



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

# 2021

Cork County Council  
Annual Report





# 2021

Cork County Council  
**Annual Report**

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# Message from



**Cllr. Gillian Coughlan**

*Mayor of the County of Cork*



**& Tim Lucey**

*Chief Executive of Cork County Council*

We are pleased to present herein Cork County Council's Annual Report for 2021, which outlines the vast scope of activities, services, and supports undertaken by Cork County Council in support of the communities we serve. 2021 was a remarkable year, beginning with what would be the last and longest lockdown but also showcasing resilience in terms of supporting the return of social and community life in our public spaces.

After a year of responding to the challenges of the pandemic, local resilience was at an all-time high, with the huge range of funding and support was eagerly met by businesses and community groups who, with the rollout of the vaccine, would demonstrate a rejuvenation in every aspect of life in Cork.

We made €1.8 Million funding available to the voluntary sector who did immeasurably important work in their communities since the onset of Covid 19 in Ireland. A further €65,000 Covid Emergency fund was greenlit to assist community and voluntary groups with operational costs. To say that volunteerism was the lifeblood of the Cork County Community at this time would be an understatement. Their efforts, and the community support made available by and for people in all aspects of life Countywide is commemorated in Charleville with the Meitheal monument on the plaza, named after the ancient tradition of cooperation in service of social need.

Six Cork County Towns were awarded Town and Village Renewal funding. Cork County were also awarded €3.2 million in Outdoor Recreation funding and allocated €15 million for sustainable travel projects. We also welcomed a 42% increase in National Roads Allocation, all measures which have made and continue to make a positive impact on connectivity in our towns and villages.

As restrictions eased, we witnessed a resurgence of social, cultural and economic activity, as people came together with due regard for each other's safety. The Council provided support with its Cork Co Co Pops series of concerts and performances and the excellent Explore Cork tourism app to showcase all the beautiful amenities and businesses available to residents and visitors alike.

The people of Cork County and visitors were kept abreast of the many positive developments as well as the whole host of supported activities through the Council's website and corporate social media accounts, providing for a range of interests from environmental awareness, culture and heritage, local improvements and community supports.

The renewed interest in our local amenities felt countywide after travel restrictions was met with an incredible amount of public realm and amenity improvements – playgrounds, parks pathways, boardwalks, murals – and in a defining moment for the County, the opening of the People's Park, Haulbowline.

Our annual report contains highlights from throughout the county that show just how much can be accomplished when local communities, businesses and local authorities come together. The momentum we built up in 2021 continues to this day, driving powerful improvements for individuals and communities. Given the challenges we all faced, it is truly inspiring to see what can be achieved here in Cork, and we are confident that 2021 will be celebrated for the amount that was achieved for our communities.



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

A photograph of a modern building with large glass windows and a red overlay. The text "Elected Members of Council" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image. The background shows a multi-story building with a curved facade and a glass railing in the foreground. The red overlay is semi-transparent, allowing the building's details to be visible.

# Elected Members of Council



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

***Carrigaline Municipal District:***

Cllr. Audrey Buckley  
Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan  
Cllr. Jack White  
Cllr. Marcia D'Alton  
Cllr. Seamus McGrath  
Cllr. Michael Paul Murtagh

***Macroom Municipal District:***

Cllr. Eileen Lynch  
Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan  
Cllr. Martin Coughlan  
Cllr. Michael Creed  
Cllr. Michael Looney  
Cllr. Ted Lucey

***Cobh Municipal District***

Cllr. Alan O'Connor  
Cllr. Anthony Barry  
Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen  
Cllr. Sean O'Connor  
Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan  
Cllr. Sinead Sheppard

***Bandon-Kinsale Municipal District***

Cllr. Alan Coleman  
Cllr. Gillian Coughlan  
Cllr. John O'Sullivan  
Cllr. Kevin Murphy  
Cllr. Marie O'Sullivan  
Cllr. Sean O'Donovan

***Fermoy Municipal District***

Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien  
Cllr. Frank O'Flynn  
Cllr. Frank Roche  
Cllr. Kay Dawson  
Cllr. Noel McCarthy  
Cllr. William O'Leary

***Kanturk-Mallow Municipal District***

Cllr. Bernard Moynihan  
Cllr. Gearóid Murphy  
Cllr. Gerard Murphy  
Cllr. Ian Doyle  
Cllr. James Kennedy  
Cllr. John Paul O'Shea  
Cllr. Liam Madden  
Cllr. Pat Hayes  
Cllr. Tony O'Shea

***East Cork Municipal District***

Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern  
Cllr. Danielle Twomey  
Cllr. Liam Quaide  
Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley  
Cllr. Michael Hegarty  
Cllr. Noel Collins  
Cllr. Susan McCarthy

***West Cork Municipal District***

Cllr. Danny Collins  
Cllr. Declan Hurley  
Cllr. Deirdre Kelly  
Cllr. Joe Carroll  
Cllr. Karen Coakley  
Cllr. Katie Murphy  
Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy  
Cllr. Paul Hayes  
Cllr. Ross O'Connell





## Committee & Subsidiary Body Membership

### Northern Committee

Cllr. Kay Dawson	Cllr. Ian Doyle	Cllr. Pat Hayes	Cllr. James Kennedy
Cllr. Liam Madden	Cllr. Noel McCarthy	Cllr. Bernard Moynihan	Cllr. Gearóid Murphy
Cllr. Gerard Murphy	Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien	Cllr. Frank O'Flynn	Cllr. William O'Leary
Cllr. John Paul O'Shea	Cllr. Tony O'Shea	Cllr. Frank Roche	

### Southern Committee

Cllr. Anthony Barry	Cllr. Audrey Buckley	Cllr. Noel Collins	Cllr. Martin Coughlan
Cllr. Michael Creed	Cllr. Marcia D'Alton	Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan	Cllr. Michael Hegarty
Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley	Cllr. Michael Paul Murtagh	Cllr. Michael Looney	Cllr. Ted Lucey
Cllr. Eileen Lynch	Cllr. Susan McCarthy	Cllr. Seamus McGrath	Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan
Cllr. Alan O'Connor	Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern	Cllr. Jack White	Cllr. Seán O'Connor
Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan	Cllr. Liam Quaide	Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen	Cllr. Sinéad Sheppard
Cllr. Danielle Twomey			

### Western Committee

Cllr. Deirdre Kelly	Cllr. Joe Carroll	Cllr. Karen Coakley	Cllr. Alan Coleman
Cllr. Danny Collins	Cllr. Gillian Coughlan	Cllr. Paul Hayes	Cllr. Declan Hurley
Cllr. Katie Murphy	Cllr. Kevin Murphy	Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy	Cllr. Seán O'Donovan
Cllr. Ross O'Connell	Cllr. John O'Sullivan	Cllr. Marie O'Sullivan	

### Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

Mayor Gillian Coughlan	Cllr. Anthony Barry	Cllr. Alan Coleman	Cllr. Declan Hurley
Cllr. Seamus McGrath	Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan	Cllr. Michael Hegarty	Cllr. Frank O'Flynn
Cllr. John Paul O'Shea		Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy	

### SPC No. 1 – Planning & Strategic Development

Cllr. Joe Carroll	Cllr. Alan Coleman	Cllr. Noel Collins	Cllr. Michael Hegarty
Cllr. James Kennedy	Cllr. Michael Paul Murtagh	Cllr. Ted Lucey	Cllr. Liam Madden
Cllr. Séamus McGrath	Cllr. Bernard Moynihan	Cllr. Frank O'Flynn	Cllr. Tony O'Shea
Cllr. Frank Roche	Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan		

### Non-Elected Representatives

Prof. Donagh Berry	Billy Cotter	Michael O'Flynn	Aiden O'Neill
Bernadette Connolly	Carol Harpur	Tadgh Quill-Manley	

### SPC No. 2 – Environment, Climate Action & Biodiversity

Cllr. Anthony Barry	Cllr. Audrey Buckley	Cllr. Deirdre Kelly	Cllr. Marcia D'Alton
Cllr. Michael Looney	Cllr. Gerard Murphy	Cllr. Kevin Murphy	Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien
Cllr. Alan O'Connor	Cllr. Liam O'Connor	Cllr. Seán O'Donovan	Cllr. Ross O'Connell
Cllr. Liam Quaide	Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen		

**Non-Elected Representatives**

Chris Hayes	Cian Murphy	Madeleine Murray	Raffaella Valenti
Michael O'Shea	Caitriona Courtney	Conor O'Brien	Proinsias O'Tuama

**SPC No. 3 – Economic Development & Enterprise**

Cllr. Martin Coughlan	Cllr. Kay Dawson	Cllr. Pat Hayes	Cllr. Paul Hayes
Cllr. Michael Hegarty	Cllr. James Kennedy	Cllr. Noel McCarthy	Cllr. Susan McCarthy
Cllr. Gearoid Murphy	Cllr. Gerard Murphy	Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern	Cllr. Frank O'Flynn
Cllr. John Paul O'Shea	Cllr. John O'Sullivan		

**Non-Elected Representatives**

Michael Delargey	Jimmy Hosford	Aidan Mangan	Bryan O'Donnell
Dr. John Hobbs	Seamus Coffee	Martin Corkery	Owen Hurley

**SPC No. 4 – Tourism**

Cllr. Joe Carroll	Cllr. Karen Coakley	Cllr. Alan Coleman	Cllr. Danny Collins
Cllr. Pat Hayes	Cllr. Paul Hayes	Cllr. Declan Hurley	Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley
Cllr. Susan McCarthy	Cllr. Seán O'Connor	Cllr. Seán O'Donovan	Cllr. Deirdre Kelly
Cllr. John O'Sullivan	Cllr. Marie O'Sullivan		

**Non-Elected Representatives**

Derry Cronin	Clayton Love	Aaron Mansworth	Valerie Murphy
Josephine O'Driscoll	Eileen O'Shea	Doug Lucey	

**SPC No. 5 – Housing**

Cllr. Anthony Barry	Cllr. Danny Collins	Cllr. Noel Collins	Cllr. Gillian Coughlan
Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan	Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley	Cllr. Liam Madden	Cllr. Noel McCarthy
Cllr. Séamus McGrath	Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy	Cllr. Seán O'Connor	Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen
Cllr. Sinead Sheppard	Cllr. Danielle Twomey		

**Non-Elected Representatives**

Colm J. Cronin	Susan R. Cullen	Stephen McCarthy
Eileen Kelly McCarthy	Jose Ospina	Margarita O'Driscoll

**SPC No. 6 – Roads & Transport**

Cllr. Gillian Coughlan	Cllr. Michael Creed	Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan	Cllr. Declan Hurley
Cllr. Michael Paul Murtagh	Cllr. Michael Looney	Cllr. Ted Lucey	Cllr. Eileen Lynch
Cllr. Kevin Murphy	Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien	Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern	Cllr. William O'Leary
Cllr. Tony O'Shea	Cllr. Frank Roche	Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern	Cllr. William O'Leary

**Non-Elected Representatives**

John Bowen	Seán Carrigy	Supt. Brendan Fogarty	Seán Twohig
Dr Darren McAdam-O'Connell	Bríd Coakley	Tim Hanley	Aled S Williams

## **SPC No. 7 – Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development**

Cllr. Audrey Buckley	Cllr. Michael Creed	Cllr. Marcia D’Alton	Cllr. Kay Dawson
Cllr. Ian Doyle	Cllr. Eileen Lynch	Cllr. Bernard Moynihan	Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan
Cllr. Katie Murphy	Cllr. John Paul O’Shea	Cllr. Marie O’Sullivan	Cllr. Liam Quaide
Cllr. Danielle Twomey			

### **Non-Elected Representatives**

Eddie Mullins	Ana Ospina	Mair Kelly	Pauline O’Dwyer
Gavin Falk	Pat Dooley		

## **SPC No. 8 – Arts, Culture & Language**

Cllr. Ross O’Connell	Cllr. Karen Coakley	Cllr. Martin Coughlan	Cllr. Ian Doyle
Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan	Cllr. Gearóid Murphy	Cllr. Katie Murphy	Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy
Cllr. Alan O’Connor	Cllr. Jack White	Cllr. William O’Leary	Cllr. Sheila O’Callaghan
Cllr. Sinead Sheppard			

### **Non-Elected Representatives**

Kenneth Buckley	Ann Davoren	Geoff Gould	Mary Hegarty
Eamon Lankford	Colum Cronin	Micheal De Buitleir	Judith Gilbert

## **LCDC South**

Cllr. Marcia D’Alton	Cllr. Michael Hegarty	Cllr. Séamus McGrath	Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen
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## **LCDC West**

Cllr. Alan Coleman	Cllr. Declan Hurley	Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy	Cllr. John O’Sullivan
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## **Audit Committee**

Cllr. Declan Hurley	Cllr. James Kennedy	Cllr. John O’Sullivan
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### **Non-Elected Representatives**

Dr. Philip Byrne	Dr. Michelle Carr	Edel Clancy	Eileen O’Shea
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## **Coastal Management Committee**

Cllr. Audrey Buckley	Cllr. Ross O’Connell	Cllr. Joe Carroll	Cllr. Karen Coakley
Cllr. Danny Collins	Cllr. Marcia D’Alton	Cllr. Michael Hegarty	Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley
Cllr. Kevin Murphy	Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern	Cllr. Jack White	Cllr. Deirdre Kelly
Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen	Cllr. Sinead Sheppard		

## **County Library Committee**

Cllr. Anthony Barry	Cllr. Noel Collins	Cllr. Martin Coughlan	Cllr. Marcia D’Alton
Cllr. Ian Doyle	Cllr. Noel McCarthy	Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern	

## **International & European Affairs Committee**

Cllr. Audrey Buckley	Cllr. Joe Carroll	Cllr. Alan Coleman	Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan
Cllr. Kay Dawson	Cllr. Ian Doyle	Cllr. Eileen Lynch	Cllr. Susan McCarthy
Cllr. Gerard Murphy	Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien	Cllr. Alan O'Connor	Cllr. Frank O'Flynn
Cllr. William O'Leary			

## **National Monuments Committee**

Cllr. Audrey Buckley	Cllr. Danny Collins	Cllr. Michael Looney	Cllr. Liam Madden
Cllr. Susan McCarthy	Cllr. Kevin Murphy	Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien	Cllr. Alan O'Connor

## **Commemorations Committee**

Cllr. Anthony Barry	Cllr. Alan Coleman	Cllr. Ian Doyle	Cllr. Paul Hayes
Cllr. Declan Hurley	Cllr. Eileen Lynch	Cllr. Noel McCarthy	Cllr. Susan McCarthy
Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan	Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien	Cllr. Frank O'Flynn	

## **Rural Water Monitoring Committee**

Cllr. Anthony Barry	Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan	Cllr. Kay Dawson	Cllr. Ian Doyle
Cllr. Paul Hayes	Cllr. Eileen Lynch	Cllr. John O'Sullivan	

## **Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee**

Cllr. Gillian Coughlan	Cllr. Ian Doyle	Cllr. Paul Hayes	Cllr. Michael Hegarty
Cllr. Ted Lucey	Cllr. Michael Paul Murtagh	Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen	Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien

## **Joint Policing Committee**

Cllr. Joe Carroll	Cllr. Karen Coakley	Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan	Cllr. Kay Dawson
Cllr. Ian Doyle	Cllr. Michael Paul Murphy	Cllr. Michael Looney	Cllr. Ted Lucey
Cllr. Gearóid Murphy	Cllr. Kevin Murphy	Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien	Cllr. Seán O'Donovan
Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen	Cllr. Frank Roche	Cllr. Danielle Twomey	

## **CASP Policy Committee**

Cllr. Marcia D'Alton	Cllr. Pat Hayes	Cllr. Liam Madden	Cllr. Noel McCarthy
Cllr. Susan McCarthy	Cllr. Séamus McGrath	Cllr. Gearóid Murphy	Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan
Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern	Cllr. Liam Quaide		

## **Southern Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force**

Cllr. Ian Doyle

## **Cork County Sports Partnership**

Cllr. Kay Dawson	Cllr. Declan Hurley	Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan
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## **Irish Public Bodies**

Cllr. James Kennedy

## **Cobh Heritage Trust CLG**

Cllr. Seán O'Connor

## **Cork Education & Training Board**

Cllr. Karen Coakley

Cllr. Martin Coughlan

Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan

Cllr. Kay Dawson

Cllr. James Kennedy

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy

## **Regional Assembly**

Cllr. Joe Carroll

Cllr. Gerard Murphy

Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien

Cllr. Seán O'Connor

Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan

## **Regional Health Forum**

Cllr. Audrey Buckley

Cllr. Danny Collins

Cllr. Pat Hayes

Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley

Cllr. Eileen Lynch

Cllr. Susan McCarthy

Cllr. Gearóid Murphy

Cllr. Katie Murphy

Cllr. Seán O'Donovan

## **LAMA**

Cllr. Bernard Moynihan

## **AILG**

Cllr. Bernard Moynihan

Gobnait Moynihan

Kevin Murphy

Cllr Ann Marie Ahern

## **Bottlehill Liaison Committee**

Cllr. Pat Hayes

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan

## **Board of Cork Opera House**

Cllr. Gearóid Murphy

## **Board of Visit Cork**

Cllr. Alan Coleman

## **Board of Leisure World**

Cllr. Audrey Buckley

## **Board of Crawford Art Gallery**

Cllr. Susan McCarthy



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  

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Cork County Council



# **Safety, Health & Welfare at Work**





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Cork County Council

# SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE AT WORK

## Safety, Health and Welfare at Work

The Safety Department of Cork County Council is continuing to build on the achievement of becoming the first Local Authority to have its Safety Management System fully accredited to the international Safety Standard of ISO45001 by ensuring the implementation of best practice in managing safety at work. This will ensure that as a key stakeholder the Council will be exemplars for the various third parties worked with, e.g. consultants, contractors etc.

Safety is integrated into all Council operations and activities, and this was recognised in 2021 with the winning of 2 awards in the National Irish Safety Organisations Annual Safety Awards, for Consistent High Achiever and a Higher Distinction. The COVID 19 Pandemic had a huge impact on safety at work and resulted in a major body of work to ensure the safety of staff and clients while continuing to deliver services. Numerous standard operating procedures were developed, and guidance provided to reduce the risk of cross contamination and advice was given to staff on how to provide services in a safe manner during various levels of lockdown and restrictions.

## Health Promotion

The Health Promotion section continues to build on its accreditation to the IBEC KeepWell Mark for employee wellbeing programs and is expanding to ensure that employee health is discussed openly and frankly. The Employee Wellbeing Committee appointed Wellbeing Champions representing each Department. This ensures that employee health and wellbeing have prominence and will be discussed openly during team meetings. This further reinforces the Council's commitment to employee wellbeing.

## Water Safety Promotion

The Water Safety Promotion Section had one of its busiest years, as thousands flocked to the blue flag beaches due to the increase in staycations. The key message is Enjoy the Water Safely, Be Safe and always supervise Children in and around the water and never use inflatables on open water. The Beach Guard service was on hand at Cork County beaches to guard the safety of a large number of beach users. 2021 Beach Guard Statistics were as follows:



Cork County Council won an award in December 2021 from Water Safety Ireland: Community and Social Responsibility Award for a Video on "Dangers of Using Inflatable Toys in Open Water". Cork County Council in conjunction with the Irish Coast Guard, RNLI, Water Safety Ireland and a number of other Local Authorities, produced two 6-minute educational short films on the dangers of using inflatable toys in open water.



An audit of the Beach Guard service took place and recommendations for improvements were implemented.

#### Road Safety Promotion

Cork County Council won an award in November 2021 from the European Road Safety Charter, in the category of Excellence in Road Safety Awards. Cork County Council was the winner for the Public Sector with the VR Education “Your Life Your Choice”. This initiative tackles road safety among young drivers, starting with 15-year-olds who have yet to get behind the wheel. The Road Safety Virtual Reality education model gives the learner an experience of what it is like to be involved in a road accident, the behaviour in a car that can lead to an accident, and how to respond to an accident safely. The key message from this initiative is that

‘the Road is a shared space so let’s all work together to share it safely. Belt Up, Slow Down, put away the phone and watch out for vulnerable road users.’

The Road Safety Promotion Section continues to engage and work with relevant stakeholders, such as An Garda Síochána, Road Safety Authority and others in promoting awareness around road safety. Various road safety awareness and promotion campaigns have been run with schools in Cork County and a major focus in 2021 was vulnerable road users, especially pedestrians, due to the increased numbers walking during restrictions.

#### Safety Training

The Safety Training Section continues to roll out the annual safety training programme to ensure the ongoing competence and continual professional development of Council employees. Online and remote learning has ensured compliance with HSE and national guidance in helping reduce numbers attending on site. 382 Safety Training courses were run in 2021 with 4089 attendees over 2780 training days.



2021 was a challenging year in safety in Cork County Council but the Council is committed to continual improvement and accreditation to ensure best practice standards are in place.

### **Ballincollig Regional Training Centre**

Ballincollig Regional Training Centre Training delivery in 2021 continued to be impacted by the global pandemic. However, the Centre continued to provide support to the affiliated local authorities, Cork County, Kerry County and Cork City Councils recording almost 3,500 staff training days when restrictions allowed. The emphasis was on providing essential Health & Safety training to ensure that Local Authorities could continue to deliver services in accordance with Health & Safety regulations. Some courses continue using an online and blended learning approach.

Ballincollig RTC, working in association with IT Carlow, continued to deliver the following courses, which are proving very popular with staff:

- Certificate in Building Control,
- Certificate in Road Management Programme,
- Certificate in Leadership for Performance and Change
- Certificate in Environmental and Planning Legislation

Training for the Fire Services continued in 2021 with 610 training days being delivered through the Fire Fighting Skills, Breathing Apparatus, Hazardous Materials and Transportation incidents courses. The Centre was also successful in its application to SOLAS as an Approved Training Organisation and retains certification for the four approved Certificate of Professional Competence Training Venues.



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Cork County Council



# Roads, Transportation & Safety



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Cork County Council

# ROADS, TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY

## NATIONAL ROADS

The overall Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) National Roads allocation to Cork County Council for year 2021 for improvement and maintenance works was circa €86.9m. The following schemes identified in the National Development Plan 2018-2027 (Project 2040) were progressed during 2020:

### ***N22 Baile Bhuirne to Macroom Road Development:***

JONS Civil Engineering Ltd/ John Craddock JV was appointed as the Main Construction Contractor in October 2019. The total scheme budget is €280m and construction is expected to be completed in Q4 2023. Construction activity on the site progressed well during 2021 with the majority of structures and earthworks substantially progressed during the year. The project was approximately 60% complete by the end of 2021.

### ***M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy Project:***

The Project was approved by An Bórd Pleanála on 29th June 2018. The project was challenged and on the 1st March 2021 a decision of the High Court to refuse leave to appeal to the Supreme Court, effectively marked the end of the legal challenge to the scheme enabling the project to proceed. Notices to Treat were issued in March and Notices of Entry were issued in July. A number of advance works elements were subsequently progressed during 2021, including site clearance, fencing, utilities diversions and archaeology.

### ***N25 Carrigtohill Midleton Upgrade Scheme:***

SWECO UK Ltd. was appointed as Technical Advisor in December 2019. Multi-criteria Analysis and appraisal of the route options was completed in 2021. Public Consultation No. 1 on Route Options commenced in October 2020 and concluded in November 2020. The outcomes of this were assessed and a report compiled. A constraints study was complete and traffic modelling work undertaken. Preferred Route Option was identified in mid-2021. An options selection Report completed in Q3 2021 and a peer review of Options Selection Report was undertaken and completed in late 2021.

### ***N72/N73 Mallow Relief Road:***

Barry Transportation was appointed Technical Advisor to this scheme in December 2019. Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility was completed in May 2020 while the Phase 2 Constraints Identification and Stage 1 Preliminary Option Assessment process were also progressed during 2020. Initial options presented during the first public consultation of July/August 2020 were assessed, leading to a shortlist of options in December 2020. The shortlisted Options were further assessed under Stage 2 of the TII Option Selection process during 2021. The emerging preferred route (Option C) was presented to Northern Committee in June 2021. The Options Selection Report was finalised during 2021 with TII peer review completed in late 2021.

### ***Under the heading of Minor Works, the following schemes were advanced during 2021:***

- **N25 Castlemartyr Relief Road:** Pre-Feasibility Report was submitted to TII in September 2020. A Non-Technical Summary was circulated to East Cork and Cobh Municipal District members and the East Cork Oireachtas members, for information purposes in September 2020. A Technical Working group was established to review the outcome of the Pre-Feasibility Report issued to TII with the intention of progressing the Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) in 2021 as the first deliverable in the Public Spending Code Project Lifecycle.
- **N73 Annakisha South Improvement Scheme:** RPS appointed to end of Phase 5 for this 3.5 km realignment scheme. Archaeology excavations completed and the Post-Archaeology Report is accepted. Site Investigation was completed in 2020. Detail design was updated to include cycleway and was progressed in 2021. Land Acquisition is ongoing.
- **N73 Clogher Cross to Waterdyke Realignment Scheme:** Roughan & O'Donovan (RO'D) appointed to end of Phase 5 for this 2.7km scheme. Preparation of Tender Documents completed for the Main Construction Contract. TII approval is awaited for the Publication of Tender Documents for Main Construction Contract. Land Acquisition is ongoing.
- **N71 Newmills/Owenahincha:** Approval request for the Gate Review Statement (Phase 0 to 1) approved by TII in November 2020. Phase 1 deliverables completed and submitted to TII for approval in Q4 2021. Options selection and appraisal commenced in Q4 2021.
- **N71 Bandon Bypass Extension:** Approval request for Gate Review Statement (Phase 0 to Phase 1) approved by TII in November 2020. Phase 1 deliverables completed and submitted to TII for approval in Q4 2021. Options selection and appraisal commenced in Q4 2021.
- **N72 Ballymaquirke Junction:** This junction is a particularly high accident location. It has been designated as a HD15 site for improvement as a road safety scheme by TII. An online presentation to local Councillors took place on Friday 7th May 2021. The CPO was published 3rd June 2021. An Bord Pleanála (ABP) confirmed that no objections were received and that Cork County Council could approve the CPO. Natura Impact Statement notice was published on 17th June 2021 and consultation period for NIS was concluded in Q3 2021. Decision from An Bord Pleanála was still pending as of the end of 2021.



A number of Pavement and Minor Improvement Works were advanced during 2021. Selected schemes are outlined below:

- N20 Mallow Southern Approach: Contractor for the scheme Martin O'Callaghan Ltd. recommenced on-site works on 18th May 2020 following the COVID-19 shutdown in March 2020. Pavement Works were substantially complete by end of 2020 and Bridge Works commenced during 2020. The works were completed in Mid-2021.
- N71 Seafield to Knockroe Phase 2: McSweeney Bros. Ltd. commenced contract in October 2020 for this 1.8km scheme. The works were substantially completed in Q2, 2021.
- N73 Annabella to Lacknamona Pavement Strengthening: Letter of Acceptance was issued to Martin O'Callaghan Ltd. who completed an initial section of this road in Q3 2021.
- N22 Coolcour: works were substantially completed in late 2021.
- N71 Glasslinn Road Bandon: Contract awarded in Q3 2021 and under construction.
- N71 Bantry to Dunnamark: Contract awarded in Q3 2021 and under construction.

### **National Road Projects in Cork County managed by other Authorities**

- **N8/N40 Dunkettle Interchange Upgrade Scheme:** The Letter of Acceptance for the Main Construction Contract was issued to John Sisk & Son Ltd. in mid-October 2020. Significant progress was achieved during 2021 with various earthworks elements, including ground improvement works and a number of major structures progressed during the year. The scheme is currently scheduled for completion in Q2 2024.

Barry Transportation, SWECO & WSP are the appointed Technical Advisors for the scheme. Phase 1 Gate Review statement was approved by TII in 2020. The study area for the scheme was published and the first Public Consultation for Route Options commenced in November 2020, with a briefing to Elected Representatives, and was extended until January 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a WEB based virtual Public Consultation was progressed. The preparation of the Constraints Report, the feasibility of Rail Options and a list of Option Comparison Estimates for the Scheme, as well as a Procurement Strategy, was progressed in 2021. In Q4 of 2021, the project team progressed its appraisal of the shortlisted options against Government policy updates relating to the National Development Plan review and sustainable transport infrastructure such as Draft National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) Report. The publication and public display of the preferred option for the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project is expected to take place during Q1 2022.

## **REGIONAL & LOCAL ROADS**

The overall road grant allocation for 2021 from the Department of Transport was approximately €66.5M. This allowed for:

- the strengthening of 298 km of Regional and Local Roads in 334 locations under the following programmes: Restoration Improvement, Discretionary Grant, Climate Change & Adaption Resilience, Former National Roads Grant and Community Involvement Schemes, both by direct construction by Council outdoor staff and fleet and through resurfacing contracts.
- 431 km of Regional and Local Roads were surface dressed in 271 locations by Council outdoor staff and fleet under the Restoration Maintenance programme and the CCAR Programme.
- 34 Road Safety Improvement Schemes were either fully or partially completed in 2021.
- A total of 29 structures (bridges, retaining walls or embankments) were repaired or replaced in 2021.
- A number of Strategic Road Improvement Schemes were advanced in 2021. Some are outlined below:

- **Carrigaline Western Relief Road**

The road will alleviate traffic congestion in Main Street and will provide the infrastructure to facilitate the redevelopment of the town centre. A contractor was appointed in Q1 2021 and the main works started in April 2021 with an 18-month delivery programme. Works were advanced in 2021 to such an extent that the programme was shortened from 18 to 15 months with completion targeted for July 2022.

- **Ashgrove Roundabout & Ballinrea Road Upgrade, Carrigaline**

The upgrade scheme will provide enhanced active travel infrastructure in the vicinity of a 1,600 pupil educational campus. A contractor was appointed in Q1 2021 and the works started April 2021 with a 9-month delivery programme. The works were completed ahead of programme in November 2021.

- **Great Island Transportation Study**

Transportation links between the N25, Marino Point and Cobh links require upgrading. The improved infrastructure will support the ongoing development of Cobh, particularly in the residential development of the town, as well as supporting commercial development at Marino Point. The Department of Transport agreed to fund a Strategic Assessment Report in 2021.

- **Midleton Northern Relief Road Phase 3**

This is the third phase of a relief road designed to reduce traffic in the town centre and to promote the commercial development of the town. The preliminary design of the scheme was further developed in 2021 with extensive engagement with key stakeholders, including TII, the OPW and the NTA. The preliminary design of the scheme will be concluded in 2022.

- **Kanturk Relief Road**  
The road will relieve traffic congestion and allow the ongoing development of Kanturk. Rural Regeneration & Development Fund grant assistance was confirmed in Q4 2020. A contractor was appointed in Q4 2020 and the works started January 2021 with a 9-month delivery programme. The works were completed in November 2021.
- **R572 realignment at Adrigole**  
The realignment is required to ensure road safety and promote regional connectivity & economic development. Feasibility assessment of the scheme was advanced in 2021.
- **R595 realignment at Oldcourt, Skibbereen**  
The realignment is required to ensure road safety and promote regional connectivity & economic development. Land acquisition and advance works were undertaken in 2021.
- **R586 realignment at Ilen Bridge**  
The realignment is required to ensure road safety and promote regional connectivity & economic development. Land acquisition was advanced in 2021.
- **Bantry Relief Road Phases 1 & 2**  
Funding has been made available for the Scheme by Cork County Council through the SSIP. Land acquisition for Phase 1 was advanced in 2021. Feasibility assessment of Phase 2 of the scheme was advanced in 2021.

Works were carried out on 33 private roads under the Local Improvement Scheme, with funding of €1.46m from the Department of Rural & Community Development, as well as local contributions.

## PUBLIC LIGHTING

### Operations

The Public Lighting Unit was involved in the provision of new and improved lighting under schemes funded from sources such as NTA, New Road projects, Town and Village Renewal, etc. Under these schemes 305 new lights were erected and 63 lights were upgraded. In addition to this a total of 107 new public lights were erected and a further 28 were upgraded under the 2021 Public Lighting Programme at a cost of approximately €350,000.

The Public Lighting Unit also secured NTA funding in 2021 to upgrade lighting at zebra crossings to a standard known as TR 12 and 97 zebra crossing locations were upgraded such that practically all zebra crossings in Cork County now have upgraded lighting rendering them safer for night-time pedestrian usage.

### Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) - South West Region

Cork County Council is the Lead Authority (Section 85 Agreement) responsible for the administration, management and delivery of the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) for the South-West Region. The participating Authorities include Clare County Council, Cork County Council, Kerry County Council, Limerick City & County Council and Waterford City & County Council. The scope of work involves the retrofitting of 77,000 (approx.) luminaires across 24 Municipal Districts in 5 Local Authorities in the South-West region, including TII public lighting assets within these 5 Local Authority areas.

Cork County Council awarded both the Consultancy Services Contract and the Design Build Works Contract to Arup / RPS and Le Chéile Consortium (comprising Eneveo Ireland Ltd, Al Read Ltd, Electric Skyline Ltd) respectively in December 2021.

The overall project is estimated at €54m and will take 30 months to deliver. The planned completion date is 31 July 2024.

## ROAD SAFETY

The Cork Road Safety Together working group met periodically throughout the year and discussed measures to improve road safety. The Cork County Road Safety Officer implemented road safety programmes in schools and other community settings and supplementary funding was provided to Cork Sports Partnership to train 1,000 pupils in safe cycling. There was a total of 8 fatalities on Cork County's Road network in 2021, as against a total of 20 in 2020. Each of these locations were checked for any possible road contributory factors.

## SPEED LIMITS

A review of Speed Limit bye-laws was initiated in 2021 and is due to be completed in 2022.

# FLEET MANAGEMENT

There are 700 items of fleet operating in Cork County Council, throughout the year. Investment in new machinery enables the Council to deliver one of its core services, which is maintaining its extensive road network to a safe and high standard.

During 2021, as part of its fleet replacement programme, the Council took delivery of two 26 tonne velocity patchers. The velocity patcher can repair a range of road defects including potholes, edge deterioration, centreline joints, cracks and crazing, deformation and pre-surface dress patching. Potholes are cleaned out, primed, filled, sealed, and compacted by one machine.

In 2021, the Council entered contracts for the purchase of 3 new chip spreaders, for use in the Council's road construction operations, to replace older machines, which ranged in age from 15 to 21 years. It is intended to take delivery of these new chip spreaders in 2022.

The Council has purchased a Heavy-Duty Suction sweeper, to be delivered in early 2022. Suction sweepers are used to clear roadways prior to surface dressing works, and subsequently for sweeping excess loose chips on completion of works. They are also used for sweeping excess debris from roads following severe weather events.

The Council has also purchased a new compact sweeper, to be delivered in early 2022, which will be utilised for municipal street cleansing in the Carrigaline MD. This will bring to 4 the number of Council owned Compact Sweepers, which are used to enhance presentation of towns and approaches.

To support the services of the local authority's Civic Amenity Sites, the Council purchased one 32 tonne hook truck.

