

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

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This Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act and adopted by the members of Meath County Council on June 2023.

Foreword by An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Nick Killian

This Annual Report showcases the wide variety of services provided by Meath County Council which include not only the core services of housing, roads, fire and emergency services but also our supports to local communities in the areas of the arts, libraries, heritage, conservation, age friendly and economic development. It has been my honour as Cathaoirleach to lead my fellow Elected Members as we work together with the Management and Staff of the Council to drive the economic, social, cultural and environmental improvement of our county to enhance the quality of life for the people of Meath.

It has been a busy year for the Council as we finally saw the end of the Covid restrictions and there have been many highlights, including the turning of the sod on the new state of the art community building in Bettystown, which has been entirely funded from Meath County Council resources. It was also a very successful year for the town of Trim, not only did they host the spectacular Púca Festival, but they were also named Ireland's Tidiest Town, which was a super achievement for all involved, including community groups, the local authority and the business community.

While there have been many highlights, there have also been significant challenges and I'd like to pay tribute to the Ukrainian Support Section of the Council and the Community Response Forum who work tirelessly to provide assistance and support to the people of Ukraine, not only in helping them to integrate into the community, but also to facilitate them to contribute in a meaningful way to their new community.

In addition, it was my absolute honour to celebrate with the people of Meath as we welcomed home our conquering heroes, the victorious Meath Ladies All Ireland Senior Football Champions, for the second year in a row.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Elected Members and the staff of Meath County Council and to commend their commitment and dedication as we work together for the betterment of our county and the people of Meath.

Finally, I'd like to pay tribute to the out-going Chief Executive, Jackie Maguire, for her 42 years of public service and for her outstanding leadership of Meath County Council over the past 10 years.



Cllr. Nick Killian
Cathaoirleach

Introduction by Chief Executive, Jackie Maguire

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2022, which outlines the achievements and activities of the Council during the year and highlights how much can be accomplished when local communities, businesses and the local authority work together.

The year continued to be very challenging as we emerged from the Covid restrictions, only to be plunged into geopolitical and economic uncertainty following the outbreak of war in Ukraine. However, once again, the Council demonstrated its ability to adapt and react when necessary and supports were very quickly put in place to accommodate, welcome and support the Ukrainian people into our communities and this work continues through the Ukraine Support Section of the Council and the Community Response Forum.

The provision of social housing continued to be a priority for the Council in 2022. A significant investment of €3.3 million was made for a direct construction project, which will deliver 75 new homes in Ashbourne and 122 new homes were acquired in 2022 under Part V. A total of 491 individuals and families were provided with social housing during the year from a variety of delivery mechanisms including cooperation with Approved Housing Bodies, Part V, turnkey acquisitions and direct construction schemes.

Meath County Council continued to advance the implementation of our Climate Action Strategy 2019 – 2024 by leading, inspiring and enabling climate adaptation and mitigation actions within County Meath. The continued success of our climate action programme was accomplished through engagements with the Council's Climate Action Forum, the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and various bodies at community level and at national level.

There was an investment of €13.1 million in Active and Sustainable Transport Schemes in 2022, including the Navan 2030 – Phase 2 construction works and the provision of two Park & Ride facilities in Navan and at Garlow's Cross. I welcome the commitment contained in the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy for the delivery of the Dublin to Navan rail line and confirmation that a design team will be in place later this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the commitment and dedication of the Elected Members over the past year, in particular the Cathaoirígh of each of the Municipal Districts and the Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Councillor Nick Killian. I would also like to thank the management and staff of the Council for their tireless efforts in providing essential services to the people of Meath.

Finally, it has been my absolute privilege to have served as Chief Executive of the Council over the last ten years and I would like to thank the Elected Members, management and staff of the Council for all their help, support and guidance over the years and I have no doubt that County Meath will continue to be a place and space to thrive.



Jackie Maguire
Chief Executive

2022 – Corporate and Civic Events

AGM 2022



Newly elected Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian and Leas-Chathaoirleach Cllr. Mike Bray at the Annual General Meeting held in the Solstice Arts Centre on June 13, 2022.

Meath Women’s Caucus



On the eve of International Women’s Day, Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Cllr. Sean Drew launched the Meath Women’s Caucus in the Solstice Arts Centre. The Meath Women’s Caucus was established to promote women in politics and enhance female participation in Local Government.

Sod turned on Phase 2, Lagore Lawn, Dunshaughlin



A sod turning ceremony led by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, and supported by Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Councillor Sean Drew, Minister of State for European Affairs, Thomas Byrne TD and Deputy Chief Executive, Des Foley to mark the start of Phase 2 of works in Lagore Lawn, Dunshaughlin.

Meath event held to thank volunteers for their work during the COVID-19 pandemic



Meath County Council hosted an event in Buvinda House to acknowledge the enormous contribution made by Meath volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic and to thank them for their invaluable work and support during a very difficult time.

Official launch of The Boyne Blueway Trim



The Boyne Blueway Trim was officially launched by Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. Mike Bray following its achievement of accreditation as a Blueway. This marks the opening of an 8km water stretch from Trim to Bective Mill for water activities, suitable for beginners and intermediate level paddlers.

Official launch of The Porchfield, Trim



The Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Cllr. Seán Drew officially launched The Porchfield, Trim. The Meath project was the first Fáilte Ireland 'Destination Town Capital Investment Scheme' project in the country to be completed and launched.

Meath County Council host homecoming for the All-Ireland Senior Champions



Meath County Council, in association with Meath Ladies Gaelic Football Association, were delighted to host a Homecoming for the victorious Meath Senior Ladies team and management at the Fairgreen Car Park, Navan on Monday, August 1.

Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien opens 62 new social homes across Meath



A total of 62 new social houses, across three different housing developments in Co. Meath, were officially opened by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Minister Darragh O'Brien.

Sod is turned on new state-of-the-art Library in Bettystown



A sod turning ceremony to mark the start of the works on Bettystown Library took place led by Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Cllr. Nick Killian, Minister of State for European Affairs, Thomas Byrne T.D., Cathaoirleach of Laytown/Bettystown MD, Cllr. Wayne Harding and Chief Executive, Jackie Maguire.

Meath County Council to host AILG Autumn Training Seminar



Meath County Council supported the Association of Irish Local Government to host their Autumn Training Seminar in the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim in September.

Meath County Council host Meath Energy Expo



Meath County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian launched the Meath Energy Expo which took place on Saturday, October 22 in the Ardboyne Hotel, Navan. The free event saw a host of energy advisors come together under one roof to provide information and practical advice to attendees. L-R – Pictured at the launch of Meath Energy Expo was Meath County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian with Senior Executive Officer Larry Whelan, Chief Executive Jackie Maguire, Meath Climate Action Coordinator Mary D’Arcy and Director of Services Dara McGowan.

Dunboyne Playground and Skatepark receives combined funding in excess of €400k



Meta partnered with Meath County Council and Dunboyne Playspace Forum to fund and support the development of Dunboyne Playground and Skatepark. Pictured L-R: Deirdre O’Carroll (Dunboyne Playspace Forum), Cllr. Gerry O’Connor, Cllr. Maria Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Ratoath MD Cllr. Gillian Toole, Director of Services Dara McGowan, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian, Diana Ross (Dunboyne Playspace Forum), Community Development Manager at Meta Aoife Flynn, Meath County Council Deputy Chief Executive Barry Lynch, Fiona Fallon, Meath County Council Senior Executive Officer) and Cllr. Damien O’ Reilly.

Corporate Affairs and Governance

The Corporate Affairs and Governance Department works within a framework of democratic principles and ethics, providing services to the Elected Members, the management of meetings and the preparation of the Register of Electors. It also facilitates the delivery of services to the public, through our customer services team, the management of corporate facilities, safety and health procedures and supports effective corporate governance practices. It also manages communications and media relations, corporate events, twinning and relations with a number of relevant bodies.

1.1 2022 Service Delivery Plan

The 2022 Service Delivery Plan was adopted by Meath County Council in February 2022. The service plan set out the principal services that the Council intended to provide to the public in the period to the end of 2022. Alongside these principal services, the plan set out the Corporate Plan's Supporting Strategies, the service funding, service objectives, performance standards and timelines for the delivery of these services. The associated risks to delivering the principal services are also identified and it outlines whether these are captured by the Council's risk management process. The 2022 Annual Report serves to provide an assessment of the delivery of services as set out in the service delivery plan for 2022.

NOAC was established under the 2014 Local Government Reform Act to provide independent oversight of the Local Government Sector. The statutory functions assigned to NOAC include the scrutiny of the performance of local government bodies against relevant indicators. There are currently 42 separate indicators covering 11 areas that the Commission consider appropriate to review. NOAC published the Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2021 in November 2022, and a synopsis of the Council's performance is included at Appendix 12.

1.2 Meeting Administration

To facilitate and improve accessibility for Elected Members and members of the public, all Council meetings are now held in hybrid format, in person and via the Zoom online platform.

The Annual General Meeting was held in Solstice Theatre on June 13, 2022. Councillor Nick Killian was elected Cathaoirleach and Councillor Mike Bray was elected Leas-Chathaoirleach.

The Annual Budget Meeting was held on November 28th 2022, and saw the adoption of the Council's revenue budget for 2032 in the sum of €186,349,110.

Council Meetings 2022	No. of meetings
Ordinary (monthly) meetings	10
Annual and Budget Meetings	3
Special Meetings	1
Total	14

MD Meetings:

Municipal District 2021	No. of Ordinary Meetings	No. of Special Meetings	No. of Annual & Budget Meetings	Total
Ashbourne	11	-	2	13
Kells	11	-	2	13
Laytown-Bettystown	11	-	2	13
Navan	11	-	2	13
Ratoath	11	2	2	15
Trim	11	-	2	13
TOTAL	66	2	12	80

1.3 MD Allocation Scheme

In 2022, a total of 600 applications were processed, totalling €604,377. This represented allocations of €58,902 towards 23 internal projects and €545,475 benefitting 422 groups across the county, representing a wide variety of sectors, including community, sporting and heritage groups, residents associations and support services. A further €36,055 was deferred towards projects in 2023 and €15,000 reverted to the relevant municipal district for allocation.

1.4 Register of Electors

The Corporate Affairs and Governance Department manages the on-going process of information gathering, quality control, publication and distribution of the Register of Electors. The Register of Electors was published in February 2022. There were no electoral events in 2022. The following outlines the various categories of electors in the county:

Dáil Electors	142,948
Presidential Electors	141,448
European Electors	143,174
Local Electors	147,394
Postal Voters & Special Voters	790

The following is a breakdown of the Local Electors in each Local Electoral Area:

Ashbourne	21,059
Kells	25,917
Laytown-Bettystown	25,621
Navan	22,946
Ratoath	26,176
Trim	25,675

The Electoral Reform Act 2022 introduced a range of significant electoral reforms to facilitate the modernisation of the electoral registration process. The principle reforms include the move to a rolling or continuous registration and the standardisation and simplification of the registration process. It introduced the following new elector categories: Anonymous, No Fixed Abode, and Pending electors. Existing flexible voting facilities were extended to electors with mental health difficulties. The Electoral Reform Act 2022 established an independent electoral commission – An Coimisiún Toghcháin.

1.5 Ethics

The role of Ethics Registrar is set out in Part 15 of Local Government Act, 2001 and is managed by Corporate Affairs and Governance. The following sets out Ethics Registrar activities in 2022:

Possible Part 15 Contraventions notified	6
Complaints referred to Chief Executive and/or Cathaoirleach	1
Investigations carried out	1
Cases for disciplinary action/referred to appropriate external bodies	0

All elected members and staff at certain grades are required to make an Annual Declaration of interests to the Ethics Registrar, who maintains a register of such interests.

1.6 Freedom of Information

Meath County Council as a public body is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014, which allows for access to certain records held by the local authority, subject to a number of exemptions.

In 2022, Meath County Council received 177 Freedom of Information requests, 140 of which were for non-personal records and 37 of which were for personal records, and included 29 requests from journalists, 63 from business/interest groups, and 3 from Oireachtas Members/public representatives.

The following are the 2022 statistics relating to Freedom of Information requests:

Applications Received 2022	177
Carried forward from 2021	3
Total	180
No. of requests Granted	53
No. of requests Part Granted	47
No. of requests Refused	44
Requests Transferred	00
Requests Withdrawn	14
Requests dealt with outside FOI	18
Live Cases at end of 2022	04
No. of Internal Reviews	11
No. of Appeals to Information Commissioner	05

1.7 Access to Information on the Environment (AIE)

The following are the 2022 statistics relating to requests for Access to Information on the Environment requests:

Applications Received 2022	31
Carried forward from 2021	02
Total	33
No. of requests Granted	10
No. of requests Part Granted	12
No. of requests Refused	09
Requests Transferred	00
Requests Withdrawn & handled under FOI	01
Deemed Refused	00
Live Cases at end of 2022	01
No. of Internal Reviews	04
No. of Appeals to Information Commissioner	01

1.8 Data Protection

The core functions of the Data Protection Unit/Data Protection Officer under the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 include processing of data subject access requests (DSAR), data breach investigations and notification to Data Protection Commission (DPC), review of departments record of processing activities (ROPA) and in supporting departments in carrying out data privacy impact assessments (DPIA).

In 2022, the Unit dealt with the following:

Data Subject Requests- DSAR	23
Data Breach Notifications reported to DPU	20
Data Breach Notifications reported to Data Protection Commissioner	3
Review of Data Privacy Impact Assessments (DPIA)	8
Total Number of ROPA	411
Review of Departments Record of Processing Activities (ROPA)	38

Data protection refresher training was provided to staff in 2022. In addition, training was rolled out to all new staff members joining the Council during the year.

The DPU has continued with an internal communications campaign and engagement with data protection liaison officers (DPLOs) across the organisation to improve staff awareness of the Council's obligations and responsibilities in how we collect, use, protect and safeguard personal data, and how are accountable for all our data processing activities.

Cookies Investigations:

In April 2022 the DPC carried out an investigation into the Councils 'Cookies' compliance on the meath.ie website. Following their investigations and actions taken by the Council, the DPC confirmed that the actions outlined in their original notification had been completed satisfactorily by the Council, and we are now deemed 'Cookie' compliant.

1.9 Customer Service

Meath County Council is committed to delivering the best possible service to our customers as outlined in our Customer Service Action Plan. We strive for excellence in our customer service model and will endeavour to deliver quality services in accordance with the highest standards of effectiveness, efficiency and integrity.

Throughout 2022 the Customer Service Team continued to serve our elected members, our customers, and staff. As the first point of contact with the organisation, the team logged 38,500 requests on our Customer Relationship Management System, which is an increase of 14,000 contacts since 2021. 5,200 representations were received from our Elected Members with 4900 resolved. A total of 13,000 emails were dealt with which were received through the customer service mailbox.

The Council's contact centre handled a total of 114,706 calls in 2022. 70,161 of these calls were dealt with directly by the Customer Service Team, and a further 44,545 were handled by other service departments.

During 2022, approximately 15,000 customers visited our customer service desk.

To improve our service to our customers, an upgrade to the Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) commenced in 2022 and the upgraded system was rolled out in quarter one, 2023.

1.10 Promotion of the Irish Language

The Irish Language Officer monitors the services that the Council provides through Irish; promotes the Irish language throughout the county and ensures that Meath County council complies with the obligations of the Official Languages Act 2003 and all statutory instruments made under the Act. The following activities were achieved for 2022:-

- Events and activities: - a regular pop up Gaeltacht for families raising their children through Irish was commenced, taking place on Saturday mornings in the Solstice theatre Navan. Board games, puzzles and books in Irish were available at these events
- **Seachtain na Gaeilge** -a broad range of activities was organised for the public as part of the Irish Language events for March and these included a book review competition directed at Gaelscoils in the county and organised in cooperation with the Language Planning Officer for Ráth Chairn/Baile Ghib Gaeltacht districts - a circus skills session through Irish was organised for Scoil Ultain Naofa, Baile Ghib . a season of Irish language films screened in the Solstice theatre Navan was held during Seachtain na Gaeilge, the first film *Arracht* was screened on 11 March followed by the films *Foscadh* and *Doineann* – in cooperation with the Louth Meath Education Training Board LMETB, the Irish language office organised an event for adult learners who are resident in the Mosney facility. Storyteller Niall De Búrca visited Mosney to host an event on Irish culture and traditional stories and to teach the cúpla focal to the residents. A traditional Irish music session with Comhaltas was also staged for the residents.
- **Máire Mhac an tSaoi Irish language Poetry Competition**:- an Irish language poetry competition for adults funded under the creative Ireland programme in honour of the poet Máire Mhac an tSaoi was launched. Five poets were shortlisted and received a masterclass with the well-known poet Louis de Paor, this resulted in the publication of the participating poets work in November under the title *Lampa ar Lasadh*

LANGUAGE PLANNING PROCESS/ IRISH LANGUAGE IN NAVAN - at the beginning of November, the Meath County Council Irish Language Officer organised an information night in Navan Library regarding the language planning process in Navan; and to encourage local people from the area to get involved in the process. There were representatives from Glór na nGael and Foras na Gaeilge present to give support and advice to establish a committee to promote the Irish language in the area. There were eight persons present from the local community and topics discussed included the organising of events and Irish classes in the area.

Arán & Im Show: On 29th September, Writer in Residence with Meath County Council, Manchán Magan, visited Knowth in Brú na Bóinne and presented his show Arán & Im. This show was aimed at the staff of Gaelscoils in the district.

In October as part of the Children's Book Festival Writer in Residence Manchán Magan visited the Solstice Theatre in Navan for a presentation on his book Tree Dogs, Banshee Fingers and Other Irish Words for Nature. This show was aimed at children who attend all Irish language schools in the County. It was organised by the Irish Language Officer in cooperation with the library service. 253 pupils attended the event and it was well received by them.

Protecting the Gaeltacht – the Council remains committed to the protection and development of the Gaeltacht district of Ráth Chairn and Baile Ghib. There continues to be cooperation with the Irish Language Planning Officer for Ráth Chairn and Baile Ghib so that issues relating to services, signage and events can be dealt with.

Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga – the Council continued to cooperate with the Office of the Language Commissioners (Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga) in resolving issues raised by members of the public regarding signage, publications, correspondence, etc. In 2022, a total of five complaints relating to signage in Irish in the county were reported to the council from the Commissioner's office, two of which were resolved satisfactorily, the other three remain ongoing.

1.11 Governance and Risk Management

The Council's corporate governance policies and procedures are coordinated by the Corporate Affairs and Governance Department. In 2022, the Risk Committee met three times to consider the implementation of the Council's Risk Management Policy and, specifically, the recommendations of the Audit Committee. The committee also reviewed the corporate and department risk registers and made recommendations to the Management Team in terms of amendments to the draft Corporate Risk Register as well as individual draft department risk registers.

1.12 Audit Committee

The Audit Committee plays an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of a systematic review of the control environment and governance arrangements of the local authority.

The Audit Committee is comprised of 5 members, 3 external members and 2 elected representatives. The current membership is:

- 1 Mr. Tom McGuinness (Chair)
- 2 Ms. Geraldine Tallon
- 3 Ms. Kate Williams
- 4 Cllr. Sean Drew
- 5 Cllr. Gerry O'Connor

During 2022, the Audit Committee continued to make progress in discharging its responsibility to provide independent assurance on the Council's control environment and governance framework. It continued to focus on financial management and risk management, including cyber security preparedness.

In accordance with statutory legislation and regulations, the Audit Committee's Annual Report 2022 and the Audit Committee Report on the 2021 Audited AFS were presented and approved by the Council at its monthly meeting in April 2022. The Audit Committee is satisfied that its statutory and regulatory obligations were carried out and that the objectives in its Work Programme for 2022 were met.

1.13 Internal Audit

The primary role of Internal Audit is to advise management on the adequacy of the Council's internal control systems and provide recommendations for improvement where necessary. It also assists the Audit Committee in carrying out its functions and provides assistance and information to the Local Government Auditor as required.

During 2022 the Internal Audit Unit continued to review and evaluate the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes in accordance with the Internal Audit Work Programme.

The Internal Audit unit maintained a tracker database of all recommendations issued in both internal and external audit reports. In accordance with the Internal Audit Charter, implementation of these recommendations was reviewed and reported to the management team and the Audit Committee during the year.

In the period 2022 three internal audit reports of council activities were completed. The internal audit reviews conducted are as follows:

- Vacant Homes Management
- Management of Housing Loans
- Low Value Purchase Cards

The Internal Audit staff also followed up on any outstanding items from previous audits.

1.14 Ukrainian Support Programme

On the 4th March 2022, the Council of the European Union took the decision to introduce temporary protection measures for those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine, thereby invoking EU Directive 2001/55/EC. At the end of 2022, there were approx. 2,000 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection accommodated in Co. Meath.

While a whole of Government response is in place, Meath County Council's responsibilities includes the provision of initial emergency short-term accommodation to people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. This accommodation has been in the form of commercial accommodation, pledged properties (both shared and vacant homes) and temporary Rest Centre accommodation.

Meath County Council has also spearheaded a coordinated response by setting up a Community Forum to organise on-going coordination meetings between various government and non-government agencies, to help deal with the integration of the Ukrainian Refugees within County Meath. These meetings were attended by various groups such as Ruhama, An Garda Síochána, many divisions of the H.S.E., Peter McVerry

Trust, Red Cross, International Organisation of Migration, Family Resource Centres, Meath Partnership and many more.

To assist the Ukrainian people adapt to their new surroundings, Meath County Council has helped to run and/or promote various government funded programmes in 2022. Over 500 Ukrainians took part in wellness events

such as; art therapy, cookery classes, exercise and dance classes and many sporting ventures including hikes etc. Meath County Council was one of the first Local Authorities to set up the Community Car initiative with funding from the Department of Housing. This was carried out under a service level agreement operated by Meath Partnership and will commence in quarter one, 2023.

1.15 Communications

The Corporate Affairs and Governance Department plays a key role in ensuring accurate, timely and relevant information is made available to the public, councillors and council staff. The Council is also committed to ensuring that our information is written in plain English and is user friendly.

To ensure efficient communications Meath County Council aims to:

- Support open, transparent, timely and effective communications;
- Focus on delivering successful, proactive, high quality communications;
- Ensure the use of the full range of communication tools and channels available;
- Put insight, measurement and evaluation at the heart of all that we do, effectively utilising reporting and evaluation to measure the impact of our communications activity
- Targeted communications to appropriate stakeholders

By being proactive in our communications, by engaging our audience and by encouraging feedback, Meath County Council continues to be a reliable and credible source of information to its key stakeholders.

Irish Language Act

The Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 (2021 Act) was enacted in December 2021, to introduce changes to the Official Languages Act 2003 (2003 Act). Under this provision (Section 10A of the Act as amended), all public bodies are now obliged to do at least 20% of their annual advertising in Irish and to spend 5% of their advertising budgets on advertising in Irish in the Irish language media. Throughout 2022 the Communications Unit worked closely with the Irish Language Officer to increase the use of the Irish language on the Council's social media accounts and in traditional media. 2023 will provide and produce the first statistics on compliance.

Traditional Media

Whilst the Council may increasingly use electronic communication and social media platforms, there is still a need to accommodate those residents who continue to rely on printed information, this continues to be conducted through the established press and media outlets.

Social Media Platforms

The Council continues to grow its number of subscribers and followers on our various social media platforms. These platforms continue to assist the communications team in providing up-to-date and timely information, the running of various information campaigns and in reaching various cohorts of the population. The Council will continue to grow its subscriber base and will continue to focus on high quality, accurate and engaging content.

