” status for a further, maximum three-year period which runs until October 2023.

As an Engineers Ireland CPD Accredited Employer, Monaghan County Council is part of an exclusive network of organisations that

have demonstrated commitment to the professional development of the staff. This is not only important for attracting top talent among graduates but also for retaining key talent at more advanced levels.

Managing Wellbeing in the Workplace

New Employee Assistance Services Provider – Spectrum. Life

Monaghan County Council engaged the services of a new Employee Assistance Service provider – Spectrum. Life, to support our employees, our members and their families.

The Employee Assistance Service (EAS) and Wellbeing APP was officially launched on 26th November 2020. The Employee Assistance Service is available to all staff 24/7, 365 days a year and covers Counselling, Wellness, Nutrition, Fitness and Online Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, access to sign posting for support in areas such as; infertility & pregnancy loss, elder care support, parent coaching, international employee support, legal information, financial information and much more.

Flu Vaccinations

Monaghan County Council agreed to reimburse any staff member who opted to avail of the Flu Vaccination in 2020.

Health & Safety Unit

Operational Plan

The Health and Safety Unit (HSU) set out the health and safety targets to be achieved in the 'Annual Service Delivery Plan' (ASDP) 2020 (and in line with the 'Corporate Risk Register'). The HSU documented a programme of work in its 'HSU Operational Plan 2020' to achieve the requirements and targets of the ASDP 2020. The Operational Plan was reviewed on a weekly basis by the HSU as part of the Weekly Team Planning Meetings. The plan was further reviewed on a monthly basis with the Director of Service and the HSU via the monthly MonStat Meetings.

The HSU Operational Plan took a challenging turn in 2020 for Monaghan County Council (MCC) with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The unit adapted its work program very quickly to ensure the safety of its employees and those who could have been affected by works undertaken by MCC. A Local Authority National Committee for COVID-19 Health and Safety was set up to develop a suite of National Procedures to address the health and safety issues raised by the pandemic. MCC's Head of Health and Safety was selected as a member of this committee and along with the other members of the committee the work was successfully completed in a very challenging timescale.

MCC developed HSP55 COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Workplace Protection and Improvement Guide in line with the National Procedures issued. This guide contained all COVID-19 health and safety related procedures, forms and templates. It provided a simplified means for employees to access the information and procedures they needed. This was a complex guide to develop and was completed successfully by the HSU. From March onwards the HSU reviewed HSP55 with a total of 20 updates by year end. Throughout the pandemic the HSU continued with the challenge of COVID-19 while achieving as much of the targets set out in 2020 Operational Plan as was possible.

In order to provide easy to access to the document management system (and reduce paper usage), the HSU moved its inspection methodology to the online Tablet Laserfiche system. This was and continues to be an effective method of inspection that produces a consistent and concise reporting method. It substantially reduced the quantity of paper produced by the HSU. In 2020 the HSU operated at approximately 90% paperless.

Work conducted by the unit from February to June 2020 was mainly COVID-19 related. By July 2020 the HSU returned to work on the Operational Plan as originally set out. The following information details the main elements of work achieved by the HSU in 2020:

- Corporate Safety Statement reviewed six monthly as required by the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005
- Safety Committee Meeting Feb 2020.
- Online Health and Safety Manuals completed for all sections.
- HSP40 Temporary Traffic Management Procedure completed in line with new national requirements.
- HSP53 Emergency Preparedness and Response to Storm Procedure completed with Hazard & Risk Assessments included).
- HSP55 COVID-19 Coronavirus) Workplace Protection and Improvement Guide developed.
- 23 Procedures reviewed and updated.
- 6 Forms reviewed and updated.
- HSM01 Radiation Register completed.
- HSM06 Confined Space Register completed.
- Section Ladder Registers completed.
- HSF14 Health and Safety Inspection Form updated and set up on Laserfiche.
- HMS01 to 09 Safety Registers updated monthly.
- Corporate Risk Register reviewed quarterly.
- COVID-19 Presentations completed and delivered to Members and Employees.
- 38 Covid-19 Compliance raining Sessions delivered by the HSU to employees.
- Two Safety Link Newsletters created and issued.
- Variety of events and information completed for European Health and Safety Week.

- 21 Safety Briefings developed and issued.
- 07 LASOG and Joint Union Health and Safety Steering Committee Meetings attended by the Head of Health and Safety.
- 09 MCC Defibrillators maintained and checked by the HSU.
- 12 HSU Monthly Reports delivered on time to the Management Team.

Inspection Programme

The 2020 Inspection Programme was successfully completed having been adapted to include COVID-19 Inspections. The following table outlines the inspections completed by the HSU:

Target Number of Inspections:	Actual Achieved :	% Achieved :
156	169	108%
Inspection Conducted:	Number Conducted:	
Road Works	110	
Yards	06	
Water	04	
Housing	02	
Corporate/Capita l	01	
COVID-19	44	
Building	02	

Hazard and Risk Assessment

The following table outlines Hazard and Risk Assessments completed by the HSU in 2020:

Assessment Type:	96 Hazard & Risk Assessments conducted in total
COVID-19	12
Playgrounds	30
Plant Rooms	17
Yards/Landfill	03
Procedure	24
Buildings	10

Summary

While 2020 was a challenging year for the HSU it highlighted how quickly the unit can respond to change. It demonstrated the team work within the unit and the leadership of the Director of Service and the acceptance of employees to the changes that were required to keep them and others safe.

The work completed in 2020 by the HSU enabled Monaghan County Council and its employees to meet 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 Municipal District of Carrickmacross- Castleblayney

Road Infrastructure

In 2020, the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District managed an investment of €3.55million in the Regional and Local road network (an increase of €780,000 on 2019).

13 roads (4 Regional and 9 Local) were strengthened under the Restoration Improvement Programme and a further 11 roads (2 Regional and 9 Local) were resealed under the Restoration Maintenance Programme.

Funding received under the Active Travel programme enabled the substantial completion of five schemes to provide enhanced walking and cycling facilities in the towns of Castleblayney and Carrickmacross.

The Municipal District also completed improvement works to 4 Local roads under two pilot initiatives - the "Cement Bound Granular Material" and the "Reclaimed Asphalt" pilot schemes.

Two private roads were completed under the Local Improvement Scheme (L.I.S) and 4 local roads were resurfaced under the Community Involvement Scheme (C.I.S) at a cost of €440,000.

Regenerating our Town and Village Centres

The Municipal District was actively involved in the restoration of buildings and facilities investment opportunities throughout 2020.

Works to the Market House, Carrickmacross were completed. The building now houses the new Carrickmacross Lace Gallery, a new Craft Shop, a new craft studio and a unisex public toilet.



The Market House, Carrickmacross

Following investment of €1.2million, the Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen opened to the public in July 2020. Funded through Monaghan County Council's Development Contribution Scheme, with grant aid from Failte Ireland and the Department of Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht and Heritage, the Centre is a flagship visitor attraction for the County.



The Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Inniskeen

In 2020, Monaghan County Council, in partnership with Farney Community Development Ltd., purchased the Carrickmacross Workhouse, inclusive of its 6.5-acre site and accompanying buildings, for the sum of €600,000. This acquisition and the future development of the site and buildings will provide facilities for the social and community needs of the South Monaghan area.

An exciting new visitor attraction, the *Workhouse Experience*, funded through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, together with the Municipal Allocation Fund, will, subject to Covid-19 restrictions, open in time for the 2021 tourism season.



The Workhouse, Carrickmacross

Combined with the Patrick Kavanagh Centre and the Craft Centre at the Market House, the Workhouse will complete a cluster of tourism activities in the South of the County that will help attract visitors and contribute to the local economy.

Funding was received under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) for the development of a new Enterprise Hub ("The Ridge") at McGrath Road, Castleblayney. A joint initiative with Enterprising Monaghan and Castleblayney Community Enterprise, the 1,350 sqm facility will provide a 28-unit business hub. Works are due to commence on site in January 2021, with an anticipated completion date of March 2022. "The Ridge" will be managed by Castleblayney Community Enterprise CLG.



"The Ridge" Enterprise Hub, McGrath Road, Castleblayney

Investing in Public Spaces

The Municipal District has developed Public Realm and Economic Plans for both Castleblayney and Carrickmacross Towns. The Public Realm Plan for Carrickmacross provided the basis for a successful funding application under the RRDF for the development of several town centre and public realm projects.

These included, the development of two Local Area Action Plans for the backlands off Main Street, the development of a Car Parking Strategy for the town, and the on-going development of a detailed design for the Public Realm on Main Street and Bridewell Lane.

Inniskeen Village Public Realm Plan is currently under development. This plan will seek to address access and parking challenges around the village and provide the basis for future funding applications.

Funding, under the Town and Village Renewal scheme, was secured for an external canopy and outdoor screen at the Patrick Kavanagh Centre, together with a bandstand canopy and picnic benches at the Civic Offices in Carrickmacross.

Both these projects will support a safer transition from Covid-19 restrictions, in an open space setting, allowing for physical distancing. They will enhance the Public Realm, providing opportunities for outdoor events and gatherings, whilst encouraging increased footfall to benefit local economies.

Consultants have been appointed to undertake a public engagement study to inform the future use of the Market House and Square in Castleblayney Town. €295,000 has been secured under the RRDF to facilitate preliminary and detailed design for the refurbishment of the Market House building, and the enhancement of the surrounding public realm.

A funding application is also pending for the development of a new technology hub, C:TEK II, in Carrickmacross.

Developing Outdoor Recreational Amenities

Funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), saw the completion of the following projects in 2020:

- Surfacing and drainage works at the entrance to Mindzenty Park, Castleblayney.

- The provision of new seating and recreational facilities at The Point and jetty at Black Island, Castleblayney

Maintenance and upkeep work to the Monaghan Way Trail remains on-going, whilst ORIS funding provided for investment in the "Hilly Way" Cycle route, connecting Kingscourt to Carrickmacross, along the Lough Fea Estate. This cycleway will ultimately connect to the Navan-Kingscourt route.

Funding has been sought to support the development of several outdoor recreational initiatives in 2021. These include:

- Dog walking park at Drummond Otra.
- Biodiversity and Pollinator measures at Tullynaskeagh East & Gallows' Hill.
- Public realm incorporating seating, landscaping and signage at 5 No. locations.
- Outdoor fitness and exercise Trail at Lough Muckno Park, Castleblayney
- Lough na Glac to Ardee Road Walking Trail, Carrickmacross
- Proposed Music Trail and Walking Trail Signage for Castleblayney and Oram.

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. The Chamber of Commerce also manages the festive lighting for the town and organises activities in the run up to Christmas. The "Carrickmacross Online Market" was launched on the 8th of December 2020. 17 No. enterprises are currently availing of this online platform, with many more expected to follow in 2021.

In Castleblayney, the Town Regeneration Team has been very active in providing focus for the business and community sectors. The Team meet with the MD executive on a monthly basis and leads initiatives such as the Town

Voucher Scheme; Christmas lights; tourism promotions and events.

Tidy Towns - The Municipal District helps fund these groups with an annual contribution and provides additional supports throughout the year in order to provide them with the best opportunity to achieve their goals.

Tourism Initiatives

Monaghan County Council and the Municipal District office provide ongoing financial and logistical support to tourism initiatives within the district. These activities generate significant income into the local community.

The investment in the Patrick 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 and alongside existing offerings, will form a significant cultural tourism attraction for the district. A funding application, for a bike rental scheme to complement the Patrick Kavanagh Centre, is also pending.

In Castleblayney, the Council is seeking to develop Lough Muckno and the Hope Castle demesne as a significant regional attraction.

The Municipal District of Ballybay Clones

Roads Programme 2020

In 2020 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 nine local roads and three regional roads in the district to the value of nearly €2.63million under the restoration improvement grants scheme. There were a further 45km of roads were 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.

Low Cost Safety Improvement Works

Low cost safety improvement projects were completed in 2020 at the LP2331/LT23313 Coolkill, Cornawall road, Rockcorry, At the junction of the R162/R184 known locally as Hanrattys Cross, LP39002/R190 Balladian and at the LS6290/R183 junction at Kileevan National School.

Specific Improvement Grant

In 2020 Monaghan County Council secured funding of €650,000 through the Specific Improvement Scheme to replace Brackly Bridge off the R180 at Tossy Cross. This scheme consists of the replacement of the damaged bridge be replaced and there will be significant works undertaken in upgrading both the local and regional road and realigning the junction at Tossy Cross. Monaghan County Council also secured €370,000 through the same grant for realignment of sections of the R181 from Lough Egish to Shercock. This funding is being used for the design of the project and to secure land for the construction stage.

Footpath Repairs

In October, a contractor on behalf of Ballybay Clones Municipal District commenced a programme of works for the repair of defective

footpaths in Clones Town. The total value of this works is in the region of €100,000.

The Peace Link

Due to the continual increased numbers of people using the existing state of the art facilities at the Peace Link Clones, it has become apparent that the facilities need to be expanded and enhanced to meet the growing demand. The Municipal District of Ballybay-



Clones have been working closely with Clones Erne East Sports Management Company Ltd to agree a scope of works and have procured the services of Keys and Monaghan Architects to design an extension. Part 8 planning application has been approved.



Community Support Hub

The Ballybay Clones Municipal District were delighted to assist in the role out of the Community Support Hub during the public health emergency of April 2020. The MD offices were used for training and for the operation of the confidential telephone line set up to assist venerable members of our society.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund

As part of Project Ireland 2040, the Government has committed to providing an additional €1 billion for a new Rural Regeneration and Development Fund over the period 2019 to 2027. The Fund will provide investment to support rural renewal for suitable projects in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas. It will be administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development. This Funding will be awarded through a competitive bid process, based on delivering the objectives for rural Ireland in the National Planning Framework.

Ballybay-Clones Municipal District prepared substantial applications for the towns of Ballybay and Clones and were successful in obtaining funding for both towns.

In Clones the application included St. Tiarnach's Plaza, a Heritage project and a Fermanagh Street Business Hub, and funding was received for all of these projects. Together with match funding, there is a funding pot of €0.5M to develop these projects to a construction ready stage. This funding includes for feasibility studies, property purchases, design process and the planning stage. Consultants have been appointed for all 3 projects and it is planned to have some elements of these projects construction ready by Q1 2021. The Heritage Project is at Detailed Design Stage with the Part 8 Planning adopted at the November 2020 Council meeting. St Tiarnach's Plaza has the preliminary design completed and is at land negotiation stage. The Fermanagh St Business Hub is currently at Preliminary Design Stage.

In Ballybay a feasibility study was carried out for the development of a town paths network within Ballybay and its environs. This report found that there was a strong case for the development of walking tracks around Ballybay. Negotiations are ongoing with landowners along the perimeter of Lough Major, to purchase necessary lands to develop dedicated walking tracks around Lough Major and formalise the existing Loop. In an addition an ecological appraisal report has been completed, giving a baseline case of the



ecology in the area. Once the lands have been purchased Monaghan County Council will be in a position to make an application for funding under Outdoor Recreation or similar fund to formalise the path network around Lough Major.

Monaghan County Council recently acquired the 'O'Mathuna' site in Ballybay through the Derelict Sites Act. It was initially envisaged that this site would form a residential development with the inclusion of a small amount of retail and community elements. However following discussions with stakeholders, it was decided to utilise a part of the site as a town centre car park, to allow more long stay parking off street, freeing up on street parking for short duration stay, also in conjunction with the HSE the car parking



space allows for the development of a health centre facility adjacent to the proposed spaces. The remainder of the site is to be set aside for development by the housing section.



Carbon Tax Fund 2020

Ballybay Clones Municipal District were successful in securing funding through the Carbon Tax Fund 2020 for €100,000 to further develop the proposals for the provision of a Greenway from Smithborough to Clones, this Builds on the feasibility study that was completed in mid-2019. A tender package to further develop these proposals is currently being completed, with consultants appointed by December 2020, with their work to be completed in Mid 2021.

Launch Of Scotshouse Community Plan and Development of Scotshouse Park

With strict social distancing in place the Scotshouse Community plan was launched in June of this year. Both the Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council Cllr Colm Carthy and the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District Cllr PAT Treanor were in attendance alongside Council staff and residents of this vibrant community. The plan is a blue print for the future development of Scotshouse village and involved the input of many community groups within the village. The plan was launched in the newly upgraded Scotshouse Park. The works here include a bridge over the river to serve as a pedestrian route to the local primary school. Works to the park were completed in the summer of 2020

Active Travel

Ballybay Clones Municipal District were



successful in securing funding through the Active Travel Scheme 2020 for €20,000 to provide public lighting in the recently developed Ballybay Town Park. These works are currently advised to Airtricity with the works to be completed Q2 of 2021. Significant additional funding was received through the Active Travel fund for the development of a footpath Network in Lough Egish, footpaths in Ballybay and the resurfacing of Ballybay Main Street. It is envisaged that these paths will link into the footpaths previously provided through Town and Village and Outdoor Recreation Schemes.

Visit of Dutch Ambassador Mr Adriaan Palm



On behalf of Monaghan County Council Mr Eamonn O Sullivan Chief Executive welcomed The Dutch Ambassador Mr Adriaan Palm to the Ballybay Clones Municipal District. The Ambassador visited St Comgalls National School in the Connors, ABP Clones, The Peace Link and The Canal Stores. The Ambassador spoke of the importance of this visit in light of Brexit and wanted to see first hand how a no deal Brexit would affect those people living in the border region. The Cathaoirleach of

Monaghan County Council Cllr Seamus Coyle and The Cathaoirleach of the Ballybay Clones Municipal District Cllr Pat Treanor both thanked the Ambassador for visiting the region and spoke of the importance of the visit.

Official Opening of Scoil Mhuire Gransha MUGA

The Cathaoirleach of the Ballybay Clones Municipal District Cllr Pat Treanor welcomed Minister Heather Humphries to the official opening of the Gransha National School MUGA. There was a large attendance of parents and school children at this event. The MUGA was funded through the Clar scheme, the Parents Association and the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District. Minister Heather Humphries performed the official opening and paid tribute to all those involved. Minister Heather Humphries paid special tribute to the parents and children who raised a massive €9000 as part of the match funding requirement of the project. Funding of €43,500 was received through Clar, while the elected members of the Ballybay Clones Municipal District allocated €1000 to the project.

Pride Week



The Ballybay Clones Municipal District were delighted to fly the Pride flag at our offices during Pride Week 2020. The Cathaoirleach Cllr Pat Treanor was joined by the incoming Cathaoirleach Cllr Seamus Coyle and the Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council Cllr Colm Carthy at this event. Cavan & Monaghan Rainbow Youth thanked all those who had flown the Pride flag and said that it

showed that Monaghan County Council was a council of inclusion, diversity and of hope.

Ballybay Clones Municipal District AGM

With the monthly Municipal District meetings of March, April and May having been cancelled due to the Coronavirus the elected members held their first post lockdown meeting in June, this was followed immediately afterwards by the AGM. Cllr Seamus Coyle was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr Richard Truell Leas-Chathaoirleach. The members and the executive paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach and congratulated Cllr Seamus Coyle and Cllr Richard Truell on their elections.



Outdoor Recreation Scheme – Ballybay Town Park

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones have been working closely with Ballybay Community through public consultations to develop the park facilities at Ballybay Town Park. The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones were successful in securing funding from Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme to improve and expand the walking tracks and paths through the park, as well as including an outdoor classroom facility, a picnic area and significant planting. This work complements existing paths, outdoor gym equipment and other facilities in the park. Works were completed in August 2020 by S. Wilkin and Sons Ltd.

Clones Heritage Town initiative

The Ballybay Clones Municipal District were successful in receiving €103,000 from the Heritage Council for the Enhancement of the Monastic Sites of Clones. The funding will go towards the lighting up of the National Monuments at The Round Tower and The Wee Abbey. Works will also be carried out at the wall of the Round Tower and to St Tiarnach's Sarcophagus.

A new pathway was created through the graveyard which will add to the overall visitor experience to the area.



Clones Town Team

Clones Town team appointed the Paul Hogarth company to develop a Heritage and Economic Plan for the town. Through funding from Leader and the Municipal District the plan will be a blue print for Clones' future and its recommendations will, no doubt have an exciting and positive impact, in restoring and



harnessing the town's historical past. It will also inspire the seeds for future developments, so that our community will continue to inspire future generations to come. Public consultation events took place online and were greatly received by the local community, the plan is due to be launched in March 2021.

Tidy Towns in the Municipal District



The young people of the Municipal District were not going to let covid 19 stop them carrying out their duties when it came to keep their towns and neighbourhoods

clean. In conjunction with the local tidy town's groups and the Municipal District staff these willing young volunteers took to the highroads and byroads in order to keep their county clean. From early April until the end of May scores of family pods walked the roads of the Ballybay Clones Municipal District picking up the rubbish dumped by others. The local Municipal District and County would be far better served if its older citizens took the same sense of pride in it that our youngsters have shown during the difficult lockdown period

Town and Village Renewal – Farmers Yard

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones received funding to prepare a master plan and carry out some works at the former Shortt's Yard and Farmers yard at Lower Fermanagh St, Clones. Craftstudios were appointed for the Feasibility Study and the Design. Works were completed in October 2020 creating a unique outdoor multi-functional community area.

Lough Egish

The area around Lough Egish, is disjointed with no dedicated walking paths. This project will enable pedestrians to move between the different premises in the area (Church, factories, GAA grounds / community Centre, safely and off road as is currently not the practice. The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones have received funding to provide a dedicated footpath to provide connection to a footpath provided previously adjacent to the GAA Grounds and Aughnamullen Church. As these works tendered below budget, it is

planned to complete public lighting on the footpath and extend the works area back towards Lough Egish cross roads These works will be completed in December 2020 / January 2021.

The Municipal District of Monaghan

Retail Strategy for the Town/District - Town Team

The members of Monaghan Municipal District have committed to continuing to support the position of Monaghan Business Support Executive and the Town Team. The following was achieved in 2020:

Monaghan Town Voucher

The Monaghan Town Voucher had sales of



€844,370 during Christmas 2020. Redemptions for the year totaled €902,865. Overall sales for 2020 totaled €984,620.

Green Space Initiative

The Green Space in front of the Courthouse was not activated in 2020 due to Covid-19 social distance restrictions.

Monaghan Town Team Committee

Monaghan Town Team Committee alongside the Retail Committee team completed a number of projects from September to December to focus on retention of economic spend.

A “Stay Local, Shop Local” Campaign was launched in October with promotion via Northern Sound, Northern Standard and Billboard displays.



There was also a campaign launched to encourage people to spend their town vouchers in the lead up to Christmas, along with a database providing details on other ways to shop locally.



Stay Local Shop Local campaign was once again to the forefront in the 3rd December issue of the Northern Standard as retail businesses reopened after restrictions. Christmas Shop front display competition took place on 14th December, winners as follows:

- 1st prize – Missy A’s
- 2nd Prize – Dinkins Bakery & Café
- 3rd Prize – Inbeauty Studio

Monaghan Food Network

Top Foodie Destination. This event was cancelled due to Covid-19

Car Parking

Pay parking was suspended on the 26th March until the 20th July due to Covid-19 pandemic. The purchase of eight new pay parking machines was approved in 2020. A new cashless parking system is currently being developed for Monaghan Town, this will supplement the existing facility to pay by cash which will remain in place.

The Municipal District operated a free Christmas parking campaign, which

commenced after 12 noon each day, from 7th December to 2nd January 2021.

Community

Tidy Towns

Due to Covid 19, no National Tidy Towns awards were held. Therefore, Glaslough hold on to their title as Ireland's Tidiest Town and Village they achieved in 2019.

Ulster Canal Greenway

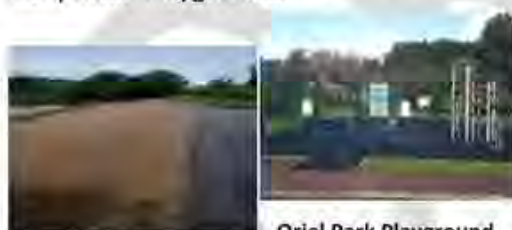
The Municipal District continues to maintain and trim verges on the existing Greenway and carry out litter picks throughout the year.

Community Grants

99 grants were issued to groups in the Monaghan Municipal District but due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Annual Community Grant Awards presentation evening could not take place.

Town and Village Schemes

The 2019 and 2020 Town and Village Renewal Schemes funded works at Emy Lough Amenity Area, Oriel Park Playground and Cluain Lorcan Playground re-surfacing. Department Playground Fund 2019 completed much needed upgrading of surface and equipment at Hollywood Playground.



Oriel Park Playground

Emy Lough Amenity Area

Provision of new footpath and public lights at Annyalla funding secured and design commenced. €78,657

Funding secured for Carrickroe playground and design completed. €73,594

Funding secured to develop a part of the canal into a wildlife area, €57,600.

Town and Village Covid 19 Funding

Funding of €25,000 was secured for the provision of outdoor equipment for 12 villages in Monaghan Municipal District, €25,000 was secured for Monaghan Town Centre Project, €40,000 for the Enhancement of the Market and Fairs Capacity in Glaslough village, and €25,000 to aid access and enhancement to the Blackwater Valley Learning and Community Centre.

Town and Village 2020 Funding

Two schemes were successful, Emyvale Public Realm and overhead cable removal, €200,000 and Clontibret new footpath and public lights €81,315. Monaghan MD to match fund both schemes.

Clar Funding 2020

Two schemes funded - Mullan Village traffic calming, €14,506 and Clontibret GAA car park development €22,473

Outdoor Recreational Infrastructural Scheme (ORIS) 2020

Funding for three schemes was secured under ORIS Measure 1

Ulster Canal Greenway, €20,000 grant and €5,000 match funding for re stoning and drainage.

Emyvale Eco Trial, to compliment the existing funding and enable Emyvale Tidy Towns to complete the Eco Trial along the Mountain Stream river, €20,000.

To enhance the connection between the existing Greenway to Rossmore Forest Park, €20,000 grant and €5,000 match funding.

Active Travel Measures

The Municipal District secured funding under the 2020 Active Travel Fund and completed footpath replacement at Beechgrove Lawns Estate in 2020.

Low Cost Safety Schemes

Schemes included:

- A safety barrier was erected at Drumacruttan NS School on the R162, Monaghan to Ballybay road.
- Land acquisition and earthworks were carried out the Junction of the LP-1400 & LP-1420 to improve the visibility splay lines. This has made a huge improvement to the safety at this junction.
- Land acquisition and earthworks were carried out the Crossroad's of the LS-5111 & LS5112 Edenmore Crossroads, to improve the visibility splay lines.

Events

Due to covid-19, all Events in the town were cancelled in 2020.

The Christmas Lights Switch on took place via video on the 29th November reaching 20,000 people and having almost 6000 engagements.

Promotion & Town Enhancement

Monaghan Town Heritage Walking Tours

Walking Tours were provided every Saturday at 11am where possible due to Covid restrictions from after the end of the initial restrictions in July to the end of September. Walks were free to join and started from the Westenra hotel.

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 Derelict Sites Act.

Rossmore Forest Park

Rossmore Giants Trial

'Queen Banba' 'Spike' and 'the Cauldron of plenty' giants were put in place this year in the park. The vision is for a trial of nine giants throughout the park. This project is being ably supported by Monaghan Tourism Section and Monaghan MD in a collaborative effort to

develop a regional visitor attraction for the town, district & county.



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

Annual maintenance works were carried out, grass cutting, path repairs and cutting back of vegetation along walks.

An Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme grant of €426,000 and local authority match funding of €105,000 from the MD Allocation was secured to complete infrastructural works in the park. Works included were, new car park at main entrance, resurfacing of entrance, extending and resurfacing of the carpark, landscaping and wildflower meadows, and replacement of bridges.

Family Cycle Trail

Funding has been secured under ORIS Grant 2019 to develop a family friendly cycle route in Rossmore Forest Park. The Design Team, the Paul Hogarth Company, has been appointed and they are currently working on the route selection and specifications. When this design stage is completed, the council will undertake a tender process for construction works which will include path developments/improvements, provision of rest points, signage, landscaping etc.

The Friends of Rossmore Forest Park continue to operate their Facebook page with a great interest in the park.

The Park Runs along with other events were cancelled in 2020 due to covid-19 restrictions.

Road Infrastructure Works

- 10.5km of Local roads and 3.15km of Regional Roads were overlaid under

the Road Restoration Improvements 2020 program.

- 22.5km of Local Roads and 5.9km of Regional Roads were surfaced dressed under the Restoration Maintenance 2020 programme.
- 2.5km of Local roads were overlaid under the Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot Programme 2020.
- 1.1km of Local roads were overlaid under the CGBM Pilot Programme 2020.
- National road drainage rehabilitation of 5km was carried out on the N2 from Derrynagrew -Cloghnart.
- Drainage works were completed on the N54 from Monaghan Town to the turn off for the R187.
- Verge Trimming on National Roads. Two verge grass cuts were completed included litter removal in 2020.
- The Municipal District also completed a program of hedge cutting works on their own property and in strategic locations within the District.
- 30km/hr Speed limits in estates, additional 30kmph signs were erected in housing estates taken in charge. Speed limit reviews carried out on Local, Regional and National Roads.
- Winter Maintenance program commenced on 15th October 2020 and will continue until 28th April 2021.

Municipal District Meetings

The Municipal District hold their monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month. Meetings were cancelled from March and resumed in June. At our AGM meeting in June, Cllr Seamus Treanor was elected Cathaoirleach for one year. There were a number of other subcommittee meetings to discuss roads, budgets and other issues and programs in the district. The Schedule of Municipal District Works was presented and approved at the June Meeting.

Museum

Monaghan’s War of Independence Exhibition 2020

The museum’s current exhibition was launched in late February and received hugely positive reviews throughout the national media. This saw record numbers coming to view the exhibit until the museum was forced to close in mid-March due to Covid 19. We have turned several of the display elements from the exhibition into a virtual format and have promoted them through our website and social media platforms. The museum Facebook page has experienced almost a 50% rise in interaction since the initial lockdown in March.

Working in collaboration with Professor Terence Dooley of Maynooth University, Monaghan County Museum new exhibition *Monaghan’s War of Independence 1919 – 1921* uses stunning imagery, objects, film and first-hand accounts as well as new research into the history of the conflict in Monaghan. This new and important investigation into what happened in the county during those fateful years reveals a tale, which is more than just a struggle between the IRA and the British forces for control of the county.



Exhibition Poster



Image from Monaghan's War of Independence Exhibition



Media Coverage from the Exhibition Launch

Recording Our Experience

Following the lockdown in March, the museum launched a new online project inviting the public to send in their experiences of life during Covid 19. The response was overwhelming and the resulting archive, which is still being added to, will be an invaluable social collection reflecting the various realities of this tragic and yet historic period in the county and country’s history. It is intended to curate this archive into an exhibition, which will be launched as one of the first new displays when the Peace Campus building is opened.

Some of the most impactful images from this archive were chosen as the focus of our calendar for 2021. The museum usually produces 1,500 calendars each year but due to

the enormous success of this community focussed project the museum produced 7,000. These calendars were distributed throughout the county by our colleagues in An Garda Síochána as well as being sent out throughout the country and overseas.



Calendar 2021 Cover



Calendars distributed throughout the county

Peace Campus

Monaghan County Museum are working with the Ulster Scots Agency to develop the new display for the Peace Campus. The project will run in tandem with the construction of the building to ensure that all design and build

elements of the new displays will be ready to go into place once the building is completed. It is anticipated that these new exhibitions will tell the story of the region from all aspects of the community and in doing so serve as a catalyst to bring people together through a shared heritage.

Online Events

The museum reformatted their autumn events programme and where possible, these events ran online through the museum Facebook page and Microsoft Teams. As all cultural institutions move their programme online, new audiences are starting to emerge. The result being that as the impact of the pandemic eases, the museum staff are planning to continue to build their online offering to the public.



Students taking part in some of the Museum's online events.

Library Service

Cultural Team

Creative Ireland Programme 2020

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; Dymrna Condra, Tourism Officer; Fiona McEntee, Youth Officer; Darren McCreesh, PK Centre Manager, Eilin Connolly, LEO Office, Laura Carey, Monaghan County Library and Catherine Elliott, County Librarian. The steering committee reports to John Murray, Head of Finance.

This year the committee were presented a challenge in delivering the Creative Ireland Programme during Covid 19. Undaunted, a total of 15 projects were supported by programme funding of €201,000, with additional funding being provided in July for Job Stimulus projects and Positive Ageing and Creative Wellbeing.

The projects are:

Cruinniú na nÓg which is a national day of creativity for children and young people. We moved the entire programme online and set up a YouTube channel for most of the events with over 6000 viewers of them. A broad programme was devised in partnership with the Local Arts in Education Partnership and Cavan County Council.



Festival in a Van visited nursing care homes and centres working with adults who have disabilities between October- December, bringing music and entertainment to the residents during this challenging time while engaging local musicians to deliver.



The Nature Project is an innovative new collaborative project with artist Siobhan McDonald, comprised of a series of enquiries connected with Environmental change – such as the roll of bogs in Climate Change and the impact on our health and well-being of our ecosystems and ourselves. Throughout the duration of The Nature Project, Siobhan is proposing a vast programme of activities across the partnering institutions: residencies, exhibitions, pop-up labs, workshops and talks. This project will raise awareness and foster creative and critical reflections about environmental challenges that our society is currently facing.

Patrick Kavanagh Legacy Programme This programme has three distinct project parts involving community groups, the creative

community, schools and various cultural, archival and library council services. It is a series of discreet projects stimulating fresh perspectives on the life and work of Patrick Kavanagh, one of Ireland's most beloved poets, and the significance of his work in a contemporary context.

The Big Houses of Monaghan – A Virtual Learning Quest During the summer of 2019, our partnership enabled a group of young people to create a virtual replica of the former Rossmore Castle using Minecraft. We will expand on this project, by making the castle available as an online world that can be accessed by teachers and young people.

Writer in Residence Over a period of 9 months, Deirdre Cartmill is in residency delivering a diverse programme of creative writing workshops, online tutorials, working with schools and individuals whilst working on her own writing. Alongside Deirdre's residency, Steve Lally facilitated a Monaghan Folk Tales Residency based around his publication of the same name.



Tradoodle Festival Tradoodle Festival is about children and young people, community engagement, and it is about providing opportunities for children and young people to access the traditional arts in innovative, interesting, and meaningful ways.



Elsewhere – The Opera Elsewhere is a new opera project led by composer Michael Gallen,

based on the true story of the world's first Soviet outside the USSR – in the lunatic asylum of a small Irish town – established fleetingly in 1919. Elsewhere will be rehearsed and performed in Lontas Castleblayney and will premiere at the Abbey Theatre in November 2021 with European premiere at the Opera de Rouen.

Song Ties is an intergenerational arts project which connected residents of Castleross Nursing Home with children from a local primary school class in a virtual song exchange and performance



Monaghan Murals Monaghan County Museum, working in partnership with the Patrick Kavanagh Centre as well as other key partners within the County Council and wider community plan to develop a project aimed at supporting local artists and engaging the community in their history and heritage through the medium of murals.

Inscribed histories at the Rossmore Mausoleum - A project to develop a plan around the next stage of conservation of the Mausoleum. Elements being considered include the commissioning of a new stained-glass piece to fit into the existing window revetments, using an element of the heritage of the Westenras as an inspiration with virtual tour or art pieces on the viewing platform to reflect the art, architecture and interior of the building and the histories of those buried in the graveyard.



Playwriting Workshops and Performance of Monologue Plays Project - in partnership with Local Arts in Education Partnership

Working with the youth theatre groups in both counties, Shane Mac an Bhaird, a writer from Ballybay worked with the young people on a program consisting of playwriting workshops, writing, rehearsals, performances.



Christmas Theatre to Classrooms

supporting the LAEP where theatre was brought to the classrooms of schools across counties Cavan and Monaghan during December.

Let's Go Digital Course for Creative Practitioners

A digital upskilling course of 7 workshops, delivered by artist/folklorist Michael Fortune. The course gave creative practitioners and community workers an opportunity to learn how to use online digital tools to expand their practice and connect with fellow peers.

Sensory Songs project Led by Dr Thomas Johnston, a traditional musician and Artistic Director of Ceol Connected, and Orla Kelly, a visual artist and Director of Early Childhood Creativity, the project is multisensory in nature, incorporating light, sound, touch, smell, texture etc.

Due to covid restrictions, the artists recorded a workshop in the Market House, Monaghan which was shared with the participating schools and North East Down Syndrome Centre

along with specially made multisensory boxes. An online session was facilitated for the teachers on how to use the video and the boxes.



Culture Night 2020

This was the 8th 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 18th September. We were given the challenge to devise a

programme in line with current health and safety guidelines. Thanks to the vibrant rich cultural community in County Monaghan, we were able to present a blended programme

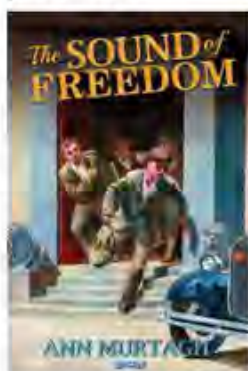


for everyone to enjoy. Many of the events took place online but a number which took place outdoors, including a drive -in movie and outdoor concert. The County Council received €6,500 funding from the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht.

Decade of Centenaries

One Book One County Initiative

An annual initiative facilitated by Library service, where all schools, book clubs and groups are invited to read the one book and discuss it. The book chosen for 2020/21 is the newly published 'The Sound of Freedom' by Ann Murtagh. After a particularly unusual 2020, it was unclear whether we would even be able to run with our schools project this year, but thankfully, after looking at it from a new perspective, everything eventually worked in our favour.



War of Independence Digital Media Project

Coordinated by Museum Service, the focus for the project is the 'War of Independence' within the context of the 'centenary' exhibition as currently on display in the Monaghan County Museum. Students working collaboratively to research particular perspectives of the 'War of Independence', capture and retelling of stories using a mix of digital techniques and traditional approaches including film, photography, green screen and animation tools.



the the 'War



With more than 25 schools and over 700 children engaging in the project this year, it has been a huge success and schools have embraced the challenges thrown up by this year's online aspect.

Ireland's Poetic Strive to Independence – Poets of the Rising and the Revolutionary Period Project

For 2020, we continued with our programme 'Ireland's Poetic Strive to Independence' which was devised in 2019 with a local award-winning poet Ted McCarthy. For 2020, zoom discussions took place around a number of literary and poetry topics relating to 1920 period.

Library Services

LIBRARY SERVICES DURING COVID 19

Housebound Service

Following the full lockdown, we developed a housebound service for customers, available through the community call service. This was launched on the 5th May 2020.

The service proved incredibly popular. We have



maintained and developed it, moving it away from the community call helplines and back to the branch library network. We were helped enormously in the development of the service by our colleague in IT, Adrienne Burns, who provided us with a custom designed mapping facility to map and deploy deliveries across the county.

Contact and Collect Service

The Contact and Collect Service was launched in the Monaghan, Carrickmacross and Clones branches on 8th June and the Castleblayney and Ballybay branches on 7th July 2020.

This service allowed customers to call their local branch and request Books, DVDs etc. for collection at an agreed time.

This allowed a greater number of customers to have access to their favourite reading material, without the need to access the branches, which could not be opened to the public at the time.

Contact & Collect
introducing a new service from
Monaghan County Libraries

If you would like to avail of the Contact & Collect service please call one of the libraries listed below between the hours of 10am & 4pm. Monday to Friday to discuss your reading preferences and arrange a collection time.

Monaghan: 047 89810
Clones: 047 74712
Carrickmacross: 042 9641144

Your books will be carefully processed & brought to you with full personalisation when handing the books.

Monaghan County Libraries

Browsing Service

The Drop-In Browsing Service was launched on 29th June 2020 in the Monaghan, Carrickmacross and Clones branches. This followed a considerable process of planning and reconfiguring the interior of each branch, to ensure that they were in line with Covid regulations. This included:

- The installation of Perspex at each customer desk
- The removal of all but essential furniture
- The reconfiguring of library shelving to facilitate short term browsing while maintaining social distance
- The installation of capacity counter at each front door, to control the number of customers entering the branch at any given time
- A 30-minute limit on customer visits
- The installation of hand sanitising units, wipes etc. in all branches
- Resumption of the National Request and Delivery Service

Local History & Genealogy Service

Despite the libraries being closed to the public for most of the year, the local history & genealogy section continued to operate and thrive.

There was a marked increase in the number of genealogy enquiries received, this was due to people all over the world having more time on their hands to research their ancestry. Work continued throughout 2020 on the scanning & indexing of death notices & obituaries from the local newspapers.



Publications in 2020

- An updated version of "How to Trace Your Ancestors in County Monaghan" booklet.
- Death Notices & Obituaries in The Northern Standard Newspaper 1959
- Death Notices & Obituaries in The Monaghan Argus Newspaper 1949-1953
- Death Notices & Obituaries in The Monaghan People Newspaper 1906-1908
- Local History & News packages for Care Homes.

Right to Read Programme

The key objective of this programme 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 support existing national literacy strategies and initiatives, including the Department of Education and Skills' National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy.

The programme focussed initially on support for children and families but will now broaden year on year to cover all aspects of literacy need in the County. The successful delivery of all elements of the Initiative resulted in Monaghan County Council qualifying for the title of **Right to Read Champion for 2019**.

Key Right to Read Events



Summer Stars Summer Reading Adventure

The 1st of July saw the launch of the annual Summer Stars Reading Challenge. The launch was kindly pre-recorded by Cathaoirleach Colm Carthy and was broadcast through the library webpage and Social media channels.

The launch day was also marked with a virtual visit from one of the UK's top selling Children's author Cathy Cassidy who read from one of her books and answered some of the many

questions from our young readers.

As it wasn't possible to host any events within our Branch libraries, we opted instead to put together a comprehensive online programme for young people to engage with. This included:

- I'll tell you a story about Johnny Magory – A nature adventure with author Emma-Jane Lennon
- Laugh, Hurl & draw with illustrator Alan Nolan
- The Football Reading Game with author Tom Palmer
- The Boy who grew Dragons with author Andy Shephard
- Book readings & craft videos created by library staff.

Family Quiz Night



We encouraged families from across the County to come together for our big Family Quiz nights which ran every Wednesday @ 7pm. These proved to be very popular and very competitive! Between 20-30 families took part each week.

'An unexpected adventure' Creative Writing tutorials for Children

Monaghan County Libraries 'Writer-in-residence' broadcast weekly video tutorials across July to encourage children to partake in the Short Story Competition entitled 'An Unexpected Adventure'.

The Writers Room with Deirdre Cartmill

Our Writer in Residence also created a series of videos for adults which demonstrate what life as a Writer is really like. She showcased the highs and inspire those on their own writing journey.



Deirdre was happy to review samples of peoples work and offer constructive feedback. We received very positive feedback from amateur writers including the following: “We were in touch about a month ago about feedback on a story and I just wanted to let you know that I took what you said on board, edited it, sent it out and it's been published! So, thank you very much for your help :) I'm so pleased and the words of encouragement were just what I needed!” – Ciara McGinnity

Irish History Live – Heritage Week Video series

To celebrate Heritage week, we teamed up with the museum to offer a week-long series of videos which took us on a journey through Irish History from the Stone Age to 1916. These humorous videos were produced by Michael Moylan of Irish History Live and were made available on our social media platforms.

Children’s Book Festival @ Monaghan County Libraries

October is always a busy month in the libraries as we welcome authors, illustrators and storytellers to celebrate Children’s Literature. The original plan of course was to host the authors



in ‘live’ events within the libraries and invite local schools to take part. However, it quickly became obvious that this

may not be possible given the ever changing Covid situation. The decision was taken during the Summer months to move the festival completely online. We asked Teachers across the county to connect with us and allow us to beam authors on to the Whiteboards of their Classroom. 114 Teachers welcomed us into their Classrooms for interactive sessions. If we take an average class size to be 27 children, in total we have reached approximately 3,078 children. In each session the author talks about their work and this is followed with a question and answers session facilitated by a Librarian.

When possible, we will also share links with the teachers to Classroom resources based around the authors work.

We have had some wonderful feedback from schools who have taken part. For example, this in response to the session with Onjali Q. Rauf author of ‘The Boy at the back of the class’, a tale about a refugee boy from Syria who had arrived in a new school:



“Today's session with Onjali truly inspired us all, the children were amazed and heartbroken by what is going on in the world and Onjali's fantastic work to help so many people- I have never seen them as spellbound!!”- Orlaith, Gaelscoil Ultain

Full programme available at: https://issuu.com/monaghancountylibraries/docs/12_page_final_cbf_2020_brochure

Cavan Monaghan Science Festival 2020



2020 was the 5th year of the Cavan Monaghan Science Festival and it was one to remember! As a result of the ever changing Covid restrictions, the festival committee took the decision to move the festival completely online. This meant that a wide range of events were streamed directly into homes & schools across the 2 counties and perhaps beyond.