To upgrade the Mobile Library Services Fleet, the Council has purchased three custom built mobile libraries, procured via Fleet Management Unit, to replace mobile library vehicles purchased 18 years ago.

## **Fleet Operations**

Surface dressing is the most economical road surfacing technique that restores and seals the road surface in one process, making the road waterproof and protects against frost and water damage. It also improves the skid resistance, making the roads safer. Cork County Council carries out a programme of surface dressing each year between April and September by direct labour using the council fleet including tar sprayers, chip spreaders, rollers, trucks, and sweepers

In 2021, the Fleet Management Unit organised the purchase, delivery and spraying of more than 12,946-tonnes of bitumen across the county.

## **Emergency Response and Winter Maintenance**

Cork County Council responds to winter weather conditions utilising a fleet of trucks to pre-salt in response to forecasted low temperatures to reduce the likelihood of frost and ice forming on key routes.

Cork County Council operates an emergency call-out service, 24/7, during severe weather events, alerts, and incidents. Significant and ongoing fleet investment is essential so that the Council has sufficient fleet requirements for agility in responding to severe weather events: flooding, storms, snow, and ice.

In 2021, the Council also took delivery of a new emergency call-out van, based in the Carrigaline MD, to replace an older van from the emergency call-out van fleet.

## **Climate Change**

The Council intends to continue to substantially invest in its fleet, with newer technologies to achieve efficiencies – Euro 6 energy efficient engines & also with lightweight bodies, where possible, for fuel efficiency purposes, with the aim to upgrade the fleet in order to meet its 2030 climate change targets.

The Council arranged EV charging points in Machinery yards in Mallow & Skibbereen, and is piloting electric vans in these yards, with a view to further rollout of EV fleet, as circumstances allow.

In 2021, Fleet Management Unit procured lawnmowers for Midleton and Macroom to suit grass-cutting requirements under Pollinator Plans.

## STATISTICS FOR 2021

Number of applications received:



## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Roads & Transportation SPC held four meetings in 2021.

- Presentations were made on **Road Grant Allocations 2021** and on **Road Safety Awareness**.
- **Age Friendly Parking Spaces** – clarification given on bilingual road markings & signage.
- Guidance Document on the **Use of Irish for Temporary Traffic Management on Public Roads** approved – Irish and English versions produced.
- Policy developed on **Roadside Hedgerow & Verge Maintenance**. FAQs document also prepared.
- **Speed Limit Review** Programme outlined.
- Members briefed on **CCC led delegation to TII** in November to discuss major Road Projects.
- **Local Link Cork** attended one meeting.



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  

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Cork County Council

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a clear glass under a chrome faucet. The faucet is turned on, and water is visible in the glass. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. The text is centered on the left side of the image.

# Water Services and County Engineer's Department



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

# WATER SERVICES AND COUNTY ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

The Water Services Directorate and County Engineer's Department covers a range of functions including Drinking Water and Waste Water Operations, Water Capital Projects and Rural Water. It also includes Coastal Management & Flood Projects and the recent formation of the Capital Projects Implementation Unit.

The year gone by has proven to be challenging for the Water Services Directorate. As an essential service in the pandemic there was little room for manoeuvre, particularly given the public health emphasis on areas such as cleaning surfaces and hand washing. Processes and procedures continued to be reconfigured and supplemented to ensure the continued delivery of the public water supply. The flexibility, ingenuity and dedication of all staff across the directorate came to the fore and both water and wastewater services were maintained throughout these most difficult of times.

## **Drinking Water & Waste Water Operations**

The Drinking Water & Waste Water Sections of the Water Services Directorate manages delivery of public water and wastewater services under an SLA with Irish Water. They serve 350,000 people across the county ensuring the provision of high-quality drinking water (producing in excess of 158 million litres per day) and also the safe and efficient treatment of waste water through more than 250 Waste Water infrastructure assets. Our Wastewater operations team produce 74 annual environment reports for EPA licensed agglomerations through its functional area.

The priority given to water conservation has resulted in the saving of 6 million litres per day through reduced leakage. The 38 km Mains Replacement in areas including Ballea Innishannon (5.1km), (Castletownbere (4.9km), Donneraile (2.5km), Kilbrin (4.1km), Ballyquirke Killeagh (1.9km), Macroom Coolcower (1.5km) and progress in the Find & Fix Programme contributed most to bringing the Unaccounted For Water in Cork County down to 43.5%.

The consistently high scorings achieved in areas such as Health & Safety and compliance are a testament to the level of service being provided.

## **Water Capital Projects Office**

The Capital Projects Office is a key player in ensuring the continued improvement of the water infrastructure across the County of Cork. It provides full life cycle Project Management Services to facilitate the execution of the Irish Water Capital Investment Plan (RC3) for the years 2020-2024, a programme which features some 36 major infrastructure projects for the Cork County Area. These projects along with a large list of network improvement projects and a host of Capital Programmes are being managed by the office. The projects are in both the Water and Wastewater sectors.

## **Rural Water**

The Rural Water Section provides significant assistance to Group Water Schemes which serve 10,000 households across the county. These include managing the Rural Water Programme and providing administrative and engineering assistance. They also manage the provision of well grants which resulted in over €1,787,482 being distributed to households in 2021. (for both the old & new Schemes). The old scheme was closed out in 2021.

## **Coastal Management and Flood Projects**

### **Flood Projects:**

The Flood Projects team continued their ongoing work on a number of major & minor flood relief schemes in 2021, in conjunction with Office of Public Works (OPW). Clonakilty Flood Scheme was completed in 2021, joining two other major flood schemes in west Cork, Bandon and Skibbereen, which were completed in the last few years; Major schemes being progressed include:

Midleton (development/options stage), Bantry (Preferred Tenderer identified for Consultancy Services for Scheme), with CCC assuming Client & PM role for major schemes in Ballymakeera and Ballinhassig – reviews of OPW Stage 1 work on these schemes commenced in 2021; Crookstown Scheme: (Scoping Report underway for OPW/CCC jointly funded Scheme). Client role for Douglas & Glashaboy flood schemes with Cork City Council, with Cork County Council retaining the project management role. Lower Lee Scheme was also progressed, with OPW in the Client role. Regarding the OPW Minor Works Programme, Part 8 Planning was granted for projects at Ballintubber and Ballymakeera (Interim Works), with construction works anticipated in 2022.

A new appointment of Operational Flood Schemes Manager was made to the CCC Flood Projects Team in 2021, with an important oversight role, in liaison with fellow Council colleagues, to ensure effective ongoing management systems are in place for Operation/Maintenance of completed flood schemes.



#### Coastal Projects:

- i) Coastal infrastructure projects undertaken in 2021 included Works at Kinsale, Keelbeg, Ballycotton, Ballycrovane, Zetland, Travara.  
All above projects were co-funded by Department of Agriculture, Food, Marine (DAFM) & Cork County Council.
- ii) Youghal Boardwalk Phase 2 was completed and officially opened in 2021.
- iii) The Coastal team continued to progress dredging projects at Ballycotton Harbour and bundle project for Courtmacsherry/Glengarriff/Reen.
- iv) The Coastal projects team continued its roles related to technical maintenance of Dursey Cable Car & Oil Spill Contingency planning & response.
- v) The Coastal projects team liaised with OPW regarding applications under OPW Coastal Protection Minor works scheme.

#### Other Projects

Fermoy Weir Project was progressed, with planning application to An Bord Pleanála expected to be submitted in Q1 or Q2 of 2022.

#### Capital Projects Implementation Unit

The Capital Projects Implementation Unit is responsible for the co-ordination of the development and implementation of Cork County Council's Social Sustainability Investment Programme (SSIP) throughout the County of Cork. The team works closely with other capital delivery arms within the Council and liaises with the Divisions and Municipal Districts in terms of identification and prioritisation of schemes.

There were 32 Capital Infrastructure projects under the SSIP, being advanced through various stages of Feasibility, Planning, Design, Tender, Construction during 2021.

Major Capital projects currently being managed by the Capital Projects Implementation Unit during 2021 include-

**Midleton Youghal Greenway (Design and Construction):** Development of 23km Greenway between Midleton to Youghal along the disused existing railway line. This will result in the provision of a free amenity for all persons in the region, an increase in tourism and associated additional economic activities in settlements along the Greenway and will also lead to recreational and health benefits to the community. Construction works progressing between Midleton & Mogeely during 2021.

**Bandon Traffic Public Realm Enhancement Plan Implementation (Design and Planning):** Implementation of Town Centre Transportation and Public Realm Enhancement Plan including junction improvement works and active travel measure to promote walking and cycling. The project involves transformational changes for Bandon town centre with proposals for alteration to traffic circulation to facilitate public realm enhancement, including new pedestrian areas, significant landscaping, and public lighting. The results will lead to an increase in social and economic activity in Bandon Town Centre making the area more conducive to pedestrians including the visually impaired and persons with disabilities. It will also increase retail activity in the town centre. Increase pedestrian and cycling mobility and linkages including access to schools and community facilities. Part 8 Planning received during 2021 for Phase 1 of Bandon TPREP Implementation.

**Cobh Public Realm (Feasibility and Design):** Upgrading of streetscape and town enhancement scheme focusing on the waterfront development and public park. Upgrade of pavement, re allocation of road space to pedestrians in town centre, improve pedestrian route and the creation of open spaces for public use. Part 8 Planning received during 2021.

The main objective of the Cork County Council Social Sustainability Investment Programme (SSIP) is to enhance key towns across the county with the aim of ensuring the continued economic and social sustainability of these towns. Categories of projects include, climate change initiatives, town centre traffic alleviation measures, open space and amenities, town centre enhancements, refurbishment of national monuments/culture centres, energy efficiency projects and tourism related infrastructure.

The Council's SSIP is funded by a combination of Central Government funding under Project 2040, Urban Regional Regeneration Funds (URDF), Rural Regeneration Development Funds (RRDF), Cork County Council Capital reserves and loan funding from European Banks. Cork County Council has put in place a combined loan finance agreement of up to €65m with European Investment Bank and The Council of Europe Development bank to support their Social Sustainability Investment Programme.

# Housing





Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

# HOUSING

## **Housing Rent Collection**

The income from housing rent in 2021 amounted to €20.4 million with a further €1.3 million collected in respect of RAS properties. A 3% rent increase was applied in Feb 2021 and a full county wide rent review began in 2021.

## **Role of Housing Finance Unit 2021**

The main responsibility of the Housing Finance Unit (HFU) is the maximisation of recoupments from the Department and all other sources of allocated funding. The HFU was responsible for preparation of over 300 recoupments to the Department in 2021, with a combined value of almost €100m.

The HFU provides support to all sections within the Housing Directorate in terms of the preparation of reports and figures for divisional committees, senior management and quarterly statistical returns to the Department.

The HFU also has a role in the preparation of the annual budget estimate, which involves liaising with all budget holders and budget managers and collating relevant information to present to the Director of Housing for approval and sign-off. The HFU is in constant contact with both Revenue and Capital sections in the Finance Directorate in terms of the monitoring of income and expenditure on all codes.

## **Housing Allocations**

845 units were allocated to successful applicants in 2021. This figure includes allocations to the Councils own Social Housing stock and to units provided by Approved Housing Bodies.

## **Vacant Houses**

A total of 136 vacant properties were refurbished in 2021 and of these, 111 Council properties were repaired through the continuation of a funding stream made available by the DHPLG to facilitate the return of vacant properties to productive use. The total value of the works undertaken was €2.5m.

## **Disabled Persons Grants**

In 2021, works to assist disabled persons were carried out on a total of 104 local authority houses. These included 96 minor works projects and 8 extensions. The total cost of these works was €1,589,777, 90% of which was recouped from the DHLGH. The remaining 10% was provided from the Council's own resources.

## **Energy Efficiency Scheme**

129 properties benefited from an Energy Efficiency Upgrades in 2021. These consisted of 129 under the new Deep Energy Retrofit Programme, which was part funded by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG). These measures include the provision of external wall insulation, new windows and doors, attic insulation and Heat Pumps. The total value of the works undertaken was €2.5m.

An SEAI Scheme, Housing Strand 2021, upgrading 23 properties in Killeagh Gardens, Killeagh was completed. The project saw these properties retrofitted with Loft Insulation, Ceiling Dry Lining, Air to Water Heat Pumps. This scheme was part funded by the SEAI and the DHPLG. The overall value of this project was €650,000.

## **Approved Housing Body (AHB) Leasing Unit**

81 units were delivered in 2021 within the following schemes:

25 Capital Advance Leasing including construction & turnkey.

41 units - Mortgage to Rent.

4 units - Private Lease,

8 units - AHB Private Lease.

2 units - Repair & Lease.

1 unit - Housing Agency Acquisition

## **Capital Assistance Scheme**

8 units were acquired through CAS in 2021.

- No1 Cloonmullen Midleton, Circle Voluntary Housing;
- 29 Chandlers Rest Cobh, Focus Ireland;
- Bayview Bantry - 6 spaces; Co-action West Cork

There are three construction schemes on site:

- Comhlacht Tithe Soisialta, Ballyvourney 3 units.
- Cluid Housing Bantry Convent Site, Bantry 18 units. Enabling works completed in 2021.

There is also one turnkey construction scheme on site:

- Respond, Mullavale, Castletownroche - 8 units

### **Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)**

Administration of the HAP Scheme continued countrywide during 2021 with 667 households transferred to HAP. The total number of active tenancies at the 31 December 2021 was 3,650. A total of 557 property inspections were carried out in the county during 2021 and the inspection programme was severely impacted due to COVID 19.

### **Homelessness**

Cork County Council continues to work closely with both Cork City Council, via its Accommodation Placement Unit, and Kerry County Council, to deal with homelessness on a regional basis through the Strategic Management Group on Homelessness and the Regional Homeless Forum. A Placefinders Officer continues to assist Homeless Persons in securing HAP accommodation. This is a targeted support for Homeless Households to source HAP tenancies and the Placefinder Officer is working with both Landlords and Homeless Persons to source suitable accommodation.

### **Housing First**

In 2021 the Housing First model was introduced in Cork County. Housing First provides a housing led solution for individuals that suffer from chronic homelessness, have high support needs and have been reliant on emergency accommodation on a long-term basis. Cork County Council is working in conjunction with the HSE, Focus Ireland and Cork Simon Community on the programme. Six Housing First tenancies were created in 2021.

### **Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme**

In 2021, the Council processed 60 full applications, having received a total of 149 Expressions of Interest; 4 properties were sold in 2021.

### **Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan**

In 2021, Cork County Council received 173 applications for Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans. In 2021, 28 loans were advanced/part advanced with a total loan value of over €4.4million.

### **Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability**

Since January 2020, the guidelines for the 3 grant schemes available have been revised, the application process has been standardised, and one application form now covers all three grant schemes. During 2021 the Council received 1,113 applications and paid out a total of €5,552,090 in grants under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for People with a Disability, the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme and the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme. The number of applications received in 2021 represents an increase of 10% on the number of applications received in 2020.

### **Estate Management**

The Estate Management Unit continued to work with the Residents Associations to maintain and improve their estates during 2021. Funding is allocated to active Residents Associations to assist with costs incurred.

### **Travellers**

The Traveller Accommodation Programme, which runs for the period 2019 to 2024, sets out how the Council intends to meet the existing and projected needs of Travellers in its functional area over that 5-year period. In 2021 the Council provided 31 standard Local Authority/Approved Housing Body lettings to Traveller families and a further 10 households were provided with accommodation through the HAP scheme, exceeding the targets in both those areas.

The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee engaged in a number of facilitation sessions to develop an agreed vision and ways of working for the LTACC in order to enable the contribution of all involved and achieve progress on the LTACC agenda. A guidance document was developed and agreed which sets out how the LTACC meetings should work going forward.

### **Housing Acquisitions**

Cork County Council acquired 5 standard units, 4 Buy and Renew units and 20 previously occupied acquisitions for Social Housing in 2021.

### **Construction Programme**

Cork Co Council continued to progress its Construction Programme during 2021. The Part 8 process was completed in respect of 53 units in 2021. 59 units were delivered through the Council's own build programme in 2021; 132 units were delivered through the turnkey model, 152 units through Public Private Partnership and 28 units through the Part V process. A number of SHIP, Turnkey, Part V and Single Stage construction projects are currently onsite and will deliver 307 units. A further 537 dwellings are at various stages of the approvals process.

# CONSTRUCTION OF CORK COUNTY COUNCIL SOCIAL HOUSING



*Completed Social units in Kinsale*



*Completed elderly units in Skibbereen*



*Completed Social units in Watergrasshill*



*Turnkey Units in Ballyhooley*



*Completed OPD Design & Build units Mallow*



# PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS



*Pairc Uí Thiar, Clonakilty*



*Páirc Uí Mhuirthe, Macroom*

### ***Elected Members Representations***

There were 2,130 representations received, processed and responded to during 2021. The dedicated online Representations Portal continues to streamline the issuing of Responses.

### ***Choice Based Letting***

Cork County Council's Choice Based Letting system continues to be a very successful method of advertising and allocating vacant Cork County Council and Approved Housing Body properties that are ready for letting. 2,045 properties have been accepted through the Choice Based Letting system to date.

### ***Strategic Policy Committee***

The Housing SPC met five times during 2021. Among the issues considered were;

- Alterations to Cork County Council Rent Scheme 2021
- The Affordable Housing Bill 2020
- Results of the Choice Based Letting Survey
- Correspondence with the Minister of Housing and Local Government on the Installation of hard water softeners
- Housing for Persons released from prison
- Cork County Council Tenants Handbook and updating of same
- Anti-Social Behaviour including the role Garda Vetting plays in the housing allocation process
- DPG/Private Grants and waiting times for applicants
- Estate Management
- Housing Needs Assessment
- Housing Delivery Programme
- Homeless Services and
- Housing Maintenance Services.
- Cork County Council Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with a Disability 2022- 2027 was considered and approved by the SPC.

Overall, SPC Members considered and approved a comprehensive work programme for 2022.



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Cork County Council

A photograph of a forest with tall, thin trees and a path, overlaid with a large red semi-transparent shape. The red shape is a large, irregular polygon that covers most of the image, leaving a thin strip of the original photograph visible at the top. The word "Environment" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the red area.

# Environment



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

# HOUSING

## *Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)*

The Environment, Climate Action & Biodiversity SPC under Chairperson Cllr Anthony Barry met four times in 2021, all being online meetings. Policy areas considered by the SPC in the 2021 included;

- Civic Amenity Sites Promotion
- Solid Fuel Regulation – Public Consultation
- Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Policy
- Tree Policy
- Hedgerow/Verge Cutting Policy Doc – referral from Roads SPC
- Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste
- National River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 – consultation
- Light Pollution

# CLIMATE ACTION

The **Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021** was enacted setting the country on a legally binding path to net-Zero emissions no later than 2050, and to a 51% reduction in emissions by the end of this decade. Following on from the Act, the Government launched its Climate Action Plan 2021 in November, an ambitious plan to put Ireland on a more sustainable path with the aim of protecting us from the devastating consequences of climate change.

The Plan sets ambitious targets for the Public Sector by 2030 including:

- 50% improvement in Public Sector Energy Efficiency
- 51% reduction in CO2 emissions with Green Teams in every public body
- A Sustainable Mobility Policy
- Prohibition on new fossil fuel heating systems in public buildings after 2023
- Mandating that all new fleet purchases be electric from 2023 (where vehicle type is available)
- Targeting carbon neutrality by 2050

Individual Directorates as well as the Significant Energy Users (SEUs) submitted Energy Management Action Plans (EMAP) for 2021. 46 actions were submitted and progressed.

## *Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)*

In its role as lead authority for the Atlantic Seaboard South region the Council through its CARO team advanced several national projects including publication of a Guidance Document and Procurement Templates for the Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme.



### **Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)**

In 2021 CARO also advanced work on other guidance docs and manuals including;

- Guidance for the Climate Adaptation of Regional & Local Roads
- Climate Change Guide for Householders
- Energy Manual for Local Authority Municipal Buildings
- Development of LA Guidance on Coastal Erosion

Within the Council an extensive climate action training programme for all Council staff was also rolled out in 2021. An Energy Audit of Council facilities was also advanced, and an LED lighting installation programme commenced in November.

### **Community Environmental Awareness Programmes**

COVID 19 again impacted some initiatives, with the Annual Litter Challenge and the Muintir Na Tíre Schools Garden Competition both being cancelled. Nationally, the Community Environment Action Fund (CEAF) scheme was again not launched in 2021.

Despite the challenges of COVID 19, an extensive Community Environmental Awareness programme was delivered in 2021 the highlights of which included;

- Spray Safe Pesticide Awareness Campaign
- Irish Wildlife Trust – Community Bee Workshops
- Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign
- An Taisce Green Schools Programme
- Waste Reduction & Recycling Workshops
- Plastics Free July Campaign
- Picker Pals litter project
- Paint Smarter Campaign
- ‘Source to Sea’ water quality & biodiversity video series for primary schools





*Mayor Cllr. Gillian Coughlan with brand ambassador Lily Higgins at the Revive Paint Launch*

October saw National Reuse Month, and to mark it Cork County Council (in partnership with Cork City and supported by the EPA) launched an innovative circular economy initiative called Revive Paint, which involves the production of good quality, affordable paint by two Cork based social enterprises using paint collected from local authority Civic Amenity Sites. Participating sites in Cork County included Derryconnell, Clonakilty and Raffeen.

The social enterprises involved are Cycle Sense based in Skibbereen and Northside Community Enterprise (NCE) in Farranferris, Cork City. At the time of the launch over 2.5 tonnes of paint had already been diverted from the waste stream to produce a quality paint.





### Waste & Recycling

As an essential service, Council Civic Amenity, Recycling and Bring Bank Sites remained operational throughout 2021.

In 2021, Cork County Council's 12 Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre Sites there were 340,913 visitors and the Council collected a total of;

- 12,450 tonnes of Recyclables
- 11,060 Tonnes of Waste

At the Council's 138 Bring Sites across the county there were a further 7,153 Tonnes of Recyclables collected, broken down as follows;

Material	Tonnage
Glass Bottles	6,948.37
Beverage Cans	99.29
Food Cans	105.85

Waste enforcement staff including wardens and other technical staff carried out 1286 waste related inspections in 2021.

### Water Quality

With traditional domestic tap sampling suspended due to COVID-19, regulatory monitoring of drinking water supplies continued using a range of public locations at Garda Stations, GAA grounds etc across the county.

The significant work programmes delivered by the Council's water quality teams in 2021 included;

- 1,164 samples taken from 165 public drinking water supplies-21,158 parameters analysed.
- 279 samples taken from 184 private group water schemes and other small private water supplies- 4,876 parameters analysed
- Over 3,000 samples taken at public and industrial wastewater treatment systems
- 715 Farm Inspections undertaken
- 190 bathing water samples taken at 29 beaches
- 62 residential septic tanks inspected

At a national awards ceremony in May 2021, Cork beaches were awarded a total of 23 flags by An Taisce for 2021, more flags than any other county. In all 10 Blue Flags and 13 Green Coast Flags have been awarded, with all these beaches having achieved consistently excellent water quality as well as meeting beach infrastructure standards. In addition, Kinsale Marina and Royal Cork Yacht Club Marina also retained their Blue Flag Status.



Inchydoney East beach has achieved its first Blue Flag this year, joining Inchydoney West beach which has held its flag continuously since 1993. The full list of flags awarded for 2021 is as follows,

**Blue Flag:** Barleycove, Garretstown, Garrylucas, Inchydoney East Beach, Inchydoney West Beach, Owenahincha, Tragumna, Warren-Cregane Strand, Youghal Claycastle, Youghal Redbarn

**Green Coast:** Ballyrisode, Cadogan's Strand, Dooneen Pier, Fountainstown, Galley Cove, Garnish Beach-Lehanmore, Inch Strand, Inchydoney East, Red Strand, Ring, Rocky Bay, Shanagarry-Ardnahinch, Sherkin Island Silver Strand Beach

### **Veterinary & Food Safety**

The Veterinary Dept of the Council again delivered a wide-ranging work programme in 2020 including;

- Administration of over 28,000 dog licenses.
- 629 dog license enforcement notifications issued
- Monitoring of 37 registered dog breeding establishments
- Delivery of inspection programs across 72 registered food premises.
- Laboratory analysis under contract for Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI).
- Collection of 24 stray horses.



# Fire & Building Control





Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

# FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL

Cork County Council's Fire and Building Control Department provide a range of services including Emergency Operational Response, Fire Safety and Building Control Functions, Community Fire Safety, Major Emergency Planning/Management and Civil Defence.

## Fire & Emergency Operations Plan (2021-2025)

A new Fire and Emergency Operations Plan (2021-2025) was adopted at the Full Council Meeting on the 11th January 2021. The purpose of this plan is to fulfil Cork County Council's Statutory Obligation as a Fire Authority as outlined in Section 26 of the Fire Services Acts, 1981 & 2003. This plan details current arrangements within the Fire Authority, but it also sets out strategic plans and targets for the Fire Authority for the next 5 years.

## Fire Service Operations:

The county is served by 20 Retained Fire Stations – Mallow, Millstreet, Kanturk, Charleville, Fermoy, Mitchelstown, Midleton, Cobh, Youghal, Bandon, Macroom, Kinsale, Carrigaline, Crosshaven, Bantry, Castletownbere, Schull, Skibbereen, Dunmanway and Clonakilty.

Fire Service personnel continued to be available to respond to incidents throughout the COVID crisis – all incidents were responded to in 2021. There was no significant change in the number of callouts during 2021 compared to 2020, with an increase of 5.1% for the year.

Incident Type	2019	2020	2021	% Change in 2020
Fire	800	750	795	+5.7%
RTC	339	267	301	+11.3%
False Alarms	300	280	316	+11.4%
Special Services including Ambulance Assists	439	531	514	-3.3%
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>1878</b>	<b>1828</b>	<b>1926</b>	<b>+5.1%</b>

Total number of turnouts to Fires in 2021	1,086
Average of turnout times	4.75 mins
% Of calls with a response time of less than 10 minutes	32.5%
% Of calls with a response time of between 10 and 20 minutes	37%
% Of calls with a response time greater than 20 minutes	16.5%
<b>(** Represents incidents where an in-attendance time was recorded)</b>	

Total number of turnouts to Non-Fire Emergencies in 2021	859
Average of turnout times	4.93 mins
% Of calls with a response time of less than 10 minutes	34%
% of calls with a response time of between 10 and 20 minutes	44%
% of calls with a response time greater than 20 minutes	12%
<b>(** Represents incidents where an in-attendance time was recorded)</b>	

A modified training programme was delivered during 2021 due to the ongoing pandemic restrictions, alterations were made to the programme to ensure the safety of all staff and suitable control measures were incorporated including social distancing and the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

The following is a summary of training courses organised in 2021:

QQI Recruit Fire Fighter Skills	Occupational First Aid	CAFS Training
Breathing Apparatus Wearers	Medical First Responder	FS Swift Water & Flood First Responder
Compartment Fire Behaviour Training	Officer Command Development Courses	Water & Flood Awareness
Emergency Services Driving Standard	Managing Fire Service Incidents	Hydra Facilitators Course
Pump Operator	Incident Commander Certificate of Professional Competency (CPC) Course	CPC Wearers Course
Road Traffic Collisions		



*Instructors and Attendees at QQI Firefighting Skills Course Bandon Fire Station – July 2021*

### **Capital Investment**

In October 2021 Cork County Council procured a pre-used 28m Aerial Platform. This appliance will be stationed in Middleton Fire Station and will allow their existing unit to be redeployed to Bandon Fire Station to provide additional high reach firefighting capability in the South and West Divisions. This appliance has been funded by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



Construction of the new Kanturk Fire Station was completed in 2021 and the Station was handed over to Cork County Council in November 2021. The new building was constructed by Cork company HG Construction, with a tender valued at €1.8 million. This project was delivered as part of the National Directorate's €61m Capital Programme of Construction/ Refurbishment of 27 fire station projects located throughout the country during the five-year period 2021-2025.

Provision of new Fire Stations in Macroom and Clonakilty are included in this refurbishment program. Construction has commenced on the New Fire Station in Macroom and it is hoped to have this completed by Q2 of 2022. Approval has also been given to advance the New Fire Station in Clonakilty to tender.

As part of the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management's Fire Appliance Procurement Programme which is running from 2021 – 2023, Cork County Council's Fire Service is receiving three new Class B Appliances. In September and December 2021 approval was granted for the three appliances to progress to build stage, with delivery of these appliances planned for Q4 2022.

The Fire Service took delivery of 6 Bauer Compressors in 2021. This new equipment replaced some of the existing Compressors which were 20 years old. These Compressors are part of a project to move from the use of 200bar cylinders to 300bar cylinder when using Breathing Apparatus. The purchase of the new compressors was funded by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management.

### **Community Fire Safety**

Community Fire Safety Activities continued to be impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic during 2021, with in-person activities being largely suspended. Social media platforms together with on-line technology were used during the year to deliver key Fire Safety Messages. Fire Safety Packs were distributed throughout the county with the assistance of the HSE Home Support Service, Meals on Wheels and An Garda Síochána.

National Fire Safety Week took place from the 4th to the 11th October 2021, with a focus on fire safety in the home, encouraging all homes to have smoke alarms and to test them weekly.





Pictured at the launch of Fire Safety Week 2021 in Cork are the Mayor of the County of Cork, Cllr Gillian Coughlan, Director of Service Louis Duffy, Chief Fire Officer Séamus Coughlan, FF Rob Moloney Bandon Fire Station and Assistant Chief Fire Officer Aidan Glavin.

As part of Fire Safety Week 2021, County Hall, Municipal Buildings, local Landmarks and Fire Stations turned 'red'.



The Fire Service continued to operate the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme in conjunction with local community groups and organisations. The scheme aims to identify and distribute, with the co-operation of local voluntary groups and organisations, 10-year battery smoke alarms to elderly and vulnerable residents throughout the county. This scheme is supported by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management.

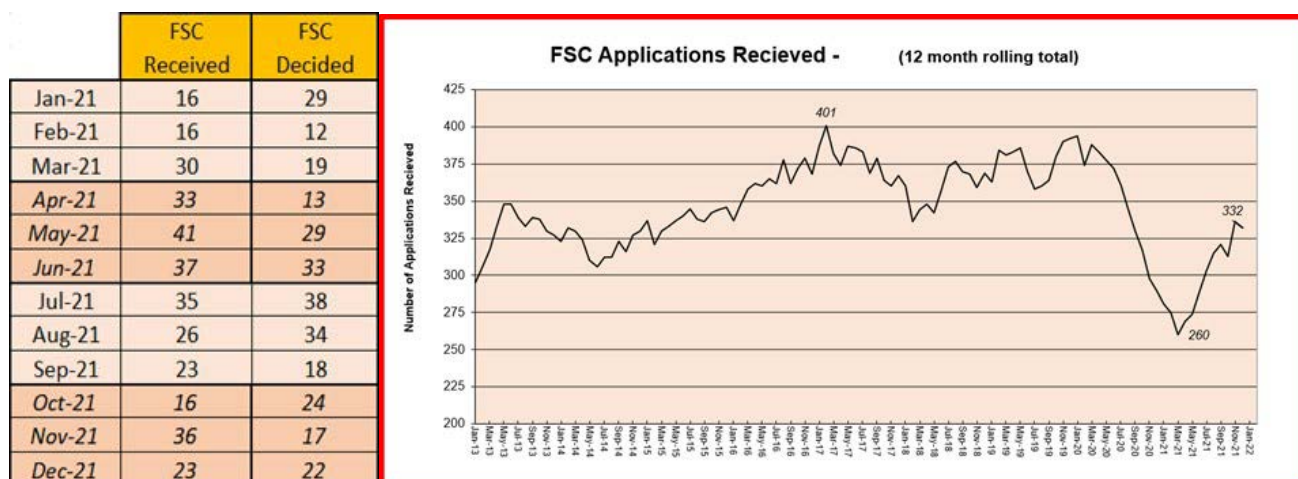


Firefighters from Kinsale Fire Station were involved in a special memorial tribute to the New York Firefighters who died in the 9/11 attacks. The memorial tribute was created at Ringfinnan Garden of Remembrance, Kinsale, this garden was established by Kathleen Murphy in November 2001. Ms. Murphy grew up in Ringfinnan, Kinsale, following her training as a nurse in England she moved to New York where she worked as a staff nurse for 40 years in Lennox Hill Hospital. She always admired the brave and courageous work of firefighters. Following the 9/11 attacks she decided to establish the garden of remembrance in memory to the 343 firefighters who lost their lives on September 11th, 2001. 2021 marked the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks

### Fire Safety

The Fire Safety Section assessed all valid Fire Safety Certificate applications submitted and provided advice on current fire safety standards required for proposed and existing developments. Fire Safety Inspections of non-domestic buildings were carried out throughout the year, licensing applications were processed, and reports issued to the Courts Service as required, planning referral reports were completed as required.

