



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

2020

Cork County Council
Annual Report



2020

Cork County Council Annual Report



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

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Message from



Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley

Mayor of the County of Cork



& Tim Lucey

Chief Executive of Cork County Council

We are pleased to present Cork County Council's Annual Report for 2020, which outlines the vast range of services, programmes, activities and supports undertaken by Cork County Council in support of the communities we serve throughout the year. The global situation brought about by the Covid 19 Pandemic brought many changes, creating great urgency and importance for the Council in delivering on its mission; to develop and support economic, social, environmental and cultural life in Cork County. We did so, in spite of adverse conditions, by leading the way in collaborative engagement with Cork residents and stakeholders.

Central to the continuation of the Council's own services for the public were consistent communication across all available channels and the Customer Service Portal, YourCouncil.ie. As the role of the Council was adapted to meet the challenges presented by the pandemic, these services adapted to meet the needs of the community we serve, offering new services, providing reliable information in times of great uncertainty, and promoting the many supports made available to all members of our community.

The Council's Municipal District Offices were among the many mechanisms deployed by the Council to support communities countywide throughout the year, facilitating community representation in Cork County Council's Covid 19 Community Support Programme, Project ACT – Activating County Towns and A Real Cork Christmas initiatives. Acutely important services were delivered through our Municipal District Operations and Rural Development Directorate alongside the administration of vital funding such as the General Municipal Allocation, which totalled over €1.6M in 2020. The Community Support Hubs, Library and Arts Services and Cork Age Friendly Programme were at the frontline of provision of care and support to members of our community throughout restrictions.

Providing a safe working environment at the Council's multiple sites and for remote workers presented new challenges for the Council's Safety Directorate in 2020. These challenges were commendably met, with the Council's Safety Management System winning national awards and earning Cork County Council its place as the first Local Authority to achieve full ISO 45001 accreditation. The Council's Beach guard service responded adeptly to the increased demand of their services due to staycations and restrictions on international travel, preventing thousands of incidents.

The shift to remote working to ensure safety for staff, service users and the wider community was facilitated in large thanks to the innovation and responsiveness of the Council's Information and Communications Technology Directorate, who facilitated remote connection for the majority of the Council's office based staff and provided technical support across the new operating environment. The team also delivered new communications technologies to support staff and platforms to support residents and visitors in accessing services and information throughout the year.

Though restrictions disrupted construction projects, Cork County Council's Roads Directorate drove a number of initiatives to provide immediate accessibility in towns and villages and more long term projects to enhance local, regional and national connectivity. 6 national roads projects were progressed during the year, several minor works and strategic improvement schemes and circa €8.5M worth of Pavement and Minor Improvement works countywide. The Council received €1.6M under Climate Change Adaptation funding and circa €5M for Active Travel measures to support healthier communities and a cleaner environment.

A host of resources were made available to residents during the lockdowns from the Council's Library and Arts Services, Heritage Unit and Environmental Awareness Office through the Cork County Council's website and corporate social media channels, connecting the Council directly with the people we serve.

In response to the negative impact of the pandemic on businesses, €34M in funding from the Restart Grant Scheme was awarded through Cork County Council. The Council's Local Enterprise Offices provided targeted training and advice to benefit businesses shifting to online retail, and provided €1M in Grant assistance to SME's in the county. The county's tourism sector was supported by the Council through the development of the Rediscover Cork County Tourism Map and Rediscover Cork County Tourism Campaign.

With the end of the pandemic in sight, much has changed. There is a renewed appreciation for local amenities and environs, and new interest in flexible work arrangements. Cork County Council will continue to put the communities we serve first and foremost in our considerations, as has been demonstrated throughout the past year, and strive to create a social, cultural and economic environment that provides opportunities for all.



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council



Elected Members of Council



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

Carrigaline Municipal District:

Cllr. Audrey Buckley
Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan
Cllr. Liam O'Connor
Cllr. Marcia D'Alton
Cllr. Seamus McGrath
Cllr. Aidan Lombard

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

Municipal District (MD) Details

Carrigaline MD

Municipal District Officer: Noelle Desmond
Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Aidan Lombard

Cobh MD

Municipal District Officer: Paraig Lynch
Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Sinéad Sheppard

Bandon-Kinsale

Municipal District Officer: Enda O'Halloran
Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Kevin Murphy

East Cork MD

Municipal District Officer: Joe McCarthy
Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Michael Hegarty

Fermoy MD

Municipal District Officer: Pauline Moriarty
Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Kay Dawson

Kanturk-Mallow MD

Municipal District Officer: Liz Donovan
Cathaoirleach: Cllr Pat Hayes

Macroom MD

Municipal District Officer: Marie O'Leary
Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Martin Coughlan

West Cork MD

Municipal District Officer: Justin England
Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Danny Collins



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. Aidan Lombard	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. Liam O'Connor	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)

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

SPC No. 1 – Planning & Strategic Development

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

Non-Elected Representatives

Prof. Donagh Berry	Billy Cotter	Michael O'Flynn	Aiden O'Neill
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SPC No. 2 – Environment, Climate Action & Biodiversity

Cllr. Anthony Barry	Cllr. Audrey Buckley	Cllr. Holly Cairns	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. Christopher O’Sullivan
Cllr. Liam Quaide	Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen		

Non-Elected Representatives

Chris Hayes	Cian Murphy	Madeleine Murray	Barry O’Dwyer
Michael O’Shea	Proinsias Ó 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. Gearóid 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
John Hobbs	Seamus Coffee	Martin Corkery	

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		

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	
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SPC No. 6 – Roads & Transport

Cllr. Gillian Coughlan	Cllr. Michael Creed	Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan	Cllr. Declan Hurley
Cllr. Aidan Lombard	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		

Non-Elected Representatives

John Bowen	Seán Carrigy	Supt. Brendan Fogarty	Seán Twohig
Martin Walsh			

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

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. Liam O'Connor	Cllr. William O'Leary	Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan
Cllr. Sinead Sheppard			

Non-Elected Representatives

Kenneth Buckley	Ann Davoren	Geoff Gould	Mary Hegarty
Eamon Lankford			

Cllr. Pat Hayes	Cllr. Bernard Moynihan	Cllr. Gearóid Murphy	Cllr. Gerard Murphy
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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

Non-Elected Representatives

Dr. Philip Byrne Dr. Michelle Carr Edel Clancy Eileen O'Shea

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. Liam O'Connor 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 Cllr. Seán O'Donovan

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. Aidan Lombard Cllr. Frank O'Flynn Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen

Joint Policing Committee

Cllr. Joe Carroll	Cllr. Karen Coakley	Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan	Cllr. Kay Dawson
Cllr. Ian Doyle	Cllr. Aidan Lombard	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. Pdraig O'Sullivan			

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

Bottlehill Liaison Committee

Cllr. Pat Hayes

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

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



Safety, Health & Welfare at Work



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cork County Council

Safety, Health and Welfare at Work

The Safety Department of Cork County Council is continually improving the Safety Management System to ensure 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.

2020 saw Cork County Council become the first Local Authority to have its Safety Management System fully accredited to the International Safety Standard of ISO 45001. This external audit and certification affirms that the Council's system is fit for purpose.

Safety is integrated into all Council operations and activities and this was recognised in 2020 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 expand to ensure that employee health is discussed openly and frankly, while the establishment of a new Employee Wellbeing Committee will ensure that employee health and wellbeing will have prominence and be discussed openly during team meetings. The Council's commitment to employee wellbeing was recognised during the year with accreditation to the IBEC KeepWell Mark for employee wellbeing programs.

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 Beach Guard service was on hand at Cork County beaches to guard the safety of a large number of beach users. 2020 Beach Guard stats were as follows:



Road Safety Promotion

The Road Safety Promotion Section continued 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 2020 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 the HSE and national guidance in helping reduce numbers attending on site.

2020 was a challenging but very positive year in safety in Cork County Council as recognised in a reduction of incidents during the year and the Council's commitment to continual improvement and accreditation to ensure best practice standards are in place.



Cork County Council Beachguard Karen Sheehan keeping a watchful eye on swimmers at Claycastle Beach, Youghal. Photo by Brian Loughheed.

Ballincollig Regional Training Centre

Training delivery in 2020 was severely impacted by the global pandemic. However, Ballincollig Regional Training Centre (RTC) continued to provide support to the affiliated local authorities, Cork County, Kerry County and Cork City Councils recording almost 4,500 staff training days when restrictions allowed. Some courses were adapted to a fully online and blended learning approach.

Ballincollig RTC continued to provide training for local authority, private sector and utility provider staff in the national Road Reinstatement Programme.

The new Chapter 8 legislation saw a high number of trainees attending refresher training organised to provide awareness training to existing Construction Skills Certification Scheme Cardholders. The Temporary Traffic Management Level 1 and 2 Design course was very well attended.

Ballincollig RTC, working in association with IT Carlow, continued to deliver the following courses:

- Certificate in Building Control,
- Certificate in Road Management Programme,
- Certificate in Leadership for Performance and Change.

Training for the Fire Services continued in 2020 with 330 person training days being delivered through the Fire Fighting Skills and Breathing Apparatus courses.

The Centre retained City and Guilds Accreditation in 2020 which allows the Centre to Self-Certify Confined Space Training using Internal Resources. 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.



Roads, Transportation & Safety



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Cork County Council

Roads, Transportation and Safety

National Roads

The overall Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) National Roads allocation to Cork County Council for improvement and maintenance work in 2020 was €60.9m. The following schemes identified in the National Development Plan 2018-2027 (Project 2040) were progressed during 2020:

N8/N40 Dunkettle Interchange Upgrade Scheme:

John Sisk and Son Ltd. continued to deliver advance works throughout 2020, with on-site works recommencing on 18th May 2020 following the COVID 19 shutdown in March 2020.

Works such as the new footway and cycleway from Dunkettle Roundabout as far as the Dunkettle local road was opened to the public in mid-2020, as well as the completion of the adjacent free-flow road link from the N8/N25 eastbound to the M8 Dublin road Northbound, a new roundabout on the R623 Little Island Regional Road, and the installation of a new pedestrian/cycleway rail bridge near the existing Bury's Bridge. 35,000 tonnes of suitable fill material were imported and stockpiled on site, south of the N25 by the end of 2020. The diversion of a 900mm water main was also completed. The Letter of Acceptance for the Main Construction Contract was issued to John Sisk and Son Ltd. in mid-October 2020 and the scheme is scheduled for completion in Q1 2024.

N22 Baile Bhuirne to Macroom Road Development:

Cork County Council appointed JONS Civil Engineering Ltd/ John Craddock JV as the Main Construction Contractor in October 2019. The total scheme budget is €280m and construction is expected to be complete by December 2023. Works recommenced on-site on 18th May 2020 following COVID 19 shutdown in March 2020. The project was 20% complete by the end of 2020. Site clearance, tree felling and topsoil stripping were substantially completed. Ten bridge structures and seven major culverts commenced construction.



Construction advanced on the N22 Baile Bhuirne to Macroom Road Development in 2020

M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy Project:

The Project was approved by An Bórd Pleanála on 29th June 2018. The M28 Steering Group's application for a Certificate for Leave to Appeal was refused in the High Court on 17th November 2020. The M28 Steering Group then made a submission for Leave to Appeal to the Supreme Court. Limited Advance Works contracts such as Archaeology, Topographical Survey and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) were progressed during 2020, pending a Supreme Court decision.

M20 Cork Limerick Road Improvement Scheme:

Barry Transportation, SWECO and 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 2020 and will continue into 2021.

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 is ongoing. 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. Constraints study complete and traffic modelling work ongoing. Preferred Route Option expected by May 2021.

N72/N73 Mallow Relief Road: Barry Transportation was appointed Technical Advisor 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 short list of options in December 2020. The shortlisted Options will be further assessed under Stage 2 of the TII Option Selection process. The preferred route for the scheme is expected in April 2021.

Minor Works

Under the heading of Minor Works, the following schemes were advanced during 2020:

- N25 Castlemartyr Relief Road: A 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. Approval was received from TII to progress the Strategic Assessment Report (SAR).
- N73 Annakisha South Improvement Scheme: The Council appointed RPS Ireland Ltd. 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. Updated PAR was submitted to TII. Inclusion of cycleway is under review. Land Acquisition is ongoing.
- N73 Clogher Cross to Waterdyke Realignment Scheme: Roughan and O'Donovan (RO'D) appointed to end of Phase 5 for this 2.7km scheme. Tender Documents were prepared for the Main Construction Contract. TII approval is awaited for the Publication of Tender Documents for Main Construction Contract, pending review of the cycleway being included. Land Acquisition is ongoing.
- N71 Newmills /Owenahincha: Approval for request Gate Review Statement (Phase 0 to 1) approved by TII in November 2020.
- N71 Bandon Bypass Extension: A Pre-Feasibility Report was submitted to TII in April 2020. TII approval was received in November 2020 to proceed with the next phase of the project.

Pavement and Minor Improvement Works

A number of Pavement and Minor Improvement Works were advanced during 2020 in the amount of circa €8.5m, varying in value from €700k to €4.1m. Selected schemes include:

- 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 timeline for completion is May 2021.
- N71 Seafield to Knockroe Phase 1: Works recommenced on-site on 18th May 2020 following COVID 19 shutdown. Works were substantially completed by June 2020.
- N71 Seafield to Knockroe Phase 2: McSweeney Bros. Ltd. commenced contract in October 2020 for this 1.8km scheme. Completion expected in Q2, 2021.
- N73 Annabella to Lacknamona Pavement Strengthening: TII approved the Tender amount and the Letter of Acceptance was issued to Martin O'Callaghan Ltd. for this 6.4km scheme with works to commence in Q1 2021.

Regional and Local Roads

The overall road grant allocation for 2020 from the Department of Transport was approximately €57.8m. This allowed for:

- The strengthening of 266 km of Regional and Local Roads in 264 locations under the following programmes: Restoration Improvement, Drainage Works, Former National Roads and Community Involvement Schemes, both by direct construction by Council outdoor staff and fleet and through resurfacing contracts.
- 368 km of Regional and Local Roads were surface dressed in 251 locations by Council outdoor staff and fleet under the Restoration Maintenance programme.
- 22 Road Safety Improvement Schemes were either fully or partially completed in 2020.
- A total of 21 structures (bridges, retaining walls or embankments) were repaired or replaced in 2020.



Kilgobbin Bridge

Strategic Road Improvement Schemes

A number of Strategic Road Improvement Schemes were advanced in 2020, including the following examples:

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 2-stage tender process to appoint a contractor for the main works commenced in Q4 2019 and continued in 2020. It is expected that the main works contractor will be appointed in Q1 2021. Advance works were delivered in 2020.

Ferney Road Improvement Scheme, Carrigaline

The improvement scheme will provide enhanced pedestrian facilities. The contractor was appointed and works commenced in Q4 2019. Works were substantially completed in Q3 2020.

Ashgrove Roundabout and Ballinrea Road Upgrade, Carrigaline

The upgrade scheme will provide enhanced active travel infrastructure in the vicinity of a proposed educational campus. Part VIII planning approval was achieved in 2020. The works were tendered in 2020. It is expected that the contractor will be appointed in Q1 2021.

R624 Cobh Road Upgrade

It is proposed to upgrade the R624 from its interchange with the N25 at Tullagreen to Marino Point and on to Cobh. The upgrade will provide a second bridge crossing to Great Island and Cobh. 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. A project appraisal submission was submitted to the Department of Transport in 2019. Project feasibility assessment continued in 2020.

Midleton Northern Relief Road Phase 3

This is the third and final 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 developed in 2020.

Kanturk Relief Road

The road will relieve traffic congestion and allow the ongoing development of Kanturk. Rural Regeneration and Development Fund grant assistance was confirmed in 2020. The works were tendered in 2020. It is expected that the contractor will be appointed in Q1 2021.

R572 realignment at Adrigole

The realignment is required to ensure road safety and promote regional connectivity and economic development. A preliminary appraisal submission was made to the Department of Transport in Q3 2020.

R595 realignment at Oldcourt, Skibbereen

The realignment is required to ensure road safety and promote regional connectivity and economic development. Land acquisition was advanced in 2020.

R586 realignment at Ilen Bridge

The realignment is required to ensure road safety and promote regional connectivity and economic development. Land acquisition was advanced in 2020.

Bantry Relief Road Phase 1

€190,000 Was made available by Cork County Council through the Social Sustainability Investment Programme in 2020. Project to move to detailed design in 2021.

Bantry Relief Road Phase 2

€235,000 has been made available by Cork County Council through the Social Sustainability Investment Programme in 2020. Project to move to preliminary design in 2021.

Climate Adaptation and Active Travel

In the July 2020 Jobs Stimulus Plan from Government, funding of approx. €1.6m was received under Climate Change Adaptation, to undertake works to address the impact of climate change on the road network.

Funding of approx. €5m was also received under Active Travel Measures towards improved walking and cycling infrastructure and crossing facilities in towns and villages.

Both funding streams are over 2 years with works continuing in 2021.

Works to the value of €752,000 were undertaken on 19 private roads under the Local Improvement Grant Scheme funded in part by the Department of Rural and Community Development, as well as the scheme participants.

Public Lighting

Operations

A total of 120 new public lights were erected and 30 were upgraded under the 2020 Public Lighting Programme at a cost of approximately €350,000.

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)– South West Region

Cork County Council executed Section 85 Agreements with Clare County Council, Kerry County Council, Limerick City and County Council and Waterford City and County Council to act as the Lead Authority for the administration and management of the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) for the South West Region. The scope of work involves the retrofitting of 77,000 (approx) lanterns across 24 Municipal Districts in 5 Local Authorities in the South West region. The Consultancy Services Contract and the Design Build Works Contract were both published on e-tenders during Q4 2020. The overall project is estimated at upwards of €60m and will take 30 months to deliver. It is anticipated that both contracts will be awarded by Q3 2021.

Road Safety

The Cork Road Safety Plan 2016–2020 which was launched in 2016, following preparation by the Road Safety Together Working Group, comprising Cork County and City Councils, the Gardai, Fire Service, TII, RSA and HSE, was reviewed in 2020 in relation to the targets set by the Plan.

There was a total of 19 fatalities on Cork County's Road network in 2020, as against a total of 14 in 2019.

Speed limits

The Speed Limit bye-laws were amended in 2020 to remove those pertaining to the Transition Zone, which was the subject of transfer to Cork City in 2019.

Fleet Management

There are up to 700 items of fleet operating in Cork County Council. During 2020, as part of its fleet replacement programme, the Council took delivery of 2 x 26 tonne tippers, a road grader, a 26 tonne Tar sprayer, 3 x mini-sweepers for Municipal Street cleansing, a small pickup, a number of vans and also 3 automated tailboard gritters for lorries (to replace manual gritters and are safer for employees to operate).

Fleet Operations

The Council took delivery of 1 x 26 tonne tar sprayer to enhance road operations. This will be based in the Council Machinery Yard at Newberry, Mallow serving the north and east of the county. The Council also took delivery of 1 x road grader for Road construction and this grader is based in Council Machinery Yard, West Cork serving the south and west of the county.

Emergency Response and Winter Maintenance

Significant fleet investment also allows the Council to fast-track strategic fleet requirements for responding to severe weather events: flooding, storms, snow and ice. A loader was purchased for Skibbereen Machinery Yard, including for use in Salt stores. For Winter Season 2020, Cork County Council utilised a brine plant, based in the Machinery yard at Newberry to trial the solution for Winter Maintenance. This involves pre-wetting the roads with a brine solution to improve the effectiveness of winter maintenance operation.

Fleet Management Unit – COVID 19 Community Response vehicles

As the country and its citizens navigated the unprecedented challenges that COVID 19 has presented during the last 12 months, Fleet Management Unit assisted the Council's Community Response by the provision of COVID 19 Community Support vehicles throughout the county.

Also, the Fleet Management Unit has adapted and revised its work practices to comply with Public Health Advice on Social Distancing, aimed at trying to prevent the spread of COVID 19, within the workplace.

Climate Change

The Council intends to continue to substantially invest in its fleet, with newer technologies to achieve efficiencies – Euro 6 energy efficient engines and also with lightweight bodies, where possible, for fuel efficiency purposes.

The Fleet Management Unit procured a Fully Electric Street Sweeper, which has been in use in Mallow town in 2020, for a "green" street cleansing.

In 2020, the Council arranged for installation of EV charging points in Machinery yards in Mallow and Skibbereen and is piloting electric vans in each of these yards, with a view to further rollout of EV fleet, where feasible, and as circumstances allow.

Fleet represents 33% of the energy consumed by the Council. An energy audit of the fleet was carried out in 2019 and during 2020 the Council continued to work on a Fleet Replacement Programme to upgrade the fleet, to assist towards meeting its 2030 climate change targets.

Fuel Usage

The average fuel consumption per item of fleet

**14.26 LITRES
PER 100KM**

The Council's fleet travelled approximately

**6,856,490 KM
IN 2020**

On average, in 2020, the fleet travelled

**571,374 KM
PER MONTH**

Statistics for 2020

Number of applications received:

Temporary Road Closures

201

Road Opening Licences

4,437

Abnormal Load Permits

310

Number of Roads related queries logged on
'Your Council' online portal

9,098

Strategic Policy Committee

The Roads and Transportation SPC held 3 meetings in 2020, and the Committee also participated in an online meeting called by the Transport Minister Eamon Ryan.

- Presentations were made on Road Grant Allocations 2020 and Climate Adaptation and Active Travel funding.
- A Traffic Calming Implementation Plan was adopted for Towns and Villages and in Housing Estates - funded from the Safety Improvement Grants.
- Age Friendly Parking Spaces - revised design and specification approved.
- A policy was developed for Roadside Memorials.
- Local Link Cork attended one meeting.
- Up to 15 Policies developed by the SPC in the last 8 years or so were examined to determine if any needed to be reviewed.
- Acknowledgement of the remarkable work achieved in the Roads Directorate in 2020, and the input by all involved in fully utilising grant funding, despite COVID 19 restrictions.

A photograph of industrial water treatment equipment, including pipes and valves, is shown. A large, semi-transparent yellow shape is overlaid on the left and bottom portions of the image. The text is printed in a bold, teal font on this yellow background.

Water Services & 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 and Flood Projects and the recent formation of the Capital Projects Implementation Unit.

The year gone by has proven to be one of the most 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 needed 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 and Waste Water Operations

The Drinking Water and Waste Water Sections are the engine room of the Water Services Directorate which 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 166 million litres per day) and also the safe and efficient treatment of waste water through more than 250 Waste Water infrastructure assets. The Council's Wastewater operations team produce 73 annual environment reports for EPA licensed agglomerations through its functional area.

The priority given to water conservation has resulted in savings of 2 million litres per day each year through reduced leakage. The Mains Replacement in areas including Ballygarvan (8km), Kilbrin Kanturk (3.8km), Carrigaline, Crosshaven, Rathpeacon and progress in the Find and Fix Programme contributed most to bringing the Unaccounted For Water in Cork County down to 43%.

The consistently high scorings achieved in areas such as Health and 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 for the years 2020 - 2024, a programme which features in excess of 30 significant 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 €975,000 being distributed to households in 2019.

Coastal Management and Flood Projects

Flood Projects:

The Flood Projects team continued their ongoing work on a number of major and minor flood relief schemes in 2019, in conjunction with Office of Public Works (OPW). Major flood schemes completed include Skibbereen (Contract complete) and Bandon (Substantial Completion); Major schemes being progressed include Middleton (development/options stage), Bantry (Engagement of Consultancy Services) and Crookstown (significant Minor Works application). The Client role for major schemes at Douglas and Glashaboy has been transferred to Cork City Council, with Cork County Council retaining the project management role. Douglas construction reached an advanced stage in 2020. Clonakilty Flood Scheme works also reached an advanced stage in 2020; Lower Lee Scheme was also progressed, with OPW in the Client role. Regarding the OPW Minor Works Programme, works were completed in Ballingeary; Minor Works projects at Ballintubber and Ballymakeera (Interim Works) were progressed to facilitate Part 8 Planning processes, scheduled for Spring of 2021.

Coastal Projects:

- i) Coastal infrastructure projects undertaken in 2020 included Works at Youghal, Ballycotton, Knockadoon, Monkstown, Kinsale, Keelbeg (Union Hall), Castletownshend and miscellaneous projects in west Cork. All above projects were co-funded by Department of Agriculture, Food, Marine (DAFM) and Cork County Council.
- ii) Youghal Boardwalk Phase 2 was advanced through construction in 2020. Significant repair works were undertaken at Beicin Walkway in Bantry.
- 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 and Oil Spill Contingency planning and response.

Other Projects

Fermoy Weir Project was advanced to public consultation stage in 2020.

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 26 Capital Infrastructure projects under the SSIP, advanced through various stages of Feasibility, Planning, Design, Tender, Construction during 2020.

Major Capital projects currently being managed by the Capital Projects Implementation Unit 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.

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.

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.

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.

A photograph of a modern residential building with a yellow overlay. The building features a gabled roof, multiple windows, and a central entrance. The yellow overlay is semi-transparent and covers the entire image, with the word 'Housing' written in a dark teal color across the center.

Housing



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

Housing

Housing Rent Collection

The income from housing rent in 2020 amounted to €19 million with a further €1.3 million collected in respect of RAS properties. The collection rate for the county was 100% for 2020.

Housing Allocations

674 units were allocated to successful applicants in 2020. This figure includes allocations to units provided by the Approved Housing Bodies, to NARPS properties and to the Council's own Social Housing stock.

Vacant Houses

A total of 140 vacant properties were refurbished in 2020 and of these, 135 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 2020, works to assist disabled persons were carried out on a total of 69 local authority houses. These included 64 minor works projects and 5 extensions. The total cost of these works was €944,331, 90% of which was recouped from the DHPLG. The remaining 10% was provided from the Council's own resources.

Energy Efficiency Scheme

190 properties benefited from an Energy Efficiency Upgrades in 2020. These consisted of 55 under the Phase 2, Energy Efficiency Improvement measures, which was part funded by the Department of Housing planning and Local Government (DHPLG). The remainder were the Vacant properties which were funded under this programme also. Phase 2 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 €1.3m.

An SEAI Scheme, Housing Strand 2020, upgrading 10 properties in Sarsfield Terrace, Youghal was completed. This project saw these properties retrofitted with external Insulation, loft insulation, ceiling dry lining, Air to Water Heat Pumps. This scheme was part funded by the SEAI and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The overall value of this project was €200,000.

Approved Housing Body Leasing Unit

254 units delivered 2020 within the following schemes:

212 units – Capital Advance Leasing including construction and turnkey (including 40 units by Cluid at Radharc an tSáile, Kinsale, below).

17 units – Mortgage to Rent.

5 units – Private Leases.

13 units – AHBs Private Leases.

2 units – Repair and Lease.

5 units – Housing Agency Acquisitions

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

10 units were acquired through CAS including one buy and renew unit.

There are two construction schemes on site:

- Comhlacht Tithe Soisialta, Ballyvourney 3 units.
- Cluid Housing Bantry Convent Site, Bantry 18 units. Enabling works commenced September 2020.
- There are four CAS construction schemes (26 units) with various stages of approval and a number at pre-approval stage.



Comhlacht Tithe Sóisialta and Forbairt an tSuláin Teiranta Sod turning for the development of 3 units at Páirc an Dochtúra Baile Bhúirne – Lúnasa 20. Photo by Brian Loughheed

HAP

Administration of the HAP Scheme continued countrywide during 2020 with 853 tenants transferred to HAP. The total number of active tenancies at the end of the year was 3,722. A total of 756 property inspections were carried out in the county during 2020 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.

Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

As of the end of 2020 the Council has now processed 284 full applications having received 859 Expressions of Interest; 58 properties have been sold to date

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

As of the end of 2020 Cork County has received 500 applications for Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans. In 2020, 24 loans were advanced/part advanced with a total loan value of over €4.3million.

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 2020 the Council received 1,009 applications and paid out a total of €3,863,336 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.

Estate Management

The Estate Management Unit continued to work with the Residents Associations to maintain and improve their estates during 2020. 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 Year 1 of the Programme (01/07/2019-30/06/2020) the Council provided 11 standard Local Authority/Approved Housing Body lettings to Traveller families and a further 13 households were provided with accommodation through the HAP scheme, exceeding its targets in both those areas.

Housing Acquisitions

Cork County Council acquired 11 standard units, 25 Buy and Renew units and 1 repossessed unit for Social Housing in 2020.

Construction Programme

Cork County Council continued to progress its construction programme during 2020. The Part 8 process was completed in respect of 42 units in 2020. 50 units were delivered through the Council's own build programme in 2020; 191 units were delivered through the turnkey model and 13 units through the Part V process. A number of SHIP, Turnkey, Public Private Partnership and Single Stage construction projects are currently onsite and will deliver 379 units. A further 435 dwellings are at various stages of the approvals process.

Elected Members Representations

There were 2,372 representations received, processed and responded to during 2020. 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. 1,452 properties have been accepted through the Choice Based Letting system to date.

Strategic Policy Committee

The Housing SPC met four times during 2020. Among the issues considered were; Housing Needs Assessment, Housing Delivery Programme, Affordable Housing, Estate Management, Homeless Services, Choice Based Letting and Housing Maintenance Services.

The SPC received a presentation from YANA (You Are Not Alone) on the need for extra services and shelters in the county for victims of domestic violence. It was proposed to establish an inter-disciplinary working group to further develop responses to the issues raised.

During the course of meetings in 2020, the Committee were informed of the Policy for AHB developments (non turnkey) to avail of Part 8 Planning process in Cork County, the new process for Private Housing Grants and the Housing Maintenance Framework.

Members considered a varied number of issues to be set for the SPC Work Programme 2021. These included the development of the Cork County Council Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with a Disability 2022- 2027.



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cork County Council



Environment



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cork County Council

Environment

While there were some minor service interruptions at the outset of the pandemic, individual sections and staff quickly within the Environment Directorate accommodated themselves to new ways of working and the safety controls required. Essential environmental services including Civic Amenity Sites and Bring Banks were kept operational, while new sampling methods ensured that drinking water sampling and other key monitoring activities continued.

Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

The Environment, Climate Action and Biodiversity SPC under Chairperson Cllr. Anthony Barry met five times in 2020, two in-person meetings and three online. Policy areas included in the 2020 work programme included:

- Air Monitoring.
- Noise Action Planning.
- Tree Policy.
- Waste Management and Recycling.
- Dog Fouling.
- Fire and Emergency Operational Plan.
- Water Quality Programmes.

Environmental Work Programmes

Air

In recent years the Council has worked closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in extending the national Air Quality Network. Stations have been installed on Council sites in Cobh and Macroom and in 2020 we facilitated the installation of a further monitoring station at Bridge Street in Mallow which went live in December, with real-time data available to view at airquality.ie. This will be a great resource for local residents and a valuable source of data in relation to urban air quality issues in county towns generally.

New Low Smoke Zones (LSZs) also came into effect in 2020, with the existing “City” LSZ being extended eastwards to encompass Cobh and Midleton and everything in between. Mallow and its environs were also designated. A ban on the marketing, distribution, sale and burning of smoky coal came into effect in these new extended zones on September 1st 2020.



[PC023] Low Smoke Zones

As part of the Council's annual scheduled air quality work programme a wide range of operators and activities licensable under the Air Pollution Acts, continued to be regulated, licenced and monitored, including;

- 14 Industries.
- 20 Dry Cleaners.
- 40 Spray Painters.
- 58 Petrol Stations.
- 55 Solid Fuel Outlet Inspections.

A total of 187 air and noise related complaints were also responded to.

Climate Action

With the aim of meeting the challenging targets of the National Climate Action Plan Cork County Council in 2020 continued a variety of energy efficiency and reduction programmes including;

- Installation of telemetry gauges to facilitate smart metering on all kerosene storage tanks.
- A Consultant was appointed to carry out an indoor lighting survey at 37 council work locations across the county. The sites selected represented a diverse mix of building uses from fire stations to offices, libraries, and museums.
- Installation of a solar panel array at the Environment Directorate Campus at Inniscarra.
- The successful completion of a surveillance audit of the Council's Energy Management System (EMS), maintaining its ISO 50001 standard.
- During October the Climate Action and Energy Team hosted a Climate Awareness Week in partnership with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and Sustineo.

As lead authority for the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) for the Atlantic Seaboard South Region, the Council continued to coordinate the Local Authority response to climate change in the Region, which consists of the administrative areas of Clare County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Kerry County Council and Limerick City and County Council.

This included advising constituent Local Authorities on the development and implementation of their individual Local Plans.

Community Environmental Awareness Programmes

Some mainstay annual programmes were postponed due to COVID 19 safety requirements, including the Council's Annual Anti-Litter Challenge and the Muintir Na Tíre Schools Garden Competition. Some national programmes were also cancelled including the Community Environment Action Fund (CEAF) scheme for 2020.

The Environmental Awareness team worked diligently with stakeholder groups and communities to explore alternate ways of delivering projects including moving things online. There were some very successful outcomes including;

Scoil na Mara: A series of 4 online workshops exploring Irish seashore biodiversity and the importance of the ocean.

This project approved under the 2019 CEAF, initially planned to deliver in-person workshops for schools. The project organiser Mairead O'Donovan instead filmed short videos, all filmed in the Ardfield area close to Clonakilty. The videos were released weekly online to support teachers and students in adapting to new ways of learning from home.

The series of videos proved very popular on social media gaining significant views and was featured on the RTE Home School Hub.

Helping Bees in Your Communities - As part of the Irish Wildlife Trust project People for Bees, the council funded online community group training workshops in bee conservation. The training covered topics such as bee habitat creation and bumblebee monitoring and identification.

Waste Reduction and Recycling Workshops – a series of online workshops delivered by Voice Ireland for community groups. Green Schools – An Taisce moved much of their Green Schools programme online but maintained a strong programme. The 2019/2020 academic year culminated with 87 schools in County Cork achieving a Green Flag. Participation remained strong for the 2020/2021 academic year despite COVID 19. To support schools in achieving themed flags e.g., Litter and Waste, Biodiversity; Energy; Water etc, the Environmental Awareness Office funded online workshops which saw a great uptake by the schools-these included bee, composting, and litter awareness workshops together with the Leave no Trace Champions programme.

Water Refill Station Competition for Schools – The winners of the Water Refill Station Competition for schools were announced in June of 2020.



Pupils with Cork County Council water refill bottles. Photo by Darragh Kane.

Building on a successful pilot project in Doneraile in the previous year, the competition was launched in March, with applications being invited from all primary, secondary and Youthreach centres in the county.

The top 5 scoring schools in each of the Council's three divisional areas were selected as winners. In the Southern Division we had two schools tied in 5th place bringing the total number of winners to 16 (9 primary schools and 7 secondary schools).

Winners announced were as follows:

Division	Name of School	Address 1	Address 2	Municipal District
West	Timoleague National School	Timoleague	Bandon	Bandon Kinsale MD
West	Scoil Chaitigheirn	Eyeries village	Beara	West Cork MD
West	Skibbereen Community School	Gortnaclohy	Skibbereen	West Cork MD
West	SN Chóbh Chionn tSáile	Summercove NS	Kinsale	Bandon Kinsale MD
West	St Patrick's BNS Skibbereen	Cork Road	Skibbereen	West Cork MD
South	Carrigaline Community School	Waterpark	Carrigaline	Carrigaline MD
South	Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin	Tigh Pháirc an Uisce	Charraig Uí Leighin	Carrigaline MD
South	Carrignafoy Community College	Cobh	Co. Cork	Cobh MD
South	Colaiste Muire Crosshaven	Crosshaven	Co Cork	Carrigaline MD
South	Bunscoil Mhuire	O'Brien's place	Youghal	East Cork MD
South	Cloughdub NS	Crookstown	Cork	Macroom MD
North	Colaiste an Chraoibhin	Duntaheen Road	Fermoy	Fermoy MD
North	St. Joseph's Convent NS	Smith's Road	Charleville	Kanturk Mallow MD
North	Nagle Rice Secondary School	Horseclose	Doneraile	Fermoy MD
North	Convent Primary School	Bathview	Mallow	Kanturk Mallow MD
North	Rathduff N.S	Rathduff	Grenagh	Kanturk Mallow MD

Waste and Recycling

As an essential service, Council Civic Amenity, Recycling and Bring Bank Sites remained operational throughout 2020.

In 2020, Cork County Council's 11 Civic Amenity Sites had over 367,000 visitors and collected a total of;

- 17,390 tonnes of Recyclables
- 11,959 Tonnes of Waste

At Cork County Council's 138 Bring Sites across the county we collected a further;

- 7,289 Tonnes of Recyclables

Water Quality

Irish Water, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency, suspended regulatory monitoring from 30th March to mid May 2020. When monitoring recommenced in mid-May, COVID 19 controls meant sampling in private houses could no longer take place. Laboratory staff, working with colleagues from Water Services, identified over 200 new water sampling locations at public locations including Garda Stations across the county to allow monitoring to be undertaken. Nearly all scheduled samples missed during the restrictions in April and May were made up by year end.

The significant work programmes delivered by the Councils' water quality teams in 2020 included;

- 1183 samples taken from 168 public drinking water supplies-25,763 parameters analysed.
- 271 samples taken from 186 private group water schemes and other small private water supplies-5218 parameters analysed
- 3159 samples taken in relation to public and industrial wastewater treatment systems
- 634 Farm Inspections undertaken
- 184 bathing water samples taken at 29 beaches
- 59 residential septic tanks inspected

Eight beaches attained Blue flag status for 2020, while fourteen achieved Green Coast awards. The beaches in question were;

Blue Flag: Barleycove, Garretstown, Garrylucas, Inchydoney, Owenahincha, Redbarn, Tragumna, Youghal Claycastle.

Green Coast: Ballyrisode, Cadogens, Fountainstown, Garinish, Galleycove, Inch, Inchydoney (East beach), Oysterhaven, Redstrand, Ring, Shanagarry (Ardnahinch), Sherkin and Sheeps Head (Dooneen).



Claycastle Beach, Youghal. Photo by John Hennessy

Veterinary and Food Safety

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

- Administration of over 31,435 dog licenses.
- 1,049 dog license enforcement notifications issued.
- Monitoring of 80 registered dog breeding establishments.
- Delivery of inspection programs across 73 registered food premises.
- Ongoing monitoring, including laboratory analysis, under contract for Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI).
- Collection of 35 stray horses.



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cork County Council



Planning & Development



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Planning and Development

Planning and Strategic Development Strategic Policy Committee

The Planning SPC met on three occasions in 2020. The County Development Plan Review has been the central item for discussions. 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 2020 was 3,800. Of this figure 783 were received by the West Cork Office, located in Skibbereen with the remaining 3,017 being received in County Hall.

The number of valid planning applications received was 2,980.

Invalid represented circa 22% of the total applications received

The number of Planning Applications granted planning permission in 2020 was 2,260.

The number of Planning Applications refused was 224.

The number of Planning Applications received by Cork County Council with an EIAR (Environmental Impact Assessment Report) was 9.

Section 5s

- Number of Section 5s received in 2020 (Jan 1st – Dec 31st) 147
- Further information requested under Section 5s 26
- With regard to Section 5 applications 135 applications were closed and 12 applications remain open (awaiting FI response or due decision in 2021).

Pre-Planning

Total number of pre-planning meetings held in 2020 was 836, with 600 held by the Planning Department, County Hall and 236 held by the West Planning Office Skibbereen. 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)

An Bord Pleanála granted permission in respect of 1 SHD applications in 2020 which will yield 222 residential units. 3 Section 247 Consultations were held in respect of proposed Strategic Housing Developments with the potential for 530 residential units.

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:	583
No of Procedures taken through Warning Letters:	451 Warning letters issued in relation to 295 cases
No of Procedures taken through Enforcement Notices:	8 Enforcement Notices issued in 7 cases
No of Prosecutions:	Nil
Total Number of Cases Investigated:	299 new cases being investigated

A programme of works has commenced 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 will see works carried out to 7 estates in North Cork, 4 in South Cork and 5 West Cork.

Works are also continuing to bring a bundle of 8 estates in East Cork to a taking in charge standard.

Local Housing Infrastructure Activation Fund

HIIT, Planning Directorate, has delivered:

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 way leave 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 Department 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.
- Stage 1 of a two-stage restricted public form of tender process for the LIHAF works commenced in November 2020 with the shortlisting of suitable Contractors complete. Site investigation and detailed design of all infrastructure is due for completion in Q1 2021.
- The Draft Section 48 Water Rock Contribution Scheme will be published in Q1 2021.
- Construction of infrastructure is expected to commence in Q3/Q4 2021 which coincides with Irish Water’s new time-lines.

Shannon Park:

- Planning permission in place for 321 units. 203 units completed to date. Roundabout upgrade is now complete.

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

Carrigtwohill URDF:

- Consulting engineers appointed in January 2020. Currently carrying out surveying / preliminary design and traffic and transport assessment.
- Two Part 8s scheduled to unlock development potential for Carrigtwohill with 18 separate public infrastructure interventions planned. The first Part 8 will centre on the town of Carrigtwohill and provide 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. This Part 8 is planned for Q2 2021.
- The 2nd Part 8 will focus on developing the enabling infrastructure in the UEA to facilitate the 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 2021.

Water Rock Linear Park:

- Tenders were invited and assessed in Q1/Q2 2020 for appointment of a Consulting Engineer to the Water Rock Linear Park (Midleton URDF related) in order to design the park infrastructure in greater detail and to move forward to planning approval.
- Consultant appointed in Q3 of 2020. 3rd party surveys, preliminary design and 1st phase consultation is currently under way.
- Part VIII expected in Q3 of 2021.

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

Category	URDF Ref	Scheme reference
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:

Throughout 2020, the heritage sector has been significantly impacted by COVID 19. Restrictions led to a wider and deeper appreciation and understanding of what heritage provides for society, and the Council responded by coordinating a significant increase on heritage expenditure in County Cork in 2020.

2020 saw a number of heritage projects undertaken in the county and the Heritage Unit received direct funding from the Heritage Council for two County Heritage Plan projects;

- 1) a publication on the Archaeological Heritage of County Cork, and,
- 2) Volume Two of a Colouring Book depicting County Cork's heritage and culture.

Investment in the county's heritage during 2020 from State Bodies and Central Government was the highest it had been in years and a range of different projects and national initiatives were supported, from National Tree Week in March to National Biodiversity Week in May.

Cork County Council also worked with the Irish Walled Town Network in relation to a variety of projects (Cork's member towns being Bandon, Buttevant and Youghal) and the Council's Architectural Conservation Officer oversaw the operation of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund in the county. The County Archaeologist and Heritage officer oversaw the operation and implementation of the 2020 Community Monuments Fund – a scheme that will also be operational in 2021.

There is also investment in the county's heritage through the Creative Ireland Programme and the delivery of the County Cork Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022 in addition to growing amounts of support for heritage projects through a wide range of County Council grant schemes (Municipal District Grant Scheme, Arts Grant Scheme, Community Enhancement Fund, etc.). One of the Creative Ireland supported projects was the undertaking of a short video to promote the County Cork School Garden's Competition. This production featured the Mayor of the County of Cork Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley in a local school in her hometown of Youghal.



Mayor of the County of Cork promotes the School Garden's Competition in Youghal

2020 also saw continuation in the production of Historic Town Maps for towns in the county (contributing towards Project ACT in the process), led by the County Archaeologist in conjunction with the local Municipal District 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). 2021 will see the production of further maps for towns throughout the county.

Throughout 2020, Cork County Council's Heritage Unit communicated regularly with the 400 plus groups in County Cork that are active with regard to heritage endeavours as well as individuals with a keen interest in heritage, a number of whom submitted information for inclusion in the Archaeological Heritage of County Cork publication. This regular email update went out to over 1,750 recipients and the website was updated regularly, having received 26,783 page views in 2020.

While there was a reduction in the number of events and physical heritage activities in 2020, there was no shortage of action through other mediums and projects. During 2020, Cork County Council, together with many other LA Heritage Officers, supported the Gardening for Biodiversity Publication, with hundreds of copies disseminated by the Heritage Unit countywide and the Heritage Unit also contributed towards the National Heritage Map Viewer. For Heritage Week 2020, over 50 projects were initiated in County Cork, having featured on www.heritageweek.ie. In addition, the Heritage Unit distributed over 500 trees as part of Tree Week 2020 and also worked with Limerick City and County Council by way of supporting a Nightjar Bird study in both counties. Cork County Council's Heritage Unit also supported a Barn Owl Study by Bird Watch Ireland (also supported by the Council's Environment Directorate) and an archaeological survey of Béal na mBláth. Cork County Council's Heritage Unit also supported the undertaking of a video for the 2020 Celebrating Cork Past Exhibition, which included an address from the Mayor of the County of Cork.

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. Natural Heritage is another most important consideration and the Heritage Unit and the Planning Policy Unit work endlessly towards protecting and promoting same within the county. 2020 saw the continued involvement of the Heritage Unit with numerous sections of Cork County Council including Economic Development, Corporate Services, Tourism, Architects, Roads and Engineering and the Heritage Unit also had staff feature on TG4 and RedFm, with the Heritage of County Cork publication series also featured in the Irish Times. The Heritage Unit also plays a strong role at community level and works closely with a range of key stakeholders to ensure that heritage is being protected, promoted and enhanced on the ground at the local level. In 2020, Cork County Council's Heritage Officer also took up the role of vicechair of the Local Authority Heritage Officer Network.

Commemorations:

The operation of commemorative activity within the county was significantly curtailed due to COVID 19 in 2020, due to a cancellation/postponement of many events, although some small-scale commemorative events, in keeping with full Public Health Guidance were supported, such as the centenary of the change in name from Queenstown to Cobh in July 1920.

Primary commemorative activity over this and the coming years will relate to War of Independence and Civil War centenaries, however, the remit of the Council's Commemorations Committee covers further commemorations in addition. For commemoration of the War of Independence, Cork County Council secured significant funding from the Department Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media for its commemorative programme in 2020, which included the roll-out of the 2020 County Cork Commemorations Grant Scheme. Cork County Council's Commemorations Office also supported and undertook work on a range of different commemorative projects, close to 20 in total.

Historic Monuments Advisory Committee:

Cork County Council's Historic Monuments Advisory Committee continued to meet in 2020 undertaking work on a variety of different projects. An extensive work programme and many plans are underway for 2021.

Creative Ireland:

The Creative Ireland Initiative has seen continued support and success throughout the country, including the County of Cork. Under the 2020 Creative Ireland County Cork Grant Scheme, 37 different projects were supported and further endeavours were supported through the Creative Ireland County Cork Pop-up Shop Scheme – a Scheme which won the National Supporting Active Communities Award at the 2019 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.

As well as continued implementation of actions in the County Cork Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018–2022, and the coordination of Cruinniú na nÓg in the County of Cork, which saw over 1,000 children from throughout the county participate on Saturday June 13th 2020, many further initiatives were developed and supported such as continued work on a database of Cultural Sites and Organisations/Groups in the County and the undertaking of a short video to promote the County Cork School Garden's Competition.

Through the Council's Creative Ireland Office and Culture Team, 2020 also saw significant involvement in the Council's cultural response to COVID 19, through a range of different projects including support of the Cultural Companions Project in liaison with the HSE, Cork City Council and Muintir na Tire. A key undertaking by the Creative Ireland Office in response to COVID 19 was the categorising of cultural projects being undertaken throughout sections of the council and the rolling out and promotion of same to the public through correspondence with Cork County Council's Communications Office.

Traffic and Transport

2020 saw a 46% increase in the NTA budget allocation to Cork County Council under the Sustainable Transport Measures Grant. Additional funding was provided within Cork County Metropolitan Area for footpath enhancement works. On a countywide basis the NTA provided funding for the upgrade of bus facilities and for COVID 19 related interventions. Funding for active travel measures was also secured from both DTTAS and URDF.

In total, expenditure on sustainable travel interventions equated to €3.13m and the following were the main projects progressed:

- Outline Design and Part 8 application for Ballinacurra to Midleton Pedestrian and Cycle Route.
- Upgrade of Bailick Pedestrian and Cycle Route.
- Pontoon and Dwyer's Road Pedestrian and Cycle Route.
- Construction of section of Burys Bridge to Carrigtwohill Pedestrian and Cycle Route.
- Carrigaline Transportation and Public Realm Enhancement Plan (TPREP).
- Procurement of consultants for detailed design of Little Island Sustainable Travel Interventions, Bury's Bridge to Carrigtwohill Pedestrian and Cycle Route and Active Travel Interventions in Carrigtwohill.

Planning Policy Unit (PPU)

The Planning Policy Unit is responsible for the preparation of strategic land use planning policies across County Cork and supporting their subsequent implementation. The staff of the Planning Policy Unit are involved in undertaking research and data analysis on a range of planning and socioeconomic issues to inform the preparation of the Cork County Development Plan, Municipal District Local Area Plans, and in response to new national and regional policy initiatives and guidelines. The PPU also provides data for use by other sections of the Planning Department and the Council.

Review of the Cork County Development Plan

The County Development Plan 2014 sets out the Council's overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Cork to 2020.

Preparatory work on the Review of the Development Plan commenced in late 2017. In March 2020 the Council commenced the statutory review process by publishing the CDP Review Public Consultation Document and conducting 16 weeks of Pre-Draft public consultation (extended by 8 weeks due to COVID 19 emergency measures). The Pre-Draft public consultation was supported by a series of significant background documents/studies relating to the County Development Plan (CDP) Review including.

- Approach to County development Plan Review.
- Population and Housing.
- Rural Housing.
- Settlements and Placemaking.
- Urban Capacity Study.
- Economy and Employment.
- Water Services.
- Transport and Mobility.
- Energy.
- Built Heritage.
- SEA Scoping Report.

A total of 613 individual submissions were received during the Pre-Draft public consultation period. The PPU prepared a Section 11(4) Chief Executive's Report which was published on the 28th August 2020 for consideration by the Elected Members over a series of Municipal District/Development Committee meetings during September and October 2020. In early December 2020, the Members completed their consideration and the PPU commenced the work of finalising the Draft Plan for circulation to the Members on the 5th February 2021. The preparation of the environmental assessment of the Draft Plan through the preparation of the SEA Environment Report, the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and the Habitats Directive Screening Assessment and Natura Impact Report is being carried out inhouse by the PPU and Ecology Unit Teams.

All published documents relating to the CDP Review to date are available on the Cork County Council website, www.corkcoco.ie.

Variation No.2 to the Cork County Development Plan, 2014 (Retail Outlet Centres)

The proposed Variation of the County Development Plan to include strategic policy support for the consideration of retail outlet centres proposals in the East Cork Corridor was passed by the Elected Members on 27th January 2020. This Variation was the subject of a Draft Section 31 Ministerial Direction issued on the 6th March 2020 which was confirmed on 23rd December 2020.

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) – Call 2

Cork County Council submitted three applications under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Call 2 and the Planning Policy Unit prepared two of the applications on behalf of respective project teams in 2021 (the Kanturk-Mallow Municipal District Office prepared the third application focused on Mallow town centre regeneration). The two applications prepared by the Planning Policy Unit were as follows:

- Passage West – Ringaskiddy – Carrigaline Cluster; Project Implementation of Metropolitan Transport Strategies and Associated Urban Regeneration, including:
 - o Carrigaline – site purchase and extension of public realm design brief.
 - o Passage West – cycleway feasibility study and design and public realm design.
- Cobh Town; Urban Expansion and Regeneration and Improved Island Access
 - o Urban Expansion Area masterplan and associated studies.
 - o Design study of Belvelly Bridge upgrade to relocate bridge footpath and widening vehicle carriageway.

Active Land Management

The PPU continued to carry out Active Land Management on Cork County residentially zoned land supply through a number of initiatives, including.

- Vacant Sites Register - continued to maintain the Council's Register, including the addition of twelve new land entries onto the Register. The PPU continues to review additional candidate lands for further expansion of the Register. In addition, The PPU has issued Vacant Site Levies to confirmed entries on the Council's Register.
- Background statistical and other analysis, including a detailed analysis of residential delivery barriers in Cork County.
- Identification of all landownership of residentially zoned land in Cork County, further expanding the Housing Land Availability Database.

Ecological/Environmental Matters

The Ecology Office continued to provide ecological support to all the many departments of the County Council. Staff are involved in the assessment of live planning applications, provision of pre-planning advice, reviewing compliance submissions and advising/reporting on enforcement cases for the Development Management section of the Planning Department. It provides ecological reporting services, and ecological advice for the planning policy section, and advise on ecological issues and environmental legislation for other sections of the organisation, including advising on Local Authority projects/developments such as the greenways, flood relief works and coastal protection projects. The Ecology Office has prepared the Natural Impact Report for the Draft County Development Plan and has contributed to the preparation of the Biodiversity section of the plan as well as to the SEA process.

Biodiversity Projects

With support funding from the National Biodiversity Action Plan the Ecology Office initiated work on the preparation of Pollinator Plans for a number of towns in the county and worked with the West Cork branch of BirdWatch to build and deploy Barn Owl nest boxes and Swift nest boxes in a number of locations around the county. It is intended to continue work on both of these projects in 2021.



Close up of a swift by Catherine Casey

Harpers Island

The Harper's Island Wetland Centre is a Cork County Council owned island in Cork Harbour which is being managed for nature conservation and as an educational resource and recreational amenity. Work continued on habitat enhancement and developing educational material in 2020. Working closely with the architect's department, plans were also progressed to build a third visitors hide on the island.



Members of Glounthaune Men's Shed, Glounthaune Tidy Towns and Birdwatch Ireland, Cork branch, with Cllr. Anthony Barry, at the fitting of a sluice gate at Harper's Island wetland education centre. Picture by David Keane, 2017

Fire & Building Control

During a challenging year, dealing with the emerging coronavirus pandemic, the Fire and Building Control Section of Cork County Council showed professionalism and resilience and continued to maintain service delivery throughout the year. As an essential service the Fire and Building Control section adapted ways of working by introducing suitable control measures to protect staff whilst continuing to deliver statutory functions and protect the communities they serve. They 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.

With the assistance of technology, staff adapted to new ways of working to continue to provide information, advice and guidance.

During the month of August Cork County was hit by four very severe weather events, including Storm Ellen and Storm Francis. On each occasion crews from Cork County Council's Fire Service responded to assist the public at incidents involving flooding, trees down and property damage, as well as turning out to other incidents such as Road Traffic Collisions and Fires.



Fire Services responding to uncontrolled fires in West Cork, March 2020.

The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) conducted a capacity review on all aspects of the Fire Service in 2020. The review was carried out virtually and Cork County Council's Fire Service were reviewed in June 2020. The report on the capacity review was issued in October 2020 entitled 'Response, Resilience and Recovery – A Review of the Impact of Covid-19 on Irish Fire' Services. In addition to considering the impact of Covid-19 on local authority fire services, the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management, the body at central government level charged with developing and supporting local authority fire services, reviewed and received local authority feedback on the effectiveness and impact of its own actions and processes.

Fire & Emergency Operations Plan (2021-2025)

A new Fire and Emergency Operations Plan (2021-2025) was prepared and presented to the Environment, Climate Action and Biodiversity Strategic Policy Committee meeting in September. 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. It will be sent for full Council approval in early 2021.

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 19 pandemic. All incidents were responded to in 2020. There was no significant change in the number of callouts during 2020 compared to 2019, with a reduction of 2.7% for the year.

Incident Type	2019	2020	% Change
Fire	800	750	-6.25%
RTC	339	267	-21.23%
False Alarms	300	280	-6.6%
Special Services including Ambulance Assists	439	531	+20.96%

Incident Type	2019	2020	% Change
Total Incidents	1878	1828	-2.7%

Total number of turnouts to Fires in 2020	997**
Average of turnout times	04:46
Average of response times	13:57
% of calls with a response time of less than 10 minutes	37.46%
% of calls with a response time of between 10 and 20 minutes	45.52%
% of calls with a response time greater than 20 minutes	17.03%

(** Represents incidents where an in attendance time was recorded)

Total number of turnouts to Non-Fire Emergencies in 2020	838**
Average of turnout times	04:48
Average of response times	13:35
% of calls with a response time of less than 10 minutes	39.48%
% of calls with a response time of between 10 and 20 minutes	45.77%
% of calls with a response time greater than 20 minutes	14.75%

(** Represents incidents where an in attendance time was recorded)

A modified training programme was delivered during 2020 due to the 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 appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

The following is a summary of training courses organised in 2020:

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	Abrasive Wheels User Course	Heavy Goods Vehicle Rescue Techniques
Pump Operator Instructor	Managing Fire Service Incidents	Hydra Facilitators Course
Pump Operator	Incident Commander Certificate of Professional Competency (CPC) Course	CPC Wearers Course
Road Traffic Collisions		

In February, 10 firefighters become the first firefighters in Cork County Council's Fire Service to have successfully completed 3 modules of a QQI Level 6 qualification. The Compartment Fire Behaviour Initial Wearers Course was held in Hackestown Training Centre, Co. Carlow.

Capital Investment

Cork County Council took delivery of two new Class B Fire Appliances, in August. These new appliances will be stationed in Midleton and Bantry Fire Stations. The new frontline appliances have been funded by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



New Fire Appliances in Midleton. Photo by Brian Loughheed.

In December 2020 details were announced by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management of a new €61m programme of construction/refurbishment of 27 fire stations for the five-year period 2021-2025. This announcement contained a reaffirmation of the commitment to fund the construction of 3 replacement fire stations in Kanturk, Macroom and Clonakilty.

Construction of the Fire Station in Kanturk was delayed by Covid-19 restrictions and is due for completion in Q3 2021. Construction will begin for the Fire Station in Macroom in 2021 and is due for completion in 2022. A site has been identified for the Fire Station in Clonakilty and detailed design is underway. Details of the new Fire Appliance Procurement Programme which will run from 2021 – 2023 were also announced. As part of the new Fire Appliance Procurement Programme which will run from 2021 – 2023, Cork County Council's Fire Service will receive three Class B Appliances over the lifetime of the programme.

The Fire Service took delivery of 170 new Draeger PS7000 Breathing Apparatus Sets in 2020. This new equipment replaced existing sets which were 15 years old and will provide Firefighters with an extended working duration along with an increased safety margin. These new sets are now on the run in all twenty Fire Stations in Cork County. The purchase of the new Breathing Apparatus sets was funded by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management.

Community Fire Safety

The pandemic had considerable impact on Community Fire Safety Activities. In person activities were suspended from March to reduce the risk of virus transmission between firefighters and members of the public. Cork County Council's Fire Services social media platforms were used extensively during the year to deliver the Council's Fire Safety message and technology fire safety talks were delivered using MS Teams, Zoom and other platforms.

An initiative was developed to assemble and deliver Home Fire Safety Packs throughout the county with the assistance of the HSE Home Support Service, Meals on Wheels and An Garda Síochána. This initiative provided vital fire safety information to vulnerable and at risk householders throughout the county who have been unable to participate in their regular local community-based activities. The Fire Safety Information Packs contain Fire Safety in the Home leaflets, a fire safety checklist, a carbon monoxide leaflet, a fridge magnet where the Eircode can be noted and a pen.

Though restricted, during 2020 the Fire Service continued with the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme with the support of the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management. The scheme aims to distribute, with the co-operation of local voluntary groups and organisations, 10 year battery smoke alarms to elderly and vulnerable residents throughout the county.

National Fire Safety Week took place from October 5th to 12th. The campaign was centred on the message "STOP Fire; Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives". The Fire Safety campaign aimed to encourage people to assess fire safety measures in their homes and implement common sense safeguards where possible. Cork County Council's Fire Service were mindful of the fact that people were spending more time in their homes as a result of remote working, cocooning and Covid 19 related restrictions. An extensive print and social media campaign was undertaken.



Fire Safety Week Social and Print Media Campaign

As normal Primary Schools Fire Safety Programmes could not be delivered, a colouring and drawing competition was held. Over 1,800 entries were received, and winners were announced during Fire Safety Week.

In conjunction with the Housing Directorate, the Council's Community Fire Safety Officers undertook a programme of revisiting Traveller Halting Sites in 2020.

Throughout January, February and early March the Fire Services team continued delivering its Community Fire Safety Programme, with fire safety talks and presentation throughout the county. The Fire Services team continued with the Primary Schools Community Fire Safety Programme and the Secondary School program. Stations held recruitment open nights to help with the recruitment of retained firefighters.

In January 2020, Fire Brigades throughout the county were involved with the National Community Engagement Day organised by An Garda Síochána in conjunction with the Irish Farmers Association. The events provided an opportunity for rural Communities across Ireland to meet and become familiar with their local Gardai and other Community Organisations. Members of Cork County Fire Service had great engagement with members of the public on the day, providing fire safety advice and information on the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme.

In October Mark Sinclair, Station Officer in Midleton Fire Station, represented Cork County Council Fire Service in a webinar put together for Positive Ageing Week (September 28th to October 2nd). In the context of its leadership role in the Cork County COVID-19 Community Support Programme, Cork County Council brought together a range of contributors to share their experiences of life during COVID-19 and to share their advice for looking ahead with positivity and confidence.

Cork County Council's Fire Service were involved with the launch of the 2020 'Be Winter Ready' Campaign on the 4th of November. The Cork and Kerry Inter-Agency Emergency Management for the South came together to provide key information and messaging in a bid to raise public awareness about the challenges the winter months can present. 'Be Winter Ready' is a coordinated campaign involving statutory services which aims to raise public awareness about the challenges which Winter can present.



Frontline workers at the launch of the Inter-Agency Be Winter Ready campaign. Photo by Brian Loughheed.

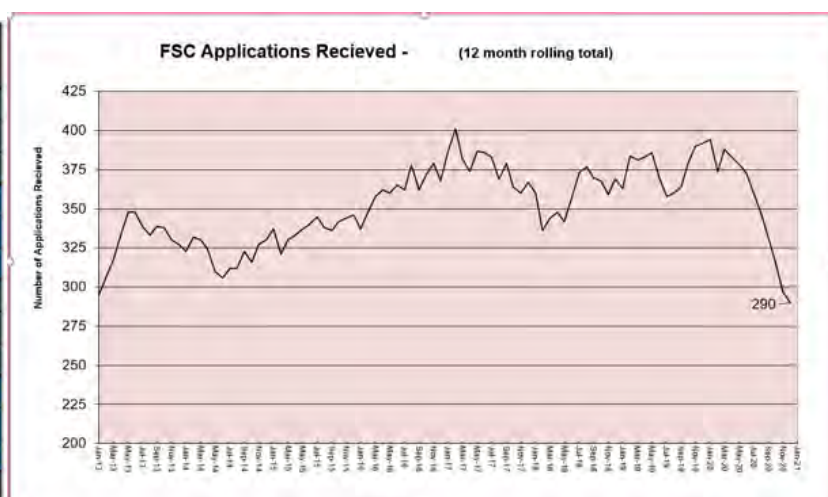
Fire Safety

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.

A new module of the existing national Building Control Management System (BCMS) was developed and the existing system has been extended to allow for the online submission of applications for Fire Safety Certificates, Revised Fire Safety Certificates, Regularisation Certificates, Disability Access Certificates, Revised Disability Access Certificates, Dispensations and Relaxations. The existing system allowed for the online submission of all Commencement Notice Applications, 7 Day Notice Applications and Certificates of Compliance on Completion. The new module was launched on 13th July 2020 and since that date almost all applications received have been submitted via the new module.

The following table and chart show the number of Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) applications received and granted in 2020:

	FSC Received	FSC Decided
Jan-20	25	34
Feb-20	22	28
Mar-20	45	34
Apr-20	24	24
May-20	36	19
Jun-20	22	33
Jul-20	21	50
Aug-20	14	25
Sep-20	17	28
Oct-20	24	17
Nov-20	13	21
Dec-20	27	14
total	290	327



Building Control

The following table and chart show the number of Disability Access Certificate (DAC) applications received and granted in 2020:

	DAC Received	DAC Decided
Jan-20	19	21
Feb-20	10	20
Mar-20	28	24
Apr-20	11	16
May-20	22	13
Jun-20	19	17
Jul-20	16	29
Aug-20	14	10
Sep-20	4	22
Oct-20	14	16
Nov-20	8	9
Dec-20	13	14
total	178	211



The following table shows the number of valid commencement notice and 7 day notice submissions received in 2020

month	Notices made Valid	Buildings Covered
January	82	115
February	83	204
March	96	136
April	54	111
May	59	59
June	95	106
July	124	170
August	90	149
Sept	119	258
October	98	205
November	82	144
December	52	57
total	1034	1714



During 2020, Building Control Inspections were carried out on 245 of the 1714 buildings commenced. This represents an inspection rate of 14.3% which is above the 12% target.



A campaign was rolled out across the county targeting Auctioneers to ensure compliance with the Requirements for BER (Building Energy Rating) advertising. Over 1,600 advertisements of buildings being offered for sale or rent were checked and compliance was greatly improved.

Major Emergency Management

2020 was a challenging year with the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic. In response to this Crisis the Inter-Agency Emergency Management Office set up an Inter-Agency Coordination Centre as a platform to deliver a coordinated response and for Information Sharing between Agencies. The Centre was located in the Crisis Management Room of the Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Western Road, Cork and operated from 2nd March 2020 to 5th June 2020. The Centre was managed by Cork County Council's ACFO(MEM) and supported by Information Management Officers from all of the Region's Principal Response Agencies. Tasks completed in the Coordination Centre included Transportation & Logistics, Asset Management, Procuring & Distribution of PPE, Communications & Information Sharing, Testing Centres & Assessment Hub requests.

Major Emergency Management Committee

The Council's Major Emergency Management Committee met quarterly over MS Teams throughout 2020, where the following Plans were reviewed, updated and issued

- The Major Emergency Plan
- The Severe Weather Plan
- The Flooding Emergency Response Plan

SEVESO Programme 2020

While the COVID-19 Pandemic affected all MEM activities, exercises to test the following External Emergency Plans and Inter-Agency Plans were carried out. All exercises were adapted to be delivered virtually over Microsoft Teams with the exception of IDL Dungourney where a live roll out took place.

	Facility	Exercise Date	Exercise Type
External Emergency Plan	IDL Dungourney	17th September 2020	Live Roll out
External Emergency Plan	Calor Whitegate	23rd October 2020	Virtual
External Emergency Plan	Zenith Bantry Bay	9th November 2020	Virtual
External Emergency Plan	BASF Little Island	3rd December	Virtual
Inter-Agency Plan	Jack Lynch Tunnel	2nd December 2020	Virtual

Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT)

The SWAT held regular teleconferences in relation to all Met Éireann Weather Warnings including Storm Ellen and Storm Francis

Oil Spill Assessment Team (OSAT)

OSAT held daily teleconference in response to the grounding of the MV Alta on the Ballycotton Shoreline.



Pollutants being recovered from the MV Alta. Photo by Daragh McSweeney, Provision.

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.

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.

Cork West Civil Defence Volunteers completed 923 voluntary operational hours in 2020.

These hours included:

- 20 Deliveries of PPE/Medications
- 14 x Delivery of test samples
- 32 x Patient transfers (8 by ambulance)
- 20 x Days supporting the Irish Blood Transfusion Service
- 7 x Medical cover for sporting events
- 1 x External medical training
- 2 x Missing search operations
- 1 x Operational drone flight at site of convent fire in Skibbereen
- 1 x Flood assistance to Skibbereen Fire Brigade

Cork North Civil Defence Units were tasked with a numerous COVID taskings during 2020.

These taskings are as follows

- Delivery of homework packs to kids with special requirements
- Collecting patients for medical appointments in hospitals and doctors surgeries
- Collecting Medications from pharmacys and delivering to elderly people.
- Collecting pensions and paying utility bills for elderly people.
- Collecting PPE from Hse Stores and delivering to community hospitals in the county
- Transporting people for covid tests
- Delivering First Communion gifts for school kids that was cancelled at short notice
- Assisting at Irish Blood transfusion clinics
- Transporting patients for cancer treatment
- 1 Minute silence at Mallow Garda Station for Colm Horan
- Missing person search call out.
- Standby for storm ellen

Cork North Civil Defence also covered the following community events during 2020

- Provided First Aid Cover with 2 Ambulance crews and 4x4 for Auto grass event
- Provided First Aid Cover with 2 Ambulance crews and Safety Boat for Triathlon.

An aerial photograph of a coastal town and surrounding landscape, including a large body of water and a road network. A large yellow triangular overlay covers the bottom and left portions of the image, serving as a background for the text.

Economic Development, Enterprise & 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 Divisions) during 2020.

Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020

- Operated by 3 LCDCs Local Area Group (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 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 to be made available for 2021 and 2022.
- Total of 249 Approved Projects, Value €10.7M.
- Claims Drawn down, 119 Projects, Value €4,260,120.
- Under LEADER Food Initiative (separate national allocation of €5M), total of 26 projects approved, Value €1,230,593.
- Under Transnational Co-operation Programme, (separate national allocation of €10M), total of 24 projects approved, Value €1,433,255.
- Three LEADER websites available to view: www.leadernorthcork.com; www.leadersouthcork.com; www.leaderwest-cork.com;

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

Operated by 3 LCDCs.

Value of current programme €11,538,864, tenders awarded to 6 companies, Avondhu Blackwater Partnership; IRD Duhallow; SECAD Partnership; Ballyhoura Development; West Cork Development Partnership; Comhar na nOileán.

Mid Term and End of Year Reviews carried out and approved by 3 LCDCs including approval of Annual Plans at start of 2020.

Grant Schemes 2020

- Community Enhancement Programme, total of 109 grants issued throughout the county, value €292,014.
- COVID 19 Emergency Fund, Tranche 2, €65,191 allocated to 66 successful groups.
- Healthy Ireland Fund, applied for under three LCDCs, grant allocation of €187,750.00 running from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021, eight countywide actions under nine designated themes. Funding timeline has been extended to December 2021 due to COVID 19.
- Community Resilience Fund under Healthy Ireland Keep Well Campaign, €107,600, 13 actions under 3 Themes administered and co-ordinated by Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator.

COVID 19 Community Support

- As part of the Cork County Council COVID 19 Community Support Programme, the Community Section are represented on the Community Support Programme Delivery Group including representatives from the Local Development Companies and a wide range of stakeholders. A large number of updates and information has been circulated to 900 registered Public Participation Network (PPN) Groups over the past few months, in order to keep communities up to date.
- In conjunction with Cork Sports Partnership – Keep Active Campaign, a roll out of flyers promoting play and general wellbeing were produced and distributed to those with limited access to online resources.
- The PSYCHED initiative, assisting businesses with Mental Health awareness are continuing being run online and have been very successful to date. Details www.corkhealthycities.com/psyched.

Local Economic Community Plan (LECP)

This is a statutory Plan that takes into account national and regional plans and sets out high level goals, objectives and actions required to promote and support local economic and 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. A report on the internal review of the Plan was presented to the three LCDCs in 2018 which outlined the progress to date. The LECP will be revised as national and regional policies change and are updated.

Comhairle Na nÓg:

- 22 meetings held throughout 2020 with 21 of these being held online including 7 sub-committee meetings and one steering group meeting.
- The Comhairle was represented at 4 Regional Coordinators meetings and 1 representative attending monthly National Executive meetings.
- The Cork County Comhairle na nÓg continued to meet weekly via zoom to work on their 2020 work topic 'building resilience in relation to stress and pressure'. They delivered their main action for this topic, a webinar entitled 'Everything Is Going To Be Alright' on the 30/10/20. Focusing on self-care and building resilience. The event was a great success and fully youth lead from planning to delivery.
- The group continue to support Cork County Council's CARE – Consider, Assist, Respect, Empathise Campaign encouraging young people to adhere to COVID 19 public health guidelines and ran a poster campaign to promote the need to care, targeting the young people of Cork.

- Annual AGM held virtually in November 2020 with 22 secondary schools in attendance and 266 participants, a large increase on previous years.
- 13 members attended Dáil na nÓg in December, held online.
- The newly formed Comhairle group participated in the online National Comhairle na nÓg Executive Showcase on the 5/12/20 and had their first online meeting on the 19/12/20. The new Comhairle for the first time ever has a representative from Beara Island as a result of online meetings.
- The Comhairle received a grant of €5,869 from the Department of Children in late December to purchase IT equipment to improve their online meeting experience.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

- PPN comprises of voluntary reps from community groups.
- 20 Member PPN Secretariat meet monthly, meetings are being held virtually.
- Over 900 community groups registered in Cork County to date.
- Cork County PPN is the main link through which Community and Voluntary groups, Environment groups and Social Inclusion groups can interact with Cork County Council and participate in policy-making structures and committees of Council.
- Information circulated on an ongoing basis.
- Due to COVID 19 the national AGM was deferred in 2020

Project Development and LEADER 2014-2020

Bó Rua Farm are benefactors of Cork County Council's LEADER programme. At Bó Rua Farm, Norma and Tom Dinneen have developed a state of the art facility to make cheese using the produce of the farm, while adding value to their product inside the farm gate.

Construction of the Cheese Dairy began in early 2018 and was developed with grant assistance totalling €149,997.95 at a rate of 50% under the Enterprise Development sub-theme.

The Cheese Dairy at Bó Rua Farm was the first project approved by the North Cork LAG and throughout Cork County under the newly formed LCDC structure in partnership with Avondhu Backwater Partnership.

This project epitomises the role of LEADER, adding value on the farm and creating additional jobs in remote rural areas. In addition to working closely with Avondhu Blackwater Partnership and the North Cork LCDC the Dinneens have partnered with Cork County Council North Cork Local Enterprise Office and Teagasc to support the development of their product. This underlines a cohesive approach to rural development and the range of vital supports available to rural entrepreneurs.

Norma and Tom Dinneen are experienced in the area of marketing and product promotion and they are positive representatives of the range of supports available to rural Ireland and the vital assistance available under the LEADER programme.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROJECTS

2020 EDF Allocations to Date.

Year / Ref:	Priority of Funding:	Division	Name of Initiative:	Approved:
Recurring Funding 2016.24	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Water Systems and Services Innovation Centre	€120,000.00
Recurring Funding 2017.39	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Mass Challenge	€50,000.00
Recurring Funding 2018.05	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	West	West Cork Music Festival	€142,500.00
Existing Commitment 2018.06	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	West	Taste of West Cork Food Festival	€120,000.00
Existing Commitment 2018.15	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Syn Bio REDF Co-Funding	€600,000.00
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	€105,000.00
Recurring Funding 2019.05	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Energy Cork	€41,500.00
Recurring Funding 2019.09	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	South	Cork Harbour Festival (Ocean to the City)	€60,000.00
Recurring Funding 2019.15	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	South	China Relations	€112,647.50
Recurring Funding 2019.25	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Confucius Institute	€15,000.00
Recurring Funding 2019.27	Strategic Marketing and Tourism.	North	Munster Vales	€60,000.00
Recurring Funding 2019.37	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	SCALE Cork	€62,000.00
2020.01	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	West	JCA Architects	€17,220.00
2020.02	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Cork Mechanical, Manufacturing and Biomedical Engineering Exhibition	€2,500.00
2020.03	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Cork Smart Gateways (Trinity College Dublin)	€33,750.00
2020.04	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	EBAN Cork	€10,000.00
2020.05	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Ireland China Science and Technology Association	€4,000.00

Year / Ref:	Priority of Funding:	Division	Name of Initiative:	Approved:
2020.06	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	West	Kinsale Yacht Club	€15,000.00
2020.07	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	South	Film In Cork	€18,800.00
2020.08	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	South	Cork Branding and Marketing Project	€60,000.00
2020.09	N/A	N/A	Cancelled	N/A
2020.10	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	South	Munster Agricultural Society	€60,000.00
	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	South	CorkCoCo - Provision for costs incurred in organising and fitting out of a Stand.	€60,000.00
2020.11	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	North	Munster Maths and Science Fair	€3,750.00
2020.12	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	South	Platform for Growth Stage 3 Application for Camden Fort Meagher	€25,000.00
2020.13	N/A	N/A	Cancelled	N/A
2020.14	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	West	West Cork Gathering	€40,000.00
2020.15	N/A	N/A	Cancelled	N/A
2020.16	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Cork Choral Festival	€10,000.00
2020.17	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Cork Convention Bureau	€100,000.00
2020.18	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Asia Matters	€18,450.00
2020.19	Partnerships with Local and Regional Stakeholders	South	Charleville Incubation Units	€ -
2020.20	Town / Retail Development	South	Town Framework	€90,000.00
2020.21	Town / Retail Development	South	AIRO Project	€20,000.00
2020.22	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	South	Nanjing Literary Centre - Residency	€1,250.00
2020.23	Strategic Marketing and Tourism	South	Project Act - Production of Town videos	€40,456.00

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

EU Projects

Project	Project Summary	Status
<p>CUTLER Programme: Horizon 2020. Theme: Big Data.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harvest existing data for sensing the environment, society and the economic activity, 2. Build data mining and visualisation tools to extract actionable knowledge from the data, 3. Use these tools to provide a platform for policy design, implementation and evaluation to improve of urban resilience. 	<p>On programme, due to finish in Q2 2021</p>
<p>DELTA LADY. Programme: INTERREG Europe. Theme: Economic De- velopment.</p>	<p>Identify policy instruments to foster the capabilities of ecosystem services for regional economic development.</p>	<p>On programme, due to finish in Q3 2023</p>
<p>ProtoAtlantic. Programme: INTERREG Vb - Atlantic Areas. Theme: Business / Enterprise.</p>	<p>Develop a model for the prototyping and exploitation of innovative ideas in the maritime sector. Having identified start-ups and SMEs with product innovation capacity in the maritime sector, deliver an acceleration program to create a unique ecosystem in the Atlantic, willing to address emerging markets in a co-creation paradigm with the local European start-ups communities.</p>	<p>On programme, due to finish in Q4 2021</p>

Economic Development Plan and Projects

Strategic Policy Committee

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

Members of Cork County Council on the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC are;

Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern

Municipal District: East Cork

Cllr. Michael Hegarty

Municipal District: East Cork

Cllr. Gerard Murphy

Municipal District: Mallow – Kanturk

Cllr. Martin Coughlan

Municipal District: Macroom

Cllr. James Kennedy

Municipal District: Mallow – Kanturk

Cllr. Frank O'Flynn (Chairman)

Municipal District: Fermoy

Cllr. Kay Dawson

Municipal District: Fermoy

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

Municipal District: Fermoy

Cllr. John O'Sullivan

Municipal District: Bandon Kinsale

Councillor Paul Hayes

Municipal District: West Cork

Cllr. Gearoid Murphy

Municipal District: Mallow – Kanturk

Sectoral members on the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC are;

Mr Seamus Coffey

University College Cork.
Sector: Other

Mr. Jimmy Hosford

Irish Farmers Association.
Sector: Agriculture / Farming

Mr. Martin Corkery

Enterprise Ireland.
Sector: Other.

Mr. Aidan Mangan

ASMS Mechanical Services Ltd.
Sector: Development / Construction

Mr. Michael Delargy

University College Cork.
Sector: Trade Union

Mr. Bryan O'Donnell

Janssen.
Sector: Business and Employers

Dr. John Hobbs

Cork Institute of Technology.
Sector: Other

To Be Confirmed.

Sector: Community and Voluntary

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC Meetings in 2020

Meetings	Date of meeting	Presentations given
Q1 2020	Fri., Jan. 10th	Tourism Initiatives in North Cork. R. Carroll.
Q2 2020	No meeting held due to the COVID 19 restrictions.	
Q3 2020	Mon., Jul. 27th	Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. K. Lynch. Skills Mapping and Job Matching Initiative. V. Tierney.
Q4 2020	Tues., Oct. 27th	Updates on the STEM South West and Scale Cork initiatives. A. Hurley. Update on the Rural Digital Innovation Hubs project. A Grassick.

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 partner 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.

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.

Cork County Council, Cork 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 local research facilities to help the small and medium enterprises develop ICT, IoT and energy solutions in response to these challenges.

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.

IGNITE

Cork County Council has supported this initiative since it was launched in 2011. IGNITE is a joint initiative with Cork 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.

Scale Cork

Ireland's first scaling programme for SMEs is supported by the Economic Development Fund and delivered by the Rubicon Centre at Munster Technological University. 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 after participating in this 9-month programme.

STEM South West

Promotes and nurtures STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) throughout the South West region of Ireland. The cluster comprises industry stakeholders Small-Medium Enterprises and Multinational Corporations, 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.

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

EI 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 a led by University College Cork (UCC) and Cork County Council 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 Múscraí 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 support existing enterprises by providing a range of focused services such as technological supports, fibre connectivity, financial infrastructural and other skills and capability building measures.

China Relations

The emergence of COVID 19 in late 2019 upended modern life, globalisation, and relations between countries. This had a consequential impact on the Councils engagements with its partners in Jiangsu.

There were no inbound nor outbound delegations from or to China during 2020.

COVID 19 and China: The COVID 19 pandemic is regarded as being the most significant global crisis in 75 years. Whilst the speed and scale of transmission of the virus, and the response to it, has been remarkable it has severely disrupted the global economy and had a consequential impact on the Councils engagements with its partners in Jiangsu.

However, the pandemic also served to underline the solidarity that exists between Cork County and Jiangsu. In early 2020, during the initial outbreak of the pandemic in China, Cork County Council provided the Jiangsu Provincial Government with the contact details of Irish based diagnostic and medical device manufacturers. Later in the year when Ireland was afflicted by the pandemic the County Council received donations of PPE from Jiangsu and other stakeholders in China as detailed below.

Donations from China	Description	Units
Jiangsu Provincial Government, Jiangsu.	Disposable Facemasks	50,000
Nanjing Municipal Government, Nanjing, Jiangsu.	Disposable Facemasks	20,000
Xuzhou City Government, Jiangsu.	Disposable Facemasks	10,000
Jinan Construction Group	Disposable Facemasks	10,000
Yuhuatai Overseas Collaborative Innovation Centre (Ireland) at UCC	Disposal Facemask	5,000
Chinese UCC alumnus; Dai Dun and Xiao Lifeng	Disposable Facemasks and Gloves	600
Ireland China Science and Technology Association.	Reusable Face Shields and Goggles	40

The travel restrictions imposed in response to the pandemic required the Council to adopt new ways of engaging with its partners in Jiangsu. During the year, the County Mayor addressed delegates, online, at the opening of the 2020 Nanjing Tech Week and the 2020 Jiangsu International Youth Painting Competition.

Other Local, National and International Activities

The following is a summary of local and national activities that Cork County Council supported and participated in during 2020.

The Méihuā Cup. A Chinese language competition of Transition Year Students in Cork ETB Schools. The Shamrock Cup English Language Competition was introduced in Nanjing in 2017. Teams of 3 students from the junior cycle of secondary schools in Nanjing participated in this English Language competition. Each team makes a presentation and answers questions about a topic with an Irish theme.

In 2019 a reciprocal competition in the Chinese Language was launched for Transition Year students in Cork ETB schools. This competition was sponsored Cork County Council and the Nanjing Municipal Education of Bureau in collaboration with Cork Education and Training Board and the Confucius Institute at UCC.

Later in the year, as a token of solidarity with the Council's partners in Nanjing, the two winning teams recorded videos supporting their efforts in responding to the pandemic.

CIFTIS: The China International Fair for Trade in Services: Cork County Council accepted an invitation to share a stand at the 8th CIFTIS fair specialising in raising awareness about the global availability of traded-in services.

CIFTIS is a state-level event covering the 12 sectors of traded-in services as defined by the WTO, namely, business services, communication services, construction and related engineering services, distribution services, educational services, environmental services, financial services, health and social services, tourism and travel-related services, recreational, cultural and sports services, transport services and other services. The Cork County Council stand focussed on tourism and contained imagery and links to the 23 town videos produced for Project ACT.

The stand was well received and attracted both visitors and Chinese media. The Xinhua News Agency published articles in their Chinese and English publications and the Irish Embassy in Beijing raised awareness about the Council's participation through their various social media channels.

2020 Nanjing International Writers' Virtual Residency: The Nanjing International writers' residency program was officially launched in 2019 and hosted writers from Ireland, the UK, France and Spain. The 2020 program received applications from Ireland, the Ukraine, Iraq, the UK, Russia and Australia but due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the event was transformed into a virtual residency.

Sponsored by Cork County Council, William Wall, a Cork born novelist, poet and short story writer participated in a tailored, virtual, residency program to learn about the different aspects of local culture and better understand Chinese literature. During the residency he contributed to online discussions, literature salons and participated in virtual visits to iconic attractions in Nanjing.

The 2020 China - Ireland Business Summit: Organised by Asia Matters and co-sponsored by Cork County Council; this two-day virtual summit, a hybrid of virtual and physical sessions, set out a post-COVID 19 roadmap for future partnership in the key areas of education, economic development, agri-food and tourism.

During the Summit, the County Mayor participated in a "Fireside Discussion" to review why Cork is globally relevant, the benefits to the Jiangsu region of twinning with Cork County and those areas which offer future opportunities for growth in both regions.

The Jiangsu Director of Foreign Affairs also delivered a speech reviewing the Friendship Agreement and commenting very favourably on the level of cooperation, engagement and achievements between Cork and Jiangsu since 2013.

2020 Spring Festival Celebration: The Deputy County Mayor addressed the guests attending the launch of the 2020 Chinese Spring Festival Gala organised by the Confucius Institute at UCC. In addition, the Cork County Council Arts and Library Services celebrated the Chinese New Year (Chinese Spring Festival) by hosting a number of activities for adults and children at the Mallow, Youghal and Bandon Libraries.

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.

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

Acronym: CUTLER (Coastal Urban Development through the Lenses of Resilience). Programme: Horizon 2020. Theme: Big Data.

Project Summary: The goal of CUTLER is threefold: a) to harvest the rich basis of data offered by the existing infrastructures for sensing the environment, the society and the economic activity, b) to build the data mining and visualization tools for extracting actionable knowledge out of these data, and c) to use these tools for supporting a platform on policy design, implementation and evaluation that will be filtered through the lens of urban resilience.

Project Partners: Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH) and DRAXIS Environmental S.A. (Greece), University of Koblenz Landau and EuroSoc # DIGITAL gGmbH (Germany), SAMPAS (Turkey), KU Leuven-Interdisciplinary Centre for Law and ICT (Belgium), University of Oulu (Finland), Democritus University of Thrace - Department of Economics (Greece), Dell EMC and Byrne Looby PHMcCarthy (Ireland), Interuniversitair Micro- Electronica Centrum (Belgium), Municipality of Thessaloniki (Greece), Municipality of Antalya (Turkey) and Municipality of Antwerp (Belgium).

Start Date: Q1 2018, End Date: Q2 2021, Budget: €244,750 (Grant rate 100%).

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.

Project Partners: Tulcea province and Danube Delta National Institute (Romania), Frisian province and University of Twente (Netherlands), Nantes and St. Nazare municipality (France), State University of Applied Sciences in Elblag (Poland), Universitat Politècnica de València and General Council of Chambers of Commerce of Valencia (Spain), ERVET- the regional development agency and Delta Po Park (Italy), Germany (TBC).

Start Date: Q3 2018. End Date: Q3 2023 (Activities in initial 3 years and monitor implementation in final 2 years.). Budget: €206,155 (Grant rate 85%).

Enterprise 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. 2020 saw a further increase in interest in these options following the economic crisis of the previous 7-10 years with a number of sales and construction projects completed. Units for rent have also seen close to full occupancy.

The food incubation kitchens in Carrigaline, CIK, where fully equipped food grade commercial kitchen space can be rented by the hour continue to provide a cheap and state of the art facility for food enterprises wishing to expand. They have increasingly been used for training, R&D, filming and demonstrations adding significantly to the enterprise infrastructure of the county.

Cork County Council provides Hot Desking facilities, own door offices and training/meeting rooms in 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

A new task assigned to Cork County Council during the COVID 19 pandemic was the administration of the Business Restart Grant Scheme. Funding was made available from Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment 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

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

Overall the feedback seems to be very positive on the management of the scheme from Ratepayers and elected members.

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. As locations for Remote Working, Rural Digital Innovation Hubs have the potential to function as vehicles to rejuvenate towns and villages through urban renewal in the centres, reusing existing buildings and infrastructure and providing much needed local hubs for workers in the wider Cork economy.

Throughout 2020 Cork County Council have 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 sites for the development of co-working spaces, second sites, fast landing space, and smart working facilities. The Strategy also identifies suitable Broadband Connection Point locations for Community and Enterprise Hubs.

There is significant evidence of demand for hub spaces. As set out in the Regional Assembly - Regional Co-Working Analysis, over 29,000 private sector workers in the county have the ability to remote work. Furthermore, under the Programme for Government, the public sector is moving towards a blended model (as set out in the Programme for Government) which will create further demand for hub spaces. There is significant potential to realise growth in the towns and villages through the development of this Network.

As part of its evidence based approach Cork County Council is also undertaking a talent heat mapping exercise in partnership with Irish start-up company Abodoo, (the survey can be accessed via Cork County Council's Website – the first exercise of this nature by an Irish Local Authority at this scale. The resulting data and maps will highlight the skills of the workforce within Cork County, coupled with open-source data the process will produce powerful information which can be used to attract inward investment to the Cork area. With the development of Rural Hubs, Cork County Council is hoping to accommodate remote workers as well as start-up companies. The quality and connectivity of the hubs is also aimed at attracting inward investment into the County Towns, creating additional footfall, and sustaining rural economies in line with the Town Centres First policy.

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 2020 was primarily focussed on the ongoing COVID 19 situation from late in quarter one. Cork County Councils Local Enterprise Offices have fulfilled a significant role in delivering essential supports to the business community in County Cork. In particular activity was focussed around a number of specific offerings:

1. Business Continuity Voucher.
2. Trading On-line Voucher.
3. Mentoring/Advisory Services.
4. Activating County Towns.
5. On-line Training – Webinars.
6. Brexit.

The Business Continuity Voucher (BCV) scheme lent support to SMEs and companies in a variety of ways. Amongst food, retail, and personal care sectors major support was required and provided in the establishment and implementation of physical reorganisation of premises and customer interactions, in order to comply with social distancing regulations and requirements. These types of businesses represent a huge part of the community of a regional town and represented a large portion of the clients availing of the BCV. These changes needed to be implemented quickly, and the guidance of specialist experts was invaluable in providing practical support and reassurance to business owners that they were following the correct protocols. Without the BCV, these business owners would have been navigating these hurdles alone, and the provision of the help provided by the BCV allowed business owners to focus their energy on the running of their company and the management of their staff. Cork County Council's LEOs delivered these solutions to over 600 businesses.

The move to online retail, and the announcement of the new 90% co-funded Trading Online Voucher (TOV) 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. The BCV allowed these people to quickly develop a manageable strategy, and when taken in conjunction with the TOV, allowed SMEs to maintain their customer base and continue selling, without which it would have been near impossible for businesses to maintain their customer base and continue sales. The year saw a 10-fold increase in the number of TOVs awarded with 943 Cork businesses benefitting.

Mentoring and Advisory Services provided assistance through fresh perspectives and ideas to the recipients. Strong demand was seen throughout the year with 1,275 recipients of LEO mentoring services during the year.

In May 2020, Cork County Council announced its Project ACT (Activating County Towns) initiative across 23 towns to guide and support business, retail and communities in dealing with the impact of COVID 19.

Project ACT involved a suite of measures to support county towns as they re-opened for business.

The key objective was that Cork County Council, through its elected members and executive, would play a leadership role in planning the recovery from the impact of COVID 19, working with local stakeholders in identifying priorities and actions to support town activation, increased footfall, increased economic activity etc. A key priority was to encourage people back into towns, make them attractive places to do business again, facilitate social distancing etc, and also to promote awareness of the range of local and national support packages that were available (including Business Restart Grant, Restart Grant Plus, Town Development Fund etc).

The LEOs were represented on each of the 23 Project ACT Town Teams and information was provided to each meeting on the supports available to small business throughout the period, and as supports evolved during the progression of the crisis, updates and activities were notified to each meeting.

Business organisations were encouraged to share this information with their memberships and as a result there was a very significant demand for the online Business Advice Clinics, the LEO mentoring supports and the LEO training programmes all of which moved to an online delivery model within two weeks of the initial lockdown in March.

All services of the LEOs including all On-line Training and Webinars were made available free of charge to participants and this will continue for the duration of the crisis. The LEOs also provided ongoing information and a strong message that all businesses on the rates base should be looking at the Restart Scheme that the Economic Directorate were delivering as this was a very significant cash resource available to businesses. A series of Webinars were also developed by the LEOs in support of the reopening of Cork County towns.

Brexit came to pass as the UK left the EU during 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. The Cork County LEOs delivered a range of practical supports including:

1. Ongoing Customs Programme delivered online.
2. Weekly Brexit Advice one to one clinics.
3. EI Customs Grant of €9,000 available to businesses that need to assign a staff member to Customs duties.
4. Brexit Mentor Vouchers Available to support affected businesses as Ireland does through the transition.

Key Metrics for Cork County LEOs:

- €1m in Grant Assistance Approved
- 4,532 availing of Training Programmes
- 1,275 availing of Mentoring.
- 943 Trading Online Vouchers Approved.
- 611 Business Continuity 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 Visitor Experience Development Plans (VEDPs). 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 VEDP (covering the area from Kinsale-Ballydehob) continues with Cork County Council, where Cork County Council are identified as either a lead or partner in the delivery of a number of actions.

Ireland's Ancient East: Continued to work with the Ireland's Ancient East team, as required.

St. Mary's Collegiate Church, Youghal: Voices of St. Marys' Project completed in October 2020. €200,000 funded by Fáilte Ireland to significantly enhance interpretation of the interior of the building with Cork County Council providing match funding of 25%.

Fáilte Ireland Capital Grants Scheme for Large Scale Tourism Projects

Dursey Island Cable Car and Visitor Centre Development: The proposed development which will replace the existing cable car infrastructure will provide increased capacity, comfort and speed for visitors wishing to visit the very scenic Dursey Island. 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 and toilet facilities on the island, a visitor centre and toilet block on the mainland and improved parking facilities for 100 cars. A decision on the planning application lodged with An Bord Pleanála in September 2019 is still outstanding.

Fáilte Ireland Tourism Destination Towns Funding Programme:

Bantry Town was successful following a funding application to Fáilte Ireland in September 2019. Tender Documents have been drafted to appoint design consultants to deliver proposals to develop a signage strategy and decluttering plan for the town and further animate the town square to link in the range of nearby attractions, with the theme of Wolfe Tone and his association with Bantry being central to the project. COVID 19 Government restrictions have delayed advertisement of the Tender competition owing to the requirement of perspective tenderers visiting the town as part of the process.

Fáilte Ireland Platforms for Growth Water Activity Facility Centres:

Cork County Council submitted two applications for Garrylucas and Claycastle beaches in December 2020 for funding under this Fáilte Ireland initiative. If successful, the facility centre infrastructure will house changing areas, showers and toilets and will be 100% funding by Fáilte Ireland. The facility centres would be owned and operated by Cork County Council. A decision is expected to be announced by Fáilte Ireland in Q1 2021 as to whether Cork County Council was successful in its applications.

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, Béal na mBláth and Kilmurry. Consultants RPS have completed all design works. The tender for production of signage has been awarded to Highway Safety Developments Ltd. with signage expected to be erected by the end of Q2, 2021. Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate will support marketing of the initiative once trail is completed.

Mallow Castle: Plans underway to develop the castle and grounds as a major tourist attraction for the North Cork area at an estimated cost of €10 million with works being delivered in a phased manner. A major component of the plan is to improve access between Mallow Town Centre, Mallow Castle, Spa House and Mallow Town Park and encourage visitors to dwell and explore the wider North Cork region.

North Cork Blueway Feasibility Study: Cork County Council engaged the services of an expert in the area of Blueway development to undertake a feasibility assessment for the delivery of a Blueway on the Blackwater. This is now complete and has provided confirmation regarding the suitability of the Blackwater for such development.

Spike Island: A new sheltered ticket desk has been installed with separate entry and exit doors for customers, enabling a natural one-way system to help support social distancing.

Camden Fort Meagher: Camden Fort Meagher progressed to the next phase of the Failte Ireland Platforms for Growth 'Immersive Heritage and Cultural Programmes'. However, Cork County Council decided to withdraw application due to significant cost associated with its development and will continue to develop the attraction on a phased basis as appropriate funding becomes available.

Cork Harbour Greenway: Tender Documents to engage a design consultant for route option assessment were issued in November 2020. The project will be progressed further in 2021 in conjunction with the National Transport Authority.

Midleton to Youghal Greenway: Following an initial award of €8 million from the Department of Transport to develop the Midleton-Youghal Greenway, it was announced in November 2020 that the Department will now provide 100% funding to develop the Greenway, at a cost of €19.8 million. Work on vegetation clearance of the line and work on detailed design has commenced. It is anticipated the build will take approximately two years.

Dungarvan to Mallow Greenway Feasibility Study: Both Cork and Waterford County Councils recently secured 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. A total of €80,000 was approved for Cork County Council to conduct a feasibility study for a 39.15km section from Mallow/Youghal to Ballyduff on the Waterford border. Cork County Council and Waterford County Council are drafting tender documentations for the procurement of consultants to undertake and complete a joint feasibility study, this is expected to be issued by the end of Q1 2021.

Youghal Eco Boardwalk: The final stage of the extension of Youghal Eco Boardwalk is underway with works expected to resume once Government restrictions on construction have eased. Once completed, the boardwalk will measure 1.9 kms linking Youghal's 3 beaches, Front Strand, Claycastle and Redbarn and providing a new pedestrian link from Redbarn to Youghal town.

Youghal Clock Gate Tower: A new premises for admin staff and sales staff was acquired in a prominent location on Main Street Youghal to increase visibility of attraction and ticket sales. The new office opened in Q3 2020.

Marketing Supports

Munster Vales: Munster Vales is a vibrant tourism destination linking the counties of Cork, Waterford, Tipperary and Limerick and incorporating the Comeraghs, Knockmealdowns, Galtees, Ballyhouras and Nagles mountain ranges. Cork County Council continues to provide financial support to market this brand and in 2020 assisted with the development of the 'Munster Vales Strategic Tourism Development Plan 2020-2025', which was launched in November 2020.

Holiday World Show: Cork County Council supported the inaugural Pure Cork stand at the Holiday World Show in the RDS in January 2020.

Cork County Council has also provided marketing support to: Ring of Cork, Youghal Clock Gate Tower, West Cork Garden Trail, Kinsale Comeback Campaign, Wild Atlantic Mizen Cycle, Bantry Tourism and Development Association.

Festivals/Events

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

Economic Development Fund: Financial support of 5 large scale festivals/events amounting to a total of €83,800. West Cork Music Festival (Virtual events and limited physical events took place), Cork Harbour Festival (virtual festival), A Taste of West Cork Festival (cancelled), Cork Choral Festival (cancelled), Kinsale Dragon Gold Cup (Cancelled).

Local Festival Fund: 36 festivals were approved funding amounting to a total of €65,000. Due to COVID 19 a number of festivals were cancelled. Cork County Council financially supported 12 virtual festivals and 4 physical festivals, while also providing financial assistance to some festivals whose events were cancelled towards eligible expenditure incurred. Surplus funding was used towards the funding of virtual festival training programme.

Development of 'Virtual Festival' online training programme: Knowledge gap identified in the area of virtual festivals for Cork County Council supported festivals and events. Tourism Unit developed series of 10 online training classes covering topics such as Digital Marketing, Content Marketing, Social Media Advertising, Video production/editing and Virtual Festivals. Wombat Media engaged to deliver/develop programme which will be conducted via Zoom between January and February 2021.

Activities Undertaken in response to COVID 19:

'Rediscover Cork County' GIS Tourism Map: Developed under Cork County Council's Project ACT, this project was managed by the Tourism Section in conjunction with the ICT Directorate and was launched on the 22nd of June at Full Council

following development over a 4-week period. The map was developed using GIS technology and features over 700 attractions across 14 categories. A key feature of the map is the 'What's Near Me?' function, which enables the user to insert their location or town of preference within a radius of up to 100 kilometres. The map will then display all nearby attractions within that area and generate directions to the attraction or activity of choice. Significant marketing activity was engaged in to promote the map, particularly during Q2-Q3 2020 when domestic tourism was re-introduced.

Mobile Application version of GIS Map: Following the success of the 'Rediscover Cork County GIS Tourism map, a decision was taken to develop a mobile application version. A Tender competition was advertised in October 2020 and concluded in November. Following assessment, Creative Edge Design LTD were procured to deliver the mobile application where key features of the current GIS map will be replicated with additional functionality. Development of the app is expected to be completed by April, 2021.

'Rediscover Cork County' Town Video Series: Under Project ACT, a series of 23 short promotional videos were produced by the Tourism Unit of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate, with one video for each of the main settlement towns in Cork county. The videos highlighted key tourism assets within the towns and their surrounding areas, as well as featuring footage of local businesses unique to those areas. A successful social media campaign resulted in over 400,000 views of the videos, the highest engagement of any Cork County Council social media campaign to date.

Countywide Tourism Video: A 2-minute Countywide tourism video using highlights from the 'Rediscover Cork County' town video series has been produced and will be released in due course

SPC No. 4 – Tourism

The Tourism SPC met on 2 occasions in 2020, with the initial 2 meetings being cancelled owing to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The SPC received presentations from the following in 2020:

Overview of Tourism Activity Undertaken during Tourism SPC 2014-2019 – Sharon Corcoran, Director of Service, Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism.

Demonstration of Functionality of 'Rediscover Cork County' GIS Tourism Map – Judith Vonhof, ICT Directorate.

Update on the activities of Visit Cork – Seamus Heaney, Head of Visit Cork.

Munster Vales 5 year Strategic Development Plan – Triona O'Mahony, Marketing Officer, Munster Vales.

South-West Regional Enterprise Plan

Progress continued in 2020 on the implementation of the South-West Regional Enterprise Plan (SWREP). The SWREP contains six high-level Strategic Objectives with specific actions in each of these. The Strategic Objectives aim to bring additionality through collaborative working and co-operation that will complement and add value to the core work of the Local Authorities, the enterprise agencies and other bodies.

A final Progress Report on activities will shortly be published by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

Notable highlights in 2020 include:

- Establishment of a network of Cork based digital hubs in addition to the Kerry hubs network.
- Over €7.3m secured under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) for the South-West region in 2020.
- Development of a new programme with the Climate Action Regional Offices and Maynooth University (CARO) to explore enterprise opportunities from climate action.
- Strengthening of the role cluster activities and clusters in the region including Cyber Ireland, it@Cork, Energy Cork, STEM South-West, ACE Agri-Tech, and Circular Bioeconomy SW.
- Enterprise Week event on Smart Technology in the region.
- Mapping of digital hubs in partnership with the Atlantic Economic Corridor project.
- Study undertaken to analyse the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic on the marine and coastal tourism industry in pilot study towns of Bantry and Valentia.
- Coordination and development of the South-West region submission to the National Economic Plan.
- National Digital Research Centre (NDRC) programme to be rolled out in the region by a consortium including RDI Hub and Republic of Work.

Through the forthcoming National Economic Plan, the Regional Enterprise Plans will have a critical role in supporting the continued creation of the conditions for enterprise to emerge, grow and thrive in every region.

To that end, as envisaged in the Programme for Government, the process has now commenced to update and refresh of the Regional Enterprise Plans so that each region has a prioritised enterprise agenda for action over the period to the end of 2024.

The new Plans to 2024 will be framed against a very different economic context than two years ago, and one of the key objectives will be to recover jobs lost due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Other key considerations include the impact of Brexit; the green transition in enterprise and delivering Climate Action commitments; digital transformation and productivity; opportunities from remote working; and, building on sectoral strengths and specialisations.