A new Virtual festival site was designed at www.cavanmonaghansciencefestival.ie

The new site comprised of a 'STEM for Schools' tent which housed all of the school specific events. The 'What's On' stand lead visitors to a wide range of talks & events including an opening event with Professor Sam McConkey taking us through his journey from Killeevan to his work as a Covid 19 expert. Other events included The Science of Star Wars, The Science of Teenagers and Engineering the Rossmore Park giants. Visitors to the site also try out experiments with leading scientists in our 'Go Experiment' zone (Live from 1st Nov) as well as see which businesses around Cavan & Monaghan are utilising STEM to enhance their work.

www.cavanmonaghansciencefestival.ie

Europe Direct Information Centre

In 2020 Clones Library entered its third year as the Europe Direct Information Centre, (EDIC), for the Cavan/Monaghan/Louth region.



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 opportunities. The service provided valuable information to citizens in relation to the

coronavirus pandemic.

The EDIC receives annual funding of €31,000 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.
- Promotional events, including the Soapbox debating challenge, events on the European Green Deal and the Digital Strategy

Email: cloneslibrary@monaghancoco.ie

Facebook:

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

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

A grant of €1,500 was allocated in 2019 by Department of Rural and Community Development to Monaghan County Library to promote the Healthy Ireland at Your Library Campaign through the library service network. The campaign, which complements the County Councils larger scale Healthy Ireland programme, ran from September 2019 to December 2020.



Two online events were hosted in 2020 under the Healthy Ireland Initiative. A further €1,500 has been allocated to the library to continue the programme up to December 2021.



Baby Sleep - What Every Parent Needs To Know
 Free Webinar with Lucy Wolfe
 17th June @10:30am



JOIN OUR WEBINAR WITH SLEEP EXPERT BREEGE LEDDY ON WEDNESDAY 10TH JUNE @ 7PM



Healthy Ireland at your Library



Additional Capital Funding Received in 2020

Title	Description	Grant
Dormant Account Funds 2020	Dormant Accounts funding to provide Library Supports for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities.	€16,044
Sensory Funding 2020	Funding to purchase sensory toys and facilities for Children and Adults with Autism	€16,095
Small Scale Capital Works Funding	Grant to undertake remedial works to the interior and exterior of Clones Library	€100,000

County Heritage Office

In 2020, the Heritage Office continued to deliver heritage services, implement and co-ordinate heritage and biodiversity policy and practice, and to liaise closely with the **Department of Housing, Local Government and Culture and the Heritage Council** regarding national policy at a local level. The section liaises with other local authorities through the **Local Authority Heritage Officer network**.

The Heritage Section is part of Monaghan County Council's Cultural Team, and sits within the Directorate of Finance, Housing and Culture.

By the end of 2020, there were four **staff** in the Heritage Office – Heritage Officer, Sliabh Beagh Site Co-ordinator, Conservation Assistant, and an Assistant Staff Officer.

The **County Monaghan Heritage Forum** is a multi-stakeholder forum with representatives from civil society, elected representatives, state agencies and organizations and Monaghan County Council staff. The secretariat is provided by the Monaghan Heritage Office. It continued to meet in 2020, using online technology, and welcomed some new members. The forum advises on the development and implementation of the County Monaghan Biodiversity and Strategic Plan. A list of members is available : <https://monaghan.ie/heritage/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2021/01/County-Monaghan-Heritage-Forum-Membership-PDF.pdf>

1. FUNDING

Funding was awarded from several sources – the Heritage Council, Creative Monaghan, DHLGC, and Interreg V.

2. POLICY

A new **County Monaghan Biodiversity and Heritage Strategic Plan 2020-2025** was adopted by the County Council at the

November 2020 meeting. The ambitious plan sets forth a vision for 2025 - the role of heritage and biodiversity for climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable communities, functioning ecosystems, health and wellbeing is generally accepted in the county and embedded in the activities of Monaghan County Council.



Thirteen themes are described with objectives for each, and a concise action plan to enable progress. The themes demonstrate the breadth of biodiversity and heritage, incorporating the submission to the plan through the various consultations.

Priority strategic themes are – Climate Change mitigation and adaptation; Monaghan's Wonderful Wetlands; Hedgerows and native woodlands; The Worm Ditch/The Black Pig's Dyke; Pre-historic archaeology; Protected structures; Vernacular and traditional buildings; High Nature Value farmland; Demesnes and Estates; Cross-border heritage; Historic Graveyards, holy wells and church ruins; Indigenous knowledge and traditions; Irish and the vernacular English.

The plan also contains strategic objectives, organisation goals and key performance indicators.

The plan is accessible at <https://monaghan.ie/heritage/biodiversity-and-heritage-strategic-plan-2020-2025/>

3. RESEARCH

Monaghan Wetland Action Plan

The County Monaghan Wetland Action Plan

2020-2021 aims to develop an integrated plan for the conservation of the wetland resource in County Monaghan, through co-operation and engagement with a wide range of partners and community groups.

In 2020, phase 1 was completed with the development of a preliminary scoping and methodology report.

Extensive work has been undertaken over the past fifteen years in identifying and characterising the ecological character of wetlands throughout County Monaghan. The outcome of this work has produced a valuable dataset containing information on 710 wetlands, of which 202 have been subject to field survey.

This information will form the basis of a Wetland Action Plan for the county. As part of this project, the 202 sites for which standard information is available will be evaluated in relation to the multiple benefits (ecosystem services) that these wetlands provide.

MWAP will objectively identify management, restoration and rehabilitation priorities for the wetland resource of the county to, amongst other things, improve biodiversity outcomes and climate mitigation/adaptation.

It will help define climate action as well as management strategies, defining an action plan for wetland protection in County Monaghan.

The project will help determine whether high-carbon ecosystems should be prioritised for restoration and rehabilitation budgets over the coming years to safeguard peat carbon storage and sequestration. In the County Monaghan context, wetlands that are not peatlands may play important roles in flood mitigation and biodiversity protection and the ecosystem services on these sites will also be assessed as part of the project.

Actions will be costed as part of the plan and likely will focus on the re-wetting of drained fens and peatlands, prevention of nutrient inputs to wetlands, removal of invasive species

including self-seeded conifers, awareness raising and capacity building initiatives.

A public engagement strategy will be developed and funding sources identified to ensure the wide uptake of the wetland action plan among partners and community groups, the primary beneficiaries in County Monaghan.

The County Monaghan Wetland Action Plan (MAWP) project is a joint project initiative funded by Monaghan County Council, and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage through the National Biodiversity Action Plan funding.

4. CONSERVATION

Collaborative Action for the Natura Network

The CANN project is an Interreg VA funded project led by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, consisting of an 11 partner consortium of which Monaghan County Council leads the uplands work package.

The project aims to strengthen cross-border co-operation to facilitate the recovery of selected habitats and priority species to meet the targets of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

Sliabh Beagh is a large upland site contained within the counties of Monaghan, Tyrone and Fermanagh. 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 other activities.

In 2020, the completion of complex procurement exercises enabled the planning of works for many of the coming seasons. Conservation activities must be timed to avoid nesting seasons and other sensitive times for habitats onsite.

Drain blocking was undertaken on a 120 hectare site, putting in place peat dams in drains that were originally cut to facilitate tree planting. This followed a hydrological assessment of the site, and design of the dams and method of installation in accordance with best environmental practice.

Nest protection activities were undertaken, with an aim of improving the breeding success of the Hen Harrier, our protected bird of prey species. This species is under grave threat of declining numbers and extinction from the area.



Pictured – Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, Frank Clinton EPA and Paul Clifford, Director of Services.

Monaghan County Council and the CANN project won the Gold award for Best Environmental / Ecological project at the 2020 **All Ireland Community and Council awards** on the 15th February 2020.

Rossmore Mausoleum

This gothic style building is situated at the edge of Rossmore Park, Monaghan. Designed by E.J. Tarver as a family mausoleum in 1876 for the 4th Baron Westenra after he fell from his horse and died at Windsor Castle in 1874.

New digital survey drawings, conservation plan and interpretation plans for remote access were completed in 2020 with the assistance of Creative Ireland funding.

5. OUTREACH

A number of events took place before the Covid-19 restrictions came into force.

World Wetland Day, February 2020. A presentation on the role of wetlands for climate change mitigation by the Heritage Officer was well attended in the Market House, Monaghan. Workshops with school groups in

Knockatallon on climate change, wetland vegetation and St. Brigid's Day cross making.

A workshop to finalise the draft conservation plan for **Drumsnat old monastic site** and graveyard was held in Threemilehouse with the community.

Heritage Happenings blog was initiated as a response to the first lockdown in March 2020, as a way to communicate quirky and uplifting information about heritage in Monaghan to a wide audience possible through social media platforms. Total post reach for Heritage Office Facebook page was 19,461 in 2020, before Heritage Happenings series commenced. In Spring 2020, when the majority of Heritage Happenings series was published this rose to 161,092.

To enable virtual access, the **Monaghan Gothic** film documentary was edited for YouTube release, and was viewed over 1200 times – and is available online at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRlw_Dc_vxbw

Filed on locations in County Monaghan this film looks at the fashion for gothic architecture in the landscape of Monaghan and traces the evolution of the style through old church ruins and abbeys. Presented by architectural historian and author Kevin V. Mulligan and Heritage officer Shirley Clerkin, directed and filmed by Dara McCluskey, its' premier showing was at the International Clones Film Festival in 2017. The film was funded through the Heritage Council and Monaghan County Council. Locations include Magheross Old Church, Killeevan Old Abbey, Clones Round Tower graveyard, High Cross and wee Abbey, Lough Fea House, Bessmont House, St. Josephs Carrickmacross, Adragh Church, Cahans Presbyterian, St. Patricks Church Monaghan, St. Macartan's Cathedral and many more.

The **Gardening for Biodiversity** series was organised by the Local Authority Heritage Officer network, and booklets were distributed around the county and made available online.

A **public information campaign** on radio was aired to communicate the value of biodiversity and nature gardening to the public.

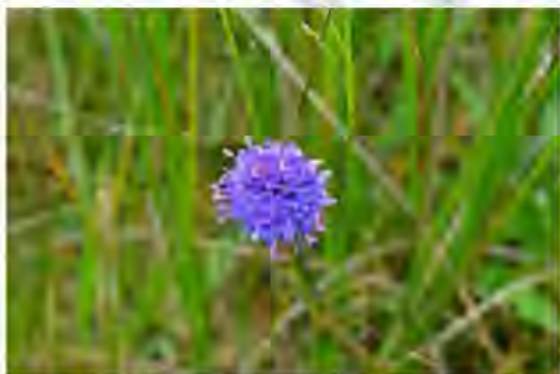
The Heritage Officer contributed an article to the **Cross-border studies journal** on the challenges of cross-border nature conservation. The article is available here: <http://crossborder.ie/the-journal-of-cross-border-studies-in-ireland-volume-15-2020/>

The Heritage Officer spoke at an online European conference entitled **Resilient Heritage, Cohesive Society** which connected countries from around Europe with case studies and good practices.

These mapping exercises, along with considerable stakeholder engagement proceeded during 2019.

Sliabh Beagh was chosen as the location for a joint CANN-CABB project two-day event in September.

Nest protection activities were undertaken 2019 on the site, with an aim of improving the breeding success of the Hen Harrier. These activities have had a positive impact on the numbers of chicks produced.



Devils-bit scabious, the food plant of the protected Marsh Fritillary Butterfly on Sliabh Beagh.

Arts Office

2020 was a year of responding to the existential crisis that seemed to envelope the country with the ensuing pandemic which affected in particular the Arts Sector, its Artists, Venues, Facilitators, Organisers and the Public. Monaghan County Council support for the Arts sector in the county through its Arts office needed to take cognisance of the fact that nearly all audience related events in both indoor and outdoor settings came to an abrupt halt for much of the year.

Through our **framework Agreement with the Arts Council 2020 -2027**, we have modified the outcome on our Annual reporting to align ourselves with our commitments to a more sustainable Arts Investment in the county along with our strategic partners, The Arts Council.

1. Supporting Artists

Value and support the work of artists, and extend the range of opportunities for artists to develop their practice

2. Young people and the Arts

Increase opportunities for children and young people to create, access and participate in great art

3. Creating Capacity

Investing in the professional development of venues, festivals and organisations providing high-quality arts experiences.

With the Arts partners with whom we fulfil our **Creating Capacity** investment, who are in many ways the driving force behind much of the Arts delivery in the county we managed together to forage our way through the world on On-Line presentation, with great gusto.

The Council awarded through its **Arts Partners scheme** a total of **€70,000** to the below named recipients. Even in times of great uncertainty as last year certainly was the Council increased their investment to them by over €7,000 from the previous year.

- Clones Film Festival
- Castleblayney Drama Festival

- The Garage Theatre
- Muckno Mania Festival
- Patrick Kavanagh Centre
- Iontas Arts Centre
- Féile Patrick Byrne
- Carrickmacross Arts Festival
- Scoil Cheoil na Botha
- Ballybay Community Arts

While participation and engagement with the public was more or less curtailed last year, many of our partners resorted to online presentation and became more and more creative with their Artist led initiatives. They Commissioned new work from Artists and produced both live and recorded online content, which in the short term came them an outlet to remain engaged with their public and our citizens. Bar the Castleblayney Drama Festival all our other partners did not manage to hold their events as envisaged due to the restrictions and guidelines as set down by our public health officials.

As the year progressed, we managed a more joined up approach with Arts organisations, Facilitators Venues & Artists in so far as was manageable. We responded to the calls from our arts sector in aligning them together to be able to produce and record events in the Arts Centres that we support through our Arts Partners scheme as well as our own spaces such as the Market House & the Patrick Kavanagh centre.

Just a few examples of these collaborations are Monaghan led band **Pine the Pilcrow** recording their most recent EP at the Market House



Culture Night was celebrated with the collaboration of Composer extraordinaire **Michael Gallen** from Castleblayney along with the literary /theatre giant **John McArdle** in a presentation celebrating the world of Kavanagh which was recorded and broadcast

from the **Kavanagh centre** in Inniskeen



And finally, our full circle brings us to our Christmas broadcast produced by our **Music Generation** partnership in bringing an ensemble of talented musicians together to bring some joy to the end of year proceedings, again hosted by the Kavanagh centre.



In our tribute to our **children / young people and the Arts** in both the upskilling of facilitators, Artists and performers we managed to fulfil much attributable resonances within our duty of care to them all. The County Council through our partnership with Cavan County council and the CMETB led quite an exciting list of Collaborations with our 2 key delivery mechanisms our **Music Generation** roll out and the continued collaborations through our **Local Arts in Education** partnership. We also managed to forge many events with our **Creative Monaghan** investments which allowed for some very exciting events.

We needed to evolve in our delivery of these key services and some enthralling new ventures were explored and delivered. Naturally these appeared in various online portals but engaged by participants was involved. The County Council supported this part of its core commitment to the tune of

around €50,000 in 2020.

An important date for the Diary was achieved prior to the world's disturbance from the Pandemic as we were not yet aware of what was coming to pass was the official launch of our Music Generation partnership which was held on the 27th February



An example (below) of the kind of training opportunities that was offered to our Arts facilitators who deliver and work with our younger citizens.



The **Garage Theatre** as the home of **Monaghan Youth Theatre** contributed significantly to the opportunities afforded to our young folk in County Monaghan and are to be commended for their continued investment in this area.

In finishing off our trilogy of the core Shared Strategic Actions with the Arts Council is the most vital cog in the wheel of Arts delivery which is **Supporting Artists**.

As reported in most media outlets the Artist suffered quite substantially with the pandemic restrictions that was the narrative for most of the year in 2020, which looks more than likely to repeat itself for 2021.

Some key supports that Monaghan County

Council delivered to Artists in 2020 were:



Our **Artist Support Scheme** was modified in 2020 in response to the crisis that ensued within the sector and the Council was found wanting in fulfilling its obligation in supporting their needs.

We awarded €11,000 directly to 21 Artist which was divided between **Established Artists** and for the 1st time we assisted **Emerging Talent** as the council's acknowledgment that we must nurture those who are on their way in developing their creative practice.

Our endeavour in supporting artists also manifested itself in our policy of giving added value to Artists who were successful and fortunate in receiving funding from the Arts Council.

Three Artists from the county were recipients of Arts Council professional bursaries in 2020 in which the value to them was €22,000 the County council added almost €4,000 to their respective projects.

Artists also developed projects that delivered within our 3 strategic actions which also aligned with goals contained in our **Creative Monaghan Plan**, one example of this is **Thomas Johnston's, Ceol Connected** venture where he produced special art packs and aides to Children with special needs.



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.

2020 Completed Tourism Development Projects

Rossmore Forest Park

Major upgrading works were undertaken in Rossmore in 2020. These included the following:

- Improvements to the main entrance, including new giant Sculpture - Banba
- Resurfacing of access road and provision of a segregated footpath for pedestrians
- Two new bridges
- Resurfacing and new lay-out of car park
- Development of trails app
- New Giant sculptures
- Wildflower planting



As a result of all these improvements, Rossmore received the Community Woodlands Award in the RDS Spring Agriculture & Forestry Awards 2020. The Community Woodlands Award is designed to encourage and reward projects involving the communal ownership

and/or management of forests and woodlands which have been established and managed in a sustainable way that is beneficial to the local economy and/or environment. The award was presented to representatives of Monaghan County Council, Coillte, and the Monaghan Town Team in a socially distanced presentation at Rossmore Forest Park in August.



Patrick Kavanagh Centre

The refurbished Kavanagh Centre was completed in early 2020 and the Centre Manager commenced work in April. The centre's website was completely revamped and upgraded to allow for on-line ticket and retail sales and the Centre opened its doors to the public on 20th July, when restrictions lifted. Visitor numbers were very strong, whilst the centre was open and the feedback has been extremely positive.



On 18th September, the Centre hosted a bilingual evening of music and poetry as part of **Culture Night**. Performers included the composer Michael Gallen, Irish band Scullion and there were poetry readings from John McArdle and Caitriona NiChléirchín. The night

was a great success and the musicians and audience were unanimous in their enjoyment. The event was live-streamed as the audience numbers were restricted and there were very strong levels of engagement online.



Additional events included a 'La Feile Pdraig' Harp Recital in October, and 'A Christmas Childhood' concert event in December, which was a very successful collaboration with Cavan Monaghan Music Generation. This partnership was a fine demonstration of the power of creative collaboration and featured a new musical accompaniment for Kavanagh's poem 'Advent', commissioned especially for the concert. Music Generation are responsible for supporting the development of music tuition for children in the region which was demonstrated throughout the concert. The concert was screened online and received strong online engagement.

European Heritage in Motion Awards 2020

Heritage in Motion is a multimedia competition which celebrates the best examples of innovative multimedia and digital projects on cultural heritage in Europe. The audio-visual element of the Kavanagh Centre exhibition – The Pincer Jaws of Heaven - was shortlisted under the Film and Video category and won at a virtual ceremony broadcast from Amsterdam on 20 November.



Kavanagh Trail

In July, a 6km walking/cycling trail, taking in 10 stops relating to Patrick Kavanagh, was developed in Inniskeen. The trail starts at the Kavanagh Centre and takes in Billy Brennan’s Barn, Kednaminsha School etc, with information panels and branded signage.



Carrickmacross Workhouse Interpretation

Under the Town & Village Renewal Funding 2018, MCC was awarded funding to develop a visitor interpretation experience at the Carrickmacross Workhouse. The project was completed in December and will open to the public when restrictions lift. The new visitor experience is a moving interpretation of life in the workhouse during the Great Famine years and will be a must-see attraction for the county going forward.



Tourism Development Projects progressed in 2020

Rossmore Forest Park Cycle Trail

Under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure scheme, funding was secured to develop a 2.5km family cycling trail in Rossmore. A Design Team was appointed in June and after consultation with Coillte and local cycling groups, a route has now been agreed and the project will progress to construction stage in 2021.

Monaghan Destination Town Plan

Funding of €497,962 was secured from Failte Ireland under the Destination Towns Funding Scheme to develop an outdoor events space in Monaghan Town. An Architect-led Design Team was appointed in July and the project will be progressed through design and planning in 2021.



Tourism Promotion & Visitor Servicing

Tourism Website

The tourism website www.monaghantourism.com - was completely revamped and now has a new look, structure and lay-out.



Summer Campaign

The Monaghan Tourism Summer Campaign 2020 was conducted on a phased basis with an initial focus on local people to inspire them to get out and explore their home county. As restrictions lifted, the campaign focus widened in an attempt to get visitors from further afield to give Monaghan a try.

The campaign adopted a number of approaches to achieve this. Firstly, a radio campaign consisting of daily ads and a series of weekly radio interviews with key tourism providers was undertaken via Shannonside & Northern Sound.

Alongside this, the 'Secret Spots' series ran across Monaghan Tourism social media channels, as recommended by local experts as well as some well-known names too, amongst them Helen Steele, Pat McCabe and Caitriona Balfe.



The final initiative - **The Monaghan Quest** – ran throughout August and its focus was to encourage participants to get out and discover the gems in Co Monaghan, by answering a series of questions covering heritage sites, outdoor spaces and attractions across the county to be in with a chance to win. Prizes in the form of town vouchers were offered with additional vouchers up for grabs via 'Spot Challenges' released via Monaghan Tourism social media channels. Kids were encouraged to get involved by completing the **Monaghan Mini Quest**.

Throughout the Summer, a number of bloggers and travel journalists were hosted in the county. These included the following: Saucepan Kids, Saltwater Stories Blog, Ireland

before You Die, Sunday World, Her Family, Daily Mail.

Tourist Office

Due to the impact of the lockdown on the tourism and hospitality sector, the tourist office in the Market House, Monaghan town was only operational for a few weeks from 22nd July to end August.

#MyMonaghanChristmas

#MyMonaghanChristmas was a mini-campaign for the tourism sector which ran alongside the shop local campaign, serving to highlight the unique gifts or experiences made here in Monaghan.



The Campaign comprised the following elements and roll-out began in mid-November:

- #MyMonaghanChristmas hamper competition promoted via Monaghan Tourism social media channels and via local press.
- Themed blog posts (decorations/stocking fillers, clothing/accessories, homeware, experiences, food & drink etc) including images and links to purchase published on monaghantourism.com and promoted via the Monaghan Tourism social media channels.
- Curated gift guide in the Northern standard, containing #MyMonaghanChristmas gift highlights across certain themes

- All participating businesses encouraged to share content (blog posts, gift guide teasers, etc) using the #MyMonaghanChristmas hashtag.
- #MyMonaghanChristmas press release detailing hamper competition and featuring 'hero products/experiences' sent to national media.



Overall the campaign was well received with extensive engagement on social media, particularly for the Monaghan-made Christmas Hamper competition (approx. 1,000 entries). Feedback from participants indicated an increased level of on-line and click and collect sales.

Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection



**New Castleblayney Fire Station
2020**

During a challenging year Monaghan Fire and Civil Protection (MFCP) Service provided a range of services for the citizens of Monaghan to ensure and maintain public safety and support the HSE. These services included 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 filling stations, inspection of licensed premises, advice and enforcement under the Fire Services Acts and the promotion of fire safety in the community. Operational services encompassing both Fire Service & Civil Defence include: responding to emergency calls and assisting Community Support, providing assistance to other emergency services, public safety 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 in Clones, Monaghan, Ballybay, Castleblayney and Carrickmacross providing an operational fire and emergency response service at all times. During 2020 the pandemic necessitated the implementation of protocols to maintain service delivery.



Agricultural fire in Clones June 2020

The breakdown of total calls per station was as follows:

Fire Station	1 st Turn-out	2 nd Turn-out
Ballybay	25	10
Carrickmacross	54	2
Castleblayney	70	14
Clones	23	0
Monaghan	119	2

Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection were mobilised to 291 incidents in 2020 a 6% reduction on 2019 to first attending appliances, while 2nd appliance turnout increased.

In 2020 the top five incident types attended by Monaghan Fire Service were chimney fires, monitoring alarm activations, road traffic collisions, domestic house fires, and tertiary fires (i.e. small fires/bin/skip). Notably 2020 has seen a 30% reduction in road traffic collisions.



Fire-fighters at Diesel Laundry Plant Fire Feb 2020

The most notable incidents attended in 2020 involved an illegal diesel laundry plant fire north of Oram Village and an industrial building fire at Valley Filters, Carrickmacross.



Fire-fighters at Diesel Laundry Plant Fire Feb 2020

Training

The 2020 training programme had to be significantly altered to ensure the safety of all fire personnel and to incorporate social distancing and the addition of appropriate PPE.

Training completed included ‘Confined Space’, Emergency Service Driving Standard (ESDS) and Emergency Fire Responder. Virtual training programmes were also developed and delivered including an officer Leadership & Development course which offered a learning environment for reviewing and developing critical decision-making skills for fire personnel.



Confined Space training at Castleblayney Fire Station Sept 2020

The Memorandum of Understanding with Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service for attendance to Road Traffic Accidents (RTA) in the border area has been completed in 2020. The MoU sets out agreed geographical identifiers (townlands/roads) to secure the location of an RTA and the deployment of the nearest brigade.



Ballybay crew conducting a pump exercise May 2020

Fire Personnel Welfare

Along with the provision of Critical Incident Stress Management, the Employee Assistance Service has been extended to Fire Personnel and provides support to extended family members.

In 2020 two fire-fighters were recruited to fill vacancies, maximising the fire-fighter compliment in Co. Monaghan.



Carrickmacross drill night incorporating a pump drill

Fire Safety - Fire Prevention

Our Fire Prevention Section reviewed and processed all valid fire safety certificate applications received and provided advice on achieving compliance with Part B of the Building Regulations (Fire Safety). Fire safety inspections were carried out on a range of building types including: licensed premises, residential care homes, preschools, flats, petrol stations and community buildings.



Fire Safety Week focused on fire safety in the home and particularly encouraging all homes to have smoke alarms and ensuring they are tested weekly. A number of intensive fire safety campaigns were held during the year, with specific attention of those working remotely. Campaigns involved the issuance of smoke alarms, while local and social media formed the focus of a very successful campaign during this time of Covid-19.



Community Fire Safety Activity 2020

A total of 180 Fire Safety & Building Control inspections were conducted in 2020, 51 planning referral reports completed. All notified licensing referrals for pubs, clubs,

dances etc were assessed by a fire officer and recommendations provided to the Courts Service. Performance Inspections were limited in 2020, however desktop studies were carried out for 30 pubs/clubs around the county to check on fire safety management and ensure public safety.

The licencing (liquor) process for 2020 was modified involving 61 premises in a novel approach of utilising risk assessment and a self-declaration for several applications. The Court Service online application process is now integral to the administration process, allowing notice parties to receive licensing applications online.

Community Fire Safety

A range of fire safety initiatives were delivered focusing on both schools and community groups. Smoke detectors were distributed as part of the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme and the key messages of Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week and Fire Safety Week were promoted via local and social media platforms. While the Primary Schools Programme was suspended, schools were engaged via the BFIRESAFE initiative. A fire safety awareness information was issued to the Traveller Community.



Aerial special appliance in operation at a House Fire

Emergency Management

Major Emergency Management systems have been deployed and utilised during the course of the pandemic. In 2020, Monaghan County Council, along with the neighbouring Local

Authorities in our region have supported our Principle Response Agencies (PRA's) in providing both logistical and operational support systems.

Severe Weather Guidance issued in 2020 to reflect the development of Met Éireann's colour coded system and the changes in the threshold levels for the various warning levels has been incorporated in Monaghan County Council response processes. The guidance also developed on the role of the Severe Weather Assessment Team and the function of the NDFEM Crisis Management Team at national level. Storm Francis in August was an Orange Level storm event which necessitated the activation of the Severe Weather Assessment Team.



Cappog, Ballinode August 2020

Building Control

Monaghan Building Control Authority received a total of 234 valid Commencement Notices (325 Units) in 2020, an increase of 9% from 2019, reflecting the buoyant nature of house building in Co. Monaghan. An inspection rate of 42% of new builds was achieved this year. In addition, there were 52 applications for Fire Safety Certificates and 19 Disability Access Certificate applications under Building Control legislation.

In 2020 all Building Control Regulatory applications migrated to the Building Control Management System (BCMS). This process has significantly reduced the paper element involved in each application.



Building Control Inspection Sept 2020

Monaghan Fire & Building Control held an Autumn webinar for local construction practitioners/agents with over 200 attending, topics covered included the following:

- BCMS Overview and application demo from the National Building Control Office (NBCO)
- NZEB in Domestic Energy Assessment Procedure from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
- Brexit Impact on Construction Industry from the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI)

The level of one-off houses 'opting out' of statutory certification has remained relatively high. In opting out of the requirements for statutory certification the homeowner is making the decision to refrain from having their dwelling included on the Certificate of Compliance on Completion register.

NDFEM Capacity Review

The National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management (NDFEM) conducted (via a video conferencing platform) a Capacity Review of Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection in August 2020 to ensure the provision of safety critical elements of our community, and to capture and share the learnings during this pandemic. The review focused on three areas:

- Public Safety / Fire Safety
- Continuation of provision of an emergency service
- Emergency Management

A subsequent report has been issued by the Capacity Review group recognising the level of

preparedness within Co Monaghan.

Capital investment

There was again significant Capital investment in MFCP during the year with the completion of Castleblayney Fire Station in August and obtaining NDFEM approval to procure:

- Class B Fire Appliance
- Replacement of chassis on water tanker in Monaghan.

Both vehicles will be operational in April 2021.

Health and Safety

The continuous annual auditing of our Safety Management System and securing the migration from OHSAS 180001 to ISO 45001 registration was achieved in 2020 and affirms Monaghan County Council's commitment to Health & Safety. The ISO 45001 process encompasses a more proactive and preventative approach based on remedying a broader range of risks before they materialise.

A number of H&S supporting documents were developed in response to the Covid19 outbreak.



Industrial Fire Carrickmacross 2020

Monaghan Civil Defence



Civil Defence HQ 2020

Civil Defence activities in 2020 focused on supporting our local community, and particularly the HSE, in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic and acting in response to requests from the Community Helpline during 2020. Tasks Civil Defence volunteers undertook included:

- Transportation duties: patient transfers to hospitals, nursing homes, testing centres, transporting persons from accommodation centres to other locations to allow for self-isolation.
- Medical cover at outdoor events & Irish Blood Transfusion Service.
- Collection of medications and medical equipment and delivering to patient's homes.



CD Volunteers assisting Irish Blood Transfusion service during Covid-19 Pandemic

- Helping vulnerable persons within communities by delivering food and medications and collecting their post
- Supporting young people with special requirements
- Delivering essential PPE to community groups
- Delivery of essential training & maintenance



Civil Defence HQ Covid-19 Training 2020

Monaghan Civil Defence HQ was completed in 2020 and has been the command centre for Civil Defence deployment during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The new HQ provides training and welfare facilities for volunteers, along with offices and storage capacity to support front line emergency response. The building will be a hub to provide local community support and assist Principle Response Agencies during severe weather events, pandemics and other emergency response capabilities. An official opening will be arranged at an appropriate time.



Civil Defence responding during severe weather

Civil Defence Volunteers provide a crucial role in maintaining critical services and support during the Covid -19 Pandemic, and during spate conditions and severe weather events.

Civil Defence Community Response

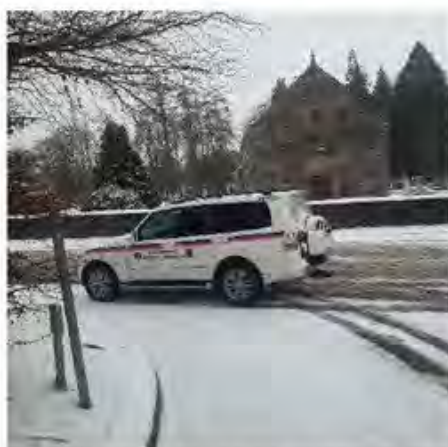
Monaghan Civil Defence assisted community and sporting events providing first aid cover, traffic control and stewarding.

- 115 – assistance provided to Community Forum & PRA’s during Covid-19 Pandemic.
- 13 - Sports events
- 5 - Search & Recovery operations conducted by Monaghan Civil Defence boat unit.

Training

Monaghan Civil Defence is a volunteer-based organisation where members support the primary emergency services and the local community. Monaghan Civil Defence currently has 53 volunteers. Volunteers are multi-skilled and the main programmes of activities undertaken are:

- Casualty First Aid
- Search & Rescue
- Water & Flooding incidents
- Auxiliary Fire Service
- Welfare and Communications
- Radiation Monitoring & Radio Communications



Civil Defence transportation duties

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



Civil Defence Volunteers Missing Person Search January 2020

Membership

The benefits of being a volunteer with Civil Defence include:

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

Fleet Procurement

Monaghan Civil Defence received delivery of a new Command & Control vehicle & also a new Ford Ranger 4x4 jeep.



Water Services

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

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

Monaghan County Council agrees a Service Plan each year with Irish Water which commits both parties to deliver specific objectives and standards of performance against a budget covering headcount, goods and services.

The Annual Service Plan ensures service continuity to the customer, value for money and meets targets set by the economic and environmental regulators - Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Initiatives necessary to achieve performance levels are dependent on capital investment by Irish Water and implementation by the Council of transformation initiatives. This performance is measured quarterly by Irish Water with scheduled meetings reporting on progress.

Under the Rural Water Programme, Monaghan County Council is the Water Services Authority in relation to the supervision of Group Water Schemes and small private water supplies under the Drinking Water Regulations 2014.

It also administers payment of grants and subsidies towards the running costs of Groups Water Schemes and grants to upgrade the assets of Group Water schemes, private water supplies – well grants - and Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems.

The section is also responsible for ensuring redundant water and waste water assets are

supervised and maintained to ensure a clean, safe and sustainable environment. It also cooperates with the Council's Planning Section and government departments to supervise the upgrade and subsequent transfer to Irish Water of non-public water and wastewater infrastructure within private developments.

Covid-19 Response

Provision of quality water and collection and treatment of urban wastewater is a critical service that continued during the national period of lockdown through the efforts of 25 caretakers and plumbers who attended to their work daily with support provided by technical and administrative staff working remotely. In 2020 the staff responded to 1820 customer incidents.

To protect our staff, existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP'S) were amended to deal with the Covid-19 threat and additional PPE was procured including hazmat suits, gloves and visors etc.



Sampling at Smithboro Wastewater Treatment Plant

Capital Investment Programme

The National Water Resources Plan is Irish Water's first 25-year strategy to ensure a sustainable, secure and reliable drinking water supply for everyone. It sets out how the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term will be balanced. Local Authorities are integral to ensuring that the right data for water supply and demand is obtained. This is vital to enable supply of water to customers, and to plan into the future.

The National Water Resources Plan commenced its public consultation phase in

December 2020 and is due to be published in 2021.

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

The following tables details projects currently ongoing and completed in Monaghan.

Completed Projects 2020

Contract	Description of Works	Estimated Value
Castleblayney WWTP Upgrade	Full Mechanical & Electrical Upgrade of the existing plant, Instillation 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.	€4,400,000
Lough Egish Regional Water Supply Scheme – Kilkit Water Treatment Plant	Upgrade works at the Kilkit Water Treatment Plant and Lough Bawn abstraction	€4,500,000
Glaslough Mains Rehab Scheme	Water mains renewal works carried out as part of Irish Water’s national Leakage Reduction Programme.	€200,000

Castleblayney Wastewater Treatment Plant

Construction of Castleblayney Wastewater Treatment Plant was completed at a cost of €4.4 million. The upgraded plant is fully compliant with EU Urban Wastewater Directives and ensure the continued protection of Lough Muckno.



New Wastewater Treatment Plant Castleblayney – Cost €4.4m

EPS Ltd operated the plant for a 12-month period until the hand over to Irish Water in November 2020.

Kilkitt Water Treatment Plant

The treatment plant servicing the Lough Egish Regional Water Supply Scheme completed construction at a cost of €4.5 million. The scheme supplies approximately 12,000 consumers in County Monaghan including Ballybay, Rockcorry and Castleblaney.

This scheme was operated by Coffey Water under Design Build contract until hand over to Irish Water in early 2020.



Upgrade works Kilkitt Water Treatment Plan

Glaslough Mains Rehabilitation

In 2020, Monaghan County Council and Irish Water completed a significant program of mains rehabilitation throughout the County. The Water Services section liaised with the Municipal Districts to ensure these works were carried out to minimise disruption to residents and local businesses.

The water network improvement works commenced in Glaslough on the 13th January 2020. These water mains renewal works were

carried out as part of Irish Water's national Leakage Reduction Programme. The works were carried out by Farrans Construction on behalf of Irish Water.

The benefits of these water main improvement works for the community include provision of a more safe and secure water supply, improved water quality and reduced leakage.

Future Capital Works

Contract	Description of Works	Estimated Value
Leakage Reduction programme	Mains Rehabilitation Works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cortolvin and Park Rd, Killyconnigan 1.5 KM • Castleblaney Town Centre 220m • Newbliss / Clones Road replacement 2,8Km cast iron water main. 	
Carrickmacross Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	Upgrade to intake works and installation of outfall pipe	€1,500,000
Monaghan Drainage Area Plan	sewer network that is fit for purpose is essential to support business and social development in Monaghan	NA
Small Towns & Villages Growth Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glaslough WWTP • Newbliss WWTP • Clontibret WWTP • Gram WWTP • Knockafallon WWTP 	€1,289,000

Leakage Reduction Programme

Irish Water have indicated to Monaghan County Council that several projects shall commence in 2021 under the Mains Rehabilitation and Back Yard Services BYS / Lead works as part of the Leakage Reduction programme.

These include:

- Replacement of existing AC main including sliplining of 150m in private land in Cortolvin Killyconnigan.
- Replacement of existing 100mm AC in centre of town that was excluded from

previous mains rehab works in Castleblaney Town Centre.

- Replacement of 2800m section of old cast iron watermain on the Clones Road from Newbliss village is at design phase for replacement in 2021. The existing cast iron mains is resulting in high iron noncompliance with current drinking water regulations.
- Transfer of 8 No. Back Yard Services connections to the public mains at the end Terrace at the bottom of the Mall Road in Monaghan Town is scheduled for construction phase this year.

Monaghan County Council has made submissions to Irish Water for network upgrades on the LERWSS & Clones PWS. These proposals are currently being assessed by Irish Water.

Disinfection Programme

The works are progressing at Crosses and Clones Water Treatment Plant and will probably be completed in the first half of this year.

Carrickmacross Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Construction of a new 3.3 km final effluent pipeline extending from the Wastewater treatment plant to the Longfield River. The works also involve upgrade to elements of the existing wastewater treatment plant – including new final effluent and inlet pumping stations and new access road off Oriel Road. These upgrade works will improve operational performance and compliance with statutory legislation.

Construction is likely to commence in 2022.

Drainage Area Plan – Monaghan Town

Irish Water is continuing its work to safeguard wastewater services in Monaghan town by undertaking surveys of the existing sewer network in partnership with Monaghan County Council. The Drainage Area Plan process is overseen by ARUP Consultants and involved CCTV surveys and installation of rainfall, flow, depth and conductivity monitors in the sewers

and manholes as part of stages 1 & 2. The data collected presents a clearer picture as to what defects and capacity issues exist in the sewer network and where future upgrades should be prioritised.

Roads and Water Services staff met with ARUP Consultants to review catchment risks regarding flooding, pollution, growth and the structural and operational performance of existing assets as part of stage 3 consultation process.

Small Towns & Villages Growth Program

Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme is primarily intended to provide capacity in Irish Water Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) to cater for growth in smaller settlements which would not otherwise be provided for in the current Investment Plan. Monaghan County Council has been allocated €1.238m funding under the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme.

- Glaslough WWTP
- Newbliss WWTP
- Clontibret WWTP
- Oram WWTP
- Knockatallon WWTP

Monaghan County Council identified five settlements that have the least headroom in terms of capacity per Population Equivalent treatment and compliance with current discharge standards.

Irish Water will proceed with works on a phased basis based on priority.

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

Revised grant amounts and terms and conditions for both domestic wells and domestic wastewater treatment systems (septic tanks) were announced by the Department of Heritage, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) in June 2020.

The revised grant schemes were introduced for domestic wastewater treatment systems under the Housing (Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Financial Assistance) Regulations 2020. Under the new schemes householders may be eligible to apply for a grant if they are located in (i) a High Status Objective Catchment area and can directly apply for grant assistance, (ii) a Priority Area for Action and can apply following inspection and referral from the LAWPRO office and (iii) the remaining county area can apply for grant assistance following an inspection and notice under the EPA National Inspection Plan criteria.

The new level of grant aid is now 85% of the eligible costs of remediation, repair, upgrading works, or replacement of a domestic septic tank or €5,000 whichever is the lower amount. The previous domestic wastewater system grant was means tested based on gross household income where the grant ranged from €2,500 - €4,000 no longer applies.

Sixteen well grant applications were received in 2020.

Over €3.7m in subsidy payments were made to twelve group water schemes in 2020 by the Local Authority. Capital grant amount of €345,724 was also paid to seven group water schemes in 2020 under the MARWP 2019 - 2021.

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 116 folio

numbers have transferred to Irish Water with 13 transferred in 2020.

There are approximately 77 folios yet to be transferred many of which contain more than one folio.

Detailed work is ongoing preparing supporting material for the transfer of these assets which includes 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. Monaghan County Council will aim to transfer a further 11 assets in 2021.

Housing

Capital Building Programme

A total of 97 social houses were provided in 2020. New build projects were the main focus of the capital expenditure programme. In 2020 Monaghan County Council completed 26 houses at Plas an Bhri in Castleblayney, 6 houses at Cnoc na Greine in Tydavnet and 6 houses at Coill an Ri in Carrickmacross.

Through Part V arrangements 4 additional houses were provided, 2 in Castleblayney and 2 in Carrickmacross. A further 23 social houses were provided in conjunction with Clanmil Housing and Tuath Housing Associations in Rockcorry (12) and Castleblayney (11) respectively.

A further 20 social houses were also provided through individual house purchases. Three houses were added to the council housing stock through the mortgage to rent scheme and the repair and leasing scheme.

Additional units were provided including the first 6 apartments completed under the Clones Renewal Scheme and the first 3 houses under the Gortakeegan redevelopment scheme. These are outlined in more detail below.

Treatment of Vacant Properties

Monaghan County Council dealt with 50 Casual Vacancies in 2020 at a cost of €545,000. The houses were prepared for reletting at an average cost of €10,900 each in an average time of approximately 11.5 weeks. Monaghan County Council does not have any long-term vacant houses (Voids). In 2020, the reletting times were affected by Covid-19 with the National Lockdowns, revised Health and Safety measures and staff working remotely. Notwithstanding these issues Monaghan County Council managed to improve the average reletting time to 11.5 weeks compared to 11.65 weeks in 2019.

Partnership Working with Approved Housing Bodies

Monaghan County Council supported funding

applications from Approved Housing Bodies through the Capital Advance Leasing Facility and were successful in securing funding approval for the provision of 41 homes to be constructed in a new development to be called Macartan View in Monaghan Town and for 12 homes brought into use in an unfinished housing development at Rockriver View in Rockcorry, completed in September 2020. Monaghan County Council also secured funding to support an additional 3 houses to be added to 16 under construction by Oaklee Housing Association at Liseggerton in Clones which when added to 6 unfinished houses that were brought into use previously, brings the total development at Liseggerton to 25 houses. Construction of 38 houses in a new development called Radhairc an Bhri on the Shercock Road in Castleblayney proceeded in 2020 and the first 11 houses were completed, the remaining houses are to be completed in phases during 2021.

A further 24 houses to be brought into use as social housing at Lough na Glack in Carrickmacross by North & East Housing Association were substantially completed in late 2020 and will be available for letting in Quarter 1 of 2021

Regeneration Schemes

The ongoing work at the derelict sites in Clones as part of the Clones Renewal Scheme is continuing with 6 of the 24 units already delivered in a currently challenging environment for a scheme of this nature.

Construction has also commenced at the unfinished housing development, Lui na Greine, Scotstown where 4 derelict houses are being finished and an additional 28 social houses are being constructed on the derelict site.

Monaghan County Council have final funding approval to renew a vacant house No. 13 McCurtain Street, Clones and will soon enter into a works contract with the successful tenderer. In addition, Monaghan County Council have received tenders to renew a fire damaged derelict site at 12 Church Street, Ballybay and will apply for final Stage 4 Funding

Approval to the Department of Housing, Planning and Heritage shortly seeking permission to proceed to works on site.

Monaghan County Council has appointed a Design Team to address an unfinished housing development in Ballybay town centre where 4 derelict properties exist along with a vacant derelict site. The project "Ballybay Courtyards" is in concept scheme development stage.

Monaghan County Council are continuing to seek opportunities to resolve unfinished, derelict or vacant housing sites to help renew properties at town and village centre locations.

Remedial Works

The Mullaghmatt estate-wide Remedial Works Project are anticipated for completion imminently. The site was closed for a period of time due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. All window and roof works were completed in 2020 with the exception of some minor snagging. Six properties which received full refurbishment works were handed over in 2020. The final house receiving full refurbishment works is currently at snagging stage and will be complete by the end of February 2021. Site development works were ongoing throughout 2020 and are due to be completed by the end of February 2021.

Housing Assistance Payment

HAP continues to play an important role as a form of social housing support for those with a long-term housing need. 200 tenancies commenced in 2020 and there were a total of 628 active HAP supported tenancies as at 31st December 2020. Since the introduction of HAP in October 2014, 252 individuals/families in HAP supported tenancies have since been allocated Local Authority tenancies or tenancies provided by Approved Housing Bodies.

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 163 at year end 2020 with 81 households in private rented properties and 82 households in properties held by approved housing bodies.

Housing Grants

The Housing Grants Schemes are available to assist in carrying out works that are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability or for an older person living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out to allow them remain in their own homes.

There are three types of grants available namely the Housing Adaptation Grant, the Mobility Aids Grant and the Housing Aid for Older People Grant.

In 2020 Monaghan County Council's Housing Section approved 147 applications, paid out 208 applications and recouped 230 applications.

An initial allocation of €1.277 was received from the Department for Housing Grants in 2020.

Due to the success of the roll out of the grants scheme in County Monaghan an additional allocation was granted bringing the total allocation for 2020 to €1.832m which was successfully recouped from the Department. Monaghan continued in 2020 to secure the highest percentage drawdown in the country from this funding stream.

Homeless Services

Monaghan County Council is responsible for assessing people who present as homeless. In 2020 there were 137 presentations made to the Council. This comprised 105 people, with some people presenting more than once. Of those who presented 16 were assessed as homeless. Of the remaining 89 individuals, who were at risk of homelessness, they were supported by the Housing Section to ensure they did not become homeless.

Solutions involved private rented accommodation with HAP support, advice and support from Housing staff, B&B, hostel,

emergency accommodation, support from Focus Ireland worker, Council housing.

Traveller Accommodation

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024 was adopted by Monaghan County Council. Monaghan County Council are delivering this programme through the provision of Social Housing, Approved Body Housing and HAP assistance. The Programme also includes the redevelopment of the Traveller specific accommodation at Gortakeegan Monaghan.

Tenancies

The Tenant Liaison Officer, in 2020, was mainly involved in dealing with Breaches of Tenancy. The number of cases opened in 2020 is outlined below.

There were 70 Breaches of Tenancy cases: 70 of which the following applied

- Category A - Drug Activity: 1
- Category B - Non-Drug Related Anti-Social Behaviour Activity (e.g. property damage or actions hostile to a person): 8
- Category C - (Other- breaches of tenancy): 61

In respect of these matters the investigations of the cases resulted in the following:

- (1st warning) Tenant Notifications issued: 7
- Statutory Warnings served (Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2014.): 8
- Abandonment Notices served: 2
- Dwellings voluntarily surrendered (following the service of statutory tenancy Warnings/Notices) 5
- Application to court- 1 case initiated regarding Excluding Order/Re-possession
- Dwellings re-possession (following Court Order): 0

A substantial level of work is involved in investigating these matters. It is sometimes necessary to initiate sanctions for the recovery of a dwelling due to breaches of tenancy agreements. For a timely response to issues

and to save resources it is preferable to recover a dwelling without resort to the courts, however tenants and the Council have the right to have the District Court determine the facts of a case.

Housing Maintenance

Monaghan County Council is responsible for the maintenance requirements of the Council's housing stock of almost 1700 properties. In 2020 a budget allocation of €750,000 provided for reactive & planned general maintenance of this stock. The Housing Section received and logged in excess of 1500 repair requests in 2020. This number is less than previous years due to the restrictions imposed by the covid-19 pandemic. In order to keep Monaghan County Council Craftworkers safe during times of lockdown only emergency repairs were attended to and the Craftworkers were re-assigned to work on vacant housing stock which in the past was completed by external contractors.

The key areas of housing maintenance for occupied dwellings include:

1. Response Maintenance which 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. Planned Maintenance involves the delivery of targeted programmes for specific improvement and replacement works. In 2020 targeted planned maintenance works were focused on external works, building fabric and ensuring the safety within properties. This included heating upgrades, septic tank upgrades, electrical works and roof replacements.

Planning

Development Plan

The Monaghan County Development Plan for the period 2019-2025 was adopted on 4th of March 2019 and provides an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Monaghan which is consistent with both national and regional spatial planning policies and objectives.

The Monaghan County Development Plan comprises a written statement which includes strategic objectives and policies for the development and use of land within the County, with supporting maps and appendices. Spatial planning through the development plan objectives and policies endeavours to achieve balance between the common good and the interests of individuals.

In accordance with Section 15 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) a review on the progress of achieving the objectives of the County Development Plan two years after it has been adopted is required. Work on the progress review commenced in late 2020 and report from the Chief Executive will be issued to the elected members detailing same in 2021.

Variations

Two variations to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 were completed in 2020.

Variation 1 provides for the inclusion of policy NRP 7 to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 which reads as follows "To protect the selected route of the N2 upgrade road scheme between Ardee and Castleblayney and the selected route between Clontibret and the Border with Northern Ireland, and to prohibit development that could prejudice their future delivery." This variation affords for the protection, when identified, of the selected routes for the upgrade of the N2 from Clontibret to the Border and between Ardee and Castleblayney, from inappropriate development that may

compromise the progression of these upgrades or prejudice their future delivery.

Variation 2 provides for the inclusion of the following text within Section 1.12 of Chapter One of the development plan “The Monaghan County Development Plan (MCDP) was prepared concurrently with both the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Northern & Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (NWRA RSES) and a significant amount of synergy was achieved between the provisions of the MCDP and the provisions of both the NPF and the NWRA RSES as a consequence. However, for the purposes of clarity the provisions of the NPF and the NWRA RSES will take precedence over the provisions of MCDP.” This variation demonstrates that the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 is aligned with the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Northern & Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (NWRA RSES).

New Planning Offices

The renovation and extension of the former Monaghan Town Council Offices were completed in 2020 and the Planning Section began operating from the new office on Monday 10th February 2020.



Reception Desk at Planning Offices, Dublin Street

Development Management

Planning application numbers were up slightly in 2020 despite COVID-19 restrictions.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, specific legislation was introduced to allow for the period between 29th March 2020 and 23rd May 2020 to be disregarded in respect of specified/appropriate periods and timelines within the Planning & Development Act 2000

(as amended), which provided for an additional eight weeks to facilitate the processing of planning applications during the COVID-19 restrictions. Accompanying circulars were also issued by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government providing advice in this regard.

As in previous years the majority of applications received were for single dwellings and home extensions, followed by agricultural developments.

Planning applications 2020	
Received	615
Invalid	13
Granted	512
Refused	23

A total of 54 Section 5 Declarations for exempt development were received in 2020.

Unfinished Housing Developments

By the end of 2020 there were four developments in Monaghan classified as unfinished in accordance with Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government definition. Construction work is actively taking place on two of these (Bothar Na Mullan, Scotstown & Drummond Ross, Carrickmacross) and they will likely be removed from the list shortly. The two other developments are Forest Walk Monaghan, and Corr na Ghlass, rear of Main Street Ballybay.

Taking in Charge

Several developments were brought to an advanced stage of assessment in terms of the taking in charge process during 2020, and negotiations are underway on several developments with regards bond draw downs and negotiations with Irish Water.

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 2020 amounted to €628,795.

2020 Enforcement Statistics	
No. of new cases subject to complaints	119
No of cases closed/resolved	27
No of ongoing enforcement cases	357

Refundable Deposits Project

Work was completed on the reconciliation of refundable deposits in March 2020. At the end of 2020 Monaghan County Council held an amount of €1,756,768 in the refundable deposits account. By the end of 2020, €94,445 of deposits had been refunded to customers.

Derelict Sites

At the end of 2020, there were 36 properties on the Derelict Sites Register and work on addressing dereliction continued throughout 2020, where COVID-19 restrictions permitted.

Regeneration

Castleblayney is one of six towns nationally, that was selected in 2019 by the Department of Rural and Community Development to look at innovative ways to encourage more town centre living. In 2020, Shaffrey Architects and Space Engagers, completed a report commissioned by Monaghan County Council, 'Castleblayney: A Town Centre For Living In Well'. The report provides recommendations to increase the potential for residential development within Castleblayney Town Centre, thereby promoting Castleblayney as an attractive location to live and stimulating investment in residential development.

Continuing input was provided by the Planning Section during 2020 in respect of the Dublin Street Regeneration Plans in Monaghan Town, and the Local Area Action Plans for Carrickmacross town centre.

Built Heritage

Monaghan County Council's Planning Section administer two annual heritage grant schemes, the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS)

and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF).

Built Heritage Investment Scheme

The BHIS encourages the investment of private capital in small scale, labour intensive projects to repair and conserve historic structures and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craftspeople and tradespersons. County Monaghan received an overall allocation of €60,000 in 2020.

In 2020 five projects availed of funding under the BHIS as follows:-

- Monaghan Methodist Church, Dawson Street
- Anderson's Pub, Drum
- Station Master's House, Kilnacloy
- Creighton Hotel, Clones
- St Salvator's Church, Glaslough



New windows installed in Station Master's House with built heritage funding to reflect the openings of the recently restored Railway Station building adjacent

Historic Structures Fund

The primary focus of the Historic Structures Fund is on conservation and enhancement of historic structures and buildings for the benefit of communities and the public. It aims to enable conservation works to be carried out on heritage structures which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support. Total funding for 2020 was €90,000.

In 2020 three projects received funding under the HSF as follows:-

- Bessmount Park House
- Monaghan Railway Station
- St Macartan's Cathedral (Stream 2)



Repair of external lime render to Bessmount Park House, Music Room

Additional Funding for Built Heritage was announced in July 2020 under the Government’s Jobs Stimulus Package. The aim of the package was to expand existing built heritage funding schemes in response to significant demand from communities, to progress actions under Climate Change Action Plan in relation built heritage stock, and to ensure completion of projects interrupted by the COVID-19 restrictions. Local authorities were able to apply for funding for two projects under the categories of:-

- 1) support for urgent conservation works and
- 2) additional funding for existing grantees.

Total funding of €50,000 was secured for two projects under this package as follows:-

- Carrickmacross Workhouse
- Bessmount Park House – Music Room



Roof of rear Carrickmacross Workhouse building partially collapsed and dangerous



Carrickmacross Workhouse windows have been shored and boarded up and damaged elements of the roof structure removed

Section 57 Declarations

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) works which would normally be considered exempted development under Section 4(1)h of the Act may not be exempt in respect of a Protected Structure or a Proposed Protected Structure.

Section 57 of the Act allows for the owner or occupier of a Protected Structure or a Proposed Protected Structure to make a written request to the Planning Authority to issue a declaration as to the type of works which it considers would or would not materially affect the character of the structure or any element of the structure, thereby clarifying which works would be considered exempted development and those which would require planning permission.

Monaghan County Council issued 4 Section 57 Declarations in 2020.

Environmental Protection

Environmental Services are responsible for implementing EU and National Environmental Policy and legislation to protect the Environment of County Monaghan

In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council committed to promoting and protecting a clean, safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable. In this regard, the Council's priorities and objectives for the Environment division are outlined in Appendix 2, together with the performance standards to be met. In summary the objectives include

- Implement the County Monaghan Litter Management Plan 2018-2020
- Implement the Connacht-Ulster Waste Management Plan 2015-2021
- Operate Scotch Corner Landfill in accordance with EPA Licence requirements
- Implement the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and associated Water Framework Directive requirements
- Progress the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework

Waste Enforcement and Regulations

Two NOAC indicators are relevant to waste enforcement work

E1 No. or % of Households with access to a 3-Bin Service

E2 – Environmental Pollution Complaints Closed

Waste Enforcement continued to be a challenge in 2020 with several significant large-scale illegal dumping sites discovered that were both cross border and cross county in their operation. Monaghan County Council incurred significant costs (€43,000) in removing this waste, however this was recouped from Government funding through the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2020. It is

expected that illegal waste activities will continue to pose a threat to the Environment and public health in 2021.

Currently there are three full time Waste Enforcement Officers in the County and Monaghan County Council recoups €192,000 towards their costs from Central Funding

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Clean up of illegally dumped waste

National Waste Enforcement Priorities 2020

Circular WP05/19 issued on the 31st October 2019 has set out the National Waste Enforcement priorities 2020. They are

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity.
- Construction and demolition activity.
- End of Life Vehicle directive.
- Waste Collection at household and commercial level.
- Sites that require multi agency responses.

In delivering on these priorities Monaghan County Council completed the

- 443 routine waste inspections
- 217 non-routine inspections
- Dealt with 508 environmental complaints
- Initiated 163 waste enforcement actions

Drone Training

Seven members of Environmental Services

recently undertook theory training on the use of a drone. It is intended that Environmental Services will now register with the Irish Aviation Authority as a competent operator of the drone. All seven members that have received the training will now undertake a final practical assessment and be registered pilots of the drone. Once this is completed the drone will be used by Environmental Services as a tool to assess compliance with Environmental Legislation

The purchase of the drone and training was one of the projects funded through the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2020 at a cost of €8844.

Other projects completed under this scheme included clean ups of illegally dumped waste, aerial surveys and bulky goods collections at Civic Amenity Sites

Litter Management Plan 2018-2020

Litter Management has three relevant NOAC indicators

E2: % Environmental pollution complaints closed

E3: % LA area within the 5 levels of litter pollution

E4: % of schools that have been awarded green flag status

1. Total spend on street cleansing in 2020 was €758,745]
2. 200 on the spot litter fines were issued in 2020.
3. Monaghan County Council had an extensive CCTV programme at bottle banks in 2020.
4. Due to COVID 19 the schools programme was curtailed and limited but it is hoped once restrictions are lifted this can be resumed.

Towards the end of 2020 Environmental Services began a process of reviewing the litter management plan, which will be published in 2021.

Environmental Awareness

Whilst some work on environmental

awareness was curtailed, projects completed in 2020 include

- Musical instrument repair project funded by LAPN
- Collaboration between Monaghan County Council, WEEE Ireland and EPA on repairmystuff.ie website
- Supports to Tidy Towns and resident association's through annual funding programme
- Litter awareness campaign at public playgrounds and parks

Waste Infrastructure / Landfill

Whilst the Scotch Corner landfill facility no longer accepts waste for disposal and all cells have been remediated and capped as per EPA requirements, significant monitoring and sampling works continued in 2020 to ensure compliance with our licence. During 2020 two separate audits were carried out on site and the facility was deemed fully compliant with no



non-compliances noted. Dealing with leachate still represents a significant costs on site but in late 2020 the council successfully negotiated a revised leachate treatment fee with Irish water with treatment costs reduced from €3.81/m³ to €1.10/m³ which will result in major savings going forward.

During 2020 design works for the new site office building previously damaged by fire were completed and a procurement competition to appoint a contractor to carry out the rebuild process was progressed. It is proposed to commence construction works during 2021 once Covid restrictions regarding construction are relaxed.

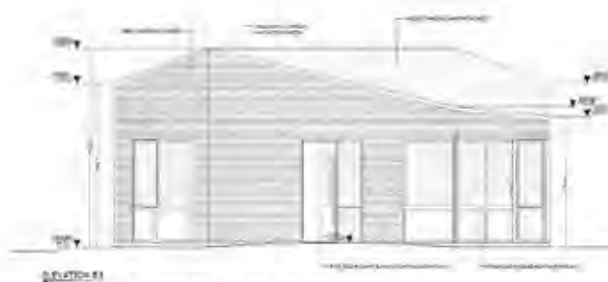


Figure 1 - Landfill Office Building Design

Under the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008, local authorities are required to carry out an environmental assessment of closed landfills that were previously operated by local authorities during the period 1977 to 1997. During 2020 for Certificate of Authorisation applications were lodged for 2 high risk historic landfill sites at Killycard and Knockcronaghan. Draft certificate of authorisations were subsequently issued by the EPA in Q3 2020 will final certificates expected during 2021. In December 2020 a further Certificate Of Authorisation application for the historic landfill at Scotch Corner was lodged with the EPA. It is expected, envisaged that significant remedial measures will be required on these sites funded through grant assistance from the DCCA.

During 2020 Environmental Services continued to progress a technical amendment application with the EPA to amend the current waste licence at Scotch Corner. A formal technical amendment application was submitted in early September with additional information lodged with the EPA in December. If the technical amendment proposal is successful, this would enable the MRF and Civic Amenity site to operate under a Waste Facility Permit which would facilitate an increase in the range of waste activities allowed on site thereby further allowing Monaghan County Council to further maximise the potential of the facility. Currently, the EPA licensing section are assessing the application and whilst there is not a prescribed date by which the EPA has to issue its decision, it is anticipated that an EPA decision may be issued during the first quarter of 2021.

During 2020 the recycling centres at Scotch

Corner and Carrickmacross and the bring site network remained open throughout the covid restrictions being deemed an essential service. Additional capacity was provided at a number of the bring sites during the year to cater for the extra demand experienced at a number of bring sites particularly during the early stages of the lockdown.

Water and Air Quality



In December 2019 The National Water and Air Priorities were forwarded to each local authority for 2020 through correspondence issued by the EPA. These priorities included:

- Improving water quality in all water bodies
- To protect public health and to improve and maintain air quality.

Under the 2020 RMCEI plan Monaghan County Council's water quality team continued its program of water quality sampling in conjunction with the EPA, carried out investigate assessment work on selected river and lake waterbodies, undertook a comprehensive farm inspection program, investigated a significant number of water pollution incidents, regulated effluent discharges through licensing, and worked with the recently formed Local Authorities Waters Program (LAWPRO) with the aim of improving water quality in areas designated as priority areas for action under the River Basin management plan which sets out the actions that Ireland is taking with the aim of improving water quality and achieving 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2027.

During 2020 over 1,000 water quality related inspections were carried out including:

- 228 samples taken as part of Water Framework Directive monitoring on rivers and lakes.
- Investigation of 127 water pollution complaints/incidents.
- 41 Farm inspections.
- Assessment of over 250 planning applications from a water quality perspective.

In relation to air enforcement over 60 routine air quality inspections were carried out under the Solid Fuels Regulations, the Petroleum Vapour Regulations, the Solvent Regulations and the Decorative Paints Regulations during 2020.

Climate Action

Back in September 2019 The Monaghan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 was formally adopted at by Monaghan County Council. The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy will assist Monaghan County Council in planning for, responding to and adapting to climatic events and aims to make Monaghan County Council and the communities that it serves more sustainable and climate resilient. This strategy also complements the national 'Climate Action Plan – To Tackle Climate Breakdown'.

During 2020, despite the Covid pandemic, significant progress was made in progressing the measures and actions contained within the strategy and within the national Climate Action Plan 2019 – To Tackle Climate Breakdown.

Some of the major milestones achieved in 2020 include:

- Signing of the Climate charter
- Piloting of Climate Action training by Monaghan County Council in conjunction with the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office.
- Setting up of a designated Strategic Policy Committee on Climate Action and Environmental Services.
- Inclusion of climate action as a core objective in the new Corporate Plan.
- Preparation of an in-house Climate Action Delivery Plan 2020-2021 to identify and progress specific actions in the Climate

Change Adaptation Strategy for delivery or part delivery over an 18-month period.

In 2021 work on climate action will focus on the further implementation of the actions identified in the Climate Delivery Plan 2020-2021. The delivery plan covers all sections within Monaghan County Council and contains actions for delivery or part delivery under the following thematic areas.

- Local Adaptation Governance and Business Operations.
- Infrastructure and Built Environment.
- Landuse and Development.
- Drainage and Flood Management.
- Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure.
- Community Health and Wellbeing

It is expected that going forward, Department funding will be provided to assist local authorities in progressing measures aimed at transitioning to a low carbon and becoming more resilient to climatic events.

The council has made substantial progress over a relatively short period but these are only the first steps in a journey where the country is in now legally committed to achieving the target of Carbon neutrality by 2050.

Veterinary Services

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 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. These are essential services and, during the pandemic lockdown and throughout 2020, the service was maintained with inspections and sampling completed as planned.

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. 2020 saw a dramatic drop in the number of dogs admitted to the Dog Pound – a total of 197. This is the lowest number of dogs impounded in a single year by the Council since records began and is approximately half the number impounded in 2019.

While the lockdown partly explains this reduction, there has been a steady decrease in

the numbers of dogs admitted to Council Dog Pounds for over 10 years now. Almost all of these dogs were either reclaimed or rehomed to members of the public or dog rescues. 6 dogs were put to sleep, 3 due to severe injuries that had occurred before admission to the Pound, and 1 dog had been killed in a road traffic accident before being brought to the Pound.

The Dog Control service was significantly curtailed by pandemic restrictions during the year, but the Dog Warden collected all stray dogs reported and attended to all complaints received.

The number of dogs licenced in Monaghan in 2020 was 6,137, a slight drop on the number licenced in 2019. The number of licences bought online increased from 20% in 2019 to 30% in 2020. The number of people buying lifetime licences for their dogs increased from 65 to 81. The Council distributed its information leaflet on dog owners' responsibilities, when possible, and continued its advertising campaign to highlight the danger of straying dogs to sheep.

The Council also continued its inspections of registered Dog Breeding Establishments (DBEs) within the county. Two new DBEs were registered in 2020, while 3 others were deregistered, leaving a current total of 8 DBEs.

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. No stray horses were seized in 2020. This is the first year since 2011 that no stray horses were seized in Co. Monaghan. There were a number of complaints of stray horses dealt with during the year, but seizure of the horses was not necessary. The Council also investigated a number of complaints about horse welfare.

Roads & Transportation

During 2020 the Roads Division carried out a comprehensive programme of work on the county's road network, while dealing with the very challenging conditions posed by the Covid 19 pandemic. Nevertheless, significant progress was achieved during the year.

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 Council's own resources.

During 2020 the Transportation Section delivered and progressed the following projects on National and Non-National roads:

N2 Clontibret to Border and N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Schemes

Monaghan County Council is working in association with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and with the assistance of Westmeath National Roads Office to develop two major road projects in the County. The upgrade of a 28km section of the N2 National Primary Road between Clontibret and the Northern Ireland Border, and the upgrade of a 32km section of the N2 between Ardee and Castleblayney. Monaghan is working in partnership with Louth County Council for the latter project. Together with other projects proposed on the N2 Dublin-Derry Road, these projects aim to enhance North/South and Regional connectivity and improve road safety. The projects are being undertaken in accordance with the TII 'Project Management Guidelines'.

In 2020 the Consulting Engineers

progressed the route option appraisals for the two schemes. Early in the year they considered feedback from the Public consultations that took place in 2019 and undertook comparative assessments. In August 2020 'Emerging Preferred Route Corridors' were published for both schemes, and a third non-statutory public consultation took place. Despite the Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time, which prevented the running of traditional public consultation events, the public consultation process was well received and achieved a good level of public engagement. An extensive publicity campaign saw information distributed to 6,000 households, and the project website, which incorporated a 'Virtual Consultation Experience', attracted over 7,000 visitors. The project team held 235 face-to-face meetings and more than 120 remote meetings with stakeholders over the six-week consultation period.



The online 'Virtual Consultation Experience' used for the third non-statutory public consultation on the 'Emerging Preferred Route Corridors'

Feedback and submissions received through the public consultation process were then considered by the project team, with Preferred Route Corridors to be finalised and published in early 2021. This will allow the project to progress to Phase 3 of the TII Design process; Design & Environmental Evaluation, which will see the project developed to a stage where statutory approvals can be applied for in 2022.



Covid-19 compliant venues for were utilised for face-to-face meetings during the third non-statutory public consultation events.

N2 Monaghan to Emyvale Phase 3

The final phase of the realignment of the National Primary road between Monaghan and Emyvale was completed in January 2020 with a total project cost of €13 million for construction, design, land acquisition, archaeology and all ancillary surveys & studies. The Phase 3 scheme is an upgrade of the 3.3km of the road from Tydavnet junction through Corracrin to Emyvale Village and incorporates a new footway/cycle track.



Aerial view of N2 Phase 3 Scheme.

N54 Tullybryan

In 2020 the scheme to realign 3.1kms of the National Secondary N54 route Tullybryan between Tullygrimes and Annaghervy progressed through Phases 1 and 2 of the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Project Management Guidelines for Minor Projects. The scheme which is currently in Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation) has an estimated Total Scheme budget of €16 million. The proposed scheme will deliver improvements to the visibility and cross section and aims to provide significant improvement to long-term accident rates

and reduction in fatalities. A tender for Site Investigations was advertised in December, 2020.



Map of the N54 scheme location.

N2 Blackwater Bridge Replacement

The replacement of the bridge at Coolshannagh, Monaghan Town was substantially completed in November 2020. The overall project costs including construction, design, accommodation works, archaeology and advance works were €6 million.

Construction commenced in January 2019 and required a temporary bridge to be installed to maintain traffic on the N2 whilst the works proceeded on the replacement of the old masonry arch bridge. The single span precast arches were installed in November 2019 and the road was open to traffic in July 2020. Extensive accommodation works were carried out including a bus lay-by and parking at St. Macartan’s College.



Ariel view of the Blackwater Bridge scheme and accommodation works.

N53 Ballynacarry Bridge

The Ballynacarry Bridge is located on the border with Northern Ireland on the N53 National Secondary route and A37 route in Co Armagh. In 2020 a Feasibility Report and a Strategic Appraisal Report for a new

bridge were prepared by Monaghan County Council Roads Division and submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland, on foot of which approval was received to progress the project to detailed design.

The new bridge crossing, which will address the geometry and safety issues, will also include road widening and reconstruction of the existing road on either side of the bridge.

In 2021 the Roads Division will procure Consultants to progress the project through the design and planning stages.



View of Ballynacarry Bridge (N53)

Monaghan County Council is liaising with the Department for Infrastructure (Roads) Northern Ireland, and is exploring possible funding for the project through the Shared Island Programme and the PEACE PLUS Cross-Border EU Programme 2021-27.

Safety Schemes

During 2020 Monaghan County Council progressed three national road safety improvement schemes with Transport Infrastructure Ireland Road Safety. This required the submission of Feasibility and Options Reports, Preliminary Design Reports and Road Safety Audits to TII for approval for construction in 2021. The schemes are:

- N54/R867 Roundabout Pedestrian Safety Scheme. This scheme will include the construction of a zebra

crossing on Market Road (N54) and Park Street (R867) and a signalised pedestrian crossing on the Clones Road

- N2 Tirraneill Junction Realignment
- N54 Smithborough Pedestrian Crossing Scheme

Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

In 2020 the Roads Division piloted the new DTTaS Bridge Asset Management System and have surveyed 390 of the bridges in the county. A funding allocation of €840,000 was received to carry out substantial repair works on 13 bridges with site investigations and design packages carried out at a further 9 bridge locations.

In addition, twenty -four bridge work repair designs were completed as part of the Climate Actions Scheme to mitigate climate effects on road infrastructure.



Corskea Bridge Rehabilitation works.

In 2020 Restoration Improvement work (resurfacing) was completed on 45.1km of the Regional and Local road network, and Restoration Maintenance work (surface dressing) was completed on 85.6km of Regional and Local Road network. This work was supported by a fleet of over 120 pieces of plant and machinery, which are managed, maintained and replaced as necessary through the Council's machinery yard operations.

Seventy-six Winter Maintenance callouts were carried out during the 2019/2020 season. The Winter Maintenance routes cover 24% of the county's road network.



Snow plough in operation on regional route

Nine Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes were delivered throughout the county on the local and regional road network.



Low cost safety works, at Coolmuckbane, Monaghan MD.

During 2020 the Council surveyed 100% of the Regional roads as part of the PSCI Road Condition Survey. Achieving improvements in the road conditions and maintaining a steady state condition is challenging and heavily dependent on available budget. Monaghan Co. Council continues to target available budgets as far as possible to roads with the poorest ratings and highest traffic volumes.

The Part VIII Planning process was completed in 2020 for two Specific Improvement projects, at Brackley Bridge and R181 Drummillard.



R181 route.

During the year a reclaimed asphalt pilot project was undertaken at three test sites, where 5km of surfacing was laid using recycled materials. Monaghan County Council is reusing 100% of road milling material to create a Low Energy Bound Material (LEBM) by screening an existing stockpile of millings at Glenmore Quarry. The millings are then mixed with bitumen and binder rejuvenators to produce a low-cost product to be used through the road network.



Reclaimed asphalt pilot trial.

In 2020 the Council also undertook a pilot scheme to test the use of Cement Bound Granular Material (CBGM) as an alternative to conventional bitmac resurfacing. The CBGM material was laid and double surface dressed at 6 locations. The product is a cost-effective way of resurfacing roads with 30% savings achievable on bitmac alternatives.



CBGM resurfacing in progress

During 2020 the Council initiated 10 projects countywide under the Active Travel Funding Scheme.

Twelve private lanes were resurfaced under the **Local Improvement Scheme** throughout Co. Monaghan, and five roads were completed under the **Community Involvement Scheme** encompassing 5.1 kms of road and ancillary works.

1.75km of new passively safe fencing was retro-fitted on National Roads and repairs to Vehicle Restraint Systems (crash barrier) carried out at ten locations across the network.



New fencing at N54 Clones



Monaghan County Council as the Contracting Authority is delivering the Ulster Canal Greenway project from Smithborough to Middleton in partnership with Waterways Ireland (Lead Partner), Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon

Borough Council and East Border Region. Funding of €4.95m has been granted under the INTEREG VA Sustainable Transport Programme.

Following a thorough route selection process, the preferred route for the Greenway was published on the project website, (www.ulstercanalgreenway.com), in July 2020 and public information events to present the preferred route to the local communities were held in Tyholland and Middletown in August 2020. Those events were run strictly in accordance with the prevailing government guidelines on Covid 19, and the feedback received was overwhelmingly positive. The event planned for Smithborough on the 27th August had to be postponed due to changes to the government guidelines, and it will be rescheduled when conditions allow. A Planning application for the Northern Ireland section, (2.6km from the Border to Middletown), will be submitted to Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council before the end of February 2021. A Part 8 Planning application for the Monaghan to the Border section (7.4km) will be submitted to MCC in March 2021. Further Part 8 Planning applications will be submitted later in 2021. Discussions with landowners along the route have been severely disrupted by the Covid 19 restrictions and will resume as soon as restrictions are eased. Construction of the Monaghan to Middletown section is expected to commence in mid-2022 subject to planning and land acquisition being completed and additional funding being secured.

Ballybay-Clones MD received an additional €100k funding under the Greenways Funding Round from the Department of Transport in December 2020 to progress the design of the Smithborough to Clones section. The MD will continue to explore alternative funding opportunities to make up the budget shortfall to complete this project.



Public Consultation for the Ulster Canal Greenway at Tyholland Community Centre

Road Safety

There were two fatal accidents in the county in 2020, resulting in the loss of three lives. This was an increase on 2019, when there were two fatalities.

The Co Monaghan Road Safety Action Plan which is based on the RSA Road Safety Strategy 2013-2020 concluded in 2020.

The RSA is currently working with stakeholders and key agencies to develop the next government Road Safety Strategy for the period 2021-2030. When this is published Monaghan will in turn develop a new Road Safety Action Plan for the period. A short road safety film, supported by Monaghan Drug & Alcohol Forum, focusing on the consequences of Drug Driving was released in December 2020.



Video shoot for Road Safety video on the effects of drug & alcohol driving.

Pavement Renewals on National Routes

Two major Pavement Renewal Projects were progressed with 2.1kms of road renewed on the N2 at Aclint and also on the N54 Monaghan Town, Glaslough Street & Dublin Street.



N2 Aclint – Pavement renewal

National route Maintenance & defects works

Road Resurfacing and repairs were carried out at various locations on the National road network including the N2 Clontibret, N2 Carrickmacross (access ramps), N2 Shercok ramp, N2 Emyvale, N2 Moybridge, N54 Skeagh Bridge, N54 Smithborough, N12 Tamlat. New periodic speed limits signage was installed at three schools on National routes: N54 Gransha National School, N2 Corracrin and N2 Collegiate.



New periodic speed limit signs introduced at schools on the N2 National routes.

Community Development

Covid19 Response

Community Section in Monaghan County Council oversaw the set up and management of the Covid 19 Community Response Forum in April 2020. The group met weekly initially, then fortnightly and then as required by members. Representatives from over 30 groups participated in the Forum, including various services from within Monaghan County Council, the HSE, the PPN, An Garda Siochana, Cavan Monaghan ETB, Department of Social Protection, ALONE, IFA, GAA, Local Link, MID, Tusla and others. The Forum considered priority actions for support and facilitated a wide range of interagency discussions on managing the challenges facing the community.

A Covid Emergency Fund of €62,247 was delivered through Monaghan County Council and promoted through the Forum with over 50 groups supported. A second allocation of €43,137 was received in December. A food hub was established in the county through which vulnerable people were supported with food and contact supports.



Covid 19 Helpline

The Community Response Covid19 Helpline has operated since 31st March. It was set up

over the weekend of 28/29th March through Community Section and IT Unit and supported by other sections within Monaghan County Council.

The Helpline staff coordinated a community wide response to the crisis, taking calls from vulnerable people and assigning calls for assistance to a wide array of volunteers, particularly from within the GAA, Gardaí, Civil Defence and others. At the end of 2020 the Helpline has taken and dealt with over 800 calls from members of the public.



The Community Development Section is also responsible for implementing a wide range of programmes and initiatives within Monaghan County Council

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)



Monaghan Local Community Development Committee meets monthly to provide a strategic overview and to support community and economic development in the county. Working with key stakeholders and agencies, the LCDC monitors progress on the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 (LECP) for the County and is responsible for co-ordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development.

LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

Monaghan LCDC and Monaghan County Council continue to implement the Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021. The plan contains 127 economic and community actions for implementation by fifteen organisations by 2021. Progress is monitored bi-annually and the LCDC will be conducting a review of

the plan in 2021. To date there has been significant progress in delivery of the community elements of the plan see below:-

- Local Link have implemented Route176 , which services both Cavan and Monaghan Institutes and Monaghan and Cavan Hospitals. Route M1 has now extended to include Knockatallon and Route M2 has extended to include Castleblayney. All routes service towns and villages along the way.
- A large range of technology classes consistently take place in the libraries. These are organised through getting citizens online and CMETB Literacy and Community Education Programmes.
- Monaghan Youth Network supported the application for funding submitted to SEUPB for new facility in Monaghan Town. This has been successful and is ongoing with the development of Monaghan Peace Campus.
- Drug and Alcohol Forum established and Drug and Alcohol Strategy produced and being implemented.

A new LECP is due to be drawn up in 2021.

LECP Actions update at end of December 2020

66 Community Actions	3 Yet to Commence	46 On-going	17 Completed
61 Economic Actions	1 Yet to Commence	14 On-going	41 Completed

SOCIAL INCLUSION COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME (SICAP)

The objective of SICAP, delivered by Monaghan Integrated Development CLG and overseen by the LCDC, is to provide

social inclusion support to disadvantaged individuals and groups throughout society.

The 2020 budget for SICAP in Monaghan was €650,606. The programme targets for 2020 were to assist 34 groups and 364 individuals.

Mid-year and End of Year reviews of the programme took place in 2020 and all targets set under the programme were either reached or exceeded.

MONAGHAN LEADER Programme 2014-2020

The Monaghan LEADER Programme 2014-2020 continues to attract high levels of interest and demand for project funding. A budget of €7.59 million was allocated for its implementation and delivery. Monaghan LCDC is the Local Action Group (LAG) and is the decision maker in respect of project applications. 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.

LEADER Programme - Progress at 31st December 2020

- The LAG met monthly, except for August but twice in December.
- At the close of 2020, 112 projects were approved to the value of €5,698,098 (99.82% of total budget)
- In December 2020 the programme was extended by three months, with a Transitional LEADER programme also announced at the same time.

Community Enhancement Programme 2020

Monaghan LCDC implemented the Community Enhancement Programme in 2020 in two Rounds. In total €165,398 was approved to 68 projects.

DRCD Rural Funding Schemes

Funding was allocated in 2020 by the Department of Rural & Community Development under the following schemes:

CLÁR – This programme for rural areas aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in areas that experience disadvantage. €287,371 was allocated under the CLÁR Scheme 2020 for 7 projects.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme – The aim of the Scheme is to support the revitalising of towns and villages, to improve the living and working environment of their communities and increase their potential to support increased economic activity into the future. In 2020, the Town and Village Renewal Scheme was tailored to address the emerging challenges associated with COVID-19 with the introduction of the Accelerated Measures.

- Round 1 Accelerated Measure allocated €137,320 – 5 Projects
- Round 2 Accelerated Measure allocated €155,000 – 5 Projects
- Round 3 Accelerated Measure allocated €130,000 – 4 Projects
- Main Town & Village Scheme 2020 received an allocation of €806,543 – 7 projects.

The Council will provide match funding of €258,592 for the projects.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

The aim of the ORIS is to provide outdoor recreational infrastructure in countryside areas. The 2020 scheme did, in particular, support recreational infrastructure that not only provides an outlet for the communities in which they are situated but that also delivers added value from a tourism perspective, positioning rural areas to respond to the post-COVID-19 economic

environment. €103,623 was allocated under Measure 1 for 6 projects.

Community Planning

Following the successful completion of community plans in Scotshouse and Oram in early 2020, these two communities began to see the fruits of their labours as projects started to appear on the ground. In Oram, CLAR funding saw the completion of a section of footpath connecting the school to the social centre and the realignment of the car parking outside the social centre and the development of a memorial garden for Big Tom.

In Scotshouse, Town & Village funding saw the completion of the town park.



Socially distanced launch of Scotshouse Development Plan in the then almost completed community garden, which had been identified as a need in the Plan

The consultation work on the Lough Eghish plan was completed during 2020 and potential projects identified for funding application. A successful application was made to Town & Village for funding to address the need for footpaths and lighting from Lough Eghish cross up to the food park.

Work commenced on a Community Plan for Ballinode. A community needs survey has been completed, along with a survey of the needs of each group operating in the area. A draft plan will be available in early 2021.

Monaghan Community Alerts

Monaghan County Council continues to support the local Community Alert groups by operating the countywide Monaghan Community Alerts service. Since starting up in April 2019, the service assisted in bringing about a reduction in criminal activity in the

county. The scheme now has over 4,500 subscribers, who can sign up to receive alerts from their local group as well as from the Garda and the Council.

Active Travel

A Walking & Cycling Strategy for Co Monaghan has been drafted and will be completed in early 2021.

A new Staff Cycling Initiative has been commenced, with seven electric bikes purchased for the use of staff.

Playgrounds Development

€19,500 was awarded to Monaghan County Council by the Dept of Children & Youth Affairs to improve the playground at O'Neill Park in Clones. Following consultation with residents, Council Horticulturalist Michael Carroll has designed an imaginative amenity based on the idea of escaping from the Norman-era motte & bailey structure nearby, using the sloped site to provide several routes up and down between two 'forts'. Designing the amenity in-house has allowed the Council to put all available funding into the purchase of play equipment, providing a much bigger amenity for the same money to the children of Clones. Installation is due to take place in early 2021.

Tidy Towns

The National Tidy Towns competition did not take place in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. However, Monaghan County Council still supported the work of the local groups through the provision of information and funding. Newsletters were issued to groups, and for the first time, an online meeting of the Network took place, at which the groups participated in a consultation on the Council's new Litter Management Plan.

Age Friendly Programme

Monaghan Age Friendly County Programme

Monaghan Age Friendly programme delivered a programme of work to support the older people of Monaghan during 2020.

Throughout the year the programme manager maintained regular contact with older people's groups in the county, to provide information, support and activities to support our most vulnerable citizens during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Monaghan Age Friendly Strategy 2020-2024

Following an inclusive public consultation with older people and service providers during 2019, Monaghan's second Age Friendly strategy was developed during 2020. The strategy outlines a programme of work to be delivered over the coming five years. Monaghan Age Friendly Alliance, supported by Monaghan County Council, as an interagency committee will oversee and direct the implementation of Monaghan Age Friendly Strategy.

Age Friendly Strategy actions 2020

Town and Village Programme

All applications submitted to the Round 1 of the Town & Village Programme included actions to improve accessibility to towns and villages for older people and people with mobility difficulties.

Audit of Pedestrian Crossings

An access audit of all pedestrian crossings across the county took place in 2020. The aim of the audit was to ensure all visual and audio signals at pedestrian crossing were operating correctly and that sufficient crossing times are in place to allow safe crossing for pedestrians with reduced mobility.

Age Friendly initiatives to support older people during COVID 19

It's Good to talk GAA initiative

Monaghan Age Friendly programme participated and organised a range of activities and programmes including:

- Working with Monaghan GAA County board it launched a joint initiative to reach out to isolated older GAA fans in the county. Monaghan GAA players and

management volunteered their time to make a call to an older GAA fan to have a chat.

- It produced a 64-page activity pack for people cocooning in the county. The cocooning activity pack contained riddles, quizzes poems and stories along with some useful information on services and supports for older people in the county. 7,000 were distributed to older people across the county.



- The "I just called to say" campaign encouraged people in the community to check in on their older neighbours, in particular older people who are living alone.
- "Have you a spare chair or dinner to share this Christmas" encouraged people to reach out to older people in the community who may be alone at Christmas.
- 8000 Age Friendly "Keep Well" booklets were produced in December 2020, and contained important information on keeping well with tips and advice on looking after your mental health.

Supporting people with a Disability Supporting the Right to Vote

During the campaign for the 2020 General Election the Access Officer delivered four training workshops on voter participation. Using the *Your Vote Your Voice* booklet the workshops focused on filling out a ballot paper correctly and highlighting the various supports available to voters to assist them in exercising their right to vote.

Make Way Day – Accessibility awareness 2020

Due to public health restrictions Make Way Day 2020 was held online. Chaired by MCC Cathaoirleach, Cllr Colm Carthy, a virtual meeting took place with representatives of disability groups in the county, Gardai and the local authority Access Officer in September. Issues in relation to accessibility on the streets of the county were raised and discussed. At the meeting each Municipal District agreed to conduct quarterly accessibility audits on the streets of the five main towns. An accessibility checklist presented to the Make Way Day meeting was agreed and quarterly access audits started in December 2020.



International Women's Day 2020

To celebrate International Women's Day 2020 Monaghan County Council along with Dochas for Women and Blaney Blades hosted an event in the Garage Theatre in March. The event included a unique photo exhibition "Women's Voices" created by Dr Lisa Butterly and Lisa McCormack. The exhibition was made by women for women of Ireland. The portraits provide a visionary and respectful view of Irish women in the twenty-first century.

Women and Diversity in local government funding

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has awarded Monaghan County Council a grant to deliver a project that aims to increase the participation of

women in all aspects of local government in County Monaghan. The project includes the establishment of Monaghan Women's Assembly, a platform to create opportunities for Elected members of Monaghan County Council to engage with women in the county on issues that impact on their lives and to highlight the barriers to participation in local government experienced by women. The project will also develop training and awareness raising resources for Elected members on diversity in local government.

Supporting Migrant Integration

Monaghan Migrant Integration strategy

Monaghan LCDC Equality subgroup and Monaghan Integrated Development worked in partnership during 2020 to develop "We Belong" – a migrant integration strategy for Co. Monaghan. The strategy was launched virtually in November by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD. It identifies a range of actions to promote and progress the integration of the migrant community in the county over the next five years.