The following table and chart show the number of Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) applications received and granted in 2021:



**Building Control**

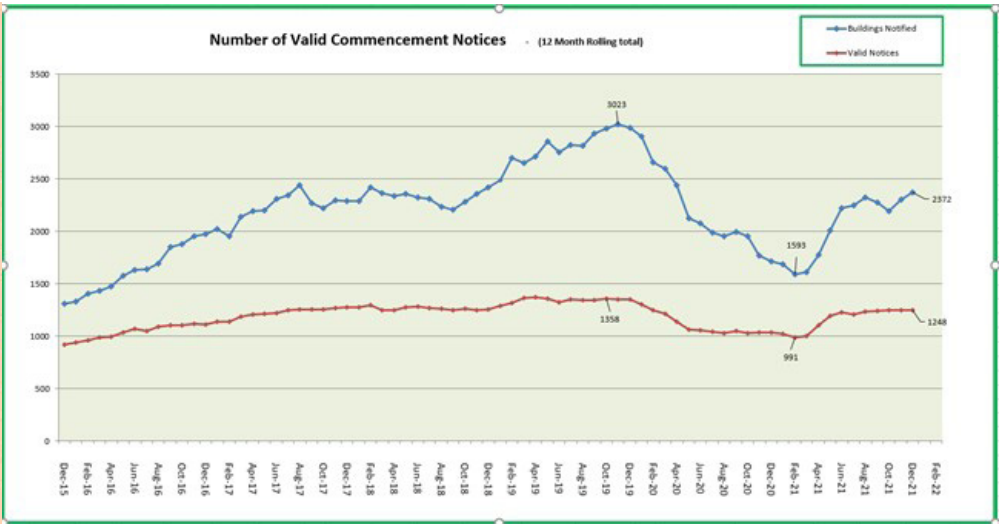
The following table and chart show the number of Disability Access Certificate (DAC) applications received and granted in 2021:

	DAC Received	DAC Decided
Jan-21	13	13
Feb-21	12	13
Mar-21	23	15
Apr-21	19	15
May-21	26	17
Jun-21	25	26
Jul-21	23	22
Aug-21	13	25
Sep-21	23	17
Oct-21	15	18
Nov-21	23	21
Dec-21	18	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>210</b>

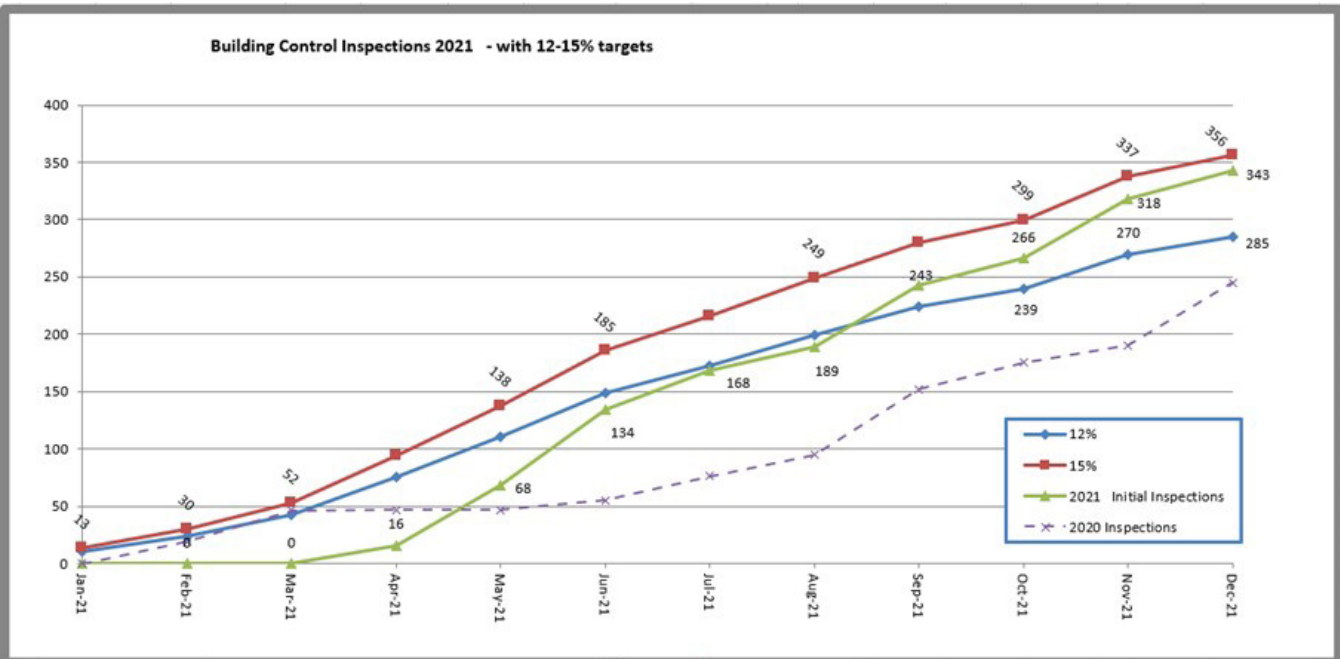


The following table shows the number of valid commencement notice and 7-day notice submissions received in 2021

	Buildings	Notices
Jan-21	88	72
Feb-21	110	50
Mar-21	151	105
Apr-21	277	158
May-21	292	147
Jun-21	318	132
Jul-21	200	105
Aug-21	226	117
Sep-21	205	125
Oct-21	128	103
Nov-21	252	80
Dec-21	125	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,372</b>	<b>1,248</b>



During 2021, Building Control Inspections were carried out on 343 of the 2,373 buildings commenced. This represents an inspection rate of 14.5% which is above the 12% target.



The Building Energy Rating (BER) compliance campaign continued to be rolled out across the county targeting Auctioneers to ensure compliance with the requirements for BER advertising. 2,972 advertisements of buildings being offered for sale or rent were checked and compliance continues to improve.

## MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Major Emergency Management Committee

The Council's Major Emergency Management Committee met quarterly over MS Teams throughout 2021.

### SEVESO Programme 2021

While the COVID 19 Pandemic affected all MEM activities, exercises to test the following External Emergency Plans were carried out. Some exercises were adapted to be delivered virtually over Microsoft Teams.

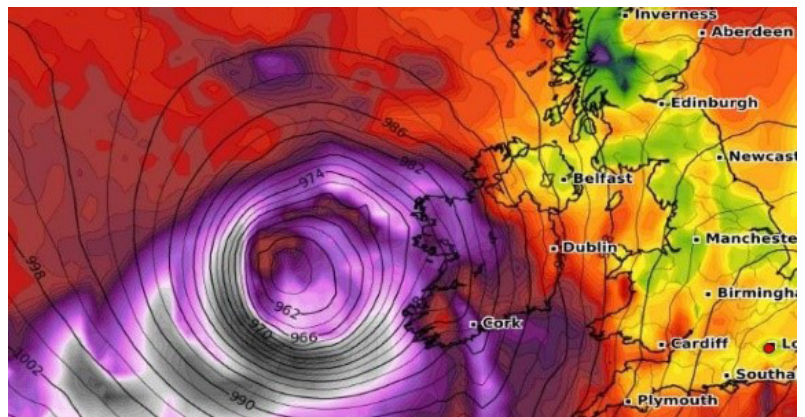
	Facility	Exercise Date	Exercise Type
External Emergency Plan	Irving Oil	20th April 2021	Virtual
External Emergency Plan	Thermo Fisher	26th May 2021	Live
External Emergency Plan	Eli Lily	23rd June 2021	Live
External Emergency Plan	Marinochem	3rd November 2021	Live

### Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT)

The SWAT attended all Met Éireann Briefings in relation to Severe Weather Events and held regular teleconferences in relation to all Met Éireann Weather Warnings including Storm Barra.



Bantry Storm Barra 2021



Storm Barra 2021

### Inter-Agency

Members of Cork County Council participated in various Inter-Agency Activities throughout 2021 including;

#### Training

- On-Site Co-ordination Training held in the Hydra Facility, Clonmel Fire Station
- Oil Spill Pollution Training held at the Port of Cork, Ringaskiddy

#### Exercises

- Jack Lynch Tunnel, Virtual Exercise
- Cork International Airport, Live Exercise

#### Site Familiarisation Visits

- Hovione Ringaskiddy
- Carberry Foods, Ballineen

## Civil Defence

The primary role of Civil Defence is to provide 2nd line emergency response to the Principal Response Agencies (PRAs) in the areas of severe weather and flood response, missing person search, communications and voluntary emergency ambulance capability. Volunteers are professionally trained in a wide variety of skills. Training exercises are regularly undertaken with the PRAs and other Voluntary Emergency Services to maintain a high level of readiness and to streamline procedures.

2021 continued to be an extraordinary year for the service and its volunteers. Throughout the COVID 19 Global Pandemic, Cork County Civil Defence volunteers have demonstrated dedication, commitment, professionalism, resilience and a compassion and care for the vulnerable members of the community.

2021 saw the reopening of events again across the county as the vaccination programme for the country began and restrictions started to lift. Cork County Civil defence volunteers assisted in the rollout of the vaccination programme and were delighted to assist at Community events across the county.

Cork West Civil Defence Volunteers completed 2,283 voluntary operational hours in 2021. These hours included:

- Assistance to 4 separate Missing Person Searches.
- Several medicine deliveries from local pharmacies to members of the community.
- 13 Patient transfers
- Driver duties for Severe Weather Response & CUH Medical Teams.
- Assistance to AGS with Drone Aerial Survey
- 21 Days IBTS Blood Clinics Support
- 2 Boat Transfers of HSE Vaccination Team to Cape Clear
- Beach Guard Testing – Medical Cover.
- First Aid instruction to Beach Guards.
- Blue & Amber Lights Parade in Kinsale for Darkness into Light on Sat 08th May 2021.
- 38 Days support the vaccination
- 15 Days Ambulance Cover for Racing events
- 6 Days Safety Boat for Water Based Events
- 2 Days Ambulance Cover for Water Based Events
- 2 Days VES Severe Weather Resilience Desk operational at Cork West CD HQ in Skibbereen



2021 Skibbereen Charity Adventure Race (SCAR)

### West Cork Talks

Cork West hosted an event for volunteers and members of the emergency services in Skibbereen on Friday 12th Nov 2021. We had 3 guest speakers:

1. Ms Kate Mulkerrins, Executive Director of Legal in An Garda Síochána,
2. Chief Superintendent Alan McGovern, Crime Legal, An Garda Síochána,
3. Lieutenant Colonel Niall Buckley, Irish Air Corps.

The main theme of the event was Leadership, Teamwork, Communication and Decision Making Under Pressure.



### West Cork Talks

Cork North/East Civil Defence Units completed 5,549 voluntary operational hours in 2021. These hours included:

- 14 Missing Person Search and Recovery
- Standby with IAEMO Severe weather desks
- Collect pensions for elderly people
- Deliver meals on wheels
- Patient Transfers
- Collect essential supplies for elderly people
- 17 Days Ambulance Cover at Community Events
- 7 Days Safety Boat for Water based events
- Pay Bills for elderly people.
- Patient Transfers
- Collect essential supplies for elderly people.
- 63 Days Irish blood transfusion service.
- Transport elderly people for COVID Tests
- 77 Days at Vaccination Centre's



*Deliver Christmas hampers to Staff working in ICU units on Christmas day donated by Heroes Aid Nationally*



# Planning and Development





Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

## *Planning & Strategic Development Strategic Policy Committee*

The Planning SPC met on three occasions in 2021. The County Development Plan Review has been the central item for discussions. The CDP Review was significant in that it involved incorporating the nine Town Development Plans of the former Town Council Towns and the eight Municipal District Local Area Plans adopted in 2017 into the new County Development Plan. It was also the first Plan prepared for the new County Administrative boundary. Over 3,000 submissions were received from the public and stakeholder groups throughout the review process. Items considered included:

- CDP Review – Community Resilience
- Place making and Housing Delivery
- Economy and Employment
- Town Centres and Retailing
- Infrastructure

Outside of considerations relating to the Review there were also discussions on:

- Draft Wind Energy Guidelines
- Draft National Marine Planning Framework

## *Development Management*

The number of planning applications received by Cork County Council in 2021 was 4,445. Of this figure 913 were received by the West Cork Office, located in Skibbereen with the remaining 3,502 being received in County Hall.

The number of valid planning applications received was 3,549.

Invalid represented circa 20.5% of the total applications received

The number of Planning Applications granted planning permission in 2021 was 2,767.

The number of planning applications refused was 230

The number of Planning Applications received by Cork County Council with an EIAR (Environmental Impact Assessment Report) was 59.

## *Section 5s*

- Number of Section 5s received in 2021 (Jan 1st – Dec 31st) 157

## *Pre-Planning*

Total number of pre-planning meetings held in 2021 was 1,255. Pre-planning meetings deal with residential small (one of dwellings/extensions), policy, site selection, zoning, house design and in some cases Further Information Requests. Any information submitted at pre-planning is linked to the application and made available publicly online and at the Planning Authority Office as part of the planning file when a planning application is made.

## *Strategic Housing Developments (SHD)*

No decisions were issued by An Bord Pleanála on SHD applications in 2021. Five Section 247 meetings with potential SHD applicants and 4 Tripartite meetings were held with An Bord Pleanála and prospective applicants.

## *Large-scale Residential Developments (LRD)*

In December 2021 the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage advised that the Planning and Development (Amendment) (Large-scale Residential Development) Act 2021 (Commencement) Order 2021 (SI 715 of 2021) was been signed with an effective date of 17 December 2021.

The Programme for Government – Our Shared Future committed to not further extending the Strategic Housing Development (SHD) arrangements beyond their expiry date of 25 February 2022. Action 12.3 of Housing for All also commits to the introduction of a new planning process for Large-scale Residential Developments to replace the SHD process.

The main purpose of the Planning and Development (Amendment) (Large-scale Residential Development) Act 2021 is to restore the two-stage planning process, with decision making for Large-scale Residential Development (LRD) type applications returning to the local Planning Authority in the first instance, with the subsequent right of appeal to An Bord Pleanála (the Board), thereby delivering on the above commitments in the Programme for Government and in Housing for All.

## *Enforcement*

It is the policy of Cork County Council to secure compliance with Planning Permission and to prevent Unauthorised Development in accordance with the statutory requirements as set out in the Planning and Development Act and the Planning and Development Regulations.

Total number of cases closed:		309
No of Procedures taken through Warning Letters:	465	
No of Procedures taken through Enforcement Notices:		12
No of Prosecutions:		Nil
Total Number of Cases Investigated:		317

## Estates

Total Number of Estates Taken in Charge:	4
Total No of new Taking in Charge Applications:	21 (12 Resident Applications & 9 Developer Applications)

A programme of works commenced in 2020 to utilise funds received as a result of bond settlements to progress the finishing of estates to a taking in charge standard.

The initial programme is in respect of 7 estates in North Cork, 4 in South Cork and 5 West Cork.

The as-constructed drawings, CCTV surveys, Public Lighting and Water Audits have all been completed and following a review of the results a snag list of work has been prepared to be included in a Bill of Quantities. Works are nearing completion to bring a bundle of 8 estates in East Cork to a taking in charge standard.

## Local Housing Infrastructure Activation Fund

The Housing Infrastructure Implementation Team (HIIT) and the Planning Directorate has delivered the following:

### Water Rock:

- Part 8 approved in March 2019. Original programme was for construction to commence Q1 2021, but this timetable has been pushed out to Q4 2023 due to Irish Water programme delays with wastewater network extension that will serve both Water Rock and wider Midleton.
- Cork County Council continues to work closely with Irish Water to help deliver on this new timeline through alternative wayleave solutions and negotiated settlements with affected landowners. Council has a Pre connection Enquiry from Irish Water confirming capacity for 2,500 units in Water Rock by Q4 2023.
- Cork County Council has received Dept. approval for an extension to the LIHAF Grant Agreement until Q2 2023 (to reflect Irish Water timeline).
- All five LIHAF landowners signed the Section 47 agreements in December 2020. Cork County Council has countersigned all Section 47 Agreements (July 2021).
- Stage 1 of a two-stage restricted public form of tender process for the LIHAF works is complete. The restricted Stage 2 of the tender process commenced in August 2021 and tenders were submitted on 17th September 2021.
- The "Most Economically Advantageous Tender" has been identified. The DHLGH confirmed continued funding of the project in December 2021. Commencement of construction will be subject to full implementation of the Section 47 agreements by the Landowners.
- The Section 48 Water Rock Contribution Scheme was approved by Council on the 26th April 2021. The Scheme will enable cost recovery of the proposed €20 million public infrastructure spend required to unlock the development lands at Water Rock.
- Planning applications have been lodged by LIHAF landowners for c. 700 units.

### Shannon Park:

- Planning permission in place for 550 units. Circa 250 units completed by end 2021. Roundabout upgrade is complete.

## Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

### Carrigtwohill URDF:

- Consulting engineers appointed in January 2020. Preliminary design and traffic and transport assessment substantially completed.
- Two Part 8s are scheduled to unlock development potential for Carrigtwohill with 18 separate public infrastructure interventions planned. The first Part 8 centres on the town of Carrigtwohill and provides for public realm, road and junction improvements to aid traffic flows and pedestrian and cycle connectivity through the settlement linking major employment zones to existing and planned housing growth in Carrigtwohill and the wider UEA. The Public Realm Infrastructure Part 8 is planned for Q1 2022.
- TII approval is being sought to include interim measures to Cobh Cross within the Part 8. Preparation of a Preliminary Design Report (PDR) to TII standards commenced December 2021. Submission of PDR planned for Jan 2022.
- The 2nd Part 8 will focus on developing the enabling infrastructure in the UEA to facilitate the commencement of development of approx. 2,500 new residential units and associated non-residential development. This Part 8 will involve new link roads, public parks, greenway and high-quality pedestrian and cycle infrastructure to provide for a high quality, integrated and sustainable extension of Carrigtwohill. This Part 8 is due to be published in Q3 2022.
- Part 8 for the section of Interurban Cycleway commenced Q4 2022 (this element is being advanced by Traffic & Transport).

### Water Rock Linear Park:

- Consulting Engineers appointed in Q3 of 2020. 3rd party surveys, preliminary design and 1st phase consultation is substantially concluded.
- Topographical surveys, Archaeology surveys (including underwater), heritage surveys and ecological surveys have been undertaken. Preliminary design of new ped/cycle Owenacurra bridge crossings had been substantially completed.
- Section 50 Applications for the 2 new pedestrian/cycleway bridge structures crossing the Owenacurra River, Midleton and main ped/cycle paths have been substantially completed. Meetings are ongoing with the OPW to finalise the application.
- Landscape architect tender process commenced Q3 2021 for park design within the linear ped/cycle infrastructure framework design by the Consulting Engineers.
- Part VIII expected in Q3 of 2022.

Project Name	Project Team	Description	Total potential for housing long-term
Carrigtwohill URDF Initiative Grant Amount (€750k)	HIIT	Design and planning phase of a combination of existing Public Realm and Urban Expansion Area related infrastructural development proposals	UEA (c.2,500 housing unit yield)
Midleton URDF (Linear Park)	HIIT	(subproject) Design and planning phase for a Linear Park infrastructure at WaterRock UEA	To complement the housing yield at Water Rock UEA c.2,500)

The overall table of URDF projects for Cork County Council that have approval is listed in the table below.

Category	URDF Ref	Scheme reference
B	URDF_014	Cobh Public Realm
B	URDF_014	Cobh Diaspora centre
B	URDF_023	Carrigaline Public Realm
B	URDF_008B	Midleton Permeability
	subproject	Water Rock Linear Park
B	URDF_024	Carrigtwohill
A	URDF_008A	Midleton Public Realm
A	URDF_105	Mallow town centre regeneration Regional Assembly
A	URDF_004	Carrigaline Western relief road

#### HERITAGE:

2021 saw an increase in investment in County Cork's heritage, particularly from national sources such as the Heritage Council; Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

With increased funding comes additional workload and the Council's Heritage Unit is doing its upmost to meet these requirements, while maintaining all of its established service areas, which tie in with many key functions and objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan and Local Economic and Community Plan. A summary of key projects and work areas delivered on in 2021 is now provided.

#### Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structures Fund (HSF)

The county of Cork, through its Conservation Office, was allocated funding for 14 different projects under the 2021 BHIS and HSF Schemes. This funding supported works for many important buildings including churches, castles and houses, in such locations as Boherbue, Cobh, Inchigeelagh, Kanturk, Kinsale, Minane Bridge, Mitchelstown, Rosscarbery and Youghal.



### **Community Monuments Fund**

The Community Monuments Fund – a national fund that supports projects and plans relating to archaeological sites – saw the support of 8 different undertakings in County Cork including Dromtarriff, Cobh, Dunmanway, Spike Island, Crosshaven, Youghal and Fermoy. The support was a significant increase on the level of funding provided under the scheme in 2020.

### **Heritage Council Heritage Officer Scheme**

Supported by the Heritage Council the Heritage Unit undertook a publication on the Heritage Artefacts of County Cork and Phase I of a Geological Survey of County Cork (North Cork) with Phase II to commence in 2022.

2021, also saw the roll-out of the inaugural County Cork Heritage Grant Scheme, which, supported by the Heritage Council, saw allocations provided to 23 different groups. Regarding the scheme, Chief Executive Tim Lucey noted: "Community led work in the promotion and preservation of County Cork's heritage provides tremendous benefits for community wellbeing, the environment and the tourism sector, all the while enriching our understanding of the importance of our hometowns and villages".

### **Further Sources of Investment in the County's Heritage:**

It should be noted that heritage in the county of Cork benefits through the work of many sections of Cork County Council, from many Tourism initiatives to Creative Ireland projects, as well as further benefits under an increasing variety of national grant scheme initiatives run by Government Departments, State Bodies and NGOs. In 2021, the Heritage Unit, through the [www.corkcoco.ie](http://www.corkcoco.ie) website and its email database, disseminated information on over 35 different funding schemes directly of relevance to heritage groups. In many instances, the Heritage Unit provided the necessary advice as well as letters of support in respect of these, examples including:

### **Heritage Council Community Grant Scheme and Heritage Sector Support Scheme:**

Under the Heritage Council's Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2021, 10 groups in the county received funding including The Ellen Hutchins Festival in Bantry; a Town Heritage Trail for Kanturk, increased accessibility at Saint George's Arts and Heritage Centre in Mitchelstown and a heritage video of Bere Island. Under the Heritage Council's Heritage Sector Support Scheme, Bere Island also received funding towards the continued implementation of the Bere Island Conservation Plan.

### **Irish Walled Town Network Grant Schemes:**

Under the Heritage Council's Irish Walled Town Network (IWTN) 2021 Grant Schemes, the county saw financial supports for projects in the walled towns of Buttevant and Youghal. In Buttevant, heritage interpretative panels along the main street were supported, and in Youghal, funding was provided towards the Youghal Medieval Festival, conservation works at Youghal's Town Walls and for a laser scan and 3D Survey of St. Mary's Collegiate Church. Since March 2021, Cork County Council's Heritage Unit now has representation on the Irish Walled Town Network Committee, involved in the steering of the programme and feeding into the popular Walled Town Crier Ezine, which in 2021 featured the Walled Towns of Bandon and Buttevant.



### **Regional Museum Exhibitions Scheme 2021**

Run by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, allocations were provided for 4 different projects in the county: Allihies Copper Mines Museum; Fota House, Passage West Maritime Museum and the Sirius Arts Centre in Cobh.

### **Fisheries Local Action Groups Fund**

Under this scheme there were 13 successful applicants from the county of Cork in 2021, such applicants ranging from Cumann na Daoine in Youghal to the Ellen Hutchins Festival in Bantry, as well as applicants from Schull, Allihies and Skibbereen – all assisting in local maritime heritage projects and undertakings.

### **Annual Heritage Unit Work Programme:**

As evidenced by the above examples of externally run funding schemes, their value for support of heritage initiatives and undertakings in county Cork cannot be understated, and as previously highlighted, the Heritage Unit is regularly engaged with numerous groups seeking advice and support in relation to these schemes. This, however, is only one aspect of the work of the Heritage Unit and annually a variety of different projects and work agendas are undertaken and rolled out. The following is a selection of Heritage Unit 2021 undertakings delivered on:

- Celebrating Cork Past Exhibition: Although COVID-19 prevented a physical exhibition from taking place on the ground, a video was undertaken to promote the initiative involving a staff member of the Heritage Unit who also sits on the Steering Committee.
- County Development Plan submissions: The Heritage Unit worked closely with the Planning Policy Unit, providing reports on heritage related submissions received through the Development Plan Public Consultation process and by assisting in the formulation of much of the text for Chapter 16 (Built and Cultural Heritage), including policy direction and objectives.
- Dissemination of Publications: Promoting awareness of heritage is a key priority of the Heritage Unit. Said Unit has undertaken many heritage guidance documents for dissemination and also promotes other useful documents. In the case of the latter, 2021 saw the distribution of close to 100 Gardening for Biodiversity books; 291 copies of the Colourful Heritage of County Cork publications and over 200 copies of the national Pledge Your Garden for Pollinators leaflet.
- Heritage Map Viewer: The Heritage Unit provides an annual contribution to the National Heritage Map Viewer and systematically provides heritage relevant datasets on completion.
- Heritage of County Cork Publication Series: The Heritage Unit produces a new book in the series year after year and manages all project aspects including the sale of the publications themselves.





- Historic Monuments Advisory Committee: Cork County Council's Historic Monuments Advisory Committee continued to meet in 2021 undertaking work on a variety of different projects.
- Historic Town Maps: 2021 saw continuation in the production of Historic Town Maps for towns in the County, led by the County Archaeologist in conjunction with the local MD Offices. These are a significant asset to Cork County's tourism product and copies of the maps are available to download for free online on the 'Pure Cork' website ([www.purecork.ie](http://www.purecork.ie)).
- National Biodiversity Action Plan and Biodiversity Week: In 2021 the Heritage Unit provided the match funding requirement for support of an Invasive Species Survey being overseen by the Council's Ecological Unit, having received funding under the National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund. The Heritage Unit also promoted a wide variety of events for National Biodiversity Week, which took place from May 15th to 23rd, 2021.
- National Heritage Week: Heritage Week in 2021 was successful, notwithstanding COVID 19, with the undertaking of 71 various projects and initiatives in the county, 37 of which constituted







- National Pollinator Award: Since the Awards' inception, the Heritage Unit has contributed annually towards the National Pollinator Award as part of the National Tidy Towns Competition.
- National Tree Week: For many years the Heritage Unit has been coordinating National Tree Week in county Cork, tying in with Action 50 of CCC's Climate Adaptation Strategy. In 2021 the Heritage Unit disseminated 800 trees to over 40 different groups, schools and organisations.



- Other Cork County Council Heritage related/focused Projects: 2021 saw the continued involvement and input of the Heritage Unit in a variety of undertakings by many different Cork County Council Directorates including Environment, Corporate Services, Roads, Tourism and Economic Development, and Municipal District Operations and Rural Development. Examples include support and promotion of Seachtain na Gaeilge, which is run through the Council's Irish Office in Corporate Services and extensive work on the excellent Explore Cork Tourism App development by CCC's Tourism Office.
- Online Courses: Due to COVID 19 there has been a significant move to the hosting of events online and in 2021, the Heritage Unit organised a free online course for people interested in doing what they can for biodiversity in their back gardens. Such was the demand that a second course was also organised.
- Planning and Development: An important part of the Heritage Unit's role is advising at both preplanning stage and at planning stage in respect of the impact that development proposals may have on the county's Heritage. Considerable time is spent on planning applications; Part 8s, Section 57s and the devising of placenames for new housing developments by way of planning compliance.
- Policy and Procedure: The Heritage Unit spent considerable time in 2021 working with the Planning Policy Unit in relation to the heritage relevant sections of the upcoming County Development Plan (covered above). In addition, a new procedure for the naming of housing developments was put in place through the Planning and Development SPC; CPG and subsequently at Development Committee.
- Signage: In 2021, the Heritage Unit played a key role in providing signage (and the accompanying anchor) at Ballybrannigan Beach in East Cork and a Railway Heritage sign in Kanturk, working with local engineering staff.



- Supporting Publications and Reports: The Heritage Unit annually supports some bespoke publications and important data research/reporting. In 2021, support was provided towards an upcoming Birds of Cork publication as well as a publication on the history of Harper's Island.
- Website, Media and Email Database: Through a regular mailing list update of 1,800 recipients and the continued upkeep of the heritage website, which sees upwards of 30,000 visitors per annum, significant numbers of people are continually being reached by the Heritage Unit. The heritage section of [www.corkcoco.ie](http://www.corkcoco.ie) is updated regularly and the first half of 2021 saw 174 entries provided on the heritage news section. Communicating on heritage is a key undertaking of the Heritage Unit who works regularly with the Council's Communications Office as well as local and national media sources, for example, TG4. The Heritage Officer also featured in a podcast for the Heritage Council as gaeilge in promotion of National Heritage Week.

## COMMEMORATIONS:

The operation of commemorative activity in County Cork, as was the case in 2020, was also somewhat curtailed in 2021 owing to COVID 19 restrictions. The latter part of the year did however see a return to physical events including the most successful and Cork County Council supported Centenary Commemoration of the Dripsey Ambush.

Cork County Council, through its Commemorations Committee, ran an extensive Commemorative Work Programme in 2021 and one of the key undertakings was the running of a grant scheme, which saw allocations awarded to 29 different groups.

Considerable support of the Council's 2021 Commemorative Programme came from the Department of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, coupled with funding through Cork County's Council's Commemorations Budget.

The following is a list of the key commemorative undertakings by the Commemorations Committee in 2021:

### **Annual Commemorations Work Programme:**

**Béal na Bláth:** Considerable preparation was undertaken in 2021 in regard to the upcoming centenary of the death of Michael Collins on August 22nd, 1922 including work on a historic map.

**Cork's Oral Memory:** The County of Cork had extensive involvement in the War of Independence and Civil War and in the many decades since, numerous oral recordings were undertaken with many of those who saw direct involvement during this period. With thanks to the support of the D/TCAGSM in 2021, considerable work has been achieved in creating a source archive for this information.

**Database of War of Independence and Civil War Sites:** A key project in the Work Programme of the Commemorations Committee is the undertaking of a County Cork Database of War of Independence and Civil War memorial sites. Significant work has already been achieved, to be finalised in 2022.

**Landscapes of Revolution:** This is a mapping project, supported by the Commemorations Committee to explore the landscapes of some key engagements of the War of Independence and Civil War that took place in county Cork such as Crossbarry, Cloyne and Mallow.

Other projects supported by the Commemorations Committee:

- 175th anniversary of An Gorta Mór in Glenville;
- Bicentenary of St. Martin's Church in Newcestown,
- Michael Collins House 2021 Commemorative Programme
- Upcoming publication 'Stories of the Revolution' – a school's project supported by the Committee since inception
- Upcoming publication commemorating the Religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests of Baile Bhuirne
- Upcoming publication focussing on the Battle of Crossbarry
- Virtual Conference by U.C.C. to mark Treaty Negotiations



### Restoration of Graves Fund:

- Restoration of the Tom Barry monument at Saint Craunachtan Church in Annakisha near Mallow (T. Barry was a public representative of Cork County Council and died in 1904).
- Restoration of the Liam Burke Memorial in Ballyhooly who died during the War of Independence.
- Restoration of the Michael Rouse memorial at Kilcrumper Cemetery, Fermoy, who died during the War of Independence.
- Re-erection of a headstone to Michael Looney at Grenagh Cemetery, who died during the War of Independence.



Timeline of Commemoration: Numerous events of note took place in the county from 1920 to 1923 and significant work on a centenary timeline publication was undertaken by Cork County Council's Commemorations Office in 2021.

War of Independence and Civil War Exhibition: A joint project by the Council's Heritage Unit and the Local Studies Section, this exhibition, constituting over 20 exhibition boards, was completed in 2021 and will tour throughout the county in 2022.



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  

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Cork County Council

An aerial photograph of a coastal town and harbor, overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. The town is visible in the foreground, with a road and buildings. The harbor is in the middle ground, with a large cruise ship docked at a pier. The background shows a wide expanse of water and a distant coastline under a clear sky.

# Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE AND TOURISM

## Community

### LCDCs

The following programmes were overseen and approved by the 3 Cork County Council Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) (North/South/West Cork)/LAGs (Local Action Groups under LEADER Programme) during 2021.

Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 & LEADER Transitional Programme 2021–2022.

The LEADER programme 2014–2022 is co-financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, an initiative to support rural development projects initiated at the local level in order to revitalise rural areas and create jobs.

- Overseen by the Department of Rural & Community Development and Operated by 3 LCDCs /LAG Committees in co-operation with 6 Local Development Companies: Avondhu Blackwater Partnership, IRD Duhallow, SECAD Partnership, Ballyhoura Development, Comhar na nOileán and Udarás na Gaeltachta.
- The main Programme was extended to 31st March 2021 however, Cork County LAGs had committed and approved all monies by 31st December 2020. A new LEADER Transitional Programme was made available from 1st April 2021 which ends in December 2022.

### LEADER Programme 2014 – 2020 (See breakdown hereunder)

- Total Countywide Allocation €13.9M, this includes 25% allocation of administration & animation to the Local Development Companies. During the programme an additional allocation of €500k was awarded to North Cork LAG as being one of the top 10 LAGs in the country at a point in time.
- Total of 253 Approved Projects Countywide, Value €10,738,793M.
- Claims Drawn down, 213 Projects to date, Value €6,728,926M.

	General LEADER Programme (No. and value of Projects)	LEADER Claims (No. & Value of Claims) Note: Some are phased payments
Overall Allocations	County €13.9M plus additional €500k North Cork LAG	
North Cork LAG	117 €4,253,564	109 €3,105,863
South Cork LAG	68 €2,802,403	47 €1,597,735
West Cork LAG	68 €3,682,826	57 €2,025,328
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>253</b> <b>€10,738,793</b>	<b>213</b> <b>€6,728,926</b>

### LEADER TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMME 2021 & 2022

(Commencement Date 01/04/2021 – see allocation breakdown hereunder)

- This transitional programme is to bridge the gap until the next programme which is not expected until 2023.
- Under the Transitional LEADER Programme an initial national allocation of €20M was made in December 2020 with an additional €50M allocated nationally in April 2021.
- Total Countywide Project Allocation budget is €3,057,574. In addition, to this as with the main programme, funding is also provided towards administration & animation to the Local Development Companies.
- To date, a total of 41 Approved Projects Countywide, Value €2,096,016M.



	COLUMN A: ALLOCATION 1		COLUMN B: ALLOCATION 2		Total of Column A + Column B
	Initial National Allocation of €20M (€15M Projects & €5M Admin & Animation) Dec. 2020		Additional National allocation of €50M announced 9/4/2021  €5M of this was top sliced, of which €3M allocated to LEADER Transitional/ Co-operation Projects and €2M to preparatory work for Local Development Strategies for the next LEADER Programme		National Allocations €70M
	Projects	Admin & Animation	Projects	Admin & Animation	Total - Project: Total - Admin & Animation:
North Cork LAG	€347,171	€115,724	€775,661	€260,378	€1,122,832 €376,102
South Cork LAG	€261,225	€87,075	€625,741	€195,919	€886,966 €282,994
West Cork LAG	€341,978	€113,993	705,798	€256,483	€1,047,776 €370,476

#### TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMME 2021-2022 (Breakdown per Local Development Company)

	Local Development Company	Project Allocations	Admin & Animation Allocations	Total Allocation Per LAG
North Cork LAG	Avondhu/Blackwater Partnership CLG	€460,361	€154,202	Projects: €1,122,832 Admin & Animation: €376,102
	Ballyhoura Development CLG	€213,338	€71,459	
	IRD Duhallow CLG	€449,133	€150,441	
South Cork LAG	Avondhu/Blackwater Partnership CLG	€212,872	€67,919	Projects: €886,966 Admin & Animation: €282,994
	SECAD Partnership CLG	€612,007	€195,266	
	IRD Duhallow CLG	€44,348	€14,150	
	Udarás na Gaeltachta	€17,739	€5,660	
West Cork LAG	Avondhu/Blackwater Partnership CLG	€157,166	€55,571	Projects: €1,047,776 Admin & Animation: €370,476
	SECAD Partnership CLG	€576,277	€203,762	
	Comhar na nOileán Teo	€314,333	€111,143	

## TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMME 2021-2022 (Allocations from 1st April 2021 – March 2022)

Note: LEADER Food & Co-operation Programmes allocations include the 2014-2020 Programme

	TRANSITIONAL LEADER Programme (No. and value of Projects)	LEADER Food Initiative (No. & value of Projects)	LEADER Transnational / Co-operation Programme (No. & Value of Projects)	LEADER Claims (No. & Value of Claims) Note: Some are phased payments
Overall Allocations	County Project Allocation €3,057,574	€15M National Allocation	€10M National Allocation plus additional €3M under Transitional	
North Cork LAG	16 €548,367	13 €664,333	6 €423,848	1 €56,250
South Cork LAG	14 €786,766	11 €563,592	8 €446,019	1 €91,908
West Cork LAG	11 €760,883	8 €463,281	10 €563,388.	NIL
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>41</b> <b>€2,096,016</b>	<b>32</b> <b>€1,691,206</b>	<b>24</b> <b>€1,433,255</b>	<b>2</b> <b>€148,158</b>

### LEADER FOOD INITIATIVE:

- Under the initial Programme 2014-2020, a further allocation of €15M was released nationally under the LEADER Food Initiative, this was subsequently extended into the LEADER Transitional Programme with the deadline for project approvals under this measure being extended to 31st December 2022 or until the funds available for these schemes are exhausted. In December 2021 the Department notified us that all funds under this scheme have now been spent and no further applications will be processed.
- As outlined in above table, a total of 32 applications were approved in Cork County with a total value of €1,691,206

### LEADER TRANSNATIONAL/CO-OPERATION INITIATIVE:

- Similar to the LEADER Food Initiative, the LEADER 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme ring fenced a separate national allocation of €10M for Transnational (outside of Ireland) Inter-territorial (within Ireland) LEADER Co-operation Projects.

