

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

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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 13, 2022.

Foreword

We are pleased to present Meath County Council's Annual Report 2021, which outlines the achievements and activities of the Council during the year. Despite hopes to the contrary, the COVID pandemic remained with us, and continued to impact on the operating environment of the Council.

Notwithstanding the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, the Council demonstrated its agility, resilience and determination to continue to deliver essential and frontline local services. Not only did we maintain our services and fulfil our various statutory obligations, but we also provided much needed additional supports and resources for the individuals, communities and businesses of County Meath.

Protecting the health and well-being of councillors and staff was of paramount importance and required that the Council continue with different ways of working, from home, online, by roster and that meetings of the Council were adapted to take place safely in-person, remotely or in a hybrid manner, as the public health measures allowed. Several Special Planning Meetings were convened online via the Zoom online platform and culminated in the adoption of the County Development Plan in September 2021.

Despite the ongoing challenges the Council continued to respond effectively to the national housing situation locally through the delivery of additional housing units and meeting people's housing needs through various delivery streams. A new Housing Allocation Scheme was adopted in October 2021, which strengthened the right sizing policy and introduced Choice Based Letting.

Throughout 2021, the Council implemented many of the practical actions contained in the Climate Action Strategy 2019-2024 and worked with the Climate Action Regional Office and other stakeholders in helping County Meath adapt to and mitigate against climate change.

With the easing of some public health restrictions towards the latter end of the year, the elected members of the Council were delighted to hold a Civic Reception in recognition of the Meath Minor Football Team's momentous achievement in being crowned All Ireland Minor Football Champions 2021. The event took place in the Solstice Arts Centre, Navan. Due to public health restrictions, we couldn't fill the Solstice to capacity but that in no way diminished the atmosphere on the night!

We are very proud of how the elected members and staff of the Council responded to the ongoing challenges posed by COVID and we thank them for their support and commitment to the delivery of services to the people of County Meath.



Cllr. Seán Drew
Cathaoirleach



Jackie Maguire
Chief Executive

2021 – Highlights

AGM 2021



Newly elected Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Drew and Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. Francis Deane with Chief Executive Jackie Maguire

Meath Minors Civic Reception



Pictured: The All-Ireland Minor Football Champions with Rory O'Connor from 'Rory's Stories' who emceed the event, joined by panellists Colm O'Rourke, Graham Geraghty and Donal Keegan.

Sod is turned on new state-of-the-art Library and Cultural Centre in Trim



A sod turning ceremony to mark the start of the works on Trim Library and Cultural Centre took place led by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD and supported by Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Councillor Sean Drew, Cathaoirleach of Trim MD, Cllr. Joe Fox, and Chief Executive, Jackie Maguire.

Meath County Council install Communication Boards in Meath Playgrounds



Pictured L-R - Aoife Flynn, Community Development Manager Facebook, Mark Hunter, Data Centre Site Manager Facebook, Des Foley, DoS Meath County Council and Cllr. Ronan Moore, Cathaoirleach Trim MD

Official Opening of Laytown-Bettystown Road as 'Tara Road - Bóthar na Teamhrach'



Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Hildegard Naughton T at the official opening in the presence of Cllr Sean Drew, Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council and Cllr Elaine McGinty, Cathaoirleach of the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

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 2021 Service Delivery Plan

The 2021 Service Delivery Plan was adopted by Meath County Council in February 2021. The service plan set out the principal services that the Council intended to provide to the public in the period to the end of 2021. 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 2021 Annual Report serves to provide an assessment of the delivery of services as set out in the service delivery plan for 2021.

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 2020 in September 2021, and a synopsis of the Council's performance is included at Appendix 12.

1.2 Meeting Administration

Covid-19 continued to impact on the format of Council meetings. To ensure the well-being of all participants, the majority of Council meetings were held via the Zoom online platform. Due to new legislation introduced in October 2020, the business of the Council was maintained, and statutory decisions and obligations were met.

The Annual General Meeting was held in Solstice Theatre on June 14, 2021. Councillor Sean Drew was elected Cathaoirleach and Councillor Francis Deane was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

The Annual Budget Meeting was held via Zoom on November 29, 2021, and saw the adoption of the Council's revenue budget for 2022 in the sum of €162,310,332.

The process of reviewing the County Development Plan continued in 2021 and required the convening of a series of additional meetings of the Council, the duration of which totalled approximately 85 hours. The Meath County Council Development Plan 2021-2027 was adopted by the Elected Members at a Special Planning Meeting which concluded on September 22, 2021.

Council Meetings 2021	No. of meetings
Ordinary (monthly) meetings	10
Annual and Budget Meetings	03
Special Planning Meetings	17
Total	30

Meeting Admin – 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	1	2	14
Ratoath	11	-	2	13
Trim	11	-	2	13
TOTAL	66	1	12	79

1.3 MD Allocation Scheme

In 2021, a total of 596 applications were processed, totalling €555,942. This represented allocations of €76,770 towards 77 internal projects and €479,624 benefitting 362 groups across the county, representing a wide variety of sectors, including community, sporting and heritage groups, residents associations and support services. A further €55,432 was deferred towards projects in 2022 and €15,000 reverted to the relevant municipal districts for allocation. (Appendix attached)

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 2021. There were no electoral events in 2021. The following outlines the various categories of electors in the county:

Dáil Electors	143,042
Presidential Electors	141,539
European Electors	143,273
Local Electors	147,457
Postal Voters	474

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

Ashbourne	21,039
Kells	25,982
Laytown-Bettystown	25,562
Navan	23,132
Ratoath	26,135
Trim	25,607

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is leading a project to modernise the electoral registration process. The proposed changes include the setting up of The Electoral Commission, the introduction of a rolling Register of Electors, a simplified registration process, and the creation of new categories of applicants.

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 2021:

Possible Part 15 Contraventions notified	7
Complaints referred to Chief Executive and/or Cathaoirleach	3
Investigations carried out	3
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 2021, Meath County Council received 160 Freedom of Information requests, 121 of which were for non-personal records and 39 of which were for personal records which included 36 requests from journalists, 44 from business/interest groups, and 5 from oireachtas/public representatives.

The following are the 2021 statistics relating to Freedom of Information requests:

Applications Received 2021	160
Carried forward from 2020	<u>9</u>
Total	169
No. of requests Granted	63
No. of requests Part Granted	26
No. of requests Refused	51
Requests Transferred	03
Requests Withdrawn	07
Requests dealt with outside FOI	16
Live Cases at end of 2021	03
No. of Internal Reviews	06
No. of Appeals to Information Commissioner	03

1.7 Access to Information on the Environment (AIE)

The following are the 2021 statistics relating to requests for Access to Information on the Environment requests:

Applications Received 2021	27
Carried forward from 2020	<u>03</u>
Total	30
No. of requests Granted	10
No. of requests Part Granted	04
No. of requests Refused	13
Requests Transferred	00
Requests Withdrawn & handled under FOI	01
Deemed Refused	00
Live Cases at end of 2021	02
No. of Internal Reviews	09
No. of Appeals to Information Commissioner	04

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 2021, the Unit dealt with the following:

Data Subject Requests- DSAR	35
Data Breach Notifications reported to DPU	25
Data Breach Notifications reported to Data Protection Commissioner	3
Review of Data Privacy Impact Assessments (DPIA)	6
Up to 31/12/2021 -Review of Departments Record of Processing Activities (ROPA)	405

Data protection refresher training was provided to staff in 2021. 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:

During 2021 the DPC continued to carry out cookies investigations, examining a significant number of websites to assess compliance with the relevant statutory obligations. Meath County Council has implemented a robust managed Cookie solution on Meath.ie.

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 endeavour to deliver quality services in accordance with the highest standards of effectiveness, efficiency and integrity.

Throughout 2021 the Customer Service Team continued to provide support to our elected members, customers, and staff. As the first point of contact with the organisation, the team logged 24,656 requests on our Customer Relationship Management System. 5,000 representations and/or requests were received from our Elected Members of which 4700 were resolved.

In addition, the Customer Service Team continued to manage the Covid Help Line provided under the Community Call initiative until October 2021 and logged and resolved over 300 calls. This service provided assistance to the community.

The Council's contact centre handled a total of 140,885 calls in 2021. This represents an increase of 7.5% from 2020. 72,709 of these calls were dealt with directly by the Customer Service Team, a further 67,394 were handled by other service departments, while 782 were abandoned.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, our public counters provided a restricted in-person service, however we continued to deliver a full service online and by telephone, to our customers.

1.10 Promotion of the Irish Language**Irish Language Officer**

In May 2020, the Council appointed an Irish Language Officer to help promote and assist in improving the services available from the Council through the medium of the Irish language.

The Irish Language Officer monitors the services that the Council provides through Irish and the following activities were achieved for 2021:

Council website and Social Media Accounts - Improvements were made to both areas in terms of increasing Irish language content on the website and reflecting Irish language activities of the Council through its Twitter and facebook social media accounts. The availability of bilingual application forms and documents was increased on the website across many sections of the Council, and competitions and activities organised by the Irish language officer were highlighted through the Council's Facebook and Twitter channels.

Customer service – there has been an improvement in replying to customer service queries across all sections of the Council. This included providing oral communication through Irish when required and written communication received from the general public through Irish that is replied to in Irish.

Other media activities – TG4 – activities and celebrations specific to county Meath were highlighted by the Irish Language Officer through participation in the TG4 *Guth an Phobail* programme – the ongoing works to transforming St. Kinneth’s church in Ballivor into a community centre and library were highlighted in a programme on TG4 Nuacht- *Guth an Phobail* as was another piece on Nuacht on the Colmcille 1500 celebrations which took place in Kells.

Culture Night 2021 – the Irish language office conducted a pre-recorded interview with the County Clare Irish language Officer – Michael McCaughan on his opinions on the healing nature of the Irish language based on his book *Coming Home*. This was made available to the public through the Council’s Youtube channel.

Seachtain na Gaeilge – due to the covid 19 pandemic, all Seachtain na Gaeilge events were organised and delivered online to both the school community and the general public. Events delivered through Irish and also bilingually included storytelling, crafts, and Tráth na gCeist. A comórtas léirmheas Leabhar – book review competition aimed specifically at pupils in the Gaelscoileanna was organised in cooperation with the language planning officer for the Ráth Chairn and Baile Ghib Gaeltacht District.

Protecting the Gaeltacht - the Council remains committed to the protection and development of the Gaeltacht areas of Ráth Chairn and Baile Ghib, and continues to make services available in Irish to the Gaeltacht community. Communication with the Irish language Planning Officer for Ráth Chairn and Baile Ghib was established so that issues relating to services and signage in the gaeltacht areas can be dealt with cooperatively.

Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga- The Council continued to co-operate with Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, in dealing with issues raised by members of the public including signage, publications, etc. A total of 10 complaints relating to signage and other issues across a number of sections of the council were reported to the Irish language officer from Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, 8 of which were resolved satisfactorily.

1.11 Governance and Risk Management

The Council’s corporate governance policies and procedures are coordinated by the Corporate Affairs and Governance Department. In 2021, the Risk Committee met four 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 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 2021, 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 2020 and the Audit Committee Report on the 2019 Audited AFS were presented and approved by the Council at its monthly meeting in April 2021. The Audit Committee is satisfied that its statutory and regulatory obligations were carried out and that the objectives in its Work Programme for 2021 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 the Covid-19 pandemic the continuity of Council services was maintained, and 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 2021 three internal audit reports of council activities were completed. The internal audit reviews conducted are as follows:

- Overview of the Ethics Framework- Annual Declaration of Interests process
- Implementation of the Purchase to Pay Policy – Review of the Accounts Payable stage
- Implementation of Recommendations in LGAS VFM Report No. 29 The Oversight Role of Local Authorities in the Provision of Social Housing

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

1.14 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.

The Council's Communications Strategy provides for an extensive programme of external communications and one of its key objectives is to promote the council's activities and increase awareness of the work that we do for our citizens.

Social Media Platforms

The Council continues to grow its number of subscribers and followers on our various social media platforms. These platforms have proved to be particularly effective during the pandemic, in providing up-to-date and timely information, running 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 2021, the Council recorded the following numbers in relation to social media followers/subscribers:

	2019	2020	2021
	14,264	17,514	21,632
	8,862	9,842	10,423
	972	2,023	2,657
	31	96	217
	2,363	2,981	3,637

External Meath Matters Publication

The Council published 2 further editions of the ‘Meath Matters’ newsletter to inform citizens of Meath about a mix of news, information and stories on Council services and activities. This follows-on from the launch of the newsletter in 2020.

The focus of the first edition of 2021 was the national ‘Keep Well’ campaign with the second edition including a short message from newly elected Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Drew. The front- and back-page portraits were provided by artist Andy Parsons who worked on the ‘Conversation in Portraits’ project with Meath Library Service.



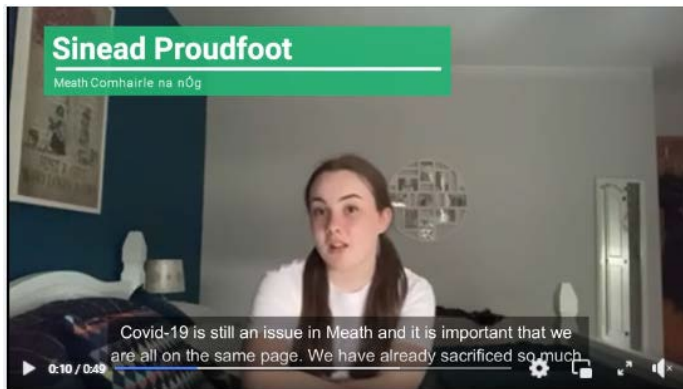
Covid-19 Communications

March 2021

The Council continued to work closely with the HSE and An Garda Síochána in strengthening some of the public health messaging locally on Covid- 19. During the month of March, 2021, the 14-day incidence rates in parts of the county were some of the highest in the country.

The Council’s Communications Team implemented a programme of local messaging across social media, newspapers and local radio, in association with the HSE and An Garda Síochána, to encourage higher levels of compliance with the guidelines, especially during the Easter period and during periods of high incidence rates.

July 2021



(Meath Minor Football Team) and Sinead Proudfoot (Meath Comhairle a Nóg).

In July, three short videos were published across the Council's social media channels as a reminder of the simple safety measures citizens can take to help prevent the spread of the virus. This project was launched following a directive from the North East Public Health Board regarding concerns of the rising figures in Meath.

The videos were recorded by the individuals and sent to the Council to publish. The videos featured Cllr. Yemi Adenuga, Cathal Hickey

Wildfire Prevention

Meath County Council in collaboration with Coillte, the custodians of 7% of Ireland's lands, which equates to 440,000 hectares of forests, produced and released a promotional video to facilitate a better understanding of how to enjoy forestry areas within County Meath through both land-based wildfire prevention measures and a greater awareness of litter pollution.



The video highlighted the severe impact and devastation these wild fires can have on the environment and communities when we don't treat these areas of forestry and bogs appropriately with actual footage from the forest fires that heavily impacted the surrounding communities of Kildalkey and Brannockstown in 2018, where over 120 acres of forest and bog were destroyed.

The video can be viewed on the Council's YouTube, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook channels. RTE News also featured a piece on primetime news at 1.00pm and 6.01pm on Monday, May 31.

Your Council Day 2021

Your Council Day campaign took place on Thursday, July 1. As in previous years, Your Council Day is all about showcasing the fantastic work that takes place in local authorities all year round. The LGMA launched a new website localgovernmentjobs.ie on the day, a go-to hub of information about local authority careers, highlighting opportunities available to local authority employees and promote local authorities as 'employers of choice'.

In 2021, Meath County Council focused on careers in engineering within the organisation. Several staff members spoke about their professional journey, which included details of specific jobs and they offered advice to the viewer on how to structure career goals.

Meath Fire Service Launch Mental Awareness Campaign



Peter Kane who spoke about mental health and its impact on local communities.

Meath County Council and Ashbourne Fire Station launched a campaign to shine a light on mental health. The aim of the campaign was to cut through the stigma associated with the illness.

Like all fire crews around the country, the Ashbourne crew have seen the fallout from people struggling with mental health issues. They asked us all to look out for our family, friends, work colleagues and each other. The first video featured Ashbourne fire fighter

Innovation

Meath Alerts – Free Alert Service MapAlerter Launch



MapAlerter was introduced by Meath County Council in 2021 to ensure that timely information is given to people for specific events that may affect them. This may include day-to-day events on roads, water, planning, community or other isolated events such as severe weather emergencies.

The new alert service allows users to subscribe to get alerts from Meath County Council using Mapalerter technology.

There is no charge to create an account and there are no costs to receive alerts through any channel, including SMS texts.

1.15 Civic and Corporate Events

The Council's planned programme of commemorative events was significantly impacted by the pandemic in 2021 but we were very fortunate to be able to hold the following events:

Meath Minor Civic Reception – November 2021



The decision by the elected members of Meath County Council to host a Civic Reception such as this is a rare event. On 1st November 2021 we honoured the winning Meath Minor Football team of 2021 on winning the All-Ireland Minor Final. On the night we recognised that what this team had achieved was significant and momentous for themselves, their team and their communities. It's only the fourth time that a team from Meath has won the All Ireland Minor Final, with 1957, 1990 and 1992 being the previous successful years.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Sean Drew presented the Captain Liam Kelly and the team with a specially commissioned Jersey.

Official Opening of Tara Road – September 2021

On Wednesday 29th September 2021, Minister Hildegard Naughton officially opened Tara Road in Laytown. This is a project that has been a priority of the Council for a number of years. This new vital link of 900 meters of carriageway is an improved means of access to the schools and other local services and also incorporates new cycleways, wide footpaths for pedestrians and bus stop and car parking facilities. The development and delivery of this road has had inputs from many people, including how it was officially named.

The Council employed a new, more open and participative approach, which was in two phases. The first phase saw local schools in the immediate area and members of the Municipal District nominate suitable names, to form a list of options.

The second phase involved a social media poll, whereby members of the public had the opportunity to vote for their preferred option.

The results of the poll, which attracted a total of 986 votes over a six-day period, saw the public choosing 'Tara Road – Bóthar na Teamhrach', in recognition of the area's connection to the Tara Brooch which was found in East Meath in 1850.



Official Sod Turning of Trim Library and Cultural Centre – September 2021

Minister Heather Humphries officially turned the sod on the Trim Library and Cultural Centre on 14th September 2021. This new Cultural Centre and extension to the current library is a significant investment for the town of Trim and the people of the surrounding area. It builds upon the established success of the existing library and responds directly to the needs of the performing and visual arts, which are key feature of the town’s cultural life.



Official Opening of Nobber Greenway – November 2021

The Nobber Greenway was officially opened by Minister Heather Humphries on 29th November 2021. This Greenway is proof that the investment programmes that the Minister’s Department administer deliver tangible benefits for local communities across the country.

This Greenway secured an initial grant funding of €160,000 under the 2018 Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure (ORIS) scheme. Nearly 2kms of the old disused railway line adjacent to Nobber has been transformed into a walkway/cycle trail greenway.

This funding, along with an allocation under the Town and Village scheme has seen the construction of footpaths and repairs to existing footpaths which link to the greenway and creates a 3.5km loop around Nobber village.



Twinning, Cary, North Carolina – October 2021

On 15th October 2021 the Council welcomed a group from Cary, North Carolina in commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Sister Cities Twinning.



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 success of our Safety Management System was accomplished through the continued commitment of our employees and external interested parties.

Safety Management System

Legal and operationally required occupational safety and health (OSH) documentation was reviewed and as relevant updated to ensure compliance. A continuous risk assessment programme for the completion, review, update and communication of risk assessments is in place and implemented within all Sections.

COVID-19 requirements and arrangements were embedded within our Safety Management System with all activities risk assessed and control measures implemented. These have been updated in line with Government advice.

Regulatory Inspections

The Health and Safety Authority (H.S.A) completed 9 No. Regulatory Inspections:

9 No. H.S.A. Inspections	7 No. Internal (MCC) Operations
	2 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 49 incidents were reported during 2021:

Fatal	IR1	IR3	Injury < 3 days	Injury no absence	Near Miss	V&A	Property Damage
-	8	3	4	6	8	4	16
	(2 No. Contractor)	(3 No. Contractor)			(2 No Contractor)		
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.

The 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 construction management, school warden activities, winter gritting operations, beach wardens and lifeguard activities. COVID-19 Briefings were conducted with all employees and other interested parties e.g. housing maintenance contractors and TVIs.

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;
- COVID-19 Consultative Committee; and
- 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.

COVID-19 Consultative Committee was established in 2020 for the development, review and consultation of COVID-19 arrangements and to progress employee queries or concerns. Membership includes representatives from the Unions, Corporate Affairs and Governance, Human Resources and the Safety Section and meets on a 6-weekly basis.

A number of tool box talks and safety alerts were issued to relevant across Sections, these included working with underground services, driving in severe weather conditions, hi-visibility clothing, COVID- 19 updates.

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 including the implementation of COVID-19 arrangements 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.

Meath County Fire and Rescue Services maintained certification to ISO 45001:2018 Occupational health and safety management systems.

Housing

2.1 Capital Programme

Summary of Housing Delivery 2021

A total of 336 Social Housing units were delivered in 2021 through acquisitions, leasing and direct construction projects.

Units Delivered 2021	Total
Acquisitions	25
Build	223
Leasing	88
Total	336

In the lifetime of the Rebuilding Ireland Programme from 2018 to 2021, Meath County Council has delivered 465 units over and above the agreed target of 1,190 houses



Examples of developments delivered in 2021



Phase 2 Shephard's Lodge, Bettystown May 2021



Direct Construction – Lagore Road, Dunshaughlin



Willow Grove Dunshaughlin - PART V Acquisitions – Disability / Age Friendly Units

The Council continued to work with Approved Housing Bodies which has yielded significant delivery during 2021 (242 units allocated).

Vacant Homes Action Plan

In accordance with the Vacant Homes Register, there are currently 138 units on the Live Register. The main reasons for vacancy have been recorded as Derelict/Uninhabitable (37.7%), Vacant (22.5%) and Currently for Sale/Sale Agreed (13.8%). There has been a noted increase in the number of properties originally listed as vacant for financial reasons now becoming available for sale or indeed sold. To date, 174 properties have been removed from the register with the following key reasons noted for removal: i) occupied following subsequent inspection (38.5%), ii) sold (31.6%) and iii) AHB acquired (12.6%)



2.2 Affordability Measures

The following local affordability measures were advanced by Meath County Council during 2021:

The remaining three cost reduced units in Broadmeadow Vale, Ratoath were allotted in 2021, thereby realising the full affordability dividend associated with the first phase of the Ratoath LIHAF project (10 units). A further 10 units will be made available in the second phase of the project.

Nine low-cost private sites as incorporated in the Phase 1 of Lagore Lawns, Dunshaughlin, were allocated during 2021, following the receipt of 51 eligible applications, representing a further affordability measure undertaken directly by Meath County Council.

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

Grant aid to the value of €3,314,174 was awarded to 485 Households under the various Grants Schemes in 2021.

2.3 Adaptation Schemes

Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

For 2021, 53 projects were completed to existing Council stock with a total expenditure of €488,478.

A New National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027 was developed throughout 2021 and will be launched in January 2022. The new strategy will place a greater emphasis on independent living and community inclusion.

The Draft County Meath Strategy for Housing People with a Disability 2021-2026 was considered by the Disability Steering Group in June 2021 and submitted to the Housing Agency.

2.4 Housing Maintenance

Local Authority Vacant Units Currently Unavailable for Allocation

A total of 96 Vacant units required works prior to being re-tenanted in 2021.

In respect of vacant units, a total of €1,279,372 funding was secured in 2021 from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (pre-let repairs - €1,055,598 and energy efficiency works - €223,774).

Response Maintenance

A total of 6,003 housing maintenance cases were logged in 2021 and subsequently responded to by the Housing Operations Section.

2.5 Homeless Service

A total of 265 households required an emergency accommodation placement in 2021.

A total of 499 households presented as homeless to Meath County Council in 2021 (329 individual/couples and 170 families).

A total of 239 households exited emergency accommodation in 2021, with 32% of households exiting into private rented/Local Authority/Approved Housing Body tenancies

Significant Progress was made during 2021 with the continued roll out of Housing First in the county with a further 13 Housing First tenancies secured during 2021. The Homeless HAP Place finder Service supported 126 tenancies during the year.

As Covid 19 Restrictions continued during 2021, the Isolation Plan which was devised and implemented remained in place. A number of units within stock were set aside and utilised for the purposes of isolation, as and when the need arose. At year end the majority of units were brought back into stock or reassigned to the Re-Settlement Programme, thus leaving 2 units retained for isolation purposes.

The Mid East Region Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2023 was prepared by the Local Authorities of Kildare, Meath and Wicklow and the Health Services Executive (HSE) to tackle the persistent high level of homelessness in the region.

During the lifetime of the previous Action Plan, 2018-2020, significant challenges were faced across the region in dealing with the increasing numbers of individuals and families presenting as homeless to the Local Authorities.

2.6 Private Rental Inspections

During 2021, 664 Inspections of private rental accommodation properties were carried out. A significant decrease of Inspections was recorded in 2021 due to Covid 19 Restrictions.

2.7 Tenant Purchase Scheme

Eleven units were acquired by tenants of Meath County Council under the Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2021, at a cumulative discount of €738,900.

2.8 Traveller Accommodation

Meath County Council expended €753,134.79 directly on Traveller specific accommodation in 2021. This expenditure was across several initiatives, including acquisitions, halting site bay refurbishments, disability adaptations and measures to resolve overcrowding within St Patrick Park halting site.

Year 2 Targets under the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 were achieved, with 37 allocations to social housing applicants from the Traveller community (Target: 9).

Part 8 Planning Process for the Refurbishment of St Francis' Park, Navan, was published during the period 6th April-21st May 2021. The Chief Executive's Planning Report was presented to the Navan Municipal District on 23rd June 2021.

A total of 8 casual vacancies on St Patrick's Park Halting Site were filled during 2021.

2.9 Social Housing Supports

A total of 1,093 households had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in 2021, as detailed in the table below:

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	290
Approved Housing Bodies	242
RAS	0
HAP	525
TOTAL	1093

A total of 1,033 new applications for Social Housing Support were received in 2021.

There were 223 refusals of offers of accommodation made by the Housing Department, to applicants during 2021, representing a 29% refusal rate on the total offers of accommodation made. The main reasons recorded by applicants for a refusal were:

- I. property deemed not to meet their accommodation needs,
- II. no longer willing to accept a house in previously selected Area of Choice,
- III. wish to remain in existing HAP property

The introduction of the Choice Based Lettings System which came into operation in December 2021 should reduce the rate of refusals in the future. A new Housing Allocation Scheme was adopted in October 2021, strengthening the right sizing policy, simplifying qualification of need and introduced Choice Based Letting.

Choice Based letting was launched online on our website in December 2021, to speed up the allocation process, to reduce the number of refusals and to shorten the void period for housing stock.

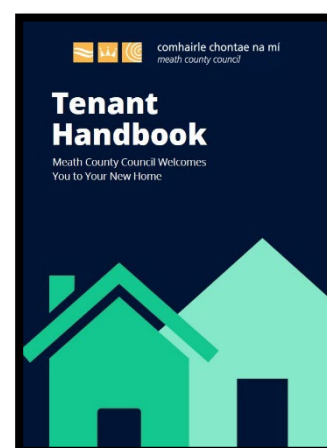
2.10 Tenant Liaison

A total of 290 tenants completed pre-tenancy training during 2021, obtaining a variety of information concerning their tenancy with Meath County Council. In addition, 892 anti-social behaviour complaints were received and investigated by the Tenant Liaison team throughout 2021.

A new Tenant Handbook was launched during 2021 which is provided to each new Tenant at Pre-Tenancy training which outlines the council's responsibility to the tenant and the responsibilities of tenants. The Handbook provides information on how tenants can pay their rent and details matters relating to the maintenance of the property.

Community improvement works took place Windtown, Navan

Tenants and the council worked together to improve the entrance to the estate. Works undertaken included a clean-up of the area, new fencing, and painting of houses & boundary walls. The total cost of the works was €12,102.70.



Planning and Development Management

3.1 Forward Planning

The Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 was recommended to the Chief Executive for adoption by the Elected Members at a Special Planning Meeting on 22 September 2021 and came into effect on 3 November 2021. The Plan was then subject to a Direction by the Minister under Section 31 of the Planning and Development Acts whereby the decision of the Elected Members was overturned in relation to nine settlements and the zoning returned to that of the draft Plan. Five judicial reviews of the Plan were notified to the Council following the adoption of the Plan.

Approximately 85 hours of meetings were held throughout the year between the Special Planning Meeting on the Draft Plan and the Special Planning Meeting on the Material Amendments. These meetings were held in person and online depending on the nature of restrictions at the time of the meetings.

3.2 Heritage and Conservation

A number of projects were progressed under the Heritage and Conservation work programmes, these included:

- **Irish Walled Town Network:** Developed an audio-visual guide on the history and archaeology of the walk from Sheep Gate to Newtown, Trim.
- **National Biodiversity Action Plan:** Supporting the delivery of local community biodiversity actions; established pollinator information hubs in library; delivered two five-week online courses on gardening for biodiversity courses to 75 participants; 5-week communications campaign on LMGM on biodiversity and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan; Prepared a Grassland Management Plan to enhance the biodiversity value of 14ha of the Hill of Lloyd.
- **Heritage Week 2021:** Event migrated online, encouraged and supported local groups to prepare projects – 36 projects showcased from County Meath.
- **County Heritage Plan Fund 2021:** Appointed Industrial heritage archaeologist to complete field survey of Meath's Industrial Heritage (Northwest Meath - Phase II) and supported publication of Knowth Volume on Megalithic Art.
- **Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2021:** 15 local heritage projects supported.
- **Kells Creative Placemaking Project:** Phase 1 - Advanced design of Kells Printing Works and capital works to and fit out of Kells Courthouse Tourism and Cultural Hub.
- **Meath County Council Culture Team:** Culture and Creativity Strategy for County Meath 2018-2022 – Supported publication of Heritage Guide for Medieval Navan and Moynagh Lough Archaeological Excavation Project.
- **Community Monuments Fund 2021:** Six archaeological projects received funding under the scheme.
- **Built Heritage Investment Scheme:** Nine projects funded.
- **Historic Structures Fund:** Two projects funded
- **Conservation Projects:** Mural Tower – Works to repair the mural tower to the rear of Cannon Street, Kells
- **St. Kinnith's Church:** Extensive repair and restoration works to St. Kinnith's Church, Ballivor and change of use to a Community Hub
- **The Porchfield:** Protection and display of the Horse Bridge.

3.3 Development Contributions

Receipts from development contributions rose in 2021 with a projected outturn (pre-audit) in the region of €13.3 million (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 2022.

3.4 Compliance Activities

The Planning Department opened 303 planning enforcement cases in 2021 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.

The Council continues to carry out its function of taking-in-charge of estates. In 2021, a total of 25 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. Compliance rules have changed following publication of Circular PL01/2022 entitled 'Timeline for determining compliance condition submissions from developers. Post 17 December 2021, all compliance submissions have to be considered and decided upon within 8 weeks of receipt as now inserted in section 34(5) of the Planning and Development Act 2001, as amended.

3.5 Development Management

The number of applications received in 2021 exceeded already unprecedented levels in 2020. A total of 2434 applications were received, an increase of 15% on 2021. The Planning Department continues to note an improvement in the scope and complexity of development proposals being considered.

The Planning Department also assisted in a number of other projects as follows;

- Strategic Housing Development
- Strategic Infrastructural Development
- Five Part VIII applications
- Providing advices on various work programmes such as Outdoor Dining and the National Broadband Plan
- Public Realm Plans for Athboy, Laytown/Bettystown and Oldcastle
- Flowerhill/Abbeylands Urban Design Plan

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 Council's Financial Compliance Team.

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 Association (NTA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Dept. of Transport (DoT) through the following main elements:

- Regional and local roads upkeep – including routine and winter maintenance and surface dressing
- Regional and local roads improvement – including discretionary improvement, restoration improvement, specific improvement schemes, bridge works, footpath improvements
- Active & Sustainable transport initiatives
- Road safety schemes and traffic management schemes
- Public lighting & traffic lights
- Parks and playgrounds / public open spaces
- Car-parking

The Transport Section also worked in conjunction with TII to progress a number of National Primary and National Secondary road improvement and resurfacing schemes within the County.

Road Improvement achievements included the delivery of the circa €44.4m road works programme and the completion of 12 Community Involvement Schemes (majority of funding from DoT) and 20 Local Improvement Schemes (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 2021

- N2 Slane Bypass and Public Realm improvements – Consultants progressing Phase 3 design. Topographical surveying complete and utility survey progressing in Slane Village. The scheme has been amended significantly to include public realm improvements.
- N51 Dunmoe Phase 2 – The main construction contract commenced on 26th July 2021, with a projected construction period of 18 months. Works are progressing.



- N51 Dunmoe – Phase 2
- N52 Grange to Clontail Road scheme – Awaiting approval from the TII to commence Stage 4 Statutory

Processes. CPO documentation being drafted.

- N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon – Analysis of submissions received following PC3 on the emerging preferred option being finalised for the Public Consultation Report. Options Selection Report being published early 2022.
- National Road Pavement Schemes – Maintenance/resurfacing schemes carried out at N2 Cushinstown, N52 Mandistown, N52 Marvellstown, and N51 Halltown. Scheme also underway on N52 Higginstown to Crowinstown (in conjunction with Westmeath County Council).
- Meath County Council is liaising with Cavan County Council in relation to the progression of the N3 Virginia By-Pass project where a third public consultation take place in August/September 2021.

4.3 Non-National road network maintained in 2021

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 2021 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 programme.

4.4 Additional Non-National Schemes progressed in 2021

- R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road – Construction is complete with the road being officially opened in September 2021 and renamed “Tara Road”.



R150 – Tara Road

- LDR4 Abbeyland Navan – Formal applications for EIS and CPO lodged with An Bord Pleanála and approval granted in July 2021. The CPO, as confirmed with modifications, was placed on display in September 2021.
- LIHAF – LDR6 Navan R153 to Ferganstown and Ballymacon – Construction works complete.



LDR6/R153 Local Distributor Road to Ferganstown/Ballymacon



LIHAF – Ratoath Outer Relief Road

- N51 Dunmow LIHAF – Ratoath Outer Relief Road Phase 1 – Construction works complete.
- LDR1b – Work to review the Part 8 planning and preliminary design & CPO documents ongoing.
- R162 Kilberry – Construction works on Phase 1 completed in April 2021. Phase 2 being split into 2 contracts – first portion commenced on site on 22nd November 2021
- Milltown Road Scheme – Construction works complete.
- Bracetown Link Road – Consultants continuing to progress the finalise design and Part 8 documentation.
- Clonmaggaden Lane – preliminary geometric and drainage designs complete.
- Work has commenced on the Drogheda Local Transport Plan as part of the Joint Urban Area Plan for Drogheda.
- Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway – Construction work on the Navan to Wilkinstown Section along the rail line commenced in Q4 2021. TII approval is being sought for the bridge over the N52 and the tender for the construction contract between Castletown and Nobber issued, for construction in 2022.
- Athboy Town Centre Project – Emerging preferred option identified. Ground investigation, services identification, design and environmental reports finalised. Part 8 commencing January 2022.

4.5 Bridge Remedial Works progressed in 2021

Remedial Works have been funded on Clavens Bridge, Julianstown Bridge, Gibber Bridge, Breakey Bridge and Ashfield Bridge. Works carried out on Kilmainhamwood retaining wall and Donaghmore embankment and repair works to Johnstown culvert also undertaken.

4.6 Safety Improvement Works progressed in 2021

Safety Improvement Works have been funded at the following locations: R147 Newgate and Liscarton junctions; L-1006-0 Cabinhill; L-3409-18/L-7414-12 Donaghpatrick and L-4020/L-80142-47/L-2226-0 Clonguiffin Longwood. Safety Scheme designed for R-156 / L-62161 Kilmore, Moynalvey for progression in 2022.

4.7 Jobs Stimulus Packages

In the latter half of 2020, Meath County Council was successful in securing funding under two Job Stimulus packages implemented by the Government.

The first was managed through the National Transport Authority to support local authorities' response to Covid-19 challenges and assist with their work to equip local communities and businesses with improved walking and cycling infrastructure. The majority of the 38 successful schemes that received an allocation under this heading in 2020 were completed during 2021. This included the completion of a circa €1.2m project at the R154 Kiltale.

The second stimulus package, managed through DoT, was for measures to address Climate Adaptation and Resilience works on the network. A further allocation was received in 2021 of €595,000 and six more schemes were progressed under this heading.

Another new stream of funding in 2021 saw businesses applying for the Outdoor Dining Grant. This resulted in the Transportation Department processing 41 applications for Section 254 licences to allow businesses place furniture on the public footpath outside their premises during Covid Restrictions. In conjunction with the Outdoor Dining Grant, the National Transport Authority funded the installation of infrastructure for 25 Parklets at some of these locations throughout the county.

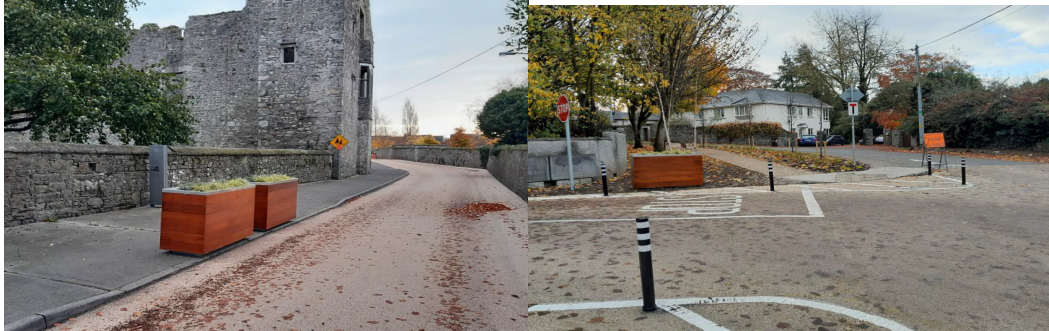
4.8 Active and Sustainable Transport Schemes progressed in 2021

- Boyneside Trail – Planning application submitted to An Bord Pleanála in July 2020, further information requested to be submitted Q1 2022, decision will follow.
- Boyne Greenway – Oldbridge to Navan – Non-Statutory Public Consultation held in Quarter 1 2021 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. Design and tender documents for Phase 3 prepared, which includes works on Kennedy Rd/Kennedy Plaza, Market Square/Trimgate St/Kennedy Rd junction and Abbey Rd (Taxi Rank).



Navan 2030 – Contract 2 – Bridge Street

- Installation of Bus Shelters – NTA funding secured for Bus Shelter enabling works and Accessible bus stops – design works complete and tender process ongoing – construction commencing Q1 2022.
- Laytown Park & Ride Facility – Works complete.
- Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – CCTV drainage survey complete, slit trenching works carried out, discussions ongoing with Irish Rail re railway crossing. Final land-take details being prepared by Consultant.
- Navan GDA Cycle Network – Fairgreen to Johnstown – Convent Road Filtered Permeability Trial Scheme ongoing. CCTV and public lighting installation, landscaping elements, together with road markings and signage complete – snagging taking place early in 2022.



Convent Road Scheme



Convent Road Scheme

- Navan Bus Stops – works completed at a number of locations throughout Navan town during 2021. Design work continuing on 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.
- Harlockstown Pedestrian and Bus Stop Improvement Scheme – Deed of Dedication for required lands on northern side of the R125 received. Project scope expanded to include an additional 500m section of footpath, a section of road camber adjustment works and associated drainage improvements. Construction phase anticipated to commence in Q1 2022.
- Ratoath Cycle Network – Work ongoing on revised Part 8 drawings & documents.
- N51 Park & Ride, Navan – Part 8 process completed in early 2021, detailed design complete and project out to tender, construction phase to commence on site in early 2022, subject to funding.
- HGV Transport Study (Navan) – Preliminary work on the HGV study model complete.
- Navan Rail Line – Meath County Council undertook significant data gathering and examination of the potential usage of a future rail line to Navan, to inform the review of the Navan Rail Line that was undertaken by the NTA. The publication of the NDP indicates that the Rail Line is now a national objective.
- Navan – Circular Rd to Martha's Bridge Cycle & Walkway – Appointment of Consultant being finalised to progress design works.
- Ashbourne – R135 Frederick St to Ballybin Rd – to commence construction by Qtr. 1 2022.
- Bettystown to Donacorney Walking & Cycling Infrastructure – Approval received from NTA to proceed with the Part 8 process.

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.

4.9 Work continued on the delivery of other Transportation/Operations services in 2021

- Development Control / Transport Planning Advice – volume of applications assessed increased significantly in 2021;
- Ordinary Maintenance, Winter Maintenance Service and Maintenance of Plant and Machinery;



New Loading Shovel – Winter Maintenance Operations

- 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.

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.

The Council has responsibility for over 500 statutory environmental functions which are contained within legislation and which provide for proper regulatory and monitoring systems for environmental protection and control of pollution.

In 2021 the Minister published a draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 which sets out objectives and measures designed to protect and restore good water quality in our rivers, lakes, groundwater, estuaries and coastal waters and bringing benefits and linkages to health, biodiversity, climate, communities, and jobs.

In 2021 the launch of the Green Kilometre Scheme proved to be a hugely successful initiative in the fight against litter in the county and coming at a time when there was a significant increase in pandemic related litter such as masks, gloves and coffee cups. The scheme which saw some 240 groups, individuals and business committing to maintaining at least 1km in their locality free of litter resulted in over 6,000 bags of litter being picked up. Many new volunteers came on board and all participants were provided with gloves, bags, sapling trees and a collection service for the bags.



The Council also initiated a number of litter and waste related measures designed to promote responsible management in these areas- these included:

- The holding of bulky waste days across different waste streams and whereby householders could bring items such as sofas, couches, mattresses, paint and chemicals to our Recycling centres free of charge.



Bulky Waste Collections

- A paint reuse scheme held in our Recycling Centre. Non-hazardous paint was set aside for inspection and collection by the Rediscovery Centre for remixing and resale.



- The clean up of 5 additional sites under the Government funded Anti-Dumping Initiative and where such sites were subject to continuous dumping over long periods of time.
- Participation in National, Regional and Local Dog fouling campaigns
- Activities in Schools including Green Schools Seminars, Re-Love Fashion. Water Dispenser , Rubbish Film Festival and TY Climate Action project with GAA Leaders Programme.



Picker Pals

- Social Media, Cinema, Radio and billboards campaigns in respect of Food Waste and roll out of the Brown bin.
- Grant funding of €5m was provided from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment to support anti-littering efforts arising out of higher levels of outdoor dining and domestic tourism following the easing of COVID 19 restrictions. These funds were used for the provision of quality litter picking materials, mapping of existing levels of on street infrastructure (bins and dog fouling receptacles) as well as additional education and awareness efforts.

Other projects and initiatives progressed in 2021 included:

- Burial Grounds: Substantial progress was made in 2021 on the development of the extension of the Rooske Road Cemetery in Dunboyne. A site for a replacement burial ground for Trim was purchased and a potential replacement site was identified in Stamullen.
- A number of recommendations arising from the Beach Management Plan were implemented during 2021 including the phased removal of parking from the beaches and planning progressed for the development of a Community Building at Seaview Tce Bettystown.



Car Free Bettystown Beach

- Good progress was made in respect of Derelict Sites in 2021 with a number of additional properties added to the derelict sites register, vesting orders were made and the council continues to engage with property owners.

5.2 Climate Action

Climate Change is a reality and local authorities like Meath County Council are at the coal face of advancing climate adaptation and mitigation in Ireland for while we have responsibilities in these areas we are also influencers in such areas as energy, waste management, air quality, biodiversity, surface water management, planning, building control, transport choices etc.

In 2021 the Council despite the challenges presented by the COVID pandemic continued to implement many of the practical actions contained in the Climate Action Strategy 2019-2024 and working with the CARO and other stakeholders in helping County Meath adapt to and mitigate against climate change and taking advantage of our unique position in identifying risks and vulnerabilities across a wide spectrum of areas.

In addition to the strategy actions, the Council introduced various new initiatives, many of which arise from EU, National and Regional publications of policies and regulations which are all designed to ensure Ireland meets legally binding targets of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2050, and a reduction of 51% by 2030. These include:

- The publication of the Climate Action Plan 2021 which sets out indicative ranges of emission reductions for each sector of the economy and which requires the Local Authorities to prepare a Climate Action Plan incorporating both Mitigation and Adaptation
- The publication of the Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy being a key addition to Government's drive to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and to get on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as per commitments in the Programme for Government and the Climate Act 2021.
- The publication of Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 – a Local Authority sector strategy for delivering on the Climate Action Charter and Climate Action Plan.
- The publication of a guidance document on both the electrification of the Local Authority Fleet and the provision of public Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure.
- The inclusion of Trim in the URBACT scheme as a pilot project to localise the Sustainable Development Goals and linking with cities and towns in Europe in developing integrated solutions to common urban challenges.
- The designation of Trim as a Decarbonising Zone spatial area in which a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and bio-diversity measures are identified to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs to contribute to national climate action targets.
- The allocation of funding under the Digital Innovation Programme (DIP) 2021 which will see the

installation of air quality sensors via a LoRaWAN network at different locations in Trim.

- The establishment of a dedicated Climate Action Team one of whose key roles will be to strengthen energy management across the organisation – the team will work closely with the Climate Action Forum made up of elected members and Officials and involve a collaborative effort across all Departments.
- The role out of a climate action training programme comprising of a suite of six training pillars each tailored and designed to specific target groupings within the Local Authority.
- Collaboration with the adjoining Local Authorities with a view to establishing a Mid-East Energy Bureau to support the Local Authorities in meeting their 2030 Energy Efficiency and Carbon Emission Targets and to fulfil their exemplary role with respect to climate action
- Various local initiatives including, the promotion of Sustainable Energy Communities, water refill stations, tree planting on public lands, Purls of Wisdom project, using wool craft to communicate on climate change, Climate Film Club, food waste prevention and school campaigns.

5.3 Energy Efficiency

Meath County Council is taking a leadership role in delivering on our energy and climate targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030 and to become climate neutral no later than 2050 while also improving energy efficiency by 50% by 2030.

The Council is currently updating our Climate Action Plan to meet these targets. The monitoring and reporting for 2021 is underway and is due to be completed by the end of April 2022. Meath County Council's 2020 Energy Statement is available in Appendix 11.

Fire and Emergency Services

6.1 Overview

Meath 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
- Major emergency planning and pre incident planning

Meath Fire and Rescue Service is ready to respond to a range of incidents and emergencies as requested by the Eastern Regional Control Centre through the 999/112 system. To ensure a continued efficient and effective response, 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.

A contribution is paid annually to the Eastern Regional Control Centre for emergency call handling and mobilisation of fire service resources. The migration of the fire service from its legacy analogue radio systems to the National Digital Radio System known as Tetra has taken place as part of a national CTrí Project and with this new system comes increased contribution in costs.

6.2 Health and Safety

Meath Fire and Rescue Service continues to strive hard to maintain an effective Health and Safety Management System – certification to ISO 45001 was successfully renewed. There was significant investment in training in 2021 to address some of the delays resulting from Covid restrictions on training courses.

6.3 Equipment and 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 2021 in equipment and equipment maintenance.



Training Course July 2021

The first national QQI accredited Transportation Course took place in Trim, along with a national QQI Hazardous Materials Course 2020. The Training Plan was reviewed due to the impacts of Covid-19 and many refresher training courses were run including Breathing Apparatus, Road Traffic Collision, Emergency and Cardiac First Responder and Hazardous Materials refresher training. The commitment of staff to maintaining services continued to be excellent despite the many challenges of 2021.

6.4 Fleet and Station Maintenance

Meath 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. Investment in our fleet is a priority so that we have a modern, safe and efficient fleet. Meath County Fire & Rescue Service procured two replacement Scania Class B firefighting appliances and a Volvo Class B firefighting appliance in order to update the fleet in 2021.

A temporary station was set up for Nobber Fire Station to allow for extensive refurbishment and extension of Nobber Fire Station to commence, this work is progressing well and it is hoped to complete works in the Summer of 2022. 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.



Nobber Fire Station

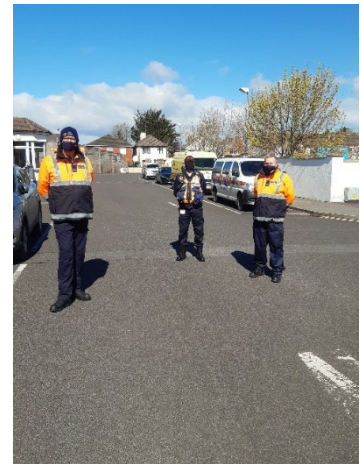
6.5 Fire Prevention and Community Fire Safety

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. 2021 was a busy year for new developments and the level of inspections rose significantly during the year to meet statutory requirements and deal with complaints.

The delivery of the Schools Fire Safety Programme (4th class primary initiative) recommenced under the Community Fire Safety initiatives delivered by the fire service. Meath Fire and Rescue Service continued to use social media to good effect to spread the messaging on fire prevention, with particular emphasis on fire safety in the home as this is where most fire deaths occur.

6.6 Civil Defence

There are currently two hundred active volunteer members in Civil Defence throughout the county. The scheduled training programme was disrupted again this year due to COVID-19 when all training activities were suspended in compliance with public health guidelines. However, thanks to the training facilities in Moat View House we were able to facilitate outdoor skills training for our volunteers as well as volunteers from other locations within our region.



By contrast the organisation was heavily immersed in community support providing transport for patients to Health Centre and hospital appointments, delivering essential medical equipment to patient’s homes, transporting patients for COVID tests, along with transporting vaccination teams and assisting at Blood donation Clinics.

A total of 245 Covid 19 Related taskings were undertaken as well as 45 community events. The pandemic response has been the longest sustained deployment of Civil Defence volunteers in the 70-year history of the organisation.



Volunteers on duty at Newgrange Winter Solstice



A presentation day was held during September where volunteers received certification for training courses, long service medals and some ranking promotions. As part of the presentation day a new bench, dedicated to deceased members of Meath Civil Defence was unveiled.

In October Michael Fitzsimons retired from this role as Civil Defence Officer after 27 years. Assistant Civil Defence Officer Shane Quinn was successful in being appointed to the position of Civil Defence Officer.

The Civil Defence Branch issued the organisation with a new 4 x 4 crew-cab jeep and a second 4x4 was procured to replace an ageing vehicle. A number of items of training equipment were also upgraded and replaced.



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 Community Response Forum Covid 19

The Community Response Forum set up at the start of Covid continued to meet regularly until restrictions started to ease. The freephone number and email address set up also continued to be used albeit at a reduced rate.

7.3 Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The function of the LCDC is to implement the 2016-2021 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 and the Community Enhancement Programmes.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021

The LCDC prepared a six-year Statutory Local Economic Community Plan in conjunction with the Council. This Plan serves as the primary strategy guiding development in Meath and the targeting of resources under the direct management of the LCDC. Any funding applications for proposed projects must also be consistent with the objectives of the plan. Guidelines for the development of the next LECP issued from the Department and the drafting of a new plan will commence in 2022.

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

The SICAP Programme which is funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development aims to reduce poverty, promote social inclusion and equality through local engagement and collaboration. This is the fourth year of the 5-year programme with this year's budget at €405,136.00. The Department has advised that the SICAP programme will be extended by 12 months to 31st December 2023 and also noted that this was included as an option in the original tender and subsequent funding agreement. Meath Partnership who was awarded the contract continues to deliver the programme on behalf of the LCDC.

The Meath Wellness Hub, which links with the current SICAP programme in 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.

7.5 LEADER Programme 2014-2022

The LCDC and Local Authority are responsible for monitoring/overseeing the delivery of the LEADER programme where the existing programme was extended to March 31st, 2021 as a result of Covid 19.

The Transitional LEADER Programme commenced in April 2021 as a result of delays in agreeing the Common Agricultural Policy Fund by the EU. The Transitional Programme will bridge the gap between the last programme and the new LEADER Programme to commence in 2023. The national budget is €70M - €50M exchequer and EU funded and a further €20M from EURI to assist Covid 19 recovery. The framework, objectives and actions will remain the same as the 2014 – 2020 Programme although amendments will be permitted to the LEADER Development Strategy to address emerging issues. The transitional budget for Meath, will be just over €2M. €1.5M for projects and €0.5M for administration and animation.

Projects funded under the transitional programme, must be approved before December 2022 and completed by December 2023. To date €884,325 or 58% of the budget has been committed under the Transitional Programme with €645,344 or 42% to be allocated and it is envisaged that the allocation will be committed by the end of 2022.

Under the LEADER programme 2014-2022, 72% of the claims to the value of €3,706,883 have been paid to date.

7.6 Public Participation Network (PPN)

The PPN opened re-registration of member groups in late 2021 with a good response. The registered groups received regular updates on funding, consultations and events through e-bulletins, Face-book and the website.

As part of the Community Response Forum for Covid the PPN continued to facilitate community mobilization through a map of supports available across the county. This map has been continually updated to reflect the number of volunteers and services still available throughout the pandemic. PPN hosted a number of training webinars which included Climate Action and Finance.

7.7 Meath Age Friendly Initiative

Age Friendly Meath continued to work with Healthy Ireland, Library, Arts, Sports Partnership and Climate Change to roll out initiatives under the national Keep Well campaign which finished in June. A grant was also received to purchase 6 ACORN tablets which were donated to nursing homes to help residents keep in touch with family. The Age Friendly Business initiative was rolled out in Athboy where over 25 businesses received training which encouraged them to get involved and ensure their property is easily accessible to older persons both inside and out. The scheme was officially launched on May 31st by Mr. Sean Boylan, Meath Age Friendly Ambassador. The launch coincided with the official opening of the integrated Medical Centre in the former McElhinneys Ladies store. Building on this launch, an Age Friendly day was held in Athboy in July with many businesses offering discounts on the day. Age Friendly Meath also participated in the Dementia Inclusive Communities workshop as Athboy was one of the pilot towns rolling out the promotion of Dementia Awareness to Communities.



Launch of Athboy as Age Friendly Business Town



Meath Age Friendly Ambassador Sean Boylan and Jackie Maguire, Chief Executive



Opening of new Age Friendly medical Centre Athboy

Meath Age Friendly collaborated with Meath Chamber and Facebook to launch and roll out the shop local Mí Meath Card developed specifically for the older person to use. Meath Age Friendly also collaborated with Climate Action to roll out the “Grow Together” initiative where a family in Stamullen grew their own seeds to plants which were donated to older persons and local nursing homes.

Preparation of a new 5-year Age Friendly strategy commenced and is due for completion in 2022. The Older Persons Committee met a number of times via Zoom throughout the year for discussions and chats.

7.8 Comhairle na nÓg

Youth Work Ireland Meath was awarded the tender at the start of 2021 to continue to facilitate Meath Comhairle na nÓg on behalf of Meath County Council by way of a Service Level Agreement. The Comhairle continued to meet regularly online throughout the pandemic. This year they worked on their new topic of Youth Facilities and have created a list of all the facilities available to young people in Meath. They made a video presentation to the February Council meeting in relation to facilities. They hope to develop an app to make this more accessible to all. They also took part in dementia awareness training with the Alzheimer’s Association of Ireland and in the Healthy Ireland, Not Around Us campaign. They were involved in a consultation piece with NUIG in relation to how the pandemic affected young people and created a video series of political interviews with Minister Thomas Byrne and Senator Sharon Keoghan. This year’s AGM was held virtually on the 14th of October with 16 schools represented.

A consultant was appointed to carry out research on stakeholder engagement and to prepare a three-year stakeholder engagement plan to be completed early 2022.

7.9 Other Committees

Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

The JPC and sub-groups met several times virtually this year. The annual report 2020 was adopted in March by the committee. A new property marking machine has been purchased for distribution for usage by groups in the county and training was provided to these groups. The draft JPC Strategy 2021-2026 was adopted by year end. The annual public meeting took place in November with good attendance on the night.

Unity Centre, Windtown, Navan

The Unity Centre provides a space for community activities as well as training and leisure activities. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions the centre was closed to the public early 2021, however during this time it continued to host vital support services to the vulnerable in the community. The centre reopened in July 2021 and in accordance with public health guidance the centre operated on a reduced capacity basis and continued to host several organisations and bookings including the preschool, HSE, Prosper Meath, Praxis, Navan Schools Completion Service, Springboard Family Support, Comhairle na nÓg, youth groups and Meath Partnership.

7.10 Meath Local Sports Partnership

The council continues to increase 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 the three main sporting bodies in the county and Basketball Ireland.

7.11 Pride of Place initiative

255 entrants were received under the various categories of the initiative and judging took place over the summer months. The 6 Municipal District awards evening took place in Buvinda House, Navan in a hybrid format with some applicants in attendance. The events were very well received with approximately 200 people in attendance over the six evenings and over 900 views of the virtual events.

The county awards ceremony took place on Thursday 18th November in the Solstice Arts Centre with 144 in attendance. The event was also livestreamed with 135 tuning in.



Pride of Place County Awards night Solstice



Pride of Place Navan Municipal District - Shane Donnelly Inspirational Award

Three groups were entered under the Co-operation Ireland initiative where they met with adjudicators in Buvinda House and gave a presentation on their work, successes and challenges to date and their future plans.

- Bettystown Tidy Towns - Islands and Coastal Communities
- Ratoath Men's Shed - Community Wellbeing Initiative
- Athboy Development Forum - Population - 2000 – 5000

An event to announce the winners is due to be held in 2022.

Schools Pride of Place Gardening Scheme

The submissions from the 48 schools taking part in the Schools Pride of Place Gardening Scheme took place in June. The schools were asked to complete the criteria relevant to their level and send in their submissions digitally. Despite the closure of schools earlier in the year the submissions were of excellent quality and showcased the work the students carried out in their schools to support biodiversity, climate action awareness and learn new gardening skills. Each school was presented with a certificate acknowledging their achievements under the initiative.

Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme

The focus of this measure is to revitalise, upgrade and enhance shopfronts and street facades in rural towns and villages. Improving the visual appearance of our urban streetscapes increases pride and confidence in our towns and villages, making them more attractive places to live, work and do business. It will support activity such as painting, signage replacement, shopfront improvement, lighting, and canopies. A number of towns have public realm plans completed or were nearing completion and these were selected to receive funding - Ashbourne, Athboy, Bettystown, Laytown, Slane, Oldcastle.

7.12 Grant Schemes

The following grant schemes were processed in 2021:

- The Play & Recreation scheme, funded by the Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) allocated €14,957 towards the refurbishment of equipment within the Athboy playground.
- Covid 19 Government grant scheme 2nd Round: €52,730 paid out on 37 applications
- Community Grant Scheme 2021 - A total of 458 applications approved under the various categories with a total fund of €156,679 allocated.
- Carranstown Grant Scheme - 22 applications were approved with a total fund of €101,363 allocated.
- Fáilte Ireland, Regional Festivals and Participative Events, Small Grants Scheme 2021 - A small fund of €2,750 was allocated to groups who held an in-person event in 2021.
- Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme where 3 projects were approved for funding by the Department as follows: Dunshaughlin Community Centre €20,000, Sonairte €7,725 and South Meath Social Enterprise €2,310
- The Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021 approved funding for Balrath FC Accessibility to All in the sum of €52,000 and Social Farming Meath in the sum of €22,000.

The Community Amenity Project Scheme

Progress continued to be made under the Community Amenity Grants Scheme. 9 of the 20 projects approved for funding experienced delays as a result of the Covid 19 restrictions. Grants already processed included the Irish Wheelchair association for a wheelchair accessible bus, Seneschalstown for a walking track, Longwood GAA for a Hurling Wall, Summerhill GFC for fencing around their walking track and Killelland AFC for renovations to the club house.

Community Enhancement Programme

The scheme is being administered by the LCDC under the remit of the Local Authority with an allocation of €142,893 available to Meath. 55 groups were approved for funding under the programme with works completed by year end.

Healthy Ireland Fund Scheme 2019-2021

This fund is administered by the LCDC under the remit of the Local Authority. The fund runs over two years; however, was extended to March 2022 due to Covid restrictions being in place during this time.



Age Friendly outdoor Gym equipment, Porchfields, Trim under Healthy Ireland funding



New playground equipment, Andy Brennan Park, Navan under Healthy Ireland funding.

Healthy Ireland - Keep Well Campaign

An allocation of funding was provided by the Department of Health in the amount of €107,560 through Healthy Ireland to help fund local initiatives under the Keep Well Campaign which ran until the end of June. The campaign was co-ordinated by Meath County Council and the Healthy Ireland co-ordinator for Meath under the following themes - Switching Off/Being Creative and Staying connected.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

The following projects were approved by the Department under each of the 4 Measures for 2021 scheme

Measure:	Project Name:	Funding approved:	Estimated Completion Date:
1	Balrath Woods	13,500	31/12/2022
1	Patricks Town Viewing Point	19,800	31/12/2022
1	Castletown Amenity Areas	19,811	31/12/2022
1	Cycle repair stations	8,420.95	31/12/2022
2	Drumconrath Walking Trail	199,800	30/06/2023
2	Ribbontail car park amenity	152,244	30/06/2023
3	Wilkinstown to Castletown Greenway	500,000	30/06/2023
P D 4	Laytown Riverside Park	39,906	31/12/2022

7.13 Town & Village Renewal Scheme

The following were successful projects under Town and Village scheme 2021.

Dunboyne - €100,000

This proposal aims to redevelop Dