

Meath County Council

Annual Budget

for Year Ending 31 December 2016

Statutory Budget Meeting 23 November 2015



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

ANNUAL BUDGET 2016

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Chief Executive's Report

To

Cathaoirleach and each Councillor of Meath County Council

INTRODUCTION

Over the past number of years the Local Government sector has continued with a significant programme of modernisation and reform, driving efficiencies and contributing to our national economic recovery. While continuing to provide a wide range of essential services to the public in a much more constrained resource environment, Meath County Council has been actively implementing the key elements of the Government's "Putting People First" policy and the associated Local Government Reform Act 2014.

The Council continues to re-structure the organisation to reflect the changes outlined above and also to provide an enhanced service to our customers.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

A new customer service model was rolled out in 2015 in order to implement the provisions of the Council's Customer Charter and to ensure the provision of quality customer care across the organisation.

The newly established Customer Service Team will provide as much assistance and information on queries as possible at the first point of customer contact with more detailed matters being dealt with by service departments. The model is based on good communication practice, customer services procedures and a new customer service IT system.

A new procedure for processing and responding to 'Members Reps' commenced in September 2015 in order to enhance the quality of response to issues raised by Councillors and Oireachtas Members.

2016 will see a continued focus on the Customer Service model with a view to meeting the needs of the citizens of County Meath and stakeholder groups.

This will be greatly facilitated by the proposed move to our new Civic Headquarters at Buvinda House in 2016.

Works have now commenced on the fit-out of the building with the anticipated completion of phase one in July 2016 and phase two in October 2016.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Strategy was formally launched in June this year. It articulates a clear and achievable vision for the sustainable economic development of the county and sets a target of creating 7,500 additional jobs in Meath by 2022.



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The strategy contains eight targeted actions including better internal and external engagement, alignment of the strategy with spatial planning objectives, the development of a marketing and publicity campaign and the introduction of financial incentives to support development. Progress has been demonstrated under all of these headings and there has been a noticeable increase in the number of new enquiries and planning applications since the strategy launch.

It is important that we continue to focus on the development of Navan as the county town. The recently acquired Purple Flag for the management of the night-time economy is welcome and in 2016 the Council will develop a programme through Retail Excellence Ireland aimed at promoting the retail sector. The development of The Boyne Valley Food Hub and a joint venture between Meath County Council, the I.D.A. and the Meath Enterprise Centre Co. to obtain planning permission for a building in the Navan I.D.A. Business Park will also be advanced.

Planning permission is now in place for a major data centre at Clonee for Facebook. The fact that such an internationally recognised brand chose Meath as a location for this €200 million investment is a very clear endorsement of our strategy and evidence that Meath is now regarded as a great place in which to do business.

The overall focus in 2016 will be to continue to deliver on the strategic actions and specifically to develop and launch a major marketing campaign aimed at both national and international audiences.

COMMUNITY

The Local Government (Reform) Act 2014 introduced new structures in the form of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Public Participation Network which have now been established in Meath. Two major pieces of work in this area are the development of a Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and the conclusion of a Local Development Strategy (LDS) for the LEADER programme. The LCDC is the Local Action Group (LAG) for delivery for LEADER which is due to start in 2016. Extensive public consultation exercises have been held for both the LECP and LDS. The LDS must be approved at Department level and the LECP, which will be approved by the full Council, will incorporate the key tenets of the Economic Strategy. It is expected that this will be completed by Q1 of 2016.

1916 CENTENARY

Over the past year local authorities around the country have been heavily involved in delivering the national Centenary Programme to commemorate the 1916 Rising. Meath County Council has delivered the following elements:



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- Public consultation process
- Preparation of a county plan
- Local Community Commemorative Grants Scheme

2016 will see the State Commemoration event at Ashbourne and the culmination of the community participation strand, with groups and organisations marking the occasion with events and activities right across the county. This strand will run in parallel with a wide-ranging programme of local authority led arts and cultural events.

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The process and timeframe for compiling the Annual Budget changed considerably last year. Involvement by the Corporate Policy Group, the Councillors and the general public in various aspects of the process this year included:

- A series of meetings with the Corporate Policy Group to consider Budget Strategy and Local Property Tax variation.
- A public consultation process from the 7th July 2015 to the 7th August 2015 in relation to the variation of the Local Property Tax rate.
- A special meeting of the Council on the 28th September 2015 to consider and decide on the variation of the Local Property Tax rate.
- Submission of preliminary estimate of current and capital income and expenditure to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government by the 30th September 2015.
- Notification to the Revenue Commissioners and Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government by the 30th September 2015 of the decision of the Council in relation to the Local Property Tax rate.

The early submission of preliminary budget figures on the Council's current and capital accounts to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government was aligned to the National Budget and EU reporting requirements. Similarly, the necessity to make a decision on the variation of the Local Property Tax rate by the 30th September 2015, and ahead of Meath County Council's Budget Meeting, was aligned to the administration of Local Property Tax by the Revenue Commissioners taking into account that the "liability date" in respect to Local Property Tax by the Revenue Commissioners was the 1st November 2015.



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LOCAL PROPERTY TAX VARIATION

The Councillors resolved at a special meeting of the Council on 28th September 2015 not to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax. This followed consideration of a statutory report covering:

- The Local Authority's estimate of the income it will receive and the expenditure it will incur in the period for which the varied rate is to have effect.
- The financial position of Meath County Council.
- The financial effect of a varied rate.
- Feedback from the public consultation held.

This decision has had a very beneficial impact on the preparation of the 2016 Budget which I will highlight below.

2016 BUDGET CONTEXT

The Budget for 2016 provides for expenditure of €100,939,369 and a general annual rate on valuation of 69.624.

The Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government determined (Circular Fin 08/2015) that the prescribed period for Local Authorities to hold budget meetings is 2nd November to 27th November 2015. The statutory Budget Meeting for Meath County Council is being held on Monday 23rd November 2015 and the Budget must be adopted within a period of 14 days commencing on that date.

The Local Property Tax allocation was a very significant issue to impact on the preparation of the 2016 Budget and as Meath County Council has not varied the basic rate of Local Property Tax for 2016, the Budget has been prepared on the allocation of €13,821,805 as notified in Circular Fin 07/15.

The benefits of the Council's decision to retain the Local Property Tax at its current rate have enabled the Council to make financial provision in the Budget for the following items of expenditure:

- Economic Development and implementation of the actions agreed in the Council's Economic Strategy - €300,000
- Planned programme of road and footpath improvements in Housing Estates - €300,000
- Municipal District Allocation - €480,000

The main objective in framing the 2016 Budget has been to maintain the existing level of services and indeed make increased provisions in a number of areas as follows:

- Maintenance and Improvement of LA Housing Units increased by €780k.
- Homeless Services has increased by €345k.



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- Mobility Aids Housing Grants has increased by €100k to a total budget in 2016 of €1.3m.
- €350k has been provided for the continuation and expansion of the Small Business Support Scheme.
- Additional funding of €100k for the Fire Service.

HOUSING

The ongoing housing crisis has manifested itself in a significantly increased spend on emergency accommodation in Meath. There is an anticipated increase of €345K in the budget provision for the Homeless service which is reflective of activity in 2015. The Council has worked assiduously during the current year using the various means open to it to provide Housing solutions including:

1. Extensive renovations of its own stock with over 40 units completed year to date
2. Pre let repairs to 61 units to bring them back into use at the earliest opportunity
3. Progressing schemes under both the Jobs Stimulus and Social Housing Strategy which are to deliver over 100 units between 2015 and 2017
4. Expansion of the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) which is expected to deliver 50 units by the year end
5. Conclusion of Social Leasing agreements which will start to deliver units in 2016.

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme commenced in Meath on 2 November 2015. This is a new long term housing support which will ultimately replace rent supplement. HAP differs from rent supplement in that it allows recipients to obtain full time employment and is seen by Government as a labour activation measure. It is also possible for HAP recipients to apply for a transfer to other forms of social housing.

The Council will continue to work with all stakeholders to develop a range of responses to tackle the housing list and reduce the need for emergency accommodation.

Council officials are engaged in ongoing discussions with Department officials in an effort to increase funding provision to address the various housing issues.

RE-EVALUATION OF RATES ON TELECOMS AND UTILITY NETWORKS (GLOBALS)

The re-evaluation of the Globals has resulted in an overall reduction of rates payable to Meath County Council of €678k. As outlined to the Corporate Policy Group, the Council had anticipated some reduction in the rates payable arising from the re-evaluation and had made a provision of €300k in the preparation of the budget. The overall impact for local authorities nationally is very significant at €22m and it is anticipated that the Department will arrange to recoup this shortfall in 2016. Meath County Council has already made a submission



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to the Department regarding its own shortfall. This matter will be closely monitored and a regular update will be given to the Councillors.

RATES ON VACANT PREMISES

Section 29 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 also provides for a change to rating law in relation to the refund of rates on vacant properties. It gives the power to the Councillors to vary the level of rates refunds.

The new reserved function commenced with effect from 1 June 2014 and provides that the decision to alter the rate of refund should be taken at the Budget meeting and that the rate of refund decided shall apply to eligible persons for the year to which the Budget relates only.

The absence of a decision to vary the refund means that the existing legislative provisions regarding the rate of refund applies i.e. the existing rate of refund at 100% continues to apply.

As the recovery of the commercial market sector in Meath is still tentative, any change in the current 100% rate rebate policy is considered to be premature and is not therefore proposed.

HARMONISATION OF RATES

Section 29 the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for the harmonisation of commercial rates between the former Town Council rating authorities and the County Council. Circular Fin 06/2014 provides guidance on Section 29 concerning harmonisation of rates through a Base Year Adjustment (BYA).

In order to ease the transition for ratepayers to a single county rate, while avoiding a negative impact on overall local authority revenue, it is proposed that the harmonisation of rates will take place over the next 2 years. In the vast majority of cases, any increases in rates will be more than offset by the expanded Small Business Support Scheme.

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT SCHEME 2016

The Small Business Support Scheme was introduced in 2015 as a measure to encourage and assist small businesses throughout Meath. In order to qualify, businesses were required to fully discharge their rates by a prescribed date in 2015 and their Annual Commercial Rates liability could not exceed €5,000. The grant ranged from €50 - €225 (between 5% to 10%) depending on the level of the Annual Commercial Rate liability. Approximately 1,200 businesses will have availed of the scheme by the end of 2015 at a cost of €180,000.

Given the numbers qualifying for the scheme and positive feedback from customers, it is proposed to continue the scheme in 2016, with some amendments. The upper limit of €5,000 of an Annual Commercial Rates liability in order to qualify has been removed. Also an additional band for those who pay by Direct Debit will be



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introduced which will increase the support available. It is anticipated that an additional 600 customers will qualify as a result of these changes.

CONCLUSION

In July, Meath County Council prepared a comprehensive submission on the funding requirements of the Council. This financial report was prepared to address the scenario of the County's expanding population without the corresponding resources to deliver appropriate levels of service to the citizens of County Meath. As a follow up to the submission, the Chief Executive and Head of Finance met with Department officials on two occasions to discuss the issues outlined in the submission and to reinforce the need for increased resources for the Council. The Department's initial response to the submission has been positive and it has indicated that the funding requirements will be kept under review as part of their budgetary considerations.

A process of continuous improvement and efficiency gains will be fundamental to the sustainability of the Council's operations in 2016 and in future years. This, together with strict budgetary control monitoring and procurement practices will continue to be a priority for the year ahead.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Management Team and staff for their co-operation in preparing this Budget and delivering on the various programmes over the past year.

I would particularly like to thank the Finance Team headed by Ms. Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance for their tremendous work in relation to the preparation of this Budget.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Cathaoirligh, Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald and Cllr. Jim Holloway and the Councillors of Meath County Council for their contribution and support over the past financial year.

Finally, I formally recommend the Budget as presented to the Council for adoption.

Jackie Maguire,
Chief Executive.

TABLE A - CALCULATION OF ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016

Meath Co Co (B1)

Summary by Service Division	Expenditure €	Income €	Budget Net Expenditure 2016 €	%	Estimated Net Outturn 2015 Net Expenditure €	%
Gross Revenue Expenditure and Income						
A Housing and Building	18,394,461	17,538,552	855,909	1.8%	1,482,341	3.0%
B Road Transport & Safety	30,778,000	18,005,144	12,772,856	26.9%	13,555,668	27.6%
C Water Services	9,110,216	8,766,792	343,424	0.7%	649,440	1.3%
D Development Management	8,981,104	1,915,001	7,066,103	14.9%	6,578,044	13.4%
E Environmental Services	12,577,233	3,582,820	8,994,413	19.0%	8,889,634	18.1%
F Recreation and Amenity	7,165,071	987,241	6,177,830	13.0%	5,713,996	11.6%
G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,161,213	594,092	567,121	1.2%	548,370	1.1%
H Miscellaneous Services	12,772,071	2,093,674	10,678,397	22.5%	11,685,114	23.8%
	100,939,369	53,483,316	47,456,053	100.0%	49,102,607	100.0%
Provision for Debit Balance			-		-	
ADJUSTED GROSS EXPENDITURE AND INCOME (A)			47,456,053		49,102,607	
Provision for Credit Balance			-		-	
Local Property Tax *			12,390,795		13,475,794	
Pension Related Deduction			1,813,385		1,853,674	
SUB - TOTAL (B)			14,204,180		15,329,468	
NET AMOUNT OF RATES TO BE LEVIED (C)=(A)-(B)			33,251,874			
Value of Base Year Adjustment			155,223			
AMOUNT OF RATES TO BE LEVIED (GROSS of BYA) (D)			33,407,097			
NET EFFECTIVE VALUATION (E)			479,818			
GENERAL ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION (D) / (E)			69.6245			

* Represents Discretionary Local Property Tax (Local Property Tax allocation less Self-Funding). See Appendix 2 for details of full LPT allocation

SERVICE DIVISION A

Housing & Building

Achievements 2015

Housing Capital

- The roll out of the Energy Efficiency Programme (Phase 1) continued during 2015, with works completed on over 400 housing units, with a further 460 units underway. Works have centred on wall and attic insulation.
- Refurbishment works were carried out on 61 casual vacancies to date in 2015.
- Works on 41 units under the Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme will be completed by year end.
- Funding was secured for refurbishment works on 33 long term voids within our housing stock. Twenty six units have been completed and works are underway on the remaining properties. Contractors have also been appointed to complete pyrite remediation works on two of the pyrite affected units within our stock, as well as three long term rural vacant cottages.
- Completion of St Bridget's Villas Scheme, Navan.
- Department approval to proceed to tender for 16 units in Bettystown was received in the third quarter of 2015, which will see the realisation of these units in 2016.
- Under the Social Housing Strategy funding, three direct construction projects have been approved, for the combined delivery of 83 units. Design phase for each of the three projects (Athboy, Kells & Summerhill) were advanced in 2015.
- Under the 2015 Acquisition Programme, 24 units are at sale agreed/closed stage to date, located throughout the County.