Monaghan Together Unique and United

In 2019, Monaghan County Council secured funding from the Asylum Migrant Integration Fund (AMIF), administered by the Department of Justice to deliver a project entitled *Monaghan Together Unique and United*. It involves a detailed programme of activities to support the Third Country Nationals (TCN) community in the county. An Integration Officer was appointed to deliver the project in September which will deliver a number of programmes supporting and developing migrant integration across the county. Some of the activities that took place in 2020 include:

- **Monaghan Sanctuary Runners** This programme brings asylum-seekers and Irish people together for runs and races or just a walk in the spirit of solidarity, friendship and respect.
- **Celebrating Christmas across Cultures**

The Integration officer in partnership with NCCWN Dóchas for Women delivered a Christmas craft making project. The project engaged with people living in Direct provision and members of the wider community in Co. Monaghan to create some Christmas crafts for older people.

Supporting the LGBTI+ Community

For the first time, Monaghan County Council raised the Pride rainbow flag over a number of council buildings during Pride week 2020. Led by Cathaoirleach Cllr Colm Carthy, the event was attended by members of Monaghan County Council, representatives from Monaghan Equality Subgroup and members of the LGBTI community.



Community and Environment Fund 2020

The annual Community and Environment funding Scheme allocated €90,000 in 2020 to support community development activity in the county. Projects impacted by COVID 19 restrictions were given the opportunity to reschedule their activities.

Monaghan Public Participation Network



Monaghan Public Participation Network with support from Monaghan County Council continued to develop as the main link through which the local authority connects with Community, Social Inclusion and Environment sectors across the county. 569 groups were registered with the PPN by

end of 2020, an increase of 45 member groups from 2019.

Some of the Key Activities for Monaghan PPN in 2020 included:

Representation: 37 community representatives represented the PPN across 12 committees. Five new PPN Representatives were elected in 2020.

Consultations: At the heart of everything we do is our membership having a say in local and national policy planning. Some examples of written submissions are outlined below:

- Monaghan Migrant Integration Strategy
- Public Participation Network National Handbook
- Delivering Deliberative Democracy and Participation by PPNs in Local Government

Community Wellbeing Statement:

Monaghan PPN carried out a consultation workshop in each Municipal District in March 2020 to develop a Community Wellbeing Statement. The Community Wellbeing Statement is a vision for what is needed for communities to achieve wellbeing for now and future generations considering different themes.

Following extensive consultation with its membership the final draft was adopted by the PPN in October. PPN representatives attended training on how they can use the vision statement at their respective committee meetings. The PPN will also use the statement to identify key areas of work and training.

Training: The PPN delivered free training on topics such as:

- Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals
- Collaborative Induction training with Monaghan County Council for PPN Reps
- Back to business for Community Buildings Post Covid 19
- How to Conduct Online Meetings

- How to Use the Community Wellbeing Statement for PPN Reps
- One to one support for PPN representatives and members

Meetings: The Secretariat that manages the PPN met regularly in 2020. The AGM was held online in early December and over 65 groups attended. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Colm Carthy and the Chief Executive Eamonn O’Sullivan attended the meeting and took the opportunity to express their sincere gratitude for the support of the PPN during such a difficult year. An overview of all the PPN key achievements in 2020 was provided at the very successful meeting by the PPN Resource Manager.

Local Government: Monaghan County Council and Monaghan PPN’s strong working relationship was evident through many funding allocations the Council received from Government and out of its own resources. The benefits of this collaborative working approach can be seen by the many innovative funded projects spread across the county.

Communications: The PPN continued to ensure through its dedicated website, email and Facebook page that registered groups were kept up to date on information about funding, training, consultation calls and community initiatives.

Staff Resources: In a partnership approach the Department of Rural and Community Development and Monaghan County Council continued to provide funding to retain a PPN Support Worker who provides administrative supports to the PPN Resource Manager.

Covid 19: The PPN was a member of the Monaghan County Council COVID 19 Community Response Forum from its inception.

PPN members provided excellent feedback to the Forum on critical supports they were providing, where they were providing this

and the main contacts. This feedback helped Community Call Helpline staff assign calls for assistance in those areas.

Despite the challenges of Covid 19, many positive developments emerged out of the crisis that we can build on in the future. The PPN found new way of staying connected in 2020 and we will continue to strengthen those communications in 2021. The PPN was recognised as a key stakeholder in the Government Resilience and Recovery 2020 – 2021 plan for Living with Covid 19.

Youth Development

Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg

In 2020 the committee worked on the topic of Inclusion and Disabilities. This work involved the production of a video for Lámh users and the development of a youth friendly booklet which highlights 7 different Hidden Disabilities. The booklet also includes personal stories and artwork by young people from across Co. Monaghan who are living with a Hidden Disability. Both were launched at a very successful online AGM in October 2020.

The committee were very active on all their social media in response to the COVID19 crisis.

- They collated information on a list of help line/support services available for young people both locally and regionally and shared this on their Facebook and Instagram accounts.
- They participated in various national initiatives such as World Autism Awareness day, the #mindyourselfie campaign and also World Down Syndrome Day.
- They worked with Monaghan CYPSC in developing a survey on Drugs & Alcohol usage amongst young people and presented the findings on a webinar hosted by the Alcohol Forum.
- They participated in a variety of local and regional consultations where the views of young people were being sought.

Healthy Ireland, Youth & Drug & Alcohol Forum

Healthy Ireland Funding 2019-2021 secured

In January, a budget of €246,050 was approved under Round 3 of the Healthy Ireland Fund, to deliver a range of actions from January 2020 to the end of December 2021.. Lead partners in supporting the delivery of these actions are The Peace Link, HSE, Monaghan Sports Partnership, Monaghan Integrated Development, Foroige, and Ballybay-Clones Municipal District.

All partners who secured funding from the Healthy Ireland fund to deliver actions amended their projects as a direct response to the Covid 19 crisis and new emerging needs.

Community Mental Health Fund 2020/2021

An additional €32,050 was secured to deliver a youth mental health service in South Monaghan under a co-operation project (in partnership with Monaghan CYPSC, led by the ISPCC). In addition, the fund allowed the roll out of a small grants scheme to community, voluntary and sporting organisations. Twelve local projects received varying amounts to deliver mental health actions.

Community Resilience Fund and Healthy Ireland Keep Well Campaign Launched

Monaghan County Council was allocated €67,225 to support the delivery of initiatives under a number of the themes of the government's National "Keep Well" campaign as part of the response to the Covid crisis. A programme of work was developed with a variety of actions to be delivered between December 2020 and March 2021. Key internal partners are Creative Monaghan, Monaghan Sports Partnership, Monaghan Age Friendly Programme and Monaghan libraries as well as external partners on the Community Response/Call Forum.

Monaghan Drug & Alcohol Forum

The forum undertook a review of the strategic plan in 2020 and revised the action plan for the remainder of 2020/2021. Following the review, 3 distinct sub-committees have been formed which focus on the following thematic areas.

1. Prevention & Education
2. Services Development
3. Communications

All Subgroups are making progress on identified actions. A drug driving DVD produced by a film & media company which highlighted the consequences of drug driving was launched in November 2020.

Dormant Accounts Funding secured for LGBTI Youth Group

The Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2020 provides funding to address disadvantage nationally. We supported Cavan Monaghan Rainbow Youth in submitting a successful application to the fund and they secured €15,000 to provide a range of supports in the area.

Monaghan Sports Partnership (MSP)

Monaghan Sports Partnership, funded by Sport Ireland, delivered a wide range of projects during 2020 to encourage people to continue to be active in physical activity. Like so many other services, our overall work in 2020 was significantly affected by the impact of Covid19, which resulted in many changes to programming, design and implementation.

Community based programmes

Activity programmes were organised in 11 different community settings in January-February, alongside Schools programmes. Over 180 participants were involved and the programmes had reached 80% completion prior to suspension due to Covid19.

Schools/ Pre Schools programmes:

Prior to closures in March 2020, Monaghan Sports Partnership had facilitated programmes for:

- 381 children representing 13 primary schools.

- 113 pre-school children representing 4 pre-schools and
- 52 children representing 2 after schools

Supporting National Events/ Initiatives: -

Operation Transformation In January, walks linked to national events took place at 8 Monaghan locations, in partnership with Community Groups and GAA Clubs. Over 600 participated. A, 6-week "Community Transformation" follow-up activity programme at 3 locations attracted a further 220 participants.

National Bike Week (Sept)

Monaghan Sports Partnership, on behalf of Monaghan County Council, coordinated and delivered a variety of cycling events for the 2020 National Bike Week. The event week was postponed from June to September and a series of localised events were held to promote the use of e-bikes and use of Greenway.



125 specially designed bike repair and resource packs were put together for children across the county and made available through local libraries

National Play and Recreation event 2020

Due to Covid19 restrictions, MSP could not hold physical events, and instead developed play packs of equipment for children. These were distributed by local family support service providers to 300 children. The initiative was combined with a Healthy Ireland project called 'Let's Play Monaghan!'

Increasing Activity – redesigning the work

2020 started positively with a host of activity programmes taking place in schools and in local communities, but Covid19

restrictions resulted in a redirection of activity into self-led 'virtual' programmes that encouraged people to stay active.

These included:

- 0-3 km Walk / Jog programme – 281 participants
- 100 days of walking – 281 participants
- Cycling Challenges – 115 participants
- Active Schools supports – 50 participants
- Nature Walks – 52 participants

Healthy Ireland funded projects

MSP purchased a set of playground marking stencils for distribution to Primary schools. Despite restrictions imposed, the target of 4 schools were completed in 2020.

Let's Play Monaghan!

Let's Play Monaghan! – MSP created a family fun booklet of games and activities to provide ideas for families at home during the summer months.



Cycle training for DEIS Schools

200 children representing 4 primary schools took part in a cycling programme facilitated by Monaghan Sports Partnership in January/February.

Online exercise activities

Under Level 5 restrictions in October, a series of online activity classes were developed in conjunction with local exercise instructors.

8 classes were organised targeting different age groups e.g. men only, women only, older adults, primary school age children, pre-school age children. A total of 672

participants took part across all age groups.

Women in Sport

As part of the European Week of Sport in September MSP coordinated a 'virtual' women's minimarathon event. 200 women of all ages took part in a local 5km / 10km walk / run event



All participants received a participant's t-shirt and finishers medal.

Social Inclusion through Sport & Physical Activity

MSP along with Sport Ireland developed two activity booklets of exercises aimed at older adults and adults with a disability. Booklets were posted to individuals and disseminated through local disability service providers. The booklets were also printed in the Northern Standard for people to cut out and keep. The older adult information was also included in the Age Friendly Keep Well booklet.

Supporting Club Development through Education & Training

- Safeguarding 1: 6 courses were delivered (4 online) with 69 participants
- Autism in Sport: 1 course was held (online) with 14 participants

Covid19 Small Grants programme

MSP administered funding of €48,300 from Sport Ireland to provide 40 sports clubs with small grants towards Covid19 related supports. 5 additional clubs were supported via their relevant National Governing Body of Sport.

Local Enterprise Office

Financial Supports & Job Creation

In 2020 circa €441,494, was approved in grant aid with a potential to create an additional 61 jobs.

Training

We delivered 78 programmes to 1,291 participants, 829 whom were female and 462 who were male. The above figure includes 6 Start Your Own Business Programmes and 4 events dedicated to Brexit. Several bespoke workshops were designed and ran to support target groups such as the food and retail services sector assisting in the reopening their business post COVID lockdown 1.

Local Enterprise Week 2020



A hugely successful Local Enterprise Week ran from 2nd -6th March 2020. Over 300 individuals attended 7 enterprise orientated events during the week. This national initiative seeks to encourage nascent entrepreneurship and foster an entrepreneurial culture in County Monaghan. Our headline event for Local Enterprise Week 2020 was an Innovation conference hosted at Silver Hill Foods Ltd.

Brexit

As an enterprise support agency have been advocating innovation, lean and competitiveness as competencies to be developed by our stakeholders, enabling businesses to mitigate the onset of Brexit and have run the following programmes:

- Co-Innovate (Innovation programme) 63 businesses participated
- Lean for Micro 15
- Enterprise Excellence Programme 12

In December 2020, LEO commenced the recruitment of the Brexit specific programmes: Superior Retail and Exporting and plan to deliver Financial Capability, Innovation and the Green Business Management development programmes in Spring 2021.

Business Continuity Voucher

The voucher was the primary COVID support and available to sole traders and companies across every business sector. The voucher was worth up to €2500 per business, in third party consultants' fees to develop short term and long-term strategic responses to Covid-19. Monaghan LEO approved 226 vouchers to a value of €322,237.56.

Trading Online Voucher Scheme

Following significant changes to the scheme in 2020 and a drive from businesses to bring their business online, the Trading Online Voucher Scheme has seen an unprecedented increase in popularity. With restrictions being placed on non-essential retail and services for a large portion of the year, businesses were forced to go online if they wanted to continue trading. The Trading Online Voucher was available to help them set up an ecommerce website, covering 90% of eligible expenditure up to a maximum of €2500. In 2020 LEO Monaghan approved 129 applications, a 645% increase on 2019.

Covid-19 Business Loans

The Covid-19 Business loan from Microfinance Ireland (MFI), in partnership with Local Enterprise Offices is a Government funded initiative to support small businesses. In 2020 we worked with 15 Monaghan businesses to prepare MFI business loan applications. 8 have been approved to a value of € 201,000.00.

Student Enterprise Programme

The LEO undertook a complete review and rejuvenation of the SEP at local level and all 12 schools participated in 2020. The success of this revised programme was evident at this year's virtual Student Enterprise Programme Final where two Monaghan entries took prizes home.



An overall award was given for "My Entrepreneurial Journey" in the Junior category. The winning student was Fiachra Murray, from Patrician High School, who worked under the guidance of his teacher, Leona McKenna. Again, an overall National award was bestowed to business "Sofatop" in the Junior Category. The winning students from Ballybay Community College, were Ferne Duffy, Tess McFadden and Mary- Kate Black, who worked under the guidance of their teacher Eimear Harvey. Their student enterprise was called "Sofatop", which is/was a flexible and stylish tray, enabling you to curl up on the sofa and enjoy your cup of tea, safe in the knowledge that you can set it down within safe and easy reach.



Look
For
Local

Monaghan LEO launched the #LookforLocal campaign in December, to encourage businesses and individuals to shop local and support local businesses. To further endeavours, an online directory with over 150 Co. Monaghan businesses was created.

Women's Programme

Monaghan Women in Business (MWIB) is an informal network which is open to all women in business and in management positions in County Monaghan and surrounding areas. The aim is to provide information, support, promotional and networking opportunities to all who take part. This year has seen a new challenge for the network in that only one event at the start of the year was held in person. The rest of the events this year have been held virtually but the network has adapted well to this change. 111 females have participated in events in 2020.

Monaghan IT Service Providers Network

During 2020 Monaghan LEO initiated The Monaghan IT Services Providers network. It is recognised that a business can be more successful when there is a consistent management of organisational and financial data with efficient information systems. Innovative and effective systems can support an organisation with better planning, decision-making and hence desired results. The network brings together IT Managers and service providers in a safe and confidential environment to discuss IT related issues, share best practice and upskill to embed a culture of IT excellence in local businesses.

Monaghan Tourism Business Network

As part of the continuing effort by Monaghan Local Enterprise Office to build resilience and innovation within businesses, LEO launched a bespoke network for craft and tourism businesses in conjunction with Monaghan Tourism. The pilot network provided a forum to build business relationships in County Monaghan.

Economic Development

The Economic Development Unit within Monaghan County Council operates from the Planning Department, Local Enterprise Office and Tourism Department. The principal function of the unit is to encourage and develop economic development and investment in the county. Many of the Economic Development initiatives are developed and delivered through the Municipal Districts and the Unit has a role in co-ordinating funding applications and long-term strategic investment planning.

Selected 2020 Projects

Bioconnec Research and Innovation Centre

Monagha County Council and Monaghan Mushrooms initiated the concept in 2019 to develop a nation research centre for biotechnology research. Having successfully, received €4.90m in grant-aid from the Enterprise Ireland Regional Enterprise Fund, Bioconnect will employ four staff over three years to provide research capacity for the agrifood sector to collaborate, research and develop new products and processes, that can then provide the basis to expand existing enterprises or establish new businesses in the region. In addition, a new 1,500sqm research laboratory will, following completion in 2022, host 125 scientists and researchers in a National Centre of Excellence for Biotechnology. Monaghan Municipal District made a significant investment in initiating this project in 2019. David Macauley, CEO for the project commenced work in March 2020 and construction work will commence on site at Knockaconny in Q2 2021.



Image of Bioconnect Innovation and Research Centre

The Ridge - Castleblayney Enterprise Hub

The concept of The Ridge evolved in 2018, when Monaghan County Council together with Castleblayney Enterprise Centre initiated a survey to establish the need for business accommodation in the Castleblayney area.

Having established the need and demand for specific facility-types, the partnership together with Enterprising Monaghan was successful in attracting €2.613 million from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund towards the overall cost of a €3.5 million, three storey office and logistics facility at McGrath Road, Castleblayney. The design and build contract was awarded to PJ Tracey & Sons Ltd. In late 2020 with an anticipated 18 month completion date. The Ridge will provide up to 28 individual business units in the 1,350 sqm facility and host over 60 persons when completed. The construction phase is being managed through the Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD office.



Image of The Ridge, Enterprise Centre, McGrath Road, Castleblayney

North East Digital Innovation Hub

Monaghan County Council received funding approval funding of €609,000 from the Enterprise Ireland Brexit Stimulus Fund in June 2020 to develop a centre to encourage SMEs in the region to complete the digital transformation to Industry 4.0 – use artificial intelligence, edge computing and data analysis to upgrade their products and processes, to help compete globally and innovate.

The Centre, based in MTek, Monaghan, employs two experts that provide support to companies who wish to develop new concepts and/or processes through to production ready stage in the Incubator Programme. The need for SMEs to tool up for the digital age was identified at a conference hosted by Monaghan County Council in Combilft's HQ in November 2019. Three ex-pats from Co. Monaghan, David Moloney, Peter Woods and Brian Quinn engaged in the digital sector identified the need and pointed the potential future to over 180 attendees.

The Hub provides expertise, education and advice directly and links local and regional companies with research and innovation centres and major technology companies such as Microsoft. The Centre also hosts an Education Programme for IT engineers employed by SMEs throughout the region, delivering advanced courses on AI, edge computing, robotics and data analysis. Over the next three years over 300 SMEs within the North East region will have partaken in the Incubator or Education Programmes. John Shaw was appointed CEO of the Hub in November 2020, with a major launch planned for March 2021.



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, Cultural and Social

SPC 2 – Community & Transport

SPC 3 – Planning & Economic Development

SPC 4 - Environment and Transport

Report of Strategic Policy Committee Activities during 2020

Housing, Cultural and Social SPC (3 meetings held 2020)

The following policies were approved at meetings of the SPC during 2020:

- County Monaghan Heritage and Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2025
- Meeting Room/Exhibition Room Policy

The SPC committee received Presentations on:

- Housing Acquisition Policy
- Social Housing – Refusal of Offers report

- Pilot Scheme for Boiler Servicing
- Management of Pre Pay Meters
- Museum Events Guide 2020
- Meeting Room/Exhibition Room
- Library Service during COVID
- Alternative Housing Models

Community & Transport SPC (3 meetings held in 2020)

The committee discussed the following strategic policy documents:

- Consultation on preparation of Corporate Plan 2020-2024
- Draft County Monaghan Migrant Integration Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2023
- Monaghan Age Friendly Strategy 2020 -2024
- Roadside Hedge Cutting Pilot Project Report

In addition, the members received presentations from the Transportation section on:

1. Blackwater Bridge
2. N2 Major Road Schemes
3. Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot Scheme

and from the Community section;

1. Community Funding Overview 2020
2. Leader & Peace Overview

Planning & Economic Development SPC (1 meetings held in 2020)

Due to Covid 19 restrictions only 1 meeting took place in 2020. As this was a new group, the first meeting entailed presentations on the role of the Strategic Policy Committee and Corporate Plan. The roles of the Planning Sections, Economic Development Unit and Fire and Building Control Department were also outlined.

The Committee was advised that work is ongoing on the Economic Community Plan and there has been engagement with various agencies in seeking investment in

County Monaghan, lands have been purchased and planning permission is in place for development. The role of the LEO and how they work with small industries to help develop and support local enterprise was outlined. The long-term plan to upgrade the value of employment in the County and a higher range of jobs and opportunities for remote working.

Climate Action & Environmental Services SPC (3 meetings held in 2020)

The inaugural meeting of the Climate Action and Environmental Services SPC was held on 28th January, 2020. Since then, 2 further meetings have been held; one in September and the other in November. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the latter 2 meetings were held virtually.

Members received presentations on the Litter Management Plan, Control and management of Dogs, Revised Grant Allocations for Domestic Water Treatment Systems and Wells. Members were also advised on the continuing principal activities in which the local authority has been engaged in the year 2020 relating to climate change. Other presentations to members included those on the River Basement Management Plan for 2022 – 2027, the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy and the Potential effects of Brexit on small food business.

Councillor Representation on External and Council Committees

Cathaoirleach 2020/2021 (June 2020-June 2021)

Cllr. Colm Carthy

Leas-Chathaoirleach 2020/2021 (June 2020-June 2021)

Cllr. Richard Truell

Municipal Districts

Monaghan Municipal District

Cllr. Seamus Treanor (Cathaoirleach 2020/2021)

Cllr. Raymond Aughey (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2020/2021)

Cllr. Cathy Bennett

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Cllr. Paudge Connolly

Cllr. David Maxwell

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District

Cllr. Aidan Campbell (Cathaoirleach 2020/2021)

Cllr. Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2020/2021)

Cllr. Colm Carthy

Cllr. Mary Kerr Conlon

Cllr. Noel Keelan

Cllr. Aoife McCooey

Ballybay-Clones Municipal District

Cllr. Seamus Coyle (Cathaoirleach 2020/2021)

Cllr. Richard Truell (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2020/2021)

Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Corporate Policy Group

Cathaoirleach of the Day

Cllr. Noel Keelan

Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Strategic Policy Committees

SPC for Housing, Social and Cultural

Cllr. Pat Treanor, Chair

Cllr. Aidan Campbell

Cllr. Colm Carthy

Cllr. Mary Kerr-Conlon

Cllr. Aoife McCooey

Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon

SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise Support

Cllr. Sean Gilliland, Chair
 Cllr. Sean Conlon
 Cllr. Noel Keelan
 Cllr. David Maxwell
 Cllr. Brian McKenna
 Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

SPC for Transport and Community

Cllr. Raymond Aughey, Chair
 Cllr. Sean Conlon
 Cllr. Sean Gilliland
 Cllr. Hugh McElvaney
 Cllr. Brian McKenna

SPC for Climate Action and Environment

Cllr. Noel Keelan, Chair
 Cllr. Raymond Aughey
 Cllr. Cathy Bennett
 Cllr. Seamus Coyle
 Cllr. Pat Treanor
 Cllr. Richard Truell

Co. Monaghan Joint Policing Committee

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon
 Cllr. Brian McKenna
 Cllr. Noel Keelan
 Cllr. Aoife McCooey
 Cllr. Pat Treanor
 Cllr. Cathy Bennett
 Cllr. Raymond Aughey
 Cllr. Aidan Campbell
 Cllr. David Maxwell
 Cllr. Sean Gilliland
 Cllr. Richard Truell
 Cllr. Colm Carthy
 Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Local Steering Group for the Use of Irish in Monaghan County Council (Coiste Gaeilge)

Cllr. Pat Treanor
 Cllr. Richard Truell
 Cllr. Cathy Bennett
 Cllr. Raymond Aughey
 Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Local Monitoring Committee (Rural Water Programme).

Cllr. Brian McKenna
 Cllr. Aidan Campbell
 Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

Muckno Development Committee

Cllr. Mary Kerr-Conlon
Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Cllr. Aoife McCooey
Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. Colm Carthy
Cllr. PJ O Hanlon

Twinning Committee

Cllr. Aoife McCooey
Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Cllr. Sean Conlon

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. Aoife McCooey
Cllr. Colm Carthy
Cllr. Richard Truell
Cllr. Seamus Treanor

Local Community Development Committee

Cllr. Seamus Coyle
Cllr. Cathy Bennett
Cllr. David Maxwell

Audit Committee

Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. David Maxwell

Museum Advisory Committee

Cllr. Cathy Bennett
Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. David Maxwell

Monaghan Leisure Complex Management Committee

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

Monaghan Local Sports Partnership Board

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Road Safety Committee

Cllr. Richard Truell

Speed Limits Committee

Cllr. Raymond Aughey
 Cllr. Richard Truell
 Cllr. Pat Treanor
 Cllr. Sean Conlon
 Cllr. Aidan Campbell
 Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

County Monaghan Heritage Forum

Cllr. Mary Kerr-Conlon
 Cllr. Pat Treanor
 Cllr. Aoife McCooey

Local Improvements Scheme Committee

Cllr. Aidan Campbell
 Cllr. PJ O Hanlon
 Cllr. Pat Treanor
 Cllr. Noel Keelan
 Cllr. Sean Gilliland

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. Sean Conlon
 Cllr. Aidan Campbell
 Cllr. Colm Carthy
 Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon
 Cllr. David Maxwell

Peace IV Partnership Board (nominees)

Cllr. Aidan Campbell	Carrickmacross-Castleblayney M.D.
Cllr. Pat Treanor	Ballybay-Clones M.D.
Cllr. Aoife McCooey	Carrickmacross-Castleblayney M.D.
Cllr. Cathy Bennett	Monaghan M.D./LCDC

Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA)

Cllr. Brian McKenna
 Cllr. David Maxwell

East Border Region Members Forum

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon
 Cllr. Sean Conlon
 Cllr. Aoife McCooey
 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

Regional Health Forum – Dublin and North East

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

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances

Cllr. Richard Truell

Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)

Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. David Maxwell
Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)

Cllr. Sean Conlon

An Coiste Logainmneacha

Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Aoife McCooey
Cllr. Richard Truell
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Standing Orders & Procedures Committee

Cllr. Richard Truell
Cllr. David Maxwell
Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Seamus Coyle
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

North Eastern Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force

Cllr. Colm Carthy

Peace Campus Steering Committee

Cllr. Sean Conlon
Cllr. David Maxwell
Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. Paudge Connolly

Directors to the East Border Region Ltd

Cllr. Sean Conlon
Cllr. P. J. O'Hanlon (changed at June 24 meeting from Cllr McCooey to Cllr O'Hanlon)
Cllr. Aidan Campbell

Connecting to Life Suicide Prevention Working Group

Cllr. Colm Carthy
Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Board of the Garage Theatre

Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Richard Truell

Offices Working Group

- Cllr. Brian McKenna
- Cllr. Colm Carthy
- Cllr. David Maxwell
- Cllr. Hugh McElvaney
- Cllr. Raymond Aughey
- Cllr. Seamus Coyle
- Cllr. Seamus Treanor
- Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Conferences/Training Attended by Members in 2020

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Number of Members Attended
Celtic Conferences	Tackling Carbon Emissions and Fuel Poverty	O'Donovan's Hotel, Main Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	24 th , 25 th & 26 th January	1
AILG	The Development Plan Making Process – A briefing for Elected Members	Hotel Kilmore, Dublin Road, Cavan	Thursday, 13th February 2020	1
AILG	The Development Plan Making Process – A briefing for Elected Members	Dooley's Hotel, Waterford	Saturday 15 th February	2
Celtic Conferences	Health & Safety in the Workplace	O'Donovan's Hotel, Main Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	21st to 23rd February 2020	1
AILG	Climate Action – Solving Global Challenges through Local Leadership	Longford Arms Hotel, Longford	4 th & 5 th March 2020	8
AILG	"Moorhead Report – A briefing for Elected Members" Module 3	Clayton Whites Hotel, Abbey Street, Wexford	Saturday 25 th July 2020	2
AILG	"Moorhead Report – A briefing for Elected Members" Module 3	Carrickdale Hotel, Carrickarnon, Ravensdale, Dundalk, Co. Louth.	Thursday 30 th July 2020	4
AILG	"Moorhead Report – A briefing for Elected Members" Module 3	Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo	Saturday 8 th August 2020	2

Appendix I Members Expenses

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Payments to Monaghan County Council Members in 2020 from 1 January - 31 December 2020

Name of Councillor	Representational Payment / Salary (Subject to PAYE etc.)	Annual Allowance	Municipal District Allowance	Cathaoirleach / Leas Cathaoirleach / Cathaoirleach of MD Allowance (Subject to PAYE etc.)	SPC Chair Allowance	Travel & Subsistence (Training, Conferences, Crossborder and Other Meetings)	Foreign Travel (Twinning etc., Cost of Flights and Expenses)	Mobile Phone Allowance Claimed	Other	TOTAL PAID
Cllr. Aidan Campbell	€ 17,375.43	€ 4,752.52	€ 1,000.00	€ 2,150.00		€ 655.00		€ 0.00		€ 25,932.95
Cllr. Aoife McCooley	€ 17,375.43	€ 5,554.36	€ 1,000.00			€ 28.70		€ 0.00	€ 1,500.00	€ 25,458.49
Cllr. Brian McKenna	€ 17,375.43	€ 4,652.20	€ 1,000.00			€ 293.73		€ 161.49		€ 23,482.85
Cllr. Cathy Bennett	€ 17,375.43	€ 4,303.12	€ 1,000.00			€ 0.00		€ 173.04		€ 22,851.59
Cllr. Colm Carthy	€ 17,375.43	€ 5,821.72	€ 1,000.00	€ 10,888.82		€ 58.23		€ 180.67		€ 35,324.87
Cllr. David Maxwell	€ 17,375.43	€ 4,303.12	€ 1,000.00			€ 1,026.58		€ 288.45		€ 23,993.58
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney	€ 17,375.43	€ 4,338.12	€ 1,000.00			€ 0.00		€ 0.00		€ 22,713.55
Cllr. Mary Kerr Conlon	€ 17,375.43	€ 6,022.12	€ 1,000.00			€ 0.00		€ 0.00		€ 24,397.55
Cllr. Noel Keelan	€ 17,375.43	€ 5,955.28	€ 1,000.00	€ 2,650.00	€ 6,000.00	€ 31.35		€ 541.53		€ 33,553.59
Cllr. Pat Treanor	€ 17,375.43	€ 4,685.68	€ 1,000.00	€ 2,715.00	€ 6,000.00	€ 0.00		€ 0.00		€ 31,776.11
Cllr. Paudge Connolly	€ 17,375.43	€ 4,303.12	€ 1,000.00			€ 1,129.36		€ 316.23		€ 24,124.14
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon	€ 17,375.43	€ 5,955.28	€ 1,000.00			€ 0.00		€ 0.00		€ 24,330.71
Cllr. Raymond Aughey	€ 17,375.43	€ 4,303.12	€ 1,000.00		€ 6,000.00	€ 0.00		€ 0.00		€ 28,678.55
Cllr. Richard Truell	€ 17,375.43	€ 4,752.52	€ 1,000.00	€ 2,177.76		€ 795.54		€ 337.78		€ 26,439.03
Cllr. Seamus Coyle	€ 17,375.43	€ 5,420.68	€ 1,000.00	€ 12,316.63		€ 991.42		€ 436.71		€ 37,540.87
Cllr. Seamus Treanor	€ 17,375.43	€ 4,303.12	€ 1,000.00	€ 5,416.65		€ 0.00		€ 129.11		€ 28,224.31
Cllr. Seamus Conlon	€ 17,375.43	€ 4,303.12	€ 1,000.00	€ 2,650.00		€ 471.40		€ 332.30		€ 26,132.25
Cllr. Sean Gilliland	€ 17,375.43	€ 5,420.68	€ 1,000.00		€ 6,000.00	€ 144.28		€ 0.00		€ 29,940.39
Totals	€ 312,757.74	€ 89,149.88	€ 18,000.00	€ 40,964.86	€ 24,000.00	€ 5,625.59	€ 0.00	€ 2,897.31	€ 1,500.00	€ 494,895.38

Appendix II

Financial Statement 2020

Summary of Expenditure, Income and Balances

The activities of the Council, on both Capital and Revenue, in 2020 accounted for a turnover of c.€127 million.

The Capital Account expenditure of €39,025,714 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	2020 Expenditure	2020 Income	2020 Net cost
Housing & Building	23,444,119	22,994,096	(450,023)
Roads Transportation & Safety	8,395,203	8,724,361	329,158
Water Services	398,095	395,824	(2,271)
Development Management	2,994,727	3,164,648	169,921
Environmental Services	996,233	1,369,829	373,596
Recreation & Amenity	1,783,024	1,665,636	(117,388)
Miscellaneous Services	1,014,314	197,477	(816,837)
Total Expenditure / Income	39,025,714	38,511,871	(513,843)
		2019	2020
Balance (Debit) / Credit January 1		6,223,151	3,305,848
Expenditure		47,492,928	39,025,714
Income		43,574,815	38,511,871
Transfers to Revenue		(845,702)	(157,451)
Net Transfers from Revenue Account		1,846,511	3,635,192
Balance (Debit) / Credit December 31		3,305,848	6,269,745

Revenue Account

Activity by Division	2020 Expenditure	2020 Income	2020 Net cost
Housing & Building	8,588,870	9,317,363	728,493
Roads Transportation & Safety	23,790,351	17,339,149	(6,451,202)
Water Services	7,651,049	7,565,317	(85,732)
Development Management	21,055,684	16,301,398	(4,754,286)
Environmental Services	6,273,314	1,177,758	(5,095,556)
Recreation & Amenity	4,595,636	286,645	(4,308,991)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	481,072	333,815	(147,257)
Miscellaneous Services	11,880,850	9,956,125	(1,924,725)
Total Expenditure / Income	84,316,827	62,277,570	(22,039,256)
Net Cost of Programmes to be funded from County Rates and Local Government Fund			(22,039,256)

	€
Rates	14,295,991
Local Property Tax	11,813,214
Pension Related Deduction	
Surplus / (Deficit) for Year	4,069,949
Transfer to Reserves	(3,711,528)
Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)	358,421
Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 1st January	(2,223,600)
Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 31st December	(1,865,179)

Revenue Account

Income and Expenditure Account	2020		2019	
Income				
State Grants and Subsidies	48,610,507	55.0%	27,873,035	41.9%
Contributions from other LAs	412,301	0.5%	359,670	0.5%
Goods and Services	13,254,761	15.0%	13,999,193	21.0%
Local Property Tax	11,813,214	13.4%	11,238,572	16.9%
Rates	14,295,991	16.2%	13,047,421	19.6%
Total Income	88,386,775	100.0%	66,517,890	100.0%
Expenditure				
Payroll Expenses	26,782,913	31.8%	26,299,947	43.4%
Operational Expenses	48,429,492	57.4%	31,731,675	44.5%
Administration Expenses	2,885,209	3.4%	2,527,584	3.9%
Establishment Expenses	1,126,953	1.3%	1,045,890	2.1%
Financial Expenses	4,341,853	5.1%	3,212,609	5.3%
Miscellaneous	750,406	0.9%	395,364	0.8%
Total Expenditure	84,316,826	100.0%	65,213,069	100.0%
Surplus for Year before Transfers	4,069,949		1,304,821	
Transfers to Reserves	(3,711,528)		(1,227,954)	
Overall Deficit for Year	358,421		76,867	
General Reserve at 1st January	(2,223,600)		(2,300,474)	
General Reserve at 31st December	(1,865,179)		(2,223,600)	

Appendix III

**Progress Report for 2020
on Corporate Plan 2020-2024**

CORPORATE PLAN HIGH LEVEL GOALS

This Corporate Plan - underpinned by our Core Values - proposes twelve High Level Goals which will deliver our Mission and ensure the improvement of Council services and infrastructure over the period of the Plan 2020 - 2024. For each High Level Goal, we have identified a number of supporting strategic objectives for which actions and activities are identified by relevant Departments in their Annual Service Delivery Plans

<p>1 TO ENSURE A CLEAN, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT</p>	<p>Support biodiversity and ensure the sustainable management of water, waste, and all other environmental resources</p>
<p>2 TO SUPPORT LOCAL DEMOCRACY</p>	<p>Support the Elected Members, Corporate Policy Group, Strategic Policy Committee, Joint Policing Committee, Public Participation Network and all other committees in their leadership and representative role in response to the needs of the Community</p>
<p>3 TO DELIVER QUALITY & INCLUSIVE CUSTOMER SERVICES</p>	<p>Improve Accessible Services, improve communications and engagement with the public to drive efficiency and effectiveness for our customers.</p>
<p>4 TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ECONOMY</p>	<p>Support the Business Community to stimulate growth, encourage start-ups and maximise job creation. Improve prosperity through cross border partnerships i.e. ICBAN and EBR. Deliver on the economic objectives in the Local Economic and Community Plan.</p>
<p>5 TO ENHANCE CULTURE AND CREATIVITY</p>	<p>Strengthen the capacity of the culture and creative sectors within County Monaghan.</p>
<p>6 TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>Develop, Support and Enhance the quality of life of sustainable, inclusive communities in County Monaghan as envisaged in the Local Economic and Community Plan.</p>
<p>7 TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE SERVICES</p>	<p>Progress key infrastructure projects.</p>
<p>8 TO DELIVER HOUSING AND HOUSING SUPPORTS</p>	<p>Increase the supply of social housing, improve existing housing stock and develop quality amenities to enhance Monaghan as a place to live.</p>
<p>9 TO IMPLEMENT ROBUST BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</p>	<p>Develop and implement sound financial, management and governance systems to enable organisational and operational efficiency</p>
<p>10 TO DEVELOP OUR PEOPLE AND ORGANISATION.</p>	<p>Ensure Monaghan County Council, is an employer of choice, builds our workforce for the future, supports and values managers as people developers.</p>
<p>11 TO ENSURE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY THROUGH ADVANCING INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY.</p>	<p>Accelerate the digital delivery of improved and accessible services by promoting a culture of innovation.</p>
<p>12 TO TRANSITION TO A LOW CARBON & CLIMATE RESILIENT SOCIETY</p>	<p>Working in partnership with other key stakeholders to deliver on the adaptation and mitigation actions identified in the Climate Action Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Climate Action Charter.</p>

Housing			
In the Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to seeking to ensure that every household will have access to secure, good quality housing suited to their needs at an affordable price in a sustainable community. The Council's priorities and objectives in this area are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
To identify the categories of Social Housing need of all communities in County Monaghan and prioritise their needs in capital expenditure programmes	3, 6, 7, 8	Ensure social housing applications are dealt with within a 12-week period. Reviewed social housing waiting list to identify and allocate vacant properties to priority cases having regard to the scheme of letting priorities. 103 housing units allocated by MCC in 2020	Completion of the Social Housing Assessment 2020.
To deliver good quality accessible social housing through planned programmes for construction, acquisition, leasing, maintenance and refurbishment.	3, 7, 8	94 units completed in 2020 through continued construction, acquisition, leasing, maintenance and refurbishment programmes. Restrictions due to COVID delayed the completion of 50 units in 2020 which will be completed in 2021 Continued the preparation, submission of own applications for social housing developments by Monaghan County Council as well as providing supporting documentation and information for funding applications for additional social housing by Approved Housing Bodies.	Rebuilding Ireland targets and NOAC Housing Stock statistics.
To optimise the use of housing land banks and increase land bank reserves.	7, 8	Examined potential and feasibility of land in the ownership of Monaghan County Council having regard to sustainability for development of land. Advertisements by MCC issued for acquisition of additional land for future development as well as liaising regularly with landowners and agents on opportunities arising	

To ensure casual vacancies are re let in a timely fashion.	7, 8	Reduction in letting time achieved from 11.65 weeks in 2019 to 11.5 weeks in 2020	NOAC Housing Vacancies/Average reletting times and cost
To optimise the use of housing stock while at the same time achieving value for money.	3, 8		NOAC - Housing Maintenance Costs
To provide for the housing needs of Vulnerable Groups	6, 8	12.6% of the total allocations made by MCC were to persons with disabilities. Of the remainder 23% were made to persons over 55. Target in the Housing and Disability strategy is for 20% of allocations to be made to persons with disabilities. Difficulties arose achieving these targets having regard to the form and location of housing vacancies arising and the suitable applicants on the list	Assessment having regard to targets contained in the Housing and Disability Strategy
To meet the needs as set out in the Traveller Accommodation Plan.	6, 8	All targets set out in the plan for 2020 were met through provision of allocations and other social housing supports.	Traveler Accommodation Programme 2019-2024
To meet the needs of Homeless in County Monaghan.	6, 8	137 Presentations made to Monaghan County Council in 2020 and addressed to address the individuals needs Progression of the North East Homeless Action Plan 2018 -2024	North East Homeless Action Plan 2018 -2024 NOAC – Homeless Figures
To promote home ownership by increasing the range of housing accessible procurement alternatives.	8	16 dwellings sold in 2020 by MCC under the tenant purchase scheme. The sale of houses will continue under the Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme. Subject to the development of a proposed new affordable housing scheme Monaghan County Council will endeavour to provide affordable housing where feasible and needed.	
To co-ordinate a programme of work to bring Derelict / Vacant properties back into use.	1, 6, 8	Continued inspections of properties and follow up to determine whether vacant or occupied. Liaise with property owners to encourage reoccupation of properties.	Assessment against the provisions of the Vacant Homes Strategy

<p>To ensure Private House grants for people with a disability and older people in our communities to meet the priority needs in County Monaghan.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>Provision of 147 no housing grants in 2020</p>	<p>No's of Housing Grants issued per annum</p>
<p>To promote a high standard of private rented dwellings.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>MCC carried out 245 inspections on 243 different dwellings in 2020. 160 of these were physical inspections mostly from a strong performance in Q1 prior to Covid 19. We also carried out 85 Virtual inspections in Q3 and Q4 which is commendable giving the new challenges faced.</p> <p>The NOAC target for 2020 prior to Covid 19 was to inspect 451 privately rented dwellings of which we achieved approximately 55% of this target (243).</p> <p>It is intended to continue the private rented Inspections programme during the COVID pandemic through use of virtual inspection process until restrictions are lifted and it is safe to undertake physical inspections</p>	<p>NOAC performance indicators relating to private rented inspections</p>

Transportation

In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to developing and managing County Monaghan's built and natural assets in partnership with other agencies to best utilise and promote economic, social and cultural benefits of our citizens. The Roads Service is key to delivering these benefits. The specific priorities and objectives for the Roads Service are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
To maintain & improve the structural quality of the road network.	7	<p>Progress Overlay Schemes at approved sites.</p> <p>Deliver Regional and Local Road Restoration Improvement.</p> <p>Implement funding for Specific Improvement Grants on Regional roads.</p> <p>Implement LIS & CIS Schemes</p> <p>Bridge Rehabilitation Programme</p>	<p>Phase 1 of the N54 Monaghan Town Scheme delivered.</p> <p>45.1Kms of road improvement carried out.</p> <p>85.6kms of Local & Regional roads.</p> <p>11 LIS lanes completed, 6 CIS schemes.</p> <p>13 bridges completed, designs and site investigations completed at 9 other bridge structures.</p>
To plan, develop and progress strategic infrastructural routes.	7	<p>Implement Road Improvement Schemes identified in Ireland 2040 and County Development Plans. Clontibret to the Border Ardee to Castleblaney.</p> <p>Complete Phase 3 of the Emyvale to Monaghan National Primary Improvement Works Scheme.</p> <p>Construction of the Blackwater Bridge.</p>	<p>Preferred Route Corridors finalised and prepared for publishing in 2021.</p> <p>3.3km scheme completed.</p> <p>Bridge Replacement scheme and accommodation works</p>

		<p>Progress N54 Tullybryan as Minor Improvement Scheme</p> <p>N53 Ballinacarry Bridge</p> <p>Plan, design & provide infrastructure to assist with modal shifts to walking and cycling routes.</p> <p>Implement funding for Specific Improvement Grants on Regional roads.</p>	<p>completed with a total project cost of €6 million.</p> <p>3.1kms road realignment scheme progressed to Phase 3 of the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Project Management Guidelines for Minor Projects.</p> <p>Completion of the Strategic Assessment Report for the bridge realignment scheme.</p> <p>Ulster Canal Greenway progressed to preparation of Part 8 approval for Phase 2.</p> <p>Completed the Part VIII process for Specific Improvement works at Brackley Bridge and R181 Drummillard.</p>
To provide an appropriate and adequate road maintenance service.	1.7	Implement PSCI Road Survey and monitoring programme in line with national targets.	<p>100% of roads surveyed.</p> <p>NOAC R1: 100% PSCI Survey of Regional Network completed. 100% PSCI resurvey of Local Tertiary Road Network completed.</p> <p>NOAC R2: Completed Regional Road Grants Works in accordance with agreed Restoration programme.</p>

		<p>Implement Winter Maintenance schedule</p> <p>Deliver Regional & Local Road Restoration Maintenance</p> <p>Maintain appropriate resources to provide a core road maintenance service.</p> <p>Co-ordinate Severe Weather Action Team</p>	<p>Winter Maintenance Plans reviewed and operational. 76 call outs were completed in 2019/2020.</p> <p>Implementation of 11 LIS roads, 6 CIS roads and piloting of the CBGM and Reclaimed Asphalt trails.</p> <p>Plant, Stocks and staffing levels and training in place.</p> <p>The SWAT team met on 3 occasions to monitor & co-ordinate emergency responses.</p>
<p>Ensure effective administration & governance of Roads Programmes.</p>	<p>2.7.9</p>	<p>Administer road opening licensing, permits, road closures, signage and customer service requests efficiently. Enforcement of the 1993 Roads Act offences.</p> <p>Facilitate the administration of projects and budgetary spend.</p>	<p>The following number of applications were responded to:</p> <p>Roads & Services Abutting: 238</p> <p>Abnormal Loads: 89</p> <p>Road closures: 41</p> <p>Customer Service Queries: 212</p> <p>All monies recouped in a timely manner from funding Departments: DTTAS, TII & Dept of Community & Rural Affairs in line with eligibility of expenditure.</p>
<p>Enhance the safety of the road network.</p>	<p>1.8</p>	<p>Deliver Safety Improvement Schemes on National road network.</p>	<p>Progressed three HD17 safety improvement schemes on national routes (N54</p>

		<p>Implement Safety Improvement scheme works on Regional & local roads.</p> <p>Deliver National Road Maintenance Programmes.</p> <p>Implement the VRS safety barriers repair/ replacement programmes on the applicable National routes.</p> <p>Implement actions in the Noise Action Plan.</p> <p>Implement Fencing Retrofit programme.</p>	<p>Monaghan Town Roundabout, N2 Tirnaneill & Smithborough Pedestrian crossing</p> <p>9 Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes throughout the county on the local and regional road network.</p> <p>Works carried out at N2 Clontibret, N2 Carrickmacross (access ramps), N2 Shercock ramp, N2 Emyvale, N2 Moybridge, N54 Skeagh Bridge, N54 Smithborough, N12 Tamlat. Repairs to VRS (crash barrier) carried out at ten locations across the network.</p> <p>Noise monitoring undertaken as required.</p> <p>1.75kms of fencing installed at 2 locations on National Roads.</p>
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Water Services			
<p>Monaghan County Council is committed to the development and management of County Monaghan's built and natural assets in partnership with other agencies to best utilise and promote the economic, social and cultural benefit of our citizens. A key element in the delivery of the strategic objective is fulfilling our obligations under the Irish Water / Monaghan County Council Service Level Agreement and managing the implementation of the Rural Water Programme in County Monaghan. These priorities and objectives are summarised below. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.</p>			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
To fulfil obligations under the Service Level Agreement and Annual Service Plan with Irish Water.	1, 3, 7	Requirements under 2020 Annual Service Plan Met	Q1 91.2% Q2 100% Q3 97.9% Q4 94.8%
<p>Execute duties as the Water Authority for Group Water Schemes and small private water supplies under the Drinking Water Regulations 2014.</p> <p>Implementation of The County Monaghan Rural Water Programme</p>	1, 3, 7	<p>Sampling plan for rural water was completed in 2020 taking 141 samples across private group water schemes and small private supplies.</p> <p>Compliance for 2020 with drinking water regulations was 99.6% for all regulatory sample parameters assessed. Some small private supplies were not sampled as they were closed due to Covid 19 restrictions. Exceedances and operational issues reported by group water schemes were risk assessed and notified to the HSE were relevant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €3.7 million subsidy payments issued to twelve group Schemes • €345,724 capital payments issued to seven group water schemes towards projects under the MARWP 2019 -2021. • 16 Well Grant applications received. 	<p>141 Samples</p> <p>99.6%</p>

Planning			
In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to promoting and protecting a clean safe environment which is viable and sustainable. A further corporate objective is to 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. The Council’s priorities and objectives for the Planning Service in these areas, together with the performance standards to be met, for 2021 are outlined below. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council’s adopted governance processes & procedures.			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
<p>To provide an effective, equitable and consistent planning service.</p> <p>Operate a Development Management System in compliance with legislative and policy requirements.</p> <p>Operate an enforcement system in line with legislative and policy requirements.</p> <p>Implement development contribution scheme within legislative and policy requirements.</p>	<p>1, 3, 4, 6</p>	<p>Despite the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in place, the Planning Section continued to provide the level of service and access to information required to deliver an effective, equitable and consistent planning service.</p> <p>Despite increased numbers of planning applications, the Planning Section fulfilled its statutory duties in respect of development management in line with legislative and policy requirements.</p> <p>The Planning Section fulfilled its statutory duties in respect of enforcement in line with legislative and policy requirements.</p> <p>The provisions of the Development Contribution Scheme were applied to all planning application decisions, and development contributions due were collected.</p>	<p>Performance is bench marked through NOAC indicators P2, P3 and P4.</p> <p>All planning application further information requests and decisions were issued within the legislative timeframes.</p> <p>Enforcement actions adhered to the legislative timeframes and policy requirements.</p> <p>All planning applications were determined in accordance with the provisions of the County Development Plan, national policy and the Development Contribution Scheme.</p>
<p>To ensure a planning policy framework for balanced and sustainable development in the urban and rural areas.</p> <p>Develop a planning policy framework within legislative and policy requirements.</p>	<p>1, 4, 6</p>	<p>The Planning Section continued to formulate planning policy which is balanced and sustainable, and to progress same to adoption by the elected members within the legislative timeframes and policy requirements.</p>	<p>Two variations to the County Development Plan were adopted in 2020.</p>

Manage and protect the built heritage within the County.	3, 5, 0	The Planning Section continued to administer the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF).	Nine properties were awarded funding under the BHIS and HSF in 2020
Resolve remaining unfinished housing developments in the county and take in charge developments as required.	1, 6	The Planning Section continued to seek resolution of unfinished housing developments in collaboration with other sections of the Council and Irish Water.	By the end of 2020 the number of unfinished housing developments had been reduced to four.
Reduce the level of dereliction.	1, 6	Work on addressing dereliction continued with the completion of the redevelopment of a number of derelict sites and additional Derelict Sites Notices being served.	Three additional properties were added to the Derelict Sites Register in 2020.