Finance



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cork County Council

Finance

The Finance Department is responsible for the overall financial management of 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 the recoupment of government grants and subsidies. Its duties include the levying and collection of commercial rates, insurance, housing loans, debt management and procurement oversight.

The Department is also responsible:

- Work on the preparation and presentation of the Annual Budget (€338.4m, 2020)
- Three Year Capital Programme (€723m, 2018–2020)
- Annual Financial Statement

In the course of its work, the Finance Department interacts with Elected Members of Council 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 and Collection
- Treasury Management

Commercial Rates

A total of €113m was collected in Commercial Rates in 2020 in respect of the circa 12,000 hereditaments in 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 severe impact COVID 19 and associated restrictions had on the commercial sector, Government introduced a Rates waiver scheme in May 2020 for the 2nd and 3rd quarters. The scheme was subsequently extended to cover the final quarter of 2020. Qualifying businesses benefitted from a credit being applied to their rate account equivalent to 75% of their overall 2020 rate liability. Approx. 9,000 premises benefitted from the scheme with total waiver funding of €34.7m being received.

The Rate Collection Office engaged with business owners during the year to discuss flexible payment options and arrangements and also to advise of the various COVID 19 supports available to businesses, including the waiver scheme and the Restart Grant initiative.

Motor Tax

The Council's Motor Tax section continued to provide both counter and postal services for Cork County and City during 2020. However, counter services were impacted significantly by COVID 19 lockdowns. The counter service closed to the public during the first lockdown and re-opened between the first and second lockdowns (Summer 2020) and between the second and third lockdowns (Winter 2020). The second lockdown in the Autumn saw emergency appointments being added to the list of COVID 19 Level 5 services provided by the Motor Tax Office. Postal applications continued as normal throughout, representing a higher than usual proportion of overall transactions.

In 2020, €15.5m was collected in Motor Tax fees and this income was transferred to central government.

There were 111,500 transactions completed during 2020 by the Motor Tax Office and a total of 96,573 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 announcement in April of a mortgage break for Local Authority borrowers, followed by two extensions of the scheme as the year wore on, brought some respite. The announcement of a further extension to the scheme in January 2021 means that borrowers can suspend their mortgage payments up to a maximum of 12 months (1 initial break with up to 3 optional extensions), without accruing interest on the missed payments. By the end of the year, over 111 applications had been processed for an initial break, with 108 proceeding, and 56 of these went on to extend their break.

Despite the impact of the COVID 19 crisis, a number of long-term resolutions to unsustainable mortgages were delivered during 2020. 12 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. 2020 also saw the completion of 4 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 8, down from 15 at the end of 2019.

A new Housing Loans System was implemented in November 2020. The new system is more user friendly and intuitive and allows greater integration with the main Financial Management System, speeding up reconciliation of month end processes and offering greater flexibility in the management of housing loan applications and arrears collection.

Requests for information under Irish and European legislation

During 2020, the Finance Directorate received and responded to sixteen Freedom of Information requests, one request under Re-use of Public Service Information (RPSI) regulations and three requests under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Procurement

A dedicated Procurement Section is well advanced in assisting all buyers to develop their procurement skills and provide tools to deliver best value in an increasingly complex and challenging area. Since the re-establishment in 2017 the team has delivered a comprehensive repository of standard template and guidance documents that meets compliance needs and assists buyers in delivering optimal value through best practice procurement. The procurement governance structure was further developed in 2019 with the establishment of the Procurement Working Group, which includes staff knowledgeable in service delivery and procurement practices, and which will focus on developing strategic initiatives within the procurement strategy.

In early 2020, the Procurement Section, in conjunction with the Council's Training Section and Bid Services, successfully delivered Procurement Awareness Training Seminars across the organisation. The Procurement Section also provided information and assistance to Cork County Council buyers to cope with the challenges associated with both Brexit and COVID 19.

The Procurement Policy together with the Corporate Procurement (Draft) Plan 2021-2024 reflect the growing needs of procurement within the organisation. The Procurement Section will continue to develop corporate procurement governance and carry-on delivering training programmes in 2021 that will reinforce and further develop best practice procurement at all levels of the Council.

Extract From the Draft Annual Financial Statement

Revenue Account	2020	2019
Total Expenditure	386,081,711	318,759,099
Total Income	410,177,623	340,395,803
Surplus of year before Transfers	24,095,912	21,636,704
Transfer to Reserves	24,017,971	-21,573,162
Overall surplus/(deficit) for the YEAR	77,941	63,542
Opening Reserve @ 1 January 2020	7,452,166	7,388,625
Closing Reserve @ 31 December 2020	7,530,107	7,452,166
Statement of Financial Position	2020	2019
Fixed Assets	7,326,395,437	7,290,573,420
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	233,009,062	154,559,556
Long-term Debtors	154,911,445	153,552,999
Current Assets	2020	2019
Stock	626,649	558,825
Trade Debtors and Prepayments	110,794,081	90,705,097
Bank Investments	194,644,030	185,876,481
Cash at Bank	5,061,565	7,756,846
Cash in transit	35,930	38,660
Total Current Assets	311,162,255	284,935,909
Current Liabilities	2020	2019
Bank Overdraft	0	0
Creditors and Accruals	138,949,891	131,806,004
Net Current Assets	172,212,364	153,129,905
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)		
Loans Payable	290,935,587	301,747,226
Refundable Deposits	19,510,685	17,444,892
Other	29,860,090	22,453,987
	340,306,362	341,646,105
Net Assets	7,546,221,946	7,410,169,774



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cork County Council

A photograph of a rural landscape with green hills and several houses, partially obscured by a large yellow graphic overlay. The houses have various roof colors, including blue and brown. The hills are covered in green grass and some trees.

Municipal District Operations & 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 2020, the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) fund allowed the continued support of over 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, 2020 - €1,634,647

Bandon Kinsale	€153,249	Fermoy	€195,500
Carrigaline	€184,998	Kanturk/Mallow	€285,213
Cobh	€183,394	Macroom	€194,053
East Cork	€241,300	West Cork	€200,100

Capital Fund Scheme

44 Organisations involved.
€466,850 spent.

Amenity Fund Scheme

458 Groups across all 8 Municipal Districts
€796,836 spent.

Community Contracts

The Council entered into Community Contract with 114 groups - mainly Tidy Towns.
€370,961 spent.

COVID 19

Community Support Hubs

Cork County Council presented a strong response to the impacts of the pandemic and continues to deliver on key improvements to support social and economic recovery as we look forward to 2021.

19 Town & Rural Environs Teams provide the local response

Community Support Hubs

- Mallow
- Charleville
- Newmarket
- Fermoy
- Mitchelstown
- Midleton
- Youghal
- Cobh
- Carrigaline
- Bandon
- Kinsale
- Castletownbere
- Skibbereen
- Bantry
- Schull
- Dunmanway
- Clonakilty
- Millstreet
- Macroom

The above map illustrates the Municipal Districts (MDs)

FREE contact number 1800 805 819 with lines open from 8.00am to 5.00pm (effective immediately), seven days a week, those calling from outside of Ireland seeking assistance for a relative or friend, should call +353 21 4285517. You can also email us at covidsupport@corkeco.ie or text us at (085) 8709010.

Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

At operational level, 19 Community Support Hubs were established throughout the county. The Community Support Hubs cover the entirety of the county; membership of the hubs consists of the Municipal District Officers the District Supervisors, library staff and representatives of key stakeholder agencies including An Garda Síochána, the HSE, Local Development Companies, An Post, Local Link, and the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. The Community and Voluntary Sector across the entire county also played a huge role in supporting communities and individuals throughout this crisis. Calls received via the Council’s Community Support Programme Helpline are actioned by the Community Support Hub team in conjunction with other stakeholders where necessary.



COVID-19 Community Response, Mallow

COVID 19 Community Emergency Fund

On April 9th, 2020, Minister of State for Rural and Community Development Michael Ring announced a €2.5 million fund to support community and voluntary groups involved in the delivery of COVID 19 community response efforts. The fund was intended to support exceptional one-off costs incurred by groups locally, as a result of their response to the COVID 19 crisis, with priority assigned to applications from organisations involved in the front-line delivery of community response work.

Town Ambassadors

With schools across the county closed, Cork County Councils school wardens were tasked with adapting their normal duties to become 'Town Ambassadors'. The Town Ambassadors acted as the friendly face of Cork County Council in county towns, present to provide assistance, give direction and guidance where needed, and have a presence in the towns.



Carrigaline Community Call. Photo by Brian Lougheed

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.

Operation ARCC - A Real Cork Christmas

Operation ARCC was set up in the 23 towns covered under Project ACT to fund initiatives to brighten up those towns for Christmas.



Mayor of the County of Cork Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley at the ARCC Light-up in Youghal. Photo by Brian Lougheed

Cork Age Friendly County Programme

The Cork Age Friendly County Programme is led and managed by Cork County Council. Under their guidance, the Cork County Age Friendly Alliance brings together senior leaders from the Gardai, HSE, transport providers, voluntary organisations, third level institutions, individual leaders, and members of Cork County Older People's Council. All of these stakeholders share the vision of improving the quality of life for older people in County Cork.

In partnership with the Age Friendly Alliance, Cork County Older People's Council, chaired by Liz Maddox along with Vice-Chair Liz Downes and PRO Christy Roche, oversee the implementation of the Cork Age Friendly County Strategy and determine the annual programme of age friendly initiatives in the County.

In 2020, a number of Age-Friendly initiatives were successfully progressed, and key age-friendly advocacy supports arranged. Against the backdrop of the COVID 19 pandemic, the voice of the older person became more important than ever and the input of older people was central to the decision-making process around a whole range of Council services. Below is a summary of some of these initiatives and supports:

- Pop up Parklets in Carrigaline, Millstreet, Macroom and Bandon in collaboration with Project ACT and Town Teams.
- Age Friendly Seating installed across 23 towns as Part of Project ACT (Activating County Towns) .
- OPC representatives actively participated in each of the 23 Project ACT Town Teams to ensure that COVID 19 related public realm improvements were accessible to older people.
- Wheelchair Friendly Bench Project in Midleton completed in association with Project ACT
- Support to Cork County Council's COVID 19 Community Support Programme from the Older People's Council Chair. Direct link between OPC and COVID 19 Community Support Programme Response Forum and Programme Delivery Group.
- Dedicated, free-phone conference call facility developed in association with ICT Department to ensure that there were no barriers to ensuring the continuation of communication with older people during the COVID 19 crisis and the challenges of cocooning and social distancing.
- From March 2020, Weekly Age Friendly Alliance and Older People's Council Meetings by teleconference to share updates of requirements re the COVID 19 Community Support Programme .
- Standard quarterly Age Friendly Alliance and Older People's Council Meetings held by teleconference during 2020. Special meetings also convened when required due to exceptional circumstances related to COVID 19.
- Launch of CARE Programme to empathise with older people entering their Communities following COVID restrictions. Consider Assist Respect Empathise
- Participation in Cork County Council Winter Ready Publicity Campaign incorporating an OPC Membership Campaign and distribution of over 600 packs which included Hi-Viz, Keyring torch, essential numbers fridge magnet and safety information booklets.
- Ongoing promotion of Age Friendly Libraries and Library Activities.
- Participation in the virtual Positive Ageing Week which included an impressive Webinar entitled "Embracing the Autumn."
- Project ARCC – A Real Cork Christmas Writing Competition in conjunction with Library Services. Older People contributed their childhood memories of Christmas. Books will be published in 2021 for lending and inclusion in the Reference section of Cork County Library. All contributors will receive a complimentary copy of the book to keep in 2021.
- Completion of Age Friendly Parking Space Policy and Design – passed at SPC Meeting in December 2020 and approved by Full Council in early 2021.
- Ongoing support to 4 established Age Friendly Towns: Kinsale, Bandon, Mitchelstown, Cobh.
- Successful Competitive Process and Advertising Campaign which resulted in 4 new towns entering the Age Friendly County Programme: Bantry, Charleville, Millstreet, Passage West/Monkstown.
- Participation in the EU Interreg Project (SilverSME) Seminar held in the Hincks Centre for Entrepreneurship Excellence at the MTU in March 2020.
- In partnership with CIT, the Age Friendly Towns model has been cited as an example of Best Practice as part of an Interreg SilverEconomy Project. A visit of the European partners took place in Bandon in February 2020 and arising from this Bandon is set to feature as an example of best practice in a European Conference in 2021.
- Setup and Continued support of Cultural Companions Programme which will launch in 2021.
- Collaboration with Cork Centre for Architectural Education (CCAIE) in progressing the annual Cork County Council Age -Friendly Housing Design Competition.
- OPC and AFA members participated in a National Transport Agency Survey on transport accessibility for older people / mobility impaired people.



Age Friendly Towns Launch in Millstreet. Photo by John Delea.



Age Friendly Seating in Cobh

Bandon/Kinsale Municipal District

2020 Community Fund

In 2020 Bandon Kinsale Municipal District supported a broad range of community groups and other local bodies in enhancing their communities under the 3 strands of the Community Grant Scheme:

- €57,460 was allocated to 32 groups through Amenity Grants.
- €60,000 was allocated to 5 groups for Capital Grants.
- €35,789 was allocated to 11 Tidy Town and Development Associations for the improvement of their towns and villages.

COVID 19 Community Emergency Fund

In Bandon Kinsale Municipal District, three deserving organisations were awarded funding through this grant scheme. These were Innishannon Parish Hall for the erecting of canopy to aid with social distancing, West Cork Blood Bikes for delivery of vital blood to hospitals and clinics during the pandemic and Riverstick Community Centre for disinfectant fogger and disinfectants.

Project ACT

Bandon

- Deep clean of town centre.
- Removal of street furniture in points that could cause congestion of people.
- Temporary suspension of Pay Parking.
- Removal of parking spaces to facilitate outdoor dining by Michelle's Café.
- Temporary closure of Bridge Lane to create safe town centre pedestrian plaza.
 - Installation of demountable bollards around plaza to stop vehicular access.
 - Application of a green thermoplastic surface to the street to delineate it from the asphalt surface.
 - Installation of age friendly seating and benches.
 - Olive trees in centre of plaza.
 - Plaza surrounded by planters.
 - Purchase of 4 heavy-duty parasols for square.
- Ongoing works with Bandon Business Association for town entry signage.
- Ongoing works with Bandon Tidy Towns for planting along St. Patrick's Quay.
- Ongoing works with Bandon Tidy Towns with Window Art.



New Pedestrian Area in Bandon developed by Project ACT. Photo by Jonathan Tyner

Kinsale

- Deep clean of town centre.
- Removal of street furniture in locations around the town to facilitate a free flow of pedestrians in a safer socially distanced manner on footpaths/public areas.
- Temporarily suspending of Pay Parking in town.
- Removal of parking spaces to facilitate outdoor dining on Pearse Street, The Glen, Main Street and Market Street.
- Temporary Pedestrianisation of Short Quay.
- Temporary Pedestrianisation of Market Street and Main Street.
- Moving of Farmers Market into Pier Road Car Park to facilitate safer social distancing.
- Erection of temporary "BEACH" signage around the town to divert passing beach traffic away from town centre.
- Provision of addition loading bays in town centre. All loading bays changed to before 10am.
- Ongoing works with town entry signage.



Project ACT in Kinsale

Operation ARCC (A Real Cork Christmas) Initiatives

Bandon

- Provision of Old TSB to Bandon Business Association for Santa's Virtual Outpost.
- Purchase of projector for Christmas Image on Methodist Church.
- Messages of Hope by Skate Park.

Kinsale

- Lighting of building and trees at Area Engineers Office.
- Lighting of Monument on Pier Road to represent Christmas Tree.
- New 6m Christmas Tree by new bus stop.
- Christmas Tree for Milk Market.
- Christmas Santa's Workshop Scene at new bus stop.

Villages

- Real Christmas trees to Belgooly, Ballinspittle, Timoleague and Innishannon Villages
- Christmas candle initiative for 100 windows in Courtmacsherry Village

Town and Village Renewal Accelerated Measures – Crossbarry

In October Bandon Kinsale Municipal District were awarded €36,000 for Creation of Crossbarry Ambush Memorial Park at existing ambush monument including new accessible walkways, seating, fencing, lighting and parking to promote safe social distancing for all.

A design has been finalised for this historic and sensitive site and works will be taking place as soon as COVID 19 lockdowns allow.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme – Harbour View Eco Trail and The Arigideen Walkway

Bandon Kinsale Municipal District was successful being grant aided through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme for walkways for Harbour View and Arigideen. Both walks were delayed due to COVID 19 lockdowns but are due to be finished as soon as the lockdowns lift.

The Harbour View Eco Trail is along an existing trail at Harbour View Beach. It encompasses highlighting the rich flora and fauna of the area of outstanding natural beauty, whilst being sensitive to its delicate ecosystem.

The Arigideen Walkway is an on-road walk from Ballinascarty Village to Timoleague along the Arigideen River Valley. The walk will bring hikers along tree lined lesser travelled roads visiting castles, Wild Atlantic Way waypoints and historic bridges along the valley, culminating at Abbeymacmahon Abbey outside the historic Timoleague Village.

Kinsale Pollinator Plan

Kinsale was chosen as one of the pilot towns in the county for the development of a pollinator plan. This plan is being developed by an ecologist working closely Cork County Council Environment, Roads and Municipal District Directorates.

The plan involves identifying suitable green spaces within Kinsale town that are suitable to develop as biodiversity areas. Kinsale Tidy Towns has, in recent years, won awards for its wildflower meadows, and is working closely with the plan.

Paint Scheme

In 2020 Bandon Kinsale Municipal District again ran the Streetscape Paint Scheme, a very successful and popular grant where the public can claim a grant to paint their property in town centre locations. The scheme has helped fight dereliction in both towns in the Municipal District. In 2020 the Municipal District Members allocated €15,000 towards the scheme. 15 buildings were successful in gaining the grant.



Bandon Kinsale Paint Scheme Launch

Village Enhancement Scheme

Bandon Kinsale Municipal District Members agreed to support Ballinadee Village for the 2020 Village Enhancement Scheme. This fund totals €68,750. The scheme was delayed because of COVID 19 but will take place in early 2021.

Kinsale Harbour

2020 for Kinsale Harbour was marked of course by COVID 19, it was a rapidly changeable year, with Cork County Council Port Staff responding and working in collaboration with other agencies in controlling the movement of international vessels into Ireland. The routine work of the harbour went as normal, all Ports were designated as essential infrastructure during the Pandemic, Fishing vessels kept fishing and landing their catch, ships arrivals and departure came and went keeping up the vital supply of food into the country. Leisure activities were most affected due to restrictions, however there were periods of intense activity while restrictions were lifted. Throughout which Cork County Council port staff continued with the upkeep and management of all services and facilities within the port, including some smaller capital/improvement works.



Kinsale Harbour



Kinsale Museum

Ferry Slip Marina – DAFM Improvement Project Completed Nov 2020

The Kinsale Fisherman's Pontoon is a busy pontoon and is host to large and small fishing boat and commercial boats. The pontoon is used by local fishermen and for marine leisure, sea angling and sea tourism. Cork County Council completed improvement works to the access which included:

- Removal and relocation of existing access gangway.
- Construction of a new working platform constructed on the existing slipway (Approx. 15m x 15m).
- Raising existing access by approximately 200mm.
- Installation of 1 Public Lighting columns, 6m in height.
- Installation of new 21m access gangway and associated works including refurbishment of existing pontoon.
- Provision of ladder, toerails and mooring bollards.
- Provision of new security fencing and access gate.
- Provision of hand-railing.

Blue Flag Beaches

Bandon Kinsale Municipal District was awarded 2 Blue Flags for its impressive beaches of Garrylucas and Garrettstown. In spite of COVID 19 the beaches were very busy, and it is a credit to Cork County Council to be able to deliver a very effective lifeguard service at both beaches for the summer months.

Kinsale Museum

Kinsale Museum is a seasonal volunteer run museum owned by Cork County Council. Last year because of COVID the decision was taken not to open the museum from a safety point of view for both volunteer and visitor point of view.

In recent years Cork County Council has repaired windows, installed a new audio-visual Battle of Kinsale Display and updated and rearranged the ground floor exhibit of the Museum as part of a Town and Village Renewal grant. Since then, the office and welfare facilities have been updated.

Carrigaline Municipal District

Community Fund Scheme, 2020

Community Groups across Carrigaline Municipal District continued to be supported in 2020 by the Community Fund, consisting of the Amenity Fund, Community Contract, and Capital Fund. In 2020:

- 24 Projects were supported under the Amenity Fund, totalling €62,326.
- 9 Tidy Towns Groups and Community Associations received funding under the Community Contracts, totalling €56,500.
- 6 groups received funding under the Capital Fund, totalling €66,000.

Members Discretionary Fund

At the February 2020 meeting, Carrigaline Municipal District Members agreed to commit €3,600 towards establishing a Member's Discretionary Fund to support community groups, individuals and local organisations in the Carrigaline Municipal District who wish to undertake a specific project, endeavour or initiative which does not fall within the scope of the Community Fund. The following groups were each awarded €300 under the fund in 2020.

- Ballinora and District Community Association.
- Ballinhassig Community Alert.
- Carrigaline Lions Club.
- Carrigaline Gospel Choir.
- Carrigaline Community First Responders.
- Star of the Sea Parents Association.
- Ballygarvan Community Association.
- Passage West Maritime Museum.
- Crosshaven Youth Club.
- Crosshaven Pitch and Putt Club.
- Tracton Camogie Club.
- Tracton Community Preschool.

Village Enhancement Scheme

Members agreed early in the year that the Village Enhancement Scheme (VES) for 2020 would be focused on Crosshaven. Works continued in Halfway on the basis of the decision the previous year of members to allocate resources to Halfway village. 2021's fund will be spent in Ballinhassig, and a meeting with community representatives and elected members will be arranged for early 2021.

Halfway

Halfway benefitted under the 2019 VES, with works completed in 2020. Works included improved pedestrian connectivity through the village, improved drainage, and village presentation. These included drainage works and the provision of a linear walkway linking key village amenities.

Crosshaven

The value of the VES for Crosshaven in 2020 is €68,750. Details of the projects within Crosshaven to benefit from this funding were agreed through a process of consultation between Cork County Council, local community stakeholders and elected members.

Specifically, the funding will be used to support the provision of a new Tourist Information kiosk for Crosshaven, the installation of a sculpture that has been commissioned for the village approach and significant improvement works to existing amenity space at "The Point". The improvement works will provide for improved accessibility as well as new seating and picnic benches with improved landscaping. These works will continue into 2021, as COVID 19 construction restrictions hindered progress.

Town and Village Renewal

Two projects in the Municipal District were approved for funding under the 2019 Town and Village Renewal Scheme (coordinated by the Department of Rural and Community Development). These were for the Ringaskiddy Community Centre and Crosshaven Village Assessment Report. Both were commenced in 2020.

Ringaskiddy Community Centre

Ringaskiddy Community Centre received €100,000 under Town and Village 2019 for its redevelopment. Consultants have been appointed, preliminary design is complete, and planning permission has been granted for significant upgrade and refurbishment works to the Community Hall. The Carrigaline Municipal District will continue to work with the community to progress to detailed design and construction. Commencement of works is dependent on the lifting of current COVID 19 construction restrictions.

Crosshaven Village Assessment

€40,000 was awarded under the 2019 Town and Village Scheme for a deeper assessment of the feasibility of the project proposals put forward in a previous Town and Village renewal application. This study included examining the feasibility from an environmental perspective. Cunnane Stratton Reynolds were appointed to oversee this assessment and have now presented their report to the community representatives and elected members.

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

This year 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 and dependent on COVID 19 restrictions on construction are intended to be complete by August 2021.

Crosshaven

The proposal involves targeted measures to improve connectivity and accessibility in the village, to increase footfall and facilitate greater economic activity. These measures include:

- Improving the main pedestrian and cyclist approach to the village along the former railway line and waterfront.
- Improve pedestrian connectivity enhancing accessibility and mobility impaired access.
- Supporting the local community in holding a small-scale festival aimed at promoting local business offerings and stimulate local spend, subject to public health guidelines.

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.

Carrigaline Community Park

This project focuses on the installation of a weatherproof covering for the 'Bandstand' area of the park, as suggested at meetings of the Carrigaline Project ACT Committee, to provide scope for outdoor events, community meetings, small scale concerts and more into the future.

Carrigaline Pollinator Plan

The Cork County Council Ecology Office have been successful in obtaining €16,000 through the National Biodiversity Action Plan to develop a Pollinator Plan for the Municipal District.

This involves identifying areas within the relevant towns to develop pollinator/biodiversity friendly management of areas under County Council and community management. An ecologist has been appointed to develop the plan for Carrigaline.

Pilot Bike Repair Stations

A trial installation of Bike Repair Stations has been installed on the Cork Harbour Greenway at Passage West and on the Carrigaline to Crosshaven section. The public cycle repair and pump station allows Greenway users to repair bikes and pump tires on the go. Additional bicycle parking has also been provided in a number of areas around the Municipal District.

Each bike repair station is equipped with 10 tools to help repair bikes on the go. The tools included are:

- Phillips screwdriver.
- Flat screwdriver.
- T25 Torx screwdriver.
- Adjustable spanner.
- Skateboard tools.
- Flat wrench 8x10mm.
- Flat wrench 13x15mm.
- Hex key set.
- Tyre levers (plastic with steel core).

COVID 19 Community Emergency Fund

In Carrigaline Municipal District, two deserving organisations were awarded funding in the first round of grants. These were the Carrigaline Family Resource Centre, providing resources to socially isolated families and the Carrigaline COVID 19 Response Group, consisting of volunteers from the Carrigaline Community First Responders, the Carrigaline Lions Club, GAA Club and Local Scouts group.

Under the second round of funding, four further groups in the Municipal District were awarded funding to support their reopening and changes to their working practices to allow them to resume activities safely. These included the Carrigaline Community Association, Carrigaline Musical Society, Crosshaven Tennis Club and the 55th Carrigaline Scout Group.

Project ACT – Carrigaline Parking Plan

Throughout Cork County Council's Project ACT meetings with local community and business stakeholders and elected representatives, the need for higher turnover of parking spaces in Carrigaline to aid local businesses was identified. In response to this, Cork County Council in partnership with the Carrigaline Business Association implemented a new parking plan in Carrigaline. A Cork County Council traffic warden is now on duty in the town to help advise people of the new system and to tackle illegal parking and obstructions.

PARKING IN CARRIGALINE IS CHANGING...

- Facilitating greater space turnover
- Facilitating and monitoring accessible and age friendly spaces
- Tackling illegal parking and obstructions
- Parking remains FREE OF CHARGE



Green Zones - 1 HOUR MAX

Main Street and Lower Kilmoney Road

Green spaces are intended as **high turnover** spaces for visits to local businesses. By parking here, and observing the 1 hour time limit, you are helping local businesses to attract passing trade, and ensuring that spaces are not occupied unnecessarily for long periods.



Blue Zones - 2 HOURS MAX

Front of Owenabue Car Park (as far as pedestrian crossing)

These spaces are intended as **medium turnover** spaces for visits to businesses in the vicinity – hair appointments, leisurely lunches with friends, or a browse around the shops! From any of the spaces in this section it is no more than a 2-3 minute walk to any business on Main Street. Park here to stretch your legs, catch up with friends, and see what local businesses have to offer.



Red Zones - 2-3 HOURS PLUS

Newly extended section of the Owenabue Car Park

These spaces are intended for long stay parking in Carrigaline. If you know your car will be taking up a space for more than 2-3 hours, you should park in the Red Zone.

Parking in Carrigaline

The new parking plan is being trialled on Carrigaline Main Street, Lower Kilmoney Road and the Owenabue Car Park to promote greater space turnover, better access for customers and improved footfall for businesses. Parking remains free of charge but with a simple parking guidance system in place. This means that a maximum stay of 1 hour applies on Main Street and the Lower Kilmoney Road in the Green Zone areas, while those intending on staying longer than 1 hour should park in either the Blue Zone (max 2 hours) or the Red Zone (2-3 hours plus).

To support this initiative Cork County Council has invested in the provision of additional 'overflow' parking provision at the rear of the Owenabue Car Park. Signage is also in place around the town and local businesses have been provided with posters and leaflets to raise awareness of the initiative amongst their staff and customers. Age Friendly Spaces have also been designated, and at the launch of the parking plan, the CARE programme (Consider, Assist, Respect, and Empathise) was also promoted.

Project ACT – Carrigaline Parklet

The demand for quality recreation and amenity space across the county is increasing. Through Cork County Council's Project ACT, the community in Carrigaline identified a number of key areas within the town where additional outdoor seating and amenity space could be provided to meet this demand.

The Carrigaline Community 'Parklet' is one such example of where this approach has been particularly successful in providing amenity space amidst a bustling town centre setting.

The parklet has since become a well-used and valued amenity in the town, and has provided an opportunity for safe socialisation outdoors, as many use the parklet to meet with friends and family outdoors when restrictions allow. It is hoped that the continued development of these initiatives will further encourage people to spend longer in Carrigaline when they visit to work or shop.



Carrigaline Parklet. Photo by Brian Loughheed

Project ACT – Outdoor Street Furniture

Cork County Council facilitated a number of businesses availing of outdoor seating licenses to allow them to trade in a safe, COVID compliant manner, as businesses were encouraged to consider takeaway and outdoor dining options.

Project ACT – Carrigaline Main Street Pedestrian Crossing

As part of Project ACT, options to improve movability and accessibility around Carrigaline were explored by stakeholders. The decision was made to install a new pedestrian crossing on main street, to improve permeability and facilitate easier pedestrian access to businesses in the town centre.

Project ACT – “The Gallery”

In collaboration with a proactive group of local artists, a local property owner, Creative Ireland, and the Cork County Council Arts Office, Carrigaline Municipal District worked to develop a temporary ‘pop-up’ exhibition space in Carrigaline town centre, which proposed to temporarily take over a vacant unit. Carrigaline Municipal District were successful in securing Creative Ireland funding to support the initiative. The building was transformed by the newly formed Owenabue Arts Collective, who have since gone on to further expand and have acquired a new premise at Bridge House in the town centre. Through the Arts Office, a number of additional artists took part in an open call and exhibited in the space and continue to be involved in the burgeoning collective. The exhibition space launched to great success on Culture Night 2020 and was well received by all. The space has since been let, reducing the number of vacant properties on the main street.



The Gallery in Carrigaline Opening

Other Project ACT activities in Carrigaline include:

- Works to car park at rear of Stables Bar.
- Outdoor street furniture licenses approved and works undertaken to accommodate same (widening of footpaths etc.).
- Additional outdoor seating installed and bicycle stands installed at community centre and youth club.
- Local promotional video produced and promoted on social media.
- CARE initiative promoted by Mayor and elected members.



CARE in Carrigaline. Photo by Brian Loughheed

Project ACT – Passage West Vacant Window Project

In Passage West, the vacant windows of the Convent Building were filled with colourful and positive messaging to brighten up the outward appearance of the building and to promote the core principles of Project ACT. A Cork based graphic designer was engaged to complete the works.

Other Project ACT activities in Passage West include:

- Installation of additional outdoor seating.
- Signage installed in pontoon area.
- Signage installed at rear of Father O'Flynn Park and on PW Maritime Museum.
- Cut back of vegetation complete at Cut and Cover, progress made on appointment of artist pending approval from arts officer.
- Cork County Council taking on Public Liability insurance of public seating area outside Credit Union.

- Stencilling complete on footpath at Glenbrook – Monkstown.
- Bollards installed outside The Shamrock.
- Sign for post-office queuing funded.
- New section of footpath at Glenbrook Wharf apartments installed.
- Additional cycle stands for Greenway and Fr. O'Flynn Park.

2020 Residential Painting Scheme and Shop Front Improvement Scheme

2020 saw the largest ever take up of the residential and shopfront paint schemes, thanks in no small part to on the ground promotional work by Municipal District staff and Members. A total of 14 businesses and 10 residences were approved for this year's scheme.

Age Friendly Initiatives

Passage West has been successful in securing funding of €10,000 over two years to develop an age-friendly network within the town and implement mutually agreed age-friendly interventions. Likely interventions include for example, age friendly seating, age friendly parking, improved accessibility measures and collaboration with local business to implement age-friendly initiatives.

Passage West is one of four towns being funded in the 2020-2022 cycle as part of Cork County Council's Age Friendly Towns Programme. The initial meeting between the Passage West Age Friendly Town Committee and the Council's Municipal District and Roads staff has taken place and further meetings including walkability studies/surveys will take place once public health guidelines allow.

Council staff and Municipal District members have also been active throughout 2020 in promoting Cork County Council's CARE messaging, asking the public to Consider, Assist, Respect, and Empathise with older people and those with different abilities. Messaging targeted all aspects of the community, including asking people to respect accessible and age-friendly parking spaces, to give adequate space to an older person to pass on the street, and not to park on footpaths, thereby blocking access routes for pedestrians.

Operation ARCC – A Real Cork Christmas

In Carrigaline Municipal District, Christmas came early, with the turning on of the lights on November 12th in Carrigaline and Passage West. Several additions were made to Christmas lighting in the Municipal District. 6 metre Christmas trees were erected in Carrigaline, Monkstown, and Passage West, additional trees were installed at Carrigaline Main Street and at Passage West Centre Block and tree decorations were added to Tom Fahy Park and in the Carrigaline Parklet. Cork County Council also provided lights to Ballinhassig Community Association to supplement their Community Park lighting. Cork County Council also contributed financial support to Carrigaline Tidy Towns and Passage West Business Association for Christmas lighting.

A Shop Local campaign was also coordinated and a Christmas Market Initiative in Passage West the weekend of December 18th to 20th was facilitated by Cork County Council. 'Shop Local' signage was erected on town approaches in Carrigaline and Passage West, and additional graphics were installed at Cogan's corner in Carrigaline to make use of a vacant building.

ARCC Works: Carrigaline

- Lighting on main street installed.
- Lit Christmas Tree installed at Owenabue Car Park.
- Lit Christmas Tree opposite Hassetts Bakery.
- Lighting in Parklet on 3 trees adjacent to Parklet.
- Financial support to Tidy Towns to decorate and light the Tidy Towns hut.

Passage West / Glenbrook / Monkstown

- Lit Christmas Tree installed at Fr O'Flynn Park.
- Lit Christmas Tree installed at Green area opposite Sand Quay, Monkstown.
- Lit Christmas Tree installed at Centre Block.
- Festive Lighting Motif fitted at Centre Block.
- Tree at Tom Fahy park lit.
- Light projector onto convent building.
- Lighting of library building and Maritime Museum.
- Lighting of Pembroke Roundabout.