Housing Allocations

- In excess of 140 households will have their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in 2015, through various schemes including the Rental Accommodation Scheme, social leasing, and voluntary housing bodies, as well as through casual vacancies.
- Collaborative work with the voluntary housing bodies has yielded approval for 40 units under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Code. The inaugural forum meeting between the active voluntary housing associations in the County and Meath County Council was convened in July 2015, with a view to holding quarterly meetings.

Housing Grants

- Grant funding of €1.2 million was allocated, with 132 housing grant applications approved to date under the following schemes; Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, Housing Aid for Older People and Mobility Aid Grants.

Homeless Service

- The Homeless Service will have dealt with in excess of 900 appointments/assessments in 2015, with 167 households being placed in emergency accommodation to date in 2015.

Traveller Accommodation

- The accommodation targets for 2015 under the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 - 2018 have been achieved.
- The refurbishment of St Francis' Park a key focus of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018. Work in 2015 focused on a consultation process with residents with a view to reaching agreement on design, which has now been achieved.

Tenant Liaison

- In excess of 100 tenants completed pre tenancy training during 2015, obtaining a variety of information concerning their tenancy with Meath County Council.

Initiatives & Challenges in 2016

Provision has been made in the 2016 Housing Budget for the following:

- Entering into contracts with landlords under the Rental Accommodation Scheme for 50 units.
- Funding of grants under the Housing Grant Scheme to a value of €1.3m.
- Continuation of the Energy Efficiency upgrade works to Council's own housing stock.
- Response & Preventative Maintenance programmes.

The need for social housing continues to increase, with over 600 new applications for Social Housing being received by Meath County Council during 2015. A key challenge for 2016 will be to address the growing demand for housing support in the context of the Social Housing Strategy. Engagement with the Approved Housing Bodies will be both vital and necessary to ensure a co-ordinated approach at local level in meeting the demand for social housing in the County, and this engagement will continue in 2016.

The introduction of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) to Co. Meath on 2nd November 2015, represents a significant new social housing support delivered by Meath County Council, for all new social housing applicants, with a phasing of existing rent supplement recipients to HAP commencing during 2016.

Further demand on our Homeless Service will require increased funding at local level to sustain the service provided, primarily through the provision of emergency accommodation. It is noted that strategic work with other relevant stakeholders will also be completed during 2016 to tackle cyclical homelessness, in particular where underlying health factors are the primary cause.

Progression of current major capital projects will be a key priority for the Housing Department in 2016, including Bettystown, the three Social Housing Strategy direct construction projects approved to date and St Francis Park refurbishment. In addition, the advancement of a potential refurbishment scheme for Alverno Heights and Alverno Court respectively will be pursued in 2016.

Table B: Expenditure and Income for 2016 and Estimated Outturn for 2015

Division and Services	2016				2015			
	Expenditure		Income		Expenditure		Income	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
A Housing and Building								
A01 Maintenance & Improvement of LA Housing Units		4,803,563		1,954,007	4,021,880	4,342,691	1,497,709	1,493,424
A02 Housing Assessment, Allocation and Transfer		5,309		-	5,305	5,296	-	-
A03 Housing Rent and Tenant Purchase Administration		961,575		7,843,861	925,982	867,795	7,711,697	8,158,885
A04 Housing Community Development Support		119,149		6,272	194,595	159,389	17,043	13,705
A05 Administration of Homeless Service		740,676		206,166	394,917	634,963	191,478	185,006
A06 Support to Housing Capital Prog.		3,076,676		1,049,191	3,174,701	3,141,529	47,398	49,258
A07 RAS Programme		4,475,827		4,456,930	2,696,973	3,846,823	2,637,900	3,796,144
A08 Housing Loans		2,761,068		632,043	2,798,205	2,807,011	648,480	631,027
A09 Housing Grants		1,303,835		1,300,082	1,214,842	1,203,683	1,200,079	1,200,082
A11 Agency & Recoupable Services		720		-	711	692	-	-
A12 HAP Programme		146,063		90,000	-	-	-	-
A Division Total		18,394,461		17,538,552	15,428,111	17,009,872	13,951,784	15,527,531

Table F - Expenditure				
Division A - Housing and Building				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council	Estimated by Chief Executive	Adopted by Council	Estimated Outturn
	€	€	€	€
A0101 Maintenance of LA Housing Units		3,505,900	2,747,297	3,076,429
A0102 Maintenance of Traveller Accommodation Units		286,015	284,764	327,288
A0103 Traveller Accommodation Management		61,500	61,500	57,911
A0104 Estate Maintenance		50,000	20,000	-
A0199 Service Support Costs		900,148	908,319	881,063
A01 Maintenance & Improvement of LA Housing Units		4,803,563	4,021,880	4,342,691
A0201 Assessment of Housing Needs, Allocs. & Trans.		5,000	5,000	5,000
A0299 Service Support Costs		309	305	296
A02 Housing Assessment, Allocation and Transfer		5,309	5,305	5,296
A0301 Debt Management & Rent Assessment		793,831	756,904	697,798
A0399 Service Support Costs		167,744	169,078	169,997
A03 Housing Rent and Tenant Purchase Administration		961,575	925,982	867,795
A0401 Housing Estate Management		-	-	-
A0402 Tenancy Management		53,582	53,565	51,581
A0403 Social and Community Housing Service		-	75,229	44,922
A0499 Service Support Costs		65,567	65,801	62,886
A04 Housing Community Development Support		119,149	194,595	159,389
A0501 Homeless Grants Other Bodies		-	-	-
A0502 Homeless Service		677,780	332,155	574,617
A0599 Service Support Costs		62,896	62,762	60,346
A05 Administration of Homeless Service		740,676	394,917	634,963
A0601 Technical and Administrative Support		1,657,743	1,779,561	1,734,559
A0602 Loan Charges		900,600	873,474	909,949
A0699 Service Support Costs		518,333	521,666	497,021
A06 Support to Housing Capital Prog.		3,076,676	3,174,701	3,141,529
A0701 RAS Operations		4,212,749	2,537,377	3,629,104
A0702 Long Term Leasing		150,000	150,000	150,000
A0703 Payment & Availability		103,356	-	58,383
A0704 Affordable Leases		-	-	-
A0799 Service Support Costs		9,722	9,596	9,336
A07 RAS Programme		4,475,827	2,696,973	3,846,823

Table F - Expenditure				
Division A - Housing and Building				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council	Estimated by Chief Executive	Adopted by Council	Estimated Outturn
	€	€	€	€
A0801 Loan Interest and Other Charges		2,392,379	2,414,471	2,427,414
A0802 Debt Management Housing Loans		33,086	31,785	32,814
A0899 Service Support Costs		335,603	351,949	346,783
A08 Housing Loans		2,761,068	2,798,205	2,807,011
A0901 Housing Adaptation Scheme Grant		-	-	-
A0902 Loan Charges DPG/ERG		-	11,060	-
A0903 Essential Repair Grants		-	-	-
A0904 Other Housing Grant Payments		-	-	-
A0905 Mobility Aids Housing Grants		1,300,000	1,200,000	1,200,000
A0999 Service Support Costs		3,835	3,782	3,683
A09 Housing Grants		1,303,835	1,214,842	1,203,683
A1101 Agency & Recoupable Service		-	-	-
A1199 Service Support Costs		720	711	692
A11 Agency & Recoupable Services		720	711	692
A1201 HAP		-	-	-
A1202 HAP Agency Services		-	-	-
A1299 HAP Service Support Costs		146,063	-	-
A12 HAP Programme		146,063	-	-
A Division Total		18,394,461	15,428,111	17,009,872

Table F - Income

Division A - Housing and Building

Income by Source	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
Government Grants, Subsidies, & LPT				
Environment, Community & Local Government		5,745,714	3,778,384	4,922,417
Other Grants & Subsidies		-	-	-
LPT Self Funding		1,000,000	-	-
Total Government Grants, Subsidies, & LPT		6,745,714	3,778,384	4,922,417
Goods & Services				
Rents from houses		8,555,600	7,627,600	8,889,300
Housing Loans Interest & Charges		555,602	538,205	544,557
Agency Services & Repayable Works		-	-	-
Superannuation		130,162	125,418	130,341
Local Authority Contributions		-	-	11,054
Other income		1,551,474	1,882,177	1,029,862
Total Goods & Services		10,792,838	10,173,400	10,605,114
Division 'A' Total		17,538,552	13,951,784	15,527,531

SERVICE DIVISION B

Transportation

Introduction

Meath County Council has over 3,500 km. of road network to manage and maintain. This is achieved with the co-operation and assistance of the NTA, TII, and DTTAS through 4 main elements, namely:

- Road Upkeep, which includes routine maintenance, winter maintenance, surface dressing and public lighting
- Road Improvements, which includes Discretionary Improvement, Restoration Improvement, Specific Improvement Schemes and other improvement schemes
- Road Traffic, which includes traffic management and safety
- Sustainable Transport Initiatives

Achievements 2015

In 2015, a number of Road Improvement schemes was completed or commenced, which will contribute to improving the overall efficiency and safety of the road network.

Achievements included:

- Delivery of the circa €23m roadworks programme.
- Completion of 16 Community Involvement Schemes.

The following National Secondary Road Scheme was completed in 2015:

- N51/R164 Ballyboy Realignment

The following National Secondary Road Schemes were advanced in 2015:

- N51 Dunmoe Phase 2
- N52 Stephenstown to Fringestown Realignment Scheme

The following lengths of the non-national road network were maintained in 2015:

Road Restoration:

- Regional Roads **21kms.**
- Local Roads **64 kms.**

Surface Dressing:

- Regional – **37kms.** (including road restoration lengths)
- Local – **132kms.** (including road restoration lengths)

Bridge Remedial Works:

- R153 New Bridge, Navan
- R152 Annesbrooke Bridge, Duleek

- R125 Greenogue Bridge
- R163 Headfort Bridge
- R125 Kemmins Mill Bridge, Martinstown

Local Improvement Schemes

Local Improvement Schemes have been carried out at the Fairyhouse Road, Rathmolyon, Oristown, Jordanstown, Stamullen and Patrickstown.

Sustainable Transport Schemes

A circa €2.9m. programme was delivered in 2015, which included:

- Continuation with the design of The Boyne Greenway – Phase 2 (ongoing).
- Completion of Phase 1 Main Street refurbishment works in Ashbourne and commencement & the completion of a section of Phase 2 (out to Deerpark Junction).
- Progression of design/layout/Public realm for the Bus Hub on Kennedy Road Navan and associated bus routing & traffic management.
- Commencement of a Cycle Network Design for Navan.
- Commencement of a Cycle Network Design for Ratoath.
- Commencement of a Cycle Network Design for Dunboyne.
- Pedestrian Improvement works to the junction of the R150 / Coast Road at Donacarney.
- Pedestrian Improvement works to the junction of Cockhill / Gormanston Roads in Stamullen and also the provision of a continuous footpath from this junction up to the primary school on Cockhill Road.
- Provision of a footpath on the Kildalkey Road, Trim.
- Continuation of the design for the Cantilever Bridge on the Kentstown Road.

Other schemes designed / constructed by the STU on behalf of Transportation/ Municipal Districts

- 1.4km walking trail in Porch Fields, Trim.
- Pedestrian Crossing at Clonard.
- Rehabilitation of existing footpaths in various housing estates throughout the county.
- Design of Footpath in Kentstown from primary school to hall / tennis club.
- Design of Footpath in Laytown / Bettystown from Coláiste na hInse to Bettystown village.

Work continued on the delivery of other services:

- Ordinary Maintenance
- Winter Maintenance Service
- Public Lighting Services
- Development Control / Transport Planning Advice
- Maintenance of Plant & Machinery
- Road Safety Improvement Schemes
- Road Safety Promotion & Education
- Energy Efficiency

Initiatives and Challenges in 2016:

The continuing challenge for the Council in 2016 will be to deploy the resources available to it in the most effective way to maintain the network and provide the best level of service possible to road users. The roadworks programme 2015-2018 will be informed by the data collected from the extensive condition surveys carried out on the non-national road network.

A major re-structuring of the Transportation Department occurred in 2015 to incorporate an Operations Section which replaces the area based engineering system, following the establishment of the Municipal Districts in 2014. Operations will be subject to ongoing review to ensure that corporate objectives are being achieved.

The Community Involvement Scheme was funded in 2015 by a 7.5% allocation from the Restoration Improvement Grant and it is anticipated that this will continue in 2016 as the scheme showcases how partnership between the Council and communities can deliver meaningful improvements on roads, which otherwise would not receive maintenance / improvement funding.

A solution to the traffic safety issue on the N2 in Slane remains a priority and the Council is committed to working with the TII to agree a way forward.

The Council will continue to work in partnership with the NTA in delivering sustainable transport initiatives.