Economic Development & Tourism

In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to providing support to the business community to stimulate growth, encourage start-ups, maximise job creation and improve competitiveness. The Council's priorities and objectives in this area are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Monaghan County Council committed to delivering on its tourism strategy in partnership with stakeholders. The Council also has a leading role in supporting the local community sector in developing local initiatives. The following priorities/objectives and performance standards are relevant to these commitments. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
<p>Develop a strategy to promote entrepreneurship, foster business start-ups, and develop existing businesses, including those sectors with significant export potential</p> <p>Promote economic sustainability and development in County Monaghan by progressing the County as a location for investment and employment creation through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a strategy to attract public and private investment • Devise a strategy to improve the quality and diversity of employment in the County 		<p>Job Creation 2020 was 175 but we had losses of 194 due to Covid, some of those jobs may come back in 2021. The areas badly effective was food & service sector.</p> <p>78 training programmes took place, TOV 129 to move to on-line trading & we ran 6 Business Start to encourage start-up</p> <p>Promoting Economic Sustainability Bio Project, AI Project, the Engineering Network to explore new opportunities through collaboration & working with ETB to develop new training programmes to meet the needs of industry in Monaghan</p> <p>Grant Thornton Economic Appraisal of County Monaghan</p>	<p>Process 18 grant applications in 2021</p> <p>Deliver 50 training programmes in 2021, included 6 Business Starts TOV approve 25 in 2021 Planning Permission Grant for Bio-connect Project Engineering Cluster Established AI funding secured & CEO appointed Discussion in progress with ETB</p> <p>Publish Report in 2021</p>
<p>To develop a sustainable tourism industry in the county which will lead to an increase in visitor numbers and visitor revenue.</p>	1, 4, 5	<p>New look Tourism Website for the county developed</p> <p>Major new interactive visitor experience at the Patrick Kavanagh Centre completed and opened to the public</p>	<p>Website complete</p> <p>New Visitor Attraction opened with promotional material (brochure, website) all developed</p>

	<p>New interactive visitor experience at Carrickmacross Workhouse delivered in conjunction with Farney Development Group</p> <p>Delivered major infrastructural upgrade project at Rossmore</p> <p>Commenced delivery of Failte Ireland's Destination Town funded project in Monaghan Town</p> <p>Commenced delivery of family cycle trail in Rossmore Forest Park</p> <p>Feasibility study on Heritage Sites Access & Interpretation undertaken in conjunction with Louth and Cavan County Councils</p> <p>Branded Kavanagh Trail developed in Inniskeen</p> <p>Monaghan Tourism Summer Campaign undertaken comprising of radio ads and interviews, social media postings, and the Monaghan Quest initiative</p> <p>MyMonaghan Christmas campaign undertaken to promote local crafts and vouchers for visitor experiences and accommodation</p>	<p>New Visitor Attraction developed and ready for opening in 2021</p> <p>Entrance improvements, resurfacing of access road and car park, wildflower planting, new giant sculptures installed</p> <p>Design Team appointed and initial design work commenced</p> <p>Design team appointed and initial design work commenced</p> <p>Feasibility Study Completed and further application submitted to LEADER for capital funding</p> <p>Signed Trail with Interpretation Panels at 10 key sites installed</p> <p>Significant engagement from public during campaign and national coverage in travel articles and blogs</p> <p>Strong engagement during the campaign feedback from participants indicated an</p>
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		<p>Tourist Office opened and staffed for 6 weeks when restrictions allowed.</p> <p>Participation of Kavanagh Centre in ICBAN funded Spot-Lit (Literary Tourism) Programme</p>	<p>increased level of on-line sales.</p> <p>Opened for enquiries</p> <p>Training undertaken by Centre Manager</p>
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Community Development			
<p>In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to ensuring that everyone in our community has an opportunity to become actively engaged in shaping the future development of the County. Monaghan County Council is committed to leading the promotion and support of Social Inclusion and access to services through the review, development and implementation of its strategies. The Council's priorities and objectives in the area of Community Development are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Monaghan County Council committed to lead the promotion and support of social inclusion through the review, development and implementation of strategies, policies and practice that promote, equality, protect human rights and eliminate discrimination for all services users and staff of the organisation in line with National Government Policy. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.</p>			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
<p>Support and facilitate the work of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in partnership with Statutory and Non-Statutory Agencies</p> <p>LCDC to deliver and implement Social and Economic Development through the Local Economic and Community Planning Process (LECP), Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and the Rural Development Programme (LEADER).</p>	<p>3, 6, 12</p>	<p>Ongoing Administration and co-ordination of the following programmes Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP), LEADER:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCDC Programme being administered in accordance with Department Guidelines. • 11 meeting of LCDC & 12 LAG meetings held in 2020 • LCDC work programme agreed and delivered. <p>Local Economic and Community Plan actions delivered.</p> <p>SICAP Programme being delivered in accordance with the SICAP Programme 2018-2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 SICAP Plan agreed • Mid-Year Review (MYR) completed • End-of-Year Review (EYR) completed • 2021 SICAP Plan submitted and approved by the LCDC <p>LEADER Programme administered in accordance with Department Guidelines and budget allocated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 LAG Meeting held in 2020 	<p>Local Community Development Committee Programme administered in accordance with Department Guidelines</p> <p>SICAP Programme administered in accordance with the SICAP Programme 2018-2022</p> <p>LEADER Programme administered in accordance with Local Development Strategy, Department</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the close of 2020, 112 projects were approved to the value of €5,698,098.16 (99.82% of total budget) <p>Community Enhancement Programme 2020 Monaghan LCDC implemented the Community Enhancement Programme in 2020 in two Rounds. In total €165,398 was approved to 68 projects.</p> <p>DRCD Rural Funding Schemes Funding was allocated in 2020 by the Department of Rural & Community Development under the following schemes:</p> <p>CLÁR – This programme for rural areas aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in areas that experience disadvantage. €287,371 was allocated under the CLÁR Scheme 2020 for 7 projects.</p> <p>Town & Village Renewal Scheme – The aim of the Scheme is to support the revitalising of towns and villages, to improve the living and working environment of their communities and increase their potential to support increased economic activity into the future. In 2020, the Town and Village Renewal Scheme was tailored to address the emerging challenges associated with COVID-19 with the introduction of the Accelerated Measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round 1 Accelerated Measure allocated €137,320 – 5 Projects Round 2 Accelerated Measure allocated €155,000 – 5 Projects Round 3 Accelerated Measure allocated €130,000 – 4 Projects 	<p>Guidelines and budget allocation.</p> <p>Funding Schemes allocated in accordance with Department Guidelines.</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Town & Village Scheme 2020 received an allocation of €806,543 – 7 projects. <p>The Council will provide match funding of €258,592 for the projects.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme</p> <p>The aim of the ORIS is to provide outdoor recreational infrastructure in countryside areas. The 2020 scheme did, in particular, support recreational infrastructure that not only provides an outlet for the communities in which they are situated but that also delivers added value from a tourism perspective, positioning rural areas to respond to the post-COVID-19 economic environment. €103,623 was allocated under Measure 1 for 6 projects.</p> <p>Monaghan Drug & Alcohol Forum met 4 times. Cavan, Monaghan DAF Communications subgroup established. Strategic plan actions progressed.</p>	
To achieve Peace programme/s objectives	4, 5, 6, 7	Peace IV programme delivered with one project outstanding which required SEUPB approval to relocate and revise timeline for delivery. Approval obtained in December 2020. Delivery deadline extended to March 2022.	Programme delivered. One project outstanding and plan for completion of that in place.
To promote equality and inclusion for all service users by developing cross departmental actions and policies.	3, 6,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality proofing assessment of the Corporate plan 2020-2024 completed • A guide to Inclusive Consultation produced <p>Monaghan Public Sector Duty plan 2020-2024 produced</p>	
Support the Public Participation Network (PPN) in realising its role and function.	9, 8, 12	<p>MCC and MPPN developed a Memorandum of Understanding which clearly sets out the key roles of both parties. This is reviewed annually by both parties and is ratified by the PPN plenary.</p> <p>MCC provide ongoing support to the PPN through an appointed LA liaison officer.</p>	<p>MOU adopted by both parties.</p> <p>4 no. meetings held with MCC and MPPN. Attendance of Senior MCC staff at PPN meeting.</p>

		<p>MCC and MPPN regularly collaborate on projects/events.</p> <p>MCC notifies the PPN of all its consultations in a timely manner. It recognises the benefits of the PPN with 550 registered groups as the main vehicle of engagement with community sector.</p>	<p>1 no. collaborative induction training session held for new PPN Reps.</p> <p>1 no. submission made to Monaghan Migrant Strategy. 14 no. notifications sent to PPN of local and national consultations.</p>
<p>Work to strengthen local community groups by supporting the Local Community Sector in developing local initiatives.</p>	<p>3.6.12</p>	<p>The PPN has strengthened MCC relationship with community sector. This is evident through the LA working with community groups on the many funding streams such as Clár, Town and Village, Community plans and many more. Funding is now being distributed more fairly and equally across the county. This is down to the strengthened partnership approach from both parties in working together. Community groups are now heavily involved in the development of their local towns/villages.</p> <p>The PPN is a valuable tool in informing LA's of the views and needs of the communities it serves.</p> <p>Community Plans launched in Scotshouse & Oram Community Park completed in Scotshouse Funding secured to upgrade walking trail/track in Scotshouse Car Park & footpath completed in Oram Funding secured to create Memorial Garden for Big Tom in Oram. Lough Egish development plan completed Funding secured for road realignment & footpaths</p> <p>Connons/Drummully, assisted to access Covid funding to create an outdoor social area.</p>	<p>100 no. notifications sent to the PPN regarding funding announcements. A well resourced and funded community and voluntary sector.</p> <p>6 no. Monthly Management report submitted. 3 no. submissions to Monaghan County Council newsletter.</p>

		<p>Work commenced on a Community Plan for Ballinode</p> <p>Natural Playground designed in-house for O'Neill Park, Clones</p> <p>Monaghan Community Alerts now has over 4,500 subscribers</p>	
Implement the National Cycle Policy Framework actions for LAs	3, 6, 12	Staff Cycling Initiative in place – 10 cycle lockers installed at Council buildings & 7 Electric bicycles purchased for staff use	Staff usage of electric bikes.
Implement Monaghan Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2019-2023	5, 0	<p>Community based programmes organised in 11 different community settings in Jan-Feb (184 participants aged 50+)</p> <p>Schools/ Pre Schools based programmes: 381 children representing 13 primary schools. 113 pre-school children representing 4 pre-schools and 52 children representing 2 x after-school services</p> <p>National Events/ Initiatives: - Operation Transformation National Walks (Jan) – 8 local walks for 600 participants. Community Transformation activities at 3 locations for 220 participants (6 week progs).</p> <p>National Bike Week (Sept) Local cycling events using e-bikes and utilising the Monaghan Greenway 125 x bike repair and resource packs for children made available through local libraries</p> <p>Creation of 'virtual, self-led activation challenges'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-3 km Walk / Jog programme – 281 participants • 100 days of walking – 281 participants • Cycling Challenges – 115 participants • Active Schools supports – 50 participants • Nature Walks – 52 participants 	Activity programmes delivered in line with MSP Strategic Plan.

	<p>Healthy Ireland funded projects Purchase of playground marking stencils for distribution to Primary Schools. 4 Schools completed in 2020 as per targets set.</p> <p>Let's Play, Monaghan! MSP created a family fun booklet of games and activities to provide ideas for families at home during the Summer Months. 300 booklets and play packs were distributed to family support services.</p> <p>Cycle training for DEIS Schools Cycle training provided to 200 children within 4 DEIS Primary Schools</p> <p>Online exercise activities A suite of 8 different options offered for online exercise activity. 672 participants of all ages from pre-school age to older age too part.</p> <p>Women in Sport As part of the European Week of Sport (22nd-29th Sept), MSP coordinated a 'virtual' women's Mini Marathon event. 200 women of all ages took part in their own 5km / 10km walk / run event</p> <p>Social Inclusion through Sport & Physical Activity MSP along with Sport Ireland developed two activity booklets of exercises aimed at Older Adults and Adults with a Disability – booklets were posted to individuals and disseminated through local disability service providers. The booklets were also printed in the Northern Standard for people to cut out and keep. The older adult information was also included in the Age Friendly booklet produced.</p>	
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		<p>Supporting Club Development through Education & Training Safeguarding 1 – 6 courses delivered (4 online) with 69 participants Autism in Sport – 1 course held (online) with 14 participants</p> <p>Covid19 Small Grants programme MSP administered funding from Sport Ireland for the support of sports clubs with Covid19 related supports through a small grants programme. €48,300 was dispersed to 40 Sports Clubs in Monaghan. 5 additional clubs were supported via their relevant National Governing Body of Sport.</p>	
Implement Healthy Monaghan Strategy 2019 - 2022	6	Due to Covid19 some 2020 actions have moved into 2021. Administration and delivery of HI funding and associated actions ongoing.	Healthy Monaghan Strategy Actions for 2020 delivered.
Implement Migrant Integration Strategy 2020-23	3, 5, 6	Monaghan Migrant Integration Strategy 2020-2024 produced and implementation commenced.	Implementation of Integration Strategy actions delivery commenced.
Implement Monaghan Age Friendly Strategy 2020 - 2024	3, 6	Monaghan Age Friendly Strategy 2020-2024 produced and implementation commenced.	Age Friendly Strategy actions delivery commenced.
Implement Comhairle na nÓg programme	2, 6	Comhairle na nÓg programme of work completed and funding application for 2021 made.	Programme delivered, funding approved and young people engaged. Due to COVID 19 – 10 out of the 12 Secondary Schools took part in the on-line AGM.

Environment			
In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council committed to promoting and protecting a clean, safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable. In this regard, the Council's priorities and objectives for the Environment division are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
<p>To implement legislation and policy with regard to water quality for both surface and groundwaters in the County.</p> <p>Working toward achieving an improvement in water quality status in all water bodies in the County.</p>	1, 12	<p>Annual inspection plan completed and submitted to EPA. Work carried out by Environmental Services in this area in 2020 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 638 routine water inspections • 135 complaint investigations • Initiated 119 water enforcement actions • Monitoring of 26 licenced facilities. • 41 farm inspections. • Preparatory work on the 3rd cycle of the River Basin Management Plan. <p>WFP sampling program delivered on behalf of EPA with 97% of samples taken.</p> <p>Draft River Basin Management Plan substantially completed.</p>	<p>RMCEI Plan produced and submitted to EPA.</p> <p>E2 – Environmental Pollution Complaints Closed</p> <p>% of sampling program delivered</p>
<p>To implement legislation and policy with regards to waste management.</p>	1, 12	<p>Annual inspection plan completed and submitted to EPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 443 routine waste inspections • 217 non-routine inspections • Dealt with 508 environmental complaints • Initiated 163 waste enforcement actions 	<p>EPA assessment framework</p> <p>E1 No. or % of Households with access to a 3-Bin Service</p> <p>E2 – Environmental Pollution Complaints Closed</p>
<p>To provide and maintain recycling infrastructure in towns and villages in the County.</p> <p>To seek EPA authorisation for historic landfills previously operated by Monaghan County Council.</p>	1, 7, 12	<p>Contract in place with contractor in 2020 for the servicing of the bring site network in the County.</p> <p>Technical Amendment application lodged with the EPA in 2020 to remove recycling facility from EPA licence to allow</p>	<p>Bring sites operate in compliance with service contract and EPA authorisations.</p> <p>Recycling sites operate in compliance with waste</p>

		<p>increased recycling activities on site through the granting of a Waste Facility Permit.</p> <p>All outstanding capping works at Scotch Corner licensed landfill completed.</p> <p>EPA licence compliance investigation works completed at Scotch Corner landfill.</p> <p>Funding secured from DCCAE to progress historical authorisation applications to the EPA</p> <p>Three Certificate of Authorisation applications for 3 historic landfills submitted to EPA in 2020.</p>	<p>authorisation and concession contract</p> <p>Compliance with Scotch Corner EPA licence</p> <p>Funding secured</p> <p>Compliance with EPA authorisations:</p>
<p>To develop innovative environmental awareness projects for targeted audiences.</p>	<p>1, 3, 10, 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musical instrument repair project funded by LAPN • Collaboration between Monaghan County Council, WEEE Ireland and EPA on repairmystuff.ie website • Supports to Tidy Towns and resident association's through annual funding programme • Litter awareness campaign at public playgrounds and parks 	<p>E4: % of schools that have been awarded green flag status</p>
<p>To implement the objectives of County Monaghan Litter Management Plan.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1 Total spend on street cleansing in 2020 was €758,745]</p> <p>2. 200 on the spot litter fines were issued in 2020.</p> <p>3. Monaghan County Council had an extensive CCTV programme at bottle banks in 2020.</p>	<p>E3: % LA area within the 5 levels of litter pollution</p>
<p>To improve air quality through the implementation of air quality legislation.</p> <p>Work with EPA in roll out of the national Ambient Air Monitoring Program.</p>	<p>1, 12</p>	<p>Annual inspection plan completed and submitted to EPA. During 2020 work carried out by Environmental Services in this area included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 complaint investigations. • 14 inspections under the DECO paints and Solvents regulations. • Sampling of 10 retailers under the solid fuel regulations. routine waste inspections. 	<p>RMCEI Plan produced and submitted to EPA.</p> <p>E2 – Environmental Pollution Complaints Closed</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiation of 60 waste enforcement actions (i.e. air related warning letters) <p>New AAMP Air monitor became operational in 2020 at the Machinery yard.</p>	<p>Ambient Air Monitors in place as per EPA program and providing local Air Quality data.</p>
<p>To protect public health by ensuring food safety compliance in food businesses under Monaghan County Council supervision.</p> <p>To ensure public safety from uncontrolled animals and to protect health and welfare of animals in establishments under supervision of Monaghan County Council.</p>	<p>1, 3</p>	<p>Annual inspection plan for 18 food businesses completed and submitted to FSAI.</p> <p>762 cattle and 1453 sheep inspected before and after slaughter. 56 samples taken for residues in raw meat, tuberculosis in cattle, meat hygiene, production hygiene and water potability.</p> <p>Inspection of all cattle and sheep, and a proportion of turkeys, slaughtered in establishments.</p> <p>197 dogs admitted to Council Dog Pound; 22 reclaimed, 172 rehomed, 7 euthanased; 6,142 dog licences issued in Monaghan; Investigation of 309 dog complaints, including 7 attacks on sheep, and 6 horse complaints. 7 inspections on registered Dog Breeding Establishments (DBE's); Investigation of 4 suspected DBE's.</p>	<p>EU legislation</p> <p>EU and Irish legislation Dog Breeding Establishment Guidelines</p>

Climate Change			
<p>In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council aims to progress the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society. Whilst the Environmental Services section has developed the Monaghan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 it will be the responsibility of all the units within Monaghan County Council to ensure progression of the strategy and to progress the measures and action as outlined in the Climate Action Charter and in the National Climate Action Plan – To Tackle Climate Breakdown. In this regard, the Council’s priorities and objectives in the area of Climate Action are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council’s adopted governance processes & procedures.</p>			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
<p>To build resilience to the impacts of climate change across all council functions and services through the implementation of the Monaghan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024.</p> <p>To progress Climate Change Mitigation though further reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Deliver on the actions and commitments in the “Local Authority Climate Action Charter”.</p> <p>Build appropriate staff confidences and capacities to lead and drive the Climate Change agenda.</p> <p>Lead and support local communities, businesses and industry in delivering initiatives to tackle Climate Change.</p>	<p>1, 12</p>	<p>Climate Action Delivery Plan developed during 2020 to progress a significant number of the actions in the Climate Change Adaptation strategy over the period from June 2020 to December 2021.</p> <p>Confirmed during 2020 that Monaghan County Council was ranked 8th out of all Local Authorities having already achieved a 37% energy improvement by the end of 2001. (national requirement was for local authorities to achieve a 33% energy efficiency improvement by the end of 2020)</p> <p>Monaghan County Council in conjunction with the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office piloted climate action training for elected members, senior staff, and designated staff from all units of the council.</p> <p>Climate Action steering committee in place with bi-monthly meetings held under direction of Director of Service.</p> <p>Monaghan County Council assisted in the setting up of Community Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) during 2020.</p>	<p>Annual submission of Climate Adaptation implementation report to CARO</p>

		<p>Advancement of the Smithboro to Middletown greenway project.</p> <p>Progression of a Green for Micro programme to help identify cost savings and improve the green credentials of businesses by looking at them from an environmental perspective.</p> <p>Biodiversity Plans being developed for 33 community organisations.</p>	
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Fire & Emergency Services			
In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council committed to promote and protect a clean environment which is viable and sustainable. The Council's priorities and objectives for the Fire Service, Civil Defence & Building Control under this remit are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
Provide and develop an inclusive, effective & efficient prevention, protection and response fire & rescue service, locally identified risks, responsive to the needs of our community and in a manner that reflects the diversity of our communities.	3, 6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of Fire & Emergency Operations Plan 2018-2022 2. Delivery of new Fire Station in Castleblayney and transfer from old Fire Station 3. Completion of Fire Service Capacity Review 2020. 4. Procure new Class B Fire Appliance and secure funding for the re-chassis of current water tanker completed. 5. Review station, equipment and training facilities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Section 26 Plan key objectives implemented as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOAC F2: Service Mobilisation (Fire target 5.15min achieved) • NOAC F3: Percentage of time in attendances at scenes (Fire target 35% < 10min achieved) • Tetra Communication system installed • Revised recruitment programme implemented. • Training plan revised due to covid-19 and implemented • MoU delivered with NIFRS for Road Traffic Accidents • PPE Policy developed. 2. Transfer from old Fire Station to new Fire Station in Castleblayney completed.

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Fire Service Capacity review process completed. 4. Fleet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Class B Fire Appliance procured • funding approval for new Water Tanker obtained. 5. Preventative Maintenance Programmes implemented for vehicles and equipment (22 vehicles with CVRT rating of 67% achieved)
<p>To provide a healthy and safe working environment.</p> <p>Provide accessible community support.</p> <p>Develop response to Major Emergencies.</p>	<p>1, 3, 6</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Achieve IOS 450001 accreditation 2. Building Control Regulations: Operate public consultation and information service. Provide timely support, assistance and processes applications within statutory time frames. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Building Control Inspection Plan • Construction Products Regulations Policy implementation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IOS 450001 accreditation achieved 2. Building Control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOAC P5: Applications for Fire Safety Certificates (51 No.): 87% completed within 2 months. • BCAR applications migration completed to BCMS. • 77 Number of inspections completed (in accordance with Fire & BC Inspection plan), • Agents Webinar completed.

		<p>3. Fire Safety: Implement recommendations of Task force on Fire Safety in Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare, adopt & implement Community Fire Safety Policy • Implement Fire Safety Inspection Policy • Process Dangerous Substance Licences & Vapour Recovery requirements <p>4. Civil Defence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Civil Delivery HQ • Implementation of Civil Defence 2030 Strategy and MCC development plan. <p>5. Implement Road Safety Action plan targets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 No. of Construction Products Regulations inspections completed. <p>3. Fire Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Fire Safety Plan implemented. • Completion of annual inspection plan completed with 103 inspections • 38 No. of pre-consultation meetings and conducted via Teams. • 10 No. RMCEI inspections completed <p>4. Civil Defence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New CD HQ fully operational and utilised as a control centre for Community Response. • 160 No. Community Response and public safety duties completed • Revised Training Plan delivered. <p>5. Actions (EDU 26 & 27) ongoing</p>
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		<p>6. Major Emergency Management inter-agency operations through participation in appropriate training and exercises</p> <p>7. Implemented Community Fire Safety Programme</p>	<p>6. Major Emergency Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous support delivered to NERSG and NERWG • MCC MEM plan updated. • Completion of MEM regional work plan <p>7. Community fire Safety messaging delivered via Local Radio & Press, Social Media and</p>
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Library Services			
The Library, Museum, Heritage and Arts services of Monaghan County Council play a key role in the Council's commitment to promote economic, social and cultural benefit of our citizens. The main priorities and objectives for these services are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
Implement Monaghan County Library Development Plan 2019 – 2022.	3, 5, 6	<p>Construction contracts signed for new branches in Monaghan and Castleblayney. Construction companies on site in both locations</p> <p>Work commenced on the installation of My Open Library Service in Clones Branch</p> <p>Grant issued to address long-term remedial works required for Clones Branch to address leaks</p> <p>Workforce Plan completed and all vacancies filled</p> <p>Marketing and Promotion: The Library Website pages were updated and Social Media was used extensively to reach customers during lockdown periods.</p>	<p>NOAC L1: Number of library visits, number of items issued, number of active members</p> <p>NOAC L2: Cost of operating the Library Service</p> <p>LG Returns issued to LGMA</p>
Implement annual Right to Read Action Plan.	3, 5, 6	Right to Read Champion Status achieved. Programme successfully migrated to online format for 2020, some of which will be retained and utilised in future blended delivery formats.	<p>NOAC L1: Number of library visits, number of items issued, number of active members</p> <p>NOAC L2: Cost of operating the Library Service</p> <p>LG Returns issued to LGMA</p>
Implement Monaghan Culture & Creativity Strategy Monaghan 2018-2022.	3, 4, 5, 6	A full Programme completed despite disruptions caused by Covid 19 restrictions. Funding increased for 2020. In all, programme funding totalling €201,750 was utilised under a number of headings, including Creative Monaghan (€96,750), Positive Ageing and Creative Wellbeing (€10,000), Job Stimulus Funding (€50,000),	<p>Number of Creative Practitioners engaged in initiatives</p> <p>Audience Figures</p>

		Cruinniú na nÓg funding (€15,000) and Decade of Commemorations (€10,000), along with Council funding of €20,000.	Virtual Audience figures
Appoint a County Archivist.	3	No progress made in 2020. A Business case for the appointment of a County Archivist will be submitted for the consideration of the SMT in 2021	

Arts Office Monaghan County Council through their Arts Section aims to champion, develop and invest in artistic expression to enrich peoples’ lives. The Council works to nurture and create the conditions in which great art can happen, while at the same time ensuring that as many people as possible can engage with the arts and discover what art can do for them. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council’s adopted governance processes & procedures.			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
Implementation of the Co Arts Development Plan	5	<p><u>Value and support the work of artists</u>, and extend the range of opportunities for artists to develop their practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • open call for applications by professional artists to an Artists Support Scheme • Provide value added funding where artists have secured external funds for a project from bodies such as the Arts Council, Culture Ireland or other state bodies <p><u>Provision of appropriate arts infrastructure</u> spaces and places for artists to create and present their work is vital to the development of an environment where the arts can flourish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the provision of adequate spaces for the creation, production and presentation of creative work for artists and communities • Partner with communities that have strong arts advocate groupings to develop an arts hub in locations across the county to address a range of arts development needs for people, spaces and places. 	<p>21 Artists funded</p> <p>3 artists supported</p> <p>Artists become resident in old Clones “post Office”</p> <p>Patrick Kavanagh centre delivers Arts events in conjunction with Arts office</p>

		<p><u>Support venues, festivals and organisations providing high-quality arts experiences for all</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and develop good practice in audience development and public engagement • Encourage arts organisations to commission new work, to experiment with co-productions and to engage directly with artists in the development of their annual programmes • Ensure that investment is strategic and sustainable <p><u>Opportunities Children and Young People to access and participate in the arts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase opportunities for engagement in the arts • strategic view in planning for and investing in the arts for children and young people • strategic partnership with relevant local agencies for jointly funded initiatives to extend and expand arts outreach 	<p><u>Arts Partnership scheme</u> awarded 10 Grants of €70K under these objectives.</p> <p><u>3 M.O.U.</u> supported with Arts Organisations in seeking increased Arts Council funding</p> <p>Continued strategic alliance between Cavan CC & CMETB in rolling out <u>Music Generation</u> €30K annually</p> <p>Partnership funding and delivery of training and support projects under <u>Local Arts In Education Partnership</u> €9K invested</p> <p><u>Creative Monaghan</u> successful in supporting this objective.</p>
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Heritage			
In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council committed to promoting and protecting a clean, safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable. The Council's Heritage Office plays a key role in this area and in the local implementation of the National Heritage Plan and National Biodiversity Plan. The Heritage section's priorities and objectives are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
Implement Monaghan Heritage and Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2020-2025	3, 5, 6	<p>Monaghan Biodiversity & Heritage Strategic Plan 2020-2025 adopted by MCC, November 2020. Contains thirteen priority themes and <i>Vision for 2025 - the role of heritage and biodiversity for climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable communities, functioning ecosystems, health and wellbeing is generally accepted in the county and embedded in the activities of Monaghan County Council.</i></p> <p><i>Theme – Historic graveyards & church ruins.</i> Conservation Plans for historic graveyards finalised. 3 workshops held with communities. Drafts edited and finalised.</p> <p><i>Theme - Indigenous knowledge & traditions.</i> County Holy Well survey. Public call for submissions.</p> <p><i>Theme – Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation.</i> County Monaghan Wetlands Action Plan. Scoping and project methodology completed for 710 sites on Monaghan wetland database.</p> <p>Biodiversity expertise increased on Monaghan Heritage Forum.</p>	<p>Draft presented to SPC in March, final adoption in November 2020.</p> <p>Funding awarded from Heritage Council for implementation of annual work programme.</p> <p>ICOMOS, Venice & Burra Charters. James Semple Kerrs <i>The Conservation Plan (2013)</i></p> <p>Phase 1 successfully complete.</p> <p>Funding awarded from DHLGH. Ramsar RAWES.</p> <p>Regular meetings held in 2020.</p>
Implement the Culture & Creativity Strategy Monaghan 2018-2022	3, 5, 6	Rossmore Mausoleum – Inscribed Histories.	Architectural and historical reports and surveys completed to support conservation and interpretation.

		Advising artist on bogs and Sliabh Beagh, ongoing through Nature project. Video and exhibition online gallery.	Enabling creativity through exploration of local habitats.
Pollinator Plan Guidelines for Local Authorities	1, 5, 12	Gardening for Biodiversity publications produced in conjunction with the Local Authority Heritage Officers Network. Series of radio adverts issued on Northern Sound.	Distributed online and by post to members of the public.
Collaborative action for the Natura Network Interreg V project	1, 5, 12	Collaboration – steering group, work package meetings, government meetings. 1200 peat dams installed on section of blanket bog to reinstate hydrological conditions to support this habitat type. Nest protection activities to support Hen Harrier breeding. Planning for fire-risk management commenced. Invasive species removal	6 steering group. 6 WP meetings. Bi-annual north-south government departments. Procurement standards, Interreg rules and reporting. NPWS & NIEA best practice guidance. Species Action Plan for Hen Harrier. Detailed specifications for procurement of services, issued on e-tenders. Detailed mapping and specifications for removal agreed, tender issued on e-tenders.

Museum			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
Implement Peace Campus Programme Plan.	3, 4, 5, 6, 7	<p>Project relating to key themes in the PC Programme Plan have been progressed to funding application stage under; Partition, Immigration/Emigration and Decade of Centenaries.</p> <p>The museum are working with their cross border partners in the Ulster Scots Agency to carry out a project recording the impact of partition on the Ulster Scots community in Monaghan</p>	<p>Funding sourced</p> <p>Project progressed in 2021</p> <p>Number of contributors to project</p> <p>Cross border input from project participants.</p>
Implement the Monaghan Culture & Creativity Strategy Monaghan 2018-2022.	3, 5, 6	<p>Monaghan Mural Project progressed in partnership with the Patrick Kavanagh Centre</p> <p>Virtual Rossmore learning projected progressed using the Minecraft computer platform</p> <p>Cross border project reflecting the impact of partition developed. Project partners in Fermanagh confirmed.</p> <p>Bordering Realities 2021 - 2023 project developed and application for funding submitted.</p>	<p>3 murals completed in 2021</p> <p>Project launched</p> <p>Number of schools that take part</p> <p>Number of cross border project partners</p> <p>Funding achieved</p> <p>Project elements progressed in 2021</p>

Corporate Assets			
In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to promoting and protecting a clean safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable. The Council seeks to develop and manage County Monaghan's built assets to best utilise and promote economic, social and cultural benefits. The Council seeks to develop Capital Projects in line with the strategic objectives of the Council and to provide high quality facilities for all users. The Council seeks to bring a high level of 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. The specific priorities and objectives for the Corporate Assets Section are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
Asset management of Public Lighting & continued optimisation of energy efficiency.	7.12	Have reached 90% LED retrofit as at end Dec 2020. Have reduced PL energy consumption by 26% in 2020	NOAC E5 - Energy efficiency performance indicators report: A. The cumulative % of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2020 relative to baseline year (2009) Achieve Public sector Energy targets
Continue to progress Public Sector energy efficiency target.	7.12	Have achieved 37.11% energy improvement as at end 2019 (reported in 2020), one year ahead of the 2020 deadline.	NOAC E5 - Energy efficiency performance indicators report: A. The cumulative % of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2020 relative to baseline year (2009). Achieve Public sector Energy targets.
Delivery of Capital Programme.	7.12	Peace Campus – Construction Commenced Office Refurbishment to 1 Dublin St. – Completed and Open	Public Spending Code. MCC Procurement Governance and Guidelines

Application of Monaghan County Council Accessible procurement strategy to all capital projects.		Dublin Street & Roosky Land – Urban Regeneration – Progressed through Detailed Design Castleblayney Market Square Regeneration – Gate Lodge 2 Library & Public Realm – Progressed through Procurement & Construction has commenced 4/5 Mill Street – Emergency Stabilisation Works – Emergency Stabilisation Works commenced.	Effective Project Management Systems and Governance. Manage project Costs and Risk mitigations. Delivery of building projects
Coordinate the management of the Council's property portfolio & ensure modern facilities for the delivery of services.	7.9	Maintain and update Property Interest Register. 1737 assets in PIR at end of 2020. Renovation works completed on Monaghan Leisure Centre. New office facilities opened at 1 Dublin Street. Planning and Tourism sections relocated from port-a-cabins.	Property Interest Register in place to ensure a comprehensive inventory of property currently owned by M.C.C is effectively managed by Sections. Acquisition & Disposals to be recorded on PIR system. Disposals in line with Section 183 of L.G. Act.

Support Services

The delivery of the front-line services to the public is underpinned and supported by the services provided internally by the Corporate, Health & Safety, Finance, Human Resources and Information Systems departments of the Council. A summary of the priorities, strategies and performance standards of each of these support sections is set out below. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Corporate Services			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
<p>To ensure democratic accountability and effective governance.</p> <p>Provide robust business management, risk management, audit and corporate governance structures and systems in compliance with statutory obligations.</p>	2, 3, 9, 11	<p>11 Co Co Meetings held 12 CPG meetings held</p> <p>18 Donation Statements submitted by 31/01/2020 deadline 18 Annual Declaration statements submitted by end of February 2020 deadline 75 Annual Declaration statements from Relevant staff submitted by end of February 2020 deadline</p> <p>4 Audit Committee meetings held</p> <p>Annual Report adopted by June 2021 Annual Service Delivery Plan adopted by 31 March 2021 Monthly Management Report submitted to Council NOAC returns submitted by specified date NOAC report reviewed and analysed Risk registers reviewed January, April, November 2020</p>	<p>Agenda business transacted effectively, follow-up actions implemented.</p> <p>Up-to-date and complete Ethics Register in place by 28/02/2021</p> <p>2020 Internal Audit Plan delivered 2020 Audit Committee work plan delivered Training undertaken by staff and Audit Committee</p> <p>All statutory deadlines met and Reports submitted to elected members for adoption</p> <p>Quarterly reports to SMT and Audit Committee</p>

<p>Manage the Annual Register of Electors. Organise Local Elections and Election Count.</p> <p>To promote and deliver accessible information on voter participation.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Up-to-date register published in accordance with statutory dates</p> <p>Promote 'Your Vote Your Voice'. Campaigns promoted via Social Media, Website and local Newspapers</p>	<p>Publish up-to-date register</p> <p>No. of campaigns promoted through social media platforms and local print</p>
<p>To ensure compliance with legislative and statutory obligations in service delivery.</p>	<p>3, 9</p>	<p>Developed and supported the council implementing a suite of policies and procedures to achieve compliance and demonstrate accountability under GDPR</p> <p>Delivered training on Section 40 Policy to Elected Members and awareness raising and training on GDPR and Data Protection to all staff</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Awareness training delivered to staff in compliance with Children's First Act 2015</p> <p>Ensure compliance with the Official Languages Act 2003</p>	<p>Having appropriate policies, procedures and protocols in place to demonstrate that Monaghan County Council is achieving compliance with data protection legislation.</p> <p>Delivering awareness training to all staff and Elected Members to ensure compliance with GDPR and data protection</p> <p>MCC Safeguarding Statement and Policy & Procedures in place</p> <p>Scéim na Gaeilge actions for 2020 implemented.</p>
<p>Deliver quality inclusive services to our customers that reflects the diversity of our communities</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Communications Officer appointed Draft Communications Strategy prepared</p> <p>90% of services catalogued in National Catalogue of Services Project. MCC point of contact to continue to liaise with National Project Board Phase 2 of project underway</p>	<p>Communications Strategy approved and circulated</p> <p>Customer Care Plan updated</p> <p>Progress roll out of National Catalogue of Services Project</p>

<p>Enable the public to gain access to records held by the Council to the greatest extent possible consistent with the right to privacy and the public interest.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Processed 7 'Data Subject Access' requests under GDPR in a fair and timely manner</p> <p>61 FOI requests received 06 AIE requests received No Protected Disclosures received</p>	<p>Ensuring compliance of the rights of individuals under GDPR and Data Protection</p> <p>Respond to information requests, complaints and protected disclosures in line with statutory requirements</p>
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Finance			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
Compliance with Statutory Regulations.	9	All submissions are completed on time	All performance standards are met
Operate efficiently to support all Council functions/ Members of the public/ Local businesses.	2, 3, 6, 9	Revenue collections monitored and collection rates maintained or improved year on year. New LA customer App introduced during 2020 which facilitates easy payment of invoices and review of balance etc for the customer. Rates Waiver in 2020 also contributed to high rates collection rates in 2020.	Collection rates are not yet available however rates are expected to be in line with prior years.
Monitor and strive to continuously improve Financial Management.	9	Financial reports prepared and issued regularly especially due to Covid 19 restrictions monitoring of budget requirements. Large capital project budgets are reviewed regularly and funding requirements are considered.	Current capital projects all fully funded. Forecasts are reviewed and plans put in place in advance where necessary.
Demonstrate effective Asset Management.	9	FAR vs. ihouse reconciliations completed quarterly. FAR completed at year end.	All reconciling items are adjusted or corrected where necessary.
Continuously review and improve Financial Administration function.	9	Regular capital balance reviews and reconciliations conducted. All payroll and suppliers are paid promptly and accurately.	

Human Resources			
In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council committed to ensuring that there is an appropriately resourced, skilled and motivated workforce to meet the priorities and objectives of the organisation. The HR section has the lead role in delivering on the Council’s commitments in this area. The 2021 service delivery plan for HR is set out below. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council’s adopted governance processes & procedures.			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
Plan and deliver our Organisation’s Workforce requirements.	3, 10	<p>Develop a Workforce that is equipped with the skills and competencies to meet the challenges of our evolving environment</p> <p>Completed ‘Our People Strategy’ document in draft form.</p> <p>Signed up to new Makodata HR Analytics software to assist in continuous workforce planning for the organization.</p> <p>Legislation and statutory obligations</p>	<p>381.39 WTE at 31/12/2020</p> <p>Presented to MT. Objectives being progressed</p> <p>Business continuity plan drafted for the organisation in light of COVID-19.</p> <p>Critical training needs were met.</p> <p>Compliance with legal and statutory obligations and Data Protection regulations. Policies/procedures communicated to all staff in HR</p>
Be an employer of Choice.	3, 10	<p>Suitable candidates are recruited in timely fashion, in compliance with DECLG sanction/guidelines.</p> <p>Promote the career opportunities and the potential for development and progression offered by working in the organisation.</p> <p>Enhance recruitment and selection processes by utilizing the full range of marketing and communication channels</p>	<p>12 recruitment campaigns – 355 applications processed. 52 applicants were deemed qualified and placed on panel.</p> <p>16 posts were offered and as at 31st December 2020, 10 staff were appointed</p> <p>PDP’s agreed, and mid-year and end year reviews completed.</p>

		to promote recruitment campaigns while also ensuring ease of access through technology.	<p>Laserfiche Project Files cleansing completed. Back scanning of files commenced. Superannuation Data transfer completed. CE Orders Automated. Increment Forms Automated. Project Plan Laserfiche working group established in HR to progress further automated processes.</p> <p>Signed up to Makodata HR analytics software to assist in decision making.</p>
Create culture of continuous learning and development.	3, 10	Create a Training & Development Programme in line with corporate priorities and career development.	<p>31 in house courses were delivered to staff including 15 relevant in-house Health and Safety Courses during 2020.</p> <p>Courses of Further Education Nineteen staff members were approved assistance for courses of further education.</p> <p>Six staff members were grant funded.</p>
Empower and enable our managers and supervisors.	10	<p>Develop and update policies, procedures and practices that underpin and support effective people management.</p> <p>Support newly appointed team leaders in people management.</p>	<p>New Policies/Protocols developed during 2020. Protocol for the outsourcing of unplanned/unforeseen works – agreed SIPTU 06/20.</p>

		<p>Roll-out mentoring, support and induction of new employees and newly promoted staff.</p>	<p>New Parents Leave – Adopted by MT 11/2020.</p> <p>PMDS implemented and monitored.</p> <p>Monitor of sick leave to reduce absenteeism. Report on % of working days lost through sick leave. Reduced sick leave in 2020 and achieved less than the 3.5% national requirement.</p> <p>Successful outputs from section business plans.</p> <p>Satisfactory integration and monitoring progress of new staff.</p>
Promote positive employee relations and engagement.	10	<p>Maintain collaborative employee relations with unions and staff representatives.</p> <p>Contribution from sections to quarterly newsletters on events and achievements.</p>	<p>Regular Union meetings were held during 2020.</p> <p>Staff and organisation recognition.</p>
Create a fair, supportive and healthy working environment.	10	<p>Implement Dignity at Work Policy.</p> <p>Promotion of employee assistance programme, Health and Wellbeing events. Range of Family friendly initiatives offered</p> <p>Improve the quality and diversity of employment.</p>	<p>Safe, secure working environment, differences respected, staff valued.</p> <p>New Employee Assistance Programme and Wellbeing APP procured for staff, fire fighters and elected members and their families.</p> <p>Flu Vaccinations offered</p>

			<p>Remote working hybrid rotas facilitated throughout organisation.</p> <p>Work-life balance achieved.</p> <p>Raised awareness of equality and diversity, equal treatment for all.</p>
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Health & Safety Unit			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
<p>Manage and implement the Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) to ensure the safety, health and welfare of employees and others that could be affected by Monaghan County Council's operations by being compliant with legislation, codes of practice and best practice.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>2020 Health and Safety Unit Operational Plan completed for 2020 successfully.</p> <p>Corporate Safety Statement (CSS) in place and compliant.</p> <p>HSMS kept current throughout 2020</p> <p>HSP40 Temporary Traffic Management Procedure developed and issued.</p> <p>H&S Unit Corporate Risk Register updated quarterly in 2020.</p> <p>12 x Health and Safety Unit Monthly Reports produced on time.</p> <p>2019 Annual Health and Safety Unit Report developed and approved by DOS.</p> <p>Health and Safety Intranet kept updated and a new layout developed in 2020 for easier access for users.</p> <p>2 x electronic Health and Safety Newsletters completed.</p> <p>22 x Safety Briefings (Toolbox Talks) issued.</p>	<p>2020 Health and Safety Unit Operational Plan in place.</p> <p>Corporate Safety Statement (CSS) in place that is compliant.</p> <p>HSMS up-to-date.</p> <p>HSP40 Temporary Traffic Management Procedure updated in line with new Chpt 8.</p> <p>Main the H&S Unit Corporate Risk Register.</p> <p>12 x Health and Safety Unit Monthly Reports produced.</p> <p>2019 Annual Health and Safety Unit Report produced.</p> <p>Health and Safety Intranet populated with current and relevant safety, health and welfare information.</p> <p>2 x electronic Health and Safety Newsletters.</p> <p>4 x Toolbox Talks.</p>

		<p>1 x Safety Committee Meetings took place due to COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>European Health and Safety Week successfully delivered.</p> <p>Consultation and assistance provided to HR with Health and Safety related training throughout 2020.</p> <p>Advice and support provided and in particular with regard to COVID-19 which took a huge demand on the H&S Unit.</p> <p>Review of HSMS and CSS completed.</p> <p>96 x Hazard and Risk Assessments conducted in 2020.</p> <p>Incident register completed for 2020.</p> <p>Audit and Inspection Programme completed for Operational Plan 2020 with main focus moved to COVID-19 inspections</p>	<p>4 x Safety Committee Meetings.</p> <p>Activities scheduled for European Health and Safety Week.</p> <p>Consultation and assistance provided to HR with Health and Safety related training.</p> <p>Advice and support provided, to seek to reduce, minimise or eliminate occupational risk and accidental loss.</p> <p>Review of HSMS (including CSS Management Review) to identify gaps or change required with control measures implemented where identified.</p> <p>Hazard and Risk Assessments conducted as required.</p> <p>Investigations and reports conducted as required. Assistance and cooperation provided to relevant statutory agencies.</p> <p>Audit and Inspection Programme 2020 conducted as per Operational Plan 2020.</p>
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ICT			
In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council has committed to delivering an efficient, effective and accessible service through advancing information systems and technology and promoting a culture of innovation. The Information Systems and Innovation department has the lead role in delivering on the Council's commitments in this area. The 2021 service delivery plan for this department is set out below. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2020	Performance Standards
Provide a modern, secure, green and accessible ICT infrastructure to enable efficient and reliable service delivery.	1, 3, 11	<p>Continued to manage, maintain, upgrade and secure all ICT infrastructure and services including hyperconverged server infrastructure, cloud services, switches, routers, firewalls, telephony systems, PCs, laptops, mobile devices, and wide area network links</p> <p>Carried out disaster recovery testing for critical services Developed business continuity plan</p> <p>Piloted SD-WAN wide area network solution</p>	<p>NOAC indicator – Overall cost of ICT provision per WTE</p> <p>NOAC indicator – Cost of ICT provision as a proportion of revenue expenditure</p> <p>All Servers, PCs and Laptops running supported, licensed Operating Systems</p>
Lead innovation, and develop and support initiatives through collaboration at local, regional, national and EU level.	3, 11	<p>Worked as a pilot site along with the LGMA, Courts Service and Department of Agriculture to assist EY develop a national public sector innovation strategy on behalf of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform</p> <p>Participated on national webinars to help promote the national public sector innovation strategy</p> <p>Prepared applications for submission to Our Public Service 2020 Innovation Fund and achieved success with an application for €29,900 to develop a virtual reality house tour and inspection app</p> <p>Supported and promoted national public service innovation week, 19th – 23rd October, and ran a series of live virtual events locally during the week</p>	<p>No. of ideas submitted through local innovation ideas form</p> <p>Attendance at national innovation public sector network events</p> <p>Success with OPS Innovation Fund</p> <p>Level of participation in locally run public service innovation week events</p> <p>No. visits to innovation hub</p>

		<p>Secured a small in-house innovation fund and ran a local innovation competition</p> <p>Developed an innovation hub on Staff Portal</p> <p>Developed an online form for submission of innovative ideas</p> <p>Attended online national public sector innovation network events</p>	
<p>Upgrade and Implement new and emerging software and systems where appropriate, including AI and Robotics, while keeping in mind accessibility, security, privacy and information management requirements.</p>	3, 11	<p>Upgraded iPlan, iReg, iHouse, Museum Adlib, National Building Control System and Laserfiche applications</p> <p>Continued to transform manual paper-based processes in Planning, HR and Roads sections using Laserfiche</p> <p>Implemented 360-degree virtual reality tour and voice recognition enabled house inspection app</p> <p>Piloted artificial intelligence virtual assistant for Re-Start Grant</p> <p>Implemented planning information dashboard and roads defects dashboard using GIS business intelligence software</p>	<p>Applications running on latest / latest minus 1 versions</p> <p>No. of processes automated using Laserfiche</p>
<p>Implement and maintain high quality GIS systems and open data technologies.</p>	3, 11	<p>Implemented GIS solution for Community Call and Library Home Delivery Service</p> <p>Provided mapping data to third parties</p> <p>Continued to support and maintain GIS systems</p>	<p>Legacy GIS system replaced with new IMGS solution</p> <p>New mapping format implemented</p> <p>Open data sets published</p>
<p>Provide broadband, wi-fi facilities and online services to staff, libraries and the community.</p>	3, 4, 6, 7, 11	<p>Continued to facilitate the rollout of the National Broadband Plan across the county - wireless broadband</p>	<p>No. of BCPs live</p> <p>No. public Wi-Fi access points</p>

		<p>services delivered to nine broadband connection points (BCPs)</p> <p>Continued to support and maintain public Wi-Fi in libraries, town centres and play parks</p> <p>Continued to support corporate Wi-Fi in council offices</p> <p>Procured a service provider and initiated roll-out of Wifi4EU scheme</p> <p>Developed a draft digital strategy for county Monaghan</p> <p>Continued to support library facilities</p> <p>Implemented Laserfiche Online Forms Portal and developed online application forms for citizens to safely access services during lockdowns including business Re-Start Grants and Top-Ups, Mortgage Payment Breaks, COVID-19 Emergencies Fund, and Community Grants.</p> <p>Continued to develop www.monaghan.ie website</p>	<p>No. of online forms available for service applications</p> <p>NOAC indicator – No. of visits to website</p> <p>Improved bandwidth and reliability</p>
<p>Implement and promote remote working technologies including mobile devices and apps, virtual teams, conferencing facilities.</p>	<p>3, 4, 7, 11</p>	<p>Deployed laptops to all office-based users</p> <p>Implemented laptop docking stations to facilitate portability between office and remote working</p> <p>Rolled-out remote access solutions for staff to work from home</p> <p>Piloted Windows Virtual Desktop</p> <p>Implemented multi-factor authentication for remote access</p>	<p>No. staff & councillors trained in Office 365</p> <p>Process efficiencies and cost savings</p> <p>No. users registered for Reach employee app</p> <p>Average no. views per Reach post</p>

		<p>Installed video conferencing facilities in conference room and council meeting rooms</p> <p>Provided training for Microsoft/Office 365 including MS Teams to staff and councillors</p> <p>Setup All Staff text alert service</p> <p>Piloted Reach Employee App and initiated roll-out to all staff</p>	
<p>Provide high quality technical support to all our customers.</p>	<p>3, 11</p>	<p>Continued to provide high quality technical support</p> <p>Procured new service desk and asset management system</p>	<p>No. of Support Calls logged / resolved</p> <p>Average time taken to respond to and to resolve support requests</p>



**COMHAIRLE CONTAE MHUINEACHÁIN
TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2020**

**MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

COMHAIRLE CONTAE MHUINEACHÁIN MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL



REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2019

23/02/2021 - 1st Draft to Management Team

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Introduction

Section 126(c) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provided for the establishment of a National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) whose function would be to scrutinise the performance of local government bodies against relevant indicators, which they consider appropriate. The purpose of this report is to enable councils compare their performances against other councils and against councils in the same population and budget bracket across a range of service delivery areas.

This is the sixth annual Performance Indicator Report published by NOAC. This report looks at local authority performance which covers the calendar year 2019. Following on from the 1st Report in 2014 report, NOAC has made changes in relation to both the number of indicators and the structure of specific indicators. NOAC has again amended the set of indicators in this report. The number of indicators has increased from 37 to 39 with the addition of a new Water indicator regarding percentage of registered schemes monitored and a Waste/Environment indicator regarding the percentage of Energy Efficiency Performance. The 2019 report is based on 39 indicators covering the following 11 functional areas:

Housing (H1 to H6)

- H1: Social Housing Stock
 - H2: Housing Vacancies
 - H3: Average Re-letting Time and Cost
 - H4: Housing Maintenance Cost
 - H5: Private rented sector inspections
 - H6: Long-term Homeless Adults
- (NOAC Report Page 68 - 68)*

Roads (R1 to R3)

- R1: Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Ratings
 - R2: Roadworks/Expenditure
 - R3: % Motor Tax Transaction Conducted Online
- (NOAC Report Page 79 - 91)*

Water (W1 to W2)

- W1: % Drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements
 - W2: Percentage of registered schemes monitored
- (NOAC Report Page 92 - 93)*

Waste/Environment (E1 to E5)

- E1: No./% of Households with access to a 3 bin service
 - E2: % Environmental pollution complaints closed
 - E3: Litter pollution
 - E4: Schools awarded Green Flag Status
 - E5: Percentage Energy Efficiency Performance
- (NOAC Report Page 94 - 99)*

Planning (P1 to P5)

- P1: Building Control Inspections
- P2: An Bord Pleanála Appeals
- P3: Planning Enforcement
- P4: Cost per Capita
- P5: Fire Safety Certificate Applications
(NOAC Report Page 100 - 104)

Fire Service (F1 to F3)

- F1: Cost per Capita of the Fire Service
- F2: Mobilisation Times
- F3: Attendance Times at scenes
(NOAC Report Page 105 - 108)

Library/Recreation Services (L1 and L2)

- L1: Library Visits and issues
- L2: Cost of operating a Library Service
(NOAC Report Page 109 - 111)

Youth/Community (Y1 and Y2)

- Y1: Participation in *Comhairle na nÓg* scheme
- Y2: Groups associated with the PPN
(NOAC Report Page 112 - 113)

Corporate - HR and ICT (C1 to C5)

- C1: Wholetime Equivalents (WTE)
- C2: Sick Leave
- C3: Website and Social media
- C4: Overall cost of ICT provision per WTE
- C5: Overall cost of ICT as a proportion of Revenue Expenditure
(NOAC Report Page 114 - 117)

Finance (M1 and M2)

- M1: 5 Year summary of Revenue Account balance
- M2 (A): 5 Year summary of collection levels for Commercial Rates
- M2 (B): 5 Year summary of collection of Rent & Annuities
- M2 (C): 5 Year summary of collection of Housing Loans
(NOAC Report Page 118 - 127)

Economic Development (J1 to J4)

- J1: Job Creation
- J2: Trading Online Vouchers
- J3: Mentoring Receipts
- J4: Tourism Strategy
(NOAC Report Page 128 - 129)

As a follow up to the 2015 Report, NOAC made the following recommendations:

1. Targets to be established by local authorities related to the indicators identified by NOAC and outturns to be reviewed against those targets
2. The targets and indicator outcomes be presented to local authority management teams, elected members and Audit Committees
3. Year-on-year performance based on indicators, by reference to comparable authorities and against targets, be reviewed at least once annually by local authority management teams, elected members and Audit Committees
4. Comparable local authorities would analyse the cost indicators to identify the factors underlying significant variations in performance, ensure that value for money is being achieved and facilitate the sharing of approaches to efficiency measures.

This report seeks to comply with all the above recommendations. The report sets out to compare Monaghan County Council's performance:

- (i) against the highest and lowest performers nationally
- (ii) against similar indicators in previous years and
- (iii) on the basis of both of these to establish targets for 2020/2021
- (iv) Similar size counties classified as Level 5 Local Authorities (listed below)

Level 5 Local Authorities

1. Carlow County Council
2. Cavan County Council
3. Laois County Council
4. Leitrim County Council
5. Longford County Council
6. Offaly County Council
7. Roscommon County Council
8. Sligo County Council

In addition, on the basis of the Council's performance for 2019, target performances have now been set for 2020/2021 for each of the indicators.

In order to provide clarity and context to the attached tables, various comments have been added by the relevant Section Head.

Because the indicators have been revised over the past couple of years, comparisons with previous figures in some cases, is not possible.

Section 1: Housing (H1 – H6)

Table H1: Social Housing Stock (A-F)

Authority	A. No. of dwellings in LA ownership at 01/01/2019	B. No of dwellings added during 2019 (constructed & acquired)	C. No. of LA dwellings sold in 2019	D. No. of LA dwellings demolished in 2019	E. No of dwellings in LA ownership at 31/12/2019	F. No of dwellings planned for demolition under D/HPLG
Monaghan	1541	89	13	2	1615	0
Highest	25,640	1363	1014	56	26,150	133
Lowest	952	23	3	0	967	0
Mean	4347	181	45	3	4481	8

Comment:

The highest proportional increase in net stock numbers was recorded by Cork City Council (+15%) with the lowest increase in net stock numbers (+1%) by Louth County Council. Monaghan County Council recorded a net increase of 5.8% in 2019 as compared to the 1.02% increase achieved in 2018. In a national comparison this represents being equal 6th with Carlow CC and Fingal CC relative to countrywide figures. As a comparison of other Level 5 authorities the proportional increases range between 2.4 % increases (Laois and Leitrim County Council) and 6.3% (Longford County Council) and Monaghan were equal second in that category

In relation to sales of units Cork County Council reported the highest level of sales of LA dwellings in 2019 with South Dublin recording the lowest number. Monaghan County Council were positioned at 13th in the country for sales of properties and as a comparison with other tier 5 LA's Longford/Roscommon CC had the highest number of sales (14 no) with the lowest number of sales achieved in Cavan (4).

Table H2 – Housing Vacancies

Authority	No. of dwellings not tenanted on 31/12/2019	% of total LA owned dwellings vacant on 31/12/2019
Monaghan	16	0.99
Highest	715	8.00
Lowest	16	0.73
National Average		3.15

Comment: Monaghan County Council ranks 3rd in the country for the lowest level of vacancies as at the 31/12/18 with a level of 0.99% properties not tenanted at the end of 2019. Dun Laoghaire Rathdown achieved a vacancy rate of 0.73% and South Dublin a rate of 0.77% in that time period.

In relation to other tier 5 authority the vacancy rates varied between 8% in Longford CC and 2.3% vacancy rate in Laois CC

Table H3 – Average Re-letting Time (A&B)

Authority	A Time taken from date of vacation to date in 2019 when dwelling re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2019 (Weeks)	Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings in 2019 (€)	B Cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2019, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2019 (€)	No of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2019 (excluding all those that had been vacant due to estate-wide refurb)
Monaghan	11.66	1,445,618	21,259	68
Highest	84.69	18,663,300	31,766	783
Lowest	11.66	320,000	7648	28
National Average	28.17		18,336.85	

Comment: In terms of a reletting times, with an average time of 11.66 weeks, Monaghan County Council were 1st in the country in this criteria. It compares favourably with the national mean letting time of 18.17 weeks and across the tier 5 county's average vacancy time of 26.77 weeks.

The relet cost of €21,259 represent an increase from the figure in 20187 where the costs expended per unit was €14,996,73. It should be noted that this cost increase was due to combining relet costs with energy efficiency works at this juncture which allows for efficiency in working practice as well as improving stock condition as well as reducing disturbance impacts on future tenants.

The national average costs on relets is €18,336 with a number of authorities spending less than €10,000 on each relet (Galway City, Laois CC, Louth CC, Waterford and Wexford CC) however other LAs are spending in excess of €25,000 in relets including Clare CC, Kildare CC, Longford CC and Wicklow CC. In relation to the 10 equivalent level 5 authorities the expenditure ranges from €9,297 in Roscommon CC to €30,331 in Longford. Monaghan County Council has the 8th highest expenditure on relet costs in the country, and the third highest in the tier five authorities.

Table H4 – Cost and Maintenance Cost (A)

Authority	Expenditure on Maintenance of LA stock compiled from 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019 (€)	Expenditure during 2019 on the maintenance of LA housing compiled from 01/10/2019 to 31/12/2019, divided by the no. of dwellings in the LA stock at 31/12//2019 (€)
Monaghan	1,004,582	622
Highest	65,010,281	2499
Lowest	464,703	242.66
Average		1,168

Comment:

The maintenance cost per unit of €622/unit reflects favourably in comparison with the national average of €1168 but less favourable in comparison with the Tier 5 equivalent authorities where we are in fifth position with the expenditure ranging between €242/unit being spent per unit in Longford with €917.98 being spent in Galway City.

Comparison with Monaghan County Council's performance for previous years

Authority	Re-letting Time (Weeks)	Re-let Cost Average (€)	Maintenance Cost by Unit (€)
Monaghan 2020			
Monaghan 2019	11.66	21,289.10	622.03
Monaghan 2018	8.9	14,996.73	792.96
Monaghan 2017	9.52	16,207.65	702.28
Monaghan 2016	8.03	11,664.39	1,013.24
Monaghan 2015	18.3	9560	728
Monaghan 2014	19.45	4395	836
Target for 2020	11.50	12,000	750
Target for 2021	Not yet available		

Comment:

It was anticipated in the previous report that we would look to reduce the average relet costs in anticipation of the likely works recoupment from the Department. Following a rebalancing of priorities additional funding was available for energy efficiency works that led to a decision being made to utilise this funding stream. This will be monitored to ensure that finance is available and costs reviewed where applicable

The targets & results for 2019/2020 are detailed in table below

Authority	Re-letting Time (Weeks)	Re-let Cost Average (€)	Maintenance Cost by Unit (€)
Target for 2019	12.00	19,500	800
Results for 2019	11.66	21,259	622
Target for 2020	11.50	19,000	700
Results for 2020	Not yet available		
Target for 2021	Not yet available		

Comment: Monaghan County Council has achieved 1st place in 2019 for average re-letting time and we will continue to develop and review all measures which will help to further reduce our average reletting time and costs. Reviews will be taken in assessing the level of works undertaken as part of relets. The level of refusals of offers currently received from applicants has been reducing gradually

over the last few years, which could be attributed to the good quality of relets becoming available, and this will be reviewed as it has an impact upon the time associated with this measure.

Table H5: Private Rented Sector Inspections

Authority	Total Number of Registered Tenancies at end June 2019	No. of Rented Dwellings Inspected in 2019	% Inspected Dwellings not compliant with Standards Regs in 2019	No. of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant during 2019
Monaghan	2337	359	72.65	193
Highest	72,817	5606	100	4189
Lowest	1649	75	57	5

Table H6: Long Term Homeless Adults

Authority	No adults classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31/12/2019 as recorded on PASS system	No. out of those individuals, who on 31/12/2019, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 mths continuously, or for 6 mths cumulatively within the previous 12 mths	Number of adults in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a % of the total no. of homeless adults in emergency accommodation at end of 2019
Monaghan	1	0	0
Highest	4277	2910	100
Lowest	0	0	0

Comment: : The number of registered tenancy inspections in Monaghan in 2019 totalled 359, a 9.7% increase from the total inspections in 2018. The overall level of inspections as a percentage of the total registered tenancies is the fourth highest in the country at 15.4 % .

In respect of compliance with the Standards/Regulations 72.65% of the properties inspected on County Monaghan were not fully compliant. Nationwide the level of compliance ranged from 100% non compliance to 57% being in non compliance. Relative to other level 5 counties only one county (Carlow County Council) had a lower percentage compliance figure. However 75% of the total non compliant registered tenancies became compliant in 2019 following the inspection process.

In respect of homelessness there was 1 individual person homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of the 31/12/18. Compared to national figures this is a low figure relatively and in relation to the equivalent tier 5 rural authorities Cavan and Leitrim represent the only counties with equivalent or lower numbers.

Comparison with Monaghan County Council's performance for previous years

Authority	Total Number of Registered Tenancies at end June	No. of Rented Dwellings Inspected
Monaghan 2019	2337	359
Monaghan 2018	2262	327
Monaghan 2017	2,277	318
Monaghan 2016	2,011	397
Monaghan 2015	1,904	324
Monaghan 2014	1,583	221

Comment: Monaghan County Council continues to invest significant resources in the prevention of homelessness. Through the efforts of the housing section and the support of Focus Ireland as well as close collaboration with other external agencies the aim of minimising the number of homeless presentations is being addressed successfully.

Section 2: Roads

Monaghan's performance v's other Local Authorities

Table R1 - Road Kilometres that have ever received a Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) rating

	% of Regional Road KMs that have received a PSCI rating in 24 mth period to 31/12/2019	% of Local Prim Road KMs that have received a PSCI rating in 24 mth period to 31/12/2019	% of Local Secondary Road KMs that have received a PSCI rating in 24 mth period to 31/12/2019	% of Tertiary Road KMs that have received a PSCI rating in 24 mth period to 31/12/2019
Monaghan	99.53	96.60	96.24	96.03
Highest	99.89	98.97	99.09	98.02
Lowest	83.06	6.05	3.03	23.07
Median	99	92	88	84
Level 5 Median	98.56	80.05	81.79	89.23

Comment:

Monaghan continues to perform to the very highest of standards under this measure. In 2019 Monaghan again performed well above the median and very close to the highest levels achieved nationally.

Table R1 - Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) – Regional Roads

Regional Roads	% of Total Regional Road Kilometres with a PSCI Rating of 1-4	% of Total Regional Road Kilometres with a PSCI Rating of 5-6	% of Total Regional Road Kilometres with a PSCI Rating of 7-8	% of Total Regional Road Kilometres with a PSCI Rating of 9-10
Monaghan	6.86	17.94	28.46	46.67
Highest	11.51	28.33	68.37	56.43
Lowest	0.9	13.44	17.58	14.90
Median	6.32	21.1	31.0	40.20
Level 5 Median	4.53	22.71	35.79	37.97

Comment:

In 2019 75.13% of Monaghan's Regional roads were in the upper tier versus 71% in 2018 and 66% in 2017, a continuous improvement under this measure and slightly above the national average.

Table R1 - Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) – Local Primary Roads

Local Primary	% of Total Local Primary Road Kilometres with a PSCI Rating of 1-4	% of Total Local Primary Road Kilometres with a PSCI Rating of 5-6	% of Total Local Primary Road Kilometres with a PSCI Rating of 7-8	% of Total Local Primary Road Kilometres with a PSCI Rating of 9-10
Monaghan	12.74	12.85	50.83	23.43
Highest	37.01	47.99	63.38	51.42
Lowest	0.14	5.94	9.93	5.81
Median	9.65	24.72	40.68	23.08
Level 5 Median	5.50	29.59	47.91	19.44

Comment:

In 2019 74% of Monaghan's local Primary roads were in the upper tier versus the national average of 64%, reflecting a continuous improvement under this measure.

Table R1 - Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) – Local Secondary Roads

Local Secondary	% of Total Local Secondary Road Kilometres with a PSCI Rating of 1-4	% of Total Local Secondary Road Kilometres with a PSCI Rating of 5-6	% of Total Local Secondary Road Kilometres with a PSCI Rating of 7-8	% of Total Local Secondary Road Kilometres with a PSCI Rating of 9-10
Monaghan	22.65	11.06	52.21	13.87
Highest	49.37	52.49	60.49	45.14
Lowest	1.49	5.96	9.57	7.02
Median	11.7	27	35.95	16.28
Level 5 median	10.55	28.73	39.82	14.52

Comment:

In 2019 66% of Monaghan's local Secondary roads were in the upper tier versus 54% nationally. However, the concern in regard to this measure is the high proportion of Monaghan local secondary roads in the 'red' (poorest condition) category. This means that significant investment in the Local Secondary road network is required in Monaghan.

Table R1 - Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) – Local Tertiary Roads

Local Tertiary	% of Total Local Tertiary Road Kilometres with a PSCI Rating of 1-4	% of Total Local Tertiary Road Kilometres with a PSCI Rating of 5-6	% of Total Local Tertiary Road Kilometres with a PSCI Rating of 7-8	% of Total Local Tertiary Road Kilometres with a PSCI Rating of 9-10
Monaghan	20.63	11.89	49.71	14.75
Highest	45.33	41.96	54.02	35.11
Lowest	1.87	6.02	5.14	4.34
Median	18.21	20.43	24.52	13.84
Level 5 Median	16.27	25.75	30.46	14.76

Comment:

In 2019, 64% of Monaghan's local Tertiary roads were in the upper tier, which is significantly ahead of the national average of 41%, and notable also because Monaghan's network of minor roads is particularly dense when compared with other counties. The proportion of local tertiary roads in the

lowest rating (20.63%), while high, is comparable to the national average, but indicates that there is still much work to be done to maintain the county's roads in an acceptable state.

Table R2 (A & B) Regional Road Grant Works

	KM Regional Road Strengthened during 2019	Amount expended on Regional Road strengthening during 2019 (€)	Average Unit Cost	KM Regional Road resealed during 2019	Amount expended on Regional Road Resealing during 2019 (€)	Average Unit Cost
Monaghan	11.60km	2,112,972	27.30	14.50	42,592	4.58
Highest	40.9	10,851,451	40.9	60.20	2,064,287	7.68
Lowest	2.40	663,176	2.40	.10	2,754	3.37
Median	11.60	2,339,528	28.26	10.70	370,739	4.61

Comment:

Monaghan's return regarding this metric represents slightly better value for money than the national average.

Table R2 - Local Road Grant Works

	KM Local Road Strengthened during 2019	Amount expended on Local Road strengthening during 2019 (€)	Average Unit Cost	KM Local Road resealed during 2019	Amount expended on Local Road Resealing during 2019 (€)	Average Unit Cost
Monaghan	39.20	4,373,009	28.04	69.40	1,230,251	4.05
Highest	183.20	17,889,878	69.93	268.40	5,013,710	7.26
Lowest	2.60	576,050	6.18	4	121,396	3.32
Median	55.90	4,881,833	20.30	60.80	1,197,864	4.34

Comment:

Monaghan's return regarding this metric represents slightly reduced value for money in regards to the national average for road strengthening unit costs, whilst performing better than the national average for road resealing unit costs.

Comparisons between Monaghan County Council and Average National figures 2019

Road Class	Structural Distress Category 1 - 4		Pavement Defects Category 5 - 6		Surface Defects Category 7 - 8		Not Visible/Minor Category 9 - 10	
	Monaghan	National	Monaghan	National	Monaghan	National	Monaghan	National
Regional	6.86%	6%	17.94%	21%	28.46%	33.60%	46.67%	38.28
Primary	12.74%	9.65%	12.85%	24.72%	50.83%	40.68%	23.43%	23.08%
Secondary	22.65%	15.2%	11.06%	28%	52.21%	36.24	13.87%	17.67
Tertiary	20.63%	20.09	11.89%	20.85	49.71%	26.33	14.75%	14.25

Comparisons between 2018 & 2019

Road Class	Structural Distress Category 1 - 3		Pavement Defects Category 5 - 6		Surface Defects Category 7 - 8		Not Visible/Minor Category 9 - 10	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Regional	8%	6.86%	22%	17.94	31%	28.46	40%	46.67%
Primary	7%	12.74%	16%	12.85%	43%	50.83%	34%	23.43%
Secondary	20%	22.65%	18%	11.06%	47%	52.21%	15%	13.87%
Tertiary	20%	20.63%	11%	11.89%	50%	49.71	15%	14.75%

Note:

Structural Distress	Road Surface and Structure has failed
Pavement Defects	Road Surface failing, Structure beginning to fail
Surface Defects	Road Surface beginning to fail, Structure in good condition
Not Visible/Minor	Road Surface and Structure in very good condition

Comment:

Overall, the condition of Monaghan's roads in 2019 outperformed the national averages, with the proportion of Monaghan roads in the 'good' or 'very good' condition categories ahead of the national average for all road types, and significantly ahead for local tertiary roads. However, it is acknowledged that while Monaghan's regional and local tertiary roads in the poorest condition in 2019 were comparable to the national averages, Monaghan compares unfavourably against the national averages for the proportions of Local Primary and Local secondary roads in the worst condition. Monaghan Co. Council seeks to address this annually by targeting available budgets as far as possible to roads with the poorest ratings and highest traffic volumes.

Compared to 2018, MCC was able to increase the proportion of roads in the 'good' or 'very good' condition categories for both Regional and local secondary roads, and was able to keep the proportion of local tertiary roads in the best categories steady. However, the proportion of local primary roads in the best categories dis-improved in 2019, with a corresponding increase in the proportion of local primary roads in the worst condition. This reflects the fact that maintaining a steady state and/or achieving improvements is challenging, and heavily dependent on available budget.

Motor Taxation

Table R3 - Percentage of Motor Tax – online transactions

Monaghan’s performance v’s other Local Authorities

Authority	% of Motor Tax dealt with online in 2019	In comparison with other Level 5 authorities
Monaghan	67.50	67.50
Highest	86.87	70.21
Lowest	58.13	58.13
Mean	77.10	

Comparison with Monaghan County Council’s performance for previous years

Authority	% of Motor Tax online
2019	67.50
2018	63.57
2017	59.58
2016	55.64
2015	46.45
2014	39.66
2013	29
2012	26.51

Section 3: Water

Table W1 - % of Drinking Water in Private Schemes in Compliance with Statutory Requirements

Monaghan's performance v's other Local Authorities

Authority	% of Private Drinking Waters Supplies in Compliance with Statutory requirements in 2019
Monaghan	98.36
Highest	99.41
Lowest	93.33
Mean	97.5

Comment:

Result is above the average and is below 2018 figure 99.04%. There is no one specific reason why there were more non compliant results in 2019. There is no compliance target set in 2021 annual service plan. Out of 9 level 5 counties Monaghan is ranked 5th. Galway City have no schemes and were not included for comparison. Out of all the level 5 counties Monaghan has the largest population served by private group water schemes.

Comparison with Monaghan County Council's performance for previous years

Authority	% of Private Drinking Waters Supplies in Compliance with Statutory requirements in 2016
Monaghan 2014	98.8
Monaghan 2015	99.57
Monaghan 2016	99.06
Monaghan 2017	99.88
Monaghan 2018	99.04
Monaghan 2019	98.36
Monaghan 2020	99.6% (This figure is from MCC records and not the EPA as the 2020 EPA figure has yet to be released)

Table W2 - % of Registered schemes monitored

Monaghan's performance v's other Local Authorities

Authority	% of Registered schemes monitored in 2019
Monaghan	85.71
Highest	100
Lowest	8.33
Mean	73.43

Comment:

This has been added as a new indicator for 2019. Monaghan is above the national average. The schemes not monitored refer to small private supplies who it was thought were connected to public schemes. They have been communicated with and the register is now up to date. Any known small private supplies who are using a private well for a commercial or public activity have been included for 2020 and into 2021. Compared to the level 5 counties Monaghan is 7th out of 9 counties. It is envisaged that this will improve into 2020 and 2021.

Section 4: Waste/Environment

Table E1 – No. or % of Households with access to a 3-Bin Service

Monaghan's performance v's other Local Authorities -

Authority	A Households in area covered by licenced operator with access to 3 bin service at 31/12/19	B % of households based on A in the LA (per 2016 census)	In comparison with other Level 5 authorities
Monaghan	3440	15.92	
Highest	52094 (Cork City)	105.52	
Lowest	2942 (Cavan)	10.98	
Median	21,766	48.36	

Comment:

There has been a 17% increase in the number of households with access to a 3rd bin service since 2019. This is to be welcomed. However, Monaghan remain in the bottom 5 of this indicator.

The average of level 5 local authorities (excluding Galway City) is 35%. Therefore, there is still work to be done in County Monaghan in this regard. It is also noted that Cavan has the lowest, it would be agreed with both Cavan and Monaghan that some waste collectors, operating in both Counties, have failed to deliver this service to their customers, despite the best efforts of both local authorities, including engaging with NWCPO in a waste collection permit review process.

Overall comments on the suitability/ relevance or otherwise of these indicators:

It is noted in NOAC 2019 report that they are reviewing the indicator to better reflect the services as a proportion of persons living within the agglomerations. “, NOAC is considering modifying this indicator to better measure 3 bin users with access to such services as a proportion of those who can i.e. agglomerations of 500 or more as opposed to the census figures.

Comparison with Monaghan County Council's performance for previous years -

Authority	Households with Access to 3 bin service	Percentage of households with access to 3 bin service
Monaghan 2020	Not available	Not available
Monaghan 2019	3440	15.92
Monaghan 2018	2938	13.59
Monaghan 2017	3,967	18.36
Monaghan 2016	2,208	10.22
Monaghan 2015	1,870	8.83
Monaghan 2014	1,389	6.53
Target for 2021		+ 20%

Comment:

Environmental Services has during 2020 continued to engage with the industry to ensure brown in roll out within the agglomerations

Table E2 – Environmental Pollution Complaints Closed

Authority	A Total No of Pollution Cases that were the subject of a complaint during 2019	B Total No of Pollution Cases Closed during 2019	C Total No of Pollution cases on hand at 31/12/2019	In comparison with other Level 5 authorities
Monaghan	586	574	29	
Highest	22674	22420	721	
Lowest	405	425	32	

Comments:

All but 5% of cases were closed during the year. The indicator reflects Environmental Services' interaction with the public and covers waste, water, litter, air and noise complaints.

In comparison to other level 5 Local Authorities we have the second lowest number of complaints recorded.

Table E3 – Percentage of Areas within the Five Categories of Litter Pollution**Monaghan's performance v's other Local Authorities**

Authority	% Unpolluted or litter free	% Slightly polluted	% Moderately polluted	% Significantly polluted	% Grossly polluted
Monaghan	6	83	12	0	0
Highest	53	89	33	12	3
Lowest	0	13	0	0	0
Median	15	66	15	1	0

Comparison with Monaghan County Council's performance for previous years

Authority	% Unpolluted or litter free	% Slightly polluted	% Moderately polluted	% Significantly polluted	% Grossly polluted
Monaghan 2020	Not available				
Monaghan 2019	6	83	12	0	0
Monaghan 2018	19	67	13	1	0
Monaghan 2017	1	96	3	0	0

Monaghan 2016	16	73	11	0	0
Monaghan 2015	11	86	3	0	0
Monaghan 2014	1	81	18	0	0

Comment:

Environmental Services are satisfied, having been subject to an audit by the National Litter Monitoring Body in January 2020, that the figures are a true reflection of litter in the County, as per the survey guidelines.

83% of sites are slightly littered, this would mean only a few discarded cigarette butts and some small levels of packaging being evident during the survey.

In comparison to other level 5 local authorities the average for % unpolluted is 19% and % slightly polluted at 75%.

E4: Percentage of schools that have been awarded green flag status

Authority	Schools which attained a Green Flag for first time in 2019	Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2019	Schools which held a Green Flag from 2018 and not requiring renewal until 2020	%of Schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31/12/2019
Monaghan	1	13	20	45.95
Highest	7	71	95	63.74
Lowest	0	12	19	35.63

Comment:

In average for all the other level 5 local authorities in % of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years is 45.07 which is the same as Monaghan County Council's % at 45.96

For 2020 and 2021 it is proving difficult to engage with schools due to Covid restrictions and school closures

E5: Energy Efficiency Performance

Authority	Cumulative % energy savings achieved by 31/12/2019 relative to baseline year (2009)
Monaghan	37.11
Highest	44.85
Lowest	13.99

Comment: The table above is populated based on National Data, based on the Tier 5 Counties only:
 Monaghan – 37.11
 Highest Tier 5 – 43.23
 Lowest Tier 5 – 13.99

Monaghan is one of 13 counties nationally to reach the Energy Efficiency Reduction Target of 33% by end 2020, one year ahead of the required deadline.

Of these 13 counties, Monaghan is placed 8th best overall. The focus for Monaghan is now the recently announced new 2030 and 2050 energy and carbon reduction targets.

Planning

Section 5 – Table P1 & P2– New Building Inspections, Referrals to An Bord Pleanála

Monaghan County Councils performance compared to other Local Authorities

Authority	P1: New Buildings Inspected			P2: Planning Decisions Confirmed by ABP	
	Total No. of new buildings notified to the LA 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2019	No. of new buildings notified to LA in 2019 that were the subject of at least one inspection	Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the LA (%)	Number of LA planning decisions subject of an appeal to ABP and determined by the board in 2019	% of the determination that confirmed with or without variation the decision made by the LA
Monaghan	196	66	33.67	13	46.15
Highest	2201	1022	68.34	25	92
Lowest	52	8	6.18	3	56.25
Mean	640	153	23.90	18	75.9

Comparison with Level 5 LA's:

Monaghan	196	66	33.67
Highest	407	78	52.03
Lowest	52	8	13.41
Mean	214	44.4	21.5

Comment

Monaghan had the 7th highest inspection rate for new buildings overall and placed 2nd highest among the level 5 Local authorities. The rate of inspection for 2019 is above the mean inspection rate for all Local Authorities and corresponds with Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection's targeted inspection rate for 2021.

Monaghan County Councils performance in 2019 compared to 2018

Year	New Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified	Number of LA planning decisions subject of an appeal to ABP and determined by the board	% of the determination that confirmed with or without variation the decision made by the LA
2017	16.67	7	100.00
2018	30.93	11	91
2019	33.67	13	46.15

Comments:

Monaghan's rate of inspection of new builds has increased by 9% on 2018. The high rate of inspection reflects the relatively significant number of multi-unit projects currently under construction in Co. Monaghan.

It is noted that while the percentage of Local Authority determinations that were confirmed by ABP fell, this relates to a statistically small number (i.e. 7 applications). Notwithstanding this the Planning Section has put in place measures to review all decision and with a view to improving performance.

Section 5 – Table P3 – Planning Enforcement cases as resolved**Monaghan County Councils performance compared to other Local Authorities in 2019**

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Total Number of planning enforcement cases referred to or initiated by the LA in 2019 that were investigated	Total number of cases closed in 2019	% Closed Cases at B dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or exempted development	% Closed cases at B resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	% closed at B cases on foot of Enforcement Proceedings	Total no. of planning cases being investigated as at 31.12.19
Monaghan	109	158	27.22	2.53	70.25	265
Highest	209	367	73.91	80	69.14	249
Lowest	41	40	7.5	0	0	52

Monaghan County Councils performance in 2019/2020 compared to 2018

Year	Total Number of planning enforcement cases referred to or initiated by the LA that were investigated	Total number of cases closed	% Closed Cases dismissed under Section 152 (2) or statute barred or exempted development	% Closed Cases Resolved to LA's Satisfaction through Negotiations	% Closed on foot of Enforcement Proceedings	Total No. Cases being investigated
2017	87	74	33.78	20.27	45.95	284
2018	103	74	63.5	17.5	19	314
2019	109	158	27.22	2.53	70.25	265
2020	119	27	25.9	3.7	70.4	357

Comment:

Whilst a large number of cases were closed in 2019, these included cases from previous years. Just over 25% of enforcement complaints in 2019 were closed without needing to proceed to enforcement notice stage. The vast majority of cases were closed following the issuing of an enforcement notice.

Section 5 – Table P5 – Applications for Fire Safety Certificates

Monaghan County Councils performance compared to other Local Authorities

Authority	A. % of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2019 that were decided (granted/refused) within two months of their receipt	B. % of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2019 that were decided (granted/refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant
Monaghan	87.50	12.50
Highest	100	93.40
Lowest	6.60	0
Mean	52.52	40.08

Authority	No. of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2019 that were not withdrawn by applicant	No. of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2019 that were decided within two months of the date of receipt of application	No. of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2019 that were decided within an agreed extended time period
Monaghan	32	28	4
Highest	335	226	186
Lowest	25	7	0
Mean	98.5	51.7	39.5

Comparison with Level 5 LA's:

Authority	A. % of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2019 that were decided (granted/refused) within two months of their receipt	B. % of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2019 that were decided (granted/refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant
Monaghan	87.50	12.50
Highest	96.00	70.45
Lowest	19.05	4.00
Mean	66.27	29.99

Authority	No. of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2019 that were not withdrawn by applicant	No. of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2019 that were decided within two months of the date of receipt of application	No. of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2019 that were decided within an agreed extended time period
Monaghan	32	28	4
Highest	60	44	31
Lowest	25	8	1
Mean	39.1	25.1	12.7

Comment:

Monaghan recorded the 6th rate of Fire Safety Certificates received and decided within 2 months for 2019 overall and 3rd among the level 5 Local authorities. A change to the validation process for Fire Safety Certificate applications has influenced the % rate of Fire Safety Certificates received and decided within 2 months on previous years. The online migration of Fire Safety Certificates via BCMS in 2020 will positively influence both the service delivery process and decision-making duration.

Fire

Section 6 Table F1– Cost per capita of the fire service

Monaghan's performance v's other Local Authorities

Authority	AFS Programme E Expenditure data: - E11-Operation of Fire Service E12-Fire Prevention (€)	A Annual Financial Statement Programme E expenditure data per head of population served
Monaghan	2,729,423	44.80
Highest	115,339,872	84.84
Lowest	2,216,530.52	31.40
Mean	9,283,941	60.79

Comment:

- In comparison with other Level 5 authorities, Monaghan County Council has the 3rd Lowest cost per capita. (Note: Highest and lowest figures exclude full-time stations w.r.t cost per capita)
- The Cost per Capita for Monaghan fire service reflects favourable to similar sized LA's and at €44.80 is lower than the median of all part-time fire services across the local government sector in 2019. (Note: The Cost per Capita is derived from the combined expenditure on fire service activity divided by the population served by the respective fire service)
- In comparison with other Level 5 authorities, Monaghan County Council Fire Service has improved and is ranked the 2nd fastest for mobilisation to fire emergency incidents and 6th for non-fire emergency incidents for part-time stations 2019. The mobilisation time for non-fire incidents is influenced by type of incident.

Table F2– Service Mobilisation

Authority	Average Time Taken to Mobilise Fire Brigades in respect of fire in minutes (Part time station)	Average Time Taken to Mobilise Fire Brigades in respect of all other emergency in minutes (Part time station)
Monaghan	5:18	6:13
Highest	6:53	7:22
Lowest	3:24	0:37*
Mean (P/T Station)	4:82	4:74

Comparison with Level 5 LA's:

Authority	AFS Programme E Expenditure data: - E11-Operation of Fire Service E12-Fire Prevention (€)	A Annual Financial Statement Programme E expenditure data per head of population served
Monaghan	2,729,423	44.80
Highest	4,118,730.00	70.71
Lowest	2,216,530.52	32.97
Mean	3,106,242.72	52.78

Section 6 Table F3 – Percentage attendance times at scenes

Monaghan's performance v's other Local Authorities

Authority	% of Fire Cases in which First Attendance is within 10 minutes	% Fire Cases in which First Attendance is between 10 & 20 minutes	% Fire Cases in which First Attendance is after 20 minutes	% of Other Emergency Incidents in which First Attendance is within 10 minutes	% of Other Emergency Incidents in which First Attendance is between 10 & 20 minutes	% of Other Emergency Incidents in which First Attendance is after 20 minutes
Monaghan	34.64	55.87	9.50	13.59	73.79	12.62
Highest	88.32	64.68	24.50	85.84	73.79	26.19
Lowest	16.91	10.98	0.69	11.90	13.61	0.55
Median	55.14	33.79	8.20	45.99	40.87	11.14

Comparison with Level 5 LA's:

Authority	% of Fire Cases in which First Attendance is within 10 minutes	% Fire Cases in which First Attendance is between 10 & 20 minutes	% Fire Cases in which First Attendance is after 20 minutes	% of Other Emergency Incidents in which First Attendance is within 10 minutes	% of Other Emergency Incidents in which First Attendance is between 10 & 20 minutes	% of Other Emergency Incidents in which First Attendance is after 20 minutes
Monaghan	34.64	55.87	9.50	13.59	73.79	12.62
Highest	57.48	59.01	24.50	49.36	73.79	25.96
Lowest	25.17	34.58	7.07	13.59	41.70	7.81
Median	38.58	49.95	11.47	31.40	53.17	15.43

Comment:

In comparison with other Level 5 Local authorities, the % of callouts in which first attendance is less than 10 minutes, Monaghan ranked 6th for fire and 9th for emergency incidents. For attendance at fire and emergency incidents between 10-20 minutes, Monaghan is the 3rd and 1st highest respectively.

For Fire and emergency incidents in which first attendance is later than 20 minutes, Monaghan is the 6th and 5th lowest respectively.

The data highlights a significant and consistent improvement in attendance times in comparison with previous years for Co. Monaghan, influenced by ensuring full crewing levels at each fire station. Mobilisation times will optimise with effective recruitment, and the principle of deploying the nearest fire appliance to incidents. Variation in the incident type and the increase in severe weather events will influence mobilisation time.

Comparison with Monaghan County Council's performance for previous years

Authority	Cost per Capita €	Time Taken to Mobilise Fire Brigades in respect of fire	Time Taken to Mobilise Fire Brigades in respect of all other emergency
Targets 2021			
Monaghan 2020		5.13	7.09
Monaghan 2019	44.80	5.18	6.13
Monaghan 2018	44.13	5.16	6.15
Targets for 2018	45.00	5.23	5.50
Monaghan 2017	44.90	5.23	5.51
Monaghan 2016	42.47	6.16	6.22
Monaghan 2015	43.00	6.4	7.11
Monaghan 2014	41.58	6.27	6
Monaghan 2013	N/A	6.50	6.66
Monaghan 2012	N/A	6.93	7.04

Library

Section 7 - Table L1 Library Visits and issues

Monaghan's performance v's other Local Authorities

	Visits to Libraries	Visits per head of population (2016 census)	Items issued to library borrowers	Active Members	Active Members per head of population (2016 census)
Monaghan	252,239	4.11	164,829	8,959	0.15
Highest	2,532,697	6.68	1,815,186	66,510	0.25
Lowest	135,554	2.05	91,691	5,932	0.09
Median	459,514	3.39	447,964	17932	0.13
Mean	566,222	3.57	513,470	20,466	0.13

Comment:

Monaghan County Council has the 7th highest visitor numbers in Country per head of population. In comparison with other Level 5 Authorities*, Monaghan County Council has the 3rd highest visitor numbers, behind Longford and Leitrim, and the 4th highest membership, behind Longford, Leitrim and Carlow.

*Carlow, Cavan, Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Monaghan, Offaly, Sligo, Roscommon (Galway City figures not available)

Comparison with Monaghan County Council's performance for previous years

Authority	Visits per head of Population
Monaghan 2020	1.03
Monaghan 2019	4.11
Monaghan 2018	3.78
Monaghan 2017	4.33
Monaghan 2016	4.52
Monaghan 2015	4.35
Monaghan 2014	4.83
Monaghan 2013	3.95
Monaghan 2012	2.80
Target for 2021	2.50

Comments on the performance difference:

The visitor numbers were a marked improvement on 2018 and went some way in gaining ground we had lost. This improvement was not of course continued in 2020 due to Covid 19 closures. The visitor numbers for 2019 are 8.6% above the 2018 figure.

Our target for 2021 is relatively modest, due to the continuing Covid 19 restrictions in place.

Comparison with Monaghan County Council's performance for previous years

Authority	Items Borrowed (All LA's)	In comparison to Level 5 LA's
Monaghan	164,829	164,829
Highest	1,815,186	209,585
Lowest	91,691	91,691
Median	447,964	124,122

Comments:

Among the ten Level 5 Local authorities*, Monaghan County Council has the 4th highest number of items borrowed, behind Laois, Sligo and Offaly.

*Carlow, Cavan, Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Monaghan, Offaly, Sligo, Roscommon (Galway City figures not available)

Authority	Items Borrowed
Monaghan 2020	Not Available
Monaghan 2019	164,829
Monaghan 2018	168,186
Monaghan 2017	173,064
Monaghan 2016	336,656
Monaghan 2015	331,638
Monaghan 2014	340,241
Monaghan 2013	340,824
Target for 2021	120,000

Comments:

Please note the 2020 figures for items borrowed are not yet available, these will be issued by Dublin City Libraries on behalf of the LGMA.

The drop in overall items issued in 2019 is disappointing. Throughout the year we continued to receive very positive customer feedback from our most dedicated readers on the national book request service. It provides access to over 12 million items of stock through the national network of branches.

However, it did not result in an overall increase in items borrowed. This is because most customers are still choosing to visit their branch for the browsing experience and to discover and borrow new stock from the shelves.

The increase in book budget from €120,000 in 2019 to €125,000 in 2020 is most welcome but is below the level required to maintain and develop our library stock collection to a standard that would draw in significant numbers of new customers and increase borrowing. The standard set in the new National Strategy for Public Libraries is €4.00 per Capita, which for Monaghan would mean a budget of €245,554 per annum.

The target for items borrowed for 2021 is relatively modest, due to continuing Covid 19 restrictions to services.

(Please note the figures recorded for Monaghan up to 2016 included renewal figures, i.e. items borrowed and then renewed in order to extend the loan period to a customer. Each renewal of an item was counted as another issue. Since 2017 renewals have been **excluded** from the total)

Table L2: Cost of operating a Library Service per Capita (€)

Authority	AFS Programme F data consisting of FO2 – Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F	Annual Financial Statement Programme F data for 2019 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 census	Annual Expenditure on new stock acquired by the library in the year	Annual per capita expenditure on collections
Monaghan	€2,467,798.00	€40.81	€108,628	€1.77
Highest	€25,919,651.00	€67.85	€2,213,986.00	€3.99
Lowest	€1,111,911.00	€19.89	€75,619.00	€0.55
Mean	€5,545,321.35	€33.68	€316,501.00	€1.73

Comparison with Monaghan County Council's performance for previous years

Authority	Cost per Capita
Monaghan 2020	41.30
Monaghan 2019	40.81
Monaghan 2018	42.42
Monaghan 2017	36.22
Monaghan 2016	38.22
Monaghan 2015	37.20
Monaghan 2014	34.62
Monaghan 2013	34.40
Monaghan 2012	33.97
Target for 2021	41.85

Comments:

Monaghan County Library is 7th highest per capita in operating costs in the Country and 2nd highest among the Level 5 LAs.

It should be noted that this indicator provides no information as to the range and variation in services provided throughout the country.

As the Library Service Workforce Plan has been completed and all vacancies filled, no further staff increases are scheduled in 2021. However, two Capital Projects are due for completion in 2022, Castleblayney Library and the New Monaghan Branch in the Peace Campus. Both have additional staff earmarked.

The figures above have been taken from approved budget allocations. These costs also include service support costs, the inclusion of which varies somewhat from county to county.

Key Target: To maximise the quality of service provided while keeping within the budget allocated.

Youth / Community

Section 8 – Table Y1 – Participation in Comhairle na nÓg Scheme

Monaghan's performance v's other Local Authorities

Authority	Total number of second level schools in the LA Area at 31/12/2019	Number of second level schools in the LA area from which reps. Attend the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2019	Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme
Monaghan	12	11	91.67%
Highest	78	36	46.15%
Lowest	7	7	100%
Mean	24	16	68.3%

Comment:

At the 2019 Comhairle AGM, 9 out of 12 Secondary schools in the county selected young people to attend. In addition, 4 external youth organisations and several seldom heard groups sent representatives

After the AGM, any school with no committee member was invited to send additional representatives to the first meeting of the new committee and the committee continues to have 11 schools represented on the full committee. We are also working with the single school not represented to ensure future engagement.

Even though Monaghan performed exceptionally well with 11 out of 12 schools participating (91.67%) there were six Level 5 LAs that achieved 100% and three from Level 5 that had lower engagement than Monaghan. It is worth noting that those LAs that achieved 100% have fewer Secondary Schools in their area. Taking all factors into consideration Monaghan's performance is considered to be at least on par with other level 5 Counties.

Table Y2: Groups associated with the PPN

Authority	Total no. of organisations included in Co. Register for the LA area at 31/12/2019	Total number of those organisations registered for the first time in 2019	No. of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	Percentage no. of organisations included on the Co Register and proportion of those organisations part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN
Monaghan	524	88	87	16.60%
Highest	929	287	241	41.54%
Lowest	191	0	10	3.42%
Mean	517	84	87	16.82%

Comment:

In 2019, Monaghan PPN membership continued to increase from 436 in 2018 up to 524 registered member groups (16.79%). These 88 new registrations primarily came from a criterion in the Community and Environment grant eligibility conditions that a group must be registered with the PPN to be considered eligible for this funding. The PPN is confident from the above figures that it has performed to the highest level in making its presence known in the county and, therefore, all well-established groups are currently registered with it. As new groups are formed this number will gradually increase.

Of the 88 new registrations in 2019, 19 of those registered with the Social Inclusion pillar. These registrations came from the ICA women's groups across the county and other minority groups. Monaghan PPN figure of 16.60% for percentage of organisations included on the County Register compares very favourably with the mean average of 16.82% and is third highest in the Level 5 Counties category.

Section 9: Corporate

Table C1: Total Whole Time Equivalent Staff; Table C2: Working days lost to Sickness

Monaghan's performance v's other Local Authorities

Authority	C1 Total Number of Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) Staff in LA at 31/12/2019	C2 % of paid working days lost to medically certified sickness absence 2019	C2 % of paid working days lost to self-certified sickness absence 2019
Monaghan	397.61	3.21	0.17
Highest	644.07	4.88	0.56
Lowest	397.61	3.21	0.17
Median	765.94	3.69	0.41
Mean	940.73		

Comparison with Monaghan County Council's performance for previous years

Summary Sick-Leave Statistics 2015 - 2019					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave					
Monaghan	3.38	3.25	3.07	3.49	3.21
Median	3.48	3.69	3.74	3.74	3.69
Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave					
Monaghan	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.20	0.17
Median	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.41

Comments:

Monaghan County Council's number of paid days lost to sickness in 2019 has **decreased** by 0.28% on 2018. This is achieved through close monitoring and engagement with employees and putting arrangements in place to assist/encourage staff to return to work. Monaghan Council was ranked 7th lowest in the Country for medically and self-certified sick leave in 2019. At 3.38% (3.21% + .17%), the Council is also under the national target of 3.5%.

Any overall comments on the suitability/relevance or otherwise of these indicators.

The national average percentage rate of paid workdays lost through medically certified paid sick leave for the sector in 2019 was at 3.71% which was a reduction from 2018 when it was at 3.78%. Monaghan County Council had 3.21% of paid workdays lost through medically certified paid sick leave.

The percentage of paid self-certified sick leave remained low with a national mean of 0.36%. Monaghan County Council had the lowest rate at 0.17%.

Table C3 LA Website & Social Media Usage

Monaghan's performance v's other Local Authorities

	Total Page views of the LA website in 2019	Total no. of followers at end 2019 of the LA's Social Media Accounts	No. of social media accounts operated by LA
Monaghan	1,263,576	77,837	55
Highest	16,062,220	586,045	112
Lowest	334,136	8,403	3
Mean	2,621,643	101,115	51

Table C4 & C5 Cost of ICT per Whole Time Equivalent and as a proportion of Revenue Expenditure

Authority	Overall cost of ICT Provision per WTE €	Overall cost of ICT as a proportion of Revenue Expenditure %
Monaghan	3,997.71	2.44
Highest	5,227.54	2.96
Lowest	2,031.83	0.59
Mean	3,060.84	1.78

Comparison with Monaghan County Council's performance for previous years

Authority	Total Number of Page Visits to the LA Website	Overall cost of ICT provision per WTE (€)
Monaghan 2014	398,227	3,639.71
Monaghan 2015	455,510	3,513.84
Monaghan 2016	704,134	2,995.37
Monaghan 2017	901,170	3,229.44
Monaghan 2018	1,086,690	4,030.33
Monaghan 2019	1,263,576	3,997.71

Comment:

When compared to all other local authorities Monaghan County Council had the 3rd highest overall cost of ICT provision per WTE in 2019 and the 7th highest overall cost of ICT as a proportion of revenue expenditure. When compared to other level 5 local authorities Monaghan was ranked 2nd highest for ICT cost per WTE and 4th highest when the cost is represented as a percentage of overall revenue expenditure. Monaghan's cost of ICT remained on par with 2018 with a slight decrease per WTE of €32.62. As more and more ICT services move to the cloud and pay-per-use subscriptions ICT revenue expenditure will continue to rise while capital ICT costs will fall. There are many benefits of cloud and subscription services, including having access to the latest version of software, 24/7 access to services from any location, built-in security and business continuity. In 2019 software and licences comprised approximately 33% of the overall cost of ICT.

Section 10: Finance

Table M1: Five year summary of Revenue Account Balances

Cumulative surplus/deficit balance in Revenue Account from Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS					
Authority	Revenue Balance 2015 (€)	Revenue Balance 2016 (€)	Revenue Balance 2016 (€)	Revenue Balance 2018 (€)	Revenue Balance 2019 (€)
Monaghan	-2,704,446	-2,219,049	-2,377,340	-2,300,467	-2,223,599
Highest	28,600,516	26,101,486	23,240,144	21,641,583	23,784,693
Lowest	-25,942,602	-23,831,345	-21,430,923	-19,500,223	-18,483,135
Median	-18,233.00	172,692	231,830	233,046	246,348
Mean	396,182	943,230	1,161,715	1,187,103	1,471,482

2019 Revenue Expenditure per Capita			
Authority	Surplus/ Deficit % of total income	2019 Revenue Expenditure per Capita Based on 2016 census	(excluding significant out of county/shared service expenditure)
Monaghan	-3.34	1,062.34	
Highest	4.93	3,396.29	919.52
Lowest	-29.1	633.6	
Median	0.31	891.76	
Mean	-0.428		935.54

Comment: Monaghan's deficit of €2.2m for 2019 is ranked 5th largest of 31 Local Authorities, in terms of value and 4th largest in terms of % of percentage of revenue income. The deficit has reduced by a total of €1,085,790 from its highest level of €3,309,389 in 2013, a reduction of 33% on the 2013 deficit. Monaghan County Council reported a surplus of €76,867 in 2019.

Table M2(A) - Five Year summary of collection of Commercial Rates

Authority	Commercial Rates Percentage 2015	Commercial Rates Percentage 2016	Commercial Rates Percentage 2017	Commercial Rates Percentage 2018	Commercial Rates Percentage 2019
Monaghan Co	77	82	85	89	86
Highest	96.1	95.6	95	95.8	97.9
Lowest	60	68	74.3	76	76.5
Median	80.2	82.3	83.0	86	86.49
Mean	82.5	84.4	83.6	85.5	87.0

Comment: Monaghan's collection rate of 89% for 2018 was due to a prepayment of Rates for 2019. The adjusted position is a collection rate of 89% for Monaghan for 2019.

The improvement in Rates collection percentages over the last few years can be attributed to a number of factors:

- i) The National Debt Management Project group was established in November 2014. The primary focus is to develop policies and procedures to improve Commercial Rates debt collection. Yearly targets were set for improvements in performance based on 2014 collection figures and Monaghan County Councils 2015 target was to increase collection by 5%. The LGMA monitors returns on an ongoing basis to ensure agreed targets are met.
- ii) Monaghan County Council engage legal services promptly where sums are not paid.
- iii) The significant increase in collection percentage between 2014 and 2015 is partly due to a 2015 accounting adjustment, whereby the Council was obliged to revise the method of disclosing collection rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS. This caused some arrears to be excluded and affected collection rates positively as compared with previous years. This new format of calculating collection rates has applied for future periods.
- iv) Improved debt management system and an increase in the number of Rate payers paying by direct debit and standing orders.
- v) The amalgamation of the town and county councils which ultimately resulted in a lower ARV for the majority of the Rate payers in the county.
- vi) Rates demands are issued earlier in the year

The collection rate will be skewed in 2020 due to the unprecedented nine-month Rates Waiver received by the majority of Rate payers.

Table M2(B) - Five Year summary of collection of Rent & Annuities

Authority	Rent & Annuities Percentage 2015	Rent & Annuities Percentage 2016	Rent & Annuities Percentage 2017	Rent & Annuities Percentage 2018	Rent & Annuities Percentage 2019
Monaghan	95	95	96	96	95
Highest	96	97	99	97	98
Lowest	73	71	69	75	73
Median	88	88	89	89	90

Comment: Monaghan's collection rate of 95% for 2019 is ranked joint sixth of all 31 Local Authorities. The rate has remained consistently high for the last number of years.

In comparison with other Level 5 authorities, Monaghan's rate of collection for Rent & Annuities is second only to Laois in 2019.

Table M2(C)- Five Year summary of collection of Housing Loans

Authority	Housing Loan Percentage 2015	Housing Loan Percentage 2016	Housing Loan Percentage 2017	Housing Loan Percentage 2018	Housing Loan Percentage 2019
Monaghan	80	80	77	78	78
Highest	97.9	100	101.2	101.7	102.7
Lowest	43	47	43	51	59
Median	71	70	74	75	78

Comment: Monaghan's collection rate of 78% in 2019 is ranked joint 14th of 31 Local Authorities. In comparison with other Level 5 authorities, Monaghan's rate of collection for Housing Loans of 78% is ranked fourth in 2019.

Section 11: Jobs

Table J1; J2; J3; J4 – Jobs and Tourism

Monaghan's performance v's other Local Authorities

Authority	J1	J2	
	No. of jobs created with assistance from LEO during period 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2019	No. of Trading Online Vouchers applications approved by LEO in 2019	No. of Trading Online Vouchers drawn down in 2019
Monaghan	121	20	11
Highest	271	123	33
Lowest	27	7	2
Median	98	36	15
Mean	104	41	16

Authority	J3	J4	
	No of participants who received mentoring during the period 01/10/2019 – 31/12/2019	Does the LA have a current Tourism Strategy	Does the LA have a designated Tourism Officer
Monaghan	109	Yes	Yes
Highest	1043		
Lowest	106		
Median	302		
Mean	352		

Comment:

No. of Jobs:

The target for 2019 was 142. Monaghan achieved 80% of the 2019 target. Monaghan LEO came 8th in relation to job creation against other LEO's.

Trading Online Vouchers:

Monaghan placed 24th nationally, two places ahead of 2018.

Mentoring:

Monaghan issued 109 assignments in 2019. Our target was 95, therefore a 15% increase on our target. Monaghan mentoring performance was 26th nationally.

Annual Report 2020 Monaghan Joint Policing Committee



Presented for approval at Co Monaghan JPC meeting on 23rd March 2021

Annual Report of Monaghan Joint Policing Committee for year: 2020

Overview

2020 was a difficult year in which to hold meetings, and especially to engage with the public, due to the emergence of the Coronavirus pandemic in March which continued for the rest of the year. This made it impossible to hold a public meeting during 2020.

Two Committee meetings were held; one before the Covid outbreak in February, and one between the first and second lockdowns in November.

The February meeting saw the adoption of the final annual workplan under the current Strategic Plan (2015-2020). While we may not have been able to deliver on the public meeting, we still managed to keep active and move forward on many fronts.

Projects

The JPC continued to run the following initiatives during 2020:

Property Marking:

The arrival of Covid-19 into Ireland made it difficult for community groups to organise community days where people could bring in their items to be marked, so we changed the focus of the initiative to prioritise tradespeople, who could be visited individually by a member of An Garda Síochána to mark their tools etc. As many tradespeople were unable to work during the lockdown, they took advantage of the down time to have their tools marked.

Monaghan Community Alerts:

The county-wide community alert scheme now has over 4,300 users. It sent out 170 messages from An Garda Síochána during 2020, and a further 22 from Monaghan County Council. As the app allows subscribers to respond 'yes' or 'no' to messages, it was an invaluable asset in distributing age friendly cocooning packs and other services during the pandemic.

Additional features were developed on the app, with financial assistance from the Public Sector Innovation Fund. It is now possible to send messages to users within a given radius of a selected location. We see this as being a potentially lifesaving feature in the event of a person going missing, as it will enable the Gardai to alert everyone within a chosen radius of the last known location of the person.

During 2020 we have given assistance to a number of other JPC's who are considering setting up a similar all-county messaging system, notably we have delivered a presentation to Meath JPC, and assisted Kildare JPC with preparing their tender documents.

CCTV Steering Committee

During 2020, under the guidance of Monaghan County Council's GDPR Officer, the JPC set up a CCTV Steering Group to oversee all matters related to CCTV. The steering committee developed a draft CCTV policy, which was adopted at the November JPC meeting.

All requests to set up CCTV schemes which monitor public areas must be approved by the JPC before being sent to the Garda Commissioner for final approval. It was therefore a very important and necessary piece of work for the JPC to have a policy in place which lays down how it will handle CCTV requests.

Road Safety High Visibility Campaign

County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee and Monaghan County Council Roads Section reminded all road users of the importance of remaining safe at all times on our roads. It is important for cyclists, pedestrians and motor cyclists to be seen from a distance by wearing high-visibility or other reflective or fluorescent clothing.

Pictured below is Cllr Brian McKenna, Chairman of County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee at the launch of the Road Safety High Visibility campaign, with Adrian O'Sullivan, Road Safety Officer, Monaghan County Council (picture Rory Geary, Northern Standard



Visit by Commissioner Drew Harris

Garda Commissioner Drew Harris addressed the JPC in February 2020, to explain the new operational model which will see Monaghan become part of a three county district which will include Cavan and Louth, to have headquarters in Drogheda.

Commissioner Harris heard the concerns of the Committee regarding border activity, particularly post Brexit, and that a greater distancing of the district headquarters from the border may be in opportune at this time.

ITEM 1 – Summary of progress in implementing the JPC’s work programme

	Strategic Objectives	Summary of actions taken & progress achieved during the year, and any significant difficulties which were encountered	Summary of advice given by the JPC to local authority/Gardai, specific recommendations made	Results of advice given – feedback received from LA/ Gardai
	High priority objectives			
1	Policing Communities Co-ordinate community events into an overall Migrant Integration Strategy	Funding secured by Monaghan County Council to deliver ‘Monaghan Together Unique and United’ 2 year project	n/a	n/a
2	Crime Prevention Continue to improve Monaghan Community Alerts initiative	€20,000 investment from Public Sector Innovation Fund enabled new functionalities to be added, including geolocation of subscribers, and targeting of messages to a radius of a point location	n/a	n/a
	Other Objectives			
	To use the high media profile of the JPC to raise public awareness of issues of high priority in the county	Local media attended both JPC meetings and gave prominent coverage to all issues covered for a number of weeks following the meetings		
	To be an effective voice			

ITEM 2 – Highlight 3 key achievements of the JPC during the year & explain why they are considered to be significant

Adoption of CCTV policy - This will ensure that the JPC handles all issues around CCTV in an efficient and effective manner, and in line with GDPR.

Addition of geo location functionality to Community Alerts app. This enables the app to plot the users on a map of the county for the first time. It is now possible for the Gardai to pick a point on the map and extend a circle out from that point, then send a message to all users within that circle, regardless of what Community Alert group they belong to. This feature may be valuable in the case of someone going missing, allowing the Gardai to alert everyone within a 5km or 10km radius of the location they were last seen, for example, and could be a critical tool in a case where time is of the essence to ensure a positive outcome.

ITEM 3 –Details of public meetings held during the year

No public meetings held in 2020 due to Covid 19 pandemic

ITEM 4 – Record of members and meetings held during the year

Total number of meetings held:

2 meetings held: 11/02/2020; 10/11/2020

Attendance of Members:

Name	Organisation	Number of meetings attended (2 meetings held in 2020)
Cllr Raymond Aughey	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr Cathy Bennett	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr Aidan Campbell	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr Colm Carthy	Monaghan County Council	1
Cllr Aoife McCooley	Monaghan County Council	1
Cllr Richard Truell	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr Sean Gilliland	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr Noel Keelan	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr David Maxwell	Monaghan County Council	1
Cllr Hugh McElvaney	Monaghan County Council	1
Cllr Brian McKenna	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr Pat Treanor	Monaghan County Council	2

Ms. Edel Fitzsimons	Community Rep	2
Mr. P.J. Harte	Community Rep	1
Mr. Michael Watters	Community Rep	1
Ms Linda Moore	Community Rep	1
Ms Siobhan McKenna	Community Rep	2
Mr Alan Johnston	Community Rep	2
Chief Supt. John D'Reilly (Retired)	Garda	1
Chief Supt. Aidan Glacken	Garda	1
Supt. Fergus Treanor (Retired)	Garda	1
Supt. Gareth Walsh	Garda	1
Insp Kenneth Coughlan	Garda	-
Supt. Pat O'Connell	Garda	2
Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D.	Oireachtas	0
Senator Robbie Gallagher	Oireachtas	0
Mr. Cathal Flynn, Director of Service	Monaghan County Council	2
Ms. Carol Lambe	Monaghan County Council	2
Chief Exec., Mr Eamonn O'Sullivan	Monaghan County Council	1

Meetings Administration:

Carmel Thornton	Monaghan County Council	2
Mary McGarvey	Monaghan County Council	2

15 February 2021

Mr. Cathal Flynn,
A/Director of Corporate Services.

Memo:

Re: Proposal to adopt Part IV of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 - Application for Music and Singing Licence – Castleblayney Arts & Community Development Company Limited (Iontas Centre)

Monaghan County Council has received a request from Seamus Mallon Solicitors Castleblayney, on behalf of Castleblayney Arts & Community Development Company Limited (Iontas Centre) for a declaration that Monaghan County Council (or it's predecessor Authorities) adopted Part IV of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890.

I have reviewed the legislation relating to the above -

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 is divided into 5 Parts. Parts II, III and IV are adoptive by local authorities and only come into effect following a resolution of the local authority. Part IV (Section 51) deals with the issue of Music and Dancing Licences.

By virtue of Section 14 of the Public Dance Halls Act of 1935, licences for public dancing have been removed from the remit of the 1890 Act, but the licensing of public singing and music remains governed by the 1890 Act.

This means that before a "Music and Singing licence" can be issued by the Courts under Section 51 of the 1890 Act, the Court must be satisfied that Part IV of that Act has been adopted by the local authority in the first place.

It would require extensive resources to trawl through the minutes of Monaghan County Council and the former Town Councils to determine if indeed such resolution was passed, adopting Part IV. The relevant legislation was enacted back in 1890 and while it is conceivable that somewhere in the minutes of meetings of each of the five relevant local authorities that have been held in the intervening 125 years, such resolution(s) could exist, the chances of finding same are remote.

It remains open to Monaghan County Council to adopt Part IV now – the procedure is clearly laid out in the 1890 Act.

The Council's Solicitor has confirmed that *...the adoption of Part IV doesn't appear to have any downside for the Council but it would mean that any singing or public entertainment establishment which doesn't sell alcohol and which in the past didn't need a Part IV licence will now need one.*

The process for the adoption of Part IV is relatively straightforward and requires that the Council pass a resolution adopting Part IV of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 (as amended).

Prior to the Council passing a resolution, and in accordance with Section 3 of the Act, one calendar month, at least, before such meeting, special notice of the meeting and of the intention to propose such resolution shall be given to every member of the authority.

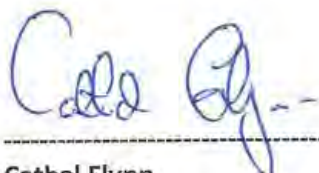
When the resolution is adopted, the Council must, in accordance with Section 4 of the Act, publish details of the resolution in one or more newspapers circulating within the district of the local authority and the resolution shall come into operation at such time not less than one month after the first publication of the advertisement of the resolution as the local authority may fix. A copy of the advertisement shall be conclusive evidence of the resolution having been passed.

Having regard to the foregoing, I recommend that the Council consider passing a resolution adopting Part IV of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 for County Monaghan.



Carmel Thornton,
A.O. Corporate Services
Monaghan County Council.

Approved for submission to Corporate Policy Group for consideration



Cathal Flynn,
A/Director of Corporate Services





Community Dept., Council Offices, The Glen, Monaghan

293

tel: 047 30500
 email: ppn@monaghancoco.ie
 web: www.ppnmonaghan.ie

Ms. Carmel Thornton,
 Administrative Officer,
 Corporate Affairs,
 Monaghan County Council.

6th April 2021

Dear Carmel,

The following representatives were recently ratified by the membership of Monaghan PPN to serve on Transport and Community SPC as outlined below.

Community and Voluntary Seat

Fergal McMahon Monaghan Volunteer Centre

Environmental Seat

Terence Buckley Annyalla Tidy Towns

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Leona Keenan
 PPN Resource Worker
 Telephone 047 73750
ppn@monaghancoco.ie



Supported by
 Monaghan
 County
 Council



From: Fiona Dunne (One Movement) <fiona.dunne@onemovement.ie>
Sent: Thursday 18 March 2021 12:55
To: Pamela Kerr <pkerr@monaghancoco.ie>
Subject: RE: SPC Nomination Monaghan County Council





Apologies Pamela, I thought I had already sent this on. Our nominee is Teresa Thompson and her contact email is tthompson@siptu.ie.

Sorry this took so long, but please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any other queries regarding this.

Kindest regards,
Fiona

Fiona Dunne,
ONE National Co-ordinator,
Irish Congress of Trade Unions,
Nerney's Court, Dublin 1.

Remember to protect yourself and follow official advice:

-  Wash hands frequently
-  Social distancing at all times
-  Self-isolating when unwell
-  Stay at home where possible



Phone: 01-8171580 & 087-6486105

Email: Fiona.dunne@onemovement.ie / contact@onemovement.work / info@onemovement.work
www.onemovement.work

From: Pamela Kerr <pkerr@monaghancoco.ie>
Sent: Thursday 18 March 2021 12:51
To: Fiona Dunne (One Movement) <fiona.dunne@onemovement.ie>
Subject: FW: SPC Nomination Monaghan County Council

Hi Fiona,

Hope all is well with you, I was just wondering if you had any update in relation to filling the vacancy mentioned below?

Many Thanks

Pamela Kerr

Senior Staff Officer
Roads Section
Monaghan County Council
Email: pkerr@monaghancoco.ie

Minutes of meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held remotely via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 30 March 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr Colm Carthy

Present: Cllrs. R. Aughey, S. Gilliland, N. Keelan, P. Treanor

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. A. King, Mr. P. Clifford and Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Services, Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director of Services, Ms. M. McGarvey, Senior Staff Officer.

1. To consider the Draft MCC Annual Report for 2020

C. Flynn outlined the main elements of the Draft Annual Report for 2020 which had been circulated to the members. The comprehensive report, which had been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act, 2001, provides an overview of the activities and progress made by each of the Directorates within Monaghan County Council during an extraordinary 2020.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Aughey it was agreed to recommend the Draft Annual Report for 2020 to the full Council for adoption.

2. To receive the Draft Review of the Performance Indicators for 2019

C. Flynn gave a brief overview of the Report which had been circulated. He explained that the report prepared by Monaghan County Council sets out to compare the Council's performance in 2019 with the highest and lowest performers nationally; against similar size counties (Level 5 counties); against similar indicators in previous years (where applicable) and on the basis of these to establish targets for the following year.

A discussion followed during which queries raised by the members were replied to.

On the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed to recommend the Draft Review of the Performance Indicators for 2019 to the full Council for adoption.

3. To receive the Draft Annual Financial Statement 2020

J. Murray gave a brief introduction on the Draft Annual Financial Statement 2020 which had been circulated to the members. He stated that despite an extremely difficult year, Monaghan Co Co recorded a surplus of €358,421. He stated that the Rates Wavier and compensation for Covid related costs and loss of income from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and prudent financial management by Senior Staff resulted in this surplus.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed to recommend the Draft Annual Financial Statement 2020 to the full Council for adoption.

4. CLÁR Programme 2021

P. Monahan outlined the main requirements of the CLAR Programme for 2021. There are 3 measures for which Local Authorities will have responsibility under the scheme:

- Measure 1 – Support for Schools/Community Safety Measure
- Measure 2 – Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities
- Measure 3 – Community Wellbeing Measure
 - (a) Community Gardens and Allotments

The scheme is currently advertised to local applicants, with a closing date of 26th April. Monaghan Co Co can submit up to 10 projects under Measures 1 and 2, and up to 3 projects under Measure 3a.

She stated that the official closing date for MCC to make submissions to DRCD is 7th May, but Dept has informally allowed an extension to 13th May. She advised that the deadline does not align well with scheduled meeting dates and requested latitude for a short one-item meeting to sign off on submissions on 10th or 11th May 2021.

It was agreed to hold a Special CPG meeting to sign off on Clár submissions on Tuesday 11 May 2021.

5. To consider allocation of funding to Tidy Towns Groups

A King outlined Environment Service's proposal to provide €35,400 in funding to the 25 Tidy Towns committees who are annually assisted through the Community & Environment Grant scheme. He stated that the National Tidy Towns competition will take place virtually this year and it is proposed to offer grants based on 2020 allocations to the Tidy Town groups as a supportive gesture from Monaghan Co Co.

In response to a query, J. Murray clarified that there is a separate budget allocation of €55,000 for Environment Fund. Proposals for this funding will follow at a later date.

Following a discussion on this item, it was agreed to recommend to the full Council that an amount of €35,400 would be allocated to the 25 Tidy Towns Groups from the Community & Environment Grant Fund.

6. To consider nomination to fill external vacancy on Audit Committee

The Chief Executive advised the meeting that Mr. Dermot McCrystal had stood down from the Audit Committee after the January 2021 meeting. This was agreed in terms of membership rotation of committee members.

The Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014 state that nominations for appointment to an audit committee shall be made by the Corporate Policy Group to the local authority following consultation with the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive proposed that Ms Marie Mohan of Greenfield Foods, a very successful business woman in the county, should fill the vacancy on the Audit Committee.

Following a brief discussion and on the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr Treanor, it was agreed that Ms Marie Mohan's nomination to fill the vacancy on the Audit Committee would be recommended to the full Council for approval.

7. To consider nomination to fill vacancy on Transport & Community SPC

M. McGarvey advised the meeting that Ms Teresa Thompson had been nominated to fill the Trade Union vacancy on the Transport & Community SPC. She also advised that there are a further two vacancies on the SPC. Two nominations have been put forward by the PPN and will be ratified at PPN Plenary on 31 March 2021.

On the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr Treanor, it was agreed that all three nominations would go forward to the April Council meeting for approval.

8. To discuss April Council / Special Council meetings

Following discussion, it was agreed that the April Council meeting on 12 April 2021 and Special Council meeting on 19 April 2021 would take place in the Garage Theatre, Monaghan.

It was also agreed to have a Special CPG meeting on Friday, 16 April 2021, in advance of the Capital Programme and new Offices Project meeting on 19 April 2021.

9. To receive Health & Safety Report February 2021

C. Flynn outlined the main points of the Health & Safety report for February 2021. He advised that all outdoor resources had returned to work on 22 March 2021.

The report was noted.

10. Update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

Ms. P. Monahan informed the members that approval to progress to Phase III, Design & Environmental Evaluation, had been received. She advised that a number of site surveys will be necessary and this will require access to lands. The project team will contact landowners in advance.

In response to a query, Ms Monahan advised that she did not expect that a review of the A5 would have any immediate impact on this project in the short term.

11. Any other business

Cllr Keelan wished to highlight two issues raised by Cllr Sean Conlon at the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC.

1. Tourism Promotion – could the Tourism presentation delivered to the SPC be allocated a time slot at a future Council meeting?
2. Advertisement of Tender competitions via online social media platforms

Following discussions on the tourism promotion issue, P. Clifford advised that D. Condra had delivered the Tourism presentation to the March Council meeting.

The Chief Executive advised that the advertisement of tender competitions via social media platforms could pose risks. This is not the practice in other Local Authorities and would be examined in the context of good governance around tenders / procurement processes.

The Chief Executive also stated that D. Condra and the Tourism Unit carried out tremendous work over the past year in promoting the county. D. Condra's presentation could be re-circulated again and also forwarded to the Northern Standard.

The meeting concluded.

Not for Publication



MANAGEMENT REPORT

MARCH 2021

In accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, I am required to prepare a monthly Management Report and to furnish a copy to each Councillor.

The report is set out in line with the functions of the various directorates. It aims to update the members on the following:

- (i) Developments and progress in the different sections over the previous month.
- (ii) Performance and outputs on a year to date basis for various service provisions.
 - (iii) Key immediate priorities going forward.
 - (iv) Ongoing implementation of the Corporate Plan.
- (v) In accordance with Section 151(4) of the Local Government Act 2001, CE/Directors orders are available for inspection at each monthly Council meeting on request.

HOUSING

JOHN MURRAY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/HEAD OF FINANCE

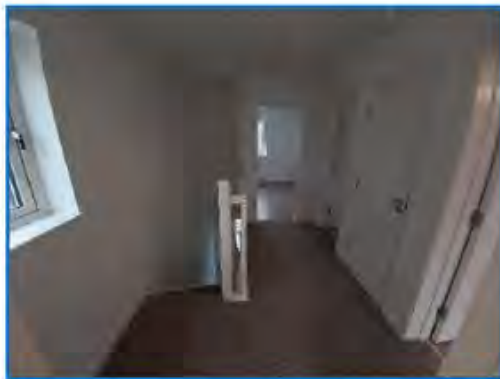
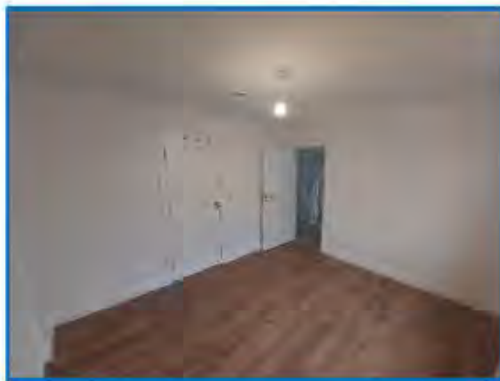
Plás An Bhri, Castleblayney – Project / Allocations

The development of 26 No. Turnkey units at Plás An Bhri, Castleblayney has now been fully completed. It consists of:

- 6 No. 3-Bed terrace houses
- 16 No. 3-Bed semi-detached houses
- 4 No. 4-Bed semi-detached houses

The pre-tenancy meetings are completed and the tenancy agreements and key transfers will also take place by the end of March 2021.





Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme
Statistics – Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan		Stats @ 15/03/2021	
Statistics - To date		2018/2021	
Allocation up to 2019		€2,045,079	
Allocation for 2020		€750,000	
Allocation for 2021		TBC	
Drawn down to date	30	€2,208,579	
Currently at Approval Stage	9	€801,256	Pending progression by applicant
Declined / Ineligible	49		
New /Pending	2		
Appeal	0		
Expired Timeline	8		
Total	98		
Applications Received/ Per Yr			
2018	27		
2019	48		
2020	19		
2021	4		
	98		

Tenant Purchase Scheme Update

The Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 commenced in January 2016. Since its launch Monaghan County Council has received 131 applications. Of these

- 7 are new applications
- 62 have been closed as ineligible or not progressing
- 3 currently have letters of offer issued to them
- 7 are currently with the solicitors and
- 52 have been sold to date in the amount of €2,718,137 as per table below

Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016	Sales to Date	
Sold 2016	0	0
Sold 2017	5	€212,000
Sold 2018	15	€898,000
Sold 2019	13	€596,200
Sold 2020	16	€864,358
Sold 2021	3	147,579
Total	52	€2,718,137

TRANSPORTATION

PATRICIA MONAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

National Roads**Major Schemes****N2 Ardee to Castleblayney and N2 Clontibret to the Border Road Schemes:**

Following the completion of the Phase 2 'Option Selection' process, Preferred Route Corridors and Option Selection Reports have been published for both schemes.

TII approval has been received to progress to Phase 3 of the design process (Design & Statutory Approvals), and the Consulting Engineer (Jacobs) has started the process of designing the road, identifying the land take required and preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment for each scheme.