At the end of 2022, the Council recorded the following numbers in relation to social media followers/subscribers:

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Facebook	14,264	17,514	21,632	23,244
Twitter	8,862	9,842	10,423	10,800
Instagram	972	2,023	2,657	3,143
YouTube	31	96	217	259
LinkedIn	2,363	2,981	3,637	4,329

Internal Communications

The implementation of the Internal Communications Programme will continue to contribute to the integration of employees and elected members, foster a feeling of belonging, create a healthy work environment, and increase the efficiency of the Council. The aim is to develop and maintain a spirit of collaboration and better work relations.

The communications team continue to produce a weekly staff newsletter which is sent through email and published on the MCC Connect App each Friday. TV screens in the Simply Honest restaurant in Buvinda House display daily staff messages and notifications. Notice boards throughout the building and in depots are also used to share messages.

Events Management

The Council continues to organise a number of events which are important opportunities to promote the county, show the Council in a good light and/or communicate key messages to the public and the media, such as the opening of Social Housing developments, Age-Friendly activities, opening of Capital Projects, etc.

Some events coordinated by the team in 2022 include:

- Bettystown Library Sod Turning
- Launch of Boyne Blueway Trim
- Linear Park and Walkway Dunboyne
- Launch of Meath Women's Caucus
- Official opening of Porchfields, Trim
- Lagore Lawn, Dunshaughlin Sod Turning
- Official Opening of Colliers Place, Duleek and Staleen Park, Donore



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian pictured with Minister for Housing Darragh O’Brien and Cathaoirleach of Laytown/Bettystown MD Cllr. Wayne Harding at Staleen Park, Donore.

1.16 Occupational Safety and Health

Meath County Council continued to improve our Safety Management System to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of our employees, contractors and members of the public. The effectiveness of the systems in place were highly scrutinised during external audit which resulted in a positive finding from the audit team, resulting in the international health and safety management standard ISO 45001:2018 being awarded to Meath County Council, this is in addition to Meath County Council Fire and Rescue Services existing certification to the same standard. This success was accomplished through the continued commitment of our employees and external interested parties. Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) documentation was reviewed throughout the year and as relevant updated to ensure compliance. A continuous improvement programme is in place to ensure identified OSH objectives are progressed.

Regulatory Inspections

The Health and Safety Authority (H.S.A) completed 6 No. Regulatory Inspections in 2022:

- 2 No. Internal (MCC) Operations.
- 4 No. External (Contractor) Operations.

OSH Incident Summary

The reporting of incidents is an important element of our Safety Management System and is used as a tool for identifying areas for continued improvement. A total of 61 incidents were reported during 2022:

Fatal	IR1	IR3	Injury <3 days	Injury no absence	Near Miss	V&A	Property Damage	Other
-	4	4	1	18	7	2	17	8

The greatest number of incidents reported related to vehicle movements; driving interactions, equipment and machinery and slip, trip and falls.

OSH Training and Awareness

Training is a key element of promoting a positive safety culture and embedding good safety practices.

In addition to a large number of activity specific training, training courses held included Safe Pass, IOSH Managing Safely in Construction, CSCS Signing lighting and guarding, first aid responder and manual handling.

Internal safety briefings were also held on general safety awareness, construction management, winter gritting operations, beach wardens and lifeguard activities.

Communication, Consultation and Participation

The Council consults and communicates with employees using the following methods:

- MCC App;
- Preparation of Risk Assessments and Safety Procedures;
- Quarterly safety reports;
- Safety representatives;
- Safety Monitoring Groups;
- Safety Management Committee meetings;
- Management Team meetings.

The Safety Monitoring Group Meetings were held with each Section on a six-monthly basis, this allowed for specific safety issues to be discussed and addressed.

Safety Management Committee Meetings were held four times during the year to address issues on a Corporate basis and any specific safety issues raised at the Safety Monitoring Group Meetings. These meetings are also used to evaluate compliance with safety and legislation and to review progress on the annual continuous improvement programme.

The Covid-19 committee was disbanded in 2022, with a nominated lead worker representative retained. Control measures for the management of biological agents remain in place.

A number of toolbox talks and safety alerts were issued to relevant across Sections, these included topics including assessing roadside verges, avian influenza and MCC chemical management application.

The intranet is used as a communication tool for up to date content of the Safety Management System.

OSH Monitoring

OSH audits and inspections of direct and external (contractor) operations were routinely undertaken across all sections of the Council. These reviews assist in achieving our OSH objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to improve the effectiveness of safety management through continuous improvement.



Chief Executive Jackie Maguire is pictured accepting the ISO45001:2018 accreditation on behalf of Meath County Council from the certifying body Certification Europe.

Housing

2.1 Capital Programme

Summary of Housing for All 2022 Delivery

Delivery Mechanism	Units
Direct Construction	21
Buy & Renew Properties completed in 2022	3
Turnkey	26
Acquisitions not including Buy and Renew	20
Part V	122
Approved Housing Body Capital Assistance Scheme	2
Approved Housing Body Turnkey	172
Approved Housing Body Turnkey Part V	5
Approved Housing Body Capital Advance Leasing Facility Construction	88
Approved Housing Body Capital Advance Leasing Facility Construction Part V	8
Approved Housing Body Acquisitions (Housing Agency)	0
Approved Housing Body Mortgage to Rent	6
Private Mortgage to Rent	15
LA Long-Term Leasing	3
Approved Housing Body Long Term Leasing	0
Total units delivered in 2022	491

Direct Construction Completed 2022

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	START DATE	COMPLETION DATE
Staleen Park, Donore	21	Q2 2021	Q4 2022
Buy & Renew Unit - Enfield	1	Q1 2022	Q4 2022
Buy & Renew Unit - Kells	1	Q3/2021	Q3/2022
Buy & Renew Unit - Laytown	1	Q1/2021	Q4/2022
Overall Total	24		

Social Housing Targets 2022-2026

Year	2022	2023	2024	2024	2023	Total
Target	413	323	249	267	273	1,525

Affordable Housing Targets 2022-2026

Year	2022	2023	2024	2024	2023	Total
Target	10	28	41	36	36	151



Meath County Council Site Direct construction – Staleen Park, Donore (€4m)

There were 103 potential sites and/or turnkey opportunities investigated during 2022. Each was subjected to a planning and engineering assessment to determine suitability for development or acquisition. A number of Turnkey deliveries were identified and agreed upon with developers. A significant investment was made in the purchase of a site in Ashbourne (€3.3million) which will provide an estimated 75 units by 2026. Working with the Environment Section, Compulsory Purchase Orders were obtained on properties in Laytown, Navan, Bettystown, and Kells which we feed into the Housing delivery as they are brought back up to standard.

During the year Design Team Tender competitions were held for the Ashbourne scheme and New Lane, Navan.

Preliminary design ongoing for schemes at Nangle Court Navan and Haggard St., Trim.

Planning applications were prepared and submitted for schemes at Newtown; Archdeaconry Glebe, Kells; Carrick Street, Kells; Kildalkey Road, Athboy; Churchview, Rathmolyon; Blackhill Crescent, Donacorney; Swan Lane, Navan; Pitcher Lane, Kells; Ratholdren Court, Navan; and Brews Hill, Navan.

Tender competitions were held to appoint contractors on the following schemes: Castle Street, Ashbourne; Gort na Glaise, Farganstown; St Francis Park, Navan; and Kildalkey Road, Athboy.

Works onsite were ongoing/commenced in Lagore Lawn, Dunshaughlin; and Alverno Court, Laytown. Works were completed in Staleen Park, Donore.

Housing Capital Expenditure

Claims in the amount of €64,511,548 were made for Housing capital expenditure during 2022 to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage under the following headings: Acquisitions, Buy & Renew, Construction, Traveller Accommodation, Part V, Local Authority Adaptive Works Scheme, Turnkey, Voids, Turnkey Admin Costs, Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme, Navan Traveller Worker, Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme Project Management Fees.

Refurbishment Projects

St Francis Park (€3,771,374) – Construction works have commenced on site in November 2022 with a projected construction programme of 12 months.

Alverno Court Refurbishment (€4,150,329) - Refurbishment works commenced on site on 3rd August 2021 and will be completed across five phases.

2.2 Affordability Measures

Nine low-cost private sites as incorporated in Phase 1 of Lagore Lawns, Dunshaughlin were disposed of in 2022, in accordance with Section 183 of The Local Government Act 2001.

The Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements was adopted by Meath County Council in September 2022.

2.3 Adaptation Schemes**Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability**

485 households received grant aid under the various grants schemes in 2022 to the value of €3,056,152.

Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

In 2022, 63 projects were completed to existing Council stock with a total expenditure of €528,908.11.

2.4 Housing Maintenance**Response Maintenance**

A total of 80 Vacant units required works prior to being re-tenanted in 2022.

In respect of vacant units, a total of € 1,424,794.32 funding was secured in 2022 from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (pre let repairs - €514,447.32 and energy efficiency works - €910,347.00).

6,265 response maintenance cases were logged in 2022 and subsequently dealt with by Housing Maintenance Section.

2.5 Homeless Service

264 households exited emergency accommodation in 2022 with 26.5% of households exiting into private rented / local authority / approved housing body tenancies.

82 tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless Housing Assistance Payment Place finder Service for the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

499 households presented as homeless to Meath County Council in 2022 (280 individual/couples and 219 families). The reasons for presentations included, inter alia, notice of termination, family circumstances and unsuitable living conditions.

2.6 Private Rental Inspections

1,560 Inspections of private rental accommodation properties were carried out for the period January-December 2022. 1,286 Improvement Letters and 16 Improvement Notices were issued.

2.7 Tenant Purchase Scheme

Fourteen (14) units were acquired by tenants of Meath County Council in 2022 under the Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2022, at a cumulative discount of €1,063,500.

2.8 Traveller Accommodation

Progress was made in delivering the 5 Year Traveller Accommodation Programme. In Year three of the programme there were:

- 15 no social housing allocations to housing applicants from the Traveller community (target 9)
- 5 no. Local Authority Adaptive Works Scheme applications completed for Housing People with a Disability (target 3)
- Commencement of the Refurbishment of St Francis' Park preceded by decanting of residents to temporary housing accommodation.

Completion of the mid-term review of the Meath Traveller Accommodation 2019-2024. No change was recommended to the Programme.

The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee met in May and October 2022.

Funding of €17,400 was secured under the 2022 Dormant Accounts Fund to commission a report on enhancing the awareness of and engagement with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee. Implementation of the report's recommendations will be progressed during 2023.

2.9 Estate Management: 1st January 2022 – 31st December 2022

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation Cases

Anti-Social Behaviour investigation on going at 31/12/2022	79
Anti-Social Behaviour investigation completed in 2022	897
Total Anti-Social Behaviour Complaints received in 2022	976

Action Taken

No further action required – No ASB found (unfounded / malicious)	81
Advice / Instruction given	762
Verbal warning issued	18
First breach of Tenancy Notice	20
Second breach of Tenancy Notice	4
Statutory warning issued	1
Notice to Quit served	1
Referrals to other agencies	36
Illegal occupation due to break ins (1 outstanding)	7
Exclusion Orders Sought	0
House taken back into possession (No legal fees nor security fees were used in these cases)	46
Total Action Taken	976

Tenancy Outcomes

Repossession commenced (due to ASB & other reasons)	46
Repossession completed	46
Eviction (Following Repossession Order)	0
Exclusions Orders obtained and in place	0
Possession Orders obtained regarding Illegal Occupants	9

Estate Management Policy

The Estate Management Policy was implemented to provide an overall framework to promote and achieve better estate management outcomes within Meath County Council’s estates. A progress report was presented to and approved by the Housing, Community and Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee in December 2022.

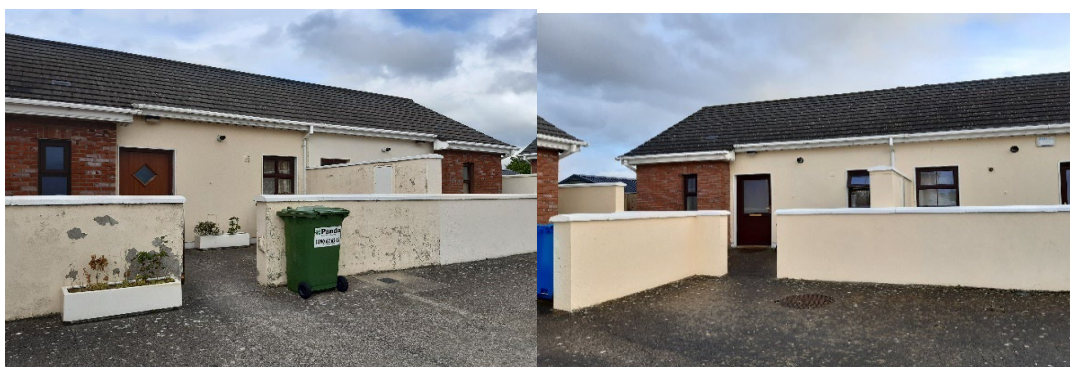
The Tenant Liaison team encourage all new tenants to participate in existing residents association or set up new residents association for new estates. The Tenant Liaison Team outline what supports are available from the Public Participation Network (PPN). The Tenant Liaison Team assist and attend residents association meetings throughout the year and encourage estate management initiatives and explain what funding is available.

Reaching out to Older Tenants (ROOT) is an initiative offering support to tenants in the over 70’s category. The Tenant liaison team have reached out to 260 tenants in 2022.

Estate management funding was provided for refurbishment works at Willie Black Crescent Kells and Lagore Crescent Dunshaughlin.



Willie Black Crescent, Kells



Lagore Crescent, Dunshaughlin - Pilot Estate Management Initiative (Before & After)

2.10 Disability

Meath County Council’s Strategy for Housing People with a Disability was reviewed under the auspices of the Housing Disability Steering Group following the publication of the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027. A National Implementation Plan will be published in early 2023 from which

local actions will be identified and progressed.

In 2022 the Housing Disability Steering Group progressed the establishment of a Disability Housing Action Team which will focus on the specific needs of applicants. The Disability Housing Action Team convened its first meeting in October and met twice in 2022.

A total of 35 level access units were delivered across 5 sites in 2022, to cater for applicants with mobility issues. These units emanated from Part V delivery negotiated by Meath County Council and Approved Housing Body activity.



**Level access units delivered through Part V and AHB Delivery
(The Arches Dunshaughlin and Colliers Place, Duleek)**

2.11 Social Housing Supports

1,083 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1st to 31st December 2022.

Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period 1st January to 31st December 2022.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	242
Approved Housing Bodies	213
RAS	0
HAP	419
Long term Leasing	25
MTR (AHBS)	5
TOTAL	904

Choice Based Lettings

All Meath County Council general housing allocations are undertaken through Choice Based Lettings (CBL). There are exceptions in relation to inter alia, transfer applicants, people with disabilities and emergency cases. The introduction of the Choice Based Lettings system in December 2020, has had a positive impact on the rate of refusal of social housing.

Refusals per Municipal District 2022	2020	2021	2022
Ashbourne	13	12	0
Kells	75	35	10
Laytown - Bettystown	6	4	19
Navan	43	21	11
Ratoath	52	29	4
Trim	22	15	0
Grand Total	211	116	44

Planning and Development Management

3.1 Forward Planning

Achievements 2022:

- Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

A total of 33 submissions were received during the public consultation period which ran from 1 November 2022 to 31 December 2022. This was the first phase with respect to the implementation of the new government initiative to encourage the development of residential lands.

- Public Consultation

The Planning Department made submissions on 38 external public consultation processes on behalf of the Council in 2022. These included development plan processes, proposed government guidelines etc.

- Joint Local/Urban Area Plans

The Strategic Issues Paper (SIP) relating to the Joint Local Area Plan for Maynooth was published by Meath and Kildare County Councils in Q4 2022. A total of 65 submissions were received and the Chief Executive Report on same is being prepared

Meath County Council continues to engage with its colleagues in Louth County Council with respect to the publication of the SIP relating to the Drogheda Urban Area Plan.

- Annual Monitoring Report

The Planning Department presented its first monitoring report as required by the Development Plan Guidelines on the performance of the Core Strategy and commercial activity in the new plan. A monitoring dashboard is currently under construction and shall be completed in Q2 / Q3 this year.

3.2 Heritage and Conservation

Achievements 2022:

- Implementation of County Heritage Plan
 - An audit of built, natural and cultural heritage of Holy Wells in County Meath
 - The Second Chamber – TG4 Documentary
 - Heritage Awareness 2022 (Know Your Locality Online Course, Sustainable Gardening, Love Passage Tombs FB Content Manager, Black Friary Community/Schools Event Programme, Support the Moynagh Lough Excavations Project Conference, Medieval Navan).
- Meath Biodiversity Management Project
 - Hill of Lloyd Grassland Pollinator Project
 - Urban Biodiversity Audits – Navan, Trim and Kells
 - Implementation of Sonairte and Hinterlands (East Meath) Biodiversity Action Plan
 - Community Biodiversity Projects.

- Grants
Community Monuments Fund 2022: 8 projects, value €355,503
Community Heritage Grant Scheme: 21 projects, value €22,518
Built Heritage Investment Scheme: 22 projects, value €166,394
Historic Structures Fund: 3 projects, value €124,996.
- Irish Walled Town Network: Work ongoing in Trim and Kells. Conservation Management Plan prepared for Navan Town Walls.
- Conservation Management Plan published for the state-owned lands at the Hill of Tara.
- Heritage Week 2022 - 69 events across the county.

Projects

- Printing Works and Centre of Typography, Kells
- Mural Tower & Town Wall, Kells
- St. John's Church & Graveyard, Nobber
- Monknewtown Graveyard
- Ardmulchan Church, Navan
- Town Wall Conservation, Navan

3.3 Development Contributions

Pre-Audited Development Contribution receipts for 2022 show a collection of €14,029,439 an increase on 2021 where €13,145,262 was collected. (Figures are inclusive of Irish Water receipts).

The Financial Compliance Team continues to actively engage with debtors to ensure compliance with conditions of planning.

The Meath County Development Contribution Scheme 2016-2021 was extended for a period of one year to the end of 2022 with a full review of the Scheme expected in 2023.

3.4 Compliance Activities

Planning Enforcement (Sections 152,154 and 160)

The Planning Department opened 193 planning enforcement cases in 2022 following complaints received relating to non-compliance with the planning laws. These figures do not include action taken for non-compliance with the financial provisions of extant planning permissions.

Taking-in-Charge of Estates (Section 180)

The Council continues to carry out its function of taking-in-charge of estates. In 2022, a total of 6 housing estates were taken in charge and exploratory studies were carried out on a number of other estates. The Council also continues to deal with the large number of compliance submissions in order to facilitate new development.

3.5 Development Management

Achievements 2022

- Planning applications (Section 34)
 1744 planning applications were received in 2022. This is compared to 2434 in 2021. 2021 saw an unprecedented rise in planning applications and this rise can be attributed to the proposed change to the Rural Policy which was subsequently not adopted as part of the Meath County Development Plan review.
- Large-scale Residential Developments (LRD) (Section 32)
 The Council issued three LRD opinions in 2022. 1 application was subsequently lodged and granted by the Council for 138 units. This application is currently on appeal to An Bord Pleanála. A further seven other applications were assessed by the LRD Team. These were as a result of amendments required to a granted Strategic Housing Development (SHD) and the LRD Team will determine whether they can be dealt with as a standard planning application (Section 34) or whether they need to be assessed under the LRD regulations.
- Part 8 Applications (Section 179)
 A total of 23 Part 8 applications were lodged with the Planning Department in 2022, compared to 5 applications in 2021. A further 2 applications were made directly to An Bord Pleanála due to the requirement for a Natura Impact Statement.
- Pre-Planning Consultations (Section 247)
 The Council facilitated a total of 509 pre-planning meetings held under Section 247 of the Planning and Development Acts. Approximately 45% of the meetings were held in person, with the remaining 55% being held online or over the phone. The same advices and level of service is provided regardless of the method of communication offered to the proposed applicant. Pre-planning remains ongoing on a number of Strategic Infrastructural Developments including Dart + programme.

3.6 Quarry Regulation

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

3.7 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 Planning Financial Compliance Team.

580 valid commencement notices were received in 2022. This is compared to 771 in 2021.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number of Units
One-Off House	255
Multi-Units	1099
Extensions	108
Other*	56

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

On foot of the commencement notice being received 871 first time inspections were carried out. 16,038 repeat inspections of under construction units were also carried out in 2022. Each multi-unit is inspected approximately 20 times throughout the build to ensure it is complying with Building Control Regulations and the conditions of planning.

3.8 Projects

The Planning Projects Team also commenced work, continued to advance work on or provided assistance on the following projects in 2022;

Public Realm

- Slane Public Realm and Implementation Strategy
- Bettystown and Laytown Public Realm
- Kells Public Realm
- Oldcastle Public Realm
- Athboy Public Realm
- Ashbourne Public Realm Strategy
- Dunshaughlin Courthouse and Public Realm

Other

- Enfield Town Centre First
- Streetscape Enhancement Scheme – Market Street, Trim
- Amenity and Recreation Plan for Tower of Lloyd
- Flowerhill and Abbeyland Urban Design Plan
- Renovation of St. Patrick's Classical School
- County Hall Site Redevelopment Plan

3.9 National Broadband Scheme

- 35 Section 254 Appliance Licence applications were approved to facilitate the National Broadband Plan.

Road Transportation and Safety

4.1 Overview

Meath County Council manages and maintains over 3,500 km of road network. This is achieved with the co-operation and assistance of the National Transport Authority (NTA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), and Dept. of Transport (DoT), through the following main elements:

- Public Lighting Services reactive and preventative maintenance and management of existing and new lighting assets and progression of the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP), contracts were signed in Q3 2022, and works have commenced on the design element.
- Traffic Assets Services reactive and preventative maintenance and management of existing and new traffic assets.
- Fleet management and maintenance including investigation into decarbonization of fleet.
- Road Safety Education and Awareness including an outreach to almost 13,000 citizens through school and community groups and events. Work commenced on the new Road Safety Plan for County Meath which resulted in the establishment of a multi-agency Road Safety Working Together Group.
- The impacts of climate change on the network were acknowledged with €535,000 inaugural funding under Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works. Municipal District engineers are capturing data on extreme weather events and the impact on services and the network.
- Street cleansing and maintenance of parks, playgrounds, and public spaces.
- Annual gully cleaning contract.
- Clean up from extreme weather events.
- Data collection and management including traffic surveys, road condition visual surveys and mechanical testing.

The department is also working, in conjunction with TII, in progressing several National Primary and National Secondary Road improvement and resurfacing schemes within the County.

Achievements

Road Improvement achievements included the delivery of the circa €45m road works programme and the completion of nine Community Involvement Schemes (majority of funding from DoT) and 7 Local Improvement Schemes initially, with a further two approved following a second round of funding. (Grant funding from Dept. Rural and Community Development). These schemes showcase how partnership between the Council and communities can deliver meaningful improvements on roads, which otherwise would not receive maintenance/improvement funding.

4.2 National Primary and Secondary Road Schemes advanced in 2022

N2 Slane Bypass and Public Realm Improvements:

The scheme has been amended significantly to include public realm improvements. Final Draft of EIAR and CPO documents were completed on the 11th of November 2022.

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2:

The main construction contract continued to progress in 2022 with the road re-opening to vehicular traffic and works nearing completion.

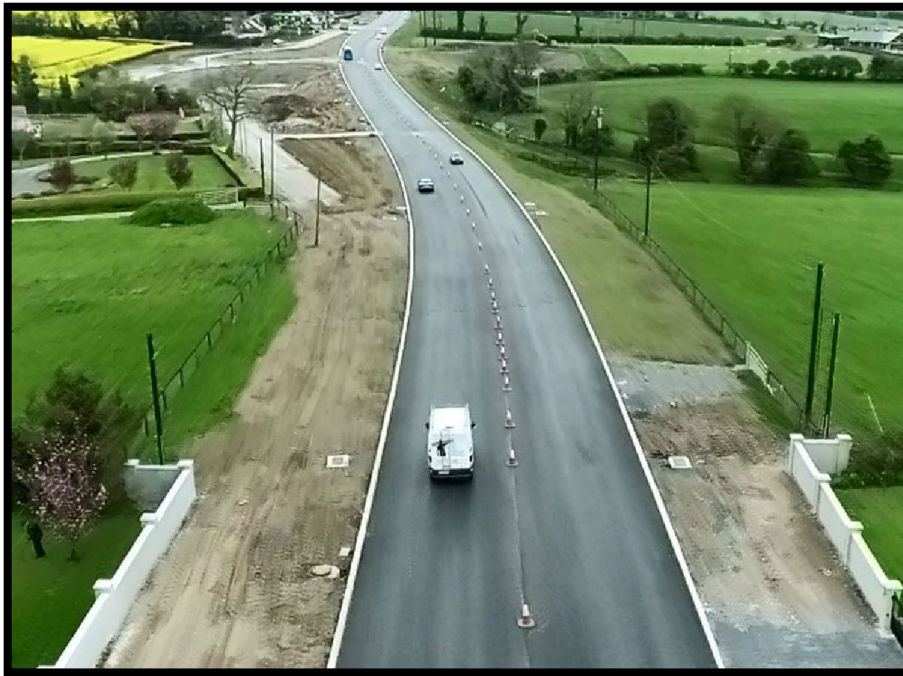


Image of the N51 Dunmoe Phase 2

N52 Grange to Clontail Road Scheme:

Approval granted from TII in June 2022 and statutory procedures commenced. Currently waiting An Bord Pleanala Approval.

N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon:

Ground Investigation Contractor due to commence works in Quarter 1 2023. Liaison with affected Landowners regarding access is ongoing. Tenders for Archaeology Geophysical survey were received, and tender assessment is ongoing. It is expected that surveys will commence in Q1 2023.

N3 Virginia By-Pass project:

Meath County Council is liaising with Cavan County Council in relation to the progression of the N3 Virginia By-Pass project. In 2022 following the public consultation of the Emerging Preferred Option, work continued to progress the Options Selection Report.

National Road Resurfacing:

This took place at N51 Ongenstown, N2 Kellystown to Glassallen, N2 Rathdrinagh to Tuiteath ,N51 Halltown/Mullaghmore overlay scheme.

4.3 Non-National road network maintained in 2022

Non- National Roads 2022 funding from DoT – Grant Allocation €24,992,217:

Road Restoration

- Regional Roads – 14.5 km and Local Roads – 65.88 km (including 8.58 kms for CIS)
- 8.8 kms of roads were completed under the Local Improvement Scheme

Surface Dressing

- Regional Roads – 22.23 kms and Local Roads - 100.1 kms

Meath County Council was also allocated funding from the Department of Transport in 2022 in the amount of €395,000 for works on former National Roads. Resurfacing of 1.3 km has been completed on the R148 Enfield, under this heading.

Non-National Schemes progressed in 2022:

- R161 Hospital/ St. Patrick's Classical School
- L-5055 Johnstown Roundabout
- Aura Swimming Pool Car Park
- R-153 Kentstown Road Navan
- L-2814-0 Suffolk Street
- R-163-40 New Market Street/Cannon Street
- L-3400-0 Boyne Road
- N2 Kellystown to Glassallen: Contractor appointed
- N2 Rathdrinagh to Tuitterath
- N51 Halltown/Mullaghmore overlay scheme – works substantially complete

Bridge Remedial Works progressed in 2022. Remedial Works have been funded and completed during 2022 as follows:

- L3409 Tatestown Culvert
- L68291 Seymourstown Culvert
- L7413 Donaghpatrick Bridge
- R108 Dardistown Bridge
- L5606 Monknewtown Bridge
- L40131 Trembestown Bridge
- R161 Oldbridge Trim
- L62151 Rath Bridge
- L62033 Kiltale Culvert

4.4 Additional Schemes progressed in 2022

Millennium Footbridge Trim:

In August 2022 the Millennium Footbridge in Trim was demolished due to failure of the lower beams. Extensive consultation took place with OPW, National Parks and Wildlife Services and Department of Heritage to limit the impact of the demolition on the immediate environment. A temporary Bailey bridge was installed by the Defence Forces and work is ongoing on a permanent superstructure replacement.



The temporary Bailey Bridge pictured being installed in Trim

Safety Improvement Works progressed in 2022 with allocation of funding of €337,000 at the following locations:

- R147 Newgate Navan
- R147 Liscarton Navan
- L1002 L1003
- L1005 Oberstown Cross Junction
- L4025 L8001 Junction at Faughan Hill
- R156 L62161 Junction at Kilmore Moynalvey
- R125 Bends
- R125 at Harlockstown Ashbourne
- R156 R159 Junction in Rathmolyon Village
- L5602 L1604 Rathbran Junction
- R152 L5613 L16111 Junction at Platin

4.5 Active and Sustainable Transport Schemes progressed in 2022

- Boyneside Trail: Planning application submitted to An Bord Pleanála in July 2020, further information requested to be submitted Q1 2023, decision will follow.
- Boyne Greenway: Oldbridge to Navan – Non-Statutory Public Consultation was undertaken for the circa 26.5km walking and cycling greenway, assessment of routes to identify emerging preferred route ongoing.
- Navan 2030: Phase 2 construction substantially complete. Phase 3 Contractor appointed and construction proceeding on Kennedy Rd/Kennedy Plaza, Market Square/Trimgate St/Kennedy Rd junction and Abbey Rd (Taxi Rank).
- Installation of Bus Shelters: NTA funding secured for Bus Shelter enabling works and Accessible bus stops – construction progressing.
- Laytown Park & Ride Facility: Works complete.
- Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme: Detailed design carried out and Tender for construction of Phase 1: Solstice to Beechmount commenced.
- Navan GDA Cycle Network: Fairgreen to Johnstown, Convent Road Scheme: Part 8 Statutory complete. The submission analysis report has been completed and submitted to Planning Authority.

- Navan Bus Stops: Design work continuing additional locations including two stops adjacent to Athboy Rd roundabout, two stops on Commons Rd, one stop in Ratoath, in addition to a bus turn-about facility in Robinstown.
- Ratoath Cycle Network: Planning process completed. Appointed consultants for Detailed Design.
- Dunboyne Cycle Network Plan: Consultants appointed for to progress the development of the scheme options with a view to identifying preferred options for bring forward for Statutory approval.
- Cycle Parking: Contract awarded for supply of Bike Stands across the county.
- N51 Park & Ride, Navan: Construction significantly advanced during the year with expected completion in 2023.
- Navan Circular Rd to Martha's Bridge Cycle & Walkway: Planning process complete and consultants procured for detailed design of the project.
- Ashbourne: R135 Frederick St to Ballybin Rd: Contractor appointed and works continuing.
- Bettystown to Donacarney Walking & Cycling Infrastructure: Part 8 process complete, site investigations completed, and landowner consultations commenced.
- Safe Routes to School: The Council continues to liaise with An Taisce to finalise the list of interventions for the Round 1 schools.
- Harlockstown Pedestrian and Bus Stop: Bus Stop work completed, and significant progress made on the process made on the construction of Footpath to Nine Milestone Roundabout.
- Garlow Cross Park & Ride: Significant progress made on the construction of 50 Car Park spaces.
- Navan: Poolboy Bridge: Identified preferred option, carried out preliminary design and commenced part 8 planning process.
- Footpath Programme and other works: Works to rehabilitate and construct new footpaths carried out including Seafields Footpath Cycleway Scheme, Duleek Community Centre Footpath, Jim Brunnock Road and Kilkloon.

4.6 Projects

Meath County Council has worked with several funding partners on the following projects from design to construction.

Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF)

Meath County Council acknowledges funding was provided by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport under the Sports Capital Programme €2,012,276.00 for the purposes of providing a Linear Walkway, Playing Pitches and Car Park in Rooske Road, Dunboyne and works progressed during 2022.

Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF)

- Flowerhill & Abbeylands Regeneration
- Navan Land Activation
- Railway Street Regeneration and County Archive
- Ashbourne, Phase 2

Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF)

- Kells Creative Placemaking
- Trim Library & Cultural Centre
- Athboy Town Centre
- Boyne Green & Navigation
- Enfield Community Facility & Park & Ride
- Dunshaughlin Courthouse & Town Centre
- Oldcastle Town Centre

Ratoath Cycle Lane

During the year, Meath County Council established a dedicated Active Travel Section with responsibility for NTA schemes, Footpath Works, Greenways etc. Resource to be fully operational by Q1 2022.



An image of the Ratoath Cycle Lane

4.7 Other Transportation/Operations Services delivered in 2022

- Development Control / Transport Planning Advice – volume of applications assessed increased significantly in 2022;
- Ordinary Maintenance, Winter Maintenance Service and Maintenance of Plant and Machinery;
- Capital Programme of Footpath Improvement Works;
- Public Lighting Services, maintenance and progression of National Retrofit Scheme to achieve Energy Efficiencies across the county;
- Road Safety Improvement Schemes, Promotion and Education;
- Road Opening Licences, Abnormal Load Applications, Roads and Services in Charge queries;
- Review of Bus licences, Bus Stop locations and Taxi ranks;
- Additional funding was provided by DoT of €680,8674 for Drainage Schemes throughout the county;
- Processing of applications for Section 254, skip scaffolding & hoarding licences, as well as signage various signage applications.

Road improvement and Municipal Districts works benefited from almost €25M of Department of Transport funding and an additional investment of €14.6M from own resources. Data and surveys provided guidance to the development of the roadworks programme, ensuring a balance between improvement and maintenance of the network. Sustainability and preparing for climate change adaptation is considered in the delivery of services and projects with a Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement trial and adaptation drainage works. It is worth noting the impacts of climate change were experienced in the delivery of the road works programme where 7 working days were lost to extreme heat.

4.8 Non-national roads network maintained in 2022

202km of schemes delivered centrally over 4 phases, in year 2 of a 3-year programme, including:

- 30 Recycling Structural Overlay and Surface Dressing Schemes (Phase 1)
- 79 Surface Dressing Schemes (Phase 2)
- 21 Structural Overlay and Surface Dressing (Phase 3)
- 32 HRA Schemes (Phase 4)

Critical infrastructure projects, such as Uisce Éireann and renewable energy projects, commenced across the county which resulted in a small number of road improvement and maintenance projects being deferred.

9 Schemes were delivered under the Community Involvement Schemes and similarly 9 delivered under the Local Improvement Schemes for private roads. 31 Housing Estate Schemes were progressed across the municipal districts.

€400,000 of funding was allocated for former national roads, including the R147 at Dowdstown. This scheme was undertaken at a pilot project using 40% Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement. This pilot sought to drive sustainability and the circular economy into traditionally carbon heavy industry by using a warm mix design and reusing road planings. Extensive core samples were extracted from the finished pavement and preliminary findings indicated pavement performance similar to traditional pavement. The projects delivered a number of savings in fuel and materials as follows; 3,600 litres of fuel, 600 tonnes of bitumen and 6,000 tonnes of aggregate.

Environment

5.1 Overview

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.

5.2 Environmental Education and Awareness Activities

In 2022, the Council engaged in a wide range of environmental education and awareness activities and supports including:

- Green Schools Initiatives including Green Schools Seminars on Litter and Waste, Water, Energy, Biodiversity, Global Citizenship.
- Picker Pals rolled out to 68 schools in 2022.
- Grants for School Gardens through CEAF Funding, on average 10 school gardens are supported annually together with approximately 30 community-based projects, seminars, workshops. This fund was suspended in 2022 and is due to recommence in 2023. Meath County Council continued to support Garden Projects in Schools In 2022 in absence of CEAF Scheme.
- Secondary Schools – The Really Rubbish Film Company, ECO UNESCO Young Environmentalists, ReLove Fashion, TY Climate Action Project with GAA Future Leaders Programme.
- Community related projects – Green KM, Tree Planting Project, Halloween Awareness Campaign, October Reuse Month.
- Litter Management Support from Meath County Council to community and other groups in terms of equipment and collection of material.
- Food Waste Digester Project at Navan Recycling Centre.
- Comprehensive Dashboard dining, Anti-Litter, Anti Dog Fouling and Anti Dumping Advertising Campaign – Cinema, Radio, Billboards, Social Media.
- Provision of signage across the county – Litter, dumping, car litter, dog fouling.
- Calendar of Free Bulky Waste Collection Days at the recycling centres for Couches, Beds, Mattresses, Outdoor/Garden Equipment, Nursey Equipment and Toys across the year.
- Bikes for Africa – Reuse project with Rotary Ireland supplying bikes for secondary school transport in the Gambia, through Navan Recycling Centre and Loughan House Prison.
- Plastic Bottle Free School – Five schools signed up for the Water Dispenser Scheme in Meath in 2022. High quality touch free water fountains are provided to secondary schools in Meath and each participating school is required to introduce a ban on single use plastic bottles. There are ten schools in the scheme at present with a plan to roll out to all secondary schools in Meath in the coming years.
- Halloween Bulky Waste Collection – Diverting combustible material from bonfire by providing Free Bulky Waste Collections in the run up to Halloween at five recycling centres across the county.
- 5,000 native saplings were provided to participants to plant in communal areas in their towns, villages, housing estates.
- The Litter Management Plan for Meath 2022 – 2024 was adopted in November 2022, detailing the Council's strategy for dealing with litter across Meath over a 3 year period.



Volunteers pictured participating in the Green KM Scheme

Halloween Amnesty at Recycling Centres

To divert combustible materials from Bonfires, there will be **NO CHARGE** for Beds, Mattresses, Headboards, Couches, Armchairs, Outdoor & Indoor Tables and Chairs for all Meath based householders...

...on Friday, October 28th and Saturday October 29th 2022 between 9am and 4pm

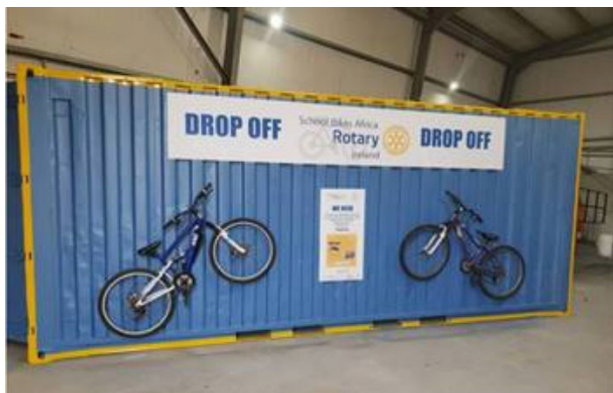
at Navan, Kells, Trim Recycling Centres, Thorntons Recycling Centre Dunboyne, Panda Recycling Centre, Rathdrinagh, Beauparc (beside 'The Brink' filling station)

€2 entry charge to access the recycling centres

All visitors must be resident in Co. Meath and must show a driving licence or utility bill with corresponding photo ID to avail of the free bulky waste offer.

Enquiries to environment@meathcoco.ie  comhairle chontae na mío meath county council

Halloween Bulk Waste Collection - Poster



Bikes for Africa – Pictures showing the collection and transportation of bikes.



Clean Up Drogheda Volunteers

5.3 Burial Grounds

In 2022 good progress was made in advancing a number of burial ground projects including:

- Trim - The planning process for the provision of a new burial ground at Loganstown, Trim was completed and allowing for the appointment of a contractor in mid-2023.
- Stamullen - a suitable site for a replacement burial ground was identified and purchased and the planning approval process commenced.
- Rooske Road Dunboyne – an extension to the existing burial ground was completed. Work commenced on the preparation of tender documents for the provision of a Caretakers Building, Toilets and a new entrance area.
- Burial Gardens /Columbarium Walls - Work on Tender documents to construct burial gardens and Columbarium Walls within the five burial grounds which are fully administered by the Council commenced.

5.4 Anti-Dumping Campaign

Each year Meath County Council undertakes a number of projects targeting known illegal dumping blackspots and/or prevention projects. In 2022 there were 8 projects completed to the value of €82,715.

5.5 National Enforcement Priorities

The National Environmental Enforcement Priorities for each year are drawn up by various organisations including the National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee, CCMA Representatives, NIECE (Network for Ireland's Environmental Compliance and Enforcement), the Department of the Environment, the EPA and the WERLA (Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities). For 2022 the following priorities were defined:

Waste Priorities:

- Waste collection – Household and Commercial – Household and Commercial Waste Segregation
- Construction and Demolition Activity -unauthorised disposal of C & D waste, Article 27 Notifications & Skip Operators
- End of Life Vehicles Directive and Metals Industry -inspection of both authorised ELV sites and unauthorised operators, storage of immobilised vehicles.
- Tackling significant illegal waste activity –illegal dumping, unauthorised operators, man in the van activities
- Multi-Agency Sites of Interest -where there are reasonable grounds to believe that there is ongoing illegal activity

Water Priorities:

We are obliged to improve or at least maintain (if good quality) Water Status in all of our waterbodies, and we do so by undertaking inspections of farms, septic tanks and other single house treatment systems, Water Framework Directive monitoring, bathing water monitoring and investigative monitoring and by enforcement of the relevant legislation. The 2022 enforcement priorities were in the following areas:

- Pressures from Agriculture (slurry/soiled water collection and storage)
- Pressures from Agriculture (slurry and fertiliser spreading)
- DWWTS /Septic Tanks
- Discharge Licences / Misconnections
- Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring

We submitted our 2022 Annual (RMCEI) report to the EPA which captured our activities in the above priority areas for 2022 and scored strong to excellent in their assessment of our application and innovative approaches.

Air Pollution Act 1987 and (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022

The Minister for the Environment Climate & Communications signed off on the new Solid Fuel Regulations which came into effect on the 31st October 2022. The primary focus of the Regulations is on improving Air Quality and improving people's health chances and outcomes by restricting the retail, online and commercial sale of Smokey fuels including Smokey coal, turf and wet wood. These fuels are proven to be a major contributor to air pollution in Ireland

Local Authorities, who will continue to be responsible for enforcement of the Regulations, have been asked to support the Departments information campaign in respect of the introduction of the Regulations and including publication of the national press release and FAQs at local level. While the Regulations do not make any changes relating to turf cutting rights, they do include prohibitions on the sale of turf via the internet or other media outlets or from premises selling food, fuel or other goods.

5.6 Climate Action

Meath County Council continued to advance the implementation of our Climate Action Strategy, 2019 – 2024 by leading, inspiring and enabling climate adaptation and mitigation actions within County Meath. These actions and initiatives will assist County Meath in achieving our legally binding targets of a reduction of 51% emissions by 2030 and net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The continued success of our climate action programme was accomplished through engagements with the Council’s Climate Action Forum, the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and various bodies at local community level and at National level. Our Internal Climate Action and Sustainable Development Goals Team led on ensuring that climate initiatives and actions including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are considered within Council projects.

A number of climate related projects and programmes were progressed or completed during 2022, these include:

- **GAA - Green Clubs/Future Leaders Programme:** The Climate Action Section assisted in the finalisation of the sustainability module for the GAA Green Clubs Programme.
- **Water Re-fill Stations:** Two water re-fill stations have been installed in Ashbourne and Trim.
- **Trim Air Quality Project:** This Project has been part funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development’s Digital Innovation Fund. Two air sensors have been installed in Trim and a dashboard is currently under development to provide real-time data from the sensors to the general public.
- **Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs):** During 2022 an additional seven SECs have received support and / or funding on their Energy Management Plans.

Collaborations and partnerships provide an opportunity to maximise effects and create interactions on the delivery of climate action at a local level. These collaborations and partnerships include Meath Sport & Sustainability Working Group – Project Long Game; Climate Change Residency Funding at Dowth and Scientific Assessment of Alternatives to Herbicide Use in the Maintenance of Amenity Public Open Spaces.



Climate Engagement

Increased awareness, communication and engagement in open dialogues on climate related issues informs positive change that builds trust and inspires cohesive actions. Engagements occurred both internally within Meath County Council and externally within communities, groups and with various stakeholders, including:

- “Reduce your Use” Campaign
- Electric Vehicle Awareness
- Energy Upgrade Testimonials
- #MyCouncilDay2022 - This year’s theme was Climate Action
- Series of workshops and briefings on Local Authority Climate Action Plans; Community Climate Action; Creative Climate Action and Adapting to Climate Change
- Social Media: Meath County Council’s Facebook, Instagram and Twitter social media platforms were utilised to communicate climate action and energy efficiency messages and information.
- Meath Energy Expo: The event was run by Meath County Council and showcased the information and advice for the public to make their homes and businesses more energy efficient. Present on the day were experts in several types of renewable technologies, showcasing products from local business within Meath and the North-East. The event was a huge success from the large volume of people (nearly 500) who attended on the day.



The Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

All the sustainable development goals have targets that are related to the daily activities of Meath County Council. The Council, as policy makers and catalysts of change are best placed to link the global goals with the local communities. The Council continued to raise awareness at a local level, advocate and implement the goals locally, whilst monitoring, evaluating and learning from our experiences. Some of the projects and programmes undertaken include:

- URBACT (Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)) With the support of URBACT, Global Goals for Cities, Meath County Council and local stakeholders developed an Action Plan to integrate the 2030 Agenda and SDGs at a local level. This Integrated Action Plan is the first locally developed plan in County Meath that links actions that are being undertaken within the community and Trim MD to the SDGs. The Integrated Action Plan contains 23 actions which aim to localize Sustainable Development Goals in Trim.
- Sustainable Development Goals - Meath County Council took part in SDG Ireland’s first Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Week from 20th-26th September 2022. Awareness of the SDGs was

promoted via media drops, children’s art competition, and the launch of the Primary Schools Sustainable Development Goals Workshops.

- Workshops on Sustainable Development Goals were delivered to 32 primary schools located in Co. Meath. The workshops focused on providing an introduction on SDGs for 4th, 5th & 6th class, facilitating an understanding on how the goals are interlinked and explaining why sustainability is important in working towards a better world.



5.7 Energy Efficiency

As a public body, Meath County Council is committed to continual improvement and reaching our 2030 public sector targets of a 50% increase in energy efficiency and 51% reduction in carbon emissions. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) mandatory monitoring and reporting for 2022 has now been completed and submitted to the SEAI for validation and verification. Meath County Council’s 2022 Energy Statement is available in the Appendices.

There was an increase of 3% on energy consumption from 2021. This can be attributed to the reopening of offices, swimming pools and libraries on a full-time basis after the Covid-19 lockdowns. The cost of energy has increased significantly due to the sharp increase in electricity costs in July 2022. Swimming pool consumption is up 7% on 2021 again attributed to the reopening of swimming pools on a full-time basis after the Covid-19 lockdowns.

Some of the projects and programmes undertaken include:

- Energy audits were completed on the Council’s significant energy users.
- Display Energy Certificates (DECs) Annual certificates for all 16 publicly accessible Council buildings.
- Energy saving initiatives implemented.
- Online software platform was introduced to collate billing data for electricity, gas, and heating oil onto one site for easy analysis.
- Mid East Energy Bureau has been established to work with Wicklow, and Kildare County Councils. This Mid East Energy Bureau will support the three local authorities to meet our 2030 Energy Efficiency and Carbon Emission Targets, to fulfil our exemplary role with respect to climate action and to accelerate the development of energy management systems within each council.

Fire and Emergency Services

6.1 Overview

Meath County Council Fire and Rescue Service cover a broad range of functions ranging from operational response to fire prevention, including:

- Fire fighting and rescue services
- Community fire safety
- Technical fire prevention
- Emergency preparedness including Major Emergency planning

Meath County Council Fire and Rescue Service is ready to respond to a range of incidents and emergencies as requested by the Eastern Regional Communications Centre through the 999/112 system. A contribution is paid annually to the Eastern Regional Control Centre for emergency call handling and mobilisation of fire service resources.

To ensure a continued efficient and effective response, our staff are continuously trained and supported to maintain competency in the wide range of skills required. Specialised equipment and fleet are essential to service provision and on-going procurement and maintenance form an important element of the annual budget provision. The requirements for maintaining emergency response incur significant costs in areas including staff training, station and fleet maintenance and communications. The challenge of staff recruitment and retention has budgetary implications especially given the significant investment to train and equip a new firefighter.

Achievements in 2022

Health and Safety

Meath County Council Fire and Rescue Service successfully renewed certification to ISO 45001 during 2022 ensuring that our Health and Safety Management System has external accreditation and is regularly assessed and audited to ensure continuous improvement.

Equipment & Training

The Fire and Rescue Service employs a broad range of specialist equipment in the delivery of its operational rescue service and there was significant investment again during 2022 in equipment and equipment maintenance. Battery operated rescue tools for use at Road Traffic Collisions were provided across all stations to enhance the response to road-based incidents, which have increased.

There was significant investment in training in 2022 including courses such as Compartment Fire Behaviour Training, Managing Fire Service Incidents, Emergency and Cardiac First Responder and Swiftwater Rescue Technician. Building up the skillset of retained firefighters is key to providing a good service and the training programme is under continuous review to meet service needs.

Fleet

Meath County Council Fire and Rescue Service maintain fire appliances in seven stations throughout the county and there is a variety of different types of vehicles in operation. The Fire and Rescue Service has a new Scania Class B firefighting appliance on order to continue the rolling upgrade of frontline fleet. A replacement Incident Command Unit is being purchased for the County. This vehicle plays a key role in managing large scale or long duration incidents including major emergencies or severe weather events. Investment in fleet continues as a priority for safe and efficient resource to assist firefighters in dealing with incidents safely and effectively. Funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is key to the sustainable progression of our fleet as an asset.

Nobber Fire Station is completely refurbished and extended to provide a safe and modern facility complete with a new appliance bay, training room, training yard and tower. This project provides what is essentially a new station on the footprint of the existing station and is huge step forward in providing an effective fire and rescue service to north Meath.

There will continue to be investment in all stations to improve welfare, training and operational facilities through the Fire Service Capital Programme and Meath County Council capital budget.

Fire Prevention and Community Fire Safety

Fire Prevention Officers deal with a wide range of Fire Safety Certificate applications for new and existing developments and carry out a range of inspections to deal with fire safety of the existing building stock and proposed developments across County Meath. Activity in the area of Fire Prevention increased during 2022 with significant new developments especially in residential construction. Inspections of sites for Dangerous Substances and Licensing of Premises rose to meet statutory requirements and increased levels of commercial activity.

The Community Smoke Alarm scheme provides funding to the local authority for long-life battery-operated smoke alarms for distribution in the community and Home Fire Safety Checks by firefighters recommenced in 2022 to enhance fire prevention in the home, where most fire deaths occur. Open days of fire stations took place during the year which facilitate interactions between the fire service and community, outside of an emergency.



Firefighters pictured whilst undertaking Compartment Fire Behaviour Training



Firefighters pictured whilst undertaking Water Awareness Training on the River Boyne.

6.2 Civil Defence

Currently Meath Civil Defence has a strong volunteer base of 200 volunteers. These volunteers are trained to respond when required to assist the Principal Response Agencies under 5 main disciplines:

1. Emergency Response
2. Search and Rescue
3. Medical Response
4. Community Assistance
5. Radiation Monitoring Service

Training in all these areas is delivered at Meath Civil Defence HQ, Moat View House in Navan and across the county at our 7 additional community-based units, located in Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin, Duleek, Trim, Kells, and Oldcastle.

With the reduction in Covid-19 restrictions, a busy training schedule was planned for our volunteers during 2022 and this included the training of 12 new emergency medical technicians to support our Medical Response crews. September and November saw the recruitment of 25 new volunteers into the organisation and these volunteers have completed their induction training and are now active in their community.

The scheduled training programme was disrupted in March as the volunteers of Meath Civil Defence once again stood up to support the displaced people of Ukraine. Moat View House was converted into an emergency rest centre, with volunteers providing support, transport services, medical assistance, and catering to the residents from March until the end of July.

A total of 216 operational duties were undertaken by volunteers. These varied from Community events, Covid-19 assistance, Music Festivals and Search and Rescue call outs.

On the 29th of November, in Croke Park, Minister Simon Coveney T.D. presented volunteers with a special medal to honour all members of Civil Defence nationally who assisted during the Covid-19 Pandemic. A representation of 24 Meath Civil Defence volunteers attended the event.

A presentation evening was held in Buvinda House, in December, where Covid-19 Medals were presented to volunteers who were unable to attend the event in Croke Park. Certificates of Training and Long Service medals were also issued during this event in the presence of Leas-Chathaoirleach Cllr. Mike Bray and Director of Service Mr. Dara McGowan.

In July, Volunteer David Treanor was appointed to the position of Assistant Civil Defence Officer.

The Civil Defence Branch provided funding to procure a new Ford Ranger to strengthen our ability to assist the front-line services, particularly during times of severe weather. Additional funding was also provided to allow for the procurement of and fitting out of a vehicle to be utilised by our new search K9 dog and handler who began their specialised training in October.



Civil Defence pictured helping out at Darkness Into Light 2022



Civil Defence pictured working at a music event at Navan Racecourse 2022



Meath Civil Defence Rest Centre 2022



Meath Civil Defence Volunteers at the Croke Park Covid 19 Medal Presentation 2022

Community

7.1 Overview

Local Authorities have a strengthened role in local and community development with the focus on promoting the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities.

7.2 Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The function of the LCDC is to implement the Local Economic Community Plan, to co-ordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of local and community programmes on behalf of the Government Departments e.g. SICAP, LEADER Healthy Ireland scheme and the Community Enhancement Programmes.

Minister Joe O'Brien visited Navan in February and met with some agencies involved in working on projects promoting social inclusion in disadvantaged areas. The Windtown Bus Initiative was one such project. It was set up 5 years ago to bring young people from the Windtown area of Navan to Beaufort College secondary school. The initiative was set up to break the cycle of disadvantage by keeping young people in education. The scheme has been a huge success with young people remaining in school with minimal absenteeism.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021

The LCDC is currently preparing a new six-year statutory Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028. The preparation of the Plan went out to tender over the summer months and consultants were appointed in August. The plan is set to be finalised by Q2 of 2023. This plan serves as the primary strategy guiding development in County Meath and targeting resources under the direct management of the LCDC. Any funding applications for proposed projects must also be consistent with the objectives of the plan.

7.3 Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 - 2022

The SICAP Programme which is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development aims to reduce poverty, promote social inclusion and equality through local engagement and collaboration. The current SICAP programme was extended by 12 months to December 31, 2023. In June 2022, an additional sum of €144,235 was allocated to the SICAP Programme for Ukrainian supports. Meath Partnership, who was awarded the contract, continues to deliver the programme on behalf of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

The Meath Wellness Hub, which links with the current SICAP programme in Co. Meath, has been established through funding provided from the Dormant Accounts scheme. The Wellness Hub helps to support individuals on their road to mental health recovery by helping them to manage stress, promote resilience, increase self-esteem while connecting them to peers and social networks within their communities. It is currently proving to be a very successful programme.

7.4 LEADER Programme 2014-2022

The LCDC and Local Authority are responsible for monitoring/overseeing the delivery of the LEADER programme. Projects funded under the transitional LEADER programme 2014-2022 were approved by December 2022 and are due to be completed by December 2023.

By the end of 2022, 100% of the Transitional LEADER budget was committed

80% of the claims had been drawn down by the end of 2022. The European Commission approved Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan, 2023-2027. The CAP Strategic Plan includes the LEADER programme, which has a budget of €180 million for the years 2023 to 2027.

7.5 Public Participation Network (PPN)

The PPN re-registration process took place and Meath PPN group registrations continue to rise. These groups received regular updates on funding and grants, consultations and events through e-bulletins, social media and the website. Continuing with implementing the structures to comply with the new handbook, following a plenary meeting in April, a workplan was formed to develop governance codes, terms of reference and re-establish linkage groups and feedback methods from SPCs and Committees to PPN members. This commenced with a new Resource Worker in June, and the election of a new secretariat in October. Following the secretariat's induction and training, they are working on developing the necessary governance documents for presentation and adoption. At the end of 2022, there were 447 groups registered.

7.6 Meath Age Friendly Initiative

The Alliance met in person quarterly in 2022 following two years of virtual meetings. Preparation and progress on a new draft Age Friendly Meath strategy has been finalised and is due to launch in 2023.

In May 2022, the National Convention of Older People's Councils (NNOPC) was held in the Knightsbrook Hotel in Trim, with the theme of "Live Well, Be Well" and supported a strong focus on health and wellbeing. This event was attended by representatives from OPCs nationally.

On a more local level, the Meath OPC event was held in the Ardboyne Hotel in Navan in November. This was a recruitment event for the wider OPC membership and an opportunity for connections to be made between groups within Meath.

7.7 Comhairle na nÓg

Youth Work Ireland Meath continue to facilitate Meath Comhairle na nÓg on behalf of Meath County Council by way of a Service Level Agreement which remains in place until 31st December 2023. At their AGM last October, the new Comhairle chose drugs mis-use and mental health as their topics to work on over the next two years. Comhairle na nÓg members address the full Council Meeting annually. They attend the National Showcase for Comhairlí, Dáil na nÓg and they continue to participate in consultations, ensuring the youth voice is heard.

7.8 Other Committees

Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

The JPCs function inter alia is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendation on matters affecting the policing of the Local Authority administrative area. The JPC and sub-committees met quarterly in 2022.

Unity Centre, Windtown, Navan

The Unity Centre provides a space for community activities as well as training and leisure activities and hosts several organisations and bookings including the preschool and several self-help groups, youth clubs and community groups.

7.9 Meath Local Sports Partnership

The Council continues its support for the local Sports Partnership, which works in partnership with the main sporting bodies. In parallel, the Council supports the engagement of development officers for soccer, GAA, LGFA & Rugby along with a contribution to Basketball Ireland.

7.10 Pride of Place initiative/Schools Pride of Place Gardening Scheme

The aim of Pride of Place is to work in partnership with communities, to encourage best practice, innovation and leadership in providing vibrant sustainable communities that improve the quality of life for all. We will continue to support the Pride of Place awards.

7.11 Yellow Flag Programme

The Community section has collaborated and secured a place for Scoil Mhuire, Navan under this 2- year programme which commenced in September 2022. The programme works with the students, teachers and parents to build intercultural understanding, fostering connections with members of the local travelling community and migrants and develop integration initiatives to ensure the school becomes a yellow flag school at the end of the programme.

7.12 Healthy Ireland Fund Scheme 2022-2025

Round 4 of the Healthy Ireland fund commenced in June 2022 and an allocation of €40,000 was provided for the period from June 2022 to December 2022. This allocation of funding has been used to help fund various projects under the Healthy Ireland themes including the Outcomers LGBT Flags Initiative, the Special Hands Summer Camp, St Ciarans Community School Breakfast Club and the Libraries Books for Dyslexia Project. A new Healthy Ireland Coordinator for Meath commenced in August 2022 and planning is underway to develop a local strategy for the Healthy Ireland fund allocation (€155,000) from 2023 to 2025 for County Meath.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

Six projects were approved under ORIS in 2022 with €446,800 allocated to Meath

Measure	Project Ref	Project Name	Funding Approved
1	OR122MH01	Changing Shelters for Swimmers	€30,000
PD	OR422MH01	Lough Bracken Enhancement	€43,911
PD	OR422MH02	Lloyd Baseline Land Assessment	€14,490
2	OR222MH01	Kilmainham Whitewood Lough Link	€200,000
2	OR222MH02	Hazel and Holly Trail Upgrade	€93,600
2	OR222MH03	Kilberry Looped Walking Trail	€64,800

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

The Town and Village scheme 2022 was announced with the priorities for the year identified as:

- Priority A1 - vacant/derelict buildings
- Priority A2 - Regeneration projects
- Priority B - support the upgrade and enhancement of existing assets.

Three projects were approved for funding by the Department under the main scheme.

Project Reference:	Town or Village	Funding Amount Approved
TV22MH02	Drumconrath	€70,200
TV22MH06	Kilcloon	€250,000
TV22MH03	Longwood	€150,000

Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022

The aim of this scheme is to improve the visual appearance of the urban streetscape, making them attractive to live, work and do business in. The criteria changed for 2022 and the measure will support a project proposal for one town/village with a population up to 15k. Trim town has been nominated in Meath as the town to receive funding which can be used to improve the facades of buildings, carry out artwork or install features such as street furniture or canopies.

CLÁR

Nine projects were submitted and approved under CLÁR Measure 1 2022, with an overall funding allocation to Meath for €343,868. The project breakdowns are as per the table below:

Project Reference:	Project Name:	Funding Amount Allocated:
C122MH01	St. Fiachs National School	€50,000.00 - DECOMMITTED
C122MH02	Kilskyre Parish Hall Committee	€34,728.00
C122MH03	Newcastle Community Hall	€39,870.00
C122MH04	Ballinlough GFC	€36,600.00
C122MH05	Moylagh GAA Club	€50,000.00
C122MH06	St. Brigids GFC	€45,000.00
C122MH07	Maoui Well Restoration Project	€15,170.00
C122MH08	Killallon Cemetry	€22,500.00
C122MH09	Castlekieran Graveyard Preservation Committee	€50,000.00



St. Brigids GFC – pictured before works



St. Brigids GFC – pictured after works

Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme

3 projects were approved for funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development as follows:

- Dunshaughlin Community Centre €20,000;
- Sonairte €7,725;
- South Meath Social Enterprise €2,310.

Disability Participation and Awareness Fund

Funding was approved for 2 projects by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

- Balrath FC Accessibility to All was awarded €52,000
- Social Farming Meath was awarded €22,000

Broadband

15 Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) were operational during 2022. Several programmes to develop digital skills were delivered across several of the sites including Vodafone's Hi Digital programme for older persons, TikTok4Teens, and an Irish Film Institute Screening of Irish Oscar nominated short films.

The Connected Hubs Portal was launched and includes two BCPs in Kilskyre and Cormeen. Other community sites; Deerpark Community Hub and Athboy Community Hub are also utilising the platform for taking bookings. The WIFI4EU network continues to see high levels of utilisation with an average of 2106 clients per day across the access points in Kells, Navan, Dunshaughlin, Dunboyne, Ratoath, Ashbourne, Trim and Oldcastle.

Work to deliver Fibre broadband to every premises in the County commenced with National Broadband Ireland commencing work in the Drogheda Deployment Area delivering fibre to 2,739 homes in east Meath. This service will be ready for residents and businesses in the intervention area by June 2023.

The Council processed 401 licences for underground roadworks and granted s.254 licences for the installation of 418 Poles and 976 km of cable on poles across the 6 Municipalities in 2022.

Access Officer

The Access Officer is responsible for providing or arranging assistance for persons with disabilities who wish to access the services or information provided by Meath County Council. The main event held during the year was "Make Way Day" on 30th September which is a National Public Awareness Campaign to aimed at highlighting any challenges people with disabilities face getting around their local communities.

Joint Migrant Strategy 2019-2022

The Joint Migrant Integration Forum met quarterly in 2022 and held 3 of their 4 meetings in person. Progress on the delivery of actions in the strategy was discussed and it was noted that there is substantial work being carried out by the various agencies on the forum. Meath secured funding from the Integration Fund over 3 years under the DCEDIY. Year 2 of the fund has been used to secure a facilitator to assist and develop the forum in their roles, to deliver more sessions of diversity training to staff and roll out interculturalism events, through the library, to Mosney, Polish and Russian schools and through the resettlement of refugees programme.

Community Response Forum

The response forum that was in place during the pandemic has now been mobilised and is being co-ordinated by the Community Section to assist with the needs of Ukrainian families entering the county. It continues to meet on a regular basis to ensure there is a co-ordinated response to assist with the needs of Ukrainian families.

Age Friendly Ireland

8.1 Age Friendly Ireland - Local Government Shared Service

Age Friendly Ireland operates as a shared service of local government, hosted by Meath County Council. The shared service manages the national Age Friendly Programme which is affiliated to the World Health Organisation's global programme for Age Friendly Cities & Communities. The international context for this work is to support society to prepare for population ageing and to future proof communities and services for the increasing numbers of older people in the community.

The shared service supports a national network of 31 local authority-based Age Friendly Programmes around the country. These operate under multi-agency Alliances involving partners in the public sector, business community, and voluntary sector and work in partnership with older citizens through Older People's Council structures. Across the country there were over 4,000 members of Older People's Councils in 2022, with almost 400 actively participating on Older People's Council Executive Committees.

Significant developments during 2022 included:

- Extensive delivery of training to a variety of bodies to support them to deliver Age Friendly Services including training in Age Friendly Communication, Age Friendly Libraries, Age Friendly Business and Age Friendly Housing & Public Realm. The latter training is delivered as a Continuing Professional Development [CPD] module accredited by Engineers Ireland and the Royal Institute of Architects Ireland.
- Launch of a legacy document with the Health Service Executive in Farmleigh in March 2022 which documented an array of health and wellbeing initiatives delivered for older people throughout the pandemic and made recommendations for priorities to sustain initiatives based on feedback from older people.
- Awarding of Age Friendly status to Croke Park Stadium and World Health Organization recognition for Croke Park as the first Age Friendly Stadium in the world.
- Awarding of Age Friendly status simultaneously to two Irish airports (Shannon and Ireland West Airport Knock) following an extensive process by the airports to develop their facilities as Age Friendly. The World Health Organization has also acknowledged they are a world first for Age Friendly Airports.
- Launch of Athy Primary Care Centre in County Kildare as one of the first Age Friendly PCCs in Ireland which completed the WHO four stage process for age friendly recognition.
- Recognition event for MacDonagh Train Station in County Kilkenny to acknowledge it as the First Age friendly Station in Ireland.
- Age Friendly Recognition for Beyond the Trees Avondale as the first Age Friendly Tourist Destination, following a programme of work with Coillte and Wicklow County Council.

Staffing and Structures

In 2022, the regional development roles were recruited on a permanent basis (following a pilot phase). There was a total of 28 staff in the shared service in 2022 including in management, communications, administration, regional development, research, and the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme. In addition to the core shared service staff, two Principal Advisors (for Housing & Public Realm training and the Age Friendly Business Programme) support the service on a contractual basis.

The shared service manages national networks including the National Network of Older People's Councils, the National Network of Programme Managers, the National Network of Chairs of Alliances, the National Network of Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisors and the Age Friendly NGO Forum. The National Advisory Group membership expanded during the year with the nomination of a representative from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Across the country, 31 Age Friendly Programme Managers and 31 Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisors are assigned within local authorities to work on the programme in their local areas.

The regional managers play an important role in supporting the development of local programmes in their region. In 2022, they devised a new training programme for Older People's Council members to ensure that all structures are aligned with the operational guidelines.

National Convention

Age Friendly Ireland commenced an international webinar series in November 2021, with eight thematic. The National Convention of Older People's Councils took place in May in Trim, County Meath, hosted by the Meath Age Friendly Programme and Meath County Council. This represented a welcome return to in-person events for Older People's Councils which had been suspended during the pandemic. The previous national convention was held in Donegal in 2019. The theme for the 2022 convention was 'Live Well, Be Well' and it featured workshops on nutrition, sustainable living, climate action and other areas, as well as talks and information stands by Assistive Technology companies. The revised operational guidelines for Older People's Councils were launched at the convention by Minister Mary Butler. One of the foremost messages from the convention was articulated by older people who expressed a strong desire to age in place in their own homes and for the necessary supports to facilitate this.

Programme Outputs

Local programmes reported the following outputs for 2022:

- 17 local authorities have established interdepartmental teams
- 14 programmes provided digital devices to older people
- 18 programmes ran intergenerational activities during the year
- 22 walkability audits were carried out in 2022
- Approximately 70 Age Friendly Towns (at various stages of development)
- 341 Age Friendly car parking spaces with further spaces planned

National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards

The National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards took place on 27th October in Dromoland Castle. These awards showcase and recognise a wide range of innovative initiatives that support older people and prepare for an ageing society. An Garda Síochána won the judges' special award in recognition of the supports they provided to older people during the Covid emergency.



Chief Executive Jackie Maguire, Minister Peter Burke, Chief Executive of Clare County Council Pat Dowling, Maurice Harvey Chair of Clare Older People’s Council and Minister Frank Feighan at the Age Friendly National Recognition and Achievement Awards 2022 held in Dromoland Castle, County Clare on 27th October.



Representatives of Wicklow County Council, Coillte, Age Friendly Ireland, EAK Ireland, Failte Ireland with Minister Mary Butler and the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council at the Age Friendly Recognition Ceremony for Beyond the Tress Avondale, Ireland’s first Age Friendly Tourist Destination.



Age Friendly Ireland’s Ambassadors joined Dr. Thiago Hérick de Sá, Age Friendly Environments, World Health Organisation, Larry McCarthy, President of the GAA, Kitty Hughes, Chairperson of the National Network of Older People’s Councils, Catherine McGuigan, Chief Officer of Age Friendly Ireland, Pat Dowling, Chief Executive of Clare County Council, Peter McKenna, Croke Park Stadium Director at the Age Friendly Recognition Ceremony for Croke Park, Ireland’s first Age Friendly Stadium. MC for the day was Irish Sports Commentator Marty Morrissey, also included in the photo.

Communications

Age Friendly Ireland publishes a weekly newsletter, with information relevant to older people and Age Friendly programme staff. The shared service maintains two websites www.agefriendlyireland.ie and www.agefriendlyhomes.ie and manages various social media platforms to engage with older people and practitioners and stakeholders. A variety of new resources were published during the year including guidelines for an Age Friendly Stadium, Age Friendly Train Station, Age Friendly Airport, Age Friendly Tourist Destination, the Health and Wellbeing legacy document and a toolkit for developing Age Friendly Strategies.

International Engagement

Ireland is recognised by the World Health Organization as the first Age Friendly Country in the world, having full affiliation to their global programme across all administrative areas. In this leading role, the shared service provides support to others countries who are developing age friendly programmes. In 2022, staff engaged with Sweden, Canada, Emirates, and Australia. Age Friendly Ireland worked closely with the Centre for Ageing and Brain Health in Canada to conclude a series of virtual Town Halls with older people in Canada and Ireland and presented on the Irish programme as the International Federation on Ageing Conference in Canada.

Also, during 2022, Age Friendly Ireland completed its international webinar series, with the remaining webinars focusing on communications and information, social participation, employment and civic participation, respect and social inclusion, outdoor space and buildings, and transport. All webinars were broadcast from the Solstice Arts Venue in Navan.

Research and Policy

A Research Officer is jointly employed under a partnership arrangement between AFI and Maynooth University. During 2022 the Research Office was involved in a number of studies including a survey to document current and capital spend on Age Friendly services in local authorities. She developed a series of case studies on Age Friendly Housing with examples from all local authority areas. AFI worked closely with South Dublin County Council, Trinity College, Tallaght University Hospital and others to examine how housing conditions impact on the delivery of Integrated Care for older people. Research commenced on fuel poverty among older people in the Midlands region.

Various submissions were made to government departments to inform policy development, including Housing for All, the stakeholder consultation for the development of a rightsizing policy and the strategic workforce advisory group in relation to home care. AFI supported research by the WHO which mapped connections between global affiliates.

8.2 Healthy Age Friendly Homes

The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme continued to deliver AFI's support co-ordination service during 2022 with nine local co-ordinators working in host local authorities under the first phase of this new programme. This is a Sláintecare funded service that aims to help older people to remain living at home for longer. Co-ordinators undertake an assessment of the home environment aligned to four main areas of support: housing, community supports, health needs and digital supports. Phase 1 of the programme is being evaluated by Maynooth University. The research seeks to understand the benefit of the programme in terms of quality of life and capacity to manage at home.

The interim report on Phase 1 was published in June 2022 and showed that, as of March 2022, the programme had 1,175 referrals; 757 assessments had been carried out; and 2,162 supports were provided to older people.

At the end of the year major funding of €5.2 million was announced in the budget to secure the continuation of the programme and move it to Phase 2 which will involve national scale up to all local authority areas.

8.3 Age Friendly Business

The Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme is one of the core areas of work of the shared service. This programme is aimed at upskilling the business community to future proof their service for population ageing. Businesses are encouraged to consult with their older customers and commit to making changes in the business to ensure it is Age Friendly. During 2022, the Principal Advisor focused on supporting local Programme Managers to deliver the programme and took a regional approach to ensure uptake across all areas. At national level, she worked with large scale businesses and service providers including the Money Advice and Budgeting Service and worked with the advertising industry to raise awareness of ageism in the depiction of older people in advertising.

8.4 Creative Regional Initiatives

During the year six bespoke regional creative initiatives for older people were delivered by Age Friendly Ireland with funding from the Creative Ireland Programme. Each initiative was co-designed with older people based on consultation sessions organised in early 2022 and delivered with the support of creative partners. The six initiatives were co-ordinated by Age Friendly Ireland's regional programme managers in their respective regions:

NORTH	Poetry and straw workshops and a modern day pageant exploring the history and culture associated with St Brigid in preparation for the new bank holiday St Brigid's Day. (47 older people)
WEST	A Travelling Roadshow of music and songwriting sessions led by a professional musician that engaged older people in songwriting and exploration of proverbs. (215 participants)
SOUTH EAST	A creative response to place, exploring older people's sense of belonging and experiences of their riverine and coastal community. (87 participants)
EAST	A series of large scale outdoor creative events linked to public/heritage parks that offered taster programmes of creative activity. (560 participants)
DUBLIN CITY	A train the trainer céilí dance initiative that upskilled older people in adapted céilí dancing who in turn acted as 'dance leaders' in their own local area to pass on these skills. (30 participants)
MIDLANDS	A music teaching residency across a range of instruments targeting older people who were lapsed musicians and wished to return to playing an instrument. (62 participants)

The evaluation of the initiatives indicated that they impacted on health and well being of participants, including increased physical activity (33%), increasing social connections (85%) and increased feelings of happiness (58%) confidence (62%).

8.5 Partnerships

Age Friendly Ireland works closely with partners such as the HSE's Dementia: Understand Together Campaign, Safeguarding Ireland, the Road Safety Authority and multiple state agencies. A networking event with NGO groups took place in September, creating linkages between local Age Friendly Programmes and national NGOs working in ageing sector. A networking session took place with the HSE CHO 1 in May 2022 for the purposes of building relationships and exploring opportunities for collaboration through local Age Friendly Programmes in the region. AFI continued work with the Climate Action Regional Offices [CAROs] to develop further training for older people.

Library Services

9.1 Library Service – Achievements 2022

In addition to delivering the core public lending, reference, IT, study, local studies, and schools service library staff across the branch network also.

- Secured funding from the DRCD Capital Grants for the development of a ‘My Open Library’ facility in Ashbourne.
- Progressed the design of the new Trim Library and Cultural Centre.
- Progressed the design of the new Bettystown Library and Community Facility.
- Progressed the design of the new County Archive building.
- Secured funding under the Dormant Accounts Funding 2022 to develop projects on Traveller culture and LGBTQI+ awareness. Funding was also secured for additional Sensory equipment and fit-out for Oldcastle library.
- Secured multi-annual funding to deliver library led initiatives under the National Integration programme. Funding was secured with the support of the Community Department.
- Secured funding from the national Healthy Ireland programme to provide designated Healthy Reading areas in several branches.
- Secured funding from the Heritage Council to purchase a specialised book scanner for the county archive.
- Secured funding from the LGMA for the digitisation of a pilot tranche of **Meath County Council Minute Books** relating to the decade of centenaries.
- Secured funding from Creative Ireland for the conservation of the **Clayton Woollen Mills**, Navan, archive collection.
- Implemented the ‘**Toys, Technology and Training**’ initiative funded in 2021.
- Introduced the first **STEAM backpack lending scheme** in Ireland.
- Supported staff and public in the migration to *Spydus* the new national library IT management system.
- Delivered the 2022 annual plan for **Creative Ireland** in partnership with national, local and community stakeholders. Delivered the Meath County Council Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-27 in partnership with relevant stakeholders.
- Continued the very successful library led **Writer-in Residence** programme with Manchán Magan’s residency, supported by Creative Ireland.
- Devised and delivered annual **Cruinniú na nÓg** programme of events at Ashbourne Library in partnership with national, local and community stakeholders.
- Decade of Centenaries – published ‘*Unsettled Territory*’ in partnership with Meath Archaeological & Historical Society.
- Published ‘*Curraghtown: July 2022*’ to promote our understanding of events during the Civil War in Meath.



Pictured are those attending the lunch of 'Curraghtown: July 1922' on the centenary of the Battle of Curraghtown.



Councillor Nick Killian, Cathaoirleach, Meath County Council, and Councillor Edward Fennessy, Mayor of Navan Municipal District pictured with Jackie Maguire, Chief Executive, in Blackwater Park at the launch of the 'Scéal Trail' /Storyboards initiative for children and young families in Blackwater Park, Navan.

- Managed the delivery of the annual 'Decade of Centenaries' programme through the wider culture team.
- Secured by donation the personal libraries of noted Meath historians, Fr. Gerry Rice, and Professor George Eogan.
- Delivered a range of events under the **Healthy Ireland @Your Library** initiative and supported the programming of the local authority Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator.
- The annual '**Children's Book Festival**' in October was delivered in hybrid format in 2022, welcoming schools back to branches but also allowing access to national and international authors via Zoom and pre-recorded events.
- 1,917 children participated in the annual **Summer Reading Challenge** and a very vibrant **Summer Programme** heralded the return of normal lending patterns after the pandemic.
- Delivered the '**Little Library Book Bag**' initiative to all 4–5-year-old children in the county.

- As part of the ‘**Little Library Book Bag**’ initiative, the service engaged a **Writer-in-Residence**, for the **Early Years** sector, Tatyana Feeney,
- Co-funded book stock and supplied shelving for **Community Library in Mosney** Accommodation Centre through the National Integration Fund and the library funded Right to Read programme.
- Piloted the ‘**Scéal Trail**’ /**Storyboards** initiative for children and young families in Blackwater Park as part of the Right to Read programme. ‘Socks for Mr. Wolf’ by Tatyana Feeney and published by the O’Brien Press is the featured story and it will be ‘trailed’ in a loop across Blackwater Park.
- Delivered local programming for the **Ireland Reads** campaign.
- Delivered targeted **Dyslexia** resources direct to primary schools in partnership with the Community Department.
- Supported the **Ukrainian community** through the introduction of Ukrainian and Russian language material in both hard-copy and soft-formats. DAF funding was received to introduce and extend access to the leading literacy resources **TTRS and LOTE** (Languages other than English), which are now available online via the library service.
- Delivered programming for ‘**Science Week**’.
- Delivered programming for **Seachtain na Gaeilge** and re-introduced **Gaeltacht Scholarship Schemes** in association with Irish Language Officer.
- Celebrated **Culture Night** with a wide range of activities in Dunshaughlin library.
- Continued work on **media literacy** with The Glass Room Misinformation outdoor exhibition at Enfield Community & Enterprise Hub, indoors at Navan Library and online.



A sod turning ceremony to mark the start of the works on Bettystown Library and Community Building took place led by the Minister of State at the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for Rural and Community Development, Thomas Byrne TD and supported by Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Councillor Nick Killian, Cathaoirleach of Laytown/Bettystown MD, Cllr. Wayne Harding, and Chief Executive, Jackie Maguire.

Arts Office

10.1 Overview

The Meath County Council Arts mission statement as per the County Arts Development Plan 2019 – 2024 is:

To work closely with artists, individuals and communities to increase access to, awareness of and participation in the arts across all disciplines and sectors of society. To act as a facilitator for arts organisations and play a major role in the development of good practice for the county. To provide opportunities across disciplines intended to support the Local Authority policy of supporting quality artistic endeavour, provision of employment opportunities for artists and long-term sustainability and durability for the arts in the county.

In implementing key aims and objectives as per the County Arts Development Plan, the Arts Office continues to adapt and respond to the circumstances presented by Covid 19. It adopted a proactive approach in reimagining the 2022 Arts programme and engaged with creative partners, artists, groups, organisations and the greater creative community. It has also engaged with the Dept Tourism Culture Arts Gaeltacht Sports and Media the Arts Council and Creative Ireland in Covid Recovery development.

10.2 Achievements in 2022

The challenges presented by covid, and recovery continued in 2022. The Meath Artists Meet Up Network (MAMU), now with a membership of 100+ professional artists, proved an invaluable way for us to connect, engage and be informed by artists of their issues & needs. Informed by this we:

- Continued to provide 1-1 mentoring and CPD exchanges via phone or Zoom.
- Issued a quarterly MAMU Newsletter with monthly opportunities updates.
- Expanded the Associate Artist and small commissions/in development programme.
- Expanded the nature and range of Arts Awards and Bursaries
- Delivered the Centre Cultural Irlandais Partnership Residency Award
- Participated in Platform 31, a nationwide collaborative initiative between the Arts Council and the Association of Local Authority Arts Officers which is intended to support one artist from each local authority in the development of their artistic practice through the provision of funding and a professional network.

Over 100 arts groups, community organisations, schools and artists have been supported under the 2022 Arts Grants Awards & Bursaries Schemes.

A further suite of artists commission and performance (live & recorded) supports were also introduced with the objective of supporting artists in the creation and presentation of work whilst continuing to engage with our creative communities & audiences. These included:

- Toradh Gallery 1 & 2 exhibition programme
- Last Call – music and film series
- All Rise film series

Culture Night was expanded in Meath with a new Culture Night Funding stream being introduced. Twelve in person events took place at various locations across the county. This was complemented by an online programme featuring the Meath Dresser community Arts Project with Michael Fortune of Folklore.ie and which has to date received 30,000 views.



Colmcille Illuminations, Kells

Implementation of the DTCAGSM Local Live Performance Programming Scheme in Meath

Representing significant investment in and support of the professional arts performance and production sector in Meath, LLPPS 3 & 4 enabled the employment of 200+ artists, creatives and production crew providing 700+ employment days to the sector. Under this scheme the following were delivered.

- An Old Song Half Remembered – Dunderry Park House featuring Brian Murray & Mathew Malone.
- Bookmarket Café unplugged music series
- Fishamble production of Outrage by Deirdre Kinahan
- Last Call – live concert, film series and visual arts exhibition.
- Meath Beo 1 & 2
- Hinterland Percy French event
- Kila
- Meath artists stage @ Another Love Story Festival
- Michael Brunnock Decade of Centenaries Concert
- Songs from a Room music event and film Courthouse, Kells
- In the Middle of The Fields – music and theatre event Dunderry Park House
- Celtic Circus at Púca Festival
- All Rise 2 featuring Damien Dempsey with local Meath artists.

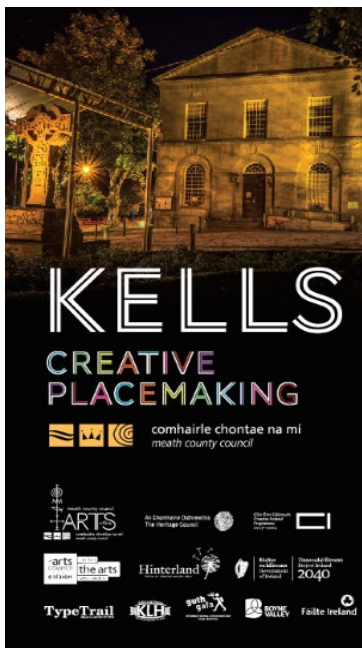
All of the above initiatives were intended to provide a means of supporting those artists and creatives in cultural economies covid recovery, whilst providing greater access to the wider community to quality creative and cultural experiences. All the artists under the initiatives above were paid a fee for their work or for rights to broadcast.



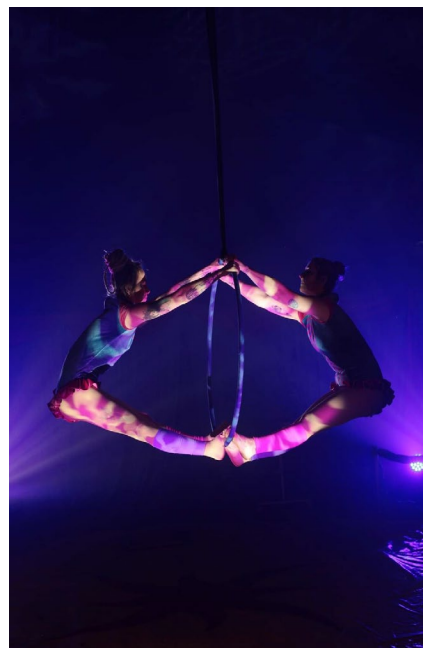
Bernadette Nic Gabhann & Brenda Castles performing on the 'Meath Arts Stage in the Woods'.

Kells Creative Placemaking

- Kells selected as one of 8 Dept. Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media national pilot Creative Economies programmes with specific funding support being provided by Creative Ireland towards development activities.
- Arts and Heritage Officers invited to present Kells Creative Placemaking at the Arts Council Places Matter conference, Carlow March 2022
- Hinterland Festival successfully took place June with events taking place across multiple venues.
- Type Trail Festival took place June - Sept. showcasing the work of 30 artists across 21 internal & external sites.
- Samhain Food Festival Symposium with several events supported by Arts Office and hosted at the Courthouse, Kells.



Kells Creative Placemaking



Artists pictured performing at the Samhain Festival



Tea and Chats and Tunes

Connecting Nursing Home Residents in County Meath & their Families at Home or Abroad

Tea, Chats and Tunes continued in 2022 as a project partnership between Meath County Council Arts Office & Music & Health Ireland, supported by funding from Meath County Council and Creative Ireland and delivered through healthcare partners in County Meath.

Tea, Chats and Tunes was developed in response to the need to find new ways of connecting some of the most vulnerable members of our communities isolating in Nursing Homes with their families at home or abroad through an opportunity to engage in a live cultural experience in a safe way.

Through the support of technology, a virtual zoom room supports families to connect-in with their loved ones in a meaningful way, regardless of where they are located. Music, conversation, and memories were shared while offering an opportunity for new ones to be made through a specifically designed framework that supports person-centred music engagement.

This project was delivered by Music & Health Ireland in nursing homes across the county.

10.3 Children and Young Person's Community Programmes

- Strategic development partnership with Droichead Arts Centre whose recent Strategy Document considers East Meath as part of their catchment area continued. Projects included Leanbh Festival, Back in The Grove programme & the Colaiste na hInse Clós Arts Festival. It also enabled further work & research into the establishment of a youth theatre at the Mosney direct provision centre.
- **Act Out Youth Theatre** continues to flourish and expand under the expert directorship of Anthony Kinahan and has delivered an exciting blend of online & in-person projects.
- **Cruinniú na nÓg 2022** Delivered in partnership with County Library Services.
- **MAO/ Kid's Classics** commission of filmed interactive fun 'sing-a-longs' for younger children. These included Irish language, ISL and captioned recordings.
- **Music Generation Meath** Ongoing liaison with Music Generation Meath which continues to go from strength to strength.
- **Sightless Cinema project** continued in partnership with White Cane Audio Theatre, Solstice Arts Centre & NCBI Navan.
- **Creative Ireland** Continued implementation of the Creative Ireland Meath Five Year Strategy in collaboration with Cultural Services Team and the development of a new five-year strategy.

LEO and Economic Development

11.1 LEO highlights 2021

The LEO Meath continues to support businesses across the county.

The primary supports offered are direct grants to client companies to support their development and growth as well as training courses and programmes to assist with Enterprise Development. Almost €400,000 in direct grants were allocated to local businesses throughout the year, continuing to support over 250 local companies, employing over 1400 people. Hundreds of companies and individual business owners across the county availed of training and mentoring services provided by the Local Enterprise Office.

A number of focused programmes were heavily promoted during the year to assist companies in specific areas – productivity, green transformation, digitalisation and exporting.

For productivity improvements the Agile Innovation Fund allows companies to continue to thrive and stay ahead of the competition through innovation. It allows local businesses to access up to 50% in support for product, process or service development projects with a total cost of up to €300,000 - with fast track approval.

Green for Micro is a FREE programme that helps small businesses take the first step towards becoming more sustainable, giving access to a green consultant who'll show how small changes can have a big impact on a company.

The Digital Start programme focuses on maximising every advantage - and implementing a digital strategy can give businesses a real edge. Digital Start is a pilot initiative from the Local Enterprise Office designed to give clients that digital edge - from optimising processes to delivering a seamless digital customer experience, the aim is to help businesses prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across the business.

The Trading On-Line Voucher scheme continues to be very popular with local businesses – this grant allows companies to enhance their on-line presence and begin trading on-line.

The cross-border Innovate/Accelerate programme continues to support companies who are looking to export for the first time or to overcome difficulties because of Brexit.

The LEO supported business networks continue to thrive across the County. Boyne Valley Flavours brings together passionate farmers, food and drink producers, chefs, eateries and accommodation providers to build their businesses and promote the wonderful products and services across the region.

The Meath Women in Business & Technology Network fosters and encourages women in County Meath to grow in enterprise, entrepreneurship or self-employment and to share their experiences. The initiative seeks to bring business women together, whether they own their own company or play a leading role in one. In today's ever changing business environment, the network will focus on the shift in e-commerce strategies, the role of technology in remote working, managing virtual teams and the importance of technology in making connections and supporting communications.

Statistics for LEO for 2022

No. of jobs created with assistance of LEO	22
No. of Clients who availed of mentoring services	215
No. of Trading on Line Vouchers approved	57
TOV Grant Amount approved	€103,658

11.2 Economic Development 2022

Meath County Council continued to provide support for the implementation of the Boyne Valley Food Strategy, in conjunction with Louth County Council. A feasibility study was completed for a Centre of Food Culture in the Boyne Valley.

The Economic Development team continued to support the wider business community in Co. Meath via the Shopfront Improvement Scheme, with many businesses in Navan, Trim and Kells availing of the scheme in 2022.

There was active engagement during the year with County Meath Chamber including continued support and sponsorship of Mi Meath Card, the Apprentice Expo 2022 and the Careers Expo 2022.

The county achieved success via engagement with Retail Excellence Ireland, with Ashbourne and Moynalty both reaching the Top 5 of "Ireland's Friendliest Place 2022".

As we continued the return to in- person festivals and events, Economic Development provided support and sponsorship to the following in 2022:

- Hinterland
- Púca
- Samhain Festival

Economic Development continued to liaise with Meath Enterprise, IDA, LEO and many other stakeholders to progress projects aimed at driving sustainable economic growth across the county.



A participant in the Shop Front Scheme 2022 is pictured - located in Farrell Street, Kells



An image from the Púca Festival parade 2022



An image from the Púca Festival parade 2022

11.3 Tourism Development



2022 has been a successful year for the tourism industry with a very busy Summer and Autumn season. With the increasing costs of doing business, Boyne Valley Tourism and Meath County Council have worked with the tourism industry to facilitate, advise and support and invested in strong domestic marketing campaigns throughout the year.

Marketing and Promotion Highlights



- **Boyne Valley brochure** 18,000 brochures were distributed nationally, internationally and at Dublin Airport.
- The new website www.discoverboynevalley.ie has performed well with an **increase of 31% in pageviews in 2022.**
- A **Virtual Media Event** was held on 9th February 2022 with a presentation to 15 journalists and influencers from all the key national newspapers and publications.
- **Three new videos were launched with 580k views!**

[Hero video](#)

[Family Video](#)

[Couples Video](#)

- **10 travel journalists** and influencers visited the Boyne Valley on individual press visits throughout the year. Each journalist was given a bespoke itinerary with 2 days of activities organised by the tourism team. This has resulted in 10 positive travel articles for County Meath and the Boyne Valley from the key national newspapers and social media travel bloggers.
- **A campaign to target Northern Ireland included a visit by U105's presenter Cate Conway** who did live phone-ins to studio throughout the 2 day visit. An online article and [video](#) of the visit were published along with 2 months of radio ads targeting Northern Ireland visitors.
- **Two training videos** were created to assist tourism businesses to upskill staff on things to see and do throughout the Boyne Valley. These videos have proven very popular for hotels and accommodation providers in training staff on advising guests about the local area.
- The Boyne Valley was promoted at a dedicated stand at **Balmoral, Bloom and the National Ploughing Championships** with a total attendance of 487,000.

- Meath County Council continues to support the operation of **two tourist offices** at the Trim Visitor Centre and Kells Courthouse Tourism and Cultural Hub.
- **Social Media:** Boyne Valley Tourism opened a **TikTok Account** in 2022 to target younger audiences and creates 2 videos per week promoting local businesses. TikTok has now grown to 807 followers and 4,197 likes.
- A series of **heritage educational trips** were organised for the local tourism industry during the Summer to improve knowledge of sites such as Kells, Trim Castle and Old Mellifont Abbey.
- **5 Networking and training sessions** took place throughout the year with 108 attendees.
- **Meath Business and Tourism Awards was organised by the Meath Chronicle in partnership with Meath County Council and supported by Boyne Valley Tourism.** The Awards night took place on 25th November at Knightsbrook Hotel with entrepreneurs and Meath Business people recognised for their commitment.

Púca and Spirits of Meath Halloween Festivals

Spirits of Meath

- **New website upgrade** by Meath County Council IT Team with improved presence on mobile.
- **New logo and branding created.**
- **80 events** throughout Meath promoted on www.spiritsofmeath.ie.
- **16k pageviews** on website over the month of October 2022 vs 15k 2021.
- **Social Media:** FB and Insta increase in 335 followers and 55,912 accounts reached.
- Held **MidTerm Myths storytelling for children** with 6 shows between Kells and Trim tourist offices. There were 74 children and 30 adults in attendance over 3 days.