Under the LEADER Transitional Programme, an additional €3M was added to this fund nationally. The deadline for project approvals under this measure has been extended to 31st December 2022 or until the funds available for these schemes are exhausted.

- As outlined in the above table, a total of 24 applications have been approved to date in Cork County LCDCs with a total value of €1,433,255.

### LEADER WEBSITES:

- Three LEADER websites available to view: [www.leadernorthcork.com](http://www.leadernorthcork.com); [www.leadersouthcork.com](http://www.leadersouthcork.com); [www.leaderwestcork.com](http://www.leaderwestcork.com);

### Strategic Policy Committee

The Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development SPC met on four occasions in 2021 to consider and to progress a number of policy initiatives, including;

- Park Use Guidelines
- Memorial Bench/Plaque/Tree Guidelines
- Library Digital Ambassador Policy

A number of Agreed Priorities for 2021 were also included which are as follows;

- Provision for Columbarium Policy in Cork County Council Cemeteries
- Communications boards in playgrounds for SLCN and ASD children
- Wheelchair accessibility at beaches
- Examination of potential to further develop digitalisation of burial grounds (resource dependent).

### **Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 – 2022**

- a) Operated by 3 LCDCs.
- b) Overseen by the Department of Rural & Community Development, funding to the value of €12,309,220 is allocated to Cork County over the now six-year period from 2018–2022. The current contract which was due to end in December 2022 has now been extended for a further 12 months.
- c) The Programme is divided into 7 Lots and six Local Development Companies are working in partnership with Cork County Council in delivering the programme, namely; Avondhu Blackwater Partnership CLG; Ballyhoura Development CLG; IRD Duhallow CLG; SECAD Partnership CLG; West Cork Development Partnership; Comhar na nOileán CTR.
- d) An LCDC SICAP subgroup are tasked with providing reports and recommendations to the LCDC on contract and performance monitoring. Members of the subgroup are drawn from the LCDC membership. Mid Term and End of Year Reviews for 2021 were carried out and approved by 3 LCDCs including approval of Annual Plans.
- e) The SICAP Programme is delivering real and measurable benefits to the most marginalised people in society and there have been significant benefits of the programme to the target groups. The impact of COVID 19 on the delivery of the programme had been significant with all face-to-face contact continuing to be provided online during 2021 including induction meetings, progress meetings and training courses.
- f) Case Studies for 2021 were submitted to Pobal for approval and will be presented to the LCDCs in early 2022.

### **HEALTHY IRELAND FUND**

- In 2016 the government approved the creation of a national Healthy Ireland Fund with an initial allocation of €5 million.
- The scheme is managed locally by Cork County Council under the management of H.I. Coordinator Niall O'Callaghan and implemented across Cork County in co-operation with the LCDC's and other key stakeholders.
- The Budget allocated to Cork County under Round 3 of the programme was €422,050 which resulted in 9 key actions. This round has now been extended to March 2022.
- One of the initiatives under this fund is the annual 'Teen Talk' event aimed at Transition Year students. Due to continuing restrictions this was held virtually on 18th November 2021. It was a great success with 41 schools participating, which equated to over 3,000 students. In addition to the Teen Talk event there was for the first time an additional event known as 'Gen Z', an evening event aimed at parents & teachers which was held virtually on Tuesday, 23rd November. A total of 897 individuals registered for this event, which exceeded expectations.

Following on from these events, a selection of promotional packs were being distributed to all the schools involved.

- Another initiative under the fund was the compilation of a Healthy Ireland Strategy for Cork County, this is now completed and approved by the three LCDCs of Cork County Council in December 2021 and was formally launched by our Mayor Cllr. Gillian Coughlan and Minister Frank Feighan T.D., Minister of State for Public Health, Wellbeing & the National Drugs Strategy.

It's based on the Healthy Ireland Framework issued in 2013 and based on best practice from around Ireland. The strategy focuses on the following themes:

- Partnership & Collaboration
- Positive Mental Health
- Physical Environment
- Workplaces
- Tobacco Free
- Alcohol & Drugs
- Sexual Health
- Physical Activity
- Maintaining a Healthy Weight

### **Connecting for Life:**

Connecting for Life is Ireland's National Strategy to reduce suicide (2015–2024). Connecting for Life is founded on the suicide prevention work that has taken place in Ireland in the past as part of Reach Out, the Government's previous strategy to reduce suicide. Since then, there have been significant developments in the areas of research, policy and service delivery relating to suicide prevention. Cork County Council is an active member of the Connecting for Life Steering Working Group and is continuing to facilitate all actions to assist in the reduction of suicide rates in Ireland. The work of the Steering Group in Cork County Council is facilitated through the Healthy Ireland Office.

### **Community Resilience Fund:**

Under the Community Resilience fund, which was co-ordinated by our Healthy Ireland Officer, a number of initiatives were supported by the three LCDCs. One such initiative involved Cork Sports Partnership and the Council's Age Friendly Office where over 2,000 Older Adult Activity Packs were distributed at a time when it was needed the most. Minister Frank Feighan met with some of the recipients & contributors of this initiative during his recent visit.

### **GRANTS ADMINISTERED BY LCDCs IN 2021:**

Cork County Council supports communities by providing a range of grants which are administered and approved by the three LCDCs in Cork County. The three LCDCs have provided €1,121,759M countywide during 2021.

The Community Development Initiative is funded in full by Cork County Council with the remainder being funded by Department of Rural & Community Development

Grant Type	County Allocation	No. Applications Received Countywide	Value of Applications Received Countywide	No. Successful Countywide	Allocations Per LCDC
COVID 19 Emergency Fund Round 3	€65,191	101	€373,338	66	North Cork 19 Value €19,388  South Cork 26 Value €26,803  West Cork 21 Value €19,000
Community Enhancement Programme	€156,300	170	€728,995	116	North Cork 47 Value €64,800  South Cork 33 Value €41,300  West Cork 36 Value €50,200
Community Development Initiative Phase 2	€724,500	242	€2,868,713	132	Value €241,600  South Cork 48 Value €242,800  West Cork 39 Value €240,10
Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme	€38,208.81	38	€124,896	14	North Cork 9 Value €24,658.81  South Cork 3 Value €9,000  West Cork 2 Value €4,650
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>€984,199.81</b>			<b>328</b>	<b>328 Grants Value €984,199.81</b>

The following were funded by Department of Health under the Healthy Ireland Fund:

Scheme Title	County Allocation	No. Applications Received Countywide	Value of Applications Received Countywide	No. Successful Countywide
Community Mental Health Fund – Small Capital Grant	€30,000	23	€46,000	13
Community Resilience Fund	€107,560			15
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>€137,560</b>			<b>28</b>

### Local Economic Community Plan (LECP)

This is a statutory Plan that takes into account national & regional plans and sets out high level goals, objectives and actions required to promote and support local economic & community development within Cork County. There are 30 key social and economic assets identified in the Plan which were identified via consultation with a wide range of stakeholders through consultation with residents through the Cork County Quality of Life Survey and via a review of national policies. The LECP will be revised as national and regional policies change and are updated. Guidance on the formation of a new LECP was received from the Department of Rural & Community Development at end of 2021 with workings on the new plan to begin in 2022.

### Comhairle Na nOg:

On-going Work

- 17 meetings held throughout 2021 including 2 steering group meetings, all held online.
- The Cork County Comhairle na nÓg continue to meet weekly via zoom to work on their 2021 work topic "Mental health and well-being: Eating disorders and body image"
- The group continued to support Cork County Council's C.A.R.E. Campaign encouraging young people to adhere to COVID 19 public health guidelines.
- Annual AGM held virtually in December 2021 with 21 secondary schools in attendance and 118 participants, a large increase on previous years.
- Dáil na nÓg in December, held online.

### Consultations:

- Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade Youth Consultation: 'Global Citizenship and Development Education Strategy 2021-2024' (2 representatives - April)
- Cork County Arts Office consultation (9 representatives - April) The Cork County Councils Arts Office commenced a consultation process with the Comhairle to assist them with the progression of the Creative Ireland Programme and the development of the new Arts Strategy. An Arts subgroup of the Comhairle has been established to support the process.
- 'Shaping Our Electricity Future' Eirgrid Youth Assembly (6 representatives - April)
- National consultation on Physical Activity focusing on rural young people who have disengaged from physical activity with Minister Jack Chambers (2 representatives - April)
- DCEDIY 'In-Depth Conversation on Climate Action Plan' (1 representative - April)
- Submission to Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028 (June)
- Department of Education consultation on an evaluation framework for teachers' professional learning (July)
- Invitation for collaborative work on Slack online platform (August)
- Survey by 'Climate Rights Ireland' regarding climate change and children's rights in Ireland (August)
- Vote@16 Consultation with NYCI 'Young Voices' and ISSU (Sept)
- Comhairle member Mair Kelly nominated to represent CorkCounty CNN on the Social Inclusion Linkage Group of the PPN(Public Participation Network) and on Cork County Council's Social Inclusion & Community SPC.(November)
- Comhairle members have joined the Ombudsman for Children's Office Youth Advisory Panel (ongoing)

### Events:

- Comhairle na nÓg Network event (4 representatives - April)
- Sport Ireland 's 'Girls Get Active' Hackathon invited & encouraged us to create sport/physical activity programmes for teenage girls (1 representative - April)
- CorkCountyCNN created digital output to promote Healthy Ireland 'Teen Talks 2021
- Update presented to the Social Inclusion & Community SPC - October
- Body Image Webinar 16th November

### Project outputs:

Youth Climate Conversations project

(Collaboration with Environment – Energy & Climate Change Office, Cork County Council)

- Video uploaded on 04 May (contributions by 8 members – a compilation of digital stories of Comhairle's perspectives of the Climate Crisis)
- Posted on Cork County Council social media (on World Environment Day, 06 June): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BAUKCFmDVs>

### Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Cork County Public Participation Network (PPN) is a network of almost 500 community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental organisations, working to build better communities across Cork County.
- The PPN elects Representatives from its network onto Cork County Council policymaking and community development committees, giving a voice to communities at a local government level.
- In December 2021, 33 new PPN Representatives were elected onto each of the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs), Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) and the Joint Policing Committees (JPC).
- The PPN is steered by a its 16-member Secretariat, who meet monthly. In 2021, all meetings were held virtually due to COVID 19 restrictions.
- In 2021, the PPN launched a new website, promotional animation and PR campaign to raise the profile of the PPN.
- The biannual meeting of members known as the Plenary took place virtually in October 2021 during which 20 new governance policies and its annual workplan were ratified by members.

### Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee

Councillor Frank O'Flynn is the Chairman of the Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee for the term, 2019 – 2024.

Meetings	Date of Meeting	Presentations given
Q1 2021 *	Fri. 15th Jan.	Update on the activities of the Cork South, North and West Local Enterprise Offices. S. O'Sullivan and K. Curran, Cork County Council  Update on the administration of the COVID-19 Business Restart Grant. P. Sutton, Cork County Council.
Q2 2021 *	Mon. 26th Apr.	Review of the South West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 and a pre-view of the work that is underway to draft the next plan? R. Church, Programme Manager, SWREP
Q3 2021 *	Fri. 9th July	IDA Ireland's new strategy, 'Driving Recovery and Sustainable Growth 2021-2024'. R. O'Connor, Regional Business Development Manager  The Cork Economic and Community Data Monitor. S. Corcoran, Director of Service.
Q4 2021 *	Fri. 21st Nov.	Presentation from participants of this EDF funded programme, delivered by the Rubicon Centre, MTU.

\* In response to the COVID 19 Pandemic, meetings of the SPC were held virtually.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROJECTS

### Economic Development Fund

The allocations made from the EDF during 2021 as shown below.

NOTE: The Southern Division is also used as a proxy for representing allocations to County wide events and initiatives.

Year / Ref:	Priority of Funding	Division	Name of Initiative	Total Allocation
Existing Commitment 2018.23	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	West	Údarás na Gaeltachta REDF Co-Funding	€50,000.00
Recurring Funding 2019.02	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Cork BIC - Growth Pathway: 2019 - 2021	€45,000.00
Recurring funding 2019.03	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	IGNITE Graduate Business Innovation Centre 2019 - 2021	€105,000.00
Recurring Funding 2019.05	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Energy Cork: 2019 - 2021	€128,971.50
Recurring Funding 2019.09	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	South	Cork Harbour Festival (Oceans to the City): 2019 - 2021	€60,000.00
Recurring Funding 2019.25	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Confucius Institute: 2019 - 2021	€15,000.00
Recurring Funding 2019.27	Strategic Marketing and Tourism.	North	Munster Vales: 2019 - 2021	€60,000.00
Recurring Funding 2019.37	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	SCALE Cork: 2019 - 2020	€124,000.00
Recurring Funding 2020.03	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Cork Smart Gateways: (Trinity College Dublin)	€33,750.00
Recurring Funding 2020.04	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	EBAN Cork	€10,000.00
Recurring Funding 2020.10	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	South	Munster Agricultural Society 2022 - 2024	€60,000.00
	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	South	CorkCoCo - Provision organising and fitting out of a stand at the Summer Show.	€60,000.00
Recurring Funding 2020.11	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	North	Mallow Maths & Science Fair	€3,750.00
2021.03	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	IT@Cork Agri-Tech Forum 2021 - 2023	€12,000.00
2021.04	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Ireland China Science and Technology Association	€4,000.00
2021.05	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	South	Cork International Choral Festival	€7,500.00
2021.06	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	STEM South West - MTU.	€15,000.00

Year / Ref:	Priority of Funding	Division	Name of Initiative	Total Allocation
2021.07	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	South	Visit Cork (Promoting Cork Ltd)	€100,000.00
2021.08	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	South	Asia Matters	€18,450.00
2021.09	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	IGNITE Graduate Business Innovation Centre 2022 - 2024	€105,000
2021.10	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	IT@Cork Leaders Award 2021 - 2023	€12,000.00
2021.11	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	SCALE Cork	TBC
2021.12	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Energy Cork: 2022 - 2024	130,500

NOTE: South is also used as a proxy for representing allocations to County wide events and initiatives.

### Summary of Initiatives with Local and Regional Stakeholders

#### CorkBIC Growth Pathway Programme

CorkBIC supports the identification and growth of innovative, knowledge intensive, companies based on promising technology. It helps entrepreneurs to navigate the challenges of raising finance, developing business propositions, making agreements with shareholders and investors and finding customers.

Cork County Council was a founding partners of the Growth Pathway Programme in 2016. This programme, involving SMEs, Start-ups and business leaders, is focused on building the next generation of high-performance companies.

Refer to <https://www.corkbic.com/about-cork-bic> for more information.

#### Cork Smart Gateway

66% of the world's population will live in urban areas by 2050. A challenge then will be to supply these urban areas with safe food, clean water and sufficient energy in an economic, social and environmentally sustainable manner. One EU response to this challenge is to promote the development of Smart Cities and Communities where integrated energy, transport and ICT technologies are employed to reduce environmental impact and promote the development of efficient, sustainable and safe communities particularly within the context of an aging population.

The County Council, City Council, MTU, UCC, the Nimbus Research Centre and the Tyndall National Institute established Cork Smart Gateway to promote Cork as a smart region and raise awareness about the availability of our local research facilities to help the small and medium enterprises develop ICT, IoT and energy solutions in response to these challenges.

Refer to <http://www.corksmartgateway.ie/about/> for more information

#### Energy-Cork

Energy Cork is an economic cluster seeking to secure a competitive advantage for the energy sector in Cork by pursuing coordinated actions to strengthen enterprise, create employment and capitalise on Cork's position at the forefront of the energy sector in a sustainable manner.

Refer to <http://www.energycork.ie/index.php/about/> for more information.

#### IGNITE

This is a joint initiative with the City Council and the Local Enterprise Offices to encourage entrepreneurship and enterprise creation. It is an international award-winning business incubation programme supporting recent graduate entrepreneurs turn good ideas into great businesses. Based at University College Cork, the 12-month programme is open to all recent graduates from all Irish third level institutions who have the passion and ambition to work full-time on a scalable start-up idea with potential for commercial or social impact.

Since then, it has worked with almost 120 start-ups and over 140 founders who have launched companies such as UrAbility, AnaBio Technologies, ApisProtect, Eurocomply, LegitFit, OnTheQt, PunditArena, Supply.ie, Talivest, TrustAp and Vconnecta.

Refer to <https://www.ucc.ie/en/ignite/aboutus/> for more information.



### **Scale Cork**

Ireland's first scaling programme for SMEs is supported by the Economic Development Fund and delivered by the Rubicon Centre at MTU. A number of established Cork companies in the med-tech, agri-tech and digital health sectors, with the ambition to scale beyond their current capability, increase sales, develop exports and build relationship with FDIs in the region are participating in this 9-month programme.

At this meeting, the participants on the programme will each make a short presentation to introduce their company, explain how they have sought to scale their company in the last year, review their highlights from participating in the programme and preview their plans to scale their company in the future.

Refer to <https://www.rubiconcentre.ie/scale-cork/> for more information.

### **STEM South West**

Promotes and nurtures STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) throughout the South West region of Ireland. The cluster comprises industry stakeholders (SMEs and MNCs), Higher Education Institutes - Munster Technological University (MTU) and University College Cork (UCC), local government (Cork County Council), not-for-profit (KerrySciTech) and the Southern Regional Skills Forum, who are working together to maximise the capacity of the STEM Sector in the South West and to create and develop opportunities for members and the communities within which they operate.

The initiative has an industry led Board with representatives from multi-national operations and SMEs in the region, the HEI sector and the state and local authority sectors.

A major online STEM SW industry showcase took place in January 2021 with over 60 virtual exhibitors and over 3000 attendees from the region and across Ireland. Further events are planned for later this year.

Refer to <https://www.stemsouthwest.ie/> for more information

### **Cork Economic Monitor**

This new initiative will soon go live on the Cork County Council website. The Monitor is a custom designed software solution containing relevant datasets and indicators from authoritative sources to provide insight into the economic and community performance of Cork County at a variety of spatial scales. The monitor can be applied to meet the increased demand for data and evidence-based decision making across the many functions within the Council.

The monitor, which will incorporate key indicators for Cork County across 15 themes, will be available to view in an easy to use analytical dashboard that will provide users with the ability to easily compare and contrast data and indicators. The 15 themes are population, housing, economy and employment, education, crime and safety, health, households and families, social deprivation, property market, live register, jobs and commuting, environment, agriculture, council finances and income and living standards.

## **CO-FUNDING INITIATIVES**

### **El Regional Economic Development Fund.**

Enterprise Ireland invited proposals for support from the Regional Economic Development Fund (REDF). Using a Competitive Call Process, the REDF supports regions to build on their unique strengths and create sustainable jobs. Projects were selected following a rigorous evaluation process based on criteria which includes impacts and value for money, collaboration and participation, viability and sustainability, building regional strengths and significance for innovation.

Two applications supported by Cork County Council have been approved by Enterprise Ireland and the Council will provide the co-funding element required by the two projects which are;

**SynBioHub:** This initiative will seek to attract early stage life science start-up companies to Cork, help them to accelerate their development towards mature growth stage companies and ultimately seek to anchor them in Ireland for the long term. SynBioHub which is led by University College Cork (UCC) & Cork County Council (CCC) will trade as CorkBioHub and provide a "one stop shop" growth and development system enabling life science start-up companies to thrive in a unique supportive environment custom designed to suit bio-based businesses.

**A Digital Hub:** An tÚdarás na Gaeltachta propose to undertake an extensive redevelopment of an existing regional facility in Baile Bhúirne in the Muskerry Gaeltacht to provide a regional Digital Hub offering the full range of business training and development supports. The Digital Hub will offer a flexible, connected, innovation space providing a range of critical supports targeting the relatively disadvantaged and isolated rural districts in the Muskerry area of County Cork and its broader regional catchment area.

An tÚdarás will provide facilities and services to generate an entrepreneurial ecosystem which will attract and support the establishment of innovative start-ups and also support existing enterprises by providing a range of focused services such as technological supports and fibre connectivity; financial infrastructural and other skills and capability building measures.

**China:** Cork County Council sponsored the 2021 Asia Matters China Ireland Business Summit which was held in May. This virtual conference considered how we can fully reengage with our Asian partners once the public health restrictions are eased. Planning has begun on the 2022 conference.

## EU CO-FUNDED PROJECTS

**Cork County Council is participating in the following EU Co-Funded projects;**

**Acronym: ProtoAtlantic. Programme: INTERREG Vb – Atlantic Areas. Theme: Business / Enterprise.**

**Project Summary:** This project will develop a whole model for the prototyping and exploitation of innovative ideas in the maritime sector. After the identification of start-ups and SMEs with product innovation capacity in the maritime sector, an acceleration program with a normed and structured process will be implemented, creating a unique ecosystem in the Atlantic, willing to address emerging markets in a co-creation paradigm with the local European start-ups communities. The project proposal indicates the need to create a methodology to validate entrepreneurial ideas related to blue growth, citing the gap between research and projects that emerge. This project would develop a methodology that helps bring entrepreneurs from an idea right through the various phases of prototype development, fundraising, market validation and business modelling. Though the project is focused on maritime start-ups, it is expected that the methodology can be translated to other sectors. Involvement in a project such as this may be beneficial as the County Council builds capacity in start-up support. Additionally, the geographical location of activity in the lower harbour is an attractive proposition. A proposal to extend this project by 2 years has been submitted to the EU Atlantic Areas Secretariat, the result of which will be announced in Q1 2022. It is envisaged that if the application for extension is successful the project will continue until Q4 2023 or Q1 2024

Project Partners: Asociación INNOVALIA (Spain), INESC TEC (Portugal), University College Cork (Ireland), EMEC (UK), EMERGE (Spain), TECHNOPOLE BREST IROISE (France), Marine South East (UK), Happy Ventures (Morocco).

Start Date: Commenced Q4 2017. End Date: Q4 2021. Budget: €224,008

Proposed Extension: Start Date: TBC estimate Q1 2022: END Date: Q4 2023/Q1 2024 Budget €64,000

**Acronym: DELTA LADY. Programme: INTERREG Europe. Theme: Economic Development.**

**Project Summary:** The proposal Floating Cultures in River Deltas aims at the definition of policy instruments that enable the fostering of the capabilities of delta's ecosystem services for regional economic development. The Interreg project should deliver tangible proposals for the regional implementation of actions that strengthen economic development based on the use of local cultural and natural qualities. In Cork the river that will be considered is Youghal and the River Blackwater. The Project Action Plan for the Cork Region has been completed and accepted by the EU INTERREG Secretariat, Work has begun on delivering each of the actions and will be completed by Q3 2023.

Project Partners: Frisian province and University of Twente (Netherlands), The Regional Natural Park of Camargue (France), Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development (Romania), Council of Chambers of Commerce of Valencia (Spain), ART-ER and Po Delta Park (Italy) and University College Cork.

Start Date: Q3 2018. End Date: Q3 2023 (Activities in initial 3 years and monitor implementation in final 2 years.). Budget: €181,500 (Grant rate 85%).

**Acronym: HYBES. Programme: INTERREG NPA. Theme: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.**

**Project Summary:** Cork County Council along with 3 other European partners (Ireland, Norway & Sweden) have received a grant of €100,000 (65% funded by EU and 35% match funding through staff time) to develop a 'Decarbonisation Zone' project proposal. It is envisaged that a full project application will be developed over the Q1 & Q2 2022 and submitted for funding under the next INTERREG Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme. The areas of focus for this proposal are Hybrid energy solutions for buildings, transportation, mobility, and infrastructure.

Project Partners: Cork County Council, Nordland Research Institute (Norway), Umea Municipality Sweden) & NCE Insulations (Cork, Ireland)

Start Date: Q1 2022. End Date: Q3 2022

Budget: Cork CoCo€20,00 (Grant rate 65% ERDF Fund €14,000) – Total Project Budget €100,000

It is anticipated that a number of new project applications will be developed and submitted during 2022. In response to EU programme calls which are scheduled to be launched this year.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Cork County Council provides a range of property options, including land, sites, units and hot desking, across the County to support economic development initiatives for existing and emerging enterprises. 2021 saw a further increase in interest in these options following the economic crisis of the previous 7-10 years with a number of sales completed and construction completed. Units for rent have also seen close to full occupancy.

The Food Incubation Kitchens in Carrigaline, CIK, is a fully equipped food grade commercial kitchen space which can be rented by the hour continues to provide a cheap and state of the art facility for food enterprises wishing to expand. While usage suffered in 2020 due to COVID restrictions, 2021 saw a massive growth in usage to such an extent that it was the most successful year since the facility opened and a huge number of new food business availed of the facility for the first time.



Cork County Council provides Hot Desking facilities, own door offices and training/meeting rooms in our E-Centres throughout the County. The Council supports the E Centre project both through direct provision in Bantry, Fermoy Youghal and Macroom and in conjunction with community organisations and the private sector in other centres across the County.



### Business Restart Grants

During 2021 the Directorate completed the administration of the Business Restart Grant Scheme. Funding was made available from DBEI to assist rateable businesses reopen and implement COVID protection measures following the initial lockdown. There were in simple terms 4 separate schemes

As of at close of the scheme, there has been a total of €34M awarded and paid out. This is broken down as follows

<b>RESTART GRANT:</b>	<b>€10.7M TO 3252 RATEPAYERS</b>
<b>RESTART GRANT PLUS</b>	<b>€17.6M TO 3608 RATEPAYERS</b>
<b>WET PUB TOP UP OF 40%</b>	<b>€0.6M TO 341 RATEPAYERS</b>
<b>LEVEL 3 LOCKDOWN TOP UP OF 30%</b>	<b>€5.1M TO 3484 RATEPAYERS</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>€34M</b>

### Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC) Q1 & Q2

Two more targeted business assistance schemes were introduced by DETE as COVID restrictions continued. These schemes resulted in a further €1.259m being paid out to 326 mainly smaller businesses.

Grants paid	449	€1.255M
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### Outdoor seating and Accessories Scheme

Cork County Council facilitated local hospitality and tourism providers to apply for grant funding under Fáilte Ireland's new Outdoor Seating & Accessories Scheme aimed at assisting the sector in increasing their outdoor dining capacity. Grants of up to €4,000 (max 75%) were available under the scheme to support hospitality businesses and facilitate outdoor dining for summer 2021. Individual tourism and hospitality businesses where food is sold for consumption on the premises including hotels, attractions, cafes, restaurants, and pubs were invited to apply for funding. The scheme was subsequently extended to wet pubs. The aim of the scheme was to expand on the work carried out by Cork County Council last year in supporting businesses and continued the enhancement of outdoor dining experiences across the County in a regulated and accessible manner.

Costs for outdoor tables, umbrellas, heaters, screens/windbreaks awnings and outdoor plant stands were covered under the Scheme. Expenditure must be incurred between 1st April 2020 and 30th September 2021.

Grants paid	449	€1.255M
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### Rural Digital Innovation Hubs

Cork County Council recognises significant possibilities for the strengthening of its rural economy through the development of rural digital innovation hubs in line with the ambitions detailed in the National Remote Work Strategy. They have the potential to function as vehicles to rejuvenate towns and villages, reusing existing buildings and infrastructure, providing footfall and demand for local services as well as providing quality workspace for remote workers.

Cork County Council in 2020 and 2021 produced a Hubs Development Strategy providing an evidence-based roadmap for the development of a hub network across the County. This strategy provides the basis for the identification of suitable locations and available buildings for the development of co-working spaces, second sites, fast landing space and smart working facilities. It also identifies suitable Broadband Connection Points, BCPs, for community and enterprise hubs.

With the changes in attitudes to and practice of remote working in the private sector and public sector policy in the move towards a blended model, there will be a continued demand for hub space.

In July 2021, funding was awarded to Cork County Council for the upgrade of 2 facilities at Bantry and Fermoy. The maximum Grant aid of €150,000 (€75,000/location) was awarded following application to the Connected Hubs Call funding programme from DRCD. The upgrade at Bantry will be complete in Q1 2022 and will provide an improved level of energy efficiency at the facilities as well as providing additional remote working places, and a dedicated student zone within Bantry E-Centre. It is expected that work in Fermoy will be complete by end Q2 2022, providing an upgraded heating system and additional office/ desk space.

Applications for funding were also made in 2021 under the Urban and Village Renewal Scheme for proposals for hubs in Charleville and Cobh Library buildings and a community developed hub in Kiskeam.

# CORK COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICES (LEOS) CORK NORTH WEST AND SOUTH CORK

## *Local Enterprise Offices (South Cork and Cork North and West)*

Activity in 2021 was focussed on the ongoing COVID 19 situation as well as challenges faced by businesses due to Brexit and other issues. Cork County Councils Local Enterprise Offices have fulfilled a significant role in delivering essential supports to the business community in Co. Cork. In particular activity was focussed around a number of specific offerings:

1. Trading On-line Voucher
2. Mentoring/Advisory Services
3. On-line Training – Webinars
4. Brexit
5. Green & Climate

The move to online retail meant a huge number of client companies and business owners now required significant assistance in managing their website and developing a digital marketing strategy. Frequently, these are companies that had no previous need for an online presence, and so their own knowledge of running an online shop or managing social media was lacking. While demand for the Trading Online Voucher (TOV) was not seen at 2020 levels it continued at strength coupled with strong demand for support training in the areas of Social Media, Search Engine Optimisation and Online Content Production.

Mentoring and Advisory Services provided assistance through fresh perspectives and ideas to the recipients. Strong demand was seen throughout the year with 958 recipients of LEO mentoring services during the year.

All services of the LEOs including all On-line Training & Webinars were made available free of charge to participants and this continued for the duration of 2021.

Brexit came to pass as the UK left the EU in 2020 and the subsequent transition period concluded on 31st December 2020. This has resulted in significant uncertainty for Cork businesses on top of the pandemic issues and the long-term implications are yet to unfold.

As part of the effort on climate change a new scheme was introduced in 2021 called Green For Micro. This is designed to give micro-enterprises help and advice to help prepare for the low carbon, more resource efficient economy of the future.

These 'greener' business policies can result in:

- Increased cost savings
- Improved resource efficiency (for example: using less energy, water and materials)
- Reduced environmental footprint and greenhouse gas emissions
- Opportunities for higher and additional value on products and services
- Increased access to customers, improved corporate image
- Increased resilience to climate change impacts

Key Metrics for Cork County LEO's:

- €1.15M in Grant Assistance Approved
- 3,224 availing of Training Programmes
- 958 availing of Mentoring.
- 273 Trading Online Vouchers Approved.

## *Tourism/Tourism Capital Projects:*

Continued to lead Cork County Council's role in supporting the operation of Visit Cork in conjunction with Cork City Council in the promotion of the Cork proposition.

## *Fáilte Ireland*

Wild Atlantic Way: Currently working with Fáilte Ireland in the development of 2 Destination Experience Development Plans (DEDPs). Updates include:

- Meetings of the Three Peninsulas VEDP Implementation Group continue to take place at which updates on actions are discussed.
- Dialogue on the final draft of West Cork Maritime Coast DEDP (covering the area from Kinsale-Ballydehob) continues with Cork County Council, where we are identified as either a lead or partner in the delivery of a number of actions.

## *Ireland's Ancient East:*

- Currently working with Fáilte Ireland in the development of the Cork Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP) which will encompass Cork City, Cork Harbour, and the wider East Cork area. Cork County Council were briefed on the development of this plan by Fáilte Ireland and the consultation process with relevant stakeholders is ongoing.

St. Mary's Collegiate Church, Youghal: Voices of St. Marys' Project launched in June 2021. €200,000 funded by Fáilte Ireland to significantly enhance interpretation of the interior of the building with Cork County Council's Tourism Unit providing match funding of 25%.

### **Fáilte Ireland Capital Grants Scheme for Large Scale Tourism Projects**

**Dursey Island Cable Car & Visitor Centre Development:** Cork County Council received Planning Approval to proceed with the project with conditions from An Bord Pleanála in November 2021. The proposed development will consist of two independently operated cable cars, support pylons, a mainland-side drive station building and an island-side return station building, shelter & toilet facilities on the island, a visitor centre & toilet block on the mainland and improved parking facilities for 100 cars.

**Fáilte Ireland Tourism Destination Towns Funding Programme:** Bantry Town was successful following a funding application to Fáilte Ireland in September 2019 and will benefit from €500,000 investment from Fáilte Ireland, with 25% matching funding from Cork County Council. Design Consultants have been appointed, following direct negotiations, to provide design solutions and to manage delivery of the project on the ground. Subject to planning it is anticipated that the project will be delivered by July 2023.

**Fáilte Ireland Platforms for Growth Water Activity Facility Centres:** Cork County Council submitted two applications for Garrylucas & Claycastle beaches in December 2020 for funding under this Fáilte Ireland initiative. Cork County Council received approval to proceed with the Claycastle project. The Garrylucas project will not proceed at this time. The facility centre in Claycastle will include changing spaces, storage lockers, toilets, internal and external showers, meeting areas etc. The constructed facility will be owned, managed, and maintained by Cork County Council. The procurement process for the engagement of design consultants for Claycastle will take place in 2022.

### **Tourism Infrastructure Update**

**Michael Collins Trail:** A Michael Collins Trail has been developed which will include the erection of over 140 signs linking key interest points in the life of Michael Collins including Clonakilty, Beal na mBlath and Kilmurry. Installation of signage on the trail was completed by the end of August 2021, with the trail being launched in September 2021. The Tourism Unit will work with West Cork MD in 2022 to market the trail.

**Mallow Castle:** In collaboration with a wide range of community stakeholders, consultants have been procured to prepare an overall scheme design for Mallow Castle Demesne, Mallow Town Park and Spa House. The works will be designed and delivered in a phased manner. One of the major components of the plan is to improve access between Mallow Town Centre, Mallow Castle, Spa House and Mallow Town Park and the wider area together with signage encouraging visitors to stay longer and explore the wider North Cork region. The Playground and associated access at Mallow Castle Grounds, including the carpark and walled garden restoration, have now been completed and are open to the Public.

**Dungarvan to Mallow Greenway Feasibility Study:** Both Cork County Council and Waterford City and County Council recently secured additional funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport under the Carbon Tax Fund 2020 for feasibility, planning and preliminary design works regarding the feasibility of an extension of the existing Dungarvan Greenway to Mallow. The Department has agreed to fund the full cost of the feasibility study in the amount of €361,238 (incl. vat). Initial grant funding in the sum of €80,000 each, was previously awarded to both Councils. Cork County Council and Waterford County Council have agreed to adopt a Section 85 agreement whereby Cork County Council will act as the lead for the feasibility study. Following the assessment of tenders, the preferred tenderer was appointed to undertake the feasibility project, which is expected to be completed by the end of Q2, 2022.

**Camden Fort Meagher:** Camden Fort Meagher did not open to the public during 2021. Plans are underway to prepare for the reopening of the Fort in advance of the start of the 2022 season.

**Midleton to Youghal Greenway:** Full funding was secured from the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport by Cork County Council for the construction of the Midleton to Youghal Greenway. Work on vegetation clearance of the line has been completed. Some resurfacing works are taking place. Work on the detailed design has also commenced. It is anticipated the build will be completed by mid-2023

**Youghal Eco Boardwalk:** Phase II of the Youghal Eco Boardwalk has been completed and the boardwalk is fully open to the public. It extends the current boardwalk by 1.2km, running from Claycastle Beach to Redbarn. The completed boardwalk provides a direct 5km pedestrian route from Redbarn to Youghal town centre.

### **Marketing Supports**

**Munster Vales:** Munster Vales is a vibrant tourism destination linking the counties of Cork, Waterford, Tipperary & Limerick and incorporating the Comeraghs, Knockmealdowns, Galtees, Ballyhouras and Nagles mountain ranges. Cork County Council continues to provide financial support to market this brand

**Cork County Council has also provided marketing support to:** Visit Cork, Youghal Clock Gate Tower, St. Mary's Collegiate Church, West Cork Garden Trail, Kinsale Comeback Campaign, Glengarriff Tourism & Development Association, Owenabue Arts Collective, Cormorant Films (for production of Irish language programme about River Blackwater for TG4), Bantry Tourism & Development Association

## Festivals/Events

The Tourism Section of the Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism Directorate managed the applications received under the following funding streams

**Economic Development Fund:** Financial support of 3 large scale festivals/events amounting to a total of €75,000. West Cork Music Festival (Virtual events and limited physical events took place) Cork Harbour Festival (virtual festival) and Cork Choral Festival (virtual festival).

**Local Festival Fund:** 18 festivals were approved funding amounting to a total of €47,950. Due to COVID 19, only 7 festivals were able to operate physical events. Surplus funding was used to assist some festivals in website development.

**Festival Training Events:** A series of online digital marketing training sessions were arranged by Cork County Council for festival organisers in both January and November 2021, while a 'Festival Development' training event was delivered in December 2021.

## Activities Undertaken in response to COVID 19:

### 'Explore Cork' Tourism App

The 'Explore Cork' app is a tourism app developed by the Tourism Unit, Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism Directorate in conjunction with the ICT Directorate launched in May 2021. It features over 850 places to see and things to do in Cork.

The free app is now available in 4 languages (English, Irish, French & German) and can be downloaded from the Apple and Google Play app stores as well as being available to view via web browser on the Cork County Council website. 'Explore Cork' is the first of its kind to be developed by any Local Authority in Ireland and was created following the success of the web-based 'Rediscover Cork County GIS Tourism Map' launched in summer 2020 as an initiative under Project ACT.

### Overview of Explore Cork app Marketing Activity 2021

Activity	Details	Dates
Extensive Print advertising campaign	Local, Regional newspapers, Staycation supplements and select tourism publications	Various dates from May-Oct
Radio advertising	Sponsorship of Cork Diary on 96fm in June 2021 and Sponsorship of Cork Diary on C103 from June-August 2021	June-August
Video Production	30 second promo video produced <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3OYYIrXs-8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3OYYIrXs-8</a>  1 min 30 second infographic guide video produced <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8wdFSUCtk8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8wdFSUCtk8</a>	June
Presence at online events	Tech Fest: Dedicated Explore Cork booth  Asia Matters Conference: Explore Cork app promo broadcast to large audience	May 25th -27th
Billboard campaign	In following locations: Charleville, Youghal, Mallow, Bandon, Macroom, Airport Roundabout facing road to Kinsale, Tivoli, Dunmanway	Various dates from June - August
Physical marketing assets	Promotional tent cards circulated to tourism attractions and hotels throughout Cork city and county	Summer 2021
Social Media advertising campaigns	Facebook: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Campaign 1: June 14th - July 14th</li> <li>Campaign 2: Aug 4th - Sept 3rd</li> </ul> Instagram: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Campaign 1: June 14th - June 21st</li> <li>Campaign 2: July 6th - Sept 3rd</li> </ul> Google Adverts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Campaign: July 6th - Sept 3rd</li> </ul>	Various dates from June-Sept

### SPC No. 4 – Tourism

The Tourism SPC met on four occasions in 2021, with all meetings being hosted online via Microsoft Teams.

#### The SPC received presentations on the following in 2021:

- Update on Visit Cork Activity, Jeremy Murray, Visit Cork.
- Update on Current Ireland’s Ancient East Initiatives with emphasis on East Cork, Mary Houlihan, Failte Ireland.
- Demonstration of ‘Explore Cork’ App, Kathryn White & Dan Mitchell, Vitamin Cornwall.
- Brief update on recent Failte Ireland Funding initiatives, Rose Carroll, Tourism Development Officer CCC.
- Brief update on recent Tourism Initiatives including ‘Explore Cork’ app– Rose Carroll, Tourism Development Officer.
- Eurovelo 1 – Benefit to West Cork – John Slattery, Senior Engineer, Regional & Local Design Office.
- Demonstration of West Cork Digital Brochure – Seamus Heaney, Head of Visit Cork & Jeremy Murray, Lead Conversion Assistant, Visit Cork.
- Update on Ongoing Cork County Council Tourism Initiatives – North Cork – Mary Hayes, Senior Executive Officer, Kanturk/Mallow& Fermoy MD’s.
- Update on ‘Explore Cork’ App including marketing activity and analytics– Rose Carroll, Tourism Development Officer.
- Update on Development & launch of Michael Collins Trail - James Dwyer, Senior Executive Engineer, MD Operations & Rural Development.

## SOUTH-WEST REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN

In terms of the South-West Regional Enterprise Plan, much activity in 2021 centred on the completion of the Plan to 2020 and the preparation of a revised plan to 2024. 2021 saw the publication of the final Progress Report of the South-West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 which closed out this iteration of the South-West Regional Enterprise Plan. For the Steering Committee to present a final assessment on the level of implementation achieved during the 2019–2020 period, actions were classified into four categories:

**Complete:** The Committee deemed that these actions have been fully completed within the scope and lifetime of the South-West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020.

**Action commenced but requires further work:** The Committee deemed that while these actions were not completed in full, work had commenced, and significant progress was made during the lifetime of the Plan and will continue, as many projects are of a delivery period which exceed the plan duration.

**Action not commenced:** The Committee deemed that these actions were either not initiated, or insufficient progress was made within the scope and lifetime of the South-West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020.

South-West Regional Enterprise Plan	
Total Actions	23
Complete	8
Action commenced but requires further work	12
Action not commenced	3

A new Steering Committee Chaired by a Private Sector representative was appointed by Government. The Chairperson in the South-West is Patricia Quane the retired VP of Astellas.

In the formulation of the new Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 a round of initial consultations with key stakeholders was undertaken by the Department of Enterprise including the Chairpersons of the Regional Steering Committees, Agency representatives, Programme Managers, and other key organisations represented on the Regional Steering Committees. Much of the work was undertaken during COVID 19 restrictions and the Regional Steering Committee were required to meet in virtual sessions. The South-West Steering Committee established a Project Delivery Team for the process of drafting the plan to 2024 led by the Steering Committee chairperson.

This new Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 for the South-West is future-focused and centred around a number of priorities including:

- Strengthen the enterprise eco-system across the region,
- Maximise the potential of digital enterprise and innovation hubs in the region,
- Support cluster organisations in the South-West,
- Make the region synonymous with excellence in sustainable Food Production & Agri-Tech,
- Embrace the opportunities of Climate Action, and
- Ensure a strong pipeline of talent in the region.

With continued regional collaboration, knowledge sharing and a solutions mindset, the actions within this Plan can make a real and lasting difference for the South-West, and to the collective national economic recovery.





Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  

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Cork County Council

# Finance



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

# FINANCE

The Finance Department is responsible for the overall financial management of the Cork County Council's resources. Its duties include the making of all payments including creditors, payroll, loan repayments, and insurance premiums. The Department is responsible for maintaining financial records, ensuring compliance with statutory financial reports and returns, and income management oversight including government grants and subsidies. Its duties include the levying and collection of commercial rates, insurance, motor tax, housing loans debt management, and procurement advice and oversight.

The Department is also responsible for:

- Work on the preparation and presentation of the Annual Budget (€348m, 2021)
- Three Year Capital Programme (€998m, 2021-2023)
- Annual Financial Statement

In the course of its work, the Finance Department interacts with Elected Members and liaises with other Directorates and Offices on a regular basis. It develops and implements financial policies and structures for Cork County Council and provides support services to the organisation. The main units within Finance include:

- Housing Loans
- Payroll
- Payments
- Insurance
- Procurement
- Financial Accounting
- Management Accounting
- Motor Tax
- NPPR
- Rates & Collection
- Treasury Management

## Commercial Rates

A total of €100.4M was collected in Commercial Rates in 2021 in respect of the circa 12,450 hereditaments across Cork County. Of this sum, €1m was ring fenced for use in the Council's Economic Development Fund. Separately, €0.95M was ring fenced for the Council's Town Development Fund, which is designed to facilitate the Municipal Districts in supporting local town development.

In response to the continued severe impact COVID 19 and associated restrictions had on the commercial sector, Government introduced a further, but more restricted Waiver scheme for quarter one of 2021. The revised scheme was mainly confined to ratepayers in the Hospitality, Entertainment, Leisure, Retail, Health and Childcare sectors. This scheme was subsequently extended to encompass quarters two and three of 2021 and c. 41% of all ratepayers qualified, with €16.74m being applied to their accounts.

A further, more targeted scheme was put in place for the final quarter of 2021. This waiver was mainly confined to businesses in the Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism sectors. Approximately 13% of ratepayers qualified for this waiver and a total of €2.33m was applied to their accounts. Overall, a sum of €19.07m was applied to rate accounts in 2021.

The Rate Collection Office engaged with business owners throughout the year to discuss flexible payment options and arrangements and also to advise of the various relevant COVID 19 supports available.

## Motor Tax

The Council's Motor Tax section continued to provide postal services for Cork County and City during 2021, as well as providing counter services by emergency appointments during COVID level 5 lockdown periods and regular appointments outside of that. Counter services are operating entirely by appointment since August 2021, with the added option of an on-site postbox for next day issuing of urgent applications. Postal applications saw an increase throughout 2021, representing the majority of the overall transactions processed in the Cork Motor Tax Office.

In 2021, €13.5m was collected in Motor Tax fees and this income was transferred to central government.

There were 86,929 transactions completed during 2021 by the Motor Tax Office and a total of 59,050 tax discs were issued. In addition to motor tax renewals, the Motor Tax Office also dealt with related motor taxation issues that cannot currently be transacted online, including trade plates, refunds, exempt vehicles, Garda and Solicitor's enquiries, and trailer registrations.

## Insurance

The Insurance Section maintains and manages the various insurance policies that are in place to ensure that there is sufficient cover for risks arising from the Council's wide range of operations. There are also policies in place for the protection of the assets of Cork County Council.

This section also receives all Public Liability and Employers Liability claims and works with the Council's insurer, Irish Public Bodies, in dealing with these claims.

### ***Housing Loans***

The Housing Loans Collection Unit (HLCU) oversees the collection of housing loan payments on a range of loan types and works with borrowers who are in difficulty with their mortgage repayments, to bring down their arrears, through the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP).

The impact of COVID 19 has been significant in terms of the ability of some borrowers to make their monthly repayments. The option of extending mortgage breaks into 2021 and the announcement in January 2021 of the option of a 3rd extension, meant that borrowers could suspend their mortgage payments up to a maximum of 12 months without accruing interest on the missed payments. By the end of the year, a cumulative figure of 118 applications had been processed for an initial break, of whom 69 applicants went on to extend their break for at least one additional break period.

Despite the impact of the COVID crisis, a number of long-term resolutions to unsustainable mortgages were delivered during 2021. 21 Shared Ownership loans were restructured, allowing existing borrowers in difficulty to pursue 100% ownership of their homes, acquiring the Rental Equity on their property and setting up repayments at affordable levels. 2021 also saw the completion of 3 Mortgage to Rent (MTR) cases, whereby homeowners in significant financial difficulties were enabled to stay in their homes by voluntarily transferring ownership to the Local Authority and becoming social housing tenants. In addition, the number of housing loans in MARP reduced to 4, down from 8 at the end of 2021.

### ***Requests for information under Irish and European legislation***

During 2021 the Finance Directorate received and responded to 23 Freedom of Information requests and two requests under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

### ***Procurement***

The Procurement Section continues to offer advice and guidance to directorate staff and assist buyers in delivering best value procurement on behalf of the Council.

The section remains the conduit between national procurement bodies and the Council interpreting and disseminating legislation and guidance to Council staff.

A central depository of template and guidance documentation was maintained and updated during 2021 and towards the end of year the Procurement Section commenced work on a new Procurement Portal to be deposited on the Council Staff Portal. The work on the new Portal is expected to be completed and go "live" in early 2022 and will provide a library of template documents and procurement guidance for the benefit of staff involved in procuring works, goods and services on behalf of the Council.

Staff in the Procurement Section attended several Procurement Officer Forums, National webinars and Procurement Workshops updating their own knowledge and skills. Directorate staff also participated in number of these fora with a particular relevance to their own roles and work area.

Green Public Procurement is and will continue to be a major focus for the section going forward and the Section will work in conjunction with Directorate staff to ensure that the Council continues to meet its climate action objectives through continuous green procurement upskilling and training provision.

**Extract of Draft AFS 2021:**

<b>Revenue Account</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Total Expenditure	363,453,616	386,081,711
Total Income	392,427,841	410,177,623
Surplus of year before Transfers	28,974,225	24,095,912
Transfer to Reserves	28,909,081	24,017,971
Overall surplus/(deficit) for the YEAR	65,144	77,941
Opening Reserve @ 1 January 2021	7,530,107	7,452,166
Closing Reserve @ 31 December 2021	7,595,251	7,530,107
<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Fixed Assets	7,407,762,426	7,326,395,437
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	364,344,861	233,009,062
Long-term Debtors	152,744,946	154,911,445
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stock	711,207	626,649
Trade Debtors and Prepayments	115,378,871	110,794,081
Bank Investments	280,387,927	194,644,030
Cash at Bank	2,817,244	5,061,565
Cash in transit	35,930	35,930
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>399,331,178</b>	<b>311,162,255</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Bank Overdraft	0	0
Creditors and Accruals	206,857,217	138,949,891
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>206,857,217</b>	<b>172,212,364</b>
<b>Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)</b>		
Loans Payable	299,703,940	290,935,587
Refundable Deposits	20,882,934	19,510,685
Other	33,685,725	29,860,090
	<b>354,272,600</b>	<b>340,306,362</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>7,763,053,595</b>	<b>7,546,221,946</b>



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  

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Cork County Council

A photograph of a rural landscape featuring rolling green hills, a stone building on a hillside, and a cluster of houses with blue roofs. A large, semi-transparent red shape is overlaid on the image, containing white text.

# Municipal District Operations and Rural Development





Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

# MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## **Municipal Districts**

The Municipal District Operations and Rural Development Directorate was established in 2014 in order to reinforce the role that Municipal Districts would play in serving the citizens of Cork County. The Municipal Districts provide a wide variety of services which include the provision of School Wardens, operation of town parking, litter control, street cleaning, burial ground, and playground maintenance. The Municipal Districts are also responsible for the delivery of projects funded through national funding schemes which include the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and CLÁR. In 2021, the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) fund allowed the continued support of circa 600 groups which saw the many projects supported categorised under Amenity Grants, Capital Grants and Community Contract Schemes. The directorate is also made up of the Architects Department, Library Service and Arts Service.

## **General Municipal Allocation, 2021**

In 2021 €1.8 million was the GMA, with circa €1.7 million allocated to the Community Fund.

- Bandon/Kinsale – €152,182
- West Cork – €169,200
- Fermoy – € 232,500
- Carrigaline – €188,598
- Cobh – € 187,244
- Macroom – € 231,303
- Kanturk/Mallow – €280,400
- East Cork – € 241,300

## **Capital Fund Scheme**

53 Organisations involved.  
€609,000 spent.

## **Amenity Fund Scheme**

374 Groups across all 8 Municipal Districts  
€645,445 spent.

## **Community Contracts**

The Council entered into Community Contract with 135 groups – mainly Tidy Towns.  
€415,182 spent.

## **Project ACT – Activating County Towns**

Under Project ACT, Cork County Council focussed on 23 towns across County Cork with a view to ensuring that they could benefit from a series of measures designed to give confidence to the business, retail, and community sectors through prioritised and targeted funding.

The Town Teams consisted of elected members, staff from the Municipal District, Roads Operations, Tourism and Economic Development Directorates, as well as representatives from Chambers of Commerce, Community Councils, Tidy Towns Committees, An Garda Síochána and business and tourism representatives.

Across all 8 MDs projects completed included:

## **Provision of outdoor dining spaces.**

Adaptation to the streets facilitate outdoor dining locations for the Castle Hotel, TP Cotter and Fitzgerald's Café were completed. Additional picnic benches were installed at Fitzgerald's Square to facilitate outdoor dining in this part of town.



### **Installation of street canopies.**

This project focuses on the rejuvenation and repurposing of the Centre Block in Passage West to include provision for a covered, outdoor community space. This space will help to facilitate outdoor trading, animate the town centre, and increase the 'dwell time' of visitors to the town by providing a sheltered area and additional seating. The retractable awning is now in place, with planters and seating to follow.



### Public realm enhancement works

The installation of seating and planters located throughout Middleton town in Baby's Walk Park, Middleton Lodge Park, Riverside Way and Bailick Car Park.



### Murals

The Stoney Steps are located very close to the main thoroughfare in Kinsale and the Kinsale Chamber of Tourism and Business approached the Kinsale Council Office with the idea of painting the steps. The Bandon Kinsale Municipal District Councillors were very much in favour of the idea and signed off on the funding for the project. Splattervan were the chosen artists and they picked Anne Bonny as a local historical figure and went to public consultation for stories and ideas on her life. The works were carried out in June 2021 and have proven to be a popular attraction with locals and tourists and have created a statement piece of artwork in the town.



### **Covered bandstands**

This project focused on the installation of a weatherproof covering for the 'Bandstand' area of the park and was originally suggested at meetings of the Carrigaline Project ACT Committee. The canopy was officially launched by the Chair of Carrigaline MD, Cllr. Marcia D'Alton, on the 29th of August 2021. It has become a focal point in Carrigaline, and provides scope for outdoor events, community meetings, small scale concerts etc. into the future.



Other projects included new Bicycle stands & new parking initiatives.

### **Town & Village Renewal Scheme**

#### **Ringaskiddy Enhancement of Public Realm**

In 2021 Cork County Council, in collaboration with the community, agreed on a design for a public realm project at Ringaskiddy. These works will be funded by €1m Community Gain arising out of the Port of Cork Planning Permission. The Part 8 planning application received Full Council approval on 27th September 2021 and is now at detailed design stage with AECOM Consultants. Works to commence in 2022.

#### **Ringaskiddy Community Centre**

Ringaskiddy Community Centre received €100,000 under Town and Village Renewal 2019 for its redevelopment. The works will improve energy efficiency, improve accessibility, and upgrade the flooring/kitchen in the centre. As a result of COVID 19 construction restrictions these works did not commence until 2021. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in 2022.

#### **Coolagown**

Funding was received in 2020 under the Town & Village Scheme in the amount of €165,000 for public realm enhancements to approaches and village core including dual purpose pedestrian/parking areas, signage, information boards. A contractor was appointed in 2021 and public lighting works have commenced. Public lighting and boundary fencing have been installed. Approach lining from N72 has been completed. Installation of all the remaining traffic calming, footpaths and road resurfacing will be completed in 2022.

#### **Doneraile**

Funding was received in 2019 under the Town & Village Scheme in the amount of €145,000 for Public Realm activities including new planters, bespoke seating, tree refurbishment & upgrade, new street furniture, minor road improvements, painting scheme. The project went through a Part VIII Planning Process in 2021, including community engagement and public realm works commenced in December 2020. Remaining public realm works at Cornahinch Cross, Turnpike Cross and Main Street/Convent Road Junction will continue into 2022.

#### **Glenbower Wood**

An application for funding to facilitate the replacement of three footbridges in Glenbower Wood, Killeagh, was successful and the Department allocated €36,000 to this Project. The detailed design has been completed. A further grant of €10,000 from the Village Enhancement Scheme 2021 operated by the Council was approved at the December Municipal District Meeting.

### **St. Marys Collegiate Church, Youghal:**

The Voice of St Mary's is an immersive visitor experience at St Mary's Collegiate Church which was launched in 2021. Using a variety of interpretative media, you can engage with the 'Voices of St Mary's' and explore the meaning and significance of the site.

### **Town and Village Renewal – 2020 Accelerated Measure in Response to COVID 19**

In 2020, the format for the Town and Village Renewal Scheme reflected the situation with COVID 19 and offered three rounds of accelerated measure funding to support works in the public realm that would support the response of communities and businesses to COVID 19. Three projects were successfully awarded funding. Due to COVID 19 restrictions works on these projects commenced in 2021 and are all now completed.

#### **Castlemartyr**

A grant of €25,000 was approved under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020 Accelerated Measures to part fund the development of a linear walkway from Castlemartyr village along the Ladysbridge road to the entrance to Castlemartyr Resort/ Forestry entrance.

#### **Old Bridewell Gaol, Youghal**

The Council was successful and received a grant of €38,000 for a joint Cork County Council, Youghal Tidy Towns and Tesco Youghal proposal to develop a community garden at the Old Bridewell Gaol, Mill Road, Youghal. The project will consist of a gated community garden including an urban orchard, raised beds, seating and courtyard.

#### **Crossbarry**

Bandon Kinsale Municipal District was awarded €36,000 for overlay works of Crossbarry Ambush Memorial Park. The works were completed in August 2021.

#### **Crosshaven**

The proposal involved targeted measures to improve connectivity and accessibility in the village, to increase footfall and facilitate greater economic activity. These measures included remediation of parts of the railway wall on approach to Crosshaven, purchase of "pop up" festival marquees, purchase of benches for the Community Garden, and purchase of bicycle stands.

#### **Passage West – Centre Block**

This project focuses on the rejuvenation and repurposing of the Centre Block to include provision for a covered, outdoor community space. This space will help to facilitate outdoor trading, animate the town centre, and increase the 'dwell time' of visitors to the town by providing a sheltered area and additional seating. The retractable awning is now in place, with planters and seating to follow.

#### **Carrigaline Community Park**

This project focused on the installation of a weatherproof covering for the 'Bandstand' area of the park and was originally suggested at meetings of the Carrigaline Project ACT Committee. The canopy was officially launched by the Chair of Carrigaline MD, Cllr. Marcia D'Alton, on the 29th of August 2021. It has become a focal point in Carrigaline, and provides scope for outdoor events, community meetings, small scale concerts etc. into the future. The installation of a hybrid running track in September brought a finish to the pathway/track project in the Community Park. The running track is proving to be very popular, giving runners and joggers a safe place to exercise.

#### **Communication Board**

A communication board was installed in Carrigaline Community Park in June 2021. Communication boards help make playgrounds more "ASD friendly". They help to overcome language barriers for children of all abilities, as well as encouraging imaginative play.

### **Streetscape Enhancement Scheme under T&V Renewal 2021**

Cork County Council was allocated €320,000 to support the upgrade and enhancement of shopfront and street facades in 6 county towns through the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme. The six towns were:

- Macroom
- Bandon
- Passage West
- Fermoy
- Castletownbere
- Charleville

## Rural Regeneration Development Fund

### 2020 RRDF (Rural Regeneration Development Fund) Mitchelstown.

Works progressed in 2021 on the Mitchelstown RRDF Scheme. The scope of the project includes the following areas:

- King's Square, George's St.,
- King's St., the woods behind
- Kingston College and New
- Market Square.



Works will continue in 2022.

### 2021 Rural Regeneration Development Fund – Fermoy

In Fermoy, Cork County Council will lead the delivery of a Town Centre Renewal Project for Fermoy targeting the adaptive and sustainable reuse of historic and vacant town centre buildings and key public realm and amenity enhancements which will support the economic, social, cultural, and physical renewal of Fermoy.

This project will deliver large-scale regeneration in Fermoy through targeted interventions to revitalise the town centre and drive it forward as a vibrant, liveable, diverse, and competitive centre of scale. The global COVID 19 pandemic has presented rural areas with a significant social and economic fallout. The project proposals that form part of this application are responsive to these issues and build upon changed social and economic behaviours arising from these issues.

The delivery of the project will be led by Cork County Council in partnership with Avondhu Blackwater Partnership CLG. The Council has worked very closely with Avondhu Blackwater Partnership CLG in the submission of the funded application and acknowledges the overall collaborative working relationship which has led to the successful Rural Regeneration Development Fund grant funding in the amount of €1,540,000.



### Village Enhancement Scheme

Villages which benefited from the scheme in 2021 included:

- Clondrohid
- Ballinhassig
- Glounthaune
- Killeagh
- Ladysbridge
- Churchtown South
- Whitegate

### CLÁR Funding Projects 2021

#### Kanturk/Mallow

The CLÁR 2020 projects were completed in 2021 with new footpaths, pedestrian crossing, and ramps installed at Kilbrin National School (€45,000). Ballyhass NS saw the completion of a new car park and associated works, road signage and markings (€45,448), while digital speed signs and speed ramps were installed at Castlemagner village (€12,600). Successful 2021 applications for Kiskeam Development Association (€50,000 for works including pedestrian crossing, traffic calming & improvements to playground parking) and Knocknagree Community Development (approved for €49,999.50 for a Sensory Garden in Fairfield).







### Macroom

Ballinagree Community Development Committee (BCDC) were successful under CLÁR 2020 Measure 2 and received a grant of €22,540 for Ballinagree Park & Playground towards the following:

- Supply & installation of kerbing
- Tarmacadam to car park
- Tree planting
- Creation of memorial area with seating
- Installation of bike rack & shelter







An application submitted by Cork County Council, together with Millstreet Tidy Towns for the enhancement and refurbishment of Millstreet Pollinator Park was successful under CLÁR 2021 Measure 2 Projects. This project to redevelop the Pollinator Park into a public space with covered seating was successful in receiving a grant of €48,375. A meeting has been held at the location to progress this project which will be completed during 2022.



## Other Projects

### **Béal na mBláth Project**

The Michael Collins Centenary Commemoration will be held in August 2022. To mark this significant national occasion and to enhance the everyday visitor experience a working group was established in Cork Council to look at the site, together with the historical background and to see what can be done to enhance the area. This working group includes members from Architects, Heritage, Archaeology and Municipal District staff.

Extensive public consultation has also taken place with the local Michael Collins Commemoration Committee as this project progresses. Consultation has also taken place with representatives from Department of Defence, Department of An Taoiseach, OPW and Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media on any potential project to be progressed. The project is being governed by a design code and Dr. Finola Kane, UCD, together with Damien Shiels, UCD assisted in the development of this design code. This project will be progressed under Section 38 under the Roads Acts and will involve the introduction of traffic calming measures on the L2211-0 adjacent to the Michael Collins Memorial at Béal na Bláth, County Cork.

This project is supported by the Department of the Taoiseach, Department of Defence and Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media as part of the centenary programme of commemorations.

A Section 38 Application under the Roads Traffic Act 1994 to introduce traffic calming measures adjacent to the Michael Collins Memorial by the reduction of the carriageway width, renewal of surfacing and road markings, the addition of car parking spaces and associated works was published and available for public inspection from 13th December 2021 and closed for submissions on 14th January 2022. A report on this Section 38 is in the process of being prepared for approval.

### **Macroom Playground Refurbishment Project**

The playground and its refurbishment was a key priority area for the Member to upgrade with funding allocated under the 2021 TDF towards this project. The original playground was almost 25 years old with some of the original features being of such high standard and specification, we were able to keep these features. repaint and renovate them. A new spacenet, junior multiplay unit and senior mega multiplay unit were among the new items installed. The seating areas were also renovated and repainted. The surface matting of the entire facility was also replaced. Overgrown vegetation near the playground was also cleared away so as to fully open up this facility. New signage was also added. Cork County Council carried out the removal of the old playground, the design and construction of the new facility with an allocation of €20,000 through its Macroom Municipal District, together with funding of €16,131 secured from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY) under the Capital Grants Scheme 2021.

The remaining costs of the project was funded through Cork County Council's Municipal District Operations and Rural Development. Local company based in Carrigadrohid-Browne Brothers Site Services Ltd- were the main contractors for this playground with design of the playground being carried out by one of their employees who is a Macroom resident and very familiar with the playground. The renovations to the playground were completed in mid-November 2021 and the newly refurbished playground has been open to the public since this date. Mayor of the County of Cork Cllr Gillian Coughlan will officially open this newly refurbished Macroom Playground on 8th February 2022 which is a significant upgrade and replacement of the old playground facility.



### **Mallow Castle Playground**

August 2021 saw the conclusion of a number of important municipal projects such as the Mallow Castle Playground, which was completed to a very high standard and a new amenity that was warmly welcomed by the community. This project has greatly enhanced the offering in Mallow town to residents and visitors alike and is another important step forward in the development of Mallow Castle as a landmark amenity and destination.



### **Kanturk Link Road**

The new €1.95m Kanturk link road was opened by the Mayor of the County of Cork, Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael McGrath TD and Chief Executive of Cork County Council, Tim Lucey in November 2021. The new road is providing new connectivity and access to the town and will be vital in linking up with the new national school being constructed at Mill Road.



### Mallow Bridge Boardwalk

The new Mallow Bridge Boardwalk is now open to pedestrians and cyclists and will allow for the additional traffic lanes to greatly reduce journey times and traffic flow about the town. Importantly pedestrian and cyclist safety has been significantly enhanced, while providing better links between the residential southern part of the town and the town centre.



The West Cork Islands Interagency, chaired by Cork County Council, met on four occasions during 2021. Grants of €43,000 were awarded under the West Cork Island Community Funding Scheme to nine projects on the inhabited islands.





West Cork MD Capital Grant to assist with furniture and fittings

**Official Opening of the Ballineen & Enniskene Heritage Trail by Mayor Linehan Foley**

On the 9th of June, West Cork MD was very pleased to have Mayor Linehan Foley visit to officially open the Ballineen & Enniskene Heritage Trail, which was funded under the West Cork MD's Village Enhancement Scheme.



### *Youghal Boardwalk Phase II*

An additional 1.2km of boardwalk stretching from Claycastle to Redbarn was completed and opened in 2021. Its completion has created a continuous seaside walkway stretching 5 kilometres from Youghal Town Centre to Redbarn.



## **ARCHITECTS DEPARTMENT**

The Architects' Department play a pivotal role in the promotion of good design and architectural awareness within Cork County. They continued to provide invaluable input into the design of many projects in 2021. Consultation/Brief Preparation Building, Interior Design & Urban Design, from initial concept, through the various stages of planning, tendering, and administrating the building contract until the project's completion Libraries & Other Civic Buildings.

The following is an outline of some of the key projects that the County Architect's Department were involved in:

### *Kinsale Library*

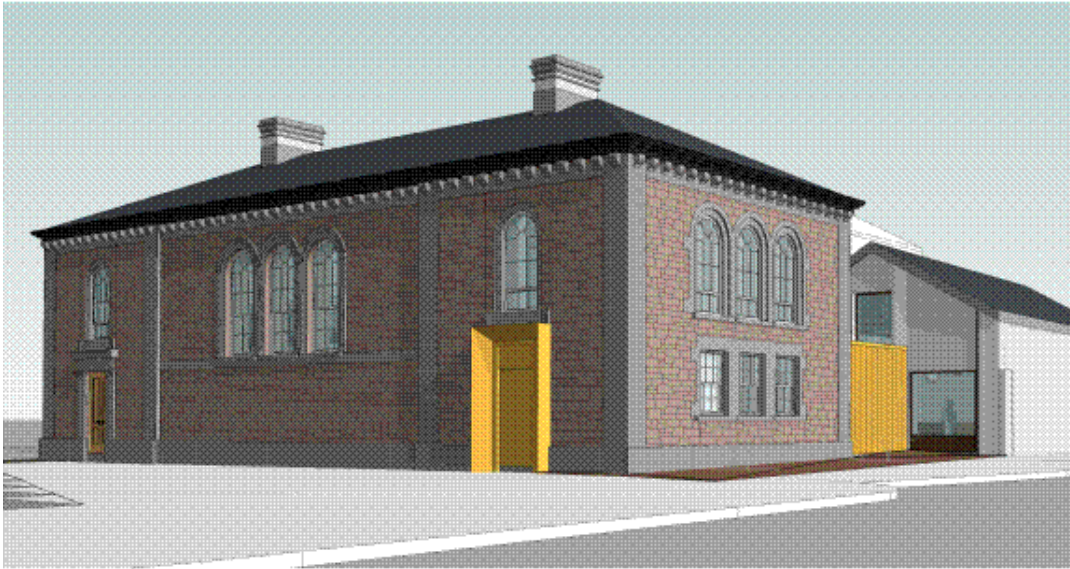
The Kinsale library project involves the partial demolition, renovation and extension of the three-storey, eight-bay, 19th century Old Mill building at Church Square, Kinsale.





### ***Youghal Courthouse & Soup Kitchen***

In Q2 2021 the Architects' Department completed the procurement of a team of sub-consultants to assist with the re-development of the former courthouse and soup kitchen at Market Square in Youghal. Among other functions, the buildings will house the famous Pat Lynch collection. By Q4 2021 the team had procured extensive opening up works in the two buildings and had finalized outline proposals for the project ahead of the publication of a part VIII proposal.



### ***Mallow Town Hall Theatre***

The Mallow Town Hall project involves the complete remaking of an assembly of protected structures located on Main Street in the heart of Mallow.



### ***Youghal Lighthouse (Phase II)***

In collaboration with Joseph Mackey Architects, Phase II of the Youghal Lighthouse project received Part VIII planning approval in Q3 2021. This provides for a new cantilevered viewing platform anchored to the base of the existing historic lighthouse, extending the improvement works already complete and repurposing this impressive structure as a destination in its own right.