[ARCC Decorations in Passage West. Photo by Adrian O'Herlihy]

Operation ARCC – Shop Local

Throughout the County, Town Approach signage was put up in prominent locations on approaches to Carrigaline and to Passage West, Glenbrook and Monkstown. The messaging has been reinforced on Social Media by the Council's Communications office. An online portal/listing of local businesses was made available for the Council website.

In the Carrigaline Municipal District, these efforts were supplemented by additional shop local signage on a vacant unit at Cogan's Corner in Carrigaline and by a concerted PR campaign focusing on local arts and crafts in the Municipal District. As well as promoting the new premises for the Owenabue Arts Collective, promotion of another Council supported arts venture, Passage West Creates, was rolled out in the run up to Christmas.

As part of this, Mayor of Cork County Cllr Mary Linehan Foley, along with members of Carrigaline Municipal District, visited both locations in the week prior to Christmas to view the range of local art, craft and design on offer.

Operation ARCC – Festive Supports to Villages

Annual financial supports such as the Community Fund and Community Contracts provide many villages in the Municipal District with supports towards festive preparations. On top of these supports, for Christmas 2020, lit Christmas trees have been provided to the villages of Ballygarvan, Five Mile and Shanbally in the Carrigaline Municipal District.



A Real Cork Christmas at Five Mile. Photo by Adrian O'Herlihy

Operation ARCC – Christmas Markets and Events

- Christmas in Carrigaline – Cork County Council providing financial and promotional support for the weekend event of December 11th/12th.
- Passage West Winter Wonderland – support for a 'Shop Local' Christmas Market initiative the weekend of December 18th to 20th.

Cobh Municipal District

Village Enhancement Fund

Early in 2020, Elected Members of Council representing Cobh Municipal District agreed to allocate the Village Enhancement Scheme funding of €68,750 for 2020 to Watergrasshill. Due to the restrictions as a result of COVID 19, work on the project identified by Watergrasshill Community Council has yet to commence but the community are hopeful that all necessary works will be completed in 2021. It is intended to upgrade lands on the southern entrance to the village from the M8 by the installation of a plaza to serve as a focal point for the community in future years.

Works on the outstanding projects from the 2019 Scheme, which was allocated to Glounthaune, were completed in early 2020. Works approved under this scheme included the installation of a sculpture at Johnstown Park, the provision of a mural at Glounthaune Railway Station, the erection of sculpted Townland marker signs throughout the village, upgrading works at Craig's Field in the village and the installation of landscaping, signage, and seating throughout the village.



Sculpture at Glounthaune

2020 Community Fund and Town Development Fund

The Cobh Municipal District continued to support Community Groups across the Municipal District through the Community Fund Scheme, which consisted of the Amenity Fund, Community Contract, and Capital Fund. In 2020: 85 Organisations were supported under the Amenity Fund, receiving a total of €94,849. These included 36 Residents Associations, representing over 2,000 households across the District. 17 Sporting organisations as well as a number of cultural organisations also received funding.

5 projects were supported under the Capital Fund, receiving a total of €50,000. These included Rushbrooke Tennis and Croquet Club, Cove Sailing Club, Rockmount AFC, Cobh (Great Island) Community Centre and Whitechurch and Waterloo Community association

5 Tidy Towns Groups and Community Associations received funding totalling €38,500 under the Community Contracts,

Harper's Island Wetland

Following completion of works covered by the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme Grant in 2019, the Steering Committee, including representatives from Cork County Council, Birdwatch Ireland, Glounthaune Men's Shed and Glounthaune Community association were in a position to keep the centre open during the COVID 19 lockdowns. While access to the bird hides was closed, the 2km long circular walking trail remained open and proved to be a popular amenity for local residents.

Work also continued in 2020 in relation to the design for a proposed Third Bird Hide, to be constructed at the Southern end of Harper's Island. The Steering Committee is working with the County Architect's Office to finalise a design that would allow construction in 2022.

Town and Village Renewal – Carrigtwohill Community Council Campus

2020 saw the completion of this major project, funded through a combination of Town and Village Renewal grants from the Department of Rural and Community Development; Town Development Fund allocations from the Cobh Municipal District, Municipal District Operations and Rural Development Playground funding, Local Community Development Committee funding and substantial funding from the local community. The project consisted of removal of an old playground from the centre of the existing Community Centre Carpark, the installation of a Multi-Use Games Area, the installation of a new playground on an adjacent site and the redevelopment of the carpark, to incorporate additional parking spaces as well as the creation of a market zone to facilitate a Farmer's Market and other community events. The development was officially opened by the County Mayor, Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley in September.

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

This year 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. Funding was awarded for the upgrading of footpaths across the town centre in Cobh to facilitate universal access across the town; these works are scheduled to be completed during 2021.

COVID 19 Community Emergency Fund

Across the Cobh Municipal District, a total of 13 organisations from Cobh, Carrigtwohill, Glounthaune and Watergrasshill received funding from Cork County Council under the COVID 19 Community Emergency Fund.

Groups that received funding included:

- Cobh Neighbourhood Watch.
- Parents and Kids Together Cobh.
- Cobh Family Resource Centre.
- CDYS Youth Cafe Carrigtwohill.
- Cobh Meals on Wheels.
- Carrigtwohill Family Resource Centre.
- Glounthaune Meals on Wheels.
- Wallaroo Playschool Child and Family Project.
- BRIJ (a Bridge to Resources, Education and Justice).
- Cobh No Name Club.
- Irish Red Cross Cobh Branch.
- Carrigtwohill Community Centre and Watergrasshill Community Centre.

Cobh – Public Realm

Work continued in the preparation of a major Public Realm project for Cobh. This project, which is due to go out to public consultation in 2021, will, if approved, see a transformation of the public space in the town centre and the Top of the Hill areas of Cobh.

Clean Beach Initiative

Cobh Municipal District worked with Cobh Tidy Towns Committee to promote a Clean Beach initiative at Whitepoint Beach in Cobh. Signage was erected, and a bag dispenser installed to facilitate clean ups of the beach by locals and visitors.

Project ACT – Cobh Initiatives

Following meetings of the Cobh Town Team, a number of initiatives were agreed and recommended for funding by the County Council. These included:

- The purchase of a number of Cobh branded windbreakers which were made available, free of charge, to businesses in the town which were in a position to provide outdoor dining. Each of the windbreakers had a Cobh logo which was designed by Cobh and Harbour Chamber and Cobh Tourism.
- A marketing initiative, aimed at residents of Great Island, to bring the attractions of Cobh to the attention of every-one living on the island. This included leaflet drops to all houses on Great Island and the erection of large signs on the approach roads to Cobh.
- A targeted Painting Scheme, aimed at properties on East and West Beach, Top of the Hill and Harbour Row.
- Funding for the provision of additional pedestrian crossing points in the town centre.
- Funding for the widening of a number of footpaths in the town centre to facilitate social distancing for pedestrians. This was added to by the provision of bollards and planters on the roadside to allow for wider pedestrian access.
- Licenses issued to 14 businesses across the town centre to facilitate the provision of outdoor tables and chairs for customers.



Cobh Paint Scheme Launch



New Windbreakers in Cobh

Project ACT – Carrigtwohill Initiatives

Following meetings of the Carrigtwohill Town Team, a number of initiatives were agreed and recommended for funding by the County Council. These included:

- The installation of picnic benches and planters in an area of the carpark at the Community Centre. This was provided to facilitate outdoor seating and dining in the town centre as many of the footpaths were too narrow to facilitate outdoor seating adjacent to cafes etc.
- Funding to provide for an online marketing plan for Carrigtwohill targeted at employees of the many businesses in the Industrial Estates adjacent to Carrigtwohill.
- The provision of canopies to facilitate the setting up of a new Farmer's Market in the Community Centre Carpark.
- The erection of banners and signage at the entrances to the town.

Operation ARCC – A Real Cork Christmas

In Cobh, the theme of Operation ARCC was "Togetherness". Cobh Municipal District, together with Cobh and Harbour Chamber, Cobh Tourism and the Port of Cork came together to improve the look of the town for Christmas. Funding was provided by the Council for the upgrading of the Christmas lights in the town. An additional Christmas tree, which was mirrored by the provision of a similar tree on Kennedy Pier by the Port of Cork, was erected in Kennedy Park. The existing Christmas Tree in Casement Square was provided with additional decoration – members of the public were invited to write their own messages of togetherness and hope on heart shaped decorations which were then placed on the tree.

In previous years, the cost of providing and installing the Christmas lights in Cobh was borne by the Cobh Municipal District, the Cobh and Harbour Chamber, and the local business community. In view of the severe impact that the COVID 19 restrictions have had on the business sector in 2020, a decision was taken by the Municipal District to cover the entire cost of the Christmas decorations in the town under Operation ARCC.

In Carrigtwohill Operation ARCC was utilised to provide an additional lighting installation at the western end of the town, to mirror an existing installation adjacent to the Community Centre.

To support local businesses, Shop Local signs were also installed at the main entrances to both Cobh and Carrigtwohill.

Outside of the two towns, Christmas trees were provided for Whitechurch, Glounthaune and Little Island.

East Cork Municipal District

Midleton to Youghal Greenway

Work is ongoing by the Landscape Architect-led team on the Landscape Masterplan and Interpretive Plan to guide the implementation of the project and develop proposals to enhance the unique character and heritage of the line. The line has been cleared of all vegetation and the old tracks lifted and ready to be removed.

Cork County Council is currently progressing the design and procurement for the early construction stages of the project which will be dependent on COVID 19 Level 5 restrictions being lifted or altered.

Midleton Town Centre Improved Access and Enhancement Project Phase 2

Members have been previously briefed on the work being undertaken to finalise the design and tender documentation for this complex project. The final review of the documentation is underway, and the intention is to advertise the construction contract in Q2 2021. Subject to the completion of a successful tender process, construction should commence in Q3 2021 with completion in Q1 2023.

Pontoon walkway, Midleton

Work commenced in 2020 to enhance the existing Pontoon Walkway. The project was funded by the NTA. The widening of the existing narrow pontoon bridge and alterations to the pathway surface approaching it is now complete and the path re-opened. The public lighting along the Pontoon walk was switched on Thursday 18th February 2021 and is now operational.

The project has created a fantastic Town Centre walkway way which is easily accessible by all and has proved hugely popular with the residents of Midleton and the wider community.

Youghal RRDF Application – Regeneration of Youghal Town Centre

Cork County Council made an application to the Department Of Rural and Community Affairs for funding under the RRDF scheme for the Regeneration of the Town Centre through public realm renewal and the development of a future vision for the disused former Courthouse. Funding of €281,250 was received from the Department and with match funding of €93,750 from Cork County Council the overall value of the project is €385,000. This funding also provided for the acquisition of the former soup kitchen property which has now been completed.

The Stage 1 Report on the redevelopment of the former Courthouse building incorporating the adjoining disused shed has been finalised and will now move on to detailed design and planning. The redevelopment will provide a new lease of life for two unused buildings.

The main concept for the refurbished building is a permanent exhibition of a unique collection of household items of historical and social importance spanning the century 1850 to 1950. This collection has been acquired by the Council. Work has commenced on the design and planning of the public realm element of the project.

St. Marys Collegiate Church, Youghal – ‘The Voices of St. Marys’

Cork County Council made an application for funding to Fáilte Ireland under Ireland’s Ancient East Capital Grants Scheme for Storytelling Interpretation 2017.

The application was successful with Fáilte Ireland allocating €186,000 to the project in addition to Cork County Council’s match funding of €86,000 brings the overall project budget to €254,000.

The ‘Voices of St Marys’ project was created to deliver a new, high quality, bespoke interpretative experience for the medieval town of Youghal. This has been achieved by presenting the visitor with access to, and interpretation of St Mary’s Collegiate Church with a character driven storyline. It is based on the people of the place and how its origin, development, history, and relevance as a major community focal point from medieval times to today, can be viewed through their eyes, their stories and their experiences.

The aim of the project is to improve the visitor experience of St Mary’s through a successfully conceived and executed interpretation strategy that will enhance the visitor experience, generate increased visitor numbers, and aid the overall economic vitality of the town. The project was completed in September 2020.

St. Mary’s will become the focus of a wider strategy, using a uniquely hidden historical oasis of peace, tranquillity, and contemplation as an immersive visitor experience, ultimately strengthening the visitor offering of the significant story of the medieval walled port town of Youghal.

North Abbey Cemetery, Youghal – The Garden of Remembrance

Between 1896 and 1970, 367 men, women and children were buried in a section of North Abbey Cemetery known as The Garden of Remembrance. The graves remained unmarked and without gravestone. However, in 2020 the East Cork Municipal District carried out extensive research, determined the names of those who were laid to rest and arranged the erection of a suitable monument.



Mayor Linehan Foley at the Garden of Remembrance in Youghal Photo by John Hennessy

The Midleton Pollinator Plan, Wildflower Meadow and Biodiversity

The Midleton Pollinator plan was adopted by members of Cork County Council's East Cork Municipal District on Monday 3rd of February 2020. The plan builds on the work already carried out in Midleton and on the recommendations of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan to support biodiversity throughout East Cork. One third of Irish bee species are threatened with extinction. This is due to a drastic reduction in the amount of food (flowers) and safe nesting sites in the landscapes of Cork County. Cork County Council staff in the East Cork Municipal District actively engaged with the actions of the All Ireland pollinator plan in creating a flagship meadow at its offices at Midleton Lodge Park. A five-acre area of frequently mown grass was identified where the frequency of mowing was altered, leaving it uncut until September each year to allow the existing seed bank of wild flowers to flourish and natural regeneration to occur. Meadows managed in this way allow wildflowers to bloom throughout the pollinator season and provide undisturbed areas for nesting. The meadow was deemed a great success in its first year and native wildflowers such as Self Heal, Knapweed, Yellow Rattle and Birdsfoot Trefoil flourished, as did the very rare Bee Orchid.



Pollinators growing in Midleton. Photo by Cathal Noonan.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2019

Youghal to 2020 – A Heritage Led Vision for the next Decade identifies the area of the proposed development as the proposed Maritime Quarter and the plans for its future development are very clear.

Youghal's maritime offerings start at The Mall and extend north along The Market Dock to Buttimer's Dock and Greens Quay. Youghal has a significant maritime heritage which dates back to the 1400's when it was one of the most important ports in the Country and a very busy merchant town. In later years it also developed a thriving fishing community. Youghal's selection as the location for the filming of 'Moby Dick' in the 1950's well and truly put in on the map. Other key focal points include the arrival of the 'Nellie Fleming' and the 'Kathleen and May' and their many adventures as merchant ships.

Cork County Council made an application for funding in the Town and Village 2019 Scheme for the development of the quayside area in Youghal to include the following works:

- Replacement of footpaths with limestone along the Market Dock to enhance the waterfront walkway.
- Reduction in street furniture and provision of strategic story-telling boards along the 'Maritime Quarter' to tell of its extensive history.
- Maritime Sculpture: to commemorate the filming of 'Moby Dick' in 1954.
- Provision of a sea wall with stainless steel railings.



Statue of Captain Ahab in Youghal. Photo by John Hennessy

The application was successful and €95,000 was allocated by the Department with match funding of €35,000 provided by Cork County Council. The project was completed in 2020 and 'Moby Dick' sculpture has proved a huge success. In addition, the public realm works have transformed that section of the quayside walkway.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020

Glenbower Wood, Killeagh.

Glenbower Wood is one of a few remaining woodland areas in East Cork. This ancient woodland is tucked away behind the village of Killeagh, with the river Dissour running through it. Access to the wood is easy, with a car park and a trail-head for a looped walk a short distance from the road. The facility comprises 33 acres of walks and trails.

The rationale for the choice of works to footbridges in Glenbower Wood has huge merit in itself. This ancient woodland area has received many thousands of local, domestic and international visitors over the centuries and it is only timely and necessary that the footbridges are maintained to a significant standard in order to continue to facilitate this amenity.

However, the rationale for these works significantly increases when combined with the Midleton To Youghal Greenway (MY Greenway) development. MY Greenway will link two urban centres: the inland town of Midleton and the coastal town of Youghal, passing through the rural settings including that of Killeagh Village.

An application for funding to facilitate the replacement of 3 footbridges in Glenbower Wood, Killeagh, was successful and the Department allocated €36,000 to this Project. Consulting Engineers have been appointed to oversee the project and the Council is liaising with the Community and procurement of the civil works will commence as soon as construction restrictions as a result of COVID 19 are lifted.

Castlemartyr

A grant of €25,000 was approved to part fund the development of a linear walkway from Castlemartyr village along the Ladysbridge road to the entrance to Castlemartyr Resort. This project will be undertaken as part of the Village Enhancement Scheme for 2020.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 – Accelerated Measures in Response to COVID 19

Old Bridewell Gaol, Youghal

The site of the former Bridewell Gaol is located at the Northern end of Youghal Town and is owned by Tesco Ireland Ltd. The site is walled and substantial in size – it is also a protected structure.

It has become more apparent than ever before that green space and community gardens are essential for the physical and mental health of residents, as acutely revealed during the COVID 19 pandemic. Cork County Council and Youghal Tidy Towns Group approached Tesco with a view to creating a community garden within this site and Tesco are agreeable to this.

The objective of the project is to create a town centre community pollinator garden primarily for the use of older people, people with disabilities and vulnerable adults. It will provide a safe and secure environment for people to gather.

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. Detailed design complete. Tenders have been received and are currently being assessed. Work will commence as soon as restrictions on construction works are lifted.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Schemes

Phase 2 Of Youghal Boardwalk

Cork County Council were successful in its application for funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme for funding of Phase 2 of the Boardwalk. €500,000 was allocated by the Department Of Rural and Community Affairs to construct 1.2 kilometres of boardwalk from Claycastle to Redbarn, which has been the subject of very positive comments. Works are almost complete and when they are it will enable people to walk on a completely accessible route from Youghal Town Centre to Redbarn Beach – nearly 5 kms. The original boardwalk has proved one of the most popular walking routes in Youghal, attracting thousands of people to Youghal every month. It is anticipated that Phase 2 will be even more successful.



Mayor Linehan Foley at the Youghal Boardwalk. Photo by John Hennessy

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2020

This Municipal District submitted two applications for funding:

- a) Measure 1 – Pathway to Whitebay beach, Roches Point. This application was successful and €20,000 was awarded.
- b) Measure 2 – Peoples Path, Whitegate/Rostellan: An application for works costing €223,000 has been submitted. The successful projects have yet to be announced.

Community Grants

Cork County Council's East Cork Municipal District has agreed Community Fund Scheme allocations for 2021, which will see €223,500 invested into community groups and projects across the Community Contract, Capital Fund and Amenity Fund streams.

€49,400 was awarded through the Community Contract Scheme to 30 community groups such as Tidy Towns and residents associations operating in the East Cork Municipal District to fund ongoing maintenance works and minor projects. €85,000 has been allocated through the Capital Grants Scheme, to support 7 large projects in community buildings and sports facilities in East Cork. €89,100 has been allocated across 54 community groups, business and development associations through the Amenity Grant Scheme which will support enhancing local amenities and facilitating events in the townlands.

Anti-Dog Fouling Initiative

Earlier this year the East Cork Municipal District of Cork County Council invited local children to design a poster to highlight the problems of dog fouling and encourage people to clean ups after their dogs.

The winning entries were used to create new signage for around the Town of Youghal. 25 very colourful signs have been placed on all popular walking routes

Project ACT

Midleton

- The installation of two wheelchair accessible picnic benches, one in the Baby's Walk Park and one in Midleton Lodge Park. This initiative was proposed by the local Older Persons Council representative who is a key advocate for people with disabilities. The picnic benches were manufactured locally and have been installed in the parks and are proving to be very popular.
- The installation of 8 sets of seating and planters combined to be located throughout the town, 4 in Baby's Walk Park, 2 in Midleton Lodge Park and 2 in the vicinity of Midleton Courthouse. The objective is to enhance and encourage the use of public open spaces and amenities in the town centre and at the same time to extend and promote the support for pollinators and biodiversity objectives set out in the Midleton Pollinator Plan by providing appropriate attractive planting schemes at each location.

Youghal

- Introduction of one-way pedestrian system on the North Main Street and access to Dolphin Square Car Park.
- High visibility bollards at areas around the town where illegal parking created difficulties for social distancing.
- Social distancing markings on the North and South Main Street, The Promenade, AIB and both Primary Schools.
- Road lining improvements throughout the Town.
- New pedestrian crossings at The Strand Church, Youghal.
- New Social Distancing Seating area at the Strand Church, Youghal including new planters and trees.
- 2 New shared surface areas and pedestrian crossing lights at Grattan Street and The Mall, Youghal. The area at The Mall also had public realm works carried out which included the paving of 6 old stone beds and provision of 4 new brightly coloured planters.

Operation ARCC - A Real Cork Christmas

Cork County Council and East Cork Municipal District invested significant resources in both Midleton and Youghal for Christmas to improve the look of the town for Christmas, to enhance the atmosphere and encourage people to shop for Christmas in their towns. Funding was provided by the Council for the upgrading of the Christmas lights in the town. A new pre-lit artificial tree was provided for Barry's Lane, new reindeer for the entrances to the town and additional lights for the entrances to the town. Midleton also added to their Christmas lights and decorations and a beautiful light show decorated the Courthouse.



The Clockgate in Youghal lit up for A Real Cork Christmas. Photo by John Hennessy

Mayor of the County of Cork Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley held a series of Christmas Markets in Youghal which proved hugely successful and were very well attended and in keeping with social distancing guidelines. The markets had a wide range of local products and almost all sold out on the days.

Fermoy Municipal District

Fermoy Municipal District managed 44 Cemeteries, 13 playgrounds, worked on 37 Derelict sites, maintained open spaces and parks in Cork County's main towns and villages, managed Parking Regulations and bye laws and operated Fermoy Swimming Pool. The Municipal District Office worked with numerous communities to help deliver common goals in 2020 in conjunction with local Elected Members of Council and will continue to do so in 2021.

Community Fund Scheme

Applicants applied for financial assistance under three distinctive fund types; Capital Fund, Community Contract and Amenity Fund. In recent years, the fund has supported a diverse range of projects and community initiatives, including infrastructure, sports and leisure facilities and tidy towns.

In 2020:

- 34 Projects were supported under the Amenity Fund, totalling €73,450.
- 21 Community Groups (including Tidy Towns and Resident Associations) received funding under the Community Contracts, totalling €29,000.
- 8 groups received funding under the Capital Fund, totalling €80,000.
- 7 Groups including Christmas Lights Association received funding under the General Municipal Allocation totalling €12,700.

Village Enhancement Scheme

Fermoy Municipal District following was successful in securing funding for two public realm enhancement schemes for Rathcormac and Coolagown. Both these projects were progressed in 2020 with a view to undertaking works in 2021.

2020 Town and Village Scheme

Rathcormac

Funding was received in 2020 under the Town and Village Accelerate Measure Scheme in the amount of €25,000 for Rathcormac Playground Upgrade. Works included purchase of new playground equipment and installation of picnic tables and benches. These works have greatly enhanced Rathcormac village with a population of approx. 5,400 and 450 students attending the National School and is an amenity for all ages young and old.

Coolagown

Funding was received in 2020 under the Town and Village Scheme in the amount of €165,000 for public realm enhancements to approaches and village core including dual purpose pedestrian and parking areas, signage and information boards. Cork County Council is advancing this project in conjunction with the Community.

Doneraile

Funding was received in 2019 under the Town and Village Scheme in the amount of €145,000 for Public Realm activities including new planters, bespoke seating, tree refurbishment and upgrade, new street furniture, minor road improvements and painting scheme.

The project also includes enhancement of Town Centre Activities including dedicated Coach Parking Area (10k), new country market, interpretative signage, control of unauthorised signage, new pop-up craft shop/commercial hub and general marketing support.

Encouraging town centre living, including WIFI provision and tackling dereliction is also part of the project.

Cork County Council is advancing this project which is hoped will be completed in 2021.

2020 RRDF (Rural Regeneration Development Fund)

In Mitchelstown, Cork County Council will lead the delivery of a project in partnership with Saint George's Arts and Heritage Centre and other local agencies on the development of the Mitchelstown Georgian Cultural/Heritage Quarter. The project will help facilitate the ongoing development of Saint George's Arts and Heritage Centre, along with the development of interpretative signage, information points and landscaping along George Street and King Square. The development of a three-hectare woodland park at the rear of Kingston College is also proposed.

COVID 19 Community Emergency Fund

The fund forms part of a programme of measures developed by Cork County Council in collaboration with a range of statutory, voluntary and community organisations who are leading the response at a local level. Within the Fermoy Municipal District, the following groups were awarded funding:

- Castletownroche Community Alert Group.
- Doneraile Community Group.
- Cloyne Diocesan Youth Service Fermoy.
- Cloyne Diocesan Youth Service Mitchelstown.
- Conna Community Housing for the elderly.

Project ACT – Activating County Towns

Under Cork County Council's Project ACT initiative, Town Teams in Fermoy and Mitchelstown introduced a range of measures which enhanced safety, accessibility and appearance of both towns, supporting communities in the re-opening. Action undertaken included deep cleaning and decluttering of public spaces and footpaths, footpath repairs, replanting of flowerbeds, reassignment of public spaces for pedestrians and businesses, additional footpath marking and the designation of new Age Friendly car parking spaces. Town Teams also identified suitable areas for additional street furniture.



Outdoor Seating in Fermoy. Photo by Brian Loughheed.

Parking

The Mart, Library and Mill Island car parks where charges normally apply remain free.

Town Development Fund

Funding of €110,000 under the Town Development Fund was made available for the following projects:

- Enhancement and Upgrade of Fitzgerald Place / Marker Place and Waterloo Lane.
- Upgrade of the Pedestrian Crossing at Mill Island Car Park.
- Accessibility works at St. George's Arts and Heritage Centre, Mitchelstown.
- Public Lighting Upgrade at Lower Cork St, Mitchelstown.
- Footpath repairs.
- Funding of Fermoy Xplore Digital Voucher App.

The very first of its kind, Fermoy Forum launched the new Xplore Fermoy Digital Vouchers in December 2020 in conjunction with Xplore Local, enabling the public to buy and give digital vouchers to shop local.

Fermoy is officially the first town in the country to launch its own digital voucher through the Xplore app. Funded under the Cork County Council Project ACT, the project has been in the works since August.

2020 Painting Scheme

2020 saw a positive take up of the Painting Scheme for both Mitchelstown and Fermoy. A total of 11 businesses were approved for the 2020 scheme.

Age Friendly Initiatives

Mitchelstown has been successful in securing funding of €163,000 over two years to develop an age friendly network within the town. Included in this initiative is age friendly seating, age friendly parking, footpath improvements, new footpaths, new defined crossings, upgrading of traffic lights and new public lighting.

Meetings between Mitchelstown Age Friendly Committee and Fermoy Municipal District are ongoing and walkability studies have also been undertaken. Works were completed in 2020.

Municipal District Staff, Elected Members and Age Friendly Project Committee have been active promoting Cork County Council's CARE messaging, asking the public to Consider, Assist, Respect and Empathise with older people and those with different abilities.

Project ACT – Fermoy Municipal District Footpath Project

Cork County Council contracted works for the Fermoy Municipal District Footpath Project. The works, contracted to Linehan Civil Engineering Ltd, were planned between July and October at various locations in the Fermoy Municipal District and formed part of Project ACT supporting the reactivation of Cork County.

The contract, valued at almost €200,000 included the construction of new pedestrian crossings and new footpaths, as well as renovations and repairs to existing footpaths.

As part of the project, two new Age Friendly Zebra Crossings were installed on Upper and Lower Cork Street in Mitchelstown, in line with the Cork County Council's Age Friendly programme and their recently launched C.A.R.E. (Consider, Assist, Respect, Empathise) guidelines, developed to ensure that public spaces are as safe as possible for older and vulnerable people.



Pedestrian Crossing Mitchelstown

A REAL CORK CHRISTMAS

Cork County Council encouraged citizens to celebrate “A Real Cork Christmas” in towns and villages in the run up to December 25th. Conceived as a symbolic “ARCC”, the initiative was designed to bolster communities and businesses in County Cork affected by the renewed restrictions necessary to prevent the further spread of COVID 19.

ARCC works carried out by Fermoy Municipal District include:

- “Wonderwall” Ashe Quay, Fermoy.
- Lighting of Fermoy Town Park.
- Financial Support to Fermoy and Mitchelstown Christmas Light Committee.
- Donation of a Christmas Tree to Glanworth Village.



Fermoy Lights up for A Real Cork Christmas

Fermoy Weir Remediation and Fish Bypass Channel

Following the appointment of Consultants in September 2019 designs were advanced and a public consultation took place in late 2020. Over 103 submissions were received from interested parties. A report on the submissions will be issued in early 2021.

Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District

Community Fund

Community Groups across the Municipal District continued to be supported in 2020 by the Community Fund, consisting of the Amenity Fund, Community Contract, and Capital Fund with an allocated amount of €280,000 for 96 Amenity Grants and 19 Community Contract Grants.

This represented an increase of 33 grants on the 82 approved last year taking account of the increased boundary change area.

Village Enhancement Scheme

Members agreed in 2019 that the Village Enhancement Scheme for 2020 would be focused on Lisscarroll with an investment of €68,750. An ambitious village renewal plan for enhancement including landscaping, planting, installation of pedestrian access improvements, surface treatments and signage was developed and led to the award of a National Town and Village grant funding also for the village in November 2020. These combined schemes will have a transformative renewal effect in the village.

Completion of public realm projects in both Ballydesmond and Dromahane continued in 2020.

Town and Village Renewal

Two projects in the Municipal District were approved for funding under the 2019, Town and Village Renewal Scheme. These were for Ballydesmond Public Realm and Dromahane Public Realm.

Dromahane: Substantial works were completed including footpath to the school, build outs and ramps on the Newberry rd., Bweeng Rd and Pendency's Cross.

Ballydesmond: Phase 2 footpaths to community centre completed.

In 2020 Kanturk Mallow Municipal District were successful in securing funding under the National Town and Village Renewal Scheme for two further schemes in Lisscarroll and Kanturk, respectively.

Lisscarroll – Public realm works – €160,000 to include landscaping, planting, pedestrian access improvements, surface treatments and signage.

Kanturk – Castle walkway – €162,000 to provide enhanced pedestrian access and connectivity between Kanturk Town Centre, Kanturk Castle, and a local business district.

Town and Village Plans – Urban and Rural Regeneration and Development Funding and European Regional Development Fund

Consultants were engaged and carried out in-depth Town and Village analysis and develop Town and Village plans in consultation with engineering, architectural and administrative staff of Cork County Council for the following areas:

Mallow

The plan for Mallow included:

- Development of a Visitor Destination Development at Mallow Castle, an overall public realm plan for the Main Street and key laneways to create and re-enforce inter linkages between Mallow Castle Grounds, Spa House Grounds, Mallow Town Park and bus and rail transport.
- Development of a pilot retail/commercial incubator unit scheme, together with a vacant property/brownfield incentive scheme to support the financial viability and regeneration of town centre vacant property for energy efficient or zero carbon residential developments.



[PC082] Mallow Castle. Photo by Sean Jefferies

Elected Members approved Part 8 planning for Mallow Castle public realm which includes developing the walled gardens to the north of Mallow Castle House, improving public access to the Castle Grounds, providing a natural themed inclusive children's playground amenity and landscaping. An application was submitted for Urban Regeneration and Development Funding of €4.7 million euro.

Charleville Town

The plan for Charleville included:

- Renewal of town centre heritage public space and improving connectivity/way finding.
- Enhancement of Charleville Town Park.
- Repurposing a Community Hall building to an Arts and Community Centre.
- Development of a 'one stop shop' online shopping platform and a pilot retail/commercial incubator unit scheme to incentivise the establishment of new independent retailers and/or offices in existing vacant buildings in Charleville town centre.

A Planning Part 8 application was prepared for public realm and town centre improvement elements in 2020 and an application for Rural Regeneration Development Fund was submitted.

Ballydesmond Village

The plan for Ballydesmond included:

- Village Centre Public Realm Improvements incorporating a looped village walkway linking the village core with key village amenities.
- Development of a new pocket park located in the village centre.
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Works (SUDS) to the River Blackwater, together with creation of biodiversity and amenity area.
- Development of a Sliabh Luachra Heritage Trail.

A Planning Part 8 application was prepared for the development of a public park including a natural themed playground, accessible pathways, landscaping, biodiversity, tree planting, signage, and connection to the GAA grounds and application for Rural Regeneration Development Fund was submitted.

Kanturk Relief Road: In 2019 Rural Regeneration Funding for Kanturk relief road was granted in the amount of €619,500. Total estimated project cost is €996,000. The project is co-funded by Cork County Council. Detailed design has been completed and the project is at tender award stage.

Works include the construction of approximately 450 linear metres of new carriageway, installation of footpaths and cycle tracks, surface water drainage, installation of public lighting, and ducting. The new footpaths and cycle tracks will encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport in the form walking and cycling. The provision of the Link road will provide a safer environment for all road users especially for vulnerable road users.

Mallow Boardwalk: The construction of Mallow boardwalk, funded by Cork County Council and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme progressed in 2020.

The Boardwalk will allow for additional traffic turning lanes on the bridge which will greatly improve traffic flow in Mallow. It will provide for a significant shared space for cyclists and pedestrians and works include relocation Republican War Monument to a new amenity area on the northern approach to the bridge. This will allow for the monument to be viewed in

a purpose-built area separated from live vehicular traffic.

Town and Village Renewal - 2020 Accelerated Measure in Response to COVID 19

This year the format for the Town and Village Renewal Scheme reflected the situation with COVID 19 and offered 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 successful in Kanturk Malow Municipal District.

Liscarroll: €25,000 village enhancement comprising of painting, signage, planting and footpath repairs works have commenced on delivery of this project.

Kanturk: €25,000 for walkways in the Town Park. Works are now complete.



Town Park works completed in Kanturk

Mallow: €40,000 for public realm improvement – works are in progress.

CLAR Funding Projects - 2020

Kanturk Malow Municipal District were successful in the following applications for national CLAR funding in 2020 which largely benefit communities in these areas.

Kilbrin National School/Community Council: New footpath, pedestrian crossing, and ramps. Grant of €45,540.

Ballyhass National School: New car park, signage and markings. Grant of €45,448.

Castlemagner Community Council: Digital speed signs and ramp. Grant of €12,600.

Tullylease: Construction of a new playground in Tullylease was completed with previous years CLAR funding.

Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme – 2020 and Greenways Funding Carbon Tax 2020

Kanturk Malow Municipal District were successful in obtaining national grant funding towards the following projects in 2020:

Mount Hillary Amenity Walkway: Development of Carpark and Picnic Area – €20,000.

Island Wood Newmarket Amenity Walk: Redevelopment and improvement of walkways and inclusion of a sensory path – €20,000.

Mallow to Killavullen Greenway: The district were successful in an application for funding for a feasibility study to develop a 77.35Km greenway from Mallow to the Waterford County Bounds near Ballyduff a distance of 39.15Km to the Department of Transport under the Greenways Funding Carbon Tax 2020 in the amount of €80,000 and a consultant has been engaged.

During 2020 the following ORIS grant projects 2019 were completed by IRD Duhallow, facilitated through Cork County Council.

James O’Keeffe Walkway: Resurfacing, drainage, seating, fairy trail and natural play area – €20,000.

Bolomore Way: Widening and resurfacing of roadway and overgrowth management – €20,000.

Other Capital Projects:

Mallow Tow Hall Theatre: Part 8 plans for the redevelopment of vacant Mallow Town Hall building to provide town centre based 200 seat theatre facility are being finalised.

Mallow Swimming Pool: Redevelopment and Upgrade plans are being finalised.

Mallow Spa House/Tipp O'Neill Park: Planning Part 8 has been advertised.

COVID 19 Community Emergency Fund

In Kanturk Mallow Municipal District a number of community organisations were awarded funding to support their community response activities and in the second round, help with reopening and changes to their working practices to allow them to resume activities safely. We would like to acknowledge and thank all groups and volunteers in the district who have worked diligently to support their community, this includes GAA clubs, Community Associations, and individual members of the community who have gone out of their way to help family, neighbours and friends.

Project ACT - Activating County Towns

A number of Town Team meetings were held in all towns and proposals have been implemented with the agreement of the multi-stakeholder Town Team to assist pedestrian permeability and social distancing in each of the towns. Amenity and Outdoor spaces were also improved. A deep clean took place in all five towns.

The following projects were grant assisted and developed in Kanturk Mallow Municipal District:

Mallow: Assistance towards parklet provision, Marketing assistance and paint scheme.



Project ACT Parklet in Mallow

Newmarket: Paving of 2 parking spaces and Main Cross, public seating, and planters.

Charleville: Paint scheme and Marketing initiative.

Kanturk: Playground upgrade contribution, outdoor seating, bicycle stand, signage, and painting scheme.

Buttevant: Undergrounding trees funding.

Mallow:

In Mallow Pay Parking was relaxed to assist business and way finding parking signage erected. New pedestrian crossings at the Top of St. Jame's Avenue, Bottom Fair Street, Bottom of O' Brien Street were sanctioned and funded. These will improve connectivity to the main street and will improve safety for pedestrians while complying with social distancing measures.

Cork County Council facilitated a number of businesses availing of outdoor seating licenses to allow them to trade in a safe, COVID 19 compliant manner, as businesses were encouraged to consider takeaway and outdoor dining options.

Cork County Council's Architecture Department have assisted with the design standard of these and a number have been financially aided. It is hoped that the development of these initiatives will further encourage people to spend longer in Cork County towns when they visit to work or shop.

Kanturk

Temporary licences for outdoor street furniture were granted and upgrade works completed to the playground and footpaths in the Town Park. Outdoor seating and a Bicycle stand have been provided.

Charleville

Temporary bollards have been erected. New street furniture was installed which included planters and seating. A successful marketing campaign and shop local voucher was introduced by Charleville Chamber of Commerce supported by Cork County Council.

Newmarket

Paving of parking spaces at Main Cross and a seating area with planter's floral display was provided, this as well as facilitating social distancing and outdoor dining creates a sense of place and a very pleasant street scape area.

Buttevant

There has been considerable investment in recent years in Buttevant in wide footpaths, seating and planters and it was agreed by all that undergrounding the trees was a priority with long term benefits.

An application for outdoor seating was approved.

Pollinator Plans for Towns - National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding

Approval for the funding through the National Biodiversity Action Plan for the development Pollinator Plans for three towns in Cork County for this year was granted. The plans will be developed by a consultant ecologist working with the Council. Areas in the towns which will be managed specifically to enhance biodiversity value. It will include the required management which could include changes in approach to mowing maintenance, invasive species management, and new planting proposals.

Kanturk has been chosen for this pilot project in 2020.



Biodiversity in Kanturk

Operation ARCC - A Real Cork Christmas (ARCC)

In Kanturk Municipal District, Christmas came early, with the turning on of the lights on November 12th and many towns held virtual events. Several additions were made this year to Christmas lighting and decorations in the Municipal Districts Towns of Mallow, Charleville and Kanturk.



A Real Cork Christmas at the Spa House, Mallow

County Council also provided funding for lighting to Chambers of Commerce and Business Associations throughout towns in the County.

A Shop Local campaign was coordinated with Business Associations, showcasing the offerings of the town and shop local signage erected on some approach roads to towns.

A Slí na Croí wellbeing signage initiative was undertaken on Mallow Castle walkway which was noted as uplifting and inspirational.

Christmas trees were also provided for some villages.

A Christmas Arts and Crafts pop up shop was created in the Vacant Mallow Town Hall and West End Studios which was led by Cork County Council in conjunction with Avondhu Blackwater Partnership and supported also by Creative Ireland. The shops operated over nine days in December and showcased the offerings of local artists. They were a notable addition to the festive atmosphere. Footfall of over 1,300 was achieved with circa €10,000 in sales and many connections made.

Other areas of operation

Kanturk Mallow Municipal District managed 46 Cemeteries, 29 playgrounds, worked on eliminating dereliction, maintained open spaces, parks and public toilets in the main towns and villages of the Municipal District, operated Parking Regulations and bye laws, Environment Litter Control and worked with community, voluntary and sporting groups.

Macroom Municipal District

2020 Community Fund

The 2020 Community Fund was increased from €188,000 to €197,253 on the 2019 allocation.

The Members allocated this funding to various local groups and organisations. This Fund assists local voluntary groups in providing or improving facilities they offer. Local sporting groups gain assistance through this Fund which enables them to provide additional, new and improved facilities. Significant funding is also provided to the Tidy Towns groups in the Municipal District to enable them to carry out enhancements to their locality for entry in the national Tidy Towns Competitions. The Capital Fund assists some of the bigger projects going on in the communities with for example assistance provided in 2020 towards the completion of walkways in local GAA grounds etc.

Overall, it resulted in 78 eligible applications being awarded funds under either the Capital, Amenity or Community Contracts. This Fund is growing in popularity each year. The Members also agreed to retain their Discretionary Fund in the Amenity Fund.

2020 COMMUNITY FUND ALLOCATIONS

TOTAL ALLOCATION €197,253

<i>Scheme</i>	<i>No of Applies</i>	<i>Total Allocation</i>
Amenity fund	62	€104,553
Members discretionary fund		€5,000
Capital fund	5	€48,000
Community contract	11	€36,500
Unallocated funds		€3,200
Total	78	€197,253



Inniscarra Community Centre Floodlights

The COVID 19 restrictions resulted in a number of groups being unable to complete their projects, but they have been given an extension to complete until 31st December 2021.

2020 Village Enhancement Scheme

The 2020 Fund was allocated to Rylane and it was agreed to undertake works to the local Community Centre which is widely used by all in the village. It hosts the local boxing club, various fundraising events in the area (i.e. card nights, bingo and more). It is situated opposite the national school and is also used by them for various activities. The outside of the facility is in a poor state with the surface in need of improvement and the overgrown trees / shrubs being cut back. It also needs car parking realignment, resurfacing etc. It was agreed by the community that this facility would hugely benefit from the proceeds of this Fund being used to improve this very important facility.

Despite the COVID 19 restrictions, this project was completed in Q3, 2020 and is very much regarded as a significant enhancement to the locality for everyone's benefit.

2020 Town Development Fund

It was agreed that the 2020 Town Development Fund (TDF) would go towards the measures that resulted from the Town Team Meetings for both Macroom and Millstreet. Funding towards the Christmas lights in Macroom and Millstreet was also provided for in the 2020 TDF allocation. The allocation was divided as follows:

TOTAL TDF FOR 2020 – ALLOCATION OF €98,000

	Macroom	Millstreet
Christmas Lights Funding	€12,000	€5,000
Project ACT Measures	€41,000	€40,000

2019 Town Development Fund – Waterloo Project

As part of the 2019 Town Development Fund, it was agreed that the portion for Blarney would go towards the Waterloo Project to enhance the new walkway by including a seating area, works to monument, together with planting of trees, flowers and shrubbery to enhance the natural beauty of the area and to encourage biodiversity.

This project was completed mid 2020. This area is hugely popular with locals who walk and cycle along the path. This new seating area compliments the walkway and enhances the natural amenities of the area with the river flowing adjacent to it.



Waterloo Project

Project ACT

Macroom Municipal District held its first set of meetings on Project ACT – Activating County Towns on Wednesday 20th May and meetings were held with Macroom Town Activation Team followed by Millstreet Town Activation Team.

A number of socially distanced meetings were held upstairs in Macroom Town Hall for both Macroom Town Team and Millstreet Town Team. Presentations were given by the Tourism Officer, Local Enterprise Officer and Municipal District staff.

Measures to assist the towns in safely opening up to the public following the restrictions were discussed and measures that could be undertaken to assist both towns to successfully welcome people to towns in the Municipal District.

It was agreed that the 2020 Town Development Fund of €98,000 would be dedicated to the agreed measures to be implemented for the towns.

These Town Team Meetings proved hugely successful and the following measures resulted from them:

Macroom

- Deep clean of Main Streets
- Installation of 2 canopies – one at Town Hall and one in Middle Square
- Picnic benches for the canopies to include disability friendly bench
- Planters and artificial grass for the canopies
- Refreshment painting of Town Hall, cannon, flower beds, water pump, black decorative poles and bollards in Town Square
- New signage for Town Hall
- Painting of Public Toilets

Millstreet

- Deep clean of main streets
- Installation of 2 canopies – one in Square and one near Church
- Picnic benches for the canopies to include disability friendly bench
- Planters for the canopies
- Refreshment painting of Carnegie Hall and public toilets
- New signage for Carnegie Hall
- Mural in Main Street



Macroom Canopy delivered through Project ACT

2020 Mural Projects - Project ACT

Cork County Council through the 2020 Municipal District Arts Development Fund, in association with Macroom Municipal District and Millstreet Tidy Towns approved a mural for Millstreet. The subject of the mural is the changing character of the Main Street, Millstreet through time. The mural depicts a photograph taken by the Irish photographer Robert French in the late 19th century. Taken from a balcony overlooking the Main Street, the viewer will be looking at this painting from almost the same perspective.

The site of the mural is at the gable of the Post Office, 50 metres from the photographers viewing point. It will be painted as if it were a photograph in an old photographic album with corner tabs holding the picture in place using a handwritten script to annotate it.

A mural project for inside Macroom Castle Gates has been agreed with the Castle Demesne Trustees. The mural will be completed by local artists Cormac Sheil and Denis Reardon. This project gives the viewer a brief history of the castle in three poignant archival photographs – firstly in its heyday when it was owned by Lord and Lady Ardilaun, secondly its burning in the war of independence and finally its demolition in the 1960's. Together with an explanatory plaque it will give the visitor some context for the remaining structures and the greater castle demesne.

It will be a sister mural to 70 New Street (Canty's) which shows the castle in all its glory; this one will show it post-independence. While the New Street mural imagines a picture hanging in stately surroundings, this one would show a picture in a humbler setting. The historic photograph of the castle in flames seems to be the only one in existence. For expectant visitors to the castle demesne the mural would provide context. An explanatory plaque will be included together with information on demesne facilities, loop walks, etc.

Due to the current COVID 19 restrictions work on this mural has not commenced but will be done as soon as restrictions allow.

Return of Tuesday Market

Under Phase 1 of the Government's Nation Roadmap for the easing of restrictions Farmers Markets could resume trading from Monday 18th May 2020. The Tuesday Market in Macroom had a very successful resumption on Tuesday 19th May with stall and traders mindful of the COVID 19 restrictions regarding the 2 metre social distancing, sanitisation, and notices on stalls.

2020 Paint Scheme

Then Mayor of the County of Cork, Cllr. Ian Doyle launched the 2020 Streetscape Painting and Signage Scheme on 3rd June 2020 in Millstreet. This Scheme was offered in Millstreet Town, Carriganimma and Inchigeelagh villages and proved hugely successful with 22 approved applications from these areas.



Launch of Millstreet Paint Scheme

Council Car Park at O'Riada's Macroom

Triur Construction was awarded the contract to carry out works to Council car park at O'Riada's Macroom. The works included repair to the riverbank, reconstruct the footpath, install new surface water drainage complete with oil interceptor, resurface and reline the car park.

Pollinator Plan for Macroom

Work has commenced in drafting a Pollinator Plan for Macroom with ecologist Tony Nagle and input from Macroom Tidy Town group. This plan will reference areas in Macroom which might be suitable for biodiversity and native planting. It will also highlight measures already underway locally regarding biodiversity areas within housing estates. This plan is due to be completed shortly with a series of workshops then to be rolled out.

Age Friendly Funding for Millstreet

As part of Cork County Council's expansion of Age Friendly Initiatives, Millstreet Age Friendly Town Committee held a socially distanced meeting to kick-start their Age Friendly ambitions for the town. Funding of €10,000 over 2 years has been given to achieve the aims of the Committee.

Funding from DRCD

2018 Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Inchigeelagh Project

This project was completed in early 2020 and was made up of a grant of €100,000 from DRCD with an additional €25,000 being provided by Cork County Council.

The village enhancement works completed include:

- Refurbishment of the public toilets.
- Upgrade and refurbishment of slipway.
- Repairs to Inchigeela bridge which included repairing the damaged sections on the inside and its repointing.
- Resurfacing the road from Creedons Hotel to the bridge.

Clár Funding

2019 – Ballyvourney Sensory Garden

Under Clár 2019 Ballyvourney/Ballymakeera Tidy Towns, together with Cork County Council received €24,557 towards the development of a sensory garden in Ballyvourney in a neglected plot. Funding from the 2019 and 2020 Community Fund was also granted to this project.

The design of the plot included elements of the following:

- Beehive Sculpture to link to heritage of St. Gobnait, and biodiversity/importance of bees.
- Large Variety of perennial plants, together with raised beds.
- New fencing, lighting and gate for the garden.
- Tarmac pathway to ensure the area is accessible to all, including wheelchairs and prams .
- Seating area made from recycled plastic.
- Artificial grass area and solar powered water feature.
- Information Signage: heritage of village, plants in garden, local wildlife, information of walks around area.

Works have been completed at the sensory garden in Ballyvourney. Volunteers locally, together with the Tidy Towns group worked tirelessly on this project and credit is due to all on the wonderful achievement. This garden will provide a significant asset for the local area for both visitors and locals to enjoy all that their area has to offer.

Clár 2018 – Inchigeelagh

Inchigeelagh received Clár funding when they were part of Dunmanway Area. This project was fully completed through Macroom Municipal District with the remainder of the works including the footbridge being installed mid year.

Heritage Map for Macroom

Significant work took place during 2020 on the progression of a Heritage Map for Macroom through the County Archaeologist. 30 sites were identified with text around them prepared. A draft of the map has been prepared with the final map due over the coming weeks.

Heritage Map for Millstreet

When the Macroom map has been completed, the Millstreet Heritage map will be next to be done. Meetings have already taken place to identify the locations for the map. It is expected that the Millstreet map will be completed mid 2021.

Operation ARCC (A Real Cork Christmas)

ARCC (A Real Cork Christmas) was officially launched by the County Mayor and Chief Executive on Monday 2nd November 2020.

At a local level the following actions were implemented as part of Project ARCC

- Macroom Town Hall (upstairs) turned on their Christmas lights on Thursday 12th November at 7 p.m. as part of a County wide turning on of Christmas lights.
- New 6m Christmas trees for Macroom and Millstreet.
- Additional Christmas lighting and festive decorations for Macroom and Millstreet.
- New Christmas lighting for Carnegie Hall Millstreet.
- Street canopies in Macroom and Millstreet decorated with Christmas lights.
- Christmas Trees for Courtbrack, Farran, Ballinora and Inchigeelagh.
- Local committees in Macroom and Millstreet erected the Christmas lights in each town.



A Real Cork Christmas in Macroom. Photo by Darragh Kane

West Cork Municipal District

During the year, the West Cork Municipal District was responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of:

- 32 public convenience facilities.
- 49 burial grounds and 48 older burial grounds.
- 186 working piers.
- 17 playgrounds.

Maintained the following functions:

- Parking management and enforcement.
- Street cleaning and litter management.
- Upkeep of parks and open areas.
- Operated Beach lifeguarding service at 7 beaches.

West Cork Islands

- The West Cork Islands Interagency, chaired by Cork County Council, met on 4 occasions during 2020.
- Grants of €50,000 were awarded under the West Cork Island Community Funding Scheme to 13 projects on the inhabited islands.

2020 Village Enhancement Fund

Baltimore Village

Funding was provided under the Village Enhancement Fund for the undergrounding of utility cables and public realm works in Baltimore Village.

Ballydehob

Funding was provided for street furniture upgrade, illumination of the 12-Arch Bridge and for pollinator hedging in Ballydehob.

General Municipal Allocation - €314,000

Community Funding Scheme

€210,000 allocated.

No. of Community Groups assisted – 59.

No. of Tidy Towns Groups assisted – 28.



Ballineen/Enniskeane Tidy Towns

Community Hedgecutting Scheme – 34 Community Groups assisted in the cutting back of hedgerows and grass verges over a roadway length of 580kms.

€75,000 awarded to complete refurbishment of Schull Playground.

Town Development Fund directed towards Project ACT 2020 which included the following:

- Dunmanway – Development of Garden of Expression, Street Marquee and Furniture.
- Skibbereen – Parklet and Purchase of Street Furniture and Street Umbrellas.
- Clonakilty – Demountable Parklets.
- Bantry – Outdoor dining area.
- All Towns – Installation of Age Friendly Parking Spaces.



Project ACT – Ballydehob



Project ACT – Skibbereen Street Umbrella

A Real Cork Christmas

The Municipal District supported Community Groups in lighting up their towns and villages for Christmas 2020.



A Real Cork Christmas - Gullane

Town and Village Scheme Funding

Glengarriff Amenity Project

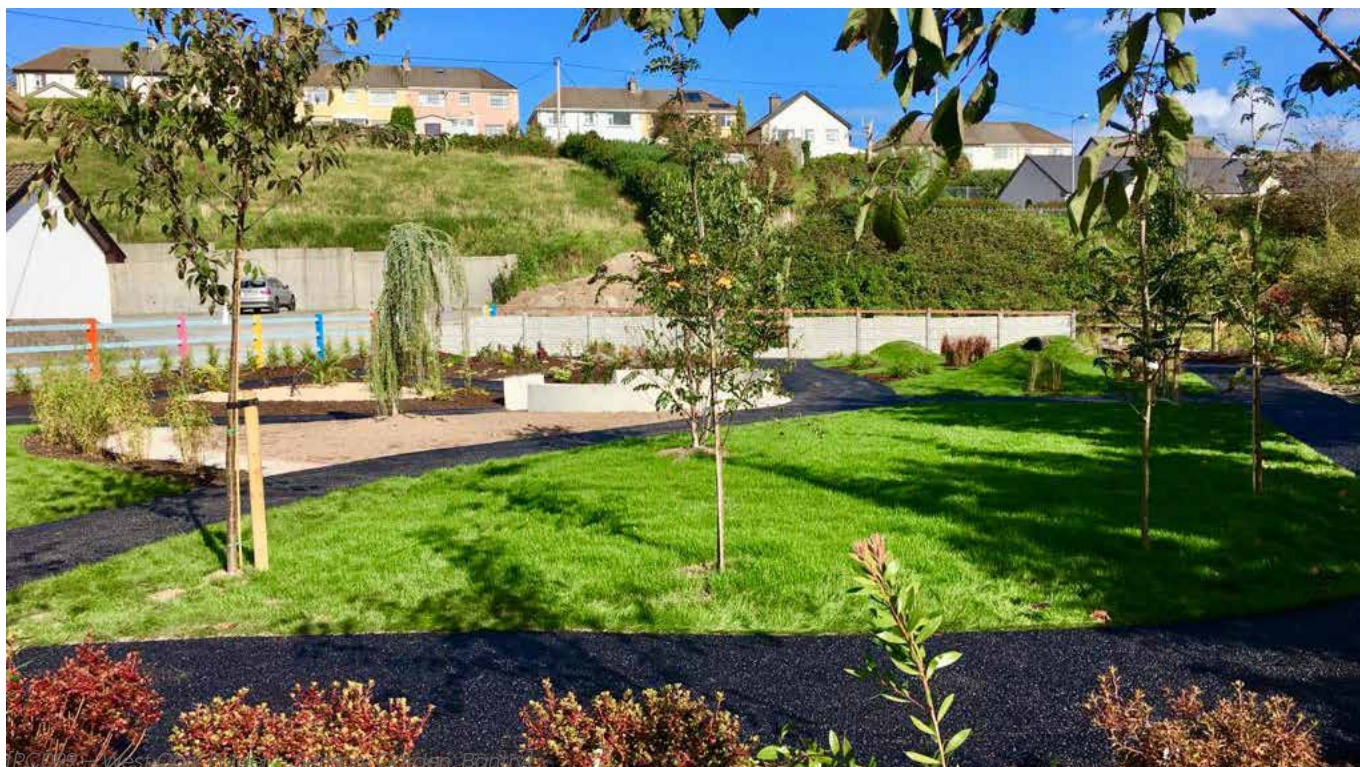
Funding was received under Town and Village Scheme for the creation of a new riverside walk and refurbishment of existing walkways at Glengarriff Amenity Park with works commencing in 2020.

Durrus Public Realm

Also, the benefit of Town and Village Scheme funding is public realm works to include shared space, new footpaths and streetscape in Durrus Village. Works commencing towards the end of 2020.

Clár Projects

In conjunction with Bantry Projects Group funding was received under Clár 2019 to install a sensory garden in Bantry Peace Park. The project was completed and open to the public in 2020.



Funding was also received in 2020 for the refurbishment of Bantry Church Community Car Park and for outdoor classroom facilities at Scoil an Chroí Ro Naofa, Castletownbere. Works on both projects will recommence when current construction restrictions are eased.

Other Projects 2020

Gullane Lake Amenity Site, Clonakilty

Development work continues on the Gullane Walkway with the completion of landscaping and seating along the walkway. Funding was secured under the 2020 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme to commence phase 2 of the project to connect to the West Cork Technology Park. Walkway, Clonakilty

Beicin Walkway, Bantry

Significant funding was received under the 2019 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme for refurbishment works at the Beicin Walkway in Bantry.

Public Realm, Skibbereen

Work continues on the public realm scheme for Skibbereen. This project is designed and managed in-house by the Municipal District and Roads Department and is being funded in full by Cork County Council.

The Rock Amenity Site, Skibbereen

Work is continuing on the development of The Rock Amenity Site with clearing of footpaths, drainage and landscaping. Whilst a long-term project, the pedestrian paths are available for walkers with entry points at four different locations for access from various areas of the town centre.



Friends of The Rock

Library Services

As a result of the public health guidelines in response to the COVID 19 pandemic, public libraries closed to the public on the 12th March. The library service adapted quickly, immediately supporting customers to access the free Online Library Services and within two weeks the Housebound Service for cocooners started. Library Staff also started working on the Community Call on the 30th March.

Thursday 12th March – Monday 29th June	Online Library Service and Housebound service
Tuesday 30th June – Tuesday 6th October	Open for browsing
Wednesday 7th Oct– Wednesday 21st Oct	Book collection service – Click and Collect
Thursday 22nd Oct – Saturday 28th Nov	Online Library Service and Housebound service
Tuesday 1st Dec – Wednesday 23rd Dec	Open for browsing
Thursday 24th Dec onwards	Online Library Service and Housebound service

Core Services

Branch Library and Mobile Service Delivery

During the changing levels of restrictions, library services moved between Online and Housebound delivery only, Click and Collect and open on location for browsing several times. The library service adapted professionally and swiftly each time to develop ways of delivering a library service to people. Innovative Library ICT and digital solutions and staff flexibility were key as the mobile service moved its way through a completely new world during 2020.

Childrens, young people and schools service:

- A Creative Writing Competition "The Superhero from Cork" organised for schools in Cork County was featured on Red FM radio and in the Evening Echo on three consecutive Mondays in June 8th, 15th and 22nd. There were nearly 300 entries to the competition across three age groups. The winning stories were published in the Evening Echo and the upcoming Summer Stars Reading festival was promoted on the three Mondays in question.
- Summer Stars Reading was officially launched by then Mayor of the County of Cork Ian Doyle on Friday June 12th in Charleville Library. 1,436 children participated and there were 25 online quizzes and events for children on social media from June 15th to August 28th. A mix of print and online books and magazines were available to the children participating with extra titles being added to the Borrowbox collection of e-books and e-audiobooks for children.
- UNHCR World Refugee Day took place on Saturday June 20th and a video promoting children's titles from the Children's Book Ireland "Stand with Refugees" reading list was posted on Cork County Council Library and Arts Service social media to mark the day.
- Children's and Schools Services celebrated Children's Book Festival (CBF) 2020 during the months of October and November. There were author visits by Zoom directly to 22 schools around the County. 1,000 books were purchased and sent to the schools to allow the children experience the works of the authors before the author visit. There were also two story-times, a craft video and a limerick-writing instructional video for children uploaded to social media during the schools' mid-term break as part of CBF. Over 12,000 children engaged with CBF 2020 with Cork County Library and Arts Service.
- Mapping of Cork County Libraries by POBAL began in October to match all Early Learning Centres in Cork County with their local library branch. This was with a view to forging connections with these centres in 2021 and making block loan cards and library visits available to pre-schools. This will be carried out by the LGMA in conjunction with POBAL.
- Family Time at Your Library in December had 21 online events including story-time, craft workshops and live Zoom session with authors. It had a total participation/viewing audience of 13,351.
- Library staff recorded a video on encouraging the reluctant reader and this will be uploaded to the Council YouTube channel. This will be followed up by two further video recordings developing the topic of encouraging reluctant child readers and highlighting the online resources such as Borrowbox that may be useful.

NEWStart

The impact of the COVID 19 pandemic is well documented as a challenging time of transition for parents, children and educators. The effects on children with diverse learning needs has been all the more severe. It was this need that prompted Cork County Library Service's successful application for Dormant Account Funding to cover a major rollout of a literacy and numeracy programme. Cork County Council Library and Arts Service's 'NEWStart' Programme received €24,491.75 under this funding.

Touch-type Read and Spell (TTRS) was rolled out as part of the NEWStart literacy programme at the start of December. NEWStart merchandise including a bag, notebook and literacy booklet has been distributed to all library branches. These will be allocated along with TTRS licences to primary schools, families and individuals in Cork County through the library branches. A NEWStart newsletter template has been prepared and monthly updates are now available.

Local Studies, Family History and Genealogy

- Targeted approach to schools in particular, offering assistance to secondary school students doing History Classroom Based Assessments during lockdown and homeschooling.
- Targeted marketing approach to Local History groups across the county.
- Special Local Studies Podcasts were created and produced in house.
- COVID 19 Archive – collecting material relating to Cork County Council and Cork County Council's Library and Arts Service response to the COVID 19 pandemic and collecting material from the public including schools, voluntary organisations, camera clubs etc.
- Launch of an online audio-visual guide to using the Local Studies website, www.corklocalstudies.ie which is of particular relevance during level 5 restrictions.
- Finny's Almanac (1841) and The Tolls of Ireland (1835) digitised in advance of uploading to the Local studies Website.
- 1921/1922 material scanned and digitised in preparation for uploading to the Local Studies website.
- Launch of the annual exhibition online this year during Heritage Week. This year's exhibition focused on the lives of Thomas Mac Curtain and Terence MacSwiney.

Statistics

669,403 books were issued by Cork County Council Library Service, second only slightly to Dublin City. 393,435 e-issues represents a 300% in usage of the e-books and e-newspaper resources during 2020. Membership increased to 65,356 and for the 4 months of open services, 512,377 people visited their library in Cork County. 36,090 books were delivered through 2,926 housebound deliveries.

Library Development

Cork County Council Library Service continued to pursue options and development opportunities for enhanced facilities at certain branch libraries:

Library Development Projects:

- Planning and preparing the new Library Development Plan ready for publication early 2021.
- Assisting the delivery of projects such as:
 - The delivery and fit out of 3 new mobile libraries.
 - Kinsale Library Project.
 - Bandon Library Project.
 - Midleton Library conservation and upgrade project planning.
 - Youghal Library RRDF application preparation and submission.
 - Kanturk Library – significantly progressed project for new permanent library.
 - Macroom Library Project.
 - My Open Library – significantly progressed project for Fermoy.

(all works and projects delayed due to COVID 19 restrictions)

Buildings Upgrades and Maintenance

- Small Scale Capital Works Programme in public libraries. – Under this programme, Cork County Council has successfully secured funding of €100,000 (€11,084.25 match funding from Cork County Council) for Charleville, Cobh, Fermoy, Skibbereen, Youghal and IT upgrades.
- Bantry Library: Heating upgrade investigation.
- The painting interior of Dunmanway Library.
- Mitchelstown: internal and external painting.

(all works and projects delayed due to COVID 19 restrictions)

Library ICT and Online facilities and services.

- Staff infrastructure to facilitate working from home and service delivery online – In conjunction with the Council's Information Communications Technology Directorate, the computer infrastructure of the Library Services continues to be upgraded including the migration to Office 365. This has involved the replacement of some PCs and laptops which will facilitate Microsoft Teams to enable virtual training and meetings.
- The continued upgrading of digital infrastructure, with the upgrading of Newmarket and Kinsale's Wide Area Network.
- Public WIFI upgrades – The public WIFI in Dunmanway, Schull and Castletownbere has been upgraded. This will enable faster WIFI in these locations when branches are open to the public.
- Self Service kiosks have been installed in Charleville, Bandon and Macroom Libraries. This enabled the public to check in and out items when the libraries re-open.
- Remote printing was rolled out in 10 Branches around the county including Mitchelstown, Fermoy, Charleville, Bantry, Skibbereen, Clonakilty, Cobh, Midleton, Youghal and HQ. This means that library users can now send documents to be printed from home via their devices and collect the printouts in the library.
- Library IT staff, in conjunction with Local Studies and Library Staff, produced podcasts on a range of topics.

Staff Development

- Weekly review of COVID 19 Safety and adherence to the relevant SOP and H&S communications.
- Team Development Plans completed and Personal Development Plans for staff completed to address the rapidly changing skills needs in 2020.
- A programme of virtual training has been ongoing to support new IT skills, COVID 19 safety and a range of other training.
- Regular operational and informal 'Coffee break' style online meetings are scheduled for staff and line managers.

Library Programmes

Healthy Ireland

Library Services continued the promotion of Healthy Ireland resources and health related messages on social media and in Branches, including Bike Week and Walking Book Clubs.

Further funding was received from Healthy Ireland of €5,000 towards the purchase of equipment, which will enable ways of promoting and developing services online. The equipment includes cameras, microphones and accessories to improve podcasts.

Creative Ireland – Library Service

- To support the promotion of the Irish language, the Library Service commissioned a video by Máire Ní Cheileachair, teaching the traditional song 'Dá Bhfaighinn Mo Rogha De Thruir Acu'.
- The Sherkin Haiku Project was launched on Culture Night and a book was created with recycled paper and available in the libraries.
- Creative Writing Notebooks were supported by Creative Ireland and distributed to members of writing groups and other interested members of the public.
- Autumn saw the digitisation of Local Studies material, funded by Creative Ireland.
- Creative Ireland funded creative writing notebooks for children that were distributed as part of a Family Literacy Programme that supports Early Literacy, Numeracy and Writing.
- The final Creative Ireland Library event was the Literature and Lego Day.

A Sound Initiative

- Commissioned 4 keyboard video tutorials for A Sound Initiative.
- Commissioned a 'Make Your own Music' video from Ruti Lachs for Cruinniu na nÓg.
- Loans included Direct Provision centres, schools and nursing homes.
- New and extra instruments were purchased and added to the collection.

S.T.E.A.M.

- A four-week online programme for Cruinniu na N-óg which encouraged children and young people to use Lego to explore the various aspects of STEAM which culminated in an online exhibition of all entries (93 entries) via the County Council's YouTube channel and the Library's social media channels.
- Maths Week (10-18 Oct) – A series of online displays to coincide with Maths Week.
- Science Week (8-15 Nov) – a collaboration with APC Microbiome (UCC) in facilitating virtual talks by researchers/scientists to primary schools in Youghal and Dunmanway (159 participants), Lego Challenge promoting healthy living, online presentation on famous Irish female scientists.
- Literature and Lego event (late November) with authors Alan Nolan and Sadhbh Devlin was released via social media and the primary school network. This incorporated a Lego competition based on the authors' presentation/reading.
- Staff storytimes have proved very popular and will feature again with new stories.



Age Friendly Libraries

The Age Friendly Programme and the rollout of the National Age Friendly Recognition Scheme was affected by all the restrictions this year. However, a number of initiatives did happen:

- 200 Cork County Library masks in total were sent to Age-Friendly library branches (Fermoy, Cobh, Youghal, Mitchelstown, Castletownbere) to be distributed to their older library users.
- The digital ambassadors programme was launched that will support older people to get online and use free local authority online resources including online library resources.
- An Age Friendly collaboration led to the print production of 'A Real Cork Christmas'. Copies were made available in all library branches and for distribution in Housebound deliveries.
- Thinking of you CARDS were sent to older customer in November to keep spirits up.
- HouseBound Service continued during all levels of restrictions to older people who continued to need it.
- With the help of Creative Ireland Funding, 200 'crafter packs' were prepared for knitting groups and crafter groups that can't use libraries to meet during restrictions. These packs which included a personalised card, wool, patterns and information on how to set up a virtual group.

Social Inclusion

- The library service continued to work with support the LGBTQI+ Community and was fortunate to secure funding for the Words Will Change Worlds project focusing on the promotion of LGBTQI+ collections. This programme will be rolled out mid-2021. Training and information sessions for staff: The Same But Different will be facilitated online by staff of The Gay Project in February.
- National Play Day - During Lockdown the Library Service delivered Literacy and Art Packs to all the Children in the 5 Direct Provision centres and to the Syrian families who have settled in Cobh, Mallow and Middleton areas. When the opportunity to look for National Play Day funding came, Cork County Library Services opted to seek funding to deliver packs of toys, instruments and equipment as well as language and literacy games and art materials to each Direct Provision centre. For a total cost of €3,000 the library Service brought joy to over 300 children on National Play Day and received very positive response from the support workers.
- Traveller Community Support: The library service has been liaising with Cork County Council's traveller liaison officer, to see how families can be supported with the NEWStart programme.

Arts Service

Cork County Council's Arts Services aim to support and strengthen the practice and enjoyment of the arts in local communities in an inclusive and accessible manner and to promote and support artists and makers to create innovative work of the highest artistic standard.

The arts service administers direct funding support provided by Cork County Council to support the work of local arts organisations including festivals, arts venues, voluntary arts groups, disability support groups, community bodies supporting older people, schools and youth organisations.

2020 Direct funding

- Arts Grant Scheme allocations totalled €160,000.
- Municipal Districts Arts Development Fund provided €150,000 divided equally among the eight Municipal Districts.
- An additional budget of €2,500 for the category Arts using the Irish Language was made available through Oifig na Gaeilge.

Direct Contributions supported the work of the West Cork Arts Centre, Sirius Arts Centre, the and Schoolyard Theatre Charleville.

167 project proposals were recommended for funding.

Impact of Pandemic on Arts Services

The lockdown measures imposed as a result of COVID 19 had an immediate and massive impact on the Arts and Culture Sector. A survey of Artists and Arts Organisations carried out by the Arts Office in April approximately 5 weeks after the lockdown was announced showed the extent of the impact with, for example, the majority of summer arts festivals deciding to cancel activity with an estimated loss of over €6m to local economies. In addition, many performing artists reported estimated loss of income of between to 80-100%. Aside from the economic impact the pandemic safety measures saw the cessation of virtually all forms of community engagement in the creative arts. One of the first actions by Council management in response to this crisis was the introduction of a mechanism which enabled organisations unable to carry out planned projects defer approved funding allocations to 2021.

Cork County Council Arts Services responded to this unprecedented situation by working with artists and organisations to redesign alternative offerings using technology and other resources. Among the initiatives introduced in the first weeks of the lockdown was a new series of online writing programmes delivered by professional published authors. During 2020 three 10-week groups of online writing programmes were delivered by poet Matthew Geden, crime writer Declan Burke, travel writer Conor Power and novelist Denyse Woods. All programmes were fully subscribed. Similarly, the entire library Summer Arts Programme and Children's Book Festival programme was redesigned to enable online interaction. Artists were also commissioned to make new work for online formats and virtual space.

The rollout of Project ACT – Activating County Towns led to the development of a number of pop up gallery projects supporting the revitalisation programme. In Carrigaline the Arts Service assisted the newly established Owenabue Arts Collective in developing a temporary arts space in the town centre. This was officially opened on Culture Night and subsequently moved to an alternative premise in the town. In the lead up to Christmas two premises in Mallow were converted to allow craft makers exhibit work.

Residencies

Writer in Residence. Matthew Geden was appointed writer in residence just as the lockdown was announced in March. He and Arts Office personnel worked to create a virtual residency programme beginning with a video project featuring poets connected with the county for National Poetry Day. Among the poets featured was the distinguished writer Derek Mahon who read a new unpublished poem "Quarantine" inspired by the lockdown. Sadly, Derek Mahon died later in the year. An important achievement of this residency was the establishment of three virtual writing collectives. This was led by Matthew Geden and has provided an important network and contact point for writers in the county.

Sliabh Luachra Musician in Residence Eoin O'Sullivan was reappointed in September and immediately began work developing an online concert programme featuring Sliabh Luachra musicians recorded in a socially distanced setting in Newmarket.

Achievements in 2020

- Completion of the 4th Backwater Fit-ups Theatre Festival which saw twenty- five nights of great theatre as eight new contemporary Irish plays were performed in five venues in North and East Cork over a five-week period in January and February.
- Successful roll out of the 5th Writer in Residence programme, resulting in establishment of new virtual writing collectives, curation of National Poetry Day video project, Virtual library writing groups and input in the council's online creative writing programme.
- Supporting key arts festivals deliver re-imagined online programme of events.
- Re-instatement of the Sliabh Luachra Musician in residence programme.
- Rapid redesign and delivery of the Summer Arts Programme leading to 11 artists being commissioned to produce 19 new workshop tutorial videos.
- Development of an innovative programme enabling virtual author interaction with schoolchildren for Children's Book Festival.
- Launch of the Council's 16th Short story Anthology and the production of a series of podcast readings of winning stories.
- Restart of LHQ Gallery public exhibitions with LANDSCAPES work from the Council's own arts collection; Paul Connell's exhibition BOLG an artist's autopsy in September.
- Delivery of the largest Culture night programme nationally outside of the larger cities.
- Re-launch of the Council's Artsnews service.
- Establishment of a special COVID 19 recovery Arts Advisory group.
- Preparation work for County Arts Plan.
- Development of a Public Art Policy in conjunction with the Arts Culture and Languages SPC.
- Organising of Mayor's COVID 19 Community response commission for Charleville.
- Review of Arts funding programme to include for planned supports to enable artists and arts organisations develop and deliver public engagement projects as a consequence of the COVID 19 restrictions.
- Input into Project ACT including assistance with development of temporary exhibition space in Carrigaline, commissioning of new public murals in Millstreet, Passage West and Macroom.
- Review of Child Protection compliance for Arts facilitators employed by Arts Service.

Architects Department

This 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 2020.

- 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 Architects were involved in:

Kinsale Library

The Kinsale library project involves the partial demolition, renovation and extension of the 3-storey, 8-bay, 19th century Old Mill building at Church Square, Kinsale. The Architects Department are leading a multidisciplinary design team and project managing the transformation of this protected structure from the hollowed out remains of a former granary store to a 21st century modern library. With a comprehensive detailed design package in place for this RRDF funded, Project Ireland 2040 scheme, the project was put out to tender in Q1 2020. Subsequently, a main contractor and several reserved specialists have been identified and all necessary approvals secured to progress to construction stage.

Front Strand Lifeguard Station & WCs, Youghal

This project is one of a series of interventions proposed in and around Youghal. In this case, the Architects Department are project managing and leading a multidisciplinary design team tasked with delivering a high-quality beach facility incorporating public toilets, outdoor showers, a lifeguard station, First Aid room and associated site works including significant public realm improvements and traffic calming. The site has been carefully chosen to promote maximum accessibility and to exploit existing and future infrastructure including the forthcoming Midleton-Youghal Greenway. With the completion of detailed design, the project was tendered in Q3 2020 and is scheduled to proceed to construction stage in 2021.

Spike Island Ticket Kiosk

The Architects Department designed, procured and delivered an off-site, factory finished ticket kiosk in lieu of a Portakabin. The result was a well-executed high-quality finish delivered to site via crane with plug-and-go infrastructure. This was a cost-effective solution when compared to the Client's alternative options.

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. The brief includes a 200-seater auditorium, tourist office, café / bar, function room, community meeting space. The Architects Department are leading a multidisciplinary design team and project managing the delivery of what will entail a significant investment in the cultural infrastructure of the North Cork region and surrounds. In 2020, the Architects Department procured extensive site investigation works and completed comprehensive outline design work across all disciplines, making significant progress with respect to the critical issues of fire safety and universal access in advance of the project proceeding to Part VIII. Extensive roof replacement to the rear flat roof and a series of upgrades are being developed for the interior of the main library. Works to be designed and led by Cork County Council Architects Department, consultants to be appointed Q2 2021.



Sketch Model View of Proposed Mallow Town Hall re-development

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. Detailed design stage was completed in 2020 and issued for tender in Q4 2020, with construction anticipated to commence in Q3 of 2021. This unique, high-class mixed-use amenity building will boast a new fully accessible municipal library and 217 seat theatre together with breakout bar space and ancillary support spaces.

New Fire Stations in Kanturk and Macroom

Architect Department Led Design Team have been tasked with providing new retained Fire Stations throughout the County. The projects will provide much needed upgrades to Fire Services within the areas.

Kanturk Fire Station

Construction is ongoing with completion expected in Q3 2021 for a new Fire Station located on Percival St, junction to Mill Road, Kanturk, Co. Cork consisting of two appliance bays and associated ancillary buildings with drill yard, forecourt, parking facilities, landscaping and footpath realignment works. The new fire station will meet functional requirements commensurate with the increased level of fire service activity in the area. It will facilitate the emergency turn-out of the fire brigade, routine testing and maintenance of appliances and equipment and ongoing training of fire brigade personnel.



Kanturk Fire Station

Macroom Fire Station

Designed and led by Cork County Council Architects Department, construction will commence in 2021 for a new Fire Station located on a vacant council owned site on Gurteenroe Road, Macroom, Co. Cork. The new building will replace the existing fire station in the town located on a confined site, within the walls of the castle site. Consisting of two appliance bays, drill yard, forecourt, parking facilities, landscaping and footpath realignment works, and the new location will allow easy access to the new bypass. The new fire station will meet functional requirements commensurate with the increased level of fire service activity in the area. It will facilitate the emergency turn-out of the fire brigade, routine testing and maintenance of appliances and equipment and ongoing training of fire brigade personnel.

Midleton Library

Purchased by Cork County Council in the 1980's and originally the town's Market House, this 17th century building is comprised of a two storey, five bay structure with courtyard to the rear and stone wall and serves as the Midleton Library. Feasibility Study was carried out and submitted for funding approval in Q4 2020. Proposed conservation works which will see the historic fabric of the main building protected. Works to be designed and led by Cork County Council Architects Department, consultants are expected to be appointed Q2 2021. Roof replacement to rear interior upgrades of the main library are at concept stage. Works to be designed and led by Cork County Council Architects Department, consultants are anticipated to be appointed Q2 2021.

Youghal Courthouse & Soup Kitchen

In Q4 2020 the Architects Department completed a Stage 1 preliminary proposal for the re-development of the former courthouse and soup kitchen at Market Square in Youghal. In addition, a project brief was prepared along with detailed briefs for individual design team consultants required to assist the Architects Department in developing this project through to Part VIII.

Youghal Lighthouse (Phase II)

Stage 1 and 2A (Outline Design) for Phase II of this project were completed in 2020 in collaboration with Joseph Mackey Architects. Phase II provides for the design of a new cantilevered viewing platform anchored to the base of the existing historic lighthouse. This project is strategically located between Youghal town centre and Front Strand. It represents a key nodal point in the overall strategic development of Youghal and its surrounds. The work completed in 2020 will facilitate this project to proceed to Part VIII in 2021.

Youghal Library

While Part VIII planning was approved for a new library on North Main Street in October 2017, the project was revisited in 2020 for a Category 1 funding application under the government's RRDF funding scheme. The Architect's Department made a significant contribution to the drafting of the application which ultimately proved successful with an allocation of €4m for the development of the Youghal library project (announced in April 2021).



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cork County Council

Information & Communications Technology



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cork County Council

Information and Communications Technology

Information Communications Technology (ICT) is an enabler for the effective and efficient operation of the organisation's internal and external business processes. A significant part of the ICT Directorate's work in 2020 was focused on responding to the challenges raised by COVID 19. This section outlines some of the ICT initiatives and projects implemented during 2020.

COVID 19

The initial challenge in March 2020 was to enable and support staff to transition to remote working as quickly as possible. The majority of the Council's office-based staff needed laptops and remote access equipment to ensure they could access the business systems and files required to work from home. Before COVID 19, there was limited requirements for remote access. With most staff moving to working remotely, the Council needed to enhance its VPN infrastructure to handle the increase in volumes in traffic. Over 2020, the ICT helpdesk handled over 22,000 support tickets, an increase of 55% on the previous year, with noticeable spikes at the start of every lockdown.

New communication channels were an essential requirement in the early weeks of the pandemic, as staff could no longer meet face to face. An app was rolled out in conjunction with the Communications Team to staff to alert them to new council messages. Teleconference facilities were also quickly enabled to facilitate internal and external remote meetings. MS Teams was rolled out subsequently, to enable more effective remote meetings and communications. This has proved an effective platform to enable council business and engagements.

The ICT Directorate provided support for new council services designed to support the community, with examples of supported projects including the Community Support Line, Loan/Mortgage Breaks, Project ACT, Restart Grants, and the Rediscover Cork Map.

Business Support Services

IT continued to regularly meet with other directorates to ensure we are delivering and responding to requirements. Several new services were made available during 2020 including.

Business projects completed in 2020

- New Community Response viewer and dashboard developed.
- New Rediscover Cork Viewer developed.
- System alterations to manage payment freezes due to COVID 19.
- New Housing Loans Management System.
- Commuter journey analysis via ArcGIS.
- New housing surveys deployed.
- Upgrade of Planning Enquiry;
 - o New mapping frontend.
 - o legacy browser issues resolved.
 - o DjVu files converted to PDFs.
- New reports developed on Power BI platform.
- Technology infrastructure update projects.

ICT Security

Maintaining the security of all ICT systems and infrastructure is of paramount importance.

A significant part of the transition to working remotely was to ensure boundaries and new endpoints remained secure. Educating users on security best practices and managing information security from home was a key area. There was a noticeable increase in phishing and ransomware threats during 2020, with more sophisticated emails and themed subjects preying on people's concerns. The security team were kept busy responding to the increased threats, introducing new controls and working to raise awareness of cybersecurity among staff.



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cork County Council

Corporate Services





Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

Corporate Services

Office of The Mayor of the County of Cork

Cllr. Christopher O'Sullivan was in office from June 2019 – February 2020 when he was elected to Dáil Eireann. Cllr. Ian Doyle was elected to replace Cllr. O'Sullivan in February 2020 and remained in office until June 2020. Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley was elected as Mayor in June 2020 and remains in office until June 2021.

The Mayor has been heavily involved in the Launch of Project Act in 2020 and visited many towns and villages across out county to unveil many of the different initiatives.

Speeches, launches and events continued throughout 2020 for the Mayor through the medium of MS Teams, Zoom calls and pre-recorded contributions. Some notable events attended by the Mayor through these channels were the Comhairle na nÓg AGM and the Cork Environmental Forum Annual Environmental Awards Ceremony.

The Mayor co- chaired the interagency Cork County Community Response Forum which co-ordinated the local response to the Covid 19 crisis. Twenty meetings were held in 2020. The Forum comprised of over 20 different state and local organisations across the county.



Mayor Cllr Mary Linehan Foley and Tim Lucey Chief Executive meeting with the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Michael McGrath T.D. at the County Hall on Friday 4th September 2020

A Real Cork Christmas was an initiative by Cork County Council to support businesses and communities in the run up to Christmas during this most unusual year. As part of this initiative the Mayor invited 4th class pupils across the County to submit Christmas cards design for a competition with winning entries printed and distributed throughout communities. In total, 10,000 postcards were printed and distributed across each of the Council's eight Municipal Districts. The winning children's art postcard were sent by citizens to friends and family who couldn't be together at Christmas, and who can share a little bit of happiness from home.



Mayor Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley announces the winning entries for the "A Real Cork Christmas" Schools Postcard Competition

Mayoral Reception

The Mayoral Reception is a reception to acknowledge the success achieved by clubs/individuals. Councillors nominate recipients in their community to recognise their achievements.

There were 16 recipients for the 2020 Mayoral Reception. It was held on Monday 2nd March 2020 in the Foyer of County Hall.



Mayor Cllr Ian Doyle presenting recipient Katie O'Keeffe with her award. Katie won a silver medal in the European Boxing Championships in Georgia

2020 Mayoral Reception Recipients	
Katie O'Keeffe	Crossfield's Ceili Band U12
James Sugrue	Crossfield's Ceili Band U18
Jack Newman	Muireann O'Connor
Imokilly Senior Hurling Team	Eoin Turner
Fr. O'Neills Intermediate Hurling Team	Eamon O'Cadhla
Russell Rovers Junior Hurling Team	Boherbue 8 hand céili dancers U18
Eire Óg Intermediate Football Team	Boherbue 8 hand céili dancers U15
Orla O'Rourke	Siobhan Cronin



The award-winning Crossfield's U-18 Céili Band U18 with Cllr Bernard Moynihan, The Mayor of the County of Cork, Cllr Ian Doyle and Tim Lucey, Chief Executive, Cork County Council



Russell Rovers GAA accepting the presentation from The Mayor of the County of Cork, Cllr Ian Doyle, Tim Lucey, Chief Executive, Cork County Council and Cllr Michael Hegarty.

Mayors Recognition Initiative

Due to public health restrictions the Mayor's Community Awards could not be held as planned in April 2020. Instead the Mayor Doyle awarded Certificates of Recognition to 334 groups who were part of the Covid 19 Community Response and also launched the Mayor's Call to Artists, commissioning a piece of art to commemorate the remarkable community spirit shown through the pandemic.

Meetings of Elected Members

Full Council	
Full Council Meetings held in 2020	21
Special Meetings held in 2020	4
AGM Date 2020	24th June 2020
Notice of Motions Received in 2020	72

Covid 19

Following the introduction public health restrictions in March Council meetings were moved to quorum only to ensure social distancing. Starting in June meetings were moved to the foyer of the County Hall to allow all 55 members attend. Following the introduction of legislation allowing for virtual attendance at Full Council meetings the first partially virtual meeting of Council was held on the 14th December 2020.

Corporate Plan

The Cork County Council Corporate Plan 2019 – 2024 is a live and dynamic plan that is reviewed each year.

How the Corporate Plan Informs Our Work



Despite unprecedented circumstances, we have made substantial progress on our plan in 2020 in each of the nine Strategic Themes which are:

STRATEGIC THEME #1



STRATEGIC THEME #2



STRATEGIC THEME #3



STRATEGIC THEME #4



STRATEGIC THEME #5



STRATEGIC THEME #6



STRATEGIC THEME #7



STRATEGIC THEME #8



STRATEGIC THEME #9



The objectives set out in the Corporate Plan form a foundation for our Annual Development Service Delivery Plan, ensuring we maintain a continued focus on delivering the plans objectives while serving as a means of measuring, and emulating, our successes.

Customer Complaints

There were 28 formal complaints received in 2020. A response was issued to 25 of these complaints within the timeframe required by the Customer Charter, which is 15 working days of receipt.
10 requests for Internal Review were received in 2019

Freedom of Information

184 no. Freedom of Information requests were received in 2020. Of these:

- 37 FOI requests were granted
- 60 requests were part-granted
- 65 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)
- 22 FOI requests were withdrawn, 6 of which were answered outside FOI.

8 FOI decisions were referred to the OIC (Office of Information Commissioner) during 2020.

Data Protection

There were 13 Data Subject Access Requests in 2020.

Ombudsman

25 Ombudsman cases were received in 2020.

Audit Committee & Internal Audit

The Audit Committee met on four occasions during 2020 of which three meetings were held remotely in line with public health guidelines. The Committee comprises of 7 members. As part of the Committee's work programme, Internal Audit has a programme of audits that are completed throughout the year and presented to the Committee during the ongoing meetings throughout the year. During 2020 eight audit reports and a full review of recommendations made between 2015 and 2019 were presented to the Committee by the Internal Auditor. Development of a new audit tracker IT system was commenced in quarter 3.

Internal Audit also collated responses from directorates in relation to compliance with the Public Spending Code and compiled the report for the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) annual return.

Bye Laws

Members approved the following on the 11th May 2020
Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act 2004, as amended

Adoption of the following Speed Limit Bye Laws to reflect the Boundary Alteration.

- County of Cork Road Traffic Special Speed Limits (National Roads) Bye Laws 2020
- County of Cork Road Traffic Special Speed Limits (Regional & Local Roads) Bye Laws 2020.

Links with other Local Authority Areas

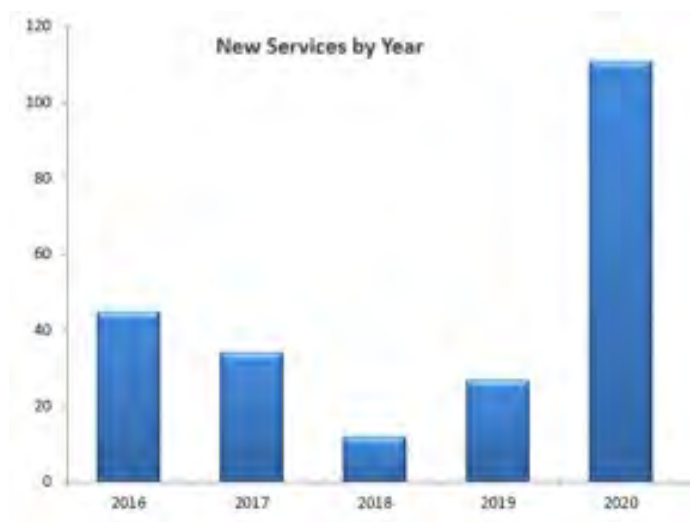
No visits 2020

Digital Services

2020 proved a crucial year for online services and demand reached unprecedented levels for Cork County Council services. The following table highlights the shift in service demand and Service rePublic's delivery in 2020:

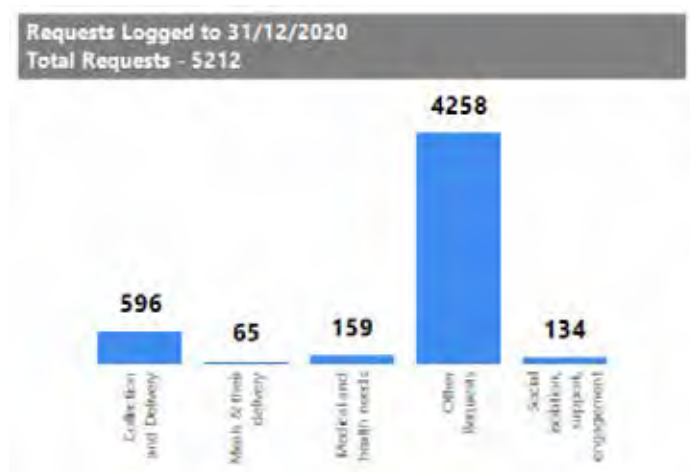
	% change new services on previous year	% change online registrations on previous year	% change online requests on previous year
2018	- 65%	- 34%	+ 12%
2019	+ 125%	+ 3%	+ 33%
2020	+ 311%	+ 120%	+102%

In 2020 alone 58,932 online service requests were made and more than 12,700 people registered an account with the www.yourcouncil.ie portal. By the end of 2020 there were 32,832 people registered with the portal overall. 111 new online services were delivered in 2020 –



Many online services were delivered to support Cork County Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

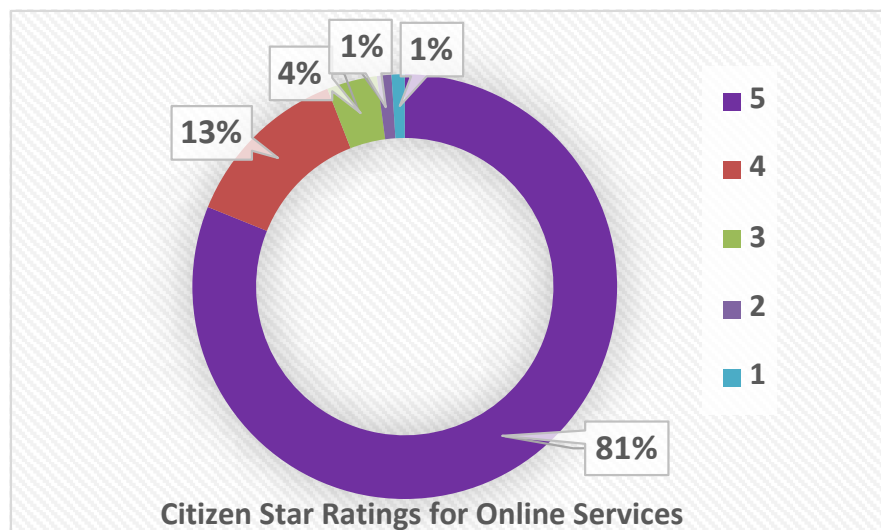
- Online services were delivered to allow the application and processing of the Business Restart Fund Rounds 1 and 2 and Business Restart Declarations. 11,946 applications were received, amounting to over €39 million of grant applications, with over €34 million approved and processed.
- The Community Call Online Service was delivered so that the Contact Center could log and route support calls from the public. Statistics for 2020



Some other online services delivered in 2020 include –

- County Development Plan Online Consultation
- ASDP online
- Online Meetings Record
- Disability Survey
- PMDS Tracker
- Report a full bottle bank (including QR codes)
- Safety Induction Training Part 1
- Safety Tours of Inspection Checklist
- Facilities Reporting Service
- Local Induction Protocol
- PPN Online Nominations
- Apply for COVID-19 Community Support Grant
- Appointments Service for Planning
- Online Book of Condolences
- CCC COVID-19 Community Support Survey
- CCC COVID-19 Send a Thank You
- CCC COVID-19 Tell A Good News Story
- Community Enhancement Fund 2020 – Review and Update
- Library Book Request Service
- Mayor's Call to Artists
- Rediscover Cork Feedback
- Polling Scheme – online submissions
- Section 38s – online submissions
- Art Competitions Online
- Carrigaline pop-up EOI
- Joint Policing Committee – Register
- Joint Policing Committee – submit a question
- Staff Photo Competition
- Register Business for Christmas Promotion
- Mayors Christmas Poster Competition
- Secondary schools' poster competition
- Mallow pop-up Art Exhibition
- Pedestrian and Cycle Route from Bury's Bridge, Kilcoolishal to Carrigwohill via Glounthaune
- Strategic Cycleway Scheme – Ballinacurra to Middleton
- Enhancement of the Public Realm at Charleville Library
- Provision of improved pedestrian and cycle facilities in Carrigaline

It is critical that the quality of online services be maintained. This quality is reflected in the service ratings provided directly by citizens and their very positive feedback and comments –



Citizens are provided with the option of giving a rating for their experience of an online service when they have completed their request. The ratings are star ratings between 1 and 5 with 1 being the worst rating and 5 being the best. The chart above shows the ratings from a total of 4,718 provided by citizens for our online services.

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 2020 the following transactions were finalised:

Total Number of Transactions:	525
Land Acquisition including NRA	32
Wayleaves/ROW	14
Leases/Licence	44
Disposals	82
Acq. of Houses including Part V	345
Miscellaneous	8

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 1600 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 systems, 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
- Electrical generation, Uninterruptible Power Supply, Residual Circuit Diode, Thermal Imaging, Transformer, Switch-gear, earth loop impedance testing
- Insurance/Irish Engineering Service inspections
- Passenger lists, boilers, water tanks, calorifiers, pressure vessels, kitchen extinguisher

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 2020 include:

- Full security risk assessment of site and remedial actions completed which include additional access control, CCTV, changes to public access routes, lift control
- Multi level car park repair works
- Audio Visual upgrade works for meeting rooms on 3 floors
- Equipment Asset Tagging project initiation
- Business Continuity Planning Development
- Installation of Covid 19 protective measures and facilitating safe public access to the campus
- 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.

Risk Management

The risk registers continue to be maintained and managed in CalQRisk. This has been supported by directorate risk register reviews at each Risk Oversight Committee meeting. In 2020, the following risk registers were reviewed:

- Housing
- Environment
- Roads
- Personnel
- Corporate
- Finance
- Planning

The Corporate Risk Register is reviewed on an ongoing schedule.

Membership of the Risk Oversight Committee has been extended to all directorates. Since the beginning of 2020, the Risk Oversight Committee meeting frequency has been increased from every quarter to every 2 months.

Contact Centre, Main Switchboard and Reception

Customer Services Contact Centre

In 2020, Cork County Council's Customer Contact Centre handled:

Call Answered	63,906
Emails Handled general departments (4,715) Covid Support Restart Grant emails (4,627)	9,342

The Covid-19 Community Call Programme Freephone Telephone Line

Cork County Council's Covid-19 Community Support Programme freephone telephone line went live on March 30th, 2020. An email address and SMS facility were also made available and handled by the Customer Contact Centre. The Contact Centre operated the lines from 8am to 8pm 7 days a week including Covid-19 related emails and SMS. Staff were seconded from various departments to assist with the calls and many of these worked remotely resulting in no loss of service to the public during the Covid-19 lockdown. The service remains in place and operates 7 days a week. 2,483 calls were handled in 2020.

Restart Grant

From May 2020 the Contact Centre managed calls relating to the Restart Grant in both the initial scheme and the Restart Plus scheme. 4,468 calls relating to the Restart Grant were handled in 2020. The Contact Centre worked closely with the Council's Economic Development and Finance Directorates in dealing with applications for the grants and for the management of queries.

Main Switchboard/Reception

In 2020, Cork County Hall's main switchboard handled 100,000 calls, transferring these calls to the relevant staff throughout the Council.

Front Desk

For contact tracing purposes and in order to comply with the HSE public health guidelines, changes were made to the access to County Hall prior to it reopening to the public on June 29th, 2020. This was to ensure the capture of details of all visitors to the County Hall campus for contact tracing purposes and to ensure that there is correct management of meetings with members of the public.

3,536 visitors' details were captured from June 29th, 2020 until September 30th, 2020. These details are kept for 30 days and they destroyed in compliance with HSE guidelines.

Phone Systems

The company responsible for the maintenance of the Council's telephone systems has worked with the Contact Centre and Switch in order to improve systems, including:

- Facilitate remote working
- Call recording
- Integrating the phone system with the CRM
- Integrating the main County Hall number on the Contact Centre system

This collaboration will continue in 2021 so that these frontline contact services are made as user friendly and as efficient as possible.

Facilities Issues logging system

The Contact Centre worked closely with the Facilities Department and Service Republic team to build an online system to capture and work on Facilities issues for the County hall. This was rolled out in October 2020.

Out of hours Call Answering Service

A tender process took place for the Council's Out of Hours call answering service, a contract was awarded, the new service provider was trained, and it commenced taking calls in June 2020. The Out of Hours service handled 3,783 calls in 2020. August 2020 saw an unprecedented number of severe weather events including Storm Ellen and Storm Francis and the Out of Hours service played a crucial role in the management of the Council's response to the events.

Section/ Service	Total Calls Handled	Emails Received
Contact Centre (Total)	63,906	9,342
Switch	100,000	N/A
Covid 19 Community Support Programme	2,483	1,051
Restart Grant	4,468	3576
Out of Hours	3,783	N/A

Communications

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

339 Releases were issued in 2020, with 96% uptake (an increase from 248 releases issued in 2019). The Communications Office managed 638 Media Queries (representing an increase of over 29% from 2019, with 494 queries). In 2020, 339 Media Releases issued featuring events and projects in which the Council participated alongside notifications on major incidents impacting the Cork County community, ranging from severe weather events to critical updates on the Covid 19 pandemic.

Campaigns and Incidents

Incidents:

- Storm Ciara
- Storm Denis
- Grounding of the MV Alta near Ballycotton
- Storm Jorge
- Covid 19 Pandemic
- West Cork Flooding in advance of Storm Ellen
- Storm Ellen
- Storm Francis
- Storm Aidan
- Other Unnamed Adverse Weather Events x5

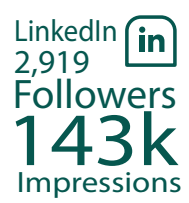
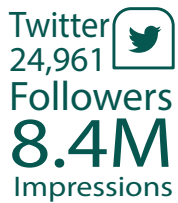
Cork County Council's Communications Team also engaged in the promotion of numerous Campaigns and Events throughout the year including;

- Cork Business and Tourism Awards (2019-2020)
- County Development Plan Public Participation
- Public Health Campaigns including #KeepWell, #HoldFirm, #InThisTogether
- The Community Support Programme / Community Call
- Teen Talks Online
- 5K Photo Challenge
- Abodoo Talent Map
- Project ACT
- Rediscover Cork County
- Fermoy Wier Public Participation
- Regional Public Health Messaging with Cork City and Kerry County Councils
- Winter Service Plan and Winter Ready Campaigns
- A Real Cork Christmas
- Diversity in Local Government Campaign 2020

Social Media

Through its Social Media channels, Cork County Council communicates directly with residents. The Communications Team manages social media to ensure clarity, accuracy and reach.

Figures compiled Jan. 2020 to Dec. 2020



Twitter:	Followers, 24,961 (+3,294)	8.4M Impressions (+3.2)
Facebook:	Followers, 30,419 (+4,578)	3.2M Impressions
Instagram:	Followers, 3,155 (+1,607)	118K Impressions
LinkedIn:	Followers, 6,179 (+3,260)	143K Impressions

Mayor's Office

The Covid 19 Pandemic placed novel demands on The Office of the Mayor of the County of Cork, with the focus of meetings, ceremony's and congratulations moving primarily online. The Communications Office were instrumental in supporting a transition to video speeches and ensuring that The Office of the Mayor of the County of Cork continued to represent the Council and the people of Cork County publicly.

The Communications Team assisted the Mayor's Office with the provision of 48 speeches/videos during 2020.

25 Mayor's columns were drafted and published in The Examiner.

23 Mayor's columns were drafted published in The Cork Independent.

Website

The Communications Team continued to maintain the Cork County Council Corporate website and ensured it's 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. The website had over 2.3 Million views in 2020, with 60% of users accessing via their mobile phones.

Oifig na Gaeilge 2020 (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 the Official Languages Act 2003 while promoting the language through the Council's day to day operations.

Prior to the implementation of the National Covid 19 lockdown restrictions on the 12th of March, various events were funded by Oifig an Gaeilge, and organised in co-operation with the Library and Arts Service as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge. These events included music, song, and storytelling performances held across the county. Once lockdown was implemented all remaining events were moved online in adherence with public health guidance.

During 2020 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. While the number of events was lower overall due to Covid 19 restrictions, the Irish Office was encouraged by the level of interest shown, and by the innovation and ingenuity shown by Organisers who were able to move many of their events online.

The Irish Officer continues to take an active part in council Culture Team and Creative Ireland activities, as well as partaking in the Arts Culture and Languages Strategic Policy Committee which meets quarterly. In 2020 the Irish Office assisted the Heritage Office in the translation of the 2nd edition of the 'Cork's Colourful Heritage' bilingual colouring book series.

Oifig na Gaeilge undertook a campaign seeking expressions of interest from council staff in relation to providing Irish classes at various levels. There was a very enthusiastic response and classes will commence in 2021 for circa 120 participants.

The Cork County Council website was maintained to ensure the static content thereon is available in both English and Irish. Work continues towards ensuring that other Council interactive services are also available bilingually.

In 2020 Cork County Council continued to build on its media and social media output through Irish and will continue this positive trend going forward.

Social Media Posts in Irish	News & Public Notices Items on Website in Irish	Press Releases released bilingually to the media
274	178	33

Oifig na Gaeilge continues to liaise with various Irish language interest groups such as Gael Taca who receive sponsorship from Cork County Council, as well as various organisations in the Gaeltacht regions of Cork County .

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.

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 Aidan Lombard

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

PROPERTY SECTION - 1ST JANUARY 2020 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Sector	Representative
Agriculture	Billy Cotter
Business & Employers	Aiden O'Neill
Environment / Conservation	
Development / Construction	Michael O'Flynn
Community / Voluntary	
Social Inclusion	
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 Liam O'Connor	
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	

PROPERTY SECTION - 1ST JANUARY 2020 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2020	
Sector	Representative
Agriculture	Chris Hayes
Business & Employers	Cian Murphy
Environment / Conservation	
Development / Construction	Michael O'Shea
Community / Voluntary	
Social Inclusion	
Others	Madeleine Murray Barry O'Dwyer 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

PROPERTY SECTION - 1ST JANUARY 2020 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Sector	Representative
Agriculture	Jimmy Hosford
Business & Employers	Bryan O'Donnell
Trade Union	Michael Delargey
Development / Construction	Aidan Mangan
Community / Voluntary	
Others	

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	

PROPERTY SECTION - 1ST JANUARY 2020 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2020	
Sector	Representative
Agriculture	
Business & Employers	Derry Cronin Aaron Mansworth
Community / Voluntary	
Others	Josephine O'Driscoll Clayton Love Valerie Murphy Eileen O'Shea

Strategic Policy Committee no. 5

Housing

Mr. Maurice Manning, Director of Housing

14 Members of Council

Representatives Cork County Council
Chairperson: Cllr Seamus McGrath
Meeting Administrator: Karen Higgins / 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

PROPERTY SECTION - 1ST JANUARY 2020 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Sector	Representative
Trade Union	Stephen McCarthy Susan R. Cullen
Development / Construction	
Community / Voluntary	
Social Inclusion	

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 Aidan Lombard

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

PROPERTY SECTION - 1ST JANUARY 2020 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Sector	Representative
Agriculture	
Business & Employers	Seán Twohig
Trade Union	John Bowen
Environment / Conservation	
Development / Construction	Seán Carrigy
Community / Voluntary	
Social Inclusion	
Others	Martin Walsh

Strategic Policy Committee no. 7

Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development

Mr. Niall Healy, Municipal District Operations & Rural Development

13 Members of Council

Representatives Cork County Council
Chairperson: Cllr John Paul o'Shea
Meeting Administrator: Noelle Desmond

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

PROPERTY SECTION - 1ST JANUARY 2020 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Sector	Representative
Trade Union	Eddie Mullins
Environment / Conservation	
Community / Voluntary	
Social Inclusion	
Others	Sorcha Ni Chruaiaich

Strategic Policy Committee no. 8

Arts Culture & Language

Mr. Niall Healy, Municipal District Operations & Rural Development

13 Members of Council

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

Member

Councillor Karen Coakley

Councillor Liam O'Connor

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

PROPERTY SECTION - 1ST JANUARY 2020 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Sector	Representative
Community / Voluntary	Kenneth Buckley
Community / Voluntary	
Social Inclusion	
Others	Mary Hegarty Geoff Gould Eamon Lankford Ann Davoren

Appendices



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

Annual Service Delivery Plan Objectives 2020							
Principle Service	Corporate Plan Theme	Corporate Plan Objective	ASDP Objective	Performance Standard	Performance Indicator	Status	Comment
CORPORATE SERVICES - 20 Objectives							
Property Procurement, Sale & Leasing Agent	Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	Support & assist the Housing Directorate in achieving the Departmental targets for social housing	Departmental targets to be achieved by December 2020	Not Applicable	Ongoing	This is an ongoing process with annual targets to be met.
Service Transformation Team	Service Quality	6.1 Service Design	Take a people-centered approach and embrace innovation to deliver key objectives across Cork County Council strategies and plans using Service Design	6 service design projects delivered. Engagement session on Corporate Plan Review	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Corporate Plan review has been delayed into 2021. Service Design projects have been delivered
Service Transformation Team	Service Quality	6.2 Digital Transformation	Leverage the power of digital services to deliver for citizens, communities, businesses and staff across Cork County Council Strategies and Plans through our online services platform	Digital Strategy completed and 40 digital services delivered	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Digital strategy review is underway due to interruption by COVID emergency. 111 digital services were delivered in 2020, far exceeding the target in this objective
Customer Services	Service Quality	6.3 Innovative Processes	Provide quality customer engagement and responses and continue to seek to improve processes and technical solutions	Ensure that all customer contacts are managed and responded to efficiently	Not Applicable	Completed	worked with PlanNet and Service Republic to provide a more robust and user friendly service to customers
Irish Office/Oifig na Gaeilge	Service Quality	6.9 Deliver	Implement a maintenance plan & protocol for upkeep of the Irish Language on website with brand identity	Maintenance plan in place	Not Applicable	Completed	

Irish Office/Oifig na Gaeilge	Service Quality	6.9 Deliver	Promote greater use of the Irish language and the role of the Irish Officer	Compliance with Official Languages Act 2003 and promotion of Irish Officer Role	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Promotion of the Irish language is ongoing in conjunction with the development of the Irish Officer Role.
Electoral Register	Governance and Democracy	7.1 Democracy	Processing of Franchise and Electoral Register transactions in a timely manner	Franchise and Electoral Register maintained and up to date.	Not Applicable	Completed	
Democratic Representation	Governance and Democracy	7.1 Democracy	Develop & support the democratic role of the Elected Members	Democratic role of the Elected Members supported & developed	Not Applicable	Completed	
Data Protection, Freedom of Information, Customer Care	Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	Lead and Support Directorates in the implementation of GDPR, FOI and Customer Care to ensure compliance and transparency	Maximum possible GDPR compliance , and adherence to FOI legislation	Not Applicable	Completed	
Corporate Risk Management	Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	Prepare an Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy	Policy in place	Not Applicable	Delayed or Carried Forward	Will be finalised in 2021
Corporate Risk Management	Governance and Democracy	7.3 Risk Management	Implement the Council's Corporate Risk Management Policy through the Risk Oversight Committee	Hold minimum of 4 meetings in 2020	Not Applicable	Completed	
Audit Committee	Governance and Democracy	7.6 Internal Audit And Audit Committee	Develop Annual Report and Annual Work Programme	Sign off Q3 2020	Not Applicable	Completed	
Internal Audit	Governance and Democracy	7.6 Internal Audit And Audit Committee	Complete all audits in Audit Plan 2020	Complete by December 2020	Not Applicable	Completed	
Internal Audit	Governance and Democracy	7.6 Internal Audit And Audit Committee	Develop Audit Plan 2021	Sign off by December 2020	Not Applicable	Completed	
Internal Audit	Governance and Democracy	7.6 Internal Audit And Audit Committee	Develop Strategic Audit Plan 2021 - 2023	Sign off December 2020	Not Applicable	Completed	
PR/Publicity	Communications	8.3 Brand Identity	Increase the profile and promote the role of the Mayor of the County of Cork and the 8 Municipal Districts	Promotion of all significant activities	Not Applicable	Completed	
PR/Publicity	Communications	8.3 Brand Identity	Promote CCC as an innovative & progressive Local Authority & provider of high quality local services by identifying and promoting positive actions across all platforms	Increase media pick up, website and social media traffic	C3A: Total page views of the local authority's websites in 20XX	Completed	

Major Emergency/Severe Weather	Communications	8.4 Engagement	Provide members of the public, Elected Members and Council staff with accurate and up to date information in relation to emergencies and severe weather situations	Up to date information provided on Emergencies and Severe Weather situations	C3B: Total number of website and social media followers at end 20XX	Completed	
Customer Services	Innovation	9.2 Digital Transformation	Establish a Civic Hub on ground floor of County Hall	Civic Hub in place	Not Applicable	Delayed or Carried Forward	Carried forward
Service Transformation Team	Innovation	9.3 Business Intelligence	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	
COUNTY SOLICITORS - 4 Objectives							
High Court, Circuit Court and District Court Litigation	Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	Provide effective litigation services on behalf of the Council as and when required.	Provision of effective defence and prosecutorial services.	Not Applicable	Completed	
Services provided to Irish Water under the SLA.	Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	Provide legal services to Irish Water under SLA.	Provision of effective and timely legal services.	Not Applicable	Completed	
Legal Services	Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	Provision of legal advice and legal services to Directors of Service and Municipal Districts.	Ensure advice is of a high quality and given in a timely manner.	Not Applicable	Completed	
Maintenance of a Litigation Risk Register	Governance and Democracy	7.3 Risk Management	Provide information to assist in the assessment of the Council's liabilities arising in connection with litigation.	Provision of an estimate of the Council's exposure to costs and compensation.	Not Applicable	Completed	
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE AND TOURISM - 11 Objectives							
Community Initiatives	Strong Inclusive Communities	2.6 Community Capacity	6. Promote and support rural economic and community development in Cork County through implementation of the LEADER Programme	Complete by Q3	Not Applicable	Completed	

Economic Development	Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.1 Partnership For Growth	1. Develop and promote best practise in economic development policy and deliver targeted financial supports to strategic economic development initiatives including International relationships for the b	Complete by Q3	Not Applicable	Completed	
Economic Development	Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.1 Partnership For Growth	4. Provide manage and market hard Infrastructure to support growth of start ups and SMEs in Cork County	Complete by Q3	Not Applicable	Completed	
Develop Rural Digital Hubs	Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.1 Partnership For Growth	8. Promote the diversification of rural economy through the research and development of Rural Digital Innovation Hubs in accordance with local and regional policy	Complete by Q3	Not Applicable	Completed	
South West Regional Plan	Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.1 Partnership For Growth	3. Co-ordinate and manage the implementation of the South West Regional Enterprise Plan	Complete by Q3	Not Applicable	Completed	
Tourism	Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.3 Tourism As A Rural Catalyst	7. Growing Cork County's tourism potential through a series of targeted interventions and financial supports	Complete by Q3	J4A: Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Completed	
Tourism	Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.3 Tourism As A Rural Catalyst	2. Develop and maximise the potential of CCC owned tourism infrastructure to increase visitor numbers to the County	Complete project by Q3	J4B: Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Completed	
Enterprise Supports	Capacity for Growth	5.8 Projects Of Scale	5. To develop and deliver general business training, mentoring, management development and financial supports to the micro enterprise market in the County	Complete by Q3	J1: The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office in 20XX	Completed	
Economic Development	Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	Health & Safety - comply with CCC's H&S Management System Ensure Bulletins & Alerts are implemented. Implement Schedule of safety tours	Complete project by Q3	Not Applicable	Completed	

Economic Development	Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	Financial Management System - comply with CCC's financial Management System including internal audit work programme recommendations	Complete by Q3	Not Applicable	Completed	
Economic Development	Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	Risk Management - Review regularly risk register in accordance with Corporate Policy; Implement recommendation of Directorate Team Meeting or risk oversight committee where relevant	Complete project Q3	Not Applicable	Completed	
ENVIRONMENT/CLIMATE CHANGE/BROADBAND/EMERGENCY SERVICES - 12 Objectives							
Energy Awareness Service	Climate and Environment	4.1 Green Is Core	Retain ISO 50001 certification for corporate energy management programme	Accreditation Retained	Not Applicable	Completed	
Climate Change Adaptation Strategies	Climate and Environment	4.1 Green Is Core	Implement Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in accordance with statutory obligations and national guidance document	Achievement of 2020 strategy targets	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Implementation of over 80% of the actions attached to the strategy progressed in 2020.
Operation of Climate Action Regional Office	Climate and Environment	4.1 Green Is Core	Delivery of 2020 Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) Work Programme as agreed with the DCCAE	Achievement of 2020 Work Programme targets	Not Applicable	Completed	
Haulbowline Island	Climate and Environment	4.1 Green Is Core	Implement aftercare programme for Haulbowline Island in accordance with licence requirements and MOU program.	Achievement of 2020 targets	Not Applicable	Completed	
Environmental testing, monitoring and enforcement programmes	Climate and Environment	4.2 Measure Impact	Meet the targets specified in the Annual Environmental (RMCEI) Inspection Plan 2020	Inspection Plan targets as individually listed in section team plan fully met.	Not Applicable	Completed	
Veterinary Food Safety	Climate and Environment	4.2 Measure Impact	Deliver Food Safety and related laboratory services programmes in accordance with the FSAI Service Contract and National Sampling Plan.	SLA targets as individually listed in section team plan fully met.	Not Applicable	Completed	

Building Control	Climate and Environment	4.2 Measure Impact	Promote a culture of compliance with the building regulations	Achieve a county-wide target of 12% to 15% of new buildings inspected	P1A: Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	Completed	
Waste Enforcement	Climate and Environment	4.3 Natural Assets	Implementation of Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA) Business Plan adopted by Public Services Review Oversight Group (PSROG)	Business Plan targets for 2020 as individually listed in section team plan, full	Not Applicable	Completed	
Major Emergency Management	Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	Review, update, exercise and test CCC Major Emergency Plan and Inter-Agency (Local Authority, HSE, An Garda Síochána) site specific External Emergency Plans for Upper-tier establishments	Q4 2020 as per CCC's Major Emergency Management Committee Work Programme 2020	Not Applicable	Completed	
Monitoring and testing programmes on behalf of Irish Water	Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	Meet the requirements of Annual Sampling Plans Agreed with Irish Water	Sampling Plan targets as individually listed in section team plans fully met.	Not Applicable	Completed	
Fire Service Management	Service Quality	6.5 Benchmark	Review and redraft the Area Risk Categorisation Report & the Fire and Emergency Operations Plan	Completed in Q3 2020	Not Applicable	Completed	
Fire Service Operations	Service Quality	6.5 Benchmark	Review fire cover arrangements within the county in light of RBA II Report. Consult neighbouring authorities.	Completed Q4 2021	Not Applicable	Delayed or Carried Forward	Delayed due to national issues. Circular Letter from National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management awaited
FINANCE - 12 Objectives							
Procurement	Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	Develop procurement compliance within the Council.	Provide training for 80% staff	Not Applicable	Completed	
Corporate Financial Governance	Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	Establish optimal corporate financial governance structures which meet industry standard best practice, including statutory requirements.	Full governance review in 2020	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Review was complete in 2020 with final report finalised Q2 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the completion of the report

Corporate Financial Governance	Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	Commission fully integrated Enterprise Resource (ERP) Systems to adequately support business processes, activities and obligations.	1. Produce plan 2. Select ERP 3. Resource project team	Not Applicable	Delayed or Carried Forward	The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the prioritisation of financial management of resources and delayed the consideration of new system
Procurement	Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	Promote and embed a value delivery culture in all operational areas.	Through governance structure develop revise Proc Policy & Corporate Proc Plan	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Procurement Policy was revised in Q1 2020 and a draft Corporate Procurement Plan prepared the finalisation of which will be completed in 2021
Finance Operational	Governance and Democracy	7.3 Risk Management	Manage the finalisation of financial implications of the boundary alteration to achieve the optimal outcome for Cork County Council.	Achieve optimal financial settlement to secure future operations	Not Applicable	Completed	
Corporate Insurances	Governance and Democracy	7.3 Risk Management	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	
Payroll	Governance and Democracy	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	Provide an effective payroll service to all staff and align with national shared services policy	Meet statutory payroll obligations and Implement Core Pay	Not Applicable	Completed	
Rate Collection	Governance and Democracy	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	Maximize Collection Levels	Maintain 2018 performance	M2A: Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 20XX	Ongoing	COVID 19 had a very significant impact on the County's business owners/properties many of which were closed for the majority of the year resulting in a lower collection for 2020 that will carryover.
Payments	Governance and Democracy	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	Provide an effective accounts payable service to creditors & in compliance with relevant legislation	Meet statutory prompt payment obligations	Not Applicable	Completed	
House loan collection	Governance and Democracy	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	Maximize collection levels for housing loans & continue to reduce to arrears.	Reduce arrears value and reduce number of accounts in arrears.	M2C: Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 20XX	Completed	

Motor Tax	Governance and Democracy	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	Provide an efficient Counter and Postal Motor Tax service	Provide an effective service	Not Applicable	Completed	
Rates	Governance and Democracy	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	Maximise Effective Rateable Valuation Base	Improve on 2018 performance	Not Applicable	Ongoing	COVID-19 negatively impacted on the capacity of the VO to complete inspections and revisions due to public health measures. This continues to be monitored and pursued by the Council.
HOUSING - 11 Objectives							
Homelessness	Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	Work with stakeholders to minimise homelessness	No. HAP units sourced by Placefinder and introduction of Housing First	H6A: 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 20XX	Ongoing	Housing First not implemented until February.
Housing Options	Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	Increase the no. of private minimum rental standards inspections	Target of 3944 inspections in 2020	H5B: Number of rented dwellings inspected in 20XX	Ongoing	Due to COVID 19 private rental inspections were suspended.
Travellers Strategy	Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	Monitor progress of targets in Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024	Performance against the targets	Not Applicable	Completed	
Housing Capital & Finance	Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	Progress delivery of social housing supports in accordance with the objectives of rebuilding Ireland using the full range of delivery mechanisms available as well as working with AHB's to max delivery	Capital Programme of 610 units in 2020 together with a HAP target of 1100	H1B: No. of dwellings added to the LA owned stock during 2019 (whether constructed or acquired)	Ongoing	Construction and acquisition targets were exceeded. HAP target of 1100 not fully achieved as demand was lower than anticipated.
Housing Options	Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	Progress delivery of social leasing programme including AHB delivery, private leasing/long term leasing	Deliver 210 units in 2020	H1A: No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 1/1/20XX	Completed	

Housing Applications and Transfers Administration	Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	Undertake an Annual Housing Needs Assessment	To be completed in accordance with the target set by the DHPLG	Not Applicable	Completed	
Housing Architectural Support	Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	Progress the delivery of affordable housing	Develop proposals for 3 sites in Clonakilty, Carrigaline & Kinsale in Part 8	H1B: No. of dwellings added to the LA owned stock during 2019 (whether constructed or acquired)	Delayed or Carried Forward	Announcement of the details of a National Affordable Housing Scheme are awaited.
Housing Options	Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	Continue to provide grants to private houses subject to Departmental approval,	Process applications in a timely manner	Not Applicable	Completed	
Refurbishment of Vacant houses	Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	Implement a voids and derelict voids reletting programme	Complete refurbishment of 135 voids & 24 derelict voids and recoup by Q4	H4A: Expenditure during 2019 on the maintenance of LA housing compiled 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 & Finance	Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	Complete South Cork Rent Review	Implement updated rents from September 2020	Not Applicable	Delayed or Carried Forward	Staffing resources for Rent Review were not in place.
Energy Efficiency Projects management	Capacity for Growth	5.5 Housing	Continue energy efficiency retrofitting works programme for local authority housing	Rollout phase 2 of the energy efficiency programme	H4A: Expenditure during 2019 on the maintenance of LA housing compiled 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	

ICT - 6 Objectives

Implement PMDS for all IT Staff	Our People	1.1 Develop	Ensure the cycle of PMDS is completed for all staff	Number of PDPs, interim reviews, end of year reviews completed	Not Applicable		
Support line of business applications and systems	Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	Support ICT solutions for line of business systems and reduce exposure to EOL & EOS OS, software applications and DBs	Quality of business support and % uptime	Not Applicable	Ongoing	10 upgrades completed in 2020 Odyssey, Online Submissions, iReg, iHouse, House Loans, MapGuide, Qpulse, Gladstone, Planning Enquiry, KeyHouse - started due for completion Q1 2021
Provide efficient, cost effective service delivery	Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	Deliver high quality, cost effective services	Number of service desk tickets closed	C4: Cost of ICT per WTE	Ongoing	22,138 Service desk tickets closed, 689 laptops allocated, 86 desktops re-distributed, 289 user accounts created, 53 user accounts deleted
Deliver secure/resilient IT services	Governance and Democracy	7.3 Risk Management	Ensure all IT services are being delivered in a way that provides a stable and reliable environment. Maximise information security and comply with regulatory standards.	Number of patches installed security threats responded to security campaigns	Not Applicable	Ongoing	349 patches deployed across all servers and computers, 48 Security threats responded to, 41 Security communications issued, 12 Security training videos, 3 Phishing exercises
Provide the technology to enable Operational Transformation	Innovation	9.2 Digital Transformation	IT are supporting operational transformation through the implementation of modern workplace technologies	Number of users migrated to O365	Not Applicable	Ongoing	1115 Office 365 installs, 1440 MS Teams installs, 454 migrated to Exchange 365

Improve access to Information Management & Collaboration channels	Innovation	9.3 Business Intelligence	IT are supporting more effective information management and providing more collaboration facilities	Number of GIS layers available Number of Team/Sharepoint sites created	Not Applicable	Ongoing	110 GIS layers created, 1440 staff have access to Teams meeting/chat functionality - Sharepoint/Team collaboration roll-out delayed
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MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT - 10 Objectives

Social Sustainability & Investment Programme	Our People	1.1 Develop	Progress SSIP projects assigned to directorate	31/12/2020	Not Applicable	Completed	
Library promotion	Our People	1.1 Develop	Promote library as centre of information, learning, culture & community through library's collections, publications & events, with focus on literature & reading. Deliver a range of cultural & community progs.	Community awareness of and engagement with library services enhanced.	Not Applicable	Completed	
Library promotion	Strong Inclusive Communities	2.1 Vibrant Towns	Promote arts and culture in the community. Manage Writer in Residence in Libraries. Develop online reporting process for Arts Grant programme using the firmstep platform.	Programme delivered by Q4	Not Applicable	Completed	
Leisure Facilities	Strong Inclusive Communities	2.3 Social Engagement	Manage, maintain & develop local facilities & amenities inc parks, playgrounds, open spaces, beaches, piers & harbours etc	Services maintained at 2019 levels. Attain Blue Flag & Green Coast.	Not Applicable	Completed	
Age Friendly Programme	Strong Inclusive Communities	2.7 Older Persons Wellbeing	Progress Age Friendly County Strategy Actions, Progress Older People's Council Work Programme, Progress Age Friendly Alliance, Progress & Promote Social Inclusion.	Progress actions with others, hold min. of 4 meetings in+1 social event inc SPC.	Not Applicable	Completed	

Government Funding Programmes	Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.4 Town Cluster Development	Submit high quality project proposals under RRDF, T&V, ORIS, Clár etc & prepare town framework concepts where applicable	31/12/20	Not Applicable	Completed	
Architects	Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.4 Town Cluster Development	Assist the Municipal Districts Operations & Rural Development directorate – and other directorates - with the design, development and delivery of Capital Works projects, streetscape enhancements and P	Provide design support as required.	Not Applicable	Completed	
Climate Action	Climate and Environment	4.3 Natural Assets	Progress climate action & Biodiversity interventions in accordance with CCC/ directorate programme	31/12/2020	Not Applicable	Completed	
Cork Local Government Boundary Alteration	Governance and Democracy	7.1 Democracy	Finalise annual financial compensation, submit statutory progress reports to IOC	Ongoing	Not Applicable	Completed	
Democratic Representation	Governance and Democracy	7.1 Democracy	Develop & Support democratic role of MD Members.	Democratic role of Elected Members supported&developed at Divisional&MD meetings	Not Applicable	Completed	
PERSONNEL - 7 Objectives							
Staff Training	Our People	1.1 Develop	Retain CPD accreditation programme for Engineers. Ensure compliance with training criteria for Solas Craft Apprentices.	Accreditation retained	Not Applicable	Completed	
Staff Relations	Our People	1.3 Wellbeing	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 2019	C2A: Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 20XX	Ongoing	final 2020 statistics to be prepared

Safety	Our People	1.8 Health & Safety	Adhere to H&S/ welfare best practice through staff consultation/communication/proactive checking. Continuously improve Safety Management System (SMS), adhere to safety legislation	Retain Accreditation	Not Applicable	Completed	
HR Projects	Service Quality	6.3 Innovative Processes	Implement measures to facilitate (a) a smooth transition to MyPay and (b) the potential roll-out of the Core Health & Safety module	Measures in place to facilitate change	Not Applicable	Delayed or Carried Forward	(a) COVID resulted in the delay with progress. Meetings and Workshops resumed in Q3. (b) Pilot underway with one directorate.
Child Safeguarding	Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	Compliance with relevant Child Protection and Garda Vetting Legislation to include staff training & staff vetting	Comply with legislation	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Not all Child Safeguarding Statements/Risk Assessments completed. Training is ongoing due to new recruits and refresher training for existing staff. Garda Vetting is an ongoing process.
Superannuation	Governance and Democracy	7.2 Governance	Administer Pension Schemes correctly interpreting legislation & regulations. Reduce errors and/or omissions.	All pensions paid correctly	Not Applicable	Completed	
Mgt Info, Controls & Compliance	Governance and Democracy	7.4 Business, Service & Systems	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 by Q4	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Online Application and Interviews introduced. Exploring new areas which can be improved through the use of technology will be a continual process.
PLANNING - 10 Objectives							
Development Management	Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.2 Implementation Of Planning Policy	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 specif	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 20XX	Ongoing	Not time limited objective Open ended

Housing Estates	Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.2 Implementation Of Planning Policy	Manage the resolution of Unfinished Housing Developments. Increased number of housing estates taken in charge. Framework prepared and works being implemented	Increase: No of developments brought to acceptable standard, Bonds drawn & works	Not Applicable	Delayed or Carried Forward	Contractors appointed for initial tranche but works delayed due to Covid.
Planning Enforcement	Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.2 Implementation Of Planning Policy	Deliver timely and responsive Planning Enforcement service	Compliance with statutory timelines. Give effect to outcomes from Internal Review	P3A: Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/20XX	Ongoing	Not a time limited objective, open ended
Planning Policy	Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.2 Implementation Of Planning Policy	Active Land Management initiatives through the Vacant Sites Register, Housing Land Availability Studies and Strategic Land reserve.	Implement Active Land Mgt initiatives through the V Sites Register, HAS & SL res	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Not a time limited objective, open ended
Development Contributions	Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.2 Implementation Of Planning Policy	Collect Development Contributions levied with Planning Permission and arrange schedule of payments. Provide reports in relation to Planning Refund requests.	Assessment of all applications under the D C S, pursuit of O/S accounts	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Work on identifying accounts ongoing. Additional resources assigned.
Planning Policy	Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.7 Growth Preparedness	Provide Strategic Planning Guidance through the preparation of statutory County development Plan and Local Area Plans	Commencement CDP Review Process	Not Applicable	Ongoing	CDP Review has commenced.
Housing Infrastructure Implementation Team	Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.7 Growth Preparedness	Support the implementation of Urban Expansion Areas (UEAs) within Cork County Council's jurisdiction.	Progress implementation of UEAs. Water Rock, Carrigtwohill, Monard & Cobh	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Progressing to Contributions Scheme 2021
Planning Policy	Climate and Environment	4.1 Green Is Core	Carry out an Environmental and Infrastructure Audit to support the preparation of the CDP and the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the CDP	Finalise the preparation of Env & Infr Audit to support the CDP & SEA of CDP	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Ongoing as part of the CDP Review process.

Archaeology, Heritage and Conservation Services	Climate and Environment	4.3 Natural Assets	Manage and provide expert advice on the provision of Archaeology, Heritage and Conservation services across Council including the Planning Control, administering the Nat Arch Cons grants	Compliance legislative requirements. avail of funding opportunities, education	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Not a time limited objective, open ended
Traffic and Transport	Climate and Environment	4.6 Supporting Sustainable Transport	Promote all modes of transport including public transport, walking and cycling to improve the movement of people within and beyond the County	Deliver NTA funded public transport/cycle/walking schemes, Little Island Study.	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Not time limited objective, open ended and evolves as funding becomes available.
ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION - 12 Objectives							
Roads Management Development - Public Lighting (O&M)	Climate and Environment	4.4 Sustainable Communities	Substantially complete the annual New Public Lighting Programme 2020. Maintain Public Lighting Stock	Substantially complete by Q4 2020	Not Applicable	Delayed or Carried Forward	Public Lighting was maintained for 2020. The Capital programme for 2020 is 70% complete with some projects carried over to be completed in Q1 2021, however this is dependent on Covid Restrictions.
Roads Management & Development - Public Lighting - (O&M)	Climate and Environment	4.4 Sustainable Communities	Substantially complete the 2018/2020 LED Public Lighting conversion programme	Substantially complete by Q4 2020	Not Applicable	Completed	
Fleet Management	Climate and Environment	4.6 Supporting Sustainable Transport	Continue collaboration with the Energy & Climate Change Dept. in striving to achieve reduced energy usage targets & maintaining ISO50001 accreditation. Roll out Fuel Mgt Strategy & Fleet Safety Policy	Ongoing	Not Applicable	Completed	
Roads Management & Development - Road Safety	Capacity for Growth	5.1 Sustainable Transport Infrastructure	Investigate all fatal accident sites for possible road contributory factors/hazards identification. Participate in RSTWG. Complete the intro of 30km/h speed limit byelaws in further nominated estates	Within 2 months of accident and bye-laws in Cork County Council Housing Estates	Not Applicable	Completed	
Roads Operations	Capacity for Growth	5.1 Sustainable Transport Infrastructure	Deliver approved programme of verge maintenance and town approaches improvements as provided for in the Council's Budget	Complete by Q3/2020	Not Applicable	Completed	

Regional & Local Road Design	Capacity for Growth	5.1 Sustainable Transport Infrastructure	Preparation of strategic & specific improvement grant applications for regional & local roads projects	Applications for agreed projects to be submitted by Q3/2020	Not Applicable	Completed	
National Road Design	Capacity for Growth	5.1 Sustainable Transport Infrastructure	Contractor to progress main construction contract on the N22 Macroom-Baile Bhuirne Macroom Scheme	Partial Completion by Q4/2020	Not Applicable	Completed	
Roads Operations	Capacity for Growth	5.1 Sustainable Transport Infrastructure	Deliver the 2020 approved RI, RM, Drainage, CIS, LIS & Safety Improvement Schemes across the county	Complete by Q4/2020	R2A: Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 20XX	Completed	
Regional & Local Road Design	Capacity for Growth	5.1 Sustainable Transport Infrastructure	Complete rehabilitation/replacement of bridges & other road structures on Regional & Local Roads	At least 33 bridges & other road structures by Q4/2020	Not Applicable	Completed	
National Road Design	Capacity for Growth	5.1 Sustainable Transport Infrastructure	Issue Notices to treat and appoint Technical Advisors for remaining phases of M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy (subject to Judicial Review Outcome) as envisaged in Corporate Plan Strategic Theme 5.1	Complete by Q4/2020	Not Applicable	Delayed or Carried Forward	Third parties have recently sought leave to appeal the Bord Pleanala approval of this project to the Supreme Court. The ongoing legal challenges have delayed this project.
Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) South West Regional - Lead Authority	Capacity for Growth	5.8 Projects Of Scale	As lead authority for SW Region appoint main works contractor for Design/Build & appoint Employers Rep to act as NEC Manager for delivery of PLEEP working with the RMO and commence supervision of cons	Award by Q4/2020	Not Applicable	Delayed or Carried Forward	The project was tendered in Q4 2020 and it is proposed to appoint a contractor in Q2 2021.
Fleet Management	Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	Complete the approved Fleet Replacement Programme 2020	Complete by Q4/2020	Not Applicable	Completed	
WATER SERVICES/COASTAL/FLOOD MANAGEMENT - 12 Objectives							
Coastal Management & Flood Projects	Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.3 Tourism As A Rural Catalyst	Dursey Cable Car: Technical Maintenance & Inspection, including scheduled monthly CCC inspections, and proposed modification works.	Maintain regulatory compliance	Not Applicable	Ongoing	CCC inspections continuing monthly, and modification works continuing in 2021.

Capital Projects Office - Water Infrastructure Design	Sustained Economic Vibrancy	3.5 A Base For Investment	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 2019	Not Applicable	Completed	
Coastal Management & Flood Projects	Climate and Environment	4.3 Natural Assets	Flood Projects - Progress OPW funded major & minor flood schemes	Major & minor projects-100% recoupment by year end	Not Applicable	Completed	
Small private schemes Water Quality	Climate and Environment	4.5 Water	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 20XX	Completed	
EPA Water reports and point of contact	Climate and Environment	4.5 Water	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	
Drinking Water Distribution Operations/ Wastewater Networks Operation & Maintenance	Climate and Environment	4.5 Water	Implement Find & Fix Programme in accordance with Agreement with Irish Water	Achieve reductions in UFW in line with Find & Fix Agreement targets	Not Applicable	Completed	
Well Grant Applications	Climate and Environment	4.5 Water	Determine the timely assessment and processing of well grant applications	Process 80% of all applications within 6 weeks. Pilot new DWG admin system	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Inspections delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions 65% of applications processed within 6 weeks 75% of applications processed within 8 weeks Roll out of new DWG admin system deferred.
Wastewater Treatment Plants and Pumping stations	Climate and Environment	4.5 Water	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 2019	Not Applicable	Completed	

Drinking Water Production Operations	Climate and Environment	4.5 Water	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	
Group Schemes Funding Grants	Climate and Environment	4.5 Water	Continue to support Group Scheme development in the county and ensure timely application for grant support to individual group schemes and payment of subsidies.	Maintain or increase 2019 GWS/GSS grant support Achieve MARWP TIC targets	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 20XX	Completed	
Coastal Management & Flood Projects	Capacity for Growth	5.6 Coastal Resource	Coastal Projects - Management & completion of capital schemes funded by DAFM, OPW & other Gov. agencies	100% Recoupment by end of year, Minimum Standard 1 recoupment per year	Not Applicable	Completed	
Drinking Water Distribution Operations/Wastewater Networks Operation & Maintenance	Service Quality	6.4 Business & Service	Provide timely reports on water/wastewater connection applications.	Process 90% of all applications within 4 weeks.	Not Applicable	Ongoing	Assessments delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions. 70% of applications processed within 4 weeks
Total Objectives submitted by all Directorates			127				

Appendix 2

Conference Attendance 2020

Date	Conference	Location	No. of Attendees
January	The Finance Act 2019	Louth	2

Appendix 3

Training Conference Attendance 2020

Date	Training	Location	No. of Attendees
January	Planning for Growth	Dublin	7
	Association of Irish Local Government Module 2	Waterford	28
February	Association of Irish Local Government Annual Conference	Longford	27
March			
July	Association of Irish Local Government Module 3	Wexford	5
August	Association of Irish Local Government Module 3	Sligo	6
	Association of Irish Local Government Module 3	Tipperary	8
	Association of Irish Local Government Module 3	Athlone	2
	Association of Irish Local Government Module 3	Cork	1

Appendices 4

Other Travel 2020

Date	Other / Special	Location	No. of Attendees
February	Irish Public Bodies Awards	Dublin	1
	Economic Study Trip	USA	1
	Irish Planning Awards	Dublin	1
March	Energy Cities	Brussels	2
	St. Patricks Trade Delegation	USA	3
	Kinsale Twinning with Newport	USA	1
	New York Association Annual Dinner	USA	1



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

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