A range of engineering and environmental site surveys are required to inform the design process. A Topographical Services Contract has been tendered, and works are expected to commence in Quarter 2, 2021. A Ground Investigation Contract is currently out for tender and is expected to commence in Q3, 2021. These surveys will require access to lands, and the project team will be in contact with relevant landowners in advance of these surveys commencing.

The N2 Project Team continue to work remotely, but can still be contacted by landowners and members of the public via the N2 Project Phonenumber 087 340 3786, or by email as follows;

ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie / ClontibretBorder@N2MonaghanLouth.ie.

News and updates will be posted on the 'Latest News' section of the project website, www.N2MonaghanLouth.ie.

Minor Improvement Schemes**N54 Tullybryan Scheme:**

Consultants RPS and the National Roads team are finalising the Preliminary Design of the scheme. The Total Scheme Budget and Project Appraisal for the scheme will need to be updated and approved by TII before CPO can be published. This is now expected to be Quarter 2, 2021.

The Site Investigations (SI) contract has been awarded to Priority Geotechnical Ltd. Roads Design have been advised of a commencement date for these works of 4th May 2021.

The tender documents for Archaeology investigations have been updated and reissued to TII for final review. It is planned to publish over the next few weeks.

PARR Pavement Asset Repair and Renewal Schemes:**2020 & 2021 Pavement Scheme - N54 Monaghan Town - 2.3km**

Consultants RPS and the National Roads team are finalising the Preliminary Design of the scheme. The Total Scheme Budget and Project Appraisal for the scheme will need to be updated and approved by TII before CPO can be published. This is now expected to be Quarter 2, 2021.

The Site Investigations (SI) contract has been awarded to Priority Geotechnical Ltd. Roads Design have been advised of a commencement date for these works of 4th May 2021.

The tender documents for Archaeology investigations have been updated and reissued to TII for final review. It is planned to publish over the next few weeks.

2021 Pavement Scheme - N54 Clonlura- 2.6km

The PARR report for the N54 Clonlura Pavement Scheme has been approved by TII. MCC have received the tenders for a Consultant to design, prepare tender documents and supervise of the scheme. The tender assessment is currently being undertaken.

MCC have contacted the Department of Infrastructure (Northern Ireland) and they have confirmed that there are no plans to renew / upgrade the section of the A3 adjoining this scheme at present.

NP/NS Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

N2 Blackwater Bridge: The Contractor (Fox Building & Civil Engineering Ltd) have a list of snags and other outstanding items to address. Repairs to the wearing course surface are planned for Quarter 2, 2021.

N53 Ballynacarry Bridge Replacement: MCC have prepared a tender to procure Consultants through the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Framework of Bridge Consultants for the design of the scheme. The Request for Tender document is currently being reviewed by TII Bridges.

MCC have engaged an Environmental Consultant to carry out Appropriate Assessment & Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Reports.

N54 Park Road (Margaret Skinnider Roundabout) Pedestrian Safety Scheme

The Part 8 Planning Application for the new roundabout was published on 18th February 2021. The deadline for receipt of Observations / submissions is 1st April 2021.

Preparation of the tender documents for procurement of main Contractor are ongoing and are expected to be complete by April 2021. It is proposed that Construction of the new roundabout would be carried out in Summer 2021.

N2 Tirnaneil junction

The Tender Assessment for the Contract works is complete, and letters have issued to Tenderers. The Contract is yet to be awarded. The commencement date is dependent on the Government Public Health Measures regarding Covid 19 restrictions on Construction works.

N54 Smithboro Pedestrian Crossing

The Tender assessment for a Contractor is complete and approval to award has been received from TII. Works are expected to commence April 2021.

NP & NS Maintenance

Vehicle Restraint Systems

Lagan Operations & Maintenance Ltd will carry out additional repairs of crash barriers on the National roads due to barrier strikes. MCC Roads are awaiting confirmation of the commencement date.

HGV Restrictions – Monaghan Town

Road Design section will publish the HGV proposal for Monaghan Town when the details of the Permit Applications process to allow HGV access in certain situations is confirmed.

N2 Cyclepaths

MCC are preparing Tender documents to procure Consultants to progress the design of the four N2 Cycle path schemes. TII have issued new Project Management Guidelines for Active Travel which are being used to progress these schemes.

Capital & Ordinary Maintenance Pavement Works

MCC have received approval from TII for nineteen applications for additional funding for the value of €617,000 for pavement repairs, tree pruning, drainage works and noise barrier repairs at various locations on the National Road network. MCC will prepare tender documents to engage Contractors to undertake the relevant Contract works.

N2 Landscaping at Roundabouts

Tenders were advertised for a 3-year contract for Landscaping at six roundabouts on the N2 at the following locations: Coolshannagh, Corlatt, Annahagh, Cremartin, Lislanly & Tullyvin. Roads are currently assessing the tenders.

Non-National Roads

Restoration Improvement (RI)

The Restoration Improvement programme has been agreed with the 3 Municipal Districts for 2021. The Tender Assessment & contract Award is complete. Works will commence on 29th of March 2021. Works are expected to be complete by August 2021. Please note COVID 19 restrictions may affect the works commencement date of 29th March.

Restoration Maintenance (RM)

The Restoration Maintenance programme are to commence in North Monaghan on May 10th, 2021, Clones Area on June 3rd and in the Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney area on the 22nd of June 2021. There is currently no delay envisaged for the delivery of our annual RM programme.

Bridge Rehabilitation Programme 2020

Works are to commence on the 3 Emergency Bridges on 12th April 2021.

The remaining works are planned to commence in June 2021 and completion is expected in September 2021.

Low Cost Safety Schemes

An allocation of €255,800 has been received from DTTAS for 2021 for Low-cost Safety Schemes in 2021. The Schemes are listed Below:

2021 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads			
Local Authority	Road Number	Location	LA Allocation
Monaghan County Council	R188/L56011	Drummuck, Corcaghan	€20,000
Monaghan County Council	R186	Hasty's Cross, R186, LP1600 & LT16201	€10,000
Monaghan County Council	LP4052	Ross Rd, Carrickmacross	€55,000
Monaghan County Council	R181/L4201	Tullynahinnera, Castleblayney	€30,000
Monaghan County Council	R179/LS8660	R179 Corcullloge, Donaghmoynne	€30,000
Monaghan County Council	LT-15101	LP1510 junction with LT15101 in townland of Creeve	€20,000
Monaghan County Council	R179	Shercock Rd, Carrickmacross	€10,000
Monaghan County Council	L22803/R189	Drunanny Drum	€15,000
Monaghan County Council	R162/L7300/L25023	Creagh, Ballybay	€10,000
Monaghan County Council	R178	Essexford Junction	€25,000
Monaghan County Council	LP2700/R188	Corravakan	€15,800
Monaghan County Council	L21104/L2810	Clonkeen Cole, Clones	€15,000
Monaghan County Council			
Total			€255,800

Local Improvement Schemes

15 lanes have been identified and measured for works in 2021 subject to funding. MCC is awaiting an announcement of funding allocation for 2021 before works can commence.

Specific Improvement Grants

Brackley Bridge

DTTAS funding of €1,200,000 has been confirmed for 2021 to carry out the construction of the Brackley Bridge Culvert replacement and Junction realignment. Works to carry out the construction of the Brackley Bridge Culvert replacement and Junction realignment are expected to commence in May 2021.

Active Travel Allocation

DTTAS have confirmed funding of €272,843 to finish projects commenced in 2020. MCC, Roads Section are currently engaging with the National Transport Authority (NTA) regarding the 2021 Active Travel Scheme. An allocation is expected within the coming weeks.

Ulster Canal Greenway

A formal planning application for the border to Middletown section of the Ulster Canal Greenway was submitted to Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Councils on the 8th March. The Part 8 application for the Monaghan Town to the Border section will be submitted before the end of March. Separate Part 8 applications for the N2 Spur and the Monaghan to Smithborough sections will be submitted later this year.

Road Safety

The Government have launched a new 'Safe Routes to School' initiative which will support active travel infrastructure for selected schools around the country with funding of over €15 million to be allocated in 2021. There will be further opportunities for schools that are not successful in 2021 to apply later. The winning entries to the 'Tik Tok mic drop' Road safety competition in conjunction with IRadio and eleven Local Authorities in the region were announced on Friday 26th March 2021. Georgina McKenna from County Monaghan was one of the top five prize winners receiving €1,000 together with entrants from Galway, Mayo, Roscommon and Offaly.

Operation 'Slow Down' day, An Garda Síochána's speed enforcement initiative took place countrywide over a 24-hour period from 7am on Friday 26th March 2021.

At time of writing (24th March 2021), a total of 20 people have been killed on Irish roads, compared to 46 over the same period in 2020. Thankfully none of these fatalities have occurred in County Monaghan.

COMMUNITY

PATRICIA MONAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Monaghan Covid 19 Community Response Forum

Monaghan Covid 19 Community Response Forum has continued to meet on a fortnightly basis since the start of the year. Agencies involved have continued to contribute to a community wide response to the crisis and will continue to meet as required.

Community Call Helpline

The Covid 19 Community Call Helpline continues in operation from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday and with monitoring of a voice mail service outside of those hours. To week ending 26th March a total of 919 calls had been taken and managed by the Helpline since it was set up in April 2020, 128 of those since 1st January. A significant number of callers have been requesting transport of one type or another and these are mainly being managed by the Civil Defence.

Most of the calls are for Transport (16%) collection & delivery (12%) and food supports (4%). "Other" calls cover a range of topics from looking for information and seeking library books to volunteering to help.

Funding Applications

Following the recent announcements for the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme Measures 2 and 3 the following is an updated summary of the position on rural scheme applications submitted under the 2020 programmes. Further details can be provided on request from Community development Section.

Summary of funding received in 2020

Scheme	Round	Funding Awarded	No. of projects funded
Town & Village	Accelerated Covid Measure – Round 1	€137,320	5
	Accelerated Covid Measure – Round 2	€155,000	5
	Accelerated Covid Measure – Round 3	€130,000	4
	Main Scheme	€806,543	7
Community Enhancement Project	Round 1	€55,451	40
	Round 2	€109,947	29
COVID 19 Emergency Fund	Round 1	€62,247	37
	Round 2	€43,137 (+ €38k from Community Fund not incl in total below)	51
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme	Measure 1	€103,623	6
	Measures 2	€263,958	2
	Measure 3	€276,385	1
CLÁR	Measures 1&2	€233,277	7
Cumulative total		€2,376,888	

Clár 2021

Clár 2021 was launched in March and the application process will be online only for applications being submitted to Monaghan County Council. Closing date for receipt of applications is 26 April and all details are available on <https://monaghan.ie/communitydevelopment/category/grantsfunding-schemes/>

Two Measures of Clár are for submission directly to the Department of Rural & Community Development, i.e., Mobility & Cancer Care Supports and Innovation. All details also on above link. Different closing dates apply for those Measures.

Healthy Ireland Keep Well Campaign

Since December and as part of our promotion of the Keep Well campaign in Monaghan, we invited several guests to speak on The Wider View programme on Northern Sound on varying health and wellbeing topics. A very useful resource listing over 20 of these podcasts can be accessed from www.monaghan.ie/keep-well. Each podcast last approximately 8 – 10 minutes.

Due to an opportunity to reprofile some funding from the Healthy Ireland Fund, the Library section will now deliver an additional Healthy Ireland action. The “Creative & Cultural Arts Community Programme builds on some of the great activity already completed by the Libraries under the Keep Well Campaign. We will now be able to deliver 9 creative art programmes in the community between April and December 2021. In addition to this, they will deliver The Community Time Machine Project. This inter-generational project will engage 5 communities from across the county and will connect 10 young people to 10 senior citizens who live near them.

Covid 19 Emergency Fund 2021 – Round 2

In December MCC was allocated €43,137 to support community and voluntary groups to deal with COVID-19. The Fund is being administered by Monaghan LCDC with support from Monaghan County Council. The online application system closed on 1st February with significant oversubscription from over 70 groups requesting over €210,000. Monaghan County Council Management Team and the CPG agreed to a proposal from the Community Section to reallocate a portion of the annual Community Development Fund to supplement the Covid Emergency Fund, on a once off basis. The remainder of the Community Development Fund will be advertised and allocated later in 2021. As a result, the available fund has been expanded to €80,000. The LCDC approved 51 prioritised projects/applications for funding at the March meeting. Many of those not funded were directed to possible alternative sources for funding.

LCDC/LAG

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)/Local Action Group (LAG) held the monthly meetings on 23rd March. The LCDC received updates on the SICAP Programme, the Local Economic and Community Plan and Peace Plus. Members approved funding under COVID Emergency Fund (Round 2). The LAG approved LEADER apportionment Policy, the LEADER Annual Progress Report 2020 and Implementation Plan 2021. Members received an update on LEADER programme 2014-2020 and the LEADER Transitional Programme 2021 which will begin accepting application from 1st April. Members also approved the February 2020 Returns and extensions to LEADER projects.

Monaghan LEADER Programme 2014-2020

	Allocation of Budget	%	Draw down of Grants	%	No of Projects/Project Claims fully completed
Total LEADER Budget for projects	€5,708,154.74		€5,708,154.74		
Grants awarded as at 23rd March 2021	€5,698,098.16	99.82			112
Budget remaining for allocation at 23rd March 2021	7,241.74				
Drawn down at 23rd March 2021			€2,650,888.62	46.44	44
Budget to be drawn down at 23rd March 2021			€3,057,266.12	53.56	

Age Friendly built environment initiatives

The Age Friendly programme manager has been working with each Municipal District Coordinator in the preparation of infrastructure funding applications to support the inclusion of Age Friendly measures in programmes submitted under various rural development funding programmes.

Women and Diversity in local government funding**Monaghan Women's Assembly launch**

Monaghan Women's Assembly, an initiative funded under the Women and Diversity in Local Government Fund was officially launched on *International Women's Day 2021- Monday March 8th @7.30pm*. Over 200 people joined the online event which included contributions from Cllr Cathy Bennett, DOS Patricia Monahan and the two NCCWN groups active in the county, Dochas for Women and Blaney Blades. Minister of Social Protection, Community and Rural Development and the Islands Heather Humphreys TD officially launched Monaghan Women's Assembly and gave an overview of her experience as a woman in government in Ireland. Minister Humphreys welcomed the establishing of the Monaghan Women's Assembly. The assembly has the overall aim of increasing the participation of women in the 2024 local elections.

Migrant Integration**Diversity Awareness training**

As part of the EU funded Asylum Migration Integration Fund project work is underway to roll out Diversity awareness training for front line staff in the organisation. The training programme will be delivered remotely and will support front line staff to recognise some of the barriers experienced by the migrant community when trying to access services and information. It is hoped to begin the roll out of the Diversity Awareness Training Programme in May 2021.

Disability**World Down Syndrome Day**

Monaghan County Council joined with the Down Syndrome Centre North East in lighting up their buildings in yellow and blue on Sunday 21st March to mark World Down Syndrome Day 2021. World Down Syndrome Day (WDS) is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. The Down Syndrome Centre North East is based in Carrickmacross and provides supports and information to individuals and families across the counties of Cavan, Monaghan, Louth and Meath.

Playground Communication boards

The Access officer is working with Monaghan Sports Partnership and Monaghan SNAP (Special Needs Active Parents) to design a template for a series of communication board that will be installed in playgrounds across the county. A communication board is a device that displays photos, symbols, or illustrations to help people with limited language skills express themselves. The user can gesture, point to, or blink at images to communicate with others.

Walking & Cycling Strategy

A draft of Monaghan's first Walking & Cycling Strategy was presented to the Transportation SPC March meeting where it was positively received. It will now proceed through a series of further consultation steps. It is hoped to have the final Strategy completed by Q3 2021.

Tidy Towns Network

An online Network meeting has been planned for 5th April. The agenda includes a tutorial on how to complete the new online entry process for the National Tidy Towns competition, which will proceed this year. The meeting will also feature input on how to convert a mowed area into a wildflower meadow, and how to create pollinator-rich planters.

National Tree Week

21-27 March marked National Tree Week, and Monaghan Co Co facilitated the distribution of 200 native saplings to communities, donated by Coillte and the Tree Council of Ireland. The event was also publicised on the Council's social media pages.

Monaghan Public Participation Network

Monaghan PPN recently held a PPN Climate Action Conversation with just over 20 community groups including Comhairle na nÓg in attendance. Members of staff from the Environment section and PPN provided support to groups in discussions during the workshops. The conversation is part of a country wide initiative by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to gather from our communities their hopes and concerns for local climate action, their recommendations for the design of the Climate Action Fund, and for the National Climate Action Plan.

The findings will also be used as part of the National Dialogue on Climate Action to engage people on climate change, motivate changes in behaviour and create enduring structures at local and national levels. Monaghan PPN will use the feedback received to collaborate with its Environmental groups in developing some key environmental initiatives later in the year.

Monaghan Sports Partnership (MSP)

Let's Get Active 2021

MSP extended the Let's Get Active programme to coincide with extension of level 5 restrictions up to the 5th of March. Upon completion, MSP conducted an evaluation report and received some very positive feedback from participants of all ages, some comments included:

"Many thanks for keeping us healthy and fit despite everything that is happening in the world around us."

"I am enjoying these classes so much. You have no idea! It's so wonderful for the likes of people like me to keep active. OAP, 71 years young!"

"I would just like to commend the fantastic instructors who delivered such a professional lesson each time. Also, a huge amount of gratitude to the organisers for offering such a great service in these difficult times - to say it has kept us going is an understatement. Thanks to one and all"

0 to 3K Walk to Jog Programme:

MSP launched our 0 to 3K Walk to Jog programme on the 1st of March. This is a FREE 6-week programme which is suitable for all ages and is ideal for complete beginners, and anyone who wishes to increase their walking fitness and progress to jogging with relative ease with the help of podcasts from an experienced coach.

Participants will receive two podcasts and session plans each week to guide them through each session. Our podcast coach will guide participants step by step each week making the transition from walking to jogging easier and more fun. 435 participants of all ages took part in this programme.

Be Active At Home Workout Series

Monaghan Sports Partnership launched the "Be Active At Home Workout Series" at the beginning of March. This is a FREE professionally produced exercise video resources for older adults and adults with a disability across county Monaghan. The "Be Active At Home Workout Series" resource comprises of 3 seated exercise routines and 3 standing exercise routines along with a separate flexibility session seated and a separate flexibility session standing. These sessions are ideal for complete beginners to exercise and can be completed from your own home. The resources are available on DVD and on USB so it can be used on DVD player, a laptop, tablet or Smart TV. MSP are promoting this initiative widely. Please contact MSP at lduffy2@monaghancoco.ie for further information or to request the DVD or USB.

Physical Literacy Workshop:

Monaghan Sports Partnership teamed up with Cavan Sports Partnership to deliver this workshop on Thursday the 4th March. This workshop has developed this course to give participants the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of physical literacy. Physical literacy is the foundation for lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity. There were 12 participants.

Athletics Ireland Assistant Coach Course:

On Thursday 4th March, MSP, in partnership with Athletics Ireland facilitated the Athletics Ireland Assistant Coach course. The aim of the assistant coach course is to give some basic skills to the beginner coach to help assist a more senior coach in the delivery of coaching sessions to young athletes. It is an introduction to coaching in three key event areas, Running (Sprints and Endurance), Jumping (Long Jump) and Throwing (Shot Putt). There were 21 participants from athletics clubs across County Monaghan.

Coaching Children Workshop Series:

Monaghan Sports Partnership again teamed up with our colleagues in Cavan Sports Partnership to facilitate this workshop series. This is a 6-week series of workshops which began on Thursday 11th March. The Coaching Children's Programme was developed to provide coaches and volunteers with a basic understanding of children's sport and physical activity and best ways to optimise children's enjoyment, participation and positive outcomes. The concepts of Physical Literacy and Holistic Development run throughout the series of workshops and will be covered in detail. There are 20 participants currently taking part in this series of workshops over the 6-week period.

PLANNING

PAUL CLIFFORD, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Development Management

Although the Planning Office remains closed to public access due to current COVID – 19 restrictions, all planning services are still functioning, and a drop-box at the Glen Road Offices is available for submission of applications. Applications and submissions can also be posted to the Planning Office in Dublin Street. The Planning staff are still working in two teams and the Planners are working remotely and engaging with agents, public and members by phone/video conference.

	February 2020	February 2021
Planning Permission	62	83
Retention	11	10
Extension of Durations	2	6
Exempt Development Applications Received	12	6
Total Applications Received	87	105

Forward Planning

A report on the comments and submissions in respect of the proposed deletion of 10 Dublin Street, Monaghan (Charles Gavan Duffy Building) from the Record of Protected Structures was drafted in March. Work also continued on preparing the Chief Executive's Report on the Two Year Progress Review on securing the objectives within the County Development Plan. Input was also provided on the drafting of the Local Area Action Plans for Carrickmacross.

Built Heritage

A shortlist of schemes recommended for funding in respect of Built Heritage Grants in 2021 was sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 12th of March 2021.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

PAUL CLIFFORD, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Brexit

We continue to recruit and deliver a number of Management Development Programmes as part of the €28 million Economic Stimulus Package for the Stimulus Region.

The status is as follows:

- Export programme – in delivery- 15 Monaghan businesses
- Retail Superior Programme- in delivery – 22 Monaghan businesses
- Innovation programme – Pilot in delivery
- Green for Micro- RFT generated and awaiting panel formation

The above programmes are aimed at building resilience, lean and competitiveness of Co. Monaghan businesses.

Enterprise Support Services

From 26th of January to 18th March, the LEO received 78 enquires into to the office. These inbound enquires were on grant/fund/advice/start up supports and exclude 'engagement' meetings and calls by the LEO Development officers made to portfolio development clients.

Trading Online Voucher – up to 16 Mar

Support	Applications Submitted	No. of Refusals	No. of Approvals	Value of Approvals €
Trading Online Voucher	6		6	12,125.00

Mentoring and Training – up to 16 Mar

Support	No. of Participants
Mentoring	21
Training	239

Enterprise Excellence Programme

This programme, developed by LEO staff, has caught the interest of Enterprise Ireland and they may wish to use elements of in in their national programme offering. The Enterprise Excellence programme was aimed to provide local businesses with the background knowledge and direct support to identify and implement opportunities within their business that will aim to improve productivity, eliminate waste, or increase competitiveness. The programme facilitated remote learning and collaboration between eleven participating businesses and was delivered through combination of group learning workshops and individual one to one mentoring sessions.

Entrepreneurship Support Services

The Student Enterprise Programme continues and the LEO will be hosting a virtual awards ceremony on 25th of March for the finalists.

Monaghan Women in Business

Monaghan Women in Business will host an interactive workshop to help the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing during these challenging times, facilitated by Miffy Hoad, Mental Health Ireland on Tue 23rd March.

TOURISM

PAUL CLIFFORD, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Rossmore Forest Park

The tender package for the Family Cycle Trail project has been finalised and is currently with Coillte for review and sign off before being uploaded onto the e-tenders website. It is anticipated that the tender process will be complete by end April.

Destination Town's Project - Monaghan

An initial design for the preferred location has now been submitted and is being reviewed in conjunction with the Planning Section. The outcome of this review will determine whether or not it will be progressed to detailed design stage.

'Make a break for Monaghan' Summer campaign

Whilst there is still uncertainty over re-opening times etc, a Summer campaign is being worked up at present so that it will be ready for roll-out. A campaign overview document was previously circulated to members and work is on-going on developing content, a new landing page on the tourism website, videos, blogs etc.

FIRE & CIVIL PROTECTION

PAUL CLIFFORD, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Fire Operations

Operational Callouts: Monaghan Fire and Civil Protection (MFCP) attended 27 emergency calls during February 2021, equivalent to same period in 2020. Call types attended during this period predominantly included, Road Traffic Collisions, Car/Tractor fires Chimney Fires and Monitoring alarm calls.

Training: Essential training and drills have recommenced in March with a new revised programme to ensure fire personnel safety. 7 No. fire personnel completed Emergency First Responder training held in the new Civil Defence HQ Building. Communication continues to be maintained with crews via regular Microsoft Teams to provide up-to-date information on emergency and operational response procedures.

Severe Weather: The National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management (NDFEM) Crisis Management Team held a virtual workshop on 31st March on role of Severe Weather Assessment Teams, Wild-land/forest fires and electronic information management systems.

Wildland fires: MFCP are collaborating with Pau Costa Foundation, a non-profit organisation working for a better management of wildfires under the aegis of the CANN Project (Collaborative Action for the Natura Network), a cross-border environment project. Under the framework of the CANN project it is planned to develop a Wildfire Management Plan of Sliabh Beagh.

H&S: An independent audit process associated with renewal of ISO 45001 was successfully completed in March and the NSAI has subsequently recommended for continued registration. The audit outlined scope for improvement in terms of asset management and specifically the development of a comprehensive risk registers and implementation of detailed Confined Space training programme.

Fleet: Training associated with delivery of a new Class B Fire Appliance is due mid-April. This new model is built on a Scania P320 chassis and its specifications will include flow meters and a CAFS suppression system, a larger crew cab and extra reflective markings and 'repeater' lights which will improve visibility for other road users,



New MFCP Fire Appliance 2021

The new chassis for the water tanker is currently with coachbuilder and due for delivery in July.

Fire Prevention & Building Control

Building Control: Building Control activity in to date in 2021 included the processing of 21 No. Fire Safety Certificates (FSC's & 7-day notices), 17 No. Planning referrals, 53 No. Commencement Notices (including opt-out, within 7 without doc's), 11 No. Licencing applications along with the inspection of 46 units under construction. Building Control have also received 21 No. Certificate of Compliance on Completion (CCC) applications.

Fire Prevention & Community Fire Safety: Fire Safety Inspections and pre-application meetings continue to be conducted during the current restrictions were possible in a virtual format. Fire Safety activity has involved the development of the 'bfiresafe@school project' with secondary schools and fire Safety advice packs have also been issued to community groups via the PPN and directly to the Traveller Community.

Civil Defence

The new Civil Defence HQ in Monaghan has continued to be the command centre for all Civil Defence deployment during the Covid-19 Pandemic focusing on supporting the HSE, the Community Hotline and local communities.

Civil Defence Volunteers have completed over 72 duties in 2021 to date and continue to be actively supporting the HSE in vaccination. Examples of the tasks Civil Defence volunteers have undertaken during this period include:

- Transportation duties: Duties include patient transfers to hospitals, nursing homes, and testing & vaccinations centres,
- Medical cover at outdoor events & Irish Blood Transfusion Service.



**Civil Defence Volunteers delivering Monaghan County Council's
community response**

Essential training and activities completed to date in 2021:

- Development of online training teams
- Emergency & Cardiac First Responder online
- Weekly Check all medical supplies and equipment in CD Vehicles,
- Decontamination of vehicle, equipment and re-stock PPE after each duty/event

CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

ADGE KING, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Climate Action

During March the Government published The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021. This bill will support Ireland's transition to Net Zero and achieve a climate neutral economy by no later than 2050 and it will establish a legally binding framework with clear targets and commitments set in law, and ensure the necessary structures and processes are embedded on a statutory basis to ensure we achieve our national, EU and international climate goals and obligations in the near and long term. The bill also places new requirements on local authorities.

Within 18 months of enactment of the Bill, the Minister must request local authorities to prepare, within 12 months, individual Climate Action Plans to include both mitigation and adaptation measures. These plans must be updated every five years and will be prepared in so far as practicable to be consistent with the national Climate Action Plan and National Adaptation Framework and have regard to other relevant climate policies. The Minister may issue guidelines to support the preparation of the plans and local authorities will be required to consult with the Public Participation Networks and also liaise with neighbouring authorities.

The Planning and Development Act 2000, which requires development plans to include objectives in respect of climate action, will also be amended to provide the approved local authority Climate Action Plan is taken account of in the preparation of any future development plan. This will ensure appropriate alignment between the local authority Climate Action Plans and their development plans.

Action 165 of the Government's Climate Action Plan 2019 requires Local Authorities to identify and develop plans for one Decarbonising Zone and this is also underpinned by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021. A Decarbonising Zone (DZ) is an area spatially identified by the local authority, in which a range of climate mitigation measures can co-exist to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs. The range of policies and projects developed are specific to the energy and climate characteristics of the spatial area covered by the DZ. Monaghan County Council is presently in the process of finalising the selection of a DZ with the aim of identifying a decarbonising zone by April 30th 2021. Each Local Authority is required to develop a DZ implementation plan by the end of 2021.

Pollinator Friendly Webinar

This hugely popular webinar organised by the Environmental Services as part of a Climate Action awareness for individuals and groups, took place on 23rd March last with Dr. Fiona MacGowan, Consultant Ecologist, Botanist and National Tidy Town Adjudicator. With over 90 attendees present on the night, Dr. Fiona explained the how's and why's of the importance of pollinator planting, statistics on the reduction in numbers of native species including the bee and curlews, tips, images and ideas of what to plant for Tidy Town Groups and individual., Dr. Fiona also incorporated Monaghan County Council's "Don't Mow" pilot project into the event, showing examples of other counties where this was rolled out. Dr. Fiona explained the benefits of letting grass areas and verges develop naturally thus allowing Ireland's native wildflower to seed and grow, by minimising and lifting grass cutting cycles regardless of the size of the area. The webinar can be viewed here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8GM6Znd2XBE&lc=UgzEFAav4o4XnSjvDAF4AaABAg>

Orchard in O'Neill Park Clones

Environmental Services collaborated with Clones Town Team, Clones Tidy Towns and Monaghan Horticulturist, to plant an Orchard in O'Neill Park, Clones. This orchard hosts 30 mature native Irish fruit trees, including a selection of apple and pear trees. The purpose of this orchard is to raise awareness of the climatic benefits of trees to communities and their contribution to biodiversity and pollination. As National Tree Week took place from Saturday 21st of March to Saturday 27th of March 2021, it was an apt time to have completed this project.

National Waste Enforcement Priorities: Update on End of Life Vehicles Priority

In 2020, 8 unauthorised end-of-life vehicle (ELV) sites were identified by Monaghan County Council using aerial photography. These sites consisted of the storage of ELV's, but also some small-scale dismantling of vehicles, ranging from 5 to 50 vehicles onsite. To date, 23 inspections have been carried out on these 8 sites, with 3 of these sites now remediated. It is hoped that the remaining sites will be remediated in early 2021. Remediation is generally slow, due to the restrictions resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. Apart from these restrictions, the main difficulty encountered was distinguishing on an individual basis what was an ELV and what wasn't. In some cases, the site owner was a car enthusiast collecting older cars and storing them. In these cases, if the owner could demonstrate the vehicles roadworthiness, the vehicle was considered to not be an ELV. Three more sites have been identified for 2021, with further sites to be investigated as they are identified.

Environmental Inspection Plan Update: Waste

In the first two months of the year the following has been completed

Number of complaints received: 104
Number of inspections completed: 150
Number of warning Letters: 3
Number of Section 14 Directions: 6
Number of on the spot litter fines: 13

Environmental Inspection Plan Update: Water

The Water quality has commenced its annual program of Water Framework Directive sampling of rivers and lakes in County Monaghan. During the course of 2021, technicians will be collecting 208 samples from 37 river locations and 80 samples from 19 lake locations throughout the county. Once obtained the samples are transferred to the regional EPA laboratory in Monaghan for subsequent analysis. This sampling program which is delivered nationally by local authorities plays a very important part in the classification of water quality in waterbodies nationally and in informing the work programs and measures to be delivered under the national River Basin Management Plan.

Historical Landfills

During March Monaghan County Council finally received Certificates of Authorisation for two historical landfills in the County, at Killycard and Killycronaghan. These are the first authorisations received by Monaghan County Council for closed public landfills that were previously operated by the local authority during the period 1977 to 1997. Under the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008 all such landfills require EPA authorisation. The next stage in the regulatory process is to seek planning regularisation through a formal application to An Bord Pleanala. It is the intention to lodge an application to An Bord Pleanala in the latter half of 2021. Once the planning status on the sites has been regularised the final stage will be to seek departmental funding to progress remediation works on the sites. It is likely that remediation costs will be significant (approx. €1.5 Million each for both Killycard and Killycronaghan). It is expected that these remediation works will be 100% funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

Technical Amendment of Scotch Corner Licence

Environmental services are continuing to progress a technical amendment application with the EPA to amend the current waste licence at Scotch Corner. In February, the EPA requested additional information in relation to the boundary of the proposed amended licence. On March 10th a reply to the further information request was formally submitted to the Agency. The current licence which was granted back in 2001 has conditions which are considered out of date and restrictive and is preventing the site from maximising its full potential. If the technical amendment proposal is successful, this would allow the Recycling Centre at Scotch Corner to operate under a Waste Facility Permit which would facilitate an increase in the range of waste activities allowed on site thereby further allowing

Monaghan County Council to further maximise the potential of the facility. Currently, the EPA licensing section are assessing the application and whilst there is not a prescribed date by which the EPA has to issue its decision, it is anticipated that an EPA decision may be issued during Q2 2021

Control of Horses Report 2020

Monaghan County Council received 11 complaints concerning 44 horses in 2020. 4 of these complaints related to stray horses and 7 were concerned about the welfare of the horses. 10 of the 11 complaints required investigation. 3 of the welfare complaints were investigated with the assistance of the MSPCA. The complaints were resolved. No horses were seized by Monaghan County Council in 2020. This is the first year that no horses were seized by the Council since 2011.

WATER SERVICES

ADGE KING, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Update on Capital Programme

Below is brief outline of capital works currently being progressed by Irish Water.

Wastewater Works:

Carrickmacross Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Going out to tender in April '21 with a construction start date anticipated in early 2022.

Inlet Works Storm & Sludge Programme

Clones, Ballybay & Smithboro WWTP's - Design Process to commence for Clones in Q2 2021.

Small Towns & Village Growth Programme

Future upgrades planned for Glaslough, Newbliss Clontibret & Oram WWTP's. However, Newbliss WWTP has been identified as a priority project and will move to design phase in 2021.

Solar Photovoltaic Phase 2

Installation of a solar panel bank at Monaghan Waste Water Treatment Plant site under Irish Waters climate action program – works at design stage.

Water Works:

Mains Rehabilitation and Leakage Reduction Programme

Replacement of 1500m of existing water main at Cortolvin and Park Rd, Killyconnigan in design phase. The site investigation is scheduled to commence in April with construction to start shortly thereafter. Consultation with Monaghan Municipal District has taken place.

Replacement of 220m of existing 100mm AC in the centre of Castleblaney that was not completed due to courthouse damage is programmed for construction phase this year.

Replacement of 2800m section of old cast iron watermain on the Clones road from Newbliss village is at design phase for replacement in 2021. The existing cast iron mains is resulting in high iron noncompliance with current drinking water regulations.

Transfer of 8 No. Back Yard Services connections to the public main at the end Terrace at the bottom of the Mall Road in Monaghan Town is scheduled for construction phase this year.

Disinfection Programme

The works are progressing at Crosses and Clones Water Treatment Plant and will be completed Q3 2021. M&E work ongoing at Togan Water Treatment Plant.

Tranche 5 Schemes

The Tranche 5 project (6 schemes outlined below) were submitted in 2019 but have yet to receive approval to go to design/construction stage.

Schemes in order of priority are as follows: -

- Carnaveagh DMA, Lough Egish (150mm UPVC pipe, replacement)
- Clones South DMA, Newtownbutler Road (100mm CI, replacement)
- Ballybay North DMA, Clones Road (150mm Ac & 100mm CI, replacement)
- Scotshouse Village, Rath Brae (75 & 25mm uPVC, replacement)
- Scotshouse Village, Clones Road (32mm uPVC, replacement)
- Scotshouse West, Redhills Road (50mm uPVC across fields, replace on road)

Councillor Clinics - 2021

Due to the ongoing Covid 19 restrictions limiting direct contact - Irish Water have indicated that they will hold a clinic via zoom with elected members.

Irish Water will make direct contact with elected members about arrangements etc.

Irish Water's local Representative Support Desk:

The elected members are reminded that Irish Water has established a local representative support desk to deal specifically with concerns and questions they may have.

The contact details are;

Email: localrepsupport@water.ie

Tel: 1850 178 178

CORPORATE SERVICES

CATHAL FLYNN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Monaghan Peace Campus Progress

Works completed to date include:

- Erection of Site boundary protection and security systems.
- Site Clearance and mobilisation to site.
- Establishment of site compound, office and welfare accommodations.
- Installation of foundation bearing piles and associated mini piling.
- Erection of Tower Crane and associated foundations.

Works currently ongoing include:

- Casting of foundation pile caps, ground beams and associated stair core foundation slabs.
- Fixing of reinforcement to pile caps, level 0 structural columns, level 0 podium ramp walls and level 0 stair core walls.
- Construction of ESB sub-station.
- Construction of level 0 lift core structure.
- Construction of 2 nr. Attenuation tank bases.
- Storm drainage pipework and service ducting.

July 2020



August 2020



September 2020



October 2020



October 2020



November 2020



November 2020



December 2020



December 2020



January 2021



HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**CATHAL FLYNN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES****Staff Appointments**

Ms. Sinead McCann was appointed Administrative Officer with effect from the 15th March 2021.

Staff Retirements

Mr. Des Conlon, Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney retired on the 25th March 2021

Training Programme – March/April 2021

Name of Course	Dates	Duration	Numbers to be trained
IAT Training	20 th and 21 st March 2021	2 days	3 staff
Road Opening – Reinstatement Course Basic	6 th April 2021	2 days	1 Staff
IOSH Safety Health for Construction – New	8 th , 9 th , 15 th and 16 th April 2021	4 days	1 staff
Budget Management and Costing	15 th April 2021	1 day	12 staff
Agresso Training	4 th May 2021	1 day	4 Staff



Eamon O'Sullivan
Chief Executive
Monaghan County Council

Carmel Thornton

From: Robbie Gallagher <Robbie.Gallagher@oireachtas.ie>
Sent: 30 March 2021 16:57
To: Carmel Thornton; Robbie Gallagher
Subject: RE: North South Interconnector - Resolution from Mon. Co. Co

Carmel a chara,

I hope this finds you well at this time.

I acknowledge receipt of your email and note its contents.

I will continue to contact Minister Ryan and his Department officials in this matter.

I will send on any correspondence I receive in this.

You can update the members that I secured a commitment from An Taoiseach Micheál Martin to a review of the North-South Interconnector.

Keep well, stay safe.

Many thanks,

Robbie



Best Wishes &
Kind Regards,
Robbie



Email: robbie.gallagher@oir.ie
086-8161929

Monaghan Office,
18 Glaslough Street,
Monaghan,
Co. Monaghan.
☎ 047 75050
087-2873511



FIANNA Fáil
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY
CAVAN - MONAGHAN



Seanad
Éireann

From: Carmel Thornton <cthorno@monaghancoco.ie>

Sent: 26 March 2021 14:31

To: Robbie Gallagher <Robbie.Gallagher@oireachtas.ie>; Diarmuid Wilson <Diarmuid.Wilson@oireachtas.ie>; Joe O'Reilly <Joe.OReilly@oireachtas.ie>; Brendan Smith <Brendan.Smith@oireachtas.ie>; Heather Humphreys <Heather.Humphreys@oireachtas.ie>; Matt Carthy <Matt.Carthy@oireachtas.ie>; Niamh Smyth <Niamh.Smyth@oireachtas.ie>; Pauline Tully <Pauline.Tully@oireachtas.ie>

Subject: North South Interconnector - Resolution from Mon. Co. Co

Dear Minister/Deputy/Senator

At the March meeting of Monaghan County Council, the members passed the following resolution and I was directed to forward same to you for attention –

That Monaghan County Council renews its request to the Minister for Climate Action, Communications and Transport, Eamon Ryan TD & all Oireachtas Members for the Cavan-Monaghan Constituency for a meeting to again outline the total opposition of members to the over-grounding of the North-South 400Kv Interconnector and to again inform them clearly that this project will never proceed over the lands of Monaghan, Cavan and Meath.

QUESTIONS

APRIL 2021

Cllr C. Carthy will ask:

1. In relation to the Conabury Hill Housing Estate, Castleblayney, will the council:
 - (a) commit to engaging with private landowners adjacent to this estate to establish a downhill sewerage connection to the public waste system (rather than the current system of pumping waste uphill to public system)?
 - (b) consider replacing the damaged timber fence surrounding the estates waste treatment plant with a proper, heavy-duty, steel fence to ensure access is completely restricted to unauthorised individuals?
2. Has Monaghan County Council been given any update on the Carrickmacross Group Home by the HSE or Respond and have they confirmed when:
 - (a) The final snag works will be concluded?
 - (b) It is envisaged the operators will be starting on site?
 - (c) It is expected that residents will be moving in?
3. What works are planned to further deal with urban dereliction in Co. Monaghan in 2021 and are there any plans in place to bring unused housing units in town centres back into use?

Cllr N. Keelan will ask:

4.
 - (a) How many families/individuals are availing of the housing assistance payment (HAP) at present across the county?
 - (b) what is the breakdown per municipal district, given that this payment is made directly to private landlords
 - (c) how much is this scheme costing to run per month/annum?
5. In relation to septic tank inspections and the protection of our water quality and environment,
 - (a) how many septic tanks were inspected since the introduction of the grant aid scheme back in 2013?
 - (b) what was the outcome of these inspections?
 - (c) how many grants were paid out to date for the upgrading of septic tanks that have failed inspection since 2013?
6. In relation to the Sliabh Dubh estate at Corduff and acknowledging the remedial works carried out by this council regarding the waste water treatment plant and other associated works, when is it hoped to progress and complete the taken in charge process?

7. What is the up to date position in relation to the upgrading of the Dundalk to Cavan regional road (R178) in particular the section from Carrickmacross to Sherlock town?
8. What is the up to date position in relation to the Local Lane Improvement Scheme (LIS) number of lanes on the list, funding available, when the scheme will be open to new applicants etc?

Cllr S. Treanor will ask:

9. What was the final cost of the last phase of the N2 road from Corracrin to Emyvale?

Cllr S. Conlon will ask:

10. Further to my proposal at the February 8th meeting to write to Minister Darragh O'Brien TD and Minister Heather Humphries TD highlighting the inadequate level of Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) to recipients dealing with increased rents, what number of households have applied and received a discretionary top up to their HAP payment and of these, how many received the full entitlement of the 20% top-up?
11. In ensuring a multi-agency stakeholder approach in developing and promoting safe cycling and walking routes especially for children, will the relevant Council Sections engage with local schools in assisting with advice and support in applications made under the recently announced Safe Routes to School Programme?
12. For the purpose of maximising opportunities for local business and service providers to tender for Council contracts, particularly for contracts that fall below the EU tender threshold of €50,000 for the provision of works and works related services, and €25,000 for provision of supplies and services contracts, I ask the Council's Procurement Section to increase their level of advertising in this regard across all media formats.

NOTICES OF MOTION

APRIL 2021

Cllr McCooey will move:

1. That Monaghan County Council commits to self-funding The Flood Mitigation Scheme for the L3720 at Annadrummond, Castleblayney, County Monaghan on the condition that the next application for funding to the OPW (Office of Public Works) is unsuccessful.

Cllrs McKenna & P. Treanor will move:

2. In view of the importance of the poultry sector to this country and particularly to this region, that this Council calls on the Minister, and Dept. of Agriculture, to set up a permanent compensation fund in order to protect the poultry sector from the ongoing disease outbreaks that have intensified in the last few years.

Cllr Coyle will move:

3. That Monaghan County Council demand off the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD and the Government, the immediate implementation of the changes to the Nursing Homes Support Scheme commonly referred to as the Fair Deal Scheme, as committed to by the previous government, to place caps of three years on family owned farms and businesses, when accessing/calculating the means to pay/charges for Nursing Home Care, as the current system is potentially disastrous for family successors viability.

Cllrs Bennett, Carthy & Keelan will move:

4. In solidarity with community groups and clubs that will be relied upon to provide community socialising and public events following the lifting of Covid restrictions, and that over the past year have experienced a decimation of finances, that Monaghan County Council write to the relevant Government Departments seeking the introduction of a funding stream aimed at Communities Resourced to Rejuvenate And Inspire Connections (CRRIC) that will encourage voluntary led groups to organise neighbourhood / community celebration events similar to previous Council supported initiatives 'Street Feast' and the 'Big Hello' where neighbours and friends meet to celebrate a family fun day aimed boosting community spirit.

Cllr Conlon will move:

5. That this Council seeks clarification from the Office of Data Commissioner, Minister for Justice Helen McEntee T.D. and Minister for Environment, Eamon Ryan T.D. regarding lack of provisions contained in both the Waste Management Act and the Litter Pollution Act for the use of CCTV acquired evidence by local authorities in legal proceedings.