Púca Halloween Festival

- 28th – 31st October - **supported by Fáilte Ireland and Meath County Council**
- The Festival was a resounding success with a total of **35,000** visitors over the weekend to both Athboy and Trim.
- Ticket sales **14,000**
- 95% Domestic/5% international
- **41** international media and **12** International tour operators visiting County Meath over the 4 days of Púca
- **270** pieces of coverage – 344mn reach.
- 2.6 tonnes of CO₂e reduced to **262kgs** mainly due to replacement of generator fuel.

Tourism Projects

The Porchfield Project, Trim

First Fáilte Ireland Destination Town project in Ireland to be completed and launched. The project was launched on June 8th by outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Drew and supported by Boyne Valley Tourism Chairperson Cllr. Aisling Dempsey. It was funded jointly by Fáilte Ireland and Meath County Council. The project delivered an outdoor performance space, improved walking and picnic and seating facilities, wildflower meadow, outdoor gym and restoration of the Horse Bridge. Visitors can discover the original purpose of the once medieval agricultural field, through the newly installed interpretive panels and maps and via the Porchfield Digital Storytrail QR codes.



The Boyne Blueway Trim

Launched on June 14th by Leas-Chathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Cllr. Mike Bray at the Blueway trailhead on Jonathan Swift Street. This marks the opening of an 8km water stretch from Trim to Bective Mill. Another first for Trim was that the Boyne Blueway was **among the first of three Blueways to gain accreditation** at an event in April by the National Blueway Partnership in Trim.



Royal Canal Greenway first birthday 2022

- 640k visitors over 12 months
- €17.2m generated to the local economy.
- Avg spend of 27 euros per person.



Water Services

16.1 Overview

In 2022, Meath County Council completed the 9th year of the 12-year Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water, under which the Council continued to provide reliable, high quality water supplies and wastewater collection and treatment services to the majority of residents, businesses and institutions throughout the county.

Under the Service Level Agreement, Meath County Council continued 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, throughout 2022 the Council continued to play a critical role in the provision of essential Water and Wastewater Services to existing residents and businesses, whilst also planning and delivering further major capital upgrading, to facilitate the continued planned economic and residential development and growth of county Meath.

Drinking Water Supply and Conservation: In 2022, over 48 million litres of drinking water were produced by the Council daily at 64 treatment plants across the county and distributed to customers through a network of over 2,000 km of watermains. All water was produced to EU Drinking Water Regulation Standards with annual compliance consistently in excess of 99%. Modern, state-of-the-art mechanical, electrical and computer systems in place throughout the County monitored and measured water quality and quantity 24/7, with data transmitted wirelessly back to the Council on an ongoing basis. The quality of water in the networks was also manually tested by the Council daily, in order to ensure consistent quality.

Water Conservation is key to the sustainable use of drinking water and to the reliability and level of service provided to users. Throughout 2022 the Council continued to proactively identify and fix leaks on the network, with over 700 leaks repaired and several Kms of troublesome water main replaced reducing burst frequency and associated disruptions to supply.

Wastewater: Wastewater from residents and businesses throughout Meath was collected via a network of more than 1,000km and processed at over 40 treatment plants operated and maintained by the Council across the County. Treated water was discharged back to the environment in compliance with EPA required standards. In 2022, all wastewater treatment plants in Meath were consistently compliant with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive standards.

Capital Development: During 2022, the Council project managed and delivered a number of major Water Services capital projects and commenced construction on others, including;

- Liscarton Water Treatment Plant upgrade
- Trim AC watermains replacement.
- Water mains rehabilitation at several locations countywide.
- Windmill Hill Reservoir expansion and Trunk main to Ratoath replacement.
- Stamullen Sewerage Scheme.
- Enfield Treated Water Reservoir.

This, coupled with the Council’s on-going commitment to water conservation and continued close engagement with Irish Water to secure further capital investment for critical Water Services infrastructure, will serve to facilitate the planned development and growth of Meath going forward.

Meath County Council as WSA: Irish Water does not have responsibility for storm water, storm flooding, group schemes, Private Regulated Water Supplies, well grants or lead piping replacement grants, hence, the Council continues to have direct responsibility for these matters. Meath County Council remains the Water Services Authority for Private Regulated Water Supplies (ie private Group Water Schemes, Hotels with own wells, premises serving the public with own wells, etc.) and yearly performance is measured by NOAC (National Oversight and Audit Committee). There are almost 200 Private Regulated Water Supplies in Meath which are monitored by the Water Services Department. In 2022 overall compliance for these supplies in Meath was 98%.

Financial: The Council’s 2022 Budget made provision for Water Services staff payroll, directly incurred costs and a representative proportion of the Central Management Charge, which were recouped on a monthly basis from Irish Water during the year.

Irish Water budgeted directly for the provision of the goods and services (including Energy) associated with the provision of Water Services. Irish Water is regulated by the CRU (Commission for the Regulation of Utilities) to ensure that Customer service, Budget and Efficiency Targets are being met.

The Council progressed the planning and construction of several other major projects in 2022, including;

- Navan Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion.
- Navan & Mid Meath / East Meath Water Supply Scheme.
- Staleen WTP upgrade works and Staleen reservoir.
- Staleen WTP to Primatestown trunk main.
- Trim Water Treatment Plant Upgrade.
- Drumconrath Water Supply – new source development.
- Water Treatment Plant Programme (14No WTPs’)
- Enfield Waste Water Treatment Plant Expansion.
- Longwood Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion
- Longwood Treated Water Reservoir.

Upgrade works at Liscarton Water Treatment Plant, Navan



Liscarton Water Treatment Plant

Finance

13.1 Overview

The first quarter of 2022 saw the Finance Section prepare and complete the 2021 Annual Financial Statement, issue the 2022 rates demands and continue the day to day work in its accounts payable, procurement, rents, loans and NPPR sections.

The Finance Department continued to focus its efforts on effective expenditure controls with the overall objective of ensuring that the Council operates within its allocated Budget.

13.2 Accounts Payable

- Accounts Payable administered payments to the value of €176m in the 12 months ended November 4, 2022. This included over 11,000 transactions totalling €153m being processed by the Invoice Processing Team;
- A full upgrade to our Financial Management system was completed by a project team and Milestone 7 went live on April 1, 2022;
- Regular monitoring and reporting continue to ensure compliance with Prompt Payment legislation.

13.3 Procurement

- The Procurement Department continues to support, promote and guide the corporate body in all aspects relating to Procurement;
- Procurement actively manages many central contracts and provide administration support for systems such as SupplyGov and e-Tenders and the LVPC Lighthouse card management system;
- Procurement is an integral part of the purchase to pay cycle, providing a management overview function for all procurement related acquisitions.

13.4 Rents

- Statements are available to all tenants at any time via the Local Authority Payment Portal that can be accessed via PC and/or smart device. Payments can also be made via this portal. This enables tenants to monitor, confirm and make payments at any time. Tenants continue to submit rent review forms and assessments are ongoing for tenants with changing circumstances;
- Currently Meath County Council have 3,583 tenants accruing rent.

13.5 Loans

- Over 104 fully completed applications have been received and over 29 new home loans have been drawn down totalling €8.1m;
- Like Rents above the Local Authority Payment Portal is also available for loan customers.

13.6 Commercial Rates

- Government support continued into 2022 with a revised targeted commercial rates waiver scheme for Q1. The scheme ceased thereafter;
- Through this rates waiver for 2022 Meath County Council has supported 618 businesses and waived rates to the value of €1.2m;
- The Rates Demand has been amended to be more informative while adhering to statutory requirements;
- Like Rents above, the Local Authority Payment Portal is also available for rates customers.

13.7 Non Principal Private Residence (NPPR)

- The service of providing NPPR compliance and exemption certificates is a sizeable task as these are sought for all residential property sales, regardless of whether the property is liable or not;
- The housing market remained buoyant during 2022 and Meath County Council will have processed in excess of 1,500 requests for discharge and exemption certificates. It should be noted that the number of liable properties is diminishing and the income from the NPPR is decreasing;
- As of April 1, 2023, the 2011 liability will have expired as has occurred previously with 2009 and 2010 liabilities. This will lead to a liability of €1,860 going forward, a reduction of €5,370 from the original charge of €7,230.

Human Resources

14.1 Achievements in 2022

The gradual unwinding of the Covid 19 pandemic public health restrictions allowed the organisation to return to near normal work patterns and attendance at the workplace. The HR Department helped to guide this process and support the organisation in continued delivery of services and to support individual staff and line-mangers in dealing with the evolving restrictions, specifically regarding attendance and sick leave.

In parallel, the HR Department engaged at sectoral level in developing the Council's Blended Working Policy and rolling it out across the organisation. Blended Working arrangements are now in place for a trial period during 2023.

14.2 Blended Working

The general objective of the Blended Working policy is to enable the organisation and staff members have more flexible work arrangements whilst at the same time having a continued focus on the delivery of high-quality services. The policy also helps to ensure the Council remains an Employer of Choice and supports potential future opportunities for digitisation, decarbonisation and rural regeneration.

The introduction of the policy required the:

- Development and agreement on the Council's Blended Working policy, including a role suitability assessment to determine the quantum of roles that would be suitable for a Blended Working arrangement;
- Provision of training on the policy and the application process for the Decision-Makers and Recommenders;
- Development of communications materials to support staff awareness of the policy's objectives, the application process and the terms and conditions that apply to Blended Working arrangements;
- Development of a dedicated Blended Working portal to facilitate an efficient application and decision-making and appeals process;
- Implementation of DSE assessments of each staff member's home workspace by the Council's Health and Safety Team;
- Provision of required IT systems and equipment and office furniture to enable staff members to work from home.

An internal working group composed of staff members from the IT, H+S, Corporate Services (Facilities and Communications units) and HR sections coordinated the introduction and roll-out of Blended Working. A total of 378 applications for Blended Working was received by October 31st.

14.3 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The principles of equality, diversity and inclusion are fundamental to the work of the HR Department and integrated in the business processes of the organisation.

14.4 Gender Pay Gap Report

In December, the Council published its Gender Pay Gap Report for 2022. The gender pay gap is the difference in the average hourly wage of men and women across a workforce. Employers with more than 250 employees in Ireland are now required to publish their gender pay gap data.

The 2022 report showed a Mean Gender Pay Gap where, on average, males are paid 4.11% more than females. However, the Median Gender Pay Gap shows that the median rate of pay for females is 0.67% higher than the median rate of pay for males.

This was Meath County Council's first Gender Pay Gap Report and its publication helps to reinforce the Council's focus on supporting an open and inclusive workplace at Meath County Council.

14.5 Industrial Relations

The HR Department continued to work very closely with staff and the various trade unions on a range of issues and individual cases.

The Department also implemented the recommendations of the Independent Hours Body regarding the restoration to working hours to pre-Haddington Road Agreement levels for all staff and processed the various pay increases for all staff under the agreed national pay deals.

14.6 Strategic Workforce Planning

The HR Department continued to review staffing levels and requirements during 2022. The HR Department has continued its work with senior management and the various service areas of the organisation in order to identify current and emerging requirements so as to be in a position to plan and respond to same in terms of staffing.

The implementation of the ongoing workforce planning process throughout 2022 gave consideration to the following:

- Continued increase in activity both locally and throughout the local government sector in terms of recruitment and selection and staff retention due to the continued changing nature, diversification, and the expanding requirements placed on the sector by national programmes and new initiatives to deliver key policy priorities.
- Continued increase in opportunities throughout the public sector in general and consequent employment and skills mobility.
- Planning for the filling of vacancies and a renewed focus on attracting and recruiting people with the appropriate knowledge and skills – this includes marketing what the Council, and the sector in general, can offer to prospective job applicants/candidates more effectively and having consideration to changing employee expectations and how media is consumed.
- Continued work towards being an employer of choice.
- Renewed focus on learning and development opportunities for staff with a focus on structured induction for new staff, fostering a fair and healthy working environment, and consideration of other developmental opportunities.

14.7 Recruitment and Selection

In 2022, the HR Department organised an unprecedented number of recruitment competitions – 55 competitions in total. The number of applications received was 915, with a total of 437 candidates interviewed. These interviews were a combination of in-person and online and over the course of the year, the Council reverted to all interviews being in-person, except in exceptional circumstances. The new online recruitment system enables the Department to achieve some efficiencies and reduced timeframes in the recruitment process.

As a result of the recruitment effort, a total of 118 new starts commenced in 2023.

14.8 Learning and Development

In terms of Learning and Development, the Department continued to build on its programme commenced in 2020, with an expansion in the learning supports and professional development course options for staff. Work will continue to focus on the development of necessary competencies for the required role for each staff member, to enable individuals to perform to the best of their ability.

The Department continues to review and assist with training and up-skilling requirements throughout the organisation. Training Figure for January 1 - to December 31, 2022:

No. of Course Types Held	121
No of Training Course/Workshops held	344
No. of Individual Staff Scheduled for Training	790

14.9 Health and Wellbeing

The HR Department implemented a Health Screening Programme for Council employees during the months of June and September. The health screening was free to all employees and carried out by the Council's occupational healthcare provider. The screening was made up of a combination of measurements, blood tests and questionnaires which provided employees with a valuable overview of their current health status. In total, 470 staff members availed of the screening programme.

To further support employees, the Council continues to provide an Employee Assistance Programme, through the services of Spectrum Life.

14.10 MCC Connect App

The MCC Connect App which was introduced in 2020 continues to be an excellent platform for HR and corporate communications. It was an invaluable tool during the Covid pandemic and the App has been further developed, with increased content and functionality. The HR Department will roll-out additional functions in 2023. The Council has also been approached by a number of other local authorities, seeking to replicate what Meath County Council has done with the introduction and development of the App.

Information Systems

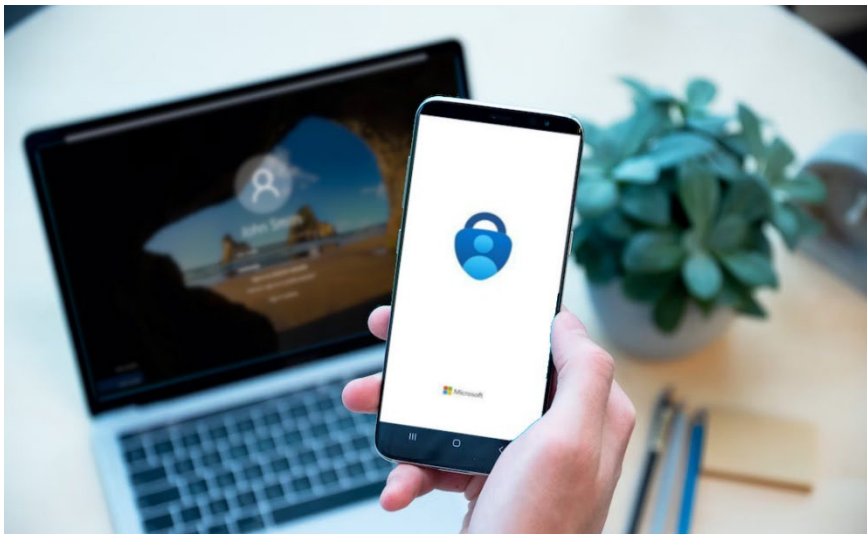
15.1 Overview

During 2022, the Information Systems department continued to deliver business improvement projects across the entire organisation maintaining its focus on operational stability and information security.

15.2 IT Operations

Highlights from the IT Operations team in 2022 include:

- The continued support of the operational needs of council employees whether working in council offices or from home
- The continued modernisation of our devices (including phones, laptops, tablets, servers)
- The continued modernisation and patch management of our operating systems and software
- A continued focus on cyber security, including vulnerability management, network penetration testing, DMARC email validation and cyber security awareness initiatives



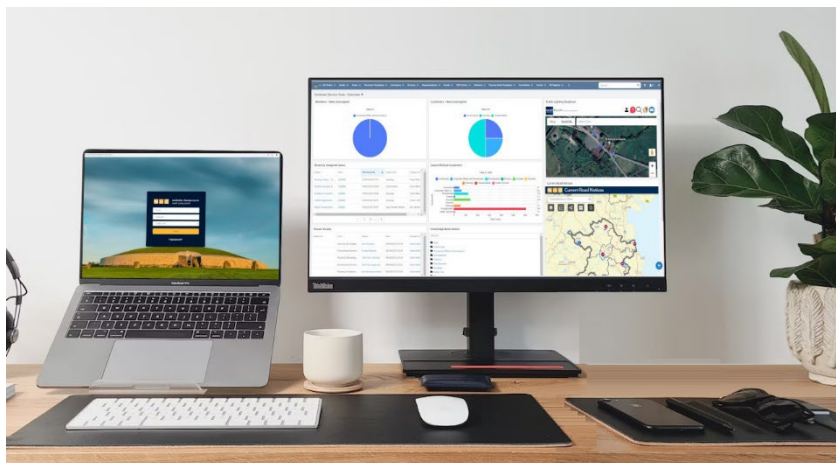
- From a project's perspective, the team successfully:
 - piloted a move towards Microsoft Azure AD and Office 365
 - rolled out a significant number of tablets to outdoor workers to facilitate safety documentation
 - upgraded the LGMA iReg product to coincide with electoral modernisation and the move to a rolling electoral register
 - upgraded our financial management system
 - implemented a replacement library management system

15.3 Business Solutions and Information Management

Business Solutions

Highlights from the Business Solutions team in 2022 include:

- A significant project was undertaken to develop and implement our Enterprise CRM solution utilising SugarCRM. The project includes significant enhancements in functionality, including the introduction of a Mobile App.
- The SugarCRM platform has also been utilised to develop, and support, back office processes, including Planning Compliance with further modules to be released in 2023 and onward.



- A substantial programme of work was undertaken with the National Disability Authority, to ensure ongoing accessibility compliance on Meath County Council public websites.
- A project to define the requirement for a new system, to support the National rollout of the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme was initiated.
- A procurement exercise was completed for the provision of an Online Solution for the Processing of applications for the Affordable Housing, Affordable Sites and Cost Rental Schemes.
- Our iHouse system was fully upgraded to Version 3.8
- Our Housing Grants system was upgraded to support the new recoupment forms required by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- An online payment facility for Rents and Rates portal (<https://payments.meath.ie/>) was deployed.
- Our Intranet Content Management System was upgraded to latest version.

Geographical Information Systems

Highlights from the GIS\Information Management team in 2022 include:

- Supporting Local Coordinators of the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme through the development of Age Friendly Ireland GIS web map applications and accompanying spatial services.
- Participation in a national 'proof of concept' pilot project, with the Office of Planning Regulator, and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) to develop a bespoke online dashboard solution for tracking and monitoring the delivery of residential development.
- Supporting the Planning Department on both the Adopted County Development Plan and the Ministerial Review of same
- Supporting the Planning Department in the site selection for the implementation of the New Residential Zoned Land tax;
- Continued supporting to all departments in the Council to improve spatial analytics reporting

Appendix 1 – Elected Members 2022

ASHBOURNE



Suzanne Jamal
Fine Gael



Amanda Smith
Non-Party



Alan Tobin
Fine Gael



Joe Bonner
Non-Party



Conor Tormey
Fianna Fáil



Aisling O'Neill
Sinn Féin

KELLS



Sean Drew
Fianna Fáil



Mike Bray
Fianna Fáil



Michael Gallagher
Sinn Féin



Eugene Cassidy
Fine Gael



David Gilroy
Non-Party



Paul McCabe
Fianna Fáil



Sarah Reilly
Fine Gael

LAYTOWN-BETTYSTOWN



Elaine McGinty
Labour



Geraldine Keogan
Non-Party



Wayne Harding
Fianna Fáil



Tom Behan
Fianna Fáil



Stephen McKee
Fianna Fáil



Paddy Meade
Fine Gael



Sharon Tolan
Fine Gael

NAVAN



Pdraig Fitzsimons
Fianna Fáil



Tommy Reilly
Fianna Fáil



Yemi Adenuga
Fine Gael



Francis Deane
Non-Party



Alan Lawes
Non-Party



Edward Fennessy
Sinn Féin



Emer Tóibín
Aontú

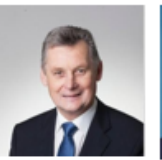
RATOATH



Nick Killian
Non-Party



Gillian Toole
Non-Party



Brian Fitzgerald
Non-Party



Gerry O'Connor
Fine Gael



Damien O'Reilly
Fianna Fáil



Maria Murphy
Fine Gael



Deirdre Geraghty Smith
Fianna Fáil

TRIM



Joe Fox
Fine Gael



Niamh Souhan
Fine Gael



Ronan Moore
Social Democrats



Noel French
Fine Gael



Trevor Golden
Non-Party



Aisling Dempsey
Fianna Fáil

Appendix 2 - Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Members

Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC

Cllr. Eugene Cassidy Chair	Cllr. David Gilroy
Cllr. Tom Behan	Cllr. Suzanne Jamal
Cllr. Joe Bonner	Cllr Geraldine Keogan
Cllr. Mike Bray	Cllr. Ronan Moore
Cllr. Francis Deane	Cllr. Gillian Toole
Vacant	Environmental – Pillar
Vacant	Community/Voluntary – Pillar
John Curran	Agriculture/Farming – Pillar
Riona Gilroy	Business/Commercial – Pillar
Noel Maguire	Trade Union - Pillar

Transportation SPC

Cllr. Trevor Golden (Chair)	Cllr. Paul McCabe
Cllr. Noel French	Cllr. Paddy Meade
Cllr. Deirdre Geraghty-Smith	Cllr. Gerry O'Connor
Cllr. Michael Gallagher	Cllr. Amanda Smith
Cllr. Wayne Harding	Cllr. Sharon Tolan
Alan Watson	Community/Voluntary - Pillar
Geoffrey Clarke	Environmental/Conservation – Pillar
John Curran	Agriculture/Farming – Pillar
Damien Hughes	Business/Commercial – Pillar
Vacant	Development/Construction - Pillar

Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC

Cllr. Stephen McKee, (Chair)	Cllr. Elaine McGinty
Cllr Aisling Dempsey	Cllr. Aisling O'Neill
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	Cllr. Sarah Reilly
Cllr. Pdraig Fitzsimons	Cllr. Tommy Reilly
Cllr. Joe Fox	Cllr. Alan Tobin
John Curran	Agriculture/Farming - Pillar
Kieran Cummins – resigned mid 2022	Environment/Conservation – Pillar
Gary Plunkett	Development/Construction – Pillar
Sean Boyle	Business/Commercial - Pillar
Michael Wall	Business/Commercial - Pillar

Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC

Cllr. Conor Tormey (Chair)	Cllr. Alan Lawes
Cllr. Yemi Adenuga	Cllr. Maria Murphy
Cllr. Sean Drew	Cllr. Damien O'Reilly
Cllr. Edward Fennessy	Cllr. Niamh Souhan
Cllr. Nick Killian	Cllr. Emer Tóibín
Niamh Bn Ui Loinsigh	Community/Voluntary – Pillar
Gerard Weldon	Community/Voluntary - Pillar
John Regan	Trade Union - Pillar
Sinead Smith – resigned mid 2022	Social Inclusion - Pillar
Michele McCullough	Social Inclusion – Pillar

Appendix 3 – SPC Activities

Activities of the Strategic Policy Committees 2022

Strategic Policy Committee	Number of Meetings
Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs	1
Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services	3
Transportation	4
Housing, Community and Cultural Development	5

Appendix 4 – Other Committees of the Council

Committee	Name	Party
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	Cllr Yemi Adenuga	Fine Gael
	Cllr Nick Killian	Non-Party
	Cllr Elaine McGinty	Labour
	Cllr Aisling O'Neill	Sinn Féin
	Cllr Noel French	Fine Gael
	Cllr. David Gilroy	Non-Party
Meath Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee	Cllr Mike Bray	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Ronan Moore	Social Democrats
Regional Advisory Council Teagasc	Cllr Francis Deane	Non-Party
Regional Health Forum	Cllr Tom Behan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Michael Gallagher (Nov – Dec 2022)	Sinn Féin
	Cllr Aisling O'Neill (Jan – Oct 2022)	Sinn Féin
	Cllr Niamh Souhan	Fine Gael
	Cllr Emer Tóibín	Aontú
	Cllr Gillian Toole	Non-Party
(LCDC) Local Community Development Committee	Cllr Yemi Adenuga (September-December 2022)	Fine Gael
	Cllr Mike Bray	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Noel French (January- July 2022)	Fine Gael
	Cllr Elaine McGinty	Labour
Audit Committee	Cllr Sean Drew	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Gerry O'Connor	Fine Gael
(LMETB) Louth Meath Education Training Board	Cllr Wayne Harding	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Nick Killian	Non-Party
	Cllr Paul McCabe	Fianna Fail
	Cllr Maria Murphy	Fine Gael
	Cllr Gerry O'Connor	Fine Gael

Committee	Name	Party
	Cllr Damien O'Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Amanda Smith	Non-Party
Association of Irish Local Government	Cllr Joe Fox	Fine Gael
	Cllr Nick Killian	Non-Party
	Cllr Damien O'Reilly	Fine Gael
LAMA	Cllr Amanda Smith	Non-Party
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd	Cllr Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
Navan Enterprise Centre Company Ltd	Cllr Yemi Adenuga	Fine Gael
	Cllr Francis Deane	Non-Party
	Cllr Edward Fennessy	Sinn Féin
	Cllr Padraig Fitzsimons	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Emer Tóibín	Aontú
East Border Region (Directors)	Cllr Sean Drew	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Trevor Golden	Non-Party
	Cllr Gerry O'Connor	Fine Gael
Forum of East Border Region	Cllr Tom Behan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Paul McCabe	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Paddy Meade	Fine Gael
Meath Local Sports Partnership Ltd	Cllr Padraig Fitzsimons	Fianna Fáil
Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly	Cllr Paddy Meade	Fine Gael
	Cllr Brian Fitzgerald	Non-Party
	Cllr Damien O'Reilly	Fianna Fáil
Board of Meath Arts Centre Ltd	Cllr Yemi Adenuga	Fine Gael
	Cllr Francis Deane	Non-Party
	Cllr Padraig Fitzsimons	Fianna Fáil
Boyne Valley Tourism Ltd	Cllr Tom Behan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Aisling Dempsey	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Edward Fennessy	Sinn Féin
	Cllr David Gilroy	Non-Party
	Cllr Sarah Reilly	Fine Gael

Committee	Name	Party
Athboy Social Needs & Recreational Company Ltd	Cllr Mike Bray	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr David Gilroy	Non-Party
Kells Community Enterprise Company Ltd	Cllr Mike Bray	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Sean Drew	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Paul McCabe	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Sarah Reilly	Fine Gael
Meath Heritage Forum	Cllr Edward Fennessy	Fine Gael
	Cllr Noel French	Fine Gael
	Cllr Elaine McGinty	Labour
	Cllr Suzanne Jamal	Fine Gael
	Cllr Paul McCabe	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Maria Murphy	Fine Gael
Trim Sports & Leisure Centre Company Ltd (Directors)	Cllr Aisling Dempsey	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Joe Fox	Fine Gael
Navan Sports & Leisure Company	Cllr Edward Fennessy	Sinn Féin
	Cllr Alan Lawes	Non-Party
	Cllr Emer Tóibín	Aontú
Indaver Community Liaison Committee	Cllr Geraldine Keogan	Non-Party
	Cllr Stephen McKee	Fianna Fáil
North East Regional Drugs Task	Cllr Paul McCabe	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Niamh Souhan	Fine Gael
Meath Age Friendly Alliance	Cllr Gillian Toole	Fine Gael
Knockharley Community Liaison Committee	Cllr Joe Bonner	Non-Party
	Cllr Suzanne Jamal	Fine Gael
	Cllr Aisling O'Neill	Sinn Féin
Joint Policing Committee	Cllr Yemi Adenuga	Fine Gael
	Cllr Tom Behan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Francis Deane	Non-Party
	Cllr Edward Fennessy	Sinn Féin
	Cllr Padraig Fitzsimons	Fianna Fáil

Committee	Name	Party
	Cllr Noel French	Fine Gael
	Cllr Deirdre Geraghty-Smith	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr David Gilroy	Non-Party
	Cllr Trevor Golden	Non-Party
	Cllr Alan Lawes	Non-Party
	Cllr Paul McCabe	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Maria Murphy	Fine Gael
	Cllr Aisling O'Neill	Sinn Féin
	Cllr Alan Tobin	Fine Gael
	Cllr Gillian Toole	Non-Party
Community Reps	Tinu Achioya	
	Bernard Kenny	
	Conor O'Leary	
	Ronnie Owens	
	Bill Commerford	
Meath Co. Council Staff	Barry Lynch	
	Fiona Fallon	
Gardai	Chief Superintendent Fergus Healy/John Dollard (from September 2022)	
	Superintendent Dermot Drea	
Oireachtas Members	Thomas Byrne	
	Damien English	
	Johnny Guirke	
	Helen McEntee	
	Darren O'Rourke	
	Peadar Tóibín	
	Shane Cassells	
	Regina Doherty	
	Annie Hoey	
	Sharon Keogan	
Protocol Committee	Cllr Mike Bray	Fianna Fáil

Committee	Name	Party
	Cllr Aisling Dempsey	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Francis Deane	Non-Party
	Cllr Edward Fennessy	Sinn Féin
	Cllr Trevor Golden	Non-Party
	Cllr Nick Killian	Non-Party
	Cllr Paul McCabe	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Gerry O'Connor	Fine Gael
	Cllr Sarah Reilly	Fine Gael
	Cllr Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
Corporate Policy Group (CPG)	Cllr Eugene Cassidy	Fine Gael
	Cllr Padraig Fitzsimons	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Trevor Golden	Non-Party
	Cllr Nick Killian	Non-Party
	Cllr Stephen McKee	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Conor Tormey	Fianna Fáil
Municipal District Chairs (change yearly)	Cllr Amanda Smith	Ashbourne
	Cllr Eugene Cassidy	Kells
	Cllr Wayne Harding	Laytown/ Bettystown
	Cllr Edward Fennessy	Navan
	Cllr Gillian Toole	Ratoath
	Cllr Joe Fox	Trim

Appendix 5 – Payments to Members of Meath County Council

Annual Councillors Expenses (Travel and Subsistence,	€142,812.68
Local Representation Allowance	€150,839.98
Cathaoirleach and Leas Chathaoirleach Allowances (subject to taxation)	€78,000.00
Allowance Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees	€24,000.00
Members Representational Payments (subject to taxation)	€1,088,504.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	€1,031.14

Appendix 6 – Conferences Abroad

List of Approved Abroad Conferences and members who attended in 2022

Title	Dates	Members Attended
St Patrick's Day – New York	March 2022	Cllr. Sean Drew Cllr. Wayne Harding Cllr. Stephen McKee Cllr. Gerry O'Connor Cllr. Emer Tóibín
St Patrick's Day – London	March 2022	Cllr. Mike Bray Cllr. Joe Fox Cllr. Elaine McGinty
Educational Study Trip - Copenhagen	June 2022	Cllr. Yemi Adenuga Cllr. Joe Bonner Cllr. Edward Fennessy Cllr. Trevor Golden Cllr. Wayne Harding Cllr. Nick Killian Cllr. Paul McCabe Cllr. Elaine McGinty Cllr. Paddy Meade Cllr. Emer Tóibín Cllr. Gerry O'Connor Cllr. Amanda Smith
Ashbourne Twinning – Corcubion, Spain	July 2022	Cllr. Amanda Smith Cllr. Alan Tobin
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly – Brussels Study	October 2022	Cllr. Paddy Meade Cllr. Damien O'Reilly
East Border Region, East-West Capacity Building Visit - Westminster, London	November 2022	Cllr. Trevor Golden Cllr. Paul McCabe Cllr. Paddy Meade Cllr. Gerry O'Connor

Appendix 7 – Conferences/Training at Home

Conferences

Title	Dates	Members Attended	Travel & Subs Cost	Conference Cost	Total Cost
Housing for All	21/01/2022 – 23/01/2022	Clr Wayne Harding	€613.97	€100.00	€713.97
		Clr Geraldine Keogan	€599.47	€100.00	€699.47
		Clr Paul McCabe	€588.96	€100.00	€688.96
		Clr Damien O'Reilly	€588.88	€100.00	€688.88
		Clr Amanda Smith	€599.47	€100.00	€699.47
		Clr Conor Tormey	€588.34	€100.00	€683.34
MacGill Summer School 2022	21/07/2022 – 24/07/2022	Clr Eugene Cassidy	€0.00	€40.00	€40.00
Kennedy Summer School 2022	08/09/2022 – 10/09/2022	Clr Stephen McKee	€171.23	€25.00	€196.23
		Clr Tommy Reilly	€654.83	€45.00	€699.83
Irish State Retirement Pensions & Benefits	07/10/2022 – 09/10/2022	Clr Joe Bonner	€541.28	€100.00	€641.28
Daniel O'Connell School 2022	28/10/2022 – 29/10/2022	Clr Joe Fox	€891.88	€40.00	€931.88
Innovation in Solar Energy Technology	28/10/2022 – 30/10/2022	Clr Stephen McKee	€463.42	€100.00	€563.42

Training

Title	Dates	Members Attended	Travel & Subs Cost	Training Cost	Total Cost
AILG Module 1 Training 2022 – “Elected Members Personal Safety and Risk Assessment”	19/02/2022	Clr Yemi Adenuga	€0.00	€70.00	€70.00
		Clr Joe Fox	€331.60	€70.00	€401.60
		Clr Wayne Harding	€385.12	€70.00	€455.12
		Clr Nick Killian	€340.95	€70.00	€410.95
		Clr Maria Murphy	€0.00	€70.00	€70.00
		Clr Damien O'Reilly	€361.83	€70.00	€431.83
		Clr Tommy Reilly	€368.54	€70.00	€438.54
		Clr Conor Tormey	€371.23	€70.00	€441.23
AILG Online Webinar 1 – “Local Authority Planning	25/02/2022	Clr Michael Gallagher	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00

Title	Dates	Members Attended	Travel & Subs Cost	Training Cost	Total Cost
Functions and Water Services Investment: Ensuring a Co-ordinated Approach”		Cllr Nick Killian	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Maria Murphy	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Damien O’Reilly	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Alan Tobin	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
AILG Online Webinar 2 – “An overview of the Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland”.	04/03/2022	Cllr Yemi Adenuga	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Sean Drew	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Nick Killian	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Maria Murphy	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Damien O’Reilly	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Emer Tóibín	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
AILG Annual Training Conference 2022	23/03/2022 – 24/03/2022	Cllr Yemi Adenuga	€0.00	€155.00	€155.00
		Cllr Joe Bonner	€449.14	€155.00	€604.14
		Cllr Joe Fox	€426.77	€155.00	€581.77
		Cllr David Gilroy	€409.63	€155.00	€564.63
		Cllr Trevor Golden	€439.29	€155.00	€594.29
		Cllr Wayne Harding	€476.02	€155.00	€631.02
		Cllr Suzanne Jamal	€431.23	€155.00	€586.23
		Cllr Geraldine Keogan	€433.47	€155.00	€588.47
		Cllr Nick Killian	€0.00	€155.00	€155.00
		Cllr Damien O’Reilly	€541.10	€155.00	€696.10
		Cllr Tommy Reilly	€431.23	€155.00	€586.23
		Cllr Amanda Smith	€433.47	€155.00	€588.47
		Cllr Conor Tormey	€523.45	€155.00	€678.45
Irish Planning Institute Annual Conference 2022 – “Planning for Climate Change”	07/04/2022 – 08/04/2022	Cllr Trevor Golden	€359.56	€360.00	€719.56
		Cllr Wayne Harding	€510.10	€330.00	€840.10
		Cllr Damien O’Reilly	€449.13	€330.00	€779.13

Title	Dates	Members Attended	Travel & Subs Cost	Training Cost	Total Cost
		Cllr Tommy Reilly	€367.63	€360.00	€727.63
		Cllr Conor Tormey	€475.86	€330.00	€805.86
LAMA Spring Training Seminar 2022	11/04/2022 – 12/04/2022	Cllr. Joe Fox	€211.56	€180.00	€391.56
		Cllr. Trevor Golden	€378.54	€180.00	€558.54
		Cllr. Wayne Harding	€530.57	€180.00	€710.57
		Cllr. Geraldine Keogan	€394.66	€180.00	€574.66
		Cllr. Damien O'Reilly	€470.43	€180.00	€650.43
		Cllr. Tommy Reilly	€403.26	€180.00	€583.26
		Cllr. Amanda Smith	€396.46	€180.00	€576.46
		Cllr Conor Tormey	€497.16	€180.00	€677.16
AILG Online Webinar 3 – "Housing for All – Pathway 1 and 2".	06/05/2022	Cllr Yemi Adenuga	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Sean Drew	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Nick Killian	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Damien O'Reilly	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
AILG Module 2 Training 2022 – "Climate Action – The Role of Local Government"	14/05/2022	Cllr Yemi Adenuga	€0.00	€70.00	€70.00
		Cllr. Joe Fox	€217.21	€70.00	€287.21
		Cllr. Trevor Golden	€86.44	€70.00	€156.44
		Cllr. Wayne Harding	€147.25	€70.00	€217.25
		Cllr. Damien O'Reilly	€331.18	€70.00	€401.18
		Cllr. Tommy Reilly	€146.18	€70.00	€216.18
AILG Online Webinar 4 – "Housing for All – Pathway 3 and 4".	10/06/2022	Cllr Maria Murphy	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Damien O'Reilly	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
AILG Module 3 Training 2022 – "Finalising Your Development Plan – Key Steps and Requirements from the Development Plan Guidelines"	16/06/2022	Cllr Joe Fox	€264.38	€70.00	€334.38
		Cllr Geraldine Keogan	€319.55	€70.00	€389.55
		Cllr Nick Killian	€0.00	€70.00	€70.00
		Cllr Damien O'Reilly	€332.02	€70.00	€402.02
		Cllr Tommy Reilly	€316.98	€70.00	€386.98
AILG Online Webinar 5 – "Facebook & Instagram:	08/07/2022	Cllr Elaine McGinty	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00

Title	Dates	Members Attended	Travel & Subs Cost	Training Cost	Total Cost
Safety Tools & Amplifying Your Message”		Cllr Maria Murphy	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Damien O’Reilly	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Alan Tobin	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Sharon Tolan	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
AILG Online Webinar 6 – “Media and Social Media - How to connect with your audience”	15/07/2022	Cllr Yemi Adenuga	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Maria Murphy	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Damien O’Reilly	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr Alan Tobin	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
AILG Module 4 Training 2022 – “Finalising Your Development Plan – Key Steps and Requirements from the Development Plan Guidelines”	23/07/2022	Cllr Joe Fox	€388.41	€70.00	€458.41
		Cllr Trevor Golden	€283.43	€70.00	€353.43
		Cllr Geraldine Keogan	€433.92	€70.00	€503.92
		Cllr Nick Killian	€0.00	€70.00	€70.00
		Cllr Stephen McKee	€166.29	€70.00	€236.29
		Cllr Damien O’Reilly	€449.79	€70.00	€519.79
	28/07/2022	Cllr Tommy Reilly	€419.31	€70.00	€489.31
		Cllr Conor Tormey	€443.11	€70.00	€513.11
		Cllr Wayne Harding	€404.69	€70.00	€474.69
AILG Autumn Training Seminar 2022	14/09/2022 – 15/09/2022	Cllr Yemi Adenuga	€0.00	€155.00	€155.00
		Cllr Brian Fitzgerald	€0.00	€155.00	€155.00
		Cllr Joe Fox	€0.00	€155.00	€155.00
		Cllr Michael Gallagher	€0.00	€155.00	€155.00
		Cllr David Gilroy	€0.00	€155.00	€155.00
		Cllr Trevor Golden	€0.00	€155.00	€155.00
		Cllr Wayne Harding	€101.50	€155.00	€256.50
		Cllr Geraldine Keogan	€0.00	€155.00	€155.00
		Cllr Nick Killian	€0.00	€155.00	€155.00
		Cllr Elaine McGinty	€70.48	€155.00	€225.48
		Cllr Paddy Meade	€0.00	€155.00	€155.00

Title	Dates	Members Attended	Travel & Subs Cost	Training Cost	Total Cost
		Cllr Maria Murphy Cllr Gerry O'Connor Cllr Damien O'Reilly Cllr Tommy Reilly Cllr Amanda Smith Cllr Sharon Tolan Cllr Gillian Toole Cllr Conor Tormey	€25.08 €0.00 €68.88 €47.12 €0.00 €0.00 €0.00 €114.20	€155.00 €155.00 €155.00 €155.00 €155.00 €155.00 €155.00	€180.08 €155.00 €223.88 €202.12 €155.00 €155.00 €155.00 €269.20
AILG Online Webinar 7 – “Planning that Revitalises Ireland’s Towns and Villages”	30/09/2022	Cllr Sean Drew Cllr Michael Gallagher Cllr Nick Killian Cllr Maria Murphy Cllr Damien O'Reilly Cllr Alan Tobin Cllr Emer Tóibín	€0.00 €0.00 €0.00 €0.00 €0.00 €0.00 €0.00	€0.00 €0.00 €0.00 €0.00 €0.00 €0.00 €0.00	€0.00 €0.00 €0.00 €0.00 €0.00 €0.00 €0.00
ICSH Biennial Finance & Development Conference	19/10/2022 – 20/10/2022	Cllr Damien O'Reilly	€621.21	€295.00	€916.21
AILG Module 5 Training 2022 – “Disability and Inclusion”	22/10/2022 27/10/2022	Cllr Joe Fox Cllr David Gilroy Cllr Trevor Golden Cllr Wayne Harding Cllr Damien O'Reilly Cllr Tommy Reilly Cllr Geraldine Keogan Cllr Conor Tormey	€622.62 €398.96 €686.33 €781.49 €692.68 €724.37 €497.82 €557.64	€70.00 €70.00 €70.00 €70.00 €70.00 €70.00 €70.00 €70.00	€692.62 €468.96 €756.33 €851.49 €762.68 €794.37 €567.82 €627.64
LAMA Autumn Training Seminar 2022	09/11/2022 – 10/11/2022	Cllr Mike Bray Cllr David Gilroy Cllr Trevor Golden Cllr. Wayne Harding	€0.00 €377.38 €472.19 €262.96	€160.00 €160.00 €160.00 €160.00	€160.00 €537.38 €632.19 €422.96

Title	Dates	Members Attended	Travel & Subs Cost	Training Cost	Total Cost
		Cllr Suzanne Jamal Cllr Geraldine Keogan Cllr Nick Killian Cllr Paddy Meade Cllr Damien O'Reilly Cllr Tommy Reilly Cllr Amanda Smith Cllr Conor Tormey	€0.00 €346.19 €211.94 €0.00 €503.37 €445.37 €480.68 €499.74	€160.00 €160.00 €160.00 €160.00 €160.00 €160.00 €160.00 €160.00	€160.00 €506.19 €371.94 €160.00 €663.37 €605.37 €640.68 €659.74
AILG Online Webinar 8 – “The Role of Planning in Protecting Ireland's Water Quality”	25/11/2022	Cllr Mike Bray Cllr David Gilroy Cllr Nick Killian Cllr Damien O'Reilly	€0.00 €0.00 €0.00 €0.00	€0.00 €0.00 €0.00 €0.00	€0.00 €0.00 €0.00 €0.00
AILG Module 6 Training 2022 – “Data Protection – What Councillors Need to Know”	26/11/2022	Cllr Joe Fox Cllr Trevor Golden Cllr Nick Killian Cllr Damien O'Reilly Cllr Tommy Reilly Cllr Sharon Tolan	€0.00 €0.00 €0.00 €56.19 €0.00 €0.00	€70.00 €70.00 €70.00 €70.00 €70.00 €70.00	€70.00 €70.00 €70.00 €126.19 €70.00 €70.00

Appendix 8 – Meetings of the Council – 2022

Monthly Meetings	10
Special Meetings	1
Annual	1
Pre Budget and Budget	2
Protocol	9
CPG	10
SPC – Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services	3
SPC - Transportation	4
SPC – Housing, Community & Cultural Development	5
SPC – Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs	1
Municipal District:	
Ashbourne	13
Kells	13
Laytown/Bettystown	13
Navan	13
Ratoath	15
Trim	13

Appendix 9 – Annual Financial Statement

Meath County Council Annual Financial Report 2022*

Expenditure

Expenditure	Revenue (€m)	Capital (€m)
Housing & Building	42.404	87.023
Roads Transportation & Safety	53.561	34.896
Water & Sewerage	10.958	0.624
Development Incentives & Controls	16.697	4.449
Environment Protection	15.603	3.222
Recreation & Amenity	9.793	10.526
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1.110	0.330
Miscellaneous	13.192	10.336
Total	163.318	151.406

Income

Income (see funding sources below)	117.629	147.780
Net Transfers		13.754
Net Revenue Cost to be funded from Rates & LPT	(45.688)	
Rates	46.790	
Local Property Tax	14.059	
Transfer from/(to) Reserves	(15.057)	
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	0.104	10.148
Opening Balance (01/01/22)	0.047	90.263
Closing Balance	0.151	100.412

* Based on draft AFS

Appendix 10 – Annual Energy Statement 2022

Introduction

This annual energy statement contains all the information specified by SWAI for inclusion in an annual statement on a public body's energy efficiency as regulated under Regulations S.I. No. 426 of 2014. The performance results and other data produced in this statement are based on the data reported by Meath County Council for 2022 through SEAI's public sector monitoring and reporting (M&R) system.

TPER and TFC

Almost all energy values shown below are expressed as primary energy, or total primary energy requirement (TPER). This is the measure of all the energy consumed by the organisation and accounts for the energy that is consumed and/or lost in the transformation and distribution process.

Energy savings since the baseline (Deterioration in energy efficiency since the baseline)

The percentage savings (or deterioration) shown in the percentage improvement (deterioration) is the energy performance of Meath County Council since its baseline period. The energy performance is tracked between the baseline and 2022 using an Energy Performance Indicator (EnPI)

Actual Consumption

Actual Consumption is the total energy consumed by Meath County Council in 2022, expressed as primary energy consumption, it includes electricity, thermal (heat) energy and transport consumption.

Energy Performance Indicator

The Energy Performance Indicator (EnPI) is a way of measuring an organisation's energy performance. Each year, an EnPI is calculated by dividing the organisation's energy consumption by a measure of its activity (activity metric). A decreasing EnPI indicates an improvement in energy efficiency because less energy is being used per unit of activity. An increasing EnPI indicates deterioration in efficiency. The EnPI graph shows the actual and target energy performance for Meath County Council since its baseline and out to 2022.

Progress to 2030 Targets

The below chart shows Meath County Council’s trajectory towards our 2030 targets for energy efficiency.

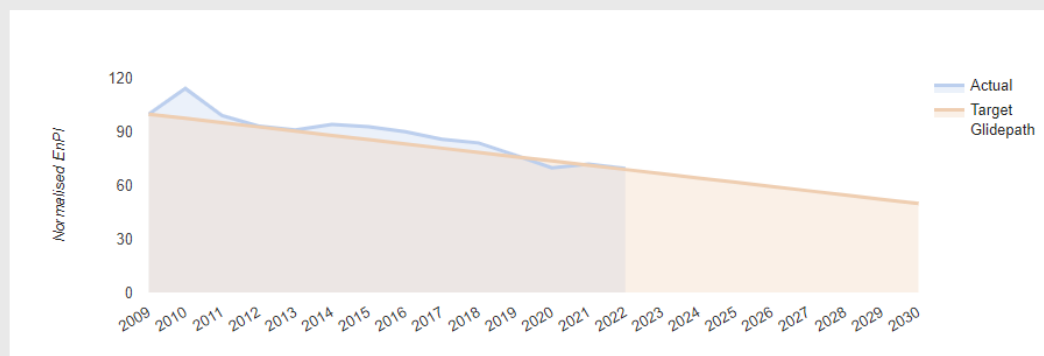
Since Energy Efficiency Baseline to 2022

Energy Savings: 30.3% lower	
Change in Energy Consumption: 51.3% lower	







Energy Performance Indicators - 2022

2022 EnPI = 159 $\frac{\text{kWh}}{\text{Population Served}}$	Target EnPI = 114 $\frac{\text{kWh}}{\text{Population Served}}$
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Graph shows EnPI before and after transfer of water services to Irish Water (IW). [Click here for more information.](#)



Level 2 Energy Performance Indicators (2022)

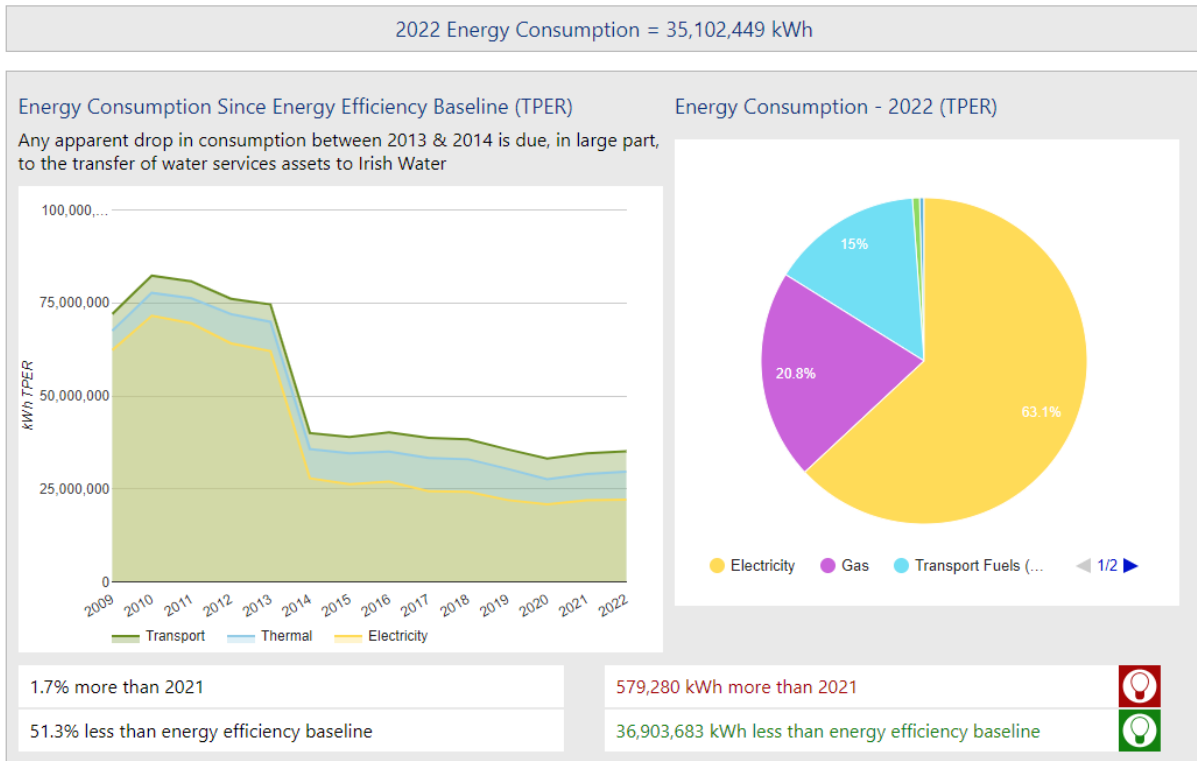
3.2% better than 2021		Electricity = 1,155 $\frac{\text{kWh}}{\text{Public lights}}$	0.3% better than 2021	
30.3% better than energy efficiency baseline		Thermal = 236 $\frac{\text{kWh}}{\text{Floor Area M}^2}$	3.3% better than 2021	
39.4% improvement required by 2030		Transport = 25 $\frac{\text{kWh}}{\text{Population Served}}$	5.5% better than 2021	

2022 Energy Consumption

Primary Energy

All Energy values shown are expressed as primary energy, or total primary energy requirement (TPER). This is a measure of all the energy consumed by the organisation and accounts for the energy that is consumed and/or lost in transformation, transmission, and distribution process.

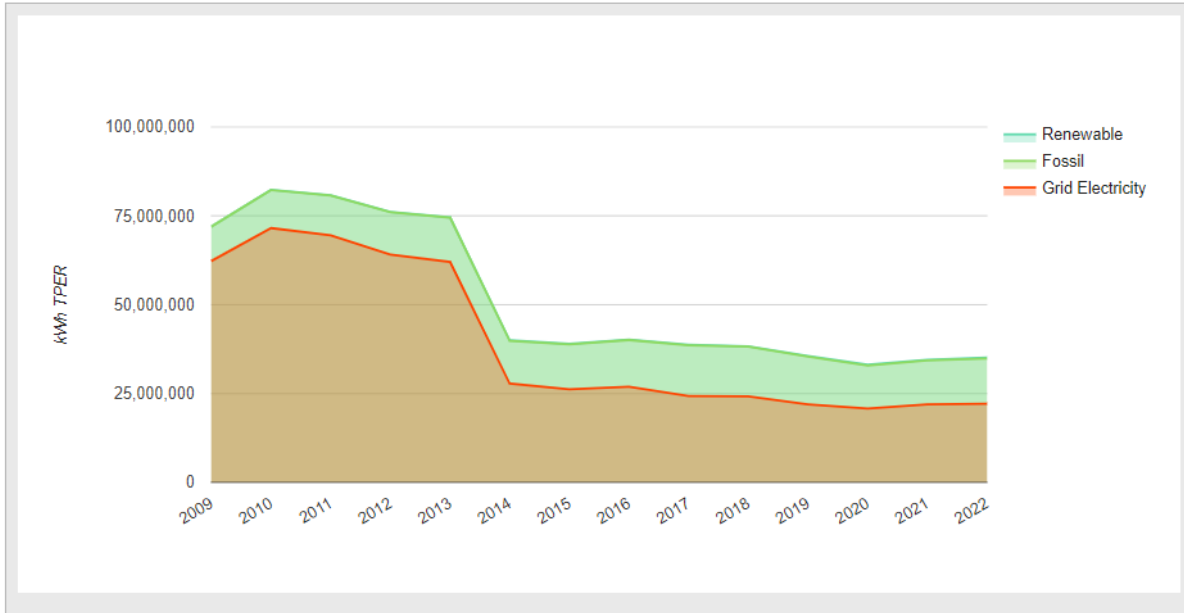
Energy Consumption (TPER) - 2022



Renewable Energy 2022

Renewable Energy 2022

Any apparent drop in consumption between 2013 & 2014 is due, in large part, to the transfer of water services assets to Irish Water



← Transport

2022 Total Primary Energy Requirement (TPER)

Thermal →

Grid Electricity: 22,134,701 kWh	Fossil: 12,721,940 kWh	Renewable: 245,808 kWh
----------------------------------	------------------------	------------------------

Change in Energy Consumption	Share of Energy Consumption
Grid Electricity is 0.9% more than 2021	Grid Electricity share is 63.1%
Fossil is 2.8% more than 2021	Fossil share is 36.2%
Renewable is 22.2% more than 2021	Renewable share is 0.7%

2022 CO2 Emissions

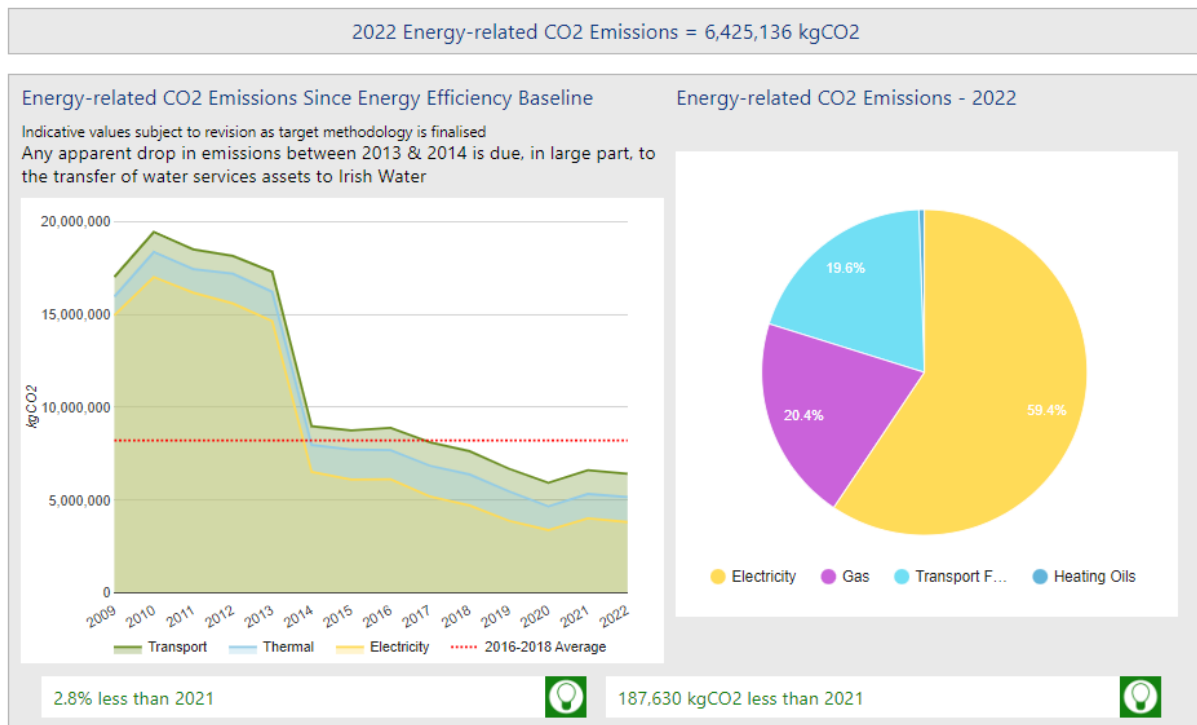
Energy-related CO2 emissions

The CO2 emission values shown are attributable to the energy consumption reported by Meath County Council.

Electricity-related CO2 emissions

The CO2 emissions attributable to electricity imported from the grid by Meath County Council have been calculated using the average emission factor for electricity generation in Ireland for the relevant year. The electricity consumed by Meath County Council in any given year may have come from a source that was less or more carbon intensive than the national average.

Energy-related CO2 Emissions - 2022



Appendix 11 – NOAC Performance Indicators 2021

Performance Indicators

01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021 (Annual)

Meath County Council

Status: Completed

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	A. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 1/1/2021	3563	
	B. Number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2021 (whether constructed or acquired)	81	
	C. Number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2021	11	
	D. Number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2021	0	
	E. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31/12/2021	3633	Total number of dwellings at 31/12/21 differs from the quarter 4 statistical return by a total of 33 units. This is accounted for as follows: - 30 No. traveler units included in the 2021 Q4 statistical return - 1 No. duplicate unit included in the 2021 Q4 statistical return - 1 No. additional unit included in the 2021 Q4 return which was completed in January 2022. - Tenant purchase sales in the 2021 quarterly return were understated by 1.
	F. Number of local authority owned dwellings planned for demolition under a D/HLGH approved scheme at 31/12/2021	15	
	A. The percentage of the total number of local authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2021	3.21 %	

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
	The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2021	116	
	A. Expenditure during 2021 on the maintenance of local authority housing compiled from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021, divided by the no. of dwellings in the local authority stock at 31/12/2021, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	€610.62	
	Expenditure on maintenance of local authority stock compiled from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).	€2209222.7	
Housing: H3 & H5 Approved	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2021 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2021	39.34 wk	The increase in average re-letting time from 31.4wks in 2020 to 39.34wks in 2021 is primarily attributable to 6 No. properties which required major refurbishment or repair works. When these properties are discounted the average re-let time for 2021 is 33.94wks, representing a slight increase on the 2020 return.
	B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2021, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2021	€25310.30	
	The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2021 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	94	
	The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling	3698 wk	

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
	is re-tenanted		
	Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	€2379168	
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at the end of June 2021		
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2021	640	
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2021 not compliant with the Standards Regulations	93.96 %	
	D. Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2021 (including those originally deemed non-compliant)	76	
	E. The number of inspections (including reinspections) undertaken by the local authority in 2021	664	
Housing: H6 Approved	A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term (i.e. 6 months or more within the previous year) homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2021	52.10 %	
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2021 as recorded on the PASS system	167	
	The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2021, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	87	
Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	A. (a) The percentage of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2021	96.00 %	
	A. (b) The percentage of Local Primary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2021	98.00 %	
	A. (c) The percentage of Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24	98.00 %	

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
	month period prior to 31/12/2021		
	A. (d) The percentage of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2021	84.00 %	
	B. (a.1) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2021	5.02 %	
	B. (a.2) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2021	12.64 %	
	B. (a.3) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2021	63.45 %	
	B. (a.4) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2021	18.74 %	
	B. (b.1) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2021	12.04 %	
	B. (b.2) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2021	9.86 %	
	B. (b.3) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2021	41.45 %	
	B. (b.4) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2021	36.50 %	
	B. (c.1) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2021	17.95 %	
	B. (c.2) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2021	9.78 %	
	B. (c.3) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2021	47.71 %	
	B. (c.4) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2021	23.64 %	
	B. (d.1) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2021	25.16 %	

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
	B. (d.2) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2021	7.42 %	
	B. (d.3) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2021	37.37 %	
	B. (d.4) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2021	15.26 %	
	A.1 Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2021	16.6 km	
	A.2 The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2021	€9642836.00	
	A.3 The average unit cost of regional road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²)	€78.16	
	B.1 Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2021	25.0 km	
	B.2 The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2021	€966871.00	
	B.3 The average unit cost of regional road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²)	€5.55	
	C.1 Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2021	63.0 km	
	C.2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2021	€8668056.00	
	C.3 The average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²)	€31.04	
	D.1 Kilometres of local road resealed during 2021	93.5 km	
	D.2 The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2021	€2452256.00	
	D.3 The average unit cost of local road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²)	€4.88	
Motor Tax: R3 Approved	A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2021	92.64 %	
Water: W1 & W2 Approved	Percentage of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements		Data provided by EPA

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
	The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered	100 %	
	The number of registered schemes monitored in 2021	121	
	Total number of registered schemes in 2021	121	
Waste: E1 Approved	A. The number of households, which are situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2021	34340	
	B. The percentage of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500)	84.07 %	
Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved	A. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2021	2616	
	A. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021	2622	
	A. Total number of pollution cases on hands at 31/12/2021	46	
	The opening number of pollution cases carried forward from the year end 2020	52	
Litter Pollution: E3 Approved	A1. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2021 was unpolluted or litter free	27 %	Data to be supplied by TCE
	A2. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2021 was slightly polluted	41 %	Data to be provide by TCE
	A3. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2021 was moderately polluted	23 %	Data to be provided by TCE
	A4. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2021 was significantly polluted	7 %	Data to be provide by TCE
	A5. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2021 was grossly polluted	2 %	Data to be provided by TCE
Green Flag Status: E4	A. The percentage of schools that have been awarded/renewed green	28.37 %	Data to be provided by AT

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Approved	flag status in the two years to 31 December 2021		
	Schools which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2021	2	Data to be provided by AT
	Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2021	17	Data to be provided by AT
	Schools which held a Green Flag from 2020 and therefore do not require renewal until 2022	21	Data to be provided by AT
Energy Efficiency: E5 Approved	A. The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2021 relative to baseline year (2009)		Awaiting on data to be provided by SEAI
Public Lighting: E6 Approved	A. Total billable wattage of the public lighting system	8444.00 MWh	Data to be provide by RMO
	B. Average billable wattage of the public lighting system	99.00 W	Data to be provided by RMO
	C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent	32.00 %	Data to be provided by RMO
	Number of LED lights in the public lighting system	6081	Data to be provided by RMO
	Number of non-LED lights (e.g., SOX-SON) in the public lighting system	12871	Data to be provided by RMO
Climate Change: E7 Approved	Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) climate action officer?	Yes	Awaiting on data to be provided by LGMA
	Does the local authority have a climate action team?	Yes	Awaiting on data to be provide by LGMA
Planning: P1 Approved	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	73.81 %	
	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021 by a builder or developer on the local authority	1768	
	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2021 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2021 undertaken by the local authority	1305	
Planning: P2 & P3 Approved	A. Number of local authority planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2021	63	

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
	B. Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation of the plan) the decision made by the local authority	79.37 %	
	Number of determinations confirming the local authority's decision (either with or without variation)	50	
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021 that were investigated	333	
	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2021	183	
	C. Percentage of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	0 %	
	D. Percentage of the cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	63.93 %	
	E. Percentage of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	36.07 %	
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2021	1422	
	Number of cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	0	
	Number of cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	117	
	Number of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	66	
Planning: P4 & P5 Approved	A. The 2021 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2016 Census	€30.79	
	AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion	€6006240	

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
	of the central management charge) for 2021		
	A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2021 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	60.92 %	
	B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2021 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	23.56 %	
	The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2021 that were not withdrawn by the applicant	174	
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2021 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application	106	
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2021 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	41	
Fire Service: F1 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2021 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2016 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	€30.71	
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2021	€4864755.94	This calculation uses the total population less that for East Meath Area where fire cover is provided by adjoining authorities for first turnout response. MCC still provides fire service to this area and any costs associated (operations and prevention) are part of our overall budget expenditure. As figure based on RBA Phase One report Re; Population served- circa. 36,635 of

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
			population has been allocated elsewhere i.e. Louth.
Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved	A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire		N/A
	B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	5.24 min	
	C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents		N/A
	D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	5.41 min	
	A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes	30.22 %	
	B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	59.42 %	
	C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	10.36 %	
	D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	24.65 %	
	E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	60.50 %	
	F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	14.85 %	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021	589	
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	178	

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	350	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	61	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021	357	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	88	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	216	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	53	
Library Service: L1 Approved	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the local authority area per the 2016 Census	0.61	
	B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	320080	
	C. Library active members per head of population	0.07	
	D. Number of registered library members in the year	10929	
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021	119296	
Library Service: L2 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2021 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2016 Census	€22.64	
	B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 1/01/2021 to 31/12/2021	€2.09	
	A. AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2021	€4416500	
	B. The annual expenditure on new stock acquired by the library in the	€408425	

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
	year		
Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 Approved	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	73.91 %	
	Total number of second level schools in the local authority area at 31/12/2021	23	new school opened in Dunshaughlin
	Number of second level schools in the local authority area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2021	17	
	A. The number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2021 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	9.30	
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register (maintained in accordance with section 128 of the Local Government Act 2001) for the local authority area as at 31/12/2021	441	Re-registration process carried out end of 2021 thus resulting in a reduction of groups registered. Prior to this it was mandatory to be registered to PPN in order to apply for community grants which reflected higher numbers and was not a true figure.
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2021	43	
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	41	
Corporate: C1, C2, C4 & C5 Approved	A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2021	767.75	
	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2021	1.75 %	
	B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2021	0.19 %	
	Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2021	3942 day	
	Total number of working days lost	323 day	

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
	to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2021		
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2021	0 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2021	890 day	
	If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include a text note of the number of staff on long-term sick leave	24	
	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021, divided by the WTE no.	€3811.24	
	Total ICT expenditure in 2021	€2926077.74	
	A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	1.87	
	Total Revenue expenditure from 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021 before transfers to or from reserves	156506078	
Corporate: C3 Approved	A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2021	9.30	
	B. The per capita total number of followers at end 2021 of the local authority's social media accounts (if any)	0.69	
	The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the local authority for the period from 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service or equivalent	1813460	
	The total number of social media users who, at 31/12/2021, were following the local authority on any social media sites	133638	
	The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	44	
	Indicate if there was a change to the cookie policies on the local authority sites and the date this	There were no changes to cookie policies on any of	

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
	came into effect	the websites during this period of 2021.	
Finance: M1 to M4 Approved	A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2017 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-1287437	
	B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2018 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-952361	
	C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2019 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-684544	
	D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2020 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-497931	
	E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2021 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€47033	
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2021 as a percentage of Total Income in 2021 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	0.03 %	
	G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2021	€802.41	
	H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2021 excluding significant out of county / shared service expenditure	€0	
	The 2021 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€171240650	
	The 2021 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€156506078	
	The 2021 Revenue expenditure excluding county / shared service expenditure for the service providers of HAP, MyPay, DRHE and Dublin Fire Services	€0	Following Audit Query where advised for Meath should be Zero
	A. (a) Collection level of Rates in	92.0 %	

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
	Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017		
	A. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	89.0 %	
	A. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	67.0 %	
	B. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	93.0 %	
	B. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	89.0 %	
	B. c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	73.0 %	
	C. a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	93.0 %	
	C. b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	89.0 %	
	C. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	81.0 %	
	D. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	88.0 %	
	D. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	88.0 %	
	D. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	83.0 %	
	E. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	92 %	Figure is Draft - Real picture will become apparent during 2022 when supports (Rates Waiver) expire
	E. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	89 %	Draft figures - very hard environment with constant income changes which requires many assessments to ensure correct rent applied as per the DR scheme
	E. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	83 %	Draft Figures - As mortgage moratorium expired, 2022 will show the impact of Covid of the many loans in the

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
			last 3/4 years that were drawn down
	A. Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2021	€14.16	
	IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2021	175	
	IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2021	132	
	IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2021	€2762064.84	
	Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2021	€0	
	Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2021		
	Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2021		
	Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2021		
	A. Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on revenue account	12.31 %	
	B. Total payroll costs as a percentage of revenue expenditure	31.10 %	
	Overall central management charge from the Local Authority FMS and defined in the Annual Budget	€19267612	
	Total payroll costs from Appendix 1 of the AFS for 2021 (including Salaries, Wages and Pensions)	€48680648	
Economic Development: J1 to J5 Approved	A. The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021 per 100,000 of population	105.1045	
	The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021	205.0	
	A. The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2021 per 100,000 of population	84.5963	
	B. The number of trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2021 per 100,000 of population	36.4020	
	The number of trading online voucher applications approved by	165	

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
	the Local Enterprise Office in 2021		
	The number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2021	71	
	A. The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021 per 100,000 of population	79.4692	
	The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021	155	
	A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes	
	B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes	
	The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2021 per head of population	€15.28	
	The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2021	€2979630	The number of approvals have decreased in 2021 due to a reduced intervention rate - from 90% grant to 50%.



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council