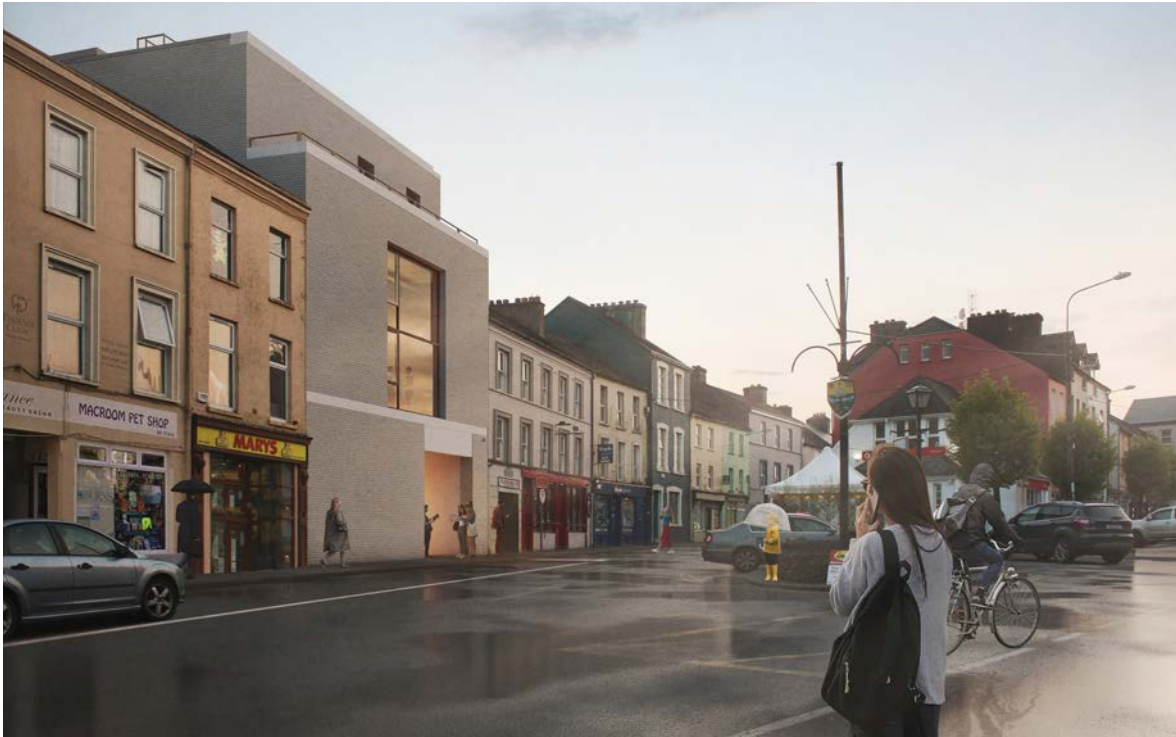
### ***Spike Island Pathways***

The Architects' Department have designed maintenance and upgrade works to the pathways, trails, and road surfaces on Spike Island. Completed in December 2021, the works were carried out with funding support from the current Department of Rural and Community Development and Fáilte Ireland's collaborative Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. The works have improved the quality of the existing access, orientation, and movement across the Island, in support of the increase in visitor numbers.



### Macroom Theatre and Library

Formerly known as the Briery Gap Cultural Centre, located in Macroom's town centre, the Architects' Department have been developing the Macroom Theatre and Library Refurbishment project since 2016. This unique, high-class mixed-use amenity building will boast a new fully accessible Municipal library and 217 seat theatre together with break-out bar space and ancillary support spaces. Detailed design stage was completed in 2020 and issued for tender in Q4 2020. Cumnor Construction were appointed main contractors in Q4 2021, and Construction will commence in Q1 2022, with demolition works progressing first. Completion is expected Q3 of 2023.



### Midleton Library

A Feasibility Study was carried out and submitted for funding approval in Q4 2020. Emergency works were carried out in Q2 of 2021 to stabilize and protect the Cupola. A Conservation works package is in development which will see the historic fabric of the main building protected.



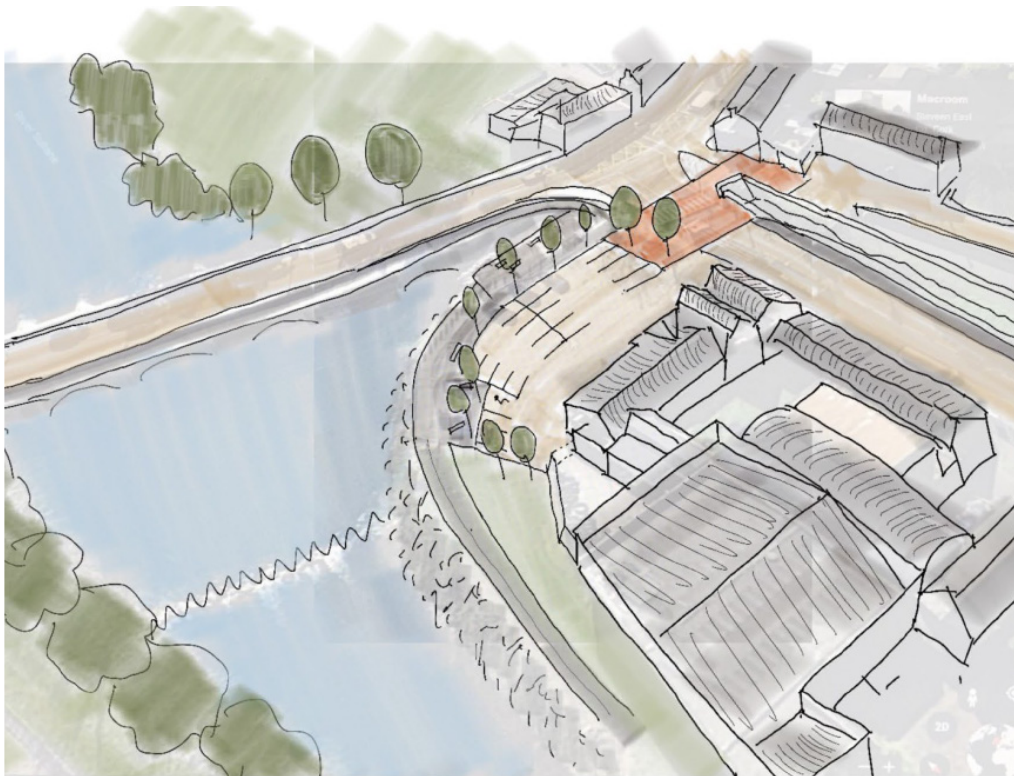
### **Church of Ireland, Macroom**

A proposal for redevelopment of the building has been created by the Architects' Department which will see it transformed into a flexible community space which could stage a range of exhibitions, performances, and meetings. This would ensure the protection of the building into the future and provide a much-needed space to support the arts and cultural potential of the town. Part VIII Planning was published in December 2021 and is currently in the Public Consultation Stage. Historic Towns Initiative Funding is being sought for an emergency works package to safeguard the building on a temporary basis until a full programme of works can be funded and delivered.



### **Mill Dam/Massey Town Public Realm, Macroom**

The proposed works aim to improve the overall area in a number of ways. These improvements include creating a public amenity within the millrace by way of pedestrian walkway, improved reconfiguration of existing car park to provide five additional spaces, a new and improved outdoor public space, installation of a new riverbank walkway, accessible fishing jetting and outdoor picnic area. Part VIII Planning Approval was granted in Q4 2021.



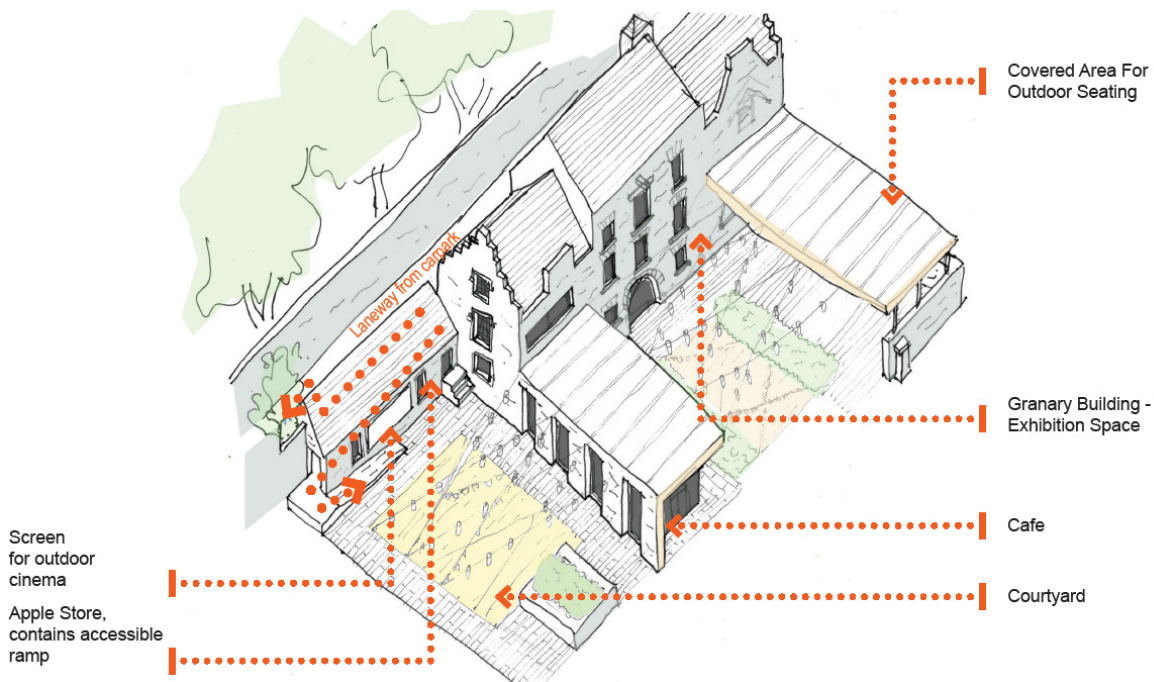
**South Square Public Realm, Macroom**

This proposal seeks to capitalize on the redeveloped Briery Gap Theatre and Library adjacent and to prepare Macroom for the "post bypass environment" by creating opportunities to bring life back to the core area. It includes the provision of a single raised plaza consisting of the two delineated squares – one providing a traffic table, and one serving the entrance to the Briery Gap. As well as the reduction of road carriageway width, the widening of footpaths and the reconfiguration of existing car spaces. The works will also include high quality paving, seating, landscaping, and lighting. Part VIII Planning was successfully granted for the scheme in Q4 2021.



**Mallow Castle Granary Buildings**

Cork County Council's Architects' Department have developed a feasibility study and will shortly be submitting a submission for Part VIII planning. The objectives of the project are: to conserve and restore the historic farm buildings, to provide areas of the farm buildings for tourism and commercial use, to increase pedestrian permeability from Mallow to Mallow Castle Grounds, to provide accessible public toilets and changing facilities, to provide facilities for CCC staff and to provide facilities to support the work of outdoor CCC staff in Mallow Castle Grounds. The renovation of Mallow Granary Buildings will create an exciting new complex of buildings to facilitate outdoor activities and festivals in Mallow. New business opportunities will be created, including a café with outdoor seating. Heritage will be highlighted by an exhibition space.



### ***Mitchelstown Public Realm***

The scope of Mitchelstown Georgian Quarter Public Realm consists of the following areas: King's St., George's St., New Market Square, and Kingston College Woods. A formal tender for a Multi-Disciplinary Design Team for Mitchelstown Georgian Quarter Public Realm Improvement will be appointed in 2022. The Design Teams are multi-disciplinary and are led by an Urban Designer/ Landscape Architect. Key members of the teams include: Civil Engineers, Heritage and Conservation Consultants and a Tourism Consultant.



### ***Kanturk Fire Station***

Construction of a new Fire Station located on Percival St, Kanturk, Co. Cork was completed in Q4 2021, through the use of a collaborative and cross departmental holistic approach, working closely with the Fire Service and other stakeholders. The project has been designed by Cork County Council's Architects' Department in collaboration with OCSC engineers and constructed by HG Construction.



## LIBRARY SERVICES

In January 2021, the Library Service remained in level 5 service restrictions, Housebound and Online Services Only were permitted during Q1 2021. All Libraries opened (except Fermoy due to significant building upgrade works) on 2nd June 2021. Mobile West returned to service on 31st May. The remaining mobile services resumed in Q4 when the New Mobiles arrived. Extended Service resumed from 20th September – browsing, seating, PC access, printing, study spaces – within public health guidelines including social distancing and mask wearing. Services to Schools, Nursing Homes and other residential centres fully resumed. Almost 1 million items were issued by Cork County Council Library Service in 2021. The people of Cork County visited their local library 379,696 times during the 7 months we were open (Fermoy library and 3 mobiles did not resume business until December). 2878 housebound boxes of books were delivered in 2021. 35,828 new books were added to the collection - Fiction = 16,113, Non-Fiction = 3,220, Juvenile = 15,584, DVDs= 911

Library projects and programmes undertaken in 2021 included;

### *Launch of the Library Development Plan*



*Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley – Mayor of the County of Cork launched Cork County Council's Library and Arts Service Library Service Development Plan 2020-2025.*

### ***Addition of 3 new mobile libraries***

New MOBILE LIBRARY fleet. Cork County Council's Library and Arts Service has added three new mobile libraries to its fleet to help serve book lovers across the county. The state-of-the-art trucks are replacing older vehicles in North, East and South Cork thanks to a €592,000 investment from the Council and will follow the replacement of the Mobile Library truck serving West Cork in 2017. Mobile libraries have long been an integral part of Cork County Library and Arts Service, with trucks operating a fortnightly route of around 340 service points, including schools, nursing homes, day-care centres, direct provision centres and creches as well as towns, villages and homes in every corner of the county.

These three new vehicles were purpose-built by Offaly-based company Primo Coach Builders. They are packed with fantastic features such as on-board Wi-Fi, sensory lighting, and 43-inch digital display screens to highlight local events and services available. The trucks are fully wheelchair accessible and have two-metre awnings on their exterior to provide shelter for customers as they enter and leave the library.



### ***New Library developments in Bandon, Kinsale & Kanturk***

The New Library in Bandon was completed in late December 2021, ready for opening on the 12th of January 2022. The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) provided €140,000 funding for the 'My Open Library' system and other digital equipment.





The refurbishment and conversion of the Mill Building commenced in July 2021 and the new library is expected to be complete for fitout in late 2022/early 2023.



Mayor of the County of Cork Cllr Gillian Coughlan and Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys jointly marked the official commencement of works on Kinsale's new state of the art library facility.

#### **Refurbishment of Midleton & Fermoy Library**

Emergency works were carried out on the Cupola on Midleton Library in the summer of 2021 to protect it from further storm damage. Fermoy Library reopened early December 2021 after significant upgrade and refurbishment works as part of the installation of the 'My Open Library' function. DRCD funding equated to €189,000 in total.

#### **Youghal Library Development**

There was €4 million Rural Regeneration Funding announced in April 2021 for the development of a new Library in Youghal.



Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, Mayor of the County of Cork in Youghal

### Improvement of online & digital services

Age Friendly Libraries recognition - Mitchelstown, Youghal, Cobh, Castletownbere and Bantry submitted their Age Friendly goals, whereupon they will receive their Age Friendly charter, another step on the way to achieving Age Friendly status.

### CHILDRENS, YOUNG PEOPLE AND SCHOOLS LIBRARY SERVICE:

A number of initiatives and programmes took place including:

- Spring into Storytime
- First Five Little Library Initiative
- Summer Stars
- Newstart
- One Count One Book
- Work Matter @ The Library
- Social Inclusion
- Literacy Awareness Training

### Teen Literature Festival

Teen authors Ciara Smyth, Adiba Jaigirdar and William Hussey and Louise O'Neill met TY students from five schools across Cork County in November as part of a new Teen Literature Festival introduced in 2021. Themes such as inclusion, diversity and acceptance were discussed with TY students from Colaiste na Toirbhirte in Bandon, Hamilton High School Bandon, Middleton College, Davis College Mallow, Carrigaline Community School and Kinsale Community School. All books were distributed to schools in early September with the students met the authors in virtual sessions in November. This was funded by Creative Ireland and Words Will.



Change Worlds, Cork County Library's LGBTQI+ literature programme.

**Other initiatives launched were:**

**'JAM' Cards**

Cork County Council's Library and Arts Service is now associated with the JAM Card initiative, a system that allows people with learning difficulties and communication barriers to ask for a minute of patience when they need it. Developed by the NOW Group, which supports people with learning disabilities, it is a discreet way of allowing people with any type of communication difficulty to ask for 'Just A Minute' of patience as they go about their daily lives. Following staff training, Cork County Council's Library Service has recently received a Certificate of Accreditation from the NOW Group.



*Pictured at the launch of the JAM Card initiative by Cork County Council's Library and Arts Service, were l-r: Mayor of the County of Cork, Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Emer O'Brien (County Librarian) and Chief Executive of Cork County Council, Tim Lucey.*

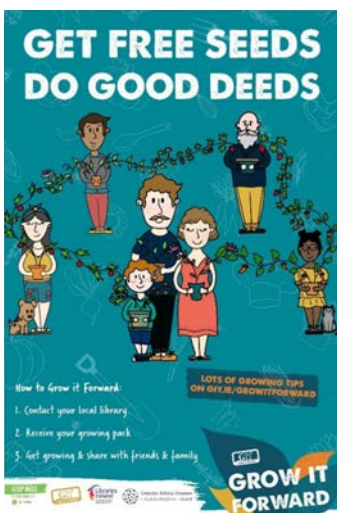
**Techsteps:**

Funding for 14 new ACORN Age Friendly Smart Tablets. These Android devices are specifically developed to be Age-Friendly, with a streamlined interface that promotes easy navigation and accessibility. this course. A pilot programme will be available in our Age Friendly Branches (Fermoy Mitchelstown Cobh, Youghal, Castletownbere, Bantry and Mobile library from Oct 20th, 2021 and will be accompanied by weekly one to one tuition by library staff.

**Grow It Forward**

*"Grow It Forward is a national programme to help half a million people #KeepWell by growing their own food. A partnership with Healthy Ireland and Libraries Ireland through the Government of Ireland's Keep Well initiative, the aim is to support half a million people across Ireland to enjoy the wide range of benefits that come from growing food at home."*

The Library Service appointed a GIF Ambassador and support team to liaise with LGMA/Grow It Yourself in time for the Launch on the 23rd of March. They then organised the delivery of seed packs to HQ and distribution to branch network and the promotion of the initiative through social media, local media, and branch network, including collaboration with Ballymaloe House and Darina Allen. There was a 100% take up on the programme.



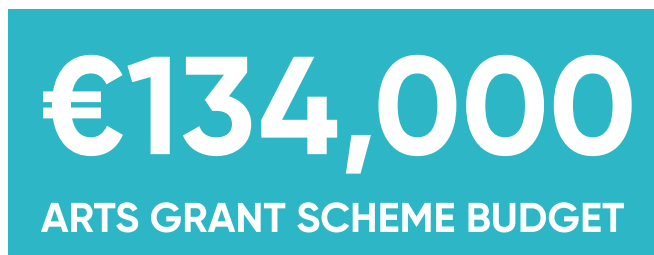
## ARTS SERVICE

Cork County Council's Arts services had an exceptionally busy year in 2021. Work progressed to redesign certain services and programmes to meet the challenges around COVID 19 public safety measures. From January the Arts Office took responsibility for the administration of the Council's Creative Ireland Programme and in June took on the management and administration of the Dept of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media's Local Live Performance Programming Scheme (LLPPS).

The Arts Grant Scheme is Cork County Council's primary mechanism for providing support to the county's arts sector. Arts Grant Scheme funding supports the work of numerous voluntary arts groups, theatre groups, choirs, writers' groups, festivals, youth organisations, disability and equality organisations, individual artists, and arts venues.

### 2021 Direct funding

The Arts Grant Scheme included allocations for the general applications, Artists Bursaries and Artist in Schools. 72 Arts Organisations and 9 individual artists received support.



### Pandemic Online Arts Activity programme

- Online writing courses
- An artist by my side: Arts and Crafts online
- Online Author Readings

### Cork County Council Creative Ireland Programme 2021

Creative Ireland is an all-of-government, culture-based initiative that emphasises the importance of human creativity for individual, community and national wellbeing. Cork County Council is tasked with the management and delivery of the County Cork Creative Ireland Programme.

The 2021 programme successfully delivered over 80 creative projects, workshops, publications, performances, and exhibitions across County Cork. These projects occurred both in-person and online reaching an audience of 32,657.

Highlights included:

- Creative Ireland funding enabled the County Library and Arts Service deliver a new Teen Literature Festival where author events, writing and other creative and wellbeing opportunities were offered to secondary and youth reach students in Cork County. Young Adult Authors Caroline O'Donoghue, Louise O'Neill, Adiba Jaigirdar, Ciara Smyth and William Hussey were featured.
- On the Wireless a five-part audio documentary series produced by Tadhg Ó Meachair and Joanna Hyde highlighting various components of Cork County Council's Creativity in Older Age programme. COVID Care Concerts musicians, Jimmy Crowley and Eve Telford's provided a programme of music and story to older residents of in care settings around the county.
- The Cork Dresser Project facilitated by folklore specialist Michael Fortune which invited members of the public to share images and talk about the place played by the dresser in their homes and lives. A calendar with images from the Cork dresser project was produced and was made available to participants and members of the public.
- Cruinniu na nÓg is also a Creative Ireland initiative and is now the designated national day celebrating young people's creativity. This took place in June as part of the annual Creative Ireland Programme. In 2021 in compliance with lockdown measures 15 new online workshops and performances were commissioned and made available to children and young people.

### **Local live Performing Programming Scheme LLPPS**

In May the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media introduced a new scheme to support live performance in local areas. The “Local Live Performance Programming Scheme”, (LLPPS) part of the €50M package of COVID 19 measures to support the commercial live performance sector across Ireland) The Scheme was split into two programmes LLPPS1 events taking place between May and October and LLPPS 2 for events taking place up to December 31st Funding of nearly €290,000 was made available by the Dept. which over 180 performances that animated public spaces in our main county towns and rural locations, reaching an audience of over 15,000, supporting the income of some 650 professional performing artists, event producers and ancillary production personnel.

### **Culture Night**

Cork County Council provides a coordinating and management role for Culture Night, the national celebration of the Arts. In 2021 Culture Night took place on Friday September 17th. A new approach was adopted towards programming by concentrating effort on eight designated towns that presented opportunities to take a more developmental approach in terms of bringing various voluntary organisations together to work for a common purpose. The locations chosen for the event were Carrigaline, Cobh, Midleton, Mallow, Bandon, Fermoy, Clonakilty, and Macroom. Outputs included 91 events in the eight designated towns and in a further six locations. An estimated audience of 4,500 attended physical events and some 3,000 attended online. The event provided a showcase for 640 artists and performers and involved 118 volunteers providing over 3,000 hours of their time.



### **Public Art**

#### **Mayor's COVID Commission unveiled**

Commissioned during Cllr. Ian Doyle's term as Mayor, the completed artwork by Liam Lavery and Eithne Ring was unveiled in Charleville.

#### **Per Cent for Art Programme progress**

Significant progress was made in developing the Housing Directorate's Public Art Programme

- Key achievements in 2021 were. Establishing the Housing Public Art Steering group
- Development of a commission framework and the formation of an artist panel
- Progressing the first tranche of commissions beginning with Beechgrove estate in Clonakilty Work began on the N22 Per Cent for Art programme

## Arts in Libraries

### Summer Arts Programme

Due to COVID restrictions the Library Summer Arts programme was delivered online. Highlights included specially commissioned workshops such as Zine-making, Foldover Comics for Kids, Creative Writing for Teens, Manga Drawing, An Intro to Autodesk, and Mixed Media Self Portraits; Who? What? Why? Where? a series of four short films mixing contemporary circus, created by Will Flanagan

### Creative Writing publications launched in 2021

- From the Well. Evening Walk and other Short Stories was published as the 17th edition of the Council's annual anthology of short story writing
- Poems from my 5k an anthology of poems written about the 5k lockdown limit was published. Adjudicators were Bernard O'Donoghue, Mary Noonan and Matthew Geeden.

### Children's Book Festival took place during October and November

- 67 author & illustrator events were organised in Primary Schools, 50 virtual events were streamed to schools and 17 in-person events were held.

### Public and Social Engagement in the Arts

Macroom Visual is an annual summertime visual arts programme operated in association with Macroom MD

- Cultivating an empty Field group exhibition of Macroom MD based professional artists curated by Dermot Browne Macroom Town Hall, August
- Miriam O'Connor solo show Tomorrow is Sunday in Macroom Town Hall, September

### Social Circus:

- Belfast based Tumble Circus gave performances in Riverside Direct Provision centre in Macroom & Drishane Castle Direct Provision Centre in September.
- Circus Factory from Cork carried out workshops with emigrant children in Macroom, Millstreet, Clonakilty & Mallow

### Poetry Town

Bandon was the location for Poetry Town 2021 a national initiative developed by Poetry Ireland to support and coordinate a concentrated programme of events in Bandon over an eight- day period in September. A local steering group was formed comprising staff from Bandon library, Arts Office and Creative Bandon. The Council's writer in Residence Matthew Geden was closely involved and a poem celebrating the town was commissioned by Poetry Ireland.

### West Cork Fit- up theatre Festival

Due to the ongoing COVID public safety measures in place the annual West Cork Fit up Theatre Festival developed an alternative performance model using an open tent structure in a single location in Ballydehob. Nine plays were featured and a total of 28 performances were delivered between July 20th and August 1st.

## Education

### BEAG Early Years Arts

An early year's arts research project is a partnership project developed in association with Cork City Council, Graffiti theatre and HSE South. In the absence of the possibility for in-person delivery, the artists are developing new child centred projects and methods of delivery. A representative of the Cork County Childcare committee has been added to the steering group. Recent developments include the recruitment of additional artists for training on the programme

### Dearcán Bursary

This is an annual bursary to support professional development of craft makers in wood in county Cork. Dearcán provides an opportunity for the successful candidate to take a significant step forward in their creative career, whether recent graduate, new creative start-up, or seasoned professional. The recipient of the 2021 Bursary was Sara Leslie a maker from West Cork

### Youth Arts

Cork Young Filmmakers continued to deliver a youth film training programme as a medium involving many disciplines, from script writing to production. It provided arguably the most open access to engagement of young people in the arts. Cork Young Filmmakers delivered successful projects in Mallow, Ballincollig, Macroom, Mitchelstown, and Midleton. These were a blended programme of online and in-person activities. In 2021 the Arts Office appointed Elena Horgan as its first Film maker in residence with special responsibility for supporting youth access to film.



**2000 Senior Play Packs were distributed via Age Friendly Towns Network in May 2021**

Age Friendly Unit teamed with Healthy Ireland and the Health & Wellbeing Unit of CCC who led the project. Age Friendly volunteered to arrange distribution channels through our eight Age Friendly Town Committees. All eight AF Town Committees embraced the task of distributing the boxes which contained a bird feeder, bird seed, a quiz and mindful colouring book with coloured pencils and a pack of playing cards.



**National Age Friendly Parking Space Guide.**

Cork County led the design model for National Age Friendly Parking Spaces. This was launched in 2021 and is the national model design for Age Friendly Towns all over Ireland.



**Positive Ageing Week** took place from September 27th to October 1st. The theme this year was 'Reconnecting Communities by Reframing Ageing.' There are eight Age Friendly Towns across the county, Bandon, Bantry, Charleville, Cobh, Kinsale, Passage West Monkstown, Millstreet and Mitchelstown with this year's campaign especially timely as plans are made for the phased return of much missed activities.

As part of Positive Ageing Week, Cork County's Age Friendly Towns were offered funding through the Council's Age Friendly Programme to roll out 'Singing for the Brain'. 'Singing for the Brain' is an initiative run by Cork Kerry Community Healthcare which sees trained tutors run weekly singing sessions which aims to recall and improve memory through vocal exercises and music engagement.



**Voices of Experience Podcast launch Positive Ageing Week**

As part of Positive Ageing Week, Cork County Council also released a special podcast, 'Voices of Experience' featuring climate stories from older people telling their everyday, personal experiences of a changing climate over the decades. These personal stories provide a very clear context to the complex issue that is climate change.





*Older Peoples Day Friday October 1st, 2021*



Mayor Gillian Coughlan was joined by Niall Healy, Chair of Cork County Age Friendly Alliance and Liz Maddox, Chair of Cork County Older Peoples Council to welcome Older Peoples Day on Friday 1st of October 2021.

*Cork County Council Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme.*

*Launch of Cork County Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme.*



Cork County Council is one of nine local authorities in Ireland to participate in a new initiative aimed at supporting older adults to remain living in their own homes and communities. The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme is a two-year project funded by Sláintecare and Age Friendly Ireland. It aims to reach up to 4,500 homes across Ireland during that time. The programme can also provide older adults and their families with access to a range of housing, health and social care supports. Referrals can be made by anyone once consent of the participants has been received or participants can self-refer to the programme if they wish. Referrals can be made to the programme by phoning the Healthy Age Friendly Homes National Office on 046 909 7417 or by emailing.

## Cork County Council's Older People's Council meet up again!



Liz Downes a member of Cork County Council's OPC told us about meeting up with her OPC to celebrate Positive Ageing Week, she included some lovely photos too.



'We had a beautiful evening with all our Age Friendly OPC members who celebrated Positive Ageing Week. We had afternoon tea in our local Firgrove hotel. 50 members attended. It was lovely to see the older people having a chat and a giggle and singing along with Kathleen who does "singing for the brain" with this group'.

## BANTRY



L to R May Collins, Hazel Vickery & Ray O'Callaghan Launched the Information Guide.



### **Bantry Age Friendly Town Committee**

Bantry Age Friendly Town Committee produced a Town Information Guide and compiled a directory which included, among others, Local numbers for:

Churches, Taxi and Transport Services, Social Groups, Opticians, Local/National Helplines, Pharmacies, Doctors, Health Care Centres, Veterinary Services, and location of defibrillators in the town.

Winnie O'Sullivan of Bantry Age Friendly Town Committee said "It is highly important to have a compilation of local numbers /Services at hand. This Information Leaflet is important to everyone but especially to older people now that Telephone Books are no longer automatically distributed to landline owners"

### **Strategic Policy Committee**

The Arts, Culture and Languages SPC met online on four occasions in 2021 to consider and to progress a number of policy initiatives, including;

- Library Development Plan: 2020 – 2025
- Public Art Policy Development
- COVID Impact on the Arts Survey
- Creative Ireland Operations
- Heritage & Commemorations
- Irish Language

A number of Agreed Future Priorities were also included which are as follows;

- Development of New Council Arts Strategy
- Irish Language Promotion and Development
- Cultural Heritage Policy Development
- Inclusion and Diversity in Cultural Policy

# Information and Communications Technology



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  

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Cork County Council

# INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

The role of the ICT directorate is to ensure the reliable, secure delivery of IT services to support the work of the council. Modern ways of working and digital transformations have increased the council's reliance on IT infrastructure and services. This section outlines some of the ICT initiatives and projects implemented during 2021 to support, maintain and improve these services.

## **COVID 19**

Remote working continued to be a requirement in 2021. The majority of our office-based staff are equipped with laptops and soft tokens to ensure they can securely access the business systems and files they require to work from home. The roll-out of soft-phones is now providing staff with remote access to their desk phones.

A priority during 2021 was to improve our virtual meeting functionality, the aim is to provide maximum flexibility to facilitate off-site, on-site and hybrid meetings. Technology in meeting rooms and the council chambers have been upgraded and/or replaced to integrate with our virtual meeting software. Assessments have been conducted in meeting rooms in MD areas and plans are in place to have more facilities operational for remote/hybrid meetings.

A critical infrastructure upgrade project was successfully completed with the installation of a new SAN. Decommissioning of the old SAN and migration to the new platform has provided more resilient, scalable capacity that will resolve previous storage issues. Several other system and application technology refresh projects were progressed during the year, reducing security and availability risks associated with obsolete components.

## **ICT Security**

Maintaining our security posture and responding to new alerts continued to require considerable time and resources. Phishing and ransomware threats have noticeably increased, responses have included the introduction of new controls and training to raise awareness of cybersecurity risks among staff.

## **Other achievements in 2021**

- 19,195 calls were successfully resolved by the IT service desk
- Release of new service desk portal for staff
- Multiple application and software upgrades
- Development and release of new staff intranet
- Security control improvements
- Town Wi-Fi assessments conducted
- Digital hub support
- GCN upgrades for external sites.



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  

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Cork County Council

# Corporate Services







Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

## CORPORATE SERVICES



### *Office of The Mayor of the County of Cork*

Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley was in office from June 2020 – June 2021. Cllr Gillian Coughlan was elected as Mayor in June 2021 and remains in office until June 2022. Speeches, launches and events continued throughout 2021 for the Mayor through the medium of MS Teams, Zoom calls and pre-recorded contributions. For the first time, the Mayor's Community Awards were held in an online ceremony and gave an opportunity to highlight the outstanding work being done across the county by the community and voluntary sectors.

Some of the year's highlights include the establishment of a Women's Caucus, the end of Mayoral term video recording for Cllr Mary Linehan Foley, launch of the Explore Cork App, 9/11 Anniversary Video and several Ambassadorial visits to County Hall.

The Mayor continued to co-chair the interagency Community Support Response Forum in 2021 which co-ordinated the local response to the COVID 19 crisis. The Forum comprised of over 20 different state and local organisations across the county. There were 18 meetings of the interagency Community Support Response Forum held in 2021.

## Meetings of Elected Members

Full Council	
Full Council Meetings held in 2021	21
Special Meetings held in 2021	4
Annual Meeting Date 2021	25th June 2021
Notice of Motions Received in 2021	74

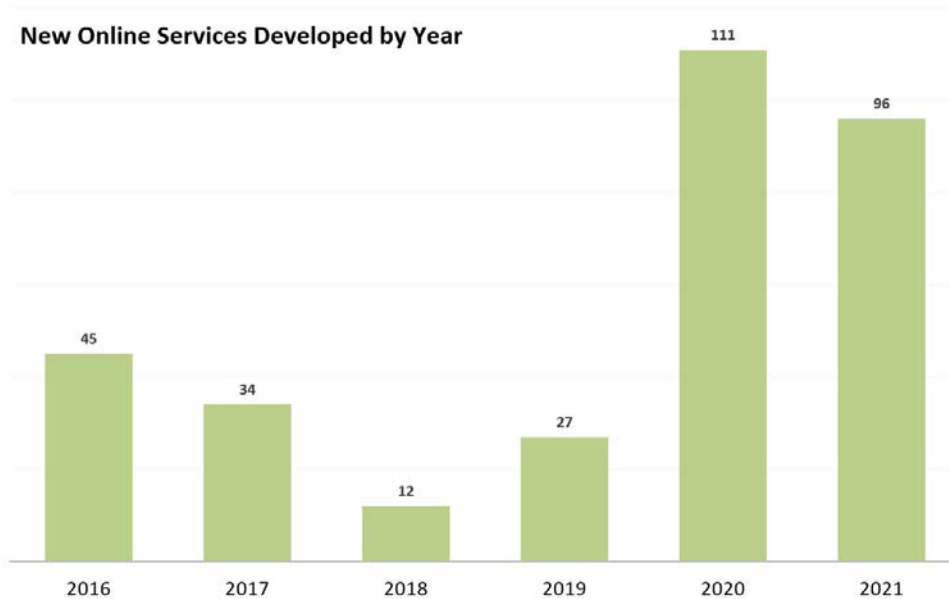
### COVID 19

Following the introduction of legislation allowing for virtual attendance at Full Council meetings, Full Council took place via Microsoft Teams up until the Annual Meeting on 25th June which was the first hybrid meeting of both members in attendance and virtually. Meetings took place through the hybrid format for the remainder of 2021.

### Digital Services

2021 was another busy year for online services. 78,520 online service requests were made and almost 10,000 people registered an account with the [www.yourcouncil.ie](http://www.yourcouncil.ie) portal. By the end of 2021 there were 42,781 people registered with the portal overall. 96 new online services were delivered in 2020 –

**New Online Services Developed by Year**



Some of the online services delivered in 2021 include –

- Part 8 Public Park Ballydesmond
- Facilities Reporting Service for Environment
- Online Service for From the Well project
- Draft CDP Consultation
- Contribution Scheme Consultation
- Part 8 Bandon TPREP
- COVID 19 Community Emergency Fund Round 2
- PMDS 2021
- ASDP Review
- Appointments Service for Planning 2021
- Dog control - Find a Case
- BCP Consultation
- Irish Office Grant
- Part 8 Spa House Grounds
- Feedback survey on Festival training
- Cash Office Collections Log
- Solicitors Queries Service
- Library Events Booking
- Part 8 Carrigaline TPREP
- 5K Poetry Competition
- Out of Hours Complaints Form
- Online Services Help Wizard
- Disability Survey 2021
- COVID Business Aid Scheme
- Cruinniú na nÓg online application
- DPIA form
- Elected members meeting attendance register
- Blended Working Application Process
- Voids Maintenance Housing Tracker

**Innovation and Service Design**

The Service rePublic team continues its promotion of innovation around the Council. Monthly bulletins are issued to highlight awareness and new developments across service areas –

**CORK COUNTY COUNCIL INNOVATION UPDATE May 2021**



**NEW ACTIVITIES AND ONLINE SERVICES IN MAY**

- Review of Corporate Plan – conversations with staff
- Burn Notification Form for Environment
- Community Mental Health Fund
- Creative Ireland Grant
- Public Consultations -
  - o Little Island Sustainable Transport Interventions
  - o Mallow Town Hall
  - o Carrigaline TPREP
  - o Two Section 38 Public Consultations in Bandon



An online appointments service has been delivered for Planning and Motor Tax. This service includes an online booking form for the public, an appointment calendar for staff, a 'find an appointment' search utility and an attendance list report. If you would like to know more about how this service works, join Conor for a 30 minute [virtual learning lunch](#) at 13.00 on Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of June.

If you have an innovation story you would like to share on this update, email [customerportal@corkcoco.ie](mailto:customerportal@corkcoco.ie)

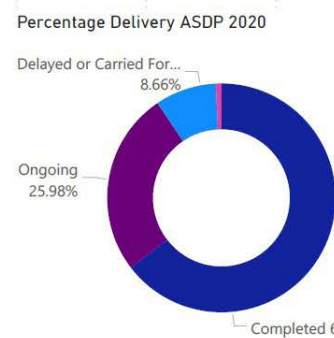
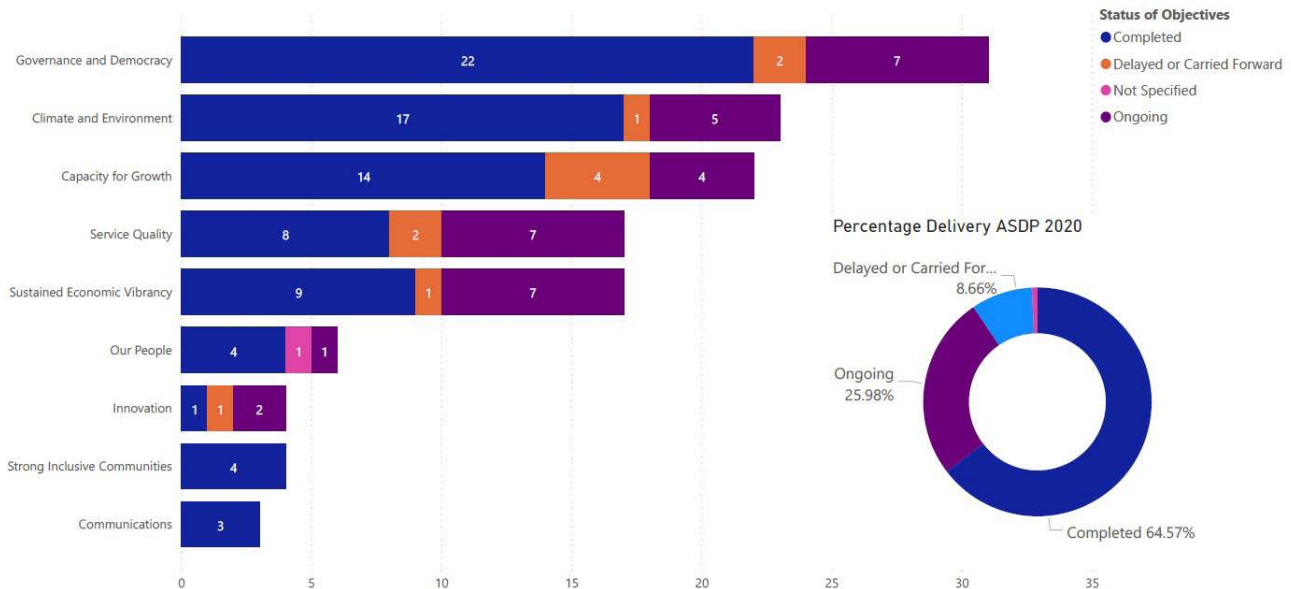
There are 37,969 people registered with our [www.yourcouncil.ie](http://www.yourcouncil.ie) portal and over 154,496 online service requests have been processed!

Service rePublic, Corporate Services can help you go online with – Surveys, Competitions, Grant or Fund Applications, Complaints or Service Requests, Online Consultations or Submissions (e.g. part 8s). Send us a [request for an online service on Dash](#).

**[Link to Online Appointments Learning Lunch](#)**

The annual review of the Corporate Plan was undertaken by the Service rePublic team, using a combination of service design, business intelligence and traditional reporting methods. The following graph shows the delivery of ASDP 2020 objectives by Corporate Plan Theme –

Status of ASDP 2020 Objectives by Corporate Plan Theme



**CORK COUNTY COUNCIL**

*a year's overview*

# WHAT STAFF SAID



**Better Work Life Balance:**

Staff expressed appreciation for significant improvements in work life balance when they could work from home. For staff with long commutes and staff with young families, the flexibility of working from home was a huge benefit. Most staff would like a mixture of home and office based work. Many missed seeing their colleagues over the lockdown.

**Showing the Positive Value of the Council:**

Most staff felt that the perception of the Council by the public has significantly improved over the last year. Keeping services running under the most challenging circumstances, delivering the Community Call service and supporting and enhancing local areas and towns all made the positive impact of the Council more visible than ever before. This was expressed in a few different ways by staff. Having staff engage in new ways with the public, deliver new services and supports and be a visible and enduring resource for people during the COVID crisis meant that both the public and staff themselves reframed the value of the Council and its services.

**"Community Call was a great example of the empathy of the Council and the good work it does"**

**"I'm blown away by amount of work the Council does"**

**"I have experienced the positive work of the Council personally through older relative"**

## CONVERSATION THEMES AND THE CORPORATE PLAN

01	<b>Our People</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewed appreciation for the job</li> <li>• Better work life balance</li> <li>• Enhanced opportunities to bring new value into work</li> <li>• Staff feeling appreciated and supported</li> </ul>
02	<b>Strong Inclusive Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening our relationship with the public</li> <li>• Increased visibility of value of Council work by the public</li> <li>• Innovation through new ways of engaging people</li> </ul>
03	<b>Sustained Economic Vibrancy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovation through new ways of engaging people</li> <li>• Strengthening our relationship with the public</li> </ul>
04	<b>Climate and Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing local towns and spaces</li> </ul>
05	<b>Capacity for Growth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening our relationship with the public</li> <li>• Increased visibility of value of Council work by the public</li> <li>• Enhancing local towns and spaces</li> </ul>
06	<b>Service Quality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased visibility of value of Council work by staff</li> <li>• Increased visibility of value of Council work by the public</li> </ul>
07	<b>Governance and Democracy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased visibility of value of Council work by staff</li> <li>• Innovation through new ways of engaging people</li> <li>• Innovation through new ways of working</li> </ul>
08	<b>Communications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovation through new ways of engaging people</li> <li>• Strengthening our relationship with the public</li> </ul>
09	<b>Innovation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovation through new ways of engaging people</li> <li>• Innovation through new ways of working</li> <li>• IT Delivering Innovation</li> <li>• Enhanced opportunities to bring new value into work</li> </ul>

### **Customer Complaints**

There were 46 formal complaints received in 2021. A response was issued to 45 of these complaints within the timeframe required by the Customer Charter, which is 15 working days from receipt.  
14 requests for Internal Review were received in 2021.

### **Freedom of Information**

281 Freedom of Information requests were received in 2021.

Of these:

- 102 FOI requests were granted
- 80 requests were part-granted
- 52 FOI requests were refused (reasons for refusal include personal information of third parties, records already in public domain, legally privileged, commercially sensitive, records not held or do not exist)
- 39 FOI requests were withdrawn, 5 of which were answered outside FOI.
- 8 FOI decisions were referred to the OIC (Office of Information Commissioner) during 2021.

### **Ombudsman**

32 Ombudsman cases were received in 2021.

### **Data Protection**

There were 17 Data Subject Access Requests in 2021.

### **NOAC Annual Return 2021**

The Council's FOI Decision Maker compiled the Annual Return Report for the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) and Internal Audit Section were responsible for the collation of the Annual NOAC PSC Quality Assurance Report 2021 based on information received from all Directorates.

### **Audit Committee and Internal Audit**

The Audit Committee, comprising of 7 members (including three Elected Members), met on five occasions during 2021. As part of the Committee's Work Programme, an agreed programme of audits put forward by the Internal Auditor, was monitored by the Committee. During 2021 ten audit reports were presented to the Committee by the Internal Auditor. Internal Audit Section also commissioned an Audit Tracking System, developed in-house by the Service Republic team, which provides monitoring and oversight capabilities for Management and Audit Committee on progress in implementing audit recommendations

The Audit Committee, at each meeting, sought presentations from an invited member of Senior Management Team on activities in their directorate, reviewed Risk Oversight Committee activities, examined Internal Audit reports presented, received audit tracker progress updates, and received detailed reports on financial matters from the Head of Finance. At the December meeting the Committee also reviewed the Local Government Audit Report of AFS 2020 with the Local Government Auditor.

### **Risk Management**

The overall Council's Risk Register continues to be maintained and managed on the CalQRisk portal and reviewed on an ongoing basis. It contains 27 risks across 12 different portfolio categories. The Council's Risk Register is supported by Directorate risk register reviews at each Risk Oversight Committee meeting (ROC). In 2021 the following Directorate risk registers were reviewed:

- Environment
- Water Services – Co Engineers
- Solicitors
- ICT
- Corporate Services
- Municipal Districts

Membership of the Risk Oversight Committee (ROC) has been extended to all Directorates. Since the beginning of 2020, the Risk Oversight Committee meeting frequency increased from every quarter to every 2 months. During 2021 the Risk Oversight Meetings were successfully held virtually.

The Risk Oversight Committee (ROC) is responsible for supporting risk management within the Council and meets with selected directorate representatives to review individual Directorate Risk Registers which feed directly into the overall Council's Risk Register. The Risk Oversight Committee met on five occasions during 2021, with meetings held virtually. The ROC work is overseen by the Corporate Development Management Sub-Group (CDG) which evaluates and re-assesses each corporate risk twice yearly.

The CDG then formally submits the Corporate Risk Register to the Senior Management Team for further deliberation and eventual sign off.

The CalQRisk solution for risk management has allowed monitoring of changes to risk registers and analysis of risk registers to be undertaken. Functionality allows snapshots of risk registers to be taken and then comparison made between these, to show key changes in the top 10 risks.

## Contact Centre, Main Switchboard and Reception Customer Services Contact Centre In 2021

Section/Service	Total Calls Handled	Emails Received
Contact Centre (Total)	77,622	6,640
Switch	78,684	N/A
Out of Hours	3,184	N/A

### Customer Contact Centre

Overall, in 2021 63% of calls were Motor Tax related, followed by Housing Maintenance at 22%

An online system through the Council's customer portal was set up to manage Motor Tax customer appointments, this is managed by the Customer Services Unit.

Altogether 1,123 credit card payments were handled.

### County Hall's Main Switch

The phone system allows for calls to be answered and seamlessly transferred remotely.

### Out of Hours Service

A red weather event, Storm Barra, occurred on 8th December 2021. During this weather event 240 calls were handled by the Out of Hours Service Provider.

### Oifig na Gaeilge (Irish Office)

The role of Oifig na Gaeilge is to ensure that Cork County Council is welcoming and supportive of the rights of the public to correspond with it through the medium of Irish, and to ensure its compliance with relevant legislative obligations as well as promoting the language through the Council's day to day operations.

Oifig na Gaeilge continues to liaise with various Irish language interest groups and representatives from Cork County's two Gaeltacht regions, as well as other Irish Language Organisations.

Events and activities for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021 were predominantly held online due to the ongoing pandemic and COVID restrictions. These events were organised in conjunction with the Council's Library and Arts Section. Amongst these events were the following:

- Schools' storytelling session by Róisín Murphy
- Recorded readings of Irish nursery rhymes by renowned storyteller Paddy O'Brien, accompanied by animation videos created by Avril O'Brien, released on the Cork County Council YouTube channel and shared on social media
- Comic book drawing workshop for school children in selected schools by bilingual comic book creator and artist Aidan Courtney of Coimicí Gael
- Video of children's author Siobhán Ní Mhuimhneacháin reading from her Irish language children's book 'An Gadai Dubh'. In conjunction with this a twitter competition was held with copies of her book presented as prizes.

During 2021 Oifig na Gaeilge continued to work with the Cork County Arts Office by funding the Irish language in Arts Category of the Council's Arts Grant Scheme.

It also provided financial support for the publication of an anthology of Songs from the Múscraí Gaeltacht by the Acadamh Fódhla, provided financial assistance for the Irish Language Short Film Category of the Fastnet Film Festival and participated in the judging panel for this category. The winner of the category was an animation film called 'An Gadhar Dubh' (The Black Dog)

The Irish Officer continues to take an active part in the Council's Culture Team and Creative Ireland activities, as well as partaking in the Arts Culture and Languages Strategic Policy Committee which meets quarterly.

In 2021 Oifig na Gaeilge provided online Irish language classes for 120 staff in conjunction with Coláiste na Rinne, to increase the level of fluency. The classes were undertaken in two tranches and across levels ranging from Teg level A0 (Complete Beginner) to B2 (Upper intermediate).

Cork County Council's website, customer portal and online services continues to be maintained to ensure the static content is available in both English and Irish.

In 2021 Cork County Council increased its media and social media output through Irish.

Social Media Posts in Irish	News & Public Notices Items on Web-site in Irish	Press Releases released bilingually to the media
54	55	30

Oifig na Gaeilge continues to cooperate with Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga in relation to compliance with the Official Languages Act and other associated legislative obligations.

The new Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 was enacted in December 2021.

#### Bye Laws

- No Bye-Laws were adopted in 2021

#### Links with other Local Authority Areas

- No visits 2021

#### Property Management

The Property Management Department is responsible for overseeing all of the property transactions for Cork County Council, primarily Roads, Planning and Housing Directorates. In 2021 the following transactions were finalised:

Total Number of Orders for 2021	55
Total Number of Transactions for 2021	461

	NORTH	SOUTH	WEST	TRANSACTIONS YEAR TO DATE
Land Acquisition including NRA	5	12	3	20
Wayleaves/Rights of Way Transactions	11	12	15	38
Leases/Licence Transactions	6	14	15	35
Disposals Transactions	23	27	17	67
House Acquisitions including Part V / Turn-keys (314 houses)	49	145	90	284
Miscellaneous	4	8	5	17
(Tender competition, Acquisition of building, 2 x First Registration, 2 x Rectification of title, Cancellation of a lease, Fit Out Agreement, Letting of lands 2021 for Cork County, Objection to an application for registration of lands & Surrender of lease)	98	218	145	461



## Facilities and Porters

This department has responsibility for the buildings on campus, County Hall, County Library HQ, Business Growth Hub, Fire Control Building, Multi-level car park and external areas.

Approximately 1,400 Facilities Helpdesk requests are handled annually.

There are 15,000 maintainable assets on site, maintenance includes:

- Statutory maintenance, fire detection, sprinkler, emergency lighting, gas installations, electrical testing, passenger lifts, water quality, fall arrest systems etc
- Planned preventative maintenance of all mechanical, electrical and building systems; such as air conditioning, air handling, heating and distribution, lightning protection, CCTV, intruder alarms, access control, kitchen equipment, chiller units, building management system etc
- Electrical failure back up and electrical network testing
- Business Continuity - Electrical generation, Uninterruptible Power Supply, Residual Circuit Diode testing, Thermal Imaging, Transformer and Switchgear testing and maintenance, earth loop impedance testing
- Statutory Inspections - Insurance/Irish Engineering Service inspections
- Business Critical Plant and Equipment - Passenger lifts, boilers, water tanks, calorifiers, pressure vessels, automated kitchen fire extinguishing system
- Access Officer - Provision of advice to those Council Officers responsible for ensuring the accessibility for all to council (publicly) owned properties across the county, as well as the management of accessibility to the public areas of the county hall campus.
- Energy Management - Ensuring the energy efficient operation of the County Hall campus buildings, including waste management, and ensuring the minimisation of impact of operation on the environment.
- Management of Catering - Ensuring the delivery of a quality catering service by contracted service providers to the staff, elected members and patrons of the county hall site.
- Management of Security - Ensuring the delivery of a secure working environment for the staff, elected members and members of the public attending the county hall campus by way of a combination of directly employed portering staff and contracted security service providers.

The Facilities section carries out work in relation to:

- Safety OHSAS 18001
- Energy ISO50001, EMAP (Energy Management Action Plan),
- NEEAP (National Efficiency Action Plan)
- Climate Action Plan commitments

Other initiatives completed in 2021 include:

- Audio Visual upgrade works for the council chamber meeting room to facilitate blended meetings. The project was led by Corporate Services.
- Full review of the building management system and the execution of remedial works to ensure the resilience of the system by way of backups and a review of the controls to maximise energy efficiency during operation resulting in savings of 8% in the consumption of both gas and electricity (even considering the extended working hours in lieu of COVID).
- Upgrade of fire alarm monitoring system to ensure that the system will have an increased level of redundancy for possible future works.
- Business Continuity Planning Development - for the identification and testing of those management and control systems used to ensure the continued operation of the campus
- Installation of COVID 19 protective measures including changes to the operation of mechanical heating and ventilation systems alongside the continued management of building operational facilities to ensure safe access and operation of the campus for the delivery of services to both public, staff and elected members
- Set up of Foyer area in County Hall for Council meetings.

## Porters

This section provides Front of House and Information services as well as management of manned security function and carries out the monitoring and operation of Access Control, CCTV and Intruder Alarm systems. It looks after the high-volume franking and post function for the campus. Meeting room set up and audio-visual equipment checks are carried out by this team as well as daily accessibility building checks. In addition, this team, along with the Facilities team, arrange the setup of Corporate and other events in the County Hall foyer and elsewhere in the building.

### **Corporate Communications and Marketing**

The Communications Office supports Cork County Council's corporate communications, media relations and marketing activity across traditional and new media. The Communications Office aims to promote clearly, honestly and openly the Council's services, activities, aspirations and decisions to citizens and businesses.

The Office's reputation as a source of reliable, timely and relevant information developed over previous years was put to full use in informing on public health measures and promoting access to supports throughout the COVID 19 pandemic. This included promoting national and local wellbeing initiatives and grant schemes for business and community groups.

### **Media**

The Communications Office managed 699 Media Queries, representing an increase of over 9% from 2020. The provision of timely responses and clarifications to media ensures transparent and accurate information is provided to media outlets. 261 Media Releases were issued in 2021, ensuring Cork County citizens were informed of Council events and projects, as well as notifications on incidents impacting the Cork County community, ranging from severe weather events to updates on the COVID 19 pandemic and continuity of services during restrictions. The Communications Office also drafted and assisted with numerous editorial features, forewords, press/radio advertisements and local public awareness campaigns.

### **Key Campaigns, Events and Incidents**

Cork County Council's Communication's Office managed and supported a number of campaigns and events throughout the year, including:

#### **Campaigns:**

- County Development Plan Public Participation
- Engaging and Amplifying National Public Health Campaigns
- Project ACT (Activating County Towns) Programme
- N22 Roads Project
- Outdoor Dining Schemes
- Carrigaline Transportation Public Realm Enhancement Plan (TPREP)
- Cork Co Co Pops Live Performance Series
- Anti-Litter Campaign – Be Proud, Be Sound, Leave No Trace
- Explore Cork Tourism App
- County Cork Economic Monitor
- Your Council Day 2021
- Science Week
- Fire Safety Week
- Be Summer Ready
- Be Winter Ready Interagency Campaign
- Cork Pride
- 9/11 Remembrance Video
- Check the Register
- Positive Aging Week
- Bike Week
- Mallow Castle Playground Opening
- Launch of New Mobile Library Trucks
- All Ireland Pollinator Plan Signing and Town Pollinator Plans
- A Real Cork Christmas
- Promotion of charitable County Hall "light-up" initiatives on Social Media
- Promotion of Cork County Council's COVID 19 Community Support Programme and Keep Well Programme
- Road, Water and Beach Safety Notices
- Municipal Districts Monthly/Weekly Updates
- Roads Weekly Updates
- Cork County Council Job Vacancies
- Promotion and amplification for Various Tourism, Heritage, Environment, Library and Arts Initiatives
- Promotion of Various Council Funds and Schemes available to the public



*Launch of Cork County Council's Outdoor Dining Scheme in Macroom in June 2021.*

**Severe Weather:**

- Orange Rainfall Warning, February 2021
- Storm Barra, December 2021

**Events:**

- St. Patrick's Day Virtual Celebration
- Virtual Mayors Awards 2021
- Cork Harbour Economy Webinar
- Youghal Boardwalk Official Opening
- Haulbowline Official Opening
- Olympic Rowers Reception
- Kanturk Relief Road Official Opening
- Ministerial Visits



*The Official Opening of The People's Park, Haulbowline in July 2021*



Homecoming Reception for the Olympic Rowing Team at the National Rowing Centre, Inniscarra in August 2021.

### County Mayor's Office Media

The Communications Office works to highlight the office of The Mayor of the County of Cork and ensures opportunities for the Mayor to represent the citizens of Cork County are harnessed, both in terms of events and also in important local/national matters of significance.

The Communications Team assisted the Mayor's Office with the provision of 48 speeches and/or video scripts during 2021, including the recording of video messages where required.

- 25 Mayor's Columns were drafted for publication (fortnightly) in The Examiner
- 23 Mayor's Columns were drafted for publication (fortnightly) in The Cork Independent

### Major Emergency Communication

Cork County Council's Communications Office participates in the Major Emergency Management Interagency Sub-Group for Public Communications, which includes regular meetings of the sub-group to identify opportunities to collaborate and share information on public health and other advisories e.g. the annual Be Winter Ready campaign and COVID 19 health advisories, as well as participation in Major Emergency Exercises.

### Social Media

Cork County Council's Corporate Social Media accounts hold 69,989 fans/followers and have seen continued growth in followers and large increases in both impressions (number of times a post is seen) and engagement (number of interactions with council social media profiles). Posts on Cork County Council's Social Media Channels garnered over 13.2 million impressions 206,860 engagements in 2021. Spikes in engagement and impressions before and during severe weather events and awareness campaigns reflects our audiences trust in us as a reliable and timely source of important information.



### Website

The Communications Team continued to maintain the Cork County Council Corporate Website in both the English and Irish Languages and ensured its continued availability to people seeking Council services alongside information on the wide variety of supports developed for individuals and community groups throughout the COVID 19 pandemic.

## INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

### Intranet

The Communications Team has worked in conjunction with Cork County Council's ICT directorate to design and develop a new staff intranet to assist in the delivery of an integrated internal communications process supporting all areas of Cork County Council. The new 'Staff Hub' was launched in 2021.

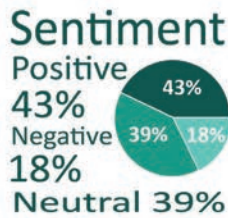
The Communications Office manages an internal text alert system for critical updates and emergency notifications to Cork County Council staff with 20 campaign messages issued.



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

## Communications

Figures compiled Jan. 2021 to Dec. 2021



**Reach**

Press 412m

Online 267m

**TV 13m**

Radio 112m

**261**

**Press**

Releases

**94% Published**

**699**

**Media**

Queries

**Answered**

4% Increase

Mayors Office

**096**

**Speeches & columns**

**Twitter**

26,881

**Followers**

4,896,000

Impressions

**Facebook**

31,220

**Followers**

12,073,869

Impressions

**Instagram**

4,012

**Followers**

567,089

Impressions

**LinkedIn**

7,786

**Followers**

561,794

Impressions

**Total**

Page

**Views**

2,115,633

www.corkcoco.ie

**45,124**

**Active Users**

**Per Month**

www.corkcoco.ie

**57%**

**Of Users**

**Accessing**

**on Mobile**

www.corkcoco.ie

The background of the slide features a blurred image of a person wearing a red jacket, looking at a laptop screen. The person's face is partially obscured by a large, semi-transparent red shape that serves as a backdrop for the text.

# **Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)**



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE NO. 1

### Planning & Strategic Development

Mr Michael Lynch, Director of Planning & Strategic Development

#### 14 Members of Council

**Representatives Cork County Council**  
**Chairperson: Cllr Michael Hegarty**  
**Meeting Administrator: Kevin O'Regan**

#### Member

Councillor Noel Collins

Councillor Michael Hegarty

Councillor Liam Madden

Councillor Tony O'Shea

Councillor Ted Lucey

Councillor Michael Paul Murtagh

Councillor Frank O'Flynn

Councillor Seamus McGrath

Councillor Sheila O'Callaghan

Councillor Joe Carroll

Councillor Bernard Moynihan

Councillor Alan Coleman

Councillor Frank Roche

Councillor James Kennedy

Sector	Representative
Agriculture	Billy Cotter
Business & Employers	Aiden O'Neill
Environment / Conservation	Bernadette Connolly
Development / Construction	Michael O'Flynn
Community / Voluntary	Carol Harpur
Social Inclusion	Tadgh Quill-Manley
Others	Prof. Donagh Berry



## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE NO. 2

### Environment, Climate Action & Biodiversity

Mr. Louis Duffy, Director of Environment and Emergency services

#### 14 Members of Council

**Representatives Cork County Council**  
**Chairperson: Cllr Anthony Barry**  
**Meeting Administrator: Ted O'Leary**

#### Member

Councillor Jack White

Councillor Kevin Murphy

Councillor Anthony Barry

Councillor Gerard Murphy

Councillor Alan O'Connor

Councillor Liam Quaide

Councillor Deirdre Kelly

Councillor Michael Looney

Councillor Audrey Buckley

Councillor Sean O'Donovan

Councillor Deirdre O'Brien

Councillor Ross O'Connell

Councillor Cathal Rasmussen

Councillor Marcia D'Alton

Sector	Representative
Agriculture	Chris Hayes
Business & Employers	Cian Murphy
Environment / Conservation	Raffaella Valenti Caitriona Courtney
Development / Construction	Michael O'Shea
Community / Voluntary	Conor O'Brien
Social Inclusion	
Others	Madeleine Murray Proinsias Ó'Tuama

### STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE NO. 3

#### Economic Development & Enterprise

Ms. Sharon Corcoran, Director of Economic Development & Enterprise

#### 14 Members of Council

**Representatives Cork County Council**  
**Chairperson: Cllr Frank O'Flynn**  
**Meeting Administrator: John Forde**

#### Member

Councillor Michael Hegarty

Councillor Susan McCarthy

Councillor John Paul O'Shea

Councillor Kay Dawson

Councillor John O'Sullivan

Councillor Frank O'Flynn

Councillor Pat Hayes

Councillor Ann Marie Ahern

Councillor Gearóid Murphy

Councillor Martin Coughlan

Councillor Paul Hayes

Councillor James Kennedy

Councillor Gerard Murphy

Councillor Noel McCarthy

Sector	Representative
Agriculture	Jimmy Hosford
Business & Employers	Bryan O'Donnell
Trade Union	Michael Delargey
Development / Construction	Aidan Mangan
Community / Voluntary	Owen Hurley
Others	Dr. John Hobbs Martin Corkery Seamus Coffey

## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE NO. 4

### Tourism

Ms. Sharon Corcoran, Director of Economic Development & Enterprise

### 14 Members of Council

**Representatives Cork County Council**  
**Chairperson: Cllr Alan Coleman**  
**Meeting Administrator: Rose Carroll**

#### Member

Councillor Karen Coakley

Councillor Susan McCarthy

Councillor Marie O'Sullivan

Councillor John O'Sullivan

Councillor Deirdre Kelly

Councillor Joe Carroll

Councillor Pat Hayes

Councillor Sean O'Donovan

Councillor Alan Coleman

Councillor Declan Hurley

Councillor Danny Collins

Councillor Sean O'Connor

Councillor Paul Hayes

Councillor Mary Linehan Foley

Sector	Representative
Agriculture	
Business & Employers	Derry Cronin Aaron Mansworth
Community / Voluntary	Doug Lucey
Others	Josephine ODriscoll Clayton Love Valerie Murphy Eileen O'Shea

## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE NO. 5

### Housing

Ms. Sharon Corcoran, Director of Economic Development & Enterprise Housing

### 14 Members of Council

**Representatives Cork County Council**  
**Chairperson: Cllr Seamus McGrath**  
**Meeting Administrator: Fiona Hayes**

#### Member

Councillor Noel Collins

Councillor Liam Madden

Councillor Noel McCarthy

Councillor Sinead Sheppard

Councillor Anthony Barry

Councillor Seamus McGrath

Councillor Gillian Coughlan

Councillor Patrick Gerard Murphy

Councillor Mary Linehan Foley

Councillor Ben D'Alton O'Sullivan

Councillor Sean O'Connor

Councillor Cathal Rasmussen

Councillor Danny Collins

Councillor Danielle Twomey

Sector	Representative
Trade Union	Colm J Cronin
Development / Construction	Stephen McCarthy Susan R.Cullen
Community / Voluntary	Eileen Kelly McCarthy
Social Inclusion	Jose Ospina Margarita O'Driscoll

## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE NO. 6

### Roads & Transport

Mr. Pádraig Barrett, Director of Roads & Transport

#### 14 Members of Council

**Representatives Cork County Council**  
**Chairperson: Cllr Declan Hurley**  
**Meeting Administrator: Noreen Murphy**

#### Member

Councillor Michael Creed

Councillor Tony O'Shea

Councillor Kevin Murphy

Councillor Ted Lucey

Councillor Eileen Lynch

Councillor Michael Paul Murtagh

Councillor Michael Looney

Councillor William O'Leary

Councillor Deirdre O'Brien

Councillor Ann Marie Ahern

Councillor Gillian Coughlan

Councillor Frank Roche

Councillor Declan Hurley

Councillor Ben D'alton O'Sullivan

Sector	Representative
Agriculture	
Business & Employers	Seán Twohig
Trade Union	John Bowen
Environment / Conservation	Dr. Darren McAdam-O'Connell
Development / Construction	Seán Carrigy
Community / Voluntary	Bríd Coakley
Social Inclusion	Tim Hanley
Others	Superintendent Brendan Fogerty Aled S. Williams

## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE NO. 7

Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development

Mr. Niall Healy, Municipal District Operations & Rural Development

### 14 Members of Council

**Representatives Cork County Council**  
**Chairperson: Cllr John Paul O'Shea**  
**Meeting Administrator: Carol Conway**

#### Member

Councillor Eileen Lynch

Councillor Ian Doyle

Councillor Audrey Buckley

Councillor Bernard Moynihan

Councillor Gobnait Moynihan

Councillor Marcia D'Alton

Councillor Michael Creed

Councillor John Paul O'Shea

Councillor Kay Dawson

Councillor Marie O'Sullivan

Councillor Katie Murphy

Councillor Liam Quaide

Councillor Danielle Twomey

Councillor Ben D'alton O'Sullivan

Sector	Representative
Trade Union	Eddie Mullins
Environment / Conservation	Ana Ospina
Community / Voluntary	Mair Kelly Pauline O'Dwyer Gavin Falk
Social Inclusion	Pat Dooley
Others	

## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE NO. 8

### Arts Culture & Language

Mr. Niall Healy, Municipal District Operations & Rural Development

#### 14 Members of Council

**Representatives Cork County Council**  
**Chairperson: Cllr Patrick Gerard Murphy**  
**Meeting Administrator: Ian McDonagh**

#### Member

Councillor Karen Coakley

Councillor Jack White

Councillor Katie Murphy

Councillor Sinead Sheppard

Councillor Patrick Gerard Murphy

Councillor Ian Doyle

Councillor William O'Leary

Councillor Gobnait Moynihan

Councillor Ross O'Connell

Councillor Martin Coughlan

Councillor Gearóid Murphy

Councillor Sheila O'Callaghan

Councillor Alan O'Connor

Councillor Ben D'alton O'Sullivan

Sector	Representative
Business & Employers	Kenneth Buckley
Community / Voluntary	Colum Cronin Micheal De Buitleir
Social Inclusion	Judith Gilbert
Others	Mary Hegarty Geoff Gould Eamon Lankford Ann Davoren

# Appendices







Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

Annual Service Delivery Plan Objectives 2021									
Principle Service	Corporate Plan Theme One	Corporate Plan Objective One	Corporate Plan Theme Two	Corporate Plan Objective Two	ASDP Objective	Performance Standard	Performance Indicator	Status	Comment
<b>Corporate Services - 19 Objectives</b>									
Irish Office/Oifig na Gaeilge	1. Our People	1.1 Develop	8. Communications	8.3 Brand Identity	Promote greater use of the Irish Language and the role of the Irish Officer	Irish Classes rolled out to staff. Enhance engagement and support of the two Gaeltacht areas.	Not Applicable	Completed	
Elected Members	1. Our People	1.7 Enhance	7. Governance and Democracy	7.5 Enabling Elected Members	Develop & support the democratic role of the Elected Members	Democratic role of the Elected Members supported & develop	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Ongoing support being provided.
Property Procurement, Sale & Leasing Agent	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.1 Vibrant Towns	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.2 Rural Regeneration	Assist in creating vibrant town hubs through urban regeneration programmes	Council targets to be achieved by 2021	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Ongoing support to all directorates involved in these projects
Property Procurement, Sale & Leasing Agent	5. Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.1 Vibrant Towns	Support & assist the Housing Directorate in achieving the Departmental targets for Social Housing	Departmental targets to be achieved by December 2021	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Ongoing supports to housing function
Service Transformation Team	6. Service Quality	6.1 Service Design	9. Innovation	9.1 Innovation & Design	Use a people-centred, design thinking approach to transform services and deliver key objectives across Cork County Council	Service design tools and methods used to deliver projects Design thinking project undertaken for CPR	Not Applicable	Ongoing	This is a continuing objective that is valid every year for the team
Service Transformation Team	6. Service Quality	6.2 Digital Transformation	6. Service Quality	6.8 Engage	Leverage the power of digital services to deliver for citizens, communities, businesses and staff across the Council and County through our online services platform	50 digital services delivered	Not Applicable	Ongoing	This is a continuing objective that is valid every year for the team
Service Transformation Team	6. Service Quality	6.3 Innovative Processes	9. Innovation	9.2 Digital Transformation	Meet the demand for accelerated delivery of digital services, responding with agility and flexibility to unplanned but vital new online services over the year	10 unplanned but critical digital services delivered on time	Not Applicable	Completed	
Internal Audit	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	1. Our People	1.1 Develop	Put in place and promote a reliable business advisory service	Meet 100% of Directorate Snn Teams at least once Deliver 100% of support requests	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Approved as part on revised audit engagement model through consultation with CDG and presented to the CE. Formal engagements with Senior teams will commence in Q1 2022

Irish Office/Oifig na Gaeilge	6. Service Quality	6.9 Deliver	8. Communications	8.4 Engagement	Ensure compliance with Languages Act & CCC's Irish Language Scheme	Compliance with Languages Act & Irish Language Scheme and completion of issues raised through ACT	Not Applicable	Completed
Electoral Register	7. Governance and Democracy	7.1 Democracy	7. Governance and Democracy	7.5 Enabling Elected Members	Franchise and Electoral Register maintained and up to date.	n/a	Not Applicable	Ongoing
Corporate Risk Management	7. Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	7. Governance and Democracy	7.3 Risk Management	Ensure compliance with legislation on GDPR, FOI, and other governance requirements and support risk management.	Ensure maximum compliance with the relevant legislation	Not Applicable	Ongoing
Service Transformation Team	7. Governance and Democracy	7.3 Risk Management	7. Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	Implement the Council's Corporate Risk Management Policy through the Risk Oversight Committee	6 ROC meetings held in 2021 Directorate Risk Register review undertaken at each ROC meeting	Not Applicable	Completed
Internal Audit	7. Governance and Democracy	7.6 Internal Audit And Audit Committee	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	Implement and support a process of follow up of audit recommendations as the final stage of audit assurance provision	Reduce historic open recommendations by 20% by eoy	Not Applicable	Completed
Internal Audit	7. Governance and Democracy	7.6 Internal Audit And Audit Committee	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	Agree Audit Plan for 2022	Approval and sign off by Audit Committee and CE by EOY	Not Applicable	Ongoing
Internal Audit	7. Governance and Democracy	7.6 Internal Audit And Audit Committee	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	Deliver audit agreed in the Audit Plan 2021	22 Reports 50% Final Reports Issued 25% Draft Reports Issued 25% In progress@eoy	Not Applicable	Completed
PR/Publicity	8. Communications	8.1 Plan	8. Communications	8.2 Collaboration	Implement the Corporate Communications and Marketing Strategy	Create content planned and aligned with corporate objectives, covered by media, website and soc eng	C3B: Total number of website and social media followers at end 2020	Ongoing
PR/Publicity	8. Communications	8.3 Brand Identity	8. Communications	8.4 Engagement	Ensure the organisation adopts best practice principles to the application of the Council's brand.	Ensure the organisation adopts best practice principles to the application of the Council's brand.	Not Applicable	Ongoing
Service Transformation Team	9. Innovation	9.1 Innovation & Design	6. Service Quality	6.3 Innovative Processes	Support the development of an innovation environment and innovation strategy for Cork County Council through service design, design thinking, digitalisation and business intelligence	Innovation network in place Plan for development of Innovation Strategy	Not Applicable	Delayed or Carried Forward
								Agreement on innovation network and innovation strategy development delayed until 2022

Service Transformation Team	9. Innovation	9.3 Business Intelligence	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service Systems	6.4 Business & Service Systems	Enable informed, strategic decision making through data analytics and business intelligence reporting to support Cork County Council Strategies, Plans and Services	15 additional business intelligence reports developed	Not Applicable	Completed
<b>County Solicitors - 7 Objectives</b>									
High Court, Circuit Court and District Court Litigation	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service Systems	7. Governance and Democracy	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	Provide an effective litigation service to the Council as and when required.	Professional Standard	Not Applicable	Completed
Representing the Council in different statutory processes, e.g. arbitrations and oral hearings	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service Systems	7. Governance and Democracy	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	Represent the Council in an effective and professional manner in statutory processes	Professional standard	Not Applicable	Completed
Providing a legal advisory service to Senior Management and Directors of Service.	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service Systems	7. Governance and Democracy	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	Provide legal advice in an timely and effective manner	Professional standard	Not Applicable	Completed
Conveyancing acquisitions and Disposals on behalf of the Council.	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service Systems	7. Governance and Democracy	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	Provide an effective and professional property service	Professional standard	Not Applicable	Completed
Working with the Housing Directorate in the various social housing schemes e.g. social leasing, payment and availability agreements, NARPS acquisitions, Capital Assistance Scheme, CALF scheme, Incremental Purchase Scheme etc.	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service Systems	7. Governance and Democracy	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	Provide an effective and professional property service.	Professional standard.	Not Applicable	Completed
Provision of legal service to Municipal Districts	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service Systems	7. Governance and Democracy	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	Provide legal advice in an timely and effective manner	Professional standard	Not Applicable	Completed
Maintenance of a Litigation Risk Register	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service Systems	7. Governance and Democracy	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	Provide information to assist in the assessment of the Council's legal liabilities	Professional standard	Not Applicable	Completed
<b>Economic Dev., Ent. &amp; Tourism - 10 Objectives</b>									
Community Capacity	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.6 Community Capacity	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.8 Inclusion & Integration	2.8 Inclusion & Integration	Promote and support rural economic development in our Towns and Villages in Cork County through completion and implementation of the LEADER programme adopt Cork Healthy County Strategy	Complete Q4 2021	Not Applicable	Ongoing
Economic Development Projects	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.1 Partnership For Growth	5. Capacity for Growth	5.8 Projects Of Scale	5.8 Projects Of Scale	Develop and promote best practise in economic development policy and deliver targeted financial supports to strategic economic development initiatives in Cork County Towns and Villages	Complete Q4 2021	Not Applicable	Ongoing
Economic Development Projects	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.1 Partnership For Growth	5. Capacity for Growth	5.8 Projects Of Scale	5.8 Projects Of Scale	Implement the recommendations of the Cork Harbour Initiative Continue to work with the European Commission in accessing both information and potential funding streams	Complete Q 2021	Not Applicable	Ongoing



Provide for delivery of Environmental Protection Services for Co. Cork	1. Our People	1.1 Develop	1. Our People	1.2 Knowledge Base	Implement innovative Staff Training and Development Develop a base for knowledge retention	One new training approach & one ICT based info sharing protocol per team	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Covid impacted on some Planned Training Initiatives. Online pollution complaint facility via Yourcouncil Platform launched. Monthly Environmental Reports to Divisional Committees now on website.
Promote Climate, Environment and Fire Safety Awareness within Cork County Council and the Community	4. Climate and Environment	4.1 Green Is Core	4. Climate and Environment	4.4 Sustainable Communities	Integrate Awareness and education into all Directorate activities Implement a risk-based community fire safety and education program.	As set out in individual Team plans	Not Applicable	Completed	
Support Climate Action within Cork County Council and the Community	4. Climate and Environment	4.1 Green Is Core	4. Climate and Environment	4.4 Sustainable Communities	Support and monitor corporate implementation of the Climate Change Charter, Legislative obligations, and Sectoral targets.	Measurement of Charter target compliance & dissemination to other Directorates	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Development of national KPIs by CARO E&M is ongoing. Corporate Climate Action Steering Group has been established and will guide the application of the KPIs, when approved by DECC
Deliver monitoring, audit, testing and enforcement Programs for Environment, Fire Services, Food Safety & Animal Welfare	4. Climate and Environment	4.2 Measure Impact	4. Climate and Environment	4.5 Water	Meet the targets in annual Environmental (RMCEI) Inspection Plan 2021 Promote culture of compliance with the building regulations and monitor and enforce fire safety legislation.	RMCEI targets fully met Deliver target of 12% to 15% of new buildings inspected	P1A: Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	Completed	
Provide incident response services for Environment, Fire and Emergency, Food Safety, Animal Welfare, Waste and Litter Management	6. Service Quality	6.3 Innovative Processes	6. Service Quality	6.5 Benchmark	Maintain operational readiness and capability to deliver an appropriate response to incidents. Develop and support a learning culture through ongoing review of incidents.	As set out in individual Team plans	F2B: Average time taken in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	Completed	
Major Emergency Management	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	6. Service Quality	6.7 Plan	Support the development of corporate resilience to Emergencies. Review, update, exercise & test CCC Major Emergency Plan & Inter-Agency site specific External Emergency Plans for Upper-tier sites	As set out in Major Emergency Management Committee Work Programme 2021	Not Applicable	Completed	

Develop & deliver Agency Shared Services to NW, FSAI, Government Departments and the Sector. CARO, WERLA, DSL, Non SLA, Labs, Haulbowline, Cork City	7. Governance and Democracy 7.2 Governance	7. Governance and Democracy 7.3 Risk Management	Ensure that all existing and new Agency and Shared Services are managed to protect the interests of Cork County Council, while delivering on their performance targets.	Timely agreement of program Annual review of targets and Risk Assessment of SLA	Not Applicable	Completed
<b>Finance - 10 Objectives</b>						
Rates	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.7 Growth Preparedness	6.4 Business & Service	6. Service Quality	6. Service Quality	Completed
Rate Collection	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.7 Growth Preparedness	6.4 Business & Service	6. Service Quality	6. Service Quality	Completed
Payroll	6. Service Quality	6.2 Digital Transformation	6.4 Business & Service	6. Service Quality	6. Service Quality	Completed
Payments	6. Service Quality	6.2 Digital Transformation	6.4 Business & Service	6. Service Quality	6. Service Quality	Completed
House loan collection	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	7. Governance and Democracy 7.2 Governance	7. Governance and Democracy 7.2 Governance	7. Governance and Democracy 7.2 Governance	Completed
Motor Tax	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	7. Governance and Democracy 7.2 Governance	7. Governance and Democracy 7.2 Governance	7. Governance and Democracy 7.2 Governance	Completed
Corporate Financial Governance	6. Service Quality	6.6 Invest	7. Governance and Democracy 7.2 Governance	7. Governance and Democracy 7.2 Governance	7. Governance and Democracy 7.2 Governance	Ongoing
Corporate Financial Governance	7. Governance and Democracy 7.2 Governance	9. Innovation	9.3 Business Intelligence	9. Innovation	9.3 Business Intelligence	Ongoing

Procurement	7. Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	7. Governance and Democracy	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	Promote and embed a value delivery culture in all operational areas including the development of procurement compliance within the Council.	1. Revised Corporate Procurement Plan 2. Procurement Policy Review 3. Continue provision of training	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Draft Plan to be signed off shortly. Policy completed. Training in line with roll out programme.	
Corporate Insurances	7. Governance and Democracy	7.3 Risk Management	7. Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	Manage insurance policies and claims in a cost efficient and timely manner.	1. No and value of claims 2. Cost of insurance cover	Not Applicable	Completed		
<b>Housing - 12 Objectives</b>										
Housing Capital/Operations	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.4 Quality Of Life	5. Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	Achieve the Build and Leasing targets set by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage through direct construction, AHB delivery, turnkey acquisitions and leasing	Build 680 Leasing 60	H1B: No. of dwellings added to the LA owned stock during 2019 (whether constructed or acquired)	Completed		
Housing Capital & Finance	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.4 Quality Of Life	5. Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	Progress the delivery of affordable housing.	Part 6 planning appr. for developments on sites in Clonakilly, Kinsale & Carrigaline Circa 190 units	H1B: No. of dwellings added to the LA owned stock during 2019 (whether constructed or acquired)	Ongoing	Revised funding submissions made to Dept. Housing, Local Government and Heritage following the establishment of the Affordable Housing Fund.	
Housing Maintenance monitoring	5. Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.4 Quality Of Life	Carry out a planned maintenance programme maximising the funding allocation from the DHLGH.	Maintenance to be carried out on 128 properties DPG adaptations to be undertaken to 77 properties	H4A: Expenditure during 2019 on the maintenance of LA housing completed from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, divided by the no. of dwellings in the LA stock at 31/12/2019, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	Completed		
Housing Options	5. Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.4 Quality Of Life	Respond to the demand that exists for HAP, RHL & Private Grants and process all applications received, in a timely Manner.	Number of applications processed to completion HAP 850 RHL 130 Private Grants -1000	Not Applicable	Completed		



Refurbishment of Vacant houses	5. Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.4 Quality Of Life	Implement a programme to refurbish and re-let voids & derelict voids and minimise vacancy.	130 vacant houses refurbished and vacancy rate of 2%.	H3A: The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2020 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2020	Completed	
Homelessness	5. Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.4 Quality Of Life	Reduce the number of homeless adults and children in emergency accommodation and work with all stakeholders to minimise homelessness.	Reduce people in emergency accom. 80 no. HAP tenancies by Placemaker Officer, 5 no. Housing First.	H3A: Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a % of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2020	Ongoing	While there were 44 homeless preventions and 28 exits from emergency accommodation, there was a slight increase in the homeless numbers at the end of 2021.
Energy Efficiency Projects management	5. Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	4. Climate and Environment	4.4 Sustainable Communities	Carry out an energy efficiency retrofitting programme, maximising the funding made available by the DHLGH.	150 properties benefitting from retrofitting works.	H4A: Expenditure during 2019 on the maintenance of LA housing completed from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, divided by the no. of dwellings in the LA stock at 31/12/2019, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	Completed	
Housing Capital/Operations	5. Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.4 Quality Of Life	Progress the planning, design and construction of social housing on Council owned, or acquired, sites.	Part 8- 52 units Tender- 29 units Under Construction- 123 units	H1B: No. of dwellings added to the LA owned stock during 2019 (whether constructed or acquired)	Completed	
Private Rental Inspections	5. Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.4 Quality Of Life	Increase the number of private rental standards inspections.	Target of 4170 inspections in 2021.	H8B: Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2020	Delayed or Forward	Inspections not carried out for 6 months due to Covid restrictions

Housing Capital & Finance	5. Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	7. Governance and Democracy	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	Apply rent increase to recover the cost of boiler maintenance and carry out a rent review, having regard to updated household incomes.	Collection of €18.7m as provided for in the adopted budget.	Not Applicable	Ongoing	PPP unitary charge is being paid and being recouped Rent Review North Cork is complete and Southern Division is ongoing.
Housing property Allocation	5. Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.4 Quality Of Life	Undertake the Annual Housing Needs Assessment in accordance with DHLGH guidance and monitor demand through analysis of activity on the Choice Based Letting System.	Completion of Annual Housing Needs Assessment Report.	Not Applicable	Completed	
Travellers Strategy	5. Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.8 Inclusion & Integration	Provide suitable accommodation to applicants who are members of the Traveller community in accordance with the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024.	12 units of accommodation through HAP/ standard Housing.	Not Applicable	Completed	
<b>Human Resource Management - 12 Objectives</b>									
Staff Training	1. Our People	1.1 Develop	6. Service Quality	6.1 Service Design	Develop and deliver a training, development, coaching and mentoring plan based on staff needs to include an induction programme for new staff and retention of CPD accreditation for engineers	Plan in place and all objectives met during 2021	Not Applicable	Completed	
All Sections	1. Our People	1.2 Knowledge Base	6. Service Quality	6.1 Service Design	Expand the range of SOP's for the activities of the routine activities of the department.	SOP's in place across the directorate	Not Applicable	Completed	
Staff Relations	1. Our People	1.3 Wellbeing	6. Service Quality	6.5 Benchmark	Address the levels of absenteeism through continued monitoring and continued roll out of wellbeing initiatives and work towards NOAC National Performance Indicator 3.5%	Improve performance on 2020	C2A - Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2020	Completed	
All Sections	1. Our People	1.4 Recognition	8. Communications	8.1 Plan	Establish a process of communication and engagement with staff in each section of the HRM Directorate	Good communications and engagement structure in place.	Not Applicable	Completed	
All Sections	1. Our People	1.6 Connected	8. Communications	8.2 Collaboration	Develop and deliver a plan to review and update HRM policies, procedures and guidelines to ensure they are up to date, accessible and connected.	Structured Document Mgt system in place, accessible to all staff across the county	Not Applicable	Completed	
Safety	1. Our People	1.8 Health & Safety	7. Governance and Democracy	7.3 Risk Management	Adhere to HSW best practice through the implementation of our SMS and ensure the monitoring & review of our SMS to ensure continuous improvement & compliance with relevant safety legislation	Retain Accreditation to ISO 45001 and the IBEC Keep Well Mark for our employee wellbeing.	Not Applicable	Completed	
HR Projects	6. Service Quality	6.2 Digital Transformation	9. Innovation	9.2 Digital Transformation	Migrate to Core V28 (XD) under the HFSS programme.	Improve work flows, processes and procedures.	Not Applicable	Completed	

HR Projects	6. Service Quality	6.3 Innovative Processes	9. Innovation	9.2 Digital Transformation	Implement measures to facilitate a smooth transition to MyPay within the Payroll Shared Service.	Measures in place to facilitate change.	Not Applicable	Completed
Child Safeguarding	7. Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	1. Our People	1.1 Develop	Compliance with relevant Child Protection and Garda Vetting Legislation to include staff training, Vetting, Child Protection Risk Assessments and Statements.	Comply with legislation	Not Applicable	Completed
Recruitment	7. Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	Adhere to best practise and guidelines to ensure equality, transparency and fairness across all recruitment processes	A fair, transparent definitive process in place	Not Applicable	Completed
Superannuation	7. Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	Administer various pension schemes in accordance with legislation, regulations, Departmental and judicial rulings	All retirement benefits processed correctly	Not Applicable	Completed
MICC	9. Innovation	9.2 Digital Transformation	6. Service Quality	6.1 Service Design	Maximise the use of technology to streamline internal processes, increase data analytics and improve corporate access to a structured Policy & Procedures system	better use of technology	Not Applicable	Completed
<b>ICT - 4 Objectives</b>								
Support line of business applications and systems	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	6. Service Quality	6.6 Invest	Reduce exposure to EOL & EOS OS, software applications and DBs	At least 80% of systems on supported platforms	Not Applicable	Ongoing
Provide efficient, cost effective service delivery	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	9. Innovation	9.1 Innovation & Design	Deliver high quality, cost effective services	Number of service desk tickets closed	C4: Cost of ICT per WTE	Ongoing
Deliver secure/resilient IT services	6. Service Quality	6.5 Benchmark	7. Governance and Democracy	7.3 Risk Management	Maximise information security and comply with regulatory standards	All security incidents and new threats managed effectively	Not Applicable	Ongoing
Improve access to Information Management & Collaboration channels	8. Communications	8.2 Collaboration	9. Innovation	9.2 Digital Transformation	IT are supporting more effective information management and providing more collaboration facilities	Roll out of MS O365 to enhance collaboration and information sharing	Not Applicable	Ongoing
<b>M.D. Ops and Rural Development - 9 Objectives</b>								
Capital Projects	1. Our People	1.1 Develop	5. Capacity for Growth	5.3 Rural Regeneration	Progress SSIP Projects assigned to directorate	Ongoing	Not Applicable	Completed

19,195 tickets were managed via the service desk during 2021	A number of systems and applications were upgraded during 2021, with more planned for 2022
19,195 tickets were managed via the service desk during 2021	A number of systems and applications were upgraded during 2021, with more planned for 2022
This is an ongoing activity	This is an ongoing activity
The Staff Hub was launched in 2021 providing a new platform for information sharing. More M365 functionality will be released during 2022.	The Staff Hub was launched in 2021 providing a new platform for information sharing. More M365 functionality will be released during 2022.

Library promotion	1. Our People	1.1 Develop	6. Service Quality	6.8 Engage	Promote library as centre of information, learning, culture, community publications & events, focus on literature & reading. Promote arts and culture in the community.	Ongoing promotion & programme delivery	L 1A: Number of visits to libraries per head of population	Completed
Leisure Facilities	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.3 Social Engagement	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.4 Quality Of Life	Manage, maintain & develop local facilities & amenities inc parks, playgrounds, open spaces, beaches, pier & harbours etc	Ongoing	Not Applicable	Completed
Community Development	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.7 Older Persons Wellbeing	1. Our People	1.3 Wellbeing	Progress Age Friendly County Strategy Actions, Progress Older People's Council Work Programme, Progress Age Friendly Alliance, Progress & Promote Social Inclusion.	Ongoing	Not Applicable	Completed
Covid Community Response	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.8 Inclusion & Integration	1. Our People	1.3 Wellbeing	Lead and coordinate the Cork County Council COVID-19 Community Response Programme, including supports to town and village communities and business	Ongoing	Not Applicable	Completed
Capital Projects	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.4 Town Cluster Development	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.5 A Base For Investment	Assist the Municipal Districts Operations & Rural Development directorate – and other directorates - with the design, development and delivery of Capital Works projects, streetscape enhancements	Ongoing	Not Applicable	Completed
Capital Projects	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.4 Town Cluster Development	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.2 Implementation Of Planning Policy	Submit high quality project proposals under RRFDF, T&V, OPIS, Clar etc. & prepare town framework concepts where applicable. Assist in the delivery of successful bids in coordination with other depts.	Ongoing / delivery of projects	Not Applicable	Completed
Climate	4. Climate and Environment	4.3 Natural Assets	4. Climate and Environment	4.4 Sustainable Communities	Progress climate action initiatives, & Biodiversity interventions in accordance with CCC/directorate programme and with input from Environment Directorate	Ongoing	Not Applicable	Completed
Democracy	7. Governance and Democracy	7.1 Democracy	7. Governance and Democracy	7.5 Enabling Elected Members	Develop & Support democratic role of IMB Members.	Ongoing	Not Applicable	Completed
<b>Planning - 10 Objectives</b>								
Housing Estates	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.2 Implementation Of Planning Policy	5. Capacity for Growth	5.4 Place Making	Manage the resolution of Unfinished Housing Developments, increased number of housing estates taken in charge. Works being implemented	Increase number of developments taken in charge where developers are in place. Where issues exist increase efficiency in drawing down of bonds in order to bring estates to acceptable standards. Ensure compliance with Bond conditions.	Not Applicable	Ongoing
								Ongoing in 2021. 4 Bundles of 24 estates being progressed to TIC standard. Covid delays has impacted on these projects.

Development Management	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.2 Implementation Of Planning Policy	5.3 Rural Regeneration	Provide an accessible and efficient Development Management Service which proactively supports economic growth in the county	Compliance with statutory timelines. Monitor and review of performance of specific indicators	P2A: Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2020	Ongoing	Work commenced on tender for new Integrated Planning Solution which will facilitate e-planning.
Planning Policy	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.2 Implementation Of Planning Policy	2.4 Quality Of Life	Active Land Management initiatives through the Vacant Sites Register, Infrastructure Audits and Housing Land Availability Studies	Continue to Implement Active Land Management initiatives through the Vacant Sites Register, Infrastructure Audits and the Housing Land Availability Studies.	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Active Land Management and application of the VSR is a process that updates on a regular basis as sites become active and new sites considered. VSR changes can be activated on adoption of the CDP
Development Contributions	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.2 Implementation Of Planning Policy	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	Collect Development Contributions levied with Planning Permission and arrange schedule of payments. Provide reports in relation to Planning Refund requests.	Ensure proper application of Development Contribution Schemes. Pursue outstanding debts. Introduce efficiencies in collection process.	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Achieved in 2021. Additional staff allocated in 2021. Historic Debt Section set up.
Planning Enforcement	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.2 Implementation Of Planning Policy	7.2 Governance	Deliver timely and responsive Planning Enforcement service	Compliance with statutory timelines. Continue to give effect to outcomes from Internal Review of process and resource requirements	P2A: Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2020	Ongoing	Reports of alleged unauthorised developments investigated and responded to following appropriate.
Housing Infrastructure Implementation Team	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.7 Growth Preparedness	3.2 Implementation Of Planning Policy	Support the implementation of Urban Expansion Areas (UEAs) within Cork County Council's Jurisdiction.	Progress implementation of UEAs at Water Rock, Carrigrohilly & Cogh. Consider options to progress toward SDZ.	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Shannon Park roundabout upgrade project completed. Water-Rock Infrastructure Construction to commence in Q1 2022. Carrigrohilly Public Realm Infrastructure Bundle Part 6 commencement in Feb 2022

Planning Policy	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.7 Growth Preparedness	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.4 Quality Of Life	Provide Strategic Planning Guidance through the preparation of statutory County Development Plan and the putting in place of Implementation Structures	Progressing CDP Review Process	Not Applicable	Ongoing	The new CDP will be adopted on the 25th April 2022 and come into effect on the 6th June 2022. CDP will provide strategic guidance for the County over 2022-2028. Will fit into national policy NPF
Planning Policy	4. Climate and Environment	4.1 Green Is Core	4. Climate and Environment	4.4 Sustainable Communities	Carry out Environmental Assessments (SEA/HDA/SFRA) to support the CDP Review and Environmental Assessment of Individual Projects.	Continue the Environmental Assessments (SEA/HDA/SFRA) to support the CDP Review	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Statutory CDP Review Timeline not completed yet. New CDP will be adopted on the 25th April 2022 take effect 6 weeks later, 6th June 2022. Draft Plan and the Proposed amendments assessed as required
Archaeology, Heritage and Conservation Services	4. Climate and Environment	4.3 Natural Assets	4. Climate and Environment	4.4 Sustainable Communities	Manage and provide expert advice on the provision of Archaeology, Heritage and Conservation services across the organisation including the Planning Control Function, general educational awareness, administering the National Archive	Compliance with legislative requirements and all funding opportunities availed of. Engage in	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Compliance with legislative requirements. All grants administered. All funding opportunities availed of.
Traffic and Transport	4. Climate and Environment	4.6 Supporting Sustainable Transport	4. Climate and Environment	4.4 Sustainable Communities	Promote and facilitate a switch to sustainable transport modes on a countywide basis through the delivery of integrated active travel and public transport infrastructure.	Oversee delivery of active travel investment as set down in NTA STMG allocation	Not Applicable	Ongoing	On going programme of active travel interventions is being delivered on a countywide basis. In 2021 funding for €12.05m in active travel interventions across the county was secured and managed
<b>Roads - 10 Objectives</b>									
Roads Operations	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.4 Quality Of Life	5. Capacity for Growth	5.4 Place Making	Deliver approved programme of verge maintenance and management and town approach improvements and enhancements in collaboration with Municipal Districts.	Improved road user experience and amenity on our rural roads and town approaches	Not Applicable	Completed	
Management & Development	4. Climate and Environment	4.4 Sustainable Communities	5. Capacity for Growth	5.4 Place Making	Maintain public lighting and complete 2021 Programme	Ensure maintenance contract is in place and deliver 2021 programme	Not Applicable	Completed	

Public Lighting South West Energy Efficiency Project	4. Climate and Environment	4.4 Sustainable Communities	5. Capacity for Growth	5.4 Place Making	To deliver the Public Lighting LED retrofit project on behalf of the South West Region, Cork, Kerry, Waterford, Limerick & Clare County Councils.	Enter into a contract for the delivery of the 3 year project.	Not Applicable	Completed
Fleet Management	4. Climate and Environment	4.6 Supporting Sustainable Transport	9. Innovation	9.3 Business Intelligence	Continue collaboration with Finance & Environment Directorate to achieve reduced fuel usage & maintaining ISO50001 accreditation. Enhance Fuel Mgt Strategy & Fleet Efficiency & replacement.	Reduced fuel usage	Not Applicable	Completed
National Road Design	5. Capacity for Growth	5.1 Sustainable Transport Infrastructure	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.10 Accessibility	To continue progress on the construction of the Macrocom Baile Bhuirne N22 Project in an as efficient, economical, and environmentally sustainable manner.	Advancement of Programme, at best value with lowest impacts on the environment.	Not Applicable	Ongoing
National Road Design	5. Capacity for Growth	5.1 Sustainable Transport Infrastructure	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.10 Accessibility	N28 Project - Issue Notices to Treat. Advance works preparation. Appoint Technical Advisors for detailed design, tender and construction.	Progress advance contracts, appointment of consultants; serve notices to treat.	Not Applicable	Ongoing
Management & Development	5. Capacity for Growth	5.1 Sustainable Transport Infrastructure	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.10 Accessibility	Investigate all fatal traffic accidents, with a view to ensuring road safety defects are minimised & participate in Road Safety Together Working Group to enhance road safety on roads in Cork County.	To reduce serious accidents on the roads in the County.	Not Applicable	Completed
National Road Design	5. Capacity for Growth	5.1 Sustainable Transport Infrastructure	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.10 Accessibility	Develop a comprehensive pipeline of pavement projects, minor projects and safety improvements on the national road network throughout the County.	That the Council is positioned to capture sufficient funding under each heading.	Not Applicable	Ongoing
Regional & Local Road Design	5. Capacity for Growth	5.1 Sustainable Transport Infrastructure	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.10 Accessibility	Develop a comprehensive pipeline of projects for low cost safety improvements, traffic calming, Strategic Improvement, and Specific improvement grants around the county.	To increase investment by Government in Cork County.	Not Applicable	Ongoing
Roads Operations, Regional & Local Roads Design	5. Capacity for Growth	5.1 Sustainable Transport Infrastructure	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.10 Accessibility	Deliver the 2021 RI, RM, Drainage, CIS, LIS, Bridge, Low cost safety & footpaths programme across the County, ensuring value for money, and in compliance with the health & safety, & quality standards.	Ensure all provided DoT, and own resources funding is fully expended.	R2A: Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2020	Completed
<b>Water Services - 9 Objectives</b>								

Technical input to Strategic planning process	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.1 Vibrant Towns	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.5 A Base For Investment	Provide technical input to Strategic planning process from a water, wastewater and flooding perspective.	Relevant inputs provided within Development Plan and individual planning application deadlines	Not Applicable	Completed
Capital Projects Implementation Unit	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.1 Vibrant Towns	2. Strong Inclusive Communities	2.2 Rural Regeneration	Coordinate and manage delivery of the Social Sustainability Investment Programme through the agreed structures and protocols.	Project progressed and monitored in accordance with agreed protocols.	Not Applicable	Completed
Capital projects Office - Water services infrastructure design and delivery	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.5 A Base For Investment	4. Climate and Environment	4.4 Sustainable Communities	Comply with Service Level Agreement, Annual Service Plan and Irish Water Protocols, agreed with Irish Water, for the efficient delivery of cost effective Water Services Capital Projects.	Maintain overall rating for delivery of the Irish Water ASP as achieved in 2020	Not Applicable	Completed
Coastal Management & Flood Projects	4. Climate and Environment	4.3 Natural Assets	3. Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.10 Marine Assets	Flood Projects - Progress OPW funded major & minor flood schemes Coastal Projects - Management & completion of capital schemes funded by DAFM, OPW & other Gov. agencies	Flood projects-100% recoupment Coastal projects-100% recoupment	Not Applicable	Completed
Drinking Water Production Operations	4. Climate and Environment	4.5 Water	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	Comply with the Service Level Agreement, Protocols and Annual Service Plan agreed with Irish Water to ensure availability of drinking water in compliance with Drinking Water Regulations	Maintain overall rating for water quality under the Irish Water ASP	Not Applicable	Completed
EPA Water reports and point of contact	4. Climate and Environment	4.5 Water	4. Climate and Environment	4.3 Natural Assets	Ensure all results, notifications and reporting are uploaded to EPA EDEN website in the agreed timeframe.	Report 100% of incidents & notifications with corrective actions within 4 weeks	Not Applicable	Completed
Small private schemes Water Quality	4. Climate and Environment	4.5 Water	6. Service Quality	6.5 Benchmark	Update of small private schemes database and adoption of a suitable risk approach to ongoing monitoring	Update Register in co-operation with the Environment Dept	W1: % of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements in respect of the monitoring of the quality of private drinking water supplies during 2020	Completed
Wastewater Treatment and operations	4. Climate and Environment	4.5 Water	6. Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	Comply with the Service Level Agreement, Protocols and Annual Service Plan agreed with Irish Water to provide effective wastewater treatment and collection system	Maintain overall rating for delivery of the Irish Water ASP as achieved in 2020	Not Applicable	Completed



Rural Water Programme	4. Climate and Environment	4.5 Water	5. Capacity for Growth	5.3 Rural Regeneration	Manage implementation of MARWP and manage assessment and payment of Well Grants	Maintain 2020 CS grant level Achieve MARWP TIC target Process 80% DWGs in 6 week	W1: % of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements in respect of the monitoring of the quality of private drinking water supplies during 2020	Ongoing	Inspections delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions. 60% DWGs processed within 6 weeks 80% DWGs processed within 8 weeks.
<b>Total Objectives submitted by all Directorates</b>					<b>119</b>				

## APPENDIX 2

### CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE 2021

Date	Conference	Location	No. Of Attendees
October	Housing for All	Louth	2
	The Fair Deal Scheme	Louth	3
December	Mental Health and Wellbeing	Louth	2

## APPENDIX 3

### TRAINING CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE 2021

Date	Training	Location	No. of Attendees
September	AILG Module 1	Tralee	4
October	AILG Module 1	Tipperary	9
	AILG Module 1	Sligo	4
November	IPI Planning	Wexford	9
	LAMA Autumn Mental Health	Sligo	17
	AILG Module 2	Kilkenny	7
	AILG Module 2	Galway	7

## APPENDIX 4

### OTHER TRAVEL 2021

Date	Training	Location	No. of Attendees
November	Cork Association in London Dinner	London	1
	ERSC Road Safety Awards	Brussels	1
	Fermoy Bowl Presentation Ceremony	Brussels	1



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