Table B: Expenditure and Income for 2016 and Estimated Outturn for 2015

Division and Services	2016				2015			
	Expenditure		Income		Expenditure		Income	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
B Road Transport & Safety								
B01 NP Road - Maintenance and Improvement		651,184		294,135	683,507	678,169	323,466	343,695
B02 NS Road - Maintenance and Improvement		341,752		322,185	373,119	454,009	293,247	402,747
B03 Regional Road - Maintenance and Improvement		9,899,972		7,776,278	7,875,413	9,629,651	5,916,427	7,751,422
B04 Local Road - Maintenance and Improvement		11,901,277		5,582,417	12,927,669	13,791,958	6,691,041	6,282,332
B05 Public Lighting		2,166,663		13	2,167,342	2,146,025	13	14,676
B06 Traffic Management Improvement		59,214		2,047	59,101	59,065	1,973	2,050
B07 Road Safety Engineering Improvement		255,635		210,343	247,233	252,637	199,425	210,349
B08 Road Safety Promotion & Education		353,912		7,378	341,907	342,483	7,109	7,388
B09 Car Parking		795,947		1,326,566	848,062	795,396	1,383,800	1,489,525
B10 Support to Roads Capital Prog		1,527,006		130,819	1,498,159	1,471,294	126,050	130,997
B11 Agency & Recoupable Services		2,825,438		2,352,963	2,566,573	2,665,844	2,152,812	2,095,682
B Division Total		30,778,000		18,005,144	29,588,085	32,286,531	17,095,363	18,730,863

Table F - Expenditure				
Division B - Road Transport & Safety				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council	Estimated by Chief Executive	Adopted by Council	Estimated Outturn
	€	€	€	€
B0101 NP - Surface Dressing		-	-	-
B0102 NP - Pavement Overlay/Reconstruction		-	-	-
B0103 NP - Winter Maintenance		80,000	109,434	120,214
B0104 NP - Bridge Maintenance (Eirspan)		-	-	-
B0105 NP - General Maintenance		205,062	233,482	215,172
B0106 NP - General Improvements Works		-	-	-
B0199 Service Support Costs		366,122	340,591	342,783
B01 NP Road - Maintenance and Improvement		651,184	683,507	678,169
B0201 NS - Surface Dressing		-	-	-
B0202 NS - Overlay/Reconstruction		-	-	-
B0203 NS - Overlay/Reconstruction – Urban		-	-	-
B0204 NS - Winter Maintenance		80,000	115,250	132,780
B0205 NS - Bridge Maintenance (Eirspan)		-	-	-
B0206 NS - General Maintenance		217,969	214,953	278,556
B0207 NS - General Improvement Works		-	-	-
B0299 Service Support Costs		43,783	42,916	42,673
B02 NS Road - Maintenance and Improvement		341,752	373,119	454,009
B0301 Regional Roads Surface Dressing		543,451	496,407	542,399
B0302 Reg Rd Surface Rest/Road Reconstruction/Overlay		2,713,005	2,429,350	2,729,639
B0303 Regional Road Winter Maintenance		282,326	280,102	253,489
B0304 Regional Road Bridge Maintenance		-	-	-
B0305 Regional Road General Maintenance Works		4,211,879	2,670,937	4,193,981
B0306 Regional Road General Improvement Works		-	-	-
B0399 Service Support Costs		2,149,311	1,998,617	1,910,143
B03 Regional Road - Maintenance and Improvement		9,899,972	7,875,413	9,629,651
B0401 Local Road Surface Dressing		1,529,742	1,428,805	1,542,414
B0402 Local Rd Surface Rest/Road Reconstruction/Overlay		4,122,518	4,736,202	4,743,536
B0403 Local Roads Winter Maintenance		-	-	-
B0404 Local Roads Bridge Maintenance		100,000	100,000	262,941
B0405 Local Roads General Maintenance Works		3,213,460	3,144,880	4,537,729
B0406 Local Roads General Improvement Works		-	637,958	-
B0499 Service Support Costs		2,935,557	2,879,824	2,705,338
B04 Local Road - Maintenance and Improvement		11,901,277	12,927,669	13,791,958

Table F - Expenditure				
Division B - Road Transport & Safety				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council	Estimated by Chief Executive	Adopted by Council	Estimated Outturn
	€	€	€	€
B0501 Public Lighting Operating Costs		2,072,000	2,072,000	2,052,062
B0502 Public Lighting Improvement		-	-	-
B0599 Service Support Costs		94,663	95,342	93,963
B05 Public Lighting		2,166,663	2,167,342	2,146,025
B0601 Traffic Management		-	-	-
B0602 Traffic Maintenance		-	-	-
B0603 Traffic Improvement Measures		42,001	42,001	42,539
B0699 Service Support Costs		17,213	17,100	16,526
B06 Traffic Management Improvement		59,214	59,101	59,065
B0701 Low Cost Remedial Measures		205,750	195,000	205,750
B0702 Other Engineering Improvements		-	-	-
B0799 Service Support Costs		49,885	52,233	46,887
B07 Road Safety Engineering Improvement		255,635	247,233	252,637
B0801 School Wardens		209,400	193,550	205,751
B0802 Publicity and Promotion Road Safety		50,082	50,082	47,646
B0899 Service Support Costs		94,430	98,275	89,086
B08 Road Safety Promotion & Education		353,912	341,907	342,483
B0901 Maintenance and Management of Car Parks		-	-	-
B0902 Operation of Street Parking		393,300	402,000	430,442
B0903 Parking Enforcement		241,467	280,526	209,169
B0999 Service Support Costs		161,180	165,536	155,785
B09 Car Parking		795,947	848,062	795,396
B1001 Administration of Roads Capital Programme		-	-	-
B1099 Service Support Costs		1,527,006	1,498,159	1,471,294
B10 Support to Roads Capital Prog		1,527,006	1,498,159	1,471,294
B1101 Agency & Recoupable Service		2,771,864	2,513,847	2,614,441
B1199 Service Support Costs		53,574	52,726	51,403
B11 Agency & Recoupable Services		2,825,438	2,566,573	2,665,844
B Division Total		30,778,000	29,588,085	32,286,531

Table F - Income				
Division B - Road Transport & Safety				
Income by Source	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council	Estimated by Chief Executive	Adopted by Council	Estimated Outturn
	€	€	€	€
Government Grants, Subsidies, & LPT				
Arts,Heritage & Gaeltacht		-	-	-
TII Transport Infrastructure Ireland		13,822,493	13,045,683	13,930,278
Environment, Community & Local Government		-	-	-
DTO		-	-	-
Other Grants & Subsidies		-	-	2,400
LPT Self Funding		-	-	-
Total Government Grants, Subsidies, & LPT		13,822,493	13,045,682	13,932,678
Goods & Services				
Parking Fines &Charges		1,316,066	1,373,300	1,469,679
Agency Services & Repayable Works		-	-	-
Superannuation		403,221	388,522	403,769
Local Authority Contributions		-	-	41,201
Other income		2,463,364	2,287,858	2,883,536
Total Goods & Services		4,182,651	4,049,680	4,798,185
Division 'B' Total		18,005,144	17,095,362	18,730,863

SERVICE DIVISION C

Water Services

Introduction

Irish Water

In April 2012, the Government decided to establish a public water utility company, Irish Water, as an independent state owned company within the Bord Gáis Group (now known as Eirvia) to take over the Water Services operational and capital delivery functions of Local Authorities.

Meath County Council ceased to be the Water Services Authority for Meath on 31st December 2013 and from 1st January 2014, under the Water Services Act 2013, Irish Water became the National Water Services Authority.

However, under a Service Level Agreement, Meath County Council will continue to provide day to day operation and maintenance and capital delivery services on behalf of Irish Water for a period of up to 12 years from 1st January 2014.

Under this Service Level Agreement, Meath County Council continues to, operate and maintain all Water Services facilities and networks within County Meath and to project manage capital programmes on behalf of Irish Water. In this capacity, the Council continues to play a key role in the provision of Water and Wastewater services.

The Council's 2016 Budget accounts for Water Services staff payroll, directly incurred costs and a representative proportion of the Central Management Charge, which will be recouped on a monthly basis from Irish Water during 2016. Irish Water has budgeted directly for the provision of the goods and services associated with the provision of Water Services.

Irish Water does not have responsibility for storm water, storm flooding, Group Schemes or well grants and, hence, the Council will continue to have direct responsibility for these matters.

In addition, the Council will continue to deal with non domestic water and wastewater billing in 2016. It is anticipated that this function will transfer to Irish Water from 2017.

Table B: Expenditure and Income for 2016 and Estimated Outturn for 2015

Division and Services	2016				2015			
	Expenditure		Income		Expenditure		Income	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
C Water Services								
C01 Water Supply		3,616,455		194,050	4,001,773	3,929,375	186,976	194,715
C02 Waste Water Treatment		3,601,163		106,059	4,148,665	3,949,021	102,267	108,312
C03 Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges		504,267		4,038	495,546	545,678	3,891	7,459
C04 Public Conveniences		57,972		21,666	57,824	45,941	23,967	2,278
C05 Admin of Group and Private Installations		214,611		170,099	213,115	198,688	194,913	217,371
C06 Support to Water Capital Programme		1,033,427		78	654,374	850,125	-	-
C07 Agency & Recoupable Services		62,992		8,251,473	327,645	186,481	8,774,352	8,606,471
C08 Local Authority Water and Sanitary Services		19,329		19,329	-	108,989	-	28,252
C Division Total		9,110,216		8,766,792	9,898,942	9,814,298	9,286,366	9,164,858

Table F - Expenditure				
Division C - Water Services				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council	Estimated by Chief Executive	Adopted by Council	Estimated Outturn
	€	€	€	€
C0101 Water Plants & Networks		1,300,324	1,349,090	1,612,950
C0199 Service Support Costs		2,316,131	2,652,683	2,316,425
C01 Water Supply		3,616,455	4,001,773	3,929,375
C0201 Waste Plants and Networks		1,181,476	1,199,787	2,197,370
C0299 Service Support Costs		2,419,687	2,948,878	1,751,651
C02 Waste Water Treatment		3,601,163	4,148,665	3,949,021
C0301 Debt Management Water and Waste Water		-	-	-
C0399 Service Support Costs		504,267	495,546	545,678
C03 Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges		504,267	495,546	545,678
C0401 Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences		52,183	52,183	40,383
C0499 Service Support Costs		5,789	5,641	5,558
C04 Public Conveniences		57,972	57,824	45,941
C0501 Grants for Individual Installations		-	-	-
C0502 Grants for Water Group Schemes		90,000	90,000	81,349
C0503 Grants for Waste Water Group Schemes		-	-	-
C0504 Group Water Scheme Subsidies		62,185	60,647	61,273
C0599 Service Support Costs		62,426	62,468	56,066
C05 Admin of Group and Private Installations		214,611	213,115	198,688
C0601 Technical Design and Supervision		-	-	-
C0699 Service Support Costs		1,033,427	654,374	850,125
C06 Support to Water Capital Programme		1,033,427	654,374	850,125
C0701 Agency & Recoupable Service		56,000	320,756	179,767
C0799 Service Support Costs		6,992	6,889	6,714
C07 Agency & Recoupable Services		62,992	327,645	186,481
C0801 Local Authority Water Services		-	-	-
C0802 Local Authority Sanitary Services		-	-	52
C0899 Local Authority Service Support Costs		19,329	-	108,937
C08 Local Authority Water and Sanitary Services		19,329	-	108,989
C Division Total		9,110,216	9,898,942	9,814,298

Table F - Income				
Division C - Water Services				
Income by Source	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
Government Grants, Subsidies, & LPT				
Environment, Community & Local Government		184,329	190,000	240,517
Other Grants & Subsidies		-	-	-
Total Government Grants, Subsidies, & LPT		184,329	190,000	240,517
Goods & Services				
Agency Services & Repayable Works		-	-	-
Superannuation		311,290	299,941	311,715
Irish Water		8,251,173	8,774,063	8,606,170
Local Authority Contributions		-	-	360
Other income		20,000	22,362	6,096
Total Goods & Services		8,582,463	9,096,366	8,924,341
Division 'C' Total		8,766,792	9,286,366	9,164,858

SERVICE DIVISION D

Development Management

Achievements, 2015:

Forward Planning

The process for Variation 3 of the County Development Plan commenced in 2015. This Variation will align the County Development Plan with the key tenets of the Economic Development Strategy for County Meath, 2014-2022. As part of the implementation of the Economic Development Strategy, the Forward Planning team also has responsibility for fast tracking economic development related planning applications.

Meath County Council also commenced the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). The LECP is a six year plan which will set out objectives and actions needed to support and promote economic and community development.

Other work plans commenced in 2015 include the Brú na Bóinne Management Plan and various Public Realm Plans.

Development Contributions

Receipts from development contributions remain consistent and slightly improved on 2014 levels, with a projected outturn in the region of €4.7m. for 2015.

The Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2016-2021 went on public display until 6 October, 2015. If adopted, the Scheme will see a number of reductions in the price per residential unit as well as incentives for business, industry and agriculture.

The Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 came into effect from 1 September, 2015. This requires the Planning Authority to apply the lesser Development Contribution Scheme rate to developments that have not commenced or have not been paid for.

Compliance Activities

Complaint levels are down on 2014, with 205 Warning Letters issued together with 129 Enforcement Notices on a range of non compliance and unauthorised development issues. These figures include action taken for non compliance with the financial provisions of extant planning permissions. The Council continues to carry out its function with regard to the Taking-in-Charge of estates. In the first three quarters of 2015, 30 estates were taken-in-charge by the Council.

Development Management

The number of applications received to date has increased by 13% from the same period in 2014. Pre Planning clinics are now fully subscribed and the Planning Authority continues to note an improvement in the scope and complexity of development proposals being considered.

Meath County Council prepared a number of reports under the Strategic Infrastructure Act for An Bord Pleanála in relation to the following applications:

- Maighne Wind Farm
- North-South Interconnector
- 200kv line at Clonee

Meath County Council also attended the Oral Hearing held with respect to the application for Emlagh Wind Farm.

The Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 introduced an amendment in Part V requirements from 20% to 10%, which in effect means it only applies to sites of 10 or more houses. It also introduced the requirement for developers to reach an agreement with the Housing Department, in relation to their Part V proposals, prior to submitting their planning application and commencement notices.

Quarry Regulation

The Planning Authority continues to monitor and assess quarrying operations in Meath.

Building Control

The Council's Building Control function is performed by the Building Control officer who also leads the Planning Enforcement Team. The Building Control function plays a critical role in informing the Council's Financial Compliance Team.

Following the introduction of a national protocol for the submission of commencement notices in 2014, changes were made to the protocol in September, 2015, whereby one-off developments and extensions can 'opt out' of certification of compliance with Building Regulations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE

Meath Economic and Enterprise Team commenced its implementation phase of the Economic Development Strategy 2014-2022 to support the co-ordinated economic development of the county by planning for, initiating and managing projects that contribute positively to the County's ongoing economic growth.

Achievements 2015:

Jobs:

- Approximately 300 jobs have been created/announced in Meath.
- Tech giant Facebook has been granted permission by Meath County Council (and subsequently by An Bord Pleanála on appeal) to locate its new European Data Centre in Clonee.

Business Supports:

- Meath LEO is the 'first-stop-shop' for all Government supports for those in Meath who want to start or expand their business and create jobs in the county.
- LEO provided funding of €300,000 to support businesses.
- Meath Enterprise Week 2015 continues to lead the way locally and nationally with a range of initiatives to encourage, train, mentor and support new and existing businesses in Meath. Our commitment and focus in the areas of economic and community development continues to be supported in Budget 2016.
- During 2015, Meath presented awards to Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur and Student Enterprise Awards.
- Business Information Seminar for SME's.

- Business Community – Purple Flag status for Navan; Boyne Valley Food Series; Guth Gafta International Film Festival.

Creating Business Networks to support jobs:

- Delegation to New York.
- Collaboration work with National Agencies – Connect Ireland; education providers and engaged in stakeholder forum for Mid-East Region Action Plan for Jobs.
- BOI Business and Community Events.

Marketing:

- Digital promotion – “Make it Meath” video, a short video for FDI market, a video for the Chinese market and the assistance of a video to promote Ashbourne International Baseball Centre.
- Media releases in Sunday Business Post, In-Business Magazine, Public Times Magazines and continuous positive national coverage.
- Start-Up Gathering 2015 event.

New Initiatives:

- The Council’s commitment to economic growth and employment creation was strengthened with €300,000 additional funding provided for new initiatives to promote economic development in 2015 for the provision of upgrade and refurbishment of Industrial Estates; development of a master plan for site at Liscarton, Navan for “*Boyne Valley Food Innovation Hub*” and in marketing and promotion of the Economic Development Strategy.

TOURISM

Achievements, 2015:

With the Boyne Valley Tourism Plan 2012-2014 coming to a conclusion, Meath County Council in association with Louth County Council appointed consultants to work on a new five year strategy. A working group was established with representation from Counties Louth and Meath to oversee the preparation of a draft 5 year Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2016-2020 to drive tourism forward. A comprehensive consultation process was conducted in 2015 with tourism stakeholders, the tourism trade locally and the travel trade. Consultation was undertaken with domestic and overseas visitors to gain a holistic view of the attitudes of domestic and overseas visitors to the Boyne Valley.

Ireland’s Ancient East was launched in April 2015 by Minister Paschal Donohoe and presents many new opportunities for the Boyne Valley in 2016 and beyond. Fáilte Ireland has identified that this new destination appeals to a market of over 16.5 million people throughout the world. The new Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2016-2020 aims to identify and present a plan for harnessing those opportunities.

Throughout 2015, a strong marketing campaign took place to raise awareness of the Boyne Valley. The second Boyne Valley Tourism Conference took place in February attracting 250

delegates and 50 exhibitors. 20 promotional shows were attended by the Boyne Valley Tourism Team and tourism trade including Bloom, the National Ploughing Championships, Belfast Holiday Show and overseas shows in Germany and Spain. This presented many opportunities for the tourism trade to engage with potential consumers. Four familiarisation trips took place whereby tour operators were brought on a two day visit of the Boyne Valley to showcase its attractions and accommodation resulting in new touring packages of the Boyne Valley.

Initiatives and Challenges, 2016:

The key priority for 2016 will be to build awareness of the Boyne Valley within the new Ireland's Ancient East destination and maximising the opportunities that the publicity of this new region will bring. The completion of the new Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2016-2020 by year end 2015 with launch scheduled for early 2016 is timely, tying in with the 2016 publicity for Ireland's Ancient East. The Official Discover Boyne Valley Tourism App which was developed during 2015 will move on to a phase two whereby new audio guides for each of the major heritage sites will be a new feature of the app and will be completed during 2016.

Table B: Expenditure and Income for 2016 and Estimated Outturn for 2015

Division and Services	2016				2015			
	Expenditure		Income		Expenditure		Income	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
D Development Management								
D01 Forward Planning		472,791		261	913,672	875,483	251	261
D02 Development Management		3,656,024		938,977	3,449,187	3,329,206	756,158	915,164
D03 Enforcement		530,709		-	422,601	391,897	-	-
D04 Industrial and Commercial Facilities		985,304		32,299	758,668	738,769	104,615	80,902
D05 Tourism Development and Promotion		245,893		22,497	242,639	216,925	22,406	4,500
D06 Community and Enterprise Function		1,068,730		128,978	1,066,877	1,035,431	100,432	107,134
D07 Unfinished Housing Estates		161,749		10,000	160,170	162,811	10,000	8,000
D08 Building Control		110,874		-	110,715	111,276	-	-
D09 Economic Development and Promotion		1,167,878		729,702	927,875	1,082,279	509,275	663,884
D10 Property Management		66,500		-	80,000	33,259	-	-
D11 Heritage and Conservation Services		441,515		45,354	361,606	334,720	45,192	24,018
D12 Agency & Recoupable Services		73,137		6,933	78,115	76,794	6,680	6,943
D Division Total		8,981,104		1,915,001	8,572,125	8,388,850	1,555,009	1,810,806

Table F - Expenditure				
Division D - Development Management				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council	Estimated by Chief Executive	Adopted by Council	Estimated Outturn
	€	€	€	€
D0101 Statutory Plans and Policy		470,224	911,150	873,018
D0199 Service Support Costs		2,567	2,522	2,465
D01 Forward Planning		472,791	913,672	875,483
D0201 Planning Control		2,150,694	1,941,536	1,884,704
D0299 Service Support Costs		1,505,330	1,507,651	1,444,502
D02 Development Management		3,656,024	3,449,187	3,329,206
D0301 Enforcement Costs		530,709	422,601	391,897
D0399 Service Support Costs		-	-	-
D03 Enforcement		530,709	422,601	391,897
D0401 Industrial Sites Operations		-	-	-
D0403 Management of & Contribs to Other Commercial Facs		53,211	54,635	53,210
D0404 General Development Promotion Work		895,079	666,696	650,007
D0499 Service Support Costs		37,014	37,337	35,552
D04 Industrial and Commercial Facilities		985,304	758,668	738,769
D0501 Tourism Promotion		223,882	220,570	195,784
D0502 Tourist Facilities Operations		-	-	-
D0599 Service Support Costs		22,011	22,069	21,141
D05 Tourism Development and Promotion		245,893	242,639	216,925
D0601 General Community & Enterprise Expenses		592,271	597,175	575,799
D0602 RAPID Costs		-	-	-
D0603 Social Inclusion		94,894	89,374	90,177
D0699 Service Support Costs		381,565	380,328	369,455
D06 Community and Enterprise Function		1,068,730	1,066,877	1,035,431
D0701 Unfinished Housing Estates		161,749	160,170	162,811
D0799 Service Support Costs		-	-	-
D07 Unfinished Housing Estates		161,749	160,170	162,811
D0801 Building Control Inspection Costs		5,000	5,000	2,286
D0802 Building Control Enforcement Costs		-	-	-
D0899 Service Support Costs		105,874	105,715	108,990
D08 Building Control		110,874	110,715	111,276

Table F - Expenditure				
Division D - Development Management				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council	Estimated by Chief Executive	Adopted by Council	Estimated Outturn
	€	€	€	€
D0901 Urban and Village Renewal		252,544	241,904	239,514
D0902 EU Projects		-	-	-
D0903 Town Twinning		20,000	16,000	28,544
D0904 European Office		-	-	-
D0905 Economic Development & Promotion		180,000	180,000	130,074
D0906 Local Enterprise Office		684,940	459,213	656,024
D0999 Service Support Costs		30,394	30,758	28,123
D09 Economic Development and Promotion		1,167,878	927,875	1,082,279
D1001 Property Management Costs		66,500	80,000	33,259
D1099 Service Support Costs		-	-	-
D10 Property Management		66,500	80,000	33,259
D1101 Heritage Services		297,605	217,421	202,104
D1102 Conservation Services		81,566	81,488	72,736
D1103 Conservation Grants		-	-	-
D1199 Service Support Costs		62,344	62,697	59,880
D11 Heritage and Conservation Services		441,515	361,606	334,720
D1201 Agency & Recoupable Service		25,000	30,000	30,562
D1299 Service Support Costs		48,137	48,115	46,232
D12 Agency & Recoupable Services		73,137	78,115	76,794
D Division Total		8,981,104	8,572,125	8,388,850

Table F - Income				
Division D - Development Management				
Income by Source	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
Government Grants, Subsidies, & LPT				
Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht		-	-	-
Environment, Community & Local Government		28,000	-	40,590
Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation		679,638	459,213	612,970
Other Grants & Subsidies		50,000	50,000	-
Total Government Grants, Subsidies, & LPT		757,638	509,213	653,560
Goods & Services				
Planning Fees		805,000	626,500	724,123
Agency Services & Repayable Works		-	-	-
Superannuation		149,963	144,496	150,167
Sale/leasing of other property/Industrial Sites		-	72,400	53,600
Local Authority Contributions		141,900	141,900	136,619
Other income		60,500	60,500	92,737
Total Goods & Services		1,157,363	1,045,796	1,157,246
Division 'D' Total		1,915,001	1,555,009	1,810,806

SERVICE DIVISION E

Environment, Fire & Emergency Services

Introduction

The protection of the environment and the enhancement of the county's natural and built environment are of significant importance for the residents of, and visitors to, County Meath. Clean air and water, a litter free countryside, pristine beaches and sustainable waste management systems are fundamental to a sustainable and high quality environment and improving the quality of life of our citizens.

Achievements 2015

Environmental Education and Awareness

During 2015, the Council provided funding and facilitated Community participation in various Environmental initiatives including:

- Lunchtime Littering for Secondary Schools
- Food and Waste Programme
- The Really Rubbish Film Festival
- Stencils and Signage for Community Groups
- The Amenity and Lawnmower Grant Funding Scheme.
- Increased participation in the Pride of Place Scheme where the Council works in partnership with communities.
- Local Agenda 21- processing of applications from 53 different groups / organisations.
- The introduction of Medal Standards scheme for the Anti Litter League.

Litter Management Plan 2015 -2017

The Litter Management Plan 2015 -2017 was adopted by the Council at the October meeting of the Council. The overall aim of the Litter Management Plan is to make County Meath a litter free County with the support, cooperation and involvement of the local authority, businesses, communities and individuals. The Plan contains a series of objectives which are underpinned by five cross cutting themes namely, Education and Public Awareness, Litter Prevention and control, Enforcement, Community Participation and Partnership and Recycling / recovery. The plan also incorporates policy in relation to the erection of event posters by Voluntary, Social and Sporting organisations.

Regional Waste Management Plan

A new Regional Waste Management Plan for the Eastern and Midlands Waste Management Plan region was launched in May 2015. The Eastern-Midlands Region (EMR) Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 provides a framework for the prevention and management of waste in a sustainable manner in 12 local authority areas. The three key objectives of the Eastern-Midlands Region Waste Management Plan are:

- Prevent waste: a reduction of one per cent per annum in the amount of household waste generated over the period of the plan.
- More recycling: increase the recycle rate of domestic and commercial waste from 40 to 50 per cent by 2020.
- Further reduce landfill: eliminate all unprocessed waste going to landfill from 2016.

The plan's implementation will be led by the new Eastern-Midlands Regional Waste Office based in Dublin City Council.

The Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2015

This Act provides the statutory backing for new provisions surrounding the management of household waste and new enforcement measures relating to producer responsibility. Provisions of the legislation include for the mandatory requirement for waste collectors and facilities accepting household waste to charge on a pay by weight basis from the 1st July 2016. Associated Regulations introduced in 2015 provided for the introduction of Customer Charters and the phasing out of bags by the 1st July 2016 except in certain circumstances

Establishment of Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities

Following a review of the regulatory and enforcement roles of Local Authorities and the EPA Dublin City Council were selected as the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority for the Eastern and Midlands region which includes Meath and eleven other local authorities. The lead authorities will have responsibility for co-ordinating waste enforcement actions within regions, setting priorities and common objectives for waste enforcement and ensuring consistent enforcement of waste legislation. The local authority personnel will still be first responders on the ground.

Household Food Waste Regulations 2013 :

The phased roll out of the Brown Bins under these Regulations continued in 2015 and with the service now available in Kells, Athboy, Ratoath, Dunshaughlin, Dunboyne, Trim, Enfield, Duleek and Stamullen. In preparation for the roll out a number of educational and awareness initiatives were undertaken including compost giveaway events which proved very successful.

Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 – Registration and Inspection of Septic Tanks

By the end of 2015 a total of 18,500 domestic waste water treatment systems were registered for County Meath or circa 85% of the Census total.

The EPA National Inspection Plan 2015-2017 was published in June 2015 and requires Meath County Council to carry out a minimum, of 129 inspections over the three year period. A total of 43 inspections were carried out in 2015.

Up on 60% of all systems failed the inspection and resulted in the service of Advisory Notices specifying remediation action to be carried out. The majority of failures relates to illegal discharges to open ditches while lack of de-sludging accounts for many other failures.

A Grant Scheme was introduced under the Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Financial Assistance) Regulations 2013 for the purpose of providing for a scheme of financial assistance to owners connected to domestic waste water treatment systems (DWWTSs) with the cost of repairs to, and upgrading of such systems.

River Basin District Catchment Management

In June 2015, the Minister for the Environment launched the second phase of public consultation on the second cycle of River Basin Management Planning in Ireland. This consultation seeks to obtain the views of the public on what are considered to be the significant water management issues for Ireland which need to be assessed in the next round of River Basin Management Plans. The final date for responses in respect of this consultation phase being the 18th December 2015.

Floods Directive

Following on from the completion of a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment to identify areas of existing or foreseeable future potentially significant flood risk, flood hazard and Risk Maps (AFAs) were published as part of Stage 2 of the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management (CFRAM) programme, with a 3 month consultation phase at 7 locations in County Meath during the month of March. The information provided will assist in ensuring appropriate flood mitigation measures can be put in place to ensure the protection of developments identified as being at risk of flooding.

Other developments relating to Environment during 2015

- The Council continued to pursue a number of historic illegal dumping sites throughout the county.
- A programme of activity using CCTV at litter black spots and at bring banks throughout the County continued in order to enforce compliance with the Litter Pollution Act.
- Development of a full Producer Responsibility Initiative (PRI) for Tyres and Waste Tyres at National Level.
- Work commenced on the preparation of a Beach Management Plan for Laytown/Bettystown and focusing on key issues including traffic management/ parking, toilet facilities and entrances to the beach.
- The appointment of Beach Wardens and Life Guards for the Summer season
- Reed Bed trials commenced at Basketstown Landfill for the treatment of leachate as well as improvements to the capping on the site.
- Micro chipping of Dogs Regulations 2015, which set out requirements to have dogs micro chipped and registered with dog identification databases.

Fire Service

The Fire & Rescue Service is called to respond to a wide range of incidents and emergencies across the county at any time of the day or night, and the fire service fleet of over 30 vehicles must be ready operationally to meet this requirement. There is also a large number of buildings (including licensed premises and high/special risk) within Meath where fire safety inspections must be carried out by the Senior Fire Officers. In the case of new building works Fire Safety Certificates must be granted.

Operations Plan

A draft Fire & Emergency Operations Plan to fulfil Meath County Council's statutory obligation as a Fire Authority under the Fire Services Acts was prepared and presented at the October Council meeting. The plan, while predominantly dealing with Fire and Emergency operations, also takes into consideration the substantial volume of Fire Safety and Fire Prevention work carried out by the Fire Service Section, along with the contribution the Fire Authority makes to Major Emergency Management.

Fire Service Training

Throughout 2015, work continued on Fire Service training requirements, including:

a) the implementation of the national training programme of 'Standard Operational Guidelines' (SOGs) modules; b) Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) ; c) A Sub-Station Officer training course; d) A new on-station training programme for all firefighters; e) The Safety Management System – Policies and Procedures.

Fire Prevention and Community Fire Safety

During National Fire Safety Week, 2015, and at various times across the year, Meath Fire & Rescue Service organised a series of activities comprising media campaigns, meeting special interest groups, hosting Fire Station Open Days and carrying out school visits to promote the fire safety message.

Fire Operations

Current levels of Fire-fighter training will be maintained in order to ensure continued high standards of service delivery and to meet health & safety requirements. Health and Safety is an area of high importance for the Fire & Rescue Service, the provision and maintenance of an up to date and well managed Safety System will be a priority in 2016.

Civil Defence

There are currently in excess of two hundred active volunteer members in Civil Defence throughout county Meath. In addition to regular training activities in the nine training centres, Civil Defence volunteers were involved in over one hundred and seventy duty days at events throughout 2015 providing assistance to the emergency services and local communities.

The organisation in County Meath has undertaken a review of its activities over the past number of months and a programme of recommendations is being implemented. New training modules in Risk assessment and Risk management, Fire safety and Operational activities have been introduced in addition to those implemented last year and have added the training programmes available to volunteers and will require a re-focusing of expenditure in these areas.

Table B: Expenditure and Income for 2016 and Estimated Outturn for 2015

Division and Services	2016				2015			
	Expenditure		Income		Expenditure		Income	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
E Environmental Services								
E01 Landfill Operation and Aftercare		336,807		4,386	316,721	332,131	4,227	4,392
E02 Recovery & Recycling Facilities Operations		595,416		295,667	564,733	562,459	325,570	323,799
E03 Waste to Energy Facilities Operations		-		-	-	-	-	-
E04 Provision of Waste to Collection Services		130,611		3,118	116,057	120,760	3,041	2,121
E05 Litter Management		434,496		73,871	373,654	371,040	74,694	54,878
E06 Street Cleaning		1,362,986		22,627	1,585,778	1,732,610	21,802	22,658
E07 Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement		4,010,925		2,451,485	3,159,159	3,091,664	1,689,444	1,732,901
E08 Waste Management Planning		11,503		-	10,232	10,266	-	-
E09 Maintenance of Burial Grounds		229,419		40,611	204,907	196,328	48,007	43,761
E10 Safety of Structures and Places		520,304		187,936	506,417	461,377	206,683	184,352
E11 Operation of Fire Service		4,110,977		294,624	4,009,996	4,006,843	314,310	248,741
E12 Fire Prevention		308,252		165,700	328,615	234,744	165,499	157,254
E13 Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution		525,321		42,795	650,227	568,889	21,964	35,830
E14 Agency & Recoupable Services		216		-	10,213	11,210	-	-
E Division Total		12,577,233		3,582,820	11,836,709	11,700,321	2,875,241	2,810,687

Table F - Expenditure				
Division E - Environmental Services				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council	Estimated by Chief Executive	Adopted by Council	Estimated Outturn
	€	€	€	€
E0101 Landfill Operations		140,000	140,000	140,333
E0102 Contribution to other LAs - Landfill Facilities		-	-	-
E0103 Landfill Aftercare Costs.		174,000	154,000	170,025
E0199 Service Support Costs		22,807	22,721	21,773
E01 Landfill Operation and Aftercare		336,807	316,721	332,131
E0201 Recycling Facilities Operations		524,932	492,565	492,305
E0202 Bring Centres Operations		55,000	57,000	55,286
E0204 Other Recycling Services		-	-	-
E0299 Service Support Costs		15,484	15,168	14,868
E02 Recovery & Recycling Facilities Operations		595,416	564,733	562,459
E0301 Waste to Energy Facilities Operations		-	-	-
E0399 Service Support Costs		-	-	-
E03 Waste to Energy Facilities Operations		-	-	-
E0401 Recycling Waste Collection Services		-	-	-
E0402 Organic Waste Collection Services		3,000	3,000	-
E0403 Residual Waste Collection Services		-	-	-
E0404 Commercial Waste Collection Services		-	-	-
E0406 Contribution to Waste Collection Services		-	-	-
E0407 Other Costs Waste Collection		107,500	92,500	101,702
E0499 Service Support Costs		20,111	20,557	19,058
E04 Provision of Waste to Collection Services		130,611	116,057	120,760
E0501 Litter Warden Service		89,521	89,436	85,891
E0502 Litter Control Initiatives		96,000	99,000	83,040
E0503 Environmental Awareness Services		156,119	107,294	106,336
E0599 Service Support Costs		92,856	77,924	95,773
E05 Litter Management		434,496	373,654	371,040
E0601 Operation of Street Cleaning Service		1,220,665	1,441,855	1,597,250
E0602 Provision and Improvement of Litter Bins		-	-	-
E0699 Service Support Costs		142,321	143,923	135,360
E06 Street Cleaning		1,362,986	1,585,778	1,732,610
E0701 Monitoring of Waste Regs (incl Private Landfills)		2,266,490	1,419,250	1,432,122
E0702 Enforcement of Waste Regulations		289,484	271,544	255,726
E0799 Service Support Costs		1,454,951	1,468,365	1,403,816
E07 Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement		4,010,925	3,159,159	3,091,664

Table F - Expenditure				
Division E - Environmental Services				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council	Estimated by Chief Executive	Adopted by Council	Estimated Outturn
	€	€	€	€
E0801 Waste Management Plan		11,503	10,232	10,266
E0802 Contrib to Other Bodies Waste Management Planning		-	-	-
E0899 Service Support Costs		-	-	-
E08 Waste Management Planning		11,503	10,232	10,266
E0901 Maintenance of Burial Grounds		168,437	142,639	138,260
E0999 Service Support Costs		60,982	62,268	58,068
E09 Maintenance of Burial Grounds		229,419	204,907	196,328
E1001 Operation Costs Civil Defence		258,722	255,931	241,734
E1002 Dangerous Buildings		-	-	-
E1003 Emergency Planning		-	-	-
E1004 Derelict Sites		49,627	51,456	48,756
E1005 Water Safety Operation		111,507	98,752	74,182
E1099 Service Support Costs		100,448	100,278	96,705
E10 Safety of Structures and Places		520,304	506,417	461,377
E1101 Operation of Fire Brigade Service		3,929,070	3,852,149	3,847,939
E1103 Fire Services Training		-	-	-
E1104 Operation of Ambulance Service		-	-	-
E1199 Service Support Costs		181,907	157,847	158,904
E11 Operation of Fire Service		4,110,977	4,009,996	4,006,843
E1201 Fire Safety Control Cert Costs		-	-	-
E1202 Fire Prevention and Education		256,278	276,682	184,903
E1203 Inspection & Monitoring of Commercial Facilities		-	-	-
E1299 Service Support Costs		51,974	51,933	49,841
E12 Fire Prevention		308,252	328,615	234,744
E1301 Water Quality Management		52,700	52,700	39,839
E1302 Licensing and Monitoring of Air and Noise Quality		-	-	-
E1399 Service Support Costs		472,621	597,527	529,050
E13 Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution		525,321	650,227	568,889
E1401 Agency & Recoupable Service		-	10,000	11,002
E1499 Service Support Costs		216	213	208
E14 Agency & Recoupable Services		216	10,213	11,210
E Division Total		12,577,233	11,836,709	11,700,321

Table F - Income				
Division E - Environmental Services				
Income by Source	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council	Estimated by Chief Executive	Adopted by Council	Estimated Outturn
	€	€	€	€
Government Grants, Subsidies, & LPT				
Social Protection		-	-	-
Environment, Community & Local Government		486,000	516,000	545,151
Defence		-	-	-
Other Grants & Subsidies		33,500	33,500	1,180
Total Government Grants, Subsidies, & LPT		519,500	549,500	546,331
Goods & Services				
Domestic Refuse Charges		-	-	-
Commercial Refuse Charges		-	-	-
Agency Services & Repayable Works		-	-	-
Superannuation		144,860	139,581	145,057
Landfill Charges		-	-	-
Fire Charges		250,000	250,000	373,764
Local Authority Contributions		20,000	40,000	47,907
Other income		2,648,460	1,896,160	1,697,628
Total Goods & Services		3,063,320	2,325,741	2,264,356
Division 'E' Total		3,582,820	2,875,241	2,810,687

SERVICE DIVISION F

Recreation & Amenity

Introduction

“Putting People First” significantly strengthens and expands the role in local and community development with particular focus on promoting the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities. It sets out reforms to improve the delivery of services for the citizen, deliver greater efficiency and effectiveness and give local government a more central role in local and community development.

Achievements 2015

Local Community Development Committee

Under the Local Government Reform Act 2014, each Local Authority was directed to set up a Local Community Development Committee. The LCDC was established for the purpose of developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development in the county. In Meath the LCDC consists of 19 members from the public and private sectors. The LCDC has responsibility for the preparation of a 6 year Local Economic Community Plan in conjunction with the Council with a timeframe of Quarter 1, 2016 to adopt the plan.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2015-2017

This programme is the successor programme to the Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) which was delivered by Local Development Companies. SICAP’s aim is to reduce poverty, promote social inclusion and equality. The tender to deliver the programme was awarded to Meath Partnership the programme implementer (PI). The programme commenced mid 2015 with a budget of €235,798 allocated until the end of 2015 by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government with co-funding from the European Social Fund (ESF). The LCDC is the contracting authority to manage and administer SICAP at a local level. The LCDC is the key decision maker and will have responsibility for performance monitoring and approval of payments to the programme implementer.

Leader Programme 2014-2020

The delivery of the Leader programme 2014-2020 will involve the LCDC known as the Local Action Group (LAG). The LCDC/LAG will submit a Local Development Strategy (LDS) in quarter 4 for approval by the Department. Each County has been given a financial allocation with Meath allocated €6,903,123.57 however it is the outcome of the Local development strategy (LDS) selection process that will determine the funding actually given to any individual LDS. It is Government’s policy that a partnership approach, which includes local authorities and other key stakeholders such as existing Local Development Companies, is considered in implementing LEADER LDS.

The LCDC agreed to a joint approach to LEADER with the LCDC as the LAG and Meath Partnership as the programme implementer. This means that all recommendations for the programme must come to the LCDC to make a decision on and/or vote on. The LCDC/LAG/Local Authority is responsible for monitoring/overseeing and the delivery of this programme.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

The development of the PPN has been underway throughout 2015 and it is now well established with meetings of each College – Environment, Social Inclusion and Voluntary, and of each Municipal District,

taking place throughout the year. A 12 member Secretariat made up of representatives from each College and District was established in February 2015 and has been meeting monthly. They have been focusing on recording and prioritising issues arising at each local/College meeting and are now proceeding to develop branding and a website for the PPN. PPN is the vehicle for the nomination of community and voluntary representatives to the Council committees. In September/October 2015, the PPN elected representatives to the LCDC from each College. The Joint Policing Committee Linkage Group has also been established and this group elected four representatives from the PPN to sit on the JPC.

Meath Age Friendly Initiative

The Age Friendly County initiative has progressed significantly since it was launched in September, 2011. It seeks to engage older people and all citizens in making their communities better, healthier and safer places for older people to live in and thrive. The Older People's Forum, in association with Meath Partnership (Laterlife Network), assists in the implementation of the Strategy and it is the voice of the older citizens of Co. Meath. The 3 Working Groups set up i.e. Transportation Group, the Crime Prevention & Safety Working Group and the Information & Communication Working Group has completed work set out in the Strategy. A transport survey has been completed and was launched at the Rural Transport Day on the 30th October along with the first Age Friendly Annual report. The Meath Age Friendly website is now live and populated with local information for the older person.

Age Friendly Ireland held a national recognition and achievement awards ceremony in Cavan in January. Meath had been shortlisted for 2 nominations under transport and active and healthy ageing with the transport initiative winning an award.

Kells is an Age Friendly Business town with 32 businesses signed up to the initiative. An Age Friendly business can provide services such as home delivery, discounts, refreshments to name but a few. A directory which identifies the businesses signed up has been circulated. This initiative has been nominated in the 2015 Chambers Ireland Promoting Economic Development awards in the category of excellence in Local Government. An Age Friendly parking space has been identified in the town and it is hoped to operate this on a pilot basis.

Trim is an Age Friendly town with a steering committee set up to progress an action plan in place.

Comhairle na nÓg/Dáil na nÓg

Meath Comhairle na nÓg, the Youth Council for County Meath, held a very successful Annual General Meeting on October 6th 2015 with over 200 people between 12-18 years of age in attendance. Over the past year the young people have developed a programme to support positive mental health in young people in Meath called *Let's Go Mental*. This project is based on Headstrong's Five-A-Day for your mental health: Give, Get Involved, Get Moving, Connect and Be Aware. Workshops were held throughout the day of the AGM in partnership with Meath Local Sports Partnership, Jigsaw Meath, Meath Volunteer Centre and Youthwork Ireland Meath. All workshops were facilitated by the young people of Meath Comhairle na nÓg.

During 2015, members of Meath Comhairle na nÓg were consulted on the Local Economic and Community Plan, Meath Library Service, the National Youth Strategy, Young Voices 2015 and Department of Justice Human Rights consultation. The young people were also involved in the Jigsaw Meath Button Project, Navan Mayor's Happiness Project and Meath Positive Mental Health Week. Six young people from Meath will attend Dail na nÓg on November 27th in Croke Park.

Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

The newly established JPC held its inaugural meeting in September. This committee is made up of 15 Councillors, 5 Oireachtas Members, 2 Local Authority officials, 2 Garda officers, and 7 community members with 4 of the community members nominated through the Public Participation Network (PPN). The overall aim of the JPC is to act as a forum for consultation, discussion and the making of recommendations on matters affecting policing in the local authority area.

Community Initiatives - Pride of Place

Community Initiatives including Pride of Place, Anti Litter League and Green Schools deliver a programme of environmental and quality of life initiatives that encourages, recognises and rewards active community groups, schools and individuals who participate in community development and enhancement projects in their areas.

In 2015, Pride of Place took on a slightly different format with competitions at local Municipal District level. Category winners from each Municipal District go forward to compete at County level. The level of prize money to groups has increased from previous years.

The Council promoted two groups, Dunshaughlin Tidy Towns (towns over 1,000) and Broomfield & District Association (Age-Friendly category) to take part in the All Island Pride of Place Awards Scheme, with the awards held in November.

The Community Grant Scheme 2015

This is a new scheme, which invited applications from Community Groups/Tidy Towns/Residents associations, schools and other organisations who are engaged in a community initiative in their locality. The grant scheme aims to assist local community groups that would benefit from small scale, or once off, funding to support their groups activities or to develop a particular project.

The following is the number of applications received under the categories:

Community Action grants	No of Applicants	No of Successful applicants
Community Involvement	23	20
Active Elderly Grant	7	7
Equality and Social Inclusion	9	8
Community and Sporting facilities	14	11
Tidy Town Grant	16	16
Festival and Events Grant	38	35
Streetscape Paint Scheme	20	19
Burial Ground Grant	17	Being processed

Carranstown Grant Scheme

The Carranstown Community Grant Scheme committed funding of €224,000 to 24 nominated community projects under the 2014 Grant Scheme, most of which are now underway at present. The headline project of Mount Hanover School Multi-Purpose Room was separately awarded the amount of €200,000 which will be funded over the course of the next 4 years from this scheme.

Knockharley Grant Scheme

The Knockharley Grant Scheme continues to benefit the local community with the purchase of 10 acres in the centre of Kentstown Village for a new park and the construction of the headline project of the Community Centre, which was submitted for planning permission mid. 2015. Thirteen individual projects were awarded funding and are largely completed under the 2014 Small Grant Scheme, and two projects under the Community Grants Scheme came to completion in 2015.

Unity Centre, Windtown, Navan

The Unity Centre provides a valuable resource for the Community of Windtown and the wider Navan area by providing space for community activities, as well as training and leisure activities. The Centre is open from 8.30a.m. – 9.30p.m., Monday to Friday. A weekly Parent and Toddler Group and Youth Club are run by members of the Windtown community, and the building is regularly used by organisations such as the HSE, Rehabcare, Prosper Meath, Navan Schools Completion Service, Springboard Family Support and Orchard Children’s Services for the training and support of their local clients. A number of support groups also hold weekly meetings and there is also a Pre-School operating in the building.

Library Services

Achievements, 2015:

- Total visits to the library service increased by 18% on previous year.
- Completed a total upgrade of the public internet service.
- Piloted a new national Business Information service at Navan library.
- Coordinated the development of the Meath 1916 centenary programme.
- Developed, programmed and hosted fourth Mary Lavin Season in partnership with the Arts Office and Solstice Arts Centre.
- Internationally recognised authors headlined the annual **Children’s Book Festival** in October. Ninety five events were organised with over 5,215 children from fifty three different schools attending events making this Meath’s leading cultural event for children.
- Over 4,000 children attended the 300 plus Summer Programme of events organised by the library service during July and August.
- Delivered an annual Literacy Summer Camp for children at Trim Library as part of a LGMA Library Unit initiative and over 800 children participated in the annual Summer Reading Challenge.

Initiatives and Challenges, 2016:

- Develop service in accordance with priorities set out in national library strategy *Opportunities for All 2013-2017*.
- Introduce the new national IT Library Management System.
- Deliver the Meath 1916 Centenary programme.
- Progress Bettystown branch development as part of an overall plan to deliver a library and community facility for East Meath in Bettystown Town Centre.
- Provide minor upgrades to Athboy and Dunshaughlin libraries to comply with Accessibility guidelines.
- Provide major upgrade to Nobber library to comply with Energy Efficiency guidelines.
- Implement Right to Read initiative as per *Opportunities for All*.
- Introduce a fully automated self-service printing, scanning and copying service at selected libraries.

The library service will continue to prioritise maintenance of branch opening hours in 2016 in order to sustain frontline services. Visitor numbers continue to increase as demand for library led community activities, events and facilities continues to grow.

Meath Local Sports Partnership

Meath Local Sports Partnership provides a leadership role for the co ordination, development and delivery of sport and physical activity opportunities in County Meath within the framework of our strategic plan and the resources available. Our role is to support increased opportunities for lifelong participation in sport and physical activity for the people of County Meath.

Sports Inclusion Disability Officer

The Sports Inclusion Disability Officer (SIDO) is a key driver in promoting synergies that remove barriers to the inclusion of people with disabilities in sport and physical activity in County Meath. The SIDO works in collaboration with local and national agencies to deliver a comprehensive programme of activities for people with disability.

Community Sports Development Officer

The Community Sports Development Officer is an integral part of the Meath Local Sports Partnership team and has responsibility for delivering and assisting with the delivery of a range of initiatives including Meath Mental Health week, An Post Meath Heritage Cycle tour, Cycle Safety Skills in primary schools, Women in Sport initiatives and older adult programmes.

Initiatives and Challenges, 2016:

- Developing new programmes in conjunction with stakeholders, which tackle obesity and promote positive Mental Health.
- Identify and target sports and physical activity related social and economic development opportunities with our partners and stakeholders.
- Continue to deliver a range of courses, programmes and mass participation events which will see more people, more active, more often.

Arts Office

The Meath County Council Arts policy and mission is ‘to increase access to the arts for all sectors of the community, encourage and increase awareness and interest in the arts, increase participation in the arts, whilst recognising the importance of the arts in areas of personal development, community development, employment and tourism’. The Arts Office continues to implement key aims and objectives as per the Council’s strategic Arts Policy.

Achievements, 2015:

The main achievements for 2015 included:

- Implementation of the FÉACH professional artist mentoring and training programme in partnership with Visual Artists Ireland, the Irish Writers’ Centre and the Arts Council.
- Nine exhibitions held at Toradh Gallery, Ashbourne Cultural Centre including major retrospective of work of Thomas Ryan RHA.
- Children’s Arts Festival ‘Menagerie Mayhem’, Easter 2015.
- Development of new touring work ‘Peter and the Wolf’ in partnership with Musici Ireland as Pucas and Potions children’s arts Halloween festival 2015.
- Youth Arts Film Festival held Ratoath.
- Programming and production of play – Halcyon Days by Deirdre Kinahan at the Hay Literary Festival, Kells.
- Presentation of ‘A Beautiful Life’ by Ann Meldon Hugh as visual arts element of Hay 2015.
- Record and produce ‘The Chronicles of Meath’, a new work for Harp Ensemble by Vincent Kennedy and the Meath Harp Ensemble .

- Management of ongoing Per Cent for Art Scheme projects.
- Programme, manage and fund Bealtine Festival at venues across the county.
- Mary Lavin/Dermot Bolger Young Writers Programme devised and implemented in three schools Trim, Navan and Kells.
- Administered, assessed and managed – Annual Arts Grant Scheme, Community Arts Scheme, Professional Arts Development Scheme, Festival Grants Scheme, Schools Musical Instrument Purchase Scheme, Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary Award, Tony Finnegan Memorial Award.
- Introduction of new artists talks and workshops programme at Toradh Gallery.
- Support and assist in development of Kells TypeTrail Festival.
- County Arts Plan on-line survey completed.
- New partnership with Guth Gafa International Documentary Film Festival formed.
- Delivery of ‘Training Notes’ professional training programme for musicians wishing to work in a health care system in partnership with Kids Classics, Navan hospital and Beaufort House.

Initiatives and Challenges, 2016:

- Write, publish and launch third County Arts Development Plan.
- Manage and implement Private Developer Public Art Project programme.
- Continue Urban Art Trails Development, design and print Sculpture Trail maps.
- Continue to expand nature and scale of artists talks and workshops programme at the Toradh Gallery – link to Arts in Education Charter.
- Devise, develop and implement Menagerie Mayhem – children’s Easter Arts Festival; Bealtine Festival for active age; Pucas and Potions children’s Halloween arts festival.
- Devise, develop and implement Mary Lavin Season in partnership with county Library Services.
- Youth Arts – devise, implement and manage youth arts programmes in the areas of Visual Arts, Theatre and Film – expand Youth Film Festival programme.
- Implement Arts 2016 commemoration programme (Wild Sky) including production of ‘Wild Sky’ theatre commission by award winning playwright Deirdre Kinahan; ‘Wild Sky’ music; ‘Wild Sky’ visual arts and ‘Wild Sky’ poetry events.
- Continue to work with, and expand, nature of assistance and support to Meath Harp Academy, Meath Harp Ensemble and O’Carolan Harp Festival.

Table B: Expenditure and Income for 2016 and Estimated Outturn for 2015

Division and Services	2016				2015			
	Expenditure		Income		Expenditure		Income	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
F Recreation and Amenity								
F01 Leisure Facilities Operations		809,791		251,971	960,058	838,391	385,988	258,000
F02 Operation of Library and Archival Service		3,673,665		111,219	3,583,291	3,628,577	108,633	111,015
F03 Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations		1,276,835		69,752	885,324	880,588	24,688	52,141
F04 Community Sport and Recreational Development		552,197		43,532	936,423	454,936	43,221	8,543
F05 Operation of Arts Programme		850,349		51,016	857,053	864,296	50,815	65,486
F06 Agency & Recoupable Services		2,234		459,751	2,173	2,145	300,723	459,752
F Division Total		7,165,071		987,241	7,224,322	6,668,933	914,068	954,937

Table F - Expenditure				
Division F - Recreation and Amenity				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council	Estimated by Chief Executive	Adopted by Council	Estimated Outturn
	€	€	€	€
F0101 Leisure Facilities Operations		449,069	456,762	424,167
F0103 Contribution to External Bodies Leisure Facilities		157,500	292,500	222,697
F0199 Service Support Costs		203,222	210,796	191,527
F01 Leisure Facilities Operations		809,791	960,058	838,391
F0201 Library Service Operations		2,539,915	2,439,258	2,526,475
F0202 Archive Service		-	-	-
F0204 Purchase of Books, CD's etc.		150,000	150,000	161,308
F0205 Contributions to Library Organisations		-	-	-
F0299 Service Support Costs		983,750	994,033	940,794
F02 Operation of Library and Archival Service		3,673,665	3,583,291	3,628,577
F0301 Parks, Pitches & Open Spaces		1,209,037	826,363	817,039
F0302 Playgrounds		-	-	-
F0303 Beaches		58,845	50,200	54,952
F0399 Service Support Costs		8,953	8,761	8,597
F03 Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations		1,276,835	885,324	880,588
F0401 Community Grants		85,500	552,800	69,073
F0402 Operation of Sports Hall/Stadium		-	-	-
F0403 Community Facilities		280,156	201,687	200,285
F0404 Recreational Development		70,918	65,902	74,830
F0499 Service Support Costs		115,623	116,034	110,748
F04 Community Sport and Recreational Development		552,197	936,423	454,936
F0501 Administration of the Arts Programme		228,971	216,533	208,933
F0502 Contributions to other Bodies Arts Programme		537,994	525,633	555,458
F0503 Museums Operations		-	-	-
F0504 Heritage/Interpretive Facilities Operations		-	-	-
F0505 Festivals & Concerts		-	31,000	20,059
F0599 Service Support Costs		83,384	83,887	79,846
F05 Operation of Arts Programme		850,349	857,053	864,296
F0601 Agency & Recoupable Service		-	-	-
F0699 Service Support Costs		2,234	2,173	2,145
F06 Agency & Recoupable Services		2,234	2,173	2,145
F Division Total		7,165,071	7,224,322	6,668,933

Table F - Income				
Division F - Recreation and Amenity				
Income by Source	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
Government Grants, Subsidies, & LPT				
Arts,Heritage & Gaeltacht		-	-	-
Social Protection		-	-	-
Environment, Community & Local Government		-	-	-
Education and Skills		-	-	-
Library Council		-	-	-
Arts Council		39,500	39,500	40,382
Other Grants & Subsidies		-	-	-
Total Government Grants, Subsidies, & LPT		39,500	39,500	40,382
Goods & Services				
Recreation/Amenity/Culture		195,000	195,000	201,081
Library Fees/Fines		40,000	40,000	36,352
Agency Services & Repayable Works		-	-	-
Superannuation		114,441	110,268	114,597
Local Authority Contributions		-	-	3,559
Other income		598,300	529,300	558,966
Total Goods & Services		947,741	874,568	914,555
Division 'F' Total		987,241	914,068	954,937

SERVICE DIVISION G

Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare

Achievements, 2015

Education

Provision has been made for the statutory demand of the Louth Meath Education and Training Board.

A single unified grant scheme governs the administration of Higher Education Grant applications

- Student Support Act 2011
- Student Support Regulations 2015
- Student Grant Scheme 2015

All new student grant applications are processed by the Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) set up in 2012, which is operated by the City of Dublin VEC.

Meath County Council will continue to process renewal applications for students who have already been awarded grants until those courses have been completed.

A total of 22 renewal applications has been submitted for funding under the Student Grant Scheme for the academic year 2015/2016.

Initiatives and Challenges, 2016

A sum of €150,000 is provided in the 2016 budget to meet the cost of the Higher Education Grant Scheme in County Meath. This expenditure will be recouped from the Department of Education and Skills with the exception of €14,045 which represents the Council contribution.

Table B: Expenditure and Income for 2016 and Estimated Outturn for 2015

Division and Services	2016				2015			
	Expenditure		Income		Expenditure		Income	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare								
G01 Land Drainage Costs		47,730		35,100	61,929	12,942	35,096	100
G02 Operation and Maintenance of Piers and Harbours		-		-	-	-	-	-
G03 Coastal Protection		-		-	-	-	-	-
G04 Veterinary Service		730,085		415,546	726,087	673,902	440,252	390,890
G05 Educational Support Services		381,236		143,446	1,998,101	744,373	1,743,446	493,933
G06 Agency & Recoupable Services		2,162		-	2,134	2,076	-	-
G Division Total		1,161,213		594,092	2,788,251	1,433,293	2,218,794	884,923

Table F - Expenditure				
Division G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council	Estimated by Chief Executive	Adopted by Council	Estimated Outturn
	€	€	€	€
G0101 Maintenance of Land Drainage Areas		-	-	-
G0102 Contributions to Joint Drainage Bodies		35,000	35,000	-
G0103 Payment of Agricultural Pensions		12,353	26,562	12,580
G0199 Service Support Costs		377	367	362
G01 Land Drainage Costs		47,730	61,929	12,942
G0201 Operation of Piers		-	-	-
G0203 Operation of Harbours		-	-	-
G0299 Service Support Costs		-	-	-
G02 Operation and Maintenance of Piers and Harbours		-	-	-
G0301 General Maintenance - Coastal Regions		-	-	-
G0302 Planned Protection of Coastal Regions		-	-	-
G0399 Service Support Costs		-	-	-
G03 Coastal Protection		-	-	-
G0401 Provision of Veterinary Service		1,127	1,099	1,119
G0402 Inspection of Abattoirs etc		396,265	403,265	353,595
G0403 Food Safety		6,030	5,882	5,992
G0404 Operation of Dog Warden Service		222,632	210,756	213,270
G0405 Other Animal Welfare Services (incl Horse Control)		-	-	-
G0499 Service Support Costs		104,031	105,085	99,926
G04 Veterinary Service		730,085	726,087	673,902
G0501 Payment of Higher Education Grants		150,000	1,750,000	502,000
G0502 Administration Higher Education Grants		103,191	121,101	117,540
G0503 Payment of VEC Pensions		-	-	-
G0504 Administration VEC Pension		-	-	-
G0505 Contribution to Education & Training Board		36,200	36,200	36,200
G0506 Other Educational Services		-	-	-
G0507 School Meals		11,000	11,000	11,000
G0599 Service Support Costs		80,845	79,800	77,633
G05 Educational Support Services		381,236	1,998,101	744,373
G0601 Agency & Recoupable Service		-	-	-
G0699 Service Support Costs		2,162	2,134	2,076
G06 Agency & Recoupable Services		2,162	2,134	2,076
G Division Total		1,161,213	2,788,251	1,433,293

Table F - Income

Division G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare

Income by Source	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
Government Grants, Subsidies, & LPT				
Arts,Heritage & Gaeltacht		-	-	-
Education and Skills		135,946	1,735,946	487,947
Environment, Community & Local Government		-	-	-
Transport,Tourism & Sport		-	-	-
Other Grants & Subsidies		233,500	233,500	206,562
Total Government Grants, Subsidies, & LPT		369,446	1,969,446	694,509
Goods & Services				
Agency Services & Repayable Works		-	-	-
Superannuation		8,146	7,848	8,157
Contributions by other local authorities		-	-	3,618
Other income		216,500	241,500	178,639
Total Goods & Services		224,646	249,348	190,414
Division 'G' Total		594,092	2,218,794	884,923

SERVICE DIVISION H

Miscellaneous Services

Introduction

The strategic objective of the Corporate Services Department is to work within a framework of democratic principles, which facilitates the delivery of quality services for the benefit of our community. From an accounting point of view much of the activity is reflected in Service Divisions G and H with some limited activities also reflected in Division D.

Achievements, 2015:

- Facilitated Councillors in relation to their democratic role at full Council and through the Municipal District structure.
- Developed and published a new Corporate Plan 2015-2019.
- Worked with the IT department to develop and implement the systems required for customer service delivery both centrally and at the civic offices in the Municipal Districts.
- Revised the existing Polling Scheme through a consultative process with the public and with Councillors. The new Polling scheme was adopted in October and will come into effect in February 2016.
- Captured information and managed the quality control, publication and distribution of the Register of Electors.
- Implemented the provisions of the Council's Customer Charter to provide quality customer care and develop relationships with our community to increase awareness of services and operations.
- Interacted with the national, local and social media to provide information and promote the work of the Council and its contribution to the life of the county.
- Administered the legislative provisions of the F.O.I., Data Protection, Ombudsman and Official Languages Acts as they apply to the local authority.
- Implemented the provisions of the Ethical Framework for the Local Government Service as it applies to Councillors and staff.
- Promoted a culture of workplace safety, health, welfare, education and training through a proactive health and safety programme designed to meet the specific needs of staff.
- Produced and published the 2014 Annual Report for Meath Local Authorities.

Initiatives and Challenges, 2016:

All of the activities undertaken in 2016 will be prioritised in the context of the current challenging economic environment and in accordance with the financial resources allocated by the elected Council to include:

- Advancing the relocation of the Council to the new Civic Headquarters.
- Enhancing the Customer Service model to meet the needs of the citizens of County Meath and all stakeholder groups in the organization.
- Implementation of the County programme of activities to commemorate the 1916 Rising.

Drogheda Boundary Review

- The Boundary Review Committee has been re-established and comprises Donal Enright, Ger Sheeran and Jack Keyes. The date for submissions has been extended to the end of March, 2016, and work will continue on the preparation of a submission that will present a strong defence for not changing the boundary. A process of public consultation is underway and submissions are invited in relation to the boundary review and should be made in writing by **Wednesday 13th January 2016.**

To date, two meetings have been held with the boundary committee and documents were presented to the committee such as the County Development Plan, the Economic Strategy and the Local Area Plan for South Drogheda. It is intended that further meetings will take place, including meetings with the Councillors before the end of the year.

Table B: Expenditure and Income for 2016 and Estimated Outturn for 2015

Division and Services	2016				2015			
	Expenditure		Income		Expenditure		Income	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
H Miscellaneous Services								
H01 Profit & Loss Machinery Account		-		-	-	-	-	-
H02 Profit & Loss Stores Account		-		-	-	-	-	-
H03 Administration of Rates		7,079,361		51,949	7,411,247	8,530,401	41,280	9,396
H04 Franchise Costs		315,400		1,488	309,871	304,213	1,434	1,490
H05 Operation of Morgue and Coroner Expenses		195,939		848	194,937	198,417	817	849
H06 Weighbridges		3,698		-	3,686	1,220	-	-
H07 Operation of Markets and Casual Trading		-		3,500	-	-	3,500	7,100
H08 Malicious Damage		-		-	-	-	-	-
H09 Local Representation & Civic Leadership		2,490,604		22,252	2,008,430	2,452,971	21,441	25,351
H10 Motor Taxation		1,495,971		92,931	1,602,542	1,544,084	91,549	82,311
H11 Agency & Recoupable Services		1,191,098		1,920,706	991,718	1,168,155	1,214,399	2,387,850
H Division Total		12,772,071		2,093,674	12,522,431	14,199,461	1,374,420	2,514,347
Overall Total		100,939,369		53,483,316	97,858,976	101,501,559	49,271,045	52,398,952

Table F - Expenditure				
Division H - Miscellaneous Services				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council	Estimated by Chief Executive	Adopted by Council	Estimated Outturn
	€	€	€	€
H0101 Maintenance of Machinery Service		-	-	-
H0102 Plant and Machinery Operations		-	-	-
H0199 Service Support Costs		-	-	-
H01 Profit & Loss Machinery Account		-	-	-
H0201 Purchase of Materials, Stores		-	-	-
H0202 Administrative Costs Stores		-	-	-
H0203 Upkeep of Buildings, stores		-	-	-
H0299 Service Support Costs		-	-	-
H02 Profit & Loss Stores Account		-	-	-
H0301 Administration of Rates Office		435,909	261,919	258,418
H0302 Debt Management Service Rates		375,281	416,948	341,268
H0303 Refunds and Irrecoverable Rates		6,177,500	6,641,718	7,843,695
H0399 Service Support Costs		90,671	90,662	87,020
H03 Administration of Rates		7,079,361	7,411,247	8,530,401
H0401 Register of Elector Costs		130,672	129,209	121,198
H0402 Local Election Costs		100,000	100,000	102,300
H0499 Service Support Costs		84,728	80,662	80,715
H04 Franchise Costs		315,400	309,871	304,213
H0501 Coroner Fees and Expenses		191,913	191,000	194,551
H0502 Operation of Morgue		-	-	-
H0599 Service Support Costs		4,026	3,937	3,866
H05 Operation of Morgue and Coroner Expenses		195,939	194,937	198,417
H0601 Weighbridge Operations		2,741	2,741	301
H0699 Service Support Costs		957	945	919
H06 Weighbridges		3,698	3,686	1,220
H0701 Operation of Markets		-	-	-
H0702 Casual Trading Areas		-	-	-
H0799 Service Support Costs		-	-	-
H07 Operation of Markets and Casual Trading		-	-	-
H0801 Malicious Damage		-	-	-
H0899 Service Support Costs		-	-	-
H08 Malicious Damage		-	-	-

Table F - Expenditure				
Division H - Miscellaneous Services				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council	Estimated by Chief Executive	Adopted by Council	Estimated Outturn
	€	€	€	€
H0901 Representational Payments		678,751	662,600	685,222
H0902 Chair/Vice Chair Allowances		78,000	78,000	67,778
H0903 Annual Allowances LA Members		230,760	230,760	230,260
H0904 Expenses LA Members		77,514	95,875	66,404
H0905 Other Expenses		24,000	24,000	24,000
H0906 Conferences Abroad		20,000	15,000	28,632
H0907 Retirement Gratuities		134,000	134,000	134,000
H0908 Contribution to Members Associations		18,000	18,000	17,400
H0909 General Municipal Allocation		480,000	-	479,450
H0999 Service Support Costs		749,579	750,195	719,825
H09 Local Representation & Civic Leadership		2,490,604	2,008,430	2,452,971
H1001 Motor Taxation Operation		722,882	829,684	801,814
H1099 Service Support Costs		773,089	772,858	742,270
H10 Motor Taxation		1,495,971	1,602,542	1,544,084
H1101 Agency & Recoupable Service		623,599	472,196	571,284
H1102 NPPR		50,353	5,500	90,000
H1199 Service Support Costs		517,146	514,022	506,871
H11 Agency & Recoupable Services		1,191,098	991,718	1,168,155
H Division Total		12,772,071	12,522,431	14,199,461
Overall Total		100,939,369	97,858,976	101,501,559

Table F - Income

Division H - Miscellaneous Services

Income by Source	2016		2015	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
Government Grants, Subsidies, & LPT				
Social Protection		-	-	-
Environment, Community & Local Government		80,000	127,000	112,328
Justice & Equality		-	-	-
Agriculture, Food & the Marine		-	-	-
Non Dept HFA and BMW		-	-	-
Other Grants & Subsidies		377,697	-	6,399
Total Government Grants, Subsidies, & LPT		457,697	127,000	118,727
Goods & Services				
Agency Services & Repayable Works		-	-	-
Superannuation		109,433	105,445	109,583
NPPR		450,000	100,000	1,100,086
Contributions by other local authorities		561,125	409,720	635,708
Other income		515,419	632,255	550,243
Total Goods & Services		1,635,977	1,247,420	2,395,620
Division 'H' Total		2,093,674	1,374,420	2,514,347
Overall Total		53,483,316	49,271,045	52,398,952

SERVICE DIVISION J

FINANCE

During 2015, the Finance Department focused its efforts on effective expenditure controls and enhanced debt collection measures with the overall objective of ensuring that the Council operates within its allocated Budget.

Obtaining value for money, efficient delivery of Services and optimising revenue streams continue to be the main focus of the Finance section.

Achievements 2015

Consolidated Annual Financial Statement

During 2015 Meath County Council produced its first consolidated Annual Financial Statement following unification of the town councils. This was for the period to 31/12/2014.

Agresso Milestone 4 Implementation

Milestone 4 is the first significant upgrade on Meath County Council's financial management system 'Agresso' since 2006.

This offers major enhancements in terms of reporting, flexibility, web-enabled functions and use on different devices and workflow.

Milestone 4 introduces greatly increased emphasis on procurement and expenditure approval reflecting the changes at national level through the work of the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) and the publication of the Public Spending Code.

A Finance project team has commenced work on this implementation with a target delivery date of early 2016.

Water

Emphasis remains on timely billing and collection. Collection rates are in line with 2014. Meath County Council provides this service to Irish Water through the SLA agreement.

Rates

The economic climate remains challenging and we continue to work closely with our ratepayers to facilitate payments and maximise collection rates. The Small Business Support Scheme will assist approximately 1,200 businesses. Collection levels for 2015 are on course to slightly exceed 2014 levels.

Rents

Quarterly statements are issued to all tenants. This enables tenants to monitor and confirm their payments. We have also strengthened our escalation protocols to facilitate early intervention in cases of difficulty. Collection levels may decrease slightly on 2014 levels. This is in part due to changes in legislation in dealing with arrears and dealing with post unification accounts.

Loans

The Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP) has been implemented and progress is being made on viable agreements. It should be noted that MARP is a time consuming process. In 2015, our first Mortgage to Rent solution with regard to a Meath County Council Loan was processed. Loan approvals are in line with 2014. These are first evaluated by the Affordable Homes Partnership (AHP) before a final decision is made by the Credit Committee. Collection Rates will be line with 2014 levels.

NPPR

Agreements and payment plans are continually being put in place and being monitored. As the amount of liable properties is diminishing the income from the NPPR will also decrease. 2015 income exceeds 2014 due to an increase in activity in the housing market. The service of providing NPPR compliance and exemption certificates is a sizeable task as these are being sought for all residential property sales, regardless of whether the property was liable or not.

Initiatives and Challenges, 2016

During 2016, budgetary control will continue to be the main focus for Finance as we strive to effectively manage the County's resources and achieve further efficiencies and value for money through

- Procurements
- Improvements to the Management Accounts Reporting System
- New controls on the Capital Account
- Greater liaison between Finance and budget holders.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Achievements, 2015:

The HR Department continued to manage and implement a wide range of changes in 2015. While the staffing moratorium remains in place, a departmental change in position regarding the emphasis on reduction in numbers has led to an increase in sanction requests being granted and a steady increase in activity in recruitment. On an organisational level there has been continued reorganisation of work activities and staff accordingly on the basis of service priority, particularly in the area of Customer Service and Operations. The Shared Services element of the payroll function successfully transferred to MyPay in the first quarter of the year, and the remaining payroll function transferred from Finance to Human Resources in order to carry out the required local element.

In 2015, as part of ongoing workforce planning, the Human Resources Department continuously reviewed staffing levels and requirements across the Directorates and Departments/Area Offices.

The implementation of workforce planning in 2015 gave consideration to the following:

- Impact of the Irish Water recruitment process & loss of knowledge & expertise;
- Change management process incorporating planning for the move to the new Civic Offices;
- Organisational restructuring as a result of the establishment of Municipal Districts and abolition of Town Councils arising from the requirement of the Local Government Reform Act 2014;
- Recruitment of staff on the 'Gateway' scheme;
- Corporate Business Plan and the PMDS process including the link of underperformance to the payment of increments from 1st January 2015;
- Sanction Requests for the replacement and back-filing of various administrative and technical positions;
- Staff restructuring in recent years, particularly 2012 & 2013;
- Skills Audit for Transportation Department.

In 2015, further attention was given to the implementation of the new national sick pay scheme. This involved continuous communication with staff, reconfiguration of CORE, and the implementation of a Critical Illness Protocol (CIP).

The employment of 128 staff under the National Labour Activation Initiative 'Gateway' has had a significant impact on the administration activities of the Human Resources Department in 2015. A total of 110 positions were identified nationally for Meath County Council and this target has been exceeded.

The Training Unit continued to review training requirements and in particular, Health & Safety training throughout the organisation. Significant progress has been achieved in terms of record-keeping, identification of training gaps, and provision of training and reporting methods.

The PMDS process has been embedded throughout the organisation and the full performance cycle is implemented annually. On 1st January 2015, underperformance was linked to incremental progression.

The HR Department was successful in supporting the CPD Committee obtain a two-year re-accreditation of the CPD Employer Standard, which was awarded by Engineers Ireland in April 2015.

Initiatives and Challenges, 2016:

The priorities for the Human Resources Department in 2016 will be: (a) ongoing workforce planning & organisational design including a renewed emphasis on recruitment of staff mainly to fill arising vacancies, (b) the implementation of the Lansdowne Road Agreement measures, (c) consolidation of the transition to the new Customer Service model and Operations structure (including new outdoor staff structure), (d) continuation of the transition of Water Services to Irish Water, (e) consolidation of the implementation of Performance Management & Improvement i.e. PMDS, (f) transition of staff to the new Civic Offices, (g) embedding of the payroll function to 'MyPay' (shared service operated by Laois County Council), (g) the potential exit of a large number of Gateway staff, (h) work on the Superannuation Project. Each of these initiatives will require significant management/staff/union discussion and consultation which will be led by the Human Resources Department throughout 2016.

CORPORATE SAFETY AND HEALTH

Introduction

In 2015, the Safety Management System (SMS) continued to be implemented, reviewed and amended, as necessary. The entire Corporate SMS has been rolled out to all employees across the Council and implementation is progressing across each of the Departments.

Achievements, 2015

- Work was ongoing on providing assistance to Departments on the revising and in some instances the development of risk assessments.
- The Safety Section initiated the roll-out of the Action Management Register (Sugar CRM) across the Organisation.
- Safety inspections were undertaken across the Organisation throughout 2015 and all Departments are engaging in the programme.

Initiatives and Challenges, 2016

The programme of work for 2016 will be to continue supporting Departments in the development of risk assessments, to provide advice and assistance and undertake OS&H Inspections across the Organisation to assist in embedding the Safety Management System.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Achievements, 2015

During 2015, the Information Systems department continued to deliver business improvement projects across the entire organisation while maintaining its focus on operational stability and data security.

- **IT Operations** – Windows XP end-of-life necessitated a significant upgrade project. This has included the local implementation of a new national infrastructure for access to motor tax systems. A new support service contract was put in place to resource the Windows and Office software upgrades. The email system was also upgraded, to manage the risks associated with obsolete software. The Library Public Internet Access service was completely overhauled, with PCs replaced, network capacity improved and an underpinning support contract put in place to achieve higher maintenance service levels.
- **Business Solutions** – The integrated Housing system, iHouse, has been successfully implemented. Extensive development work has been carried out on Sugar CRM, to further support the new Customer Service Model. Additional Sugar CRM modules have also been developed to support the Occupational Safety and Health Policy. A number of procurement initiatives were undertaken, with tenders awarded for offsite document storage, and for a managed print service. Significant progress has also been made on a Mobile Framework tender and a Mobile Device Management upgrade. A project to redesign and redevelop www.meath.ie has begun and Meath has also been accepted as a pilot site for an Integrated Licensing System being hosted by An Post.

Initiatives and Challenges , 2016:

2016 will be dominated by the move to the new civic headquarters which will define infrastructure investment requirements such as audio-visual facilities, wired and wireless network services, data storage and backup system replacement and the implementation of a new managed print service. These projects will be run in parallel with more routine activities, such as: Windows Server 2003 end-of-life, mobility improvements, financial management, library management and lone worker system upgrades.

Document management processes will be underpinned by full organisational rollout of and upgraded Alfresco solution to support the full document lifecycle, including scanning and capture, storage, presentation and records management.

An online strategy is to be produced, with the goal of ensuring information and services are readily accessible to customers via the most appropriate channels.

TABLE C - CALCULATION OF BASE YEAR ADJUSTMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016					
Meath Co Co (B1)					
Rating Authority	(i) Annual Rate on Valuation 2016 €	(ii) Effective ARV (Net of BYA) 2016 €	(iii) Base Year Adjustment 2016 €	(iv) Net Effective Valuation €	(v) Value of Base Year Adjustment €
Kells Town Council	69.6245	67.4848	2.1397	9,961	21,314
Meath County Council	69.6245	69.6245	-	407,109	-
Navan Town Council(Pre Boundary Ext)	69.6245	67.6540	1.9705	49,779	98,090
Trim Town Council	69.6245	66.8625	2.7620	12,969	35,820
TOTAL				479,818	155,223

Table D**ANALYSIS OF BUDGET 2016 INCOME FROM GOODS AND SERVICES**

Source of Income	2016 €	2015 €
Rents from houses	8,555,600	7,627,600
Housing Loans Interest & Charges	555,602	538,205
Parking Fines & Charges	1,324,066	1,381,300
Irish Water	8,251,173	8,774,063
Planning Fees	955,000	776,500
Sale/leasing of other property/Industrial Sites	117,600	190,000
Domestic Refuse Charges	-	-
Commercial Refuse Charges	-	-
Landfill Charges	-	-
Fire Charges	250,000	250,000
Recreation/Amenity/Culture	195,000	195,000
Library Fees/Fines	40,000	40,000
Agency Services & Repayable Works	-	-
Local Authority Contributions	723,025	591,620
Superannuation	1,371,516	1,321,519
NPPR	450,000	100,000
Other income	7,798,417	7,276,512
Total Goods and Services	30,586,999	29,062,319

Table E

ANALYSIS OF BUDGET 2016 INCOME FROM GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, & LPT

	2016	2015
	€	€
Department of Environment, Community and Local Government		
Housing & Building	5,745,714	3,778,384
Road Transport & Safety	-	-
Water Services	184,329	190,000
Development Management	28,000	-
Environmental Services	486,000	516,000
Recreation & Amenity	-	-
Agriculture, Food & the Marine	-	-
Miscellaneous Services	80,000	127,000
LPT Self Funding	1,000,000	-
Sub-total	7,524,043	4,611,384
Other Departments and Bodies		
TII Transport Infrastructure Ireland	13,822,493	13,045,683
Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht	-	-
DTO	-	-
Social Protection	-	-
Defence	-	-
Education & Skills	135,946	1,735,946
Library Council	-	-
Arts Council	39,500	39,500
Transport, Tourism & Sport	-	-
Justice & Equality	-	-
Agriculture, Food & The Marine	-	-
Non Dept HFA & BMW	-	-
Jobs, Enterprise, & Innovation	679,638	459,213
Other Grants & Subsidies	694,697	317,000
Sub-total	15,372,274	15,597,342
Total Grants and Subsidies	22,896,317	20,208,726

Appendix 1**SUMMARY OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT CHARGE FOR YEAR 2016**

Description	2016 €	2015 €
Area Office Overhead	-	-
Corporate Affairs Overhead	2,322,885	2,308,551
Corporate Buildings Overhead	2,786,146	2,731,366
Finance Function Overhead	1,020,750	1,003,412
Human Resource Function Overhead	1,984,022	2,235,672
IT Services Overhead	2,413,065	2,373,699
Print & Post Room Service Overhead	208,716	205,874
Pension & Lump Sum Overhead	4,440,595	4,315,530
Total Expenditure Allocated to Services	15,176,179	15,174,104

Appendix 2

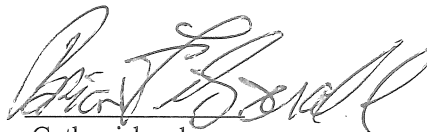
SUMMARY OF LOCAL PROPERTY TAX ALLOCATION FOR YEAR 2016

Description	2016	2016
	€	€
Discretionary		
Discretionary Local Property Tax (Table A)	12,390,795	
	<hr/>	12,390,795
Self Funding - Revenue Budget		
Housing and Building	1,000,000	
Road Transport & Safety	-	
	<hr/>	1,000,000
Total Local Property Tax - Revenue Budget		<hr/> 13,390,795
Self Funding - Capital Budget		
Housing & Building	431,010	
Roads, Transport, & Safety	-	
	<hr/>	
Total Local Property Tax - Capital Budget		<hr/> 431,010
Total Local Property Tax Allocation (Post Variation)		<hr/> 13,821,805

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

I hereby certify that at the budget meeting of Meath County Council held this 23rd day of November 2015 the Council by Resolution adopted for the financial year ending on the 31st day of December 2016 the budget set out in Tables A -F and by Resolution determined in accordance with the said budget the Rates set out in Tables A and C to be the annual rate on valuation to be levied for that year for the purposes set out in those Tables.

Signed


Cathaoirleach

Countersigned


Head of Finance

Dated this 23 day of ...NOV....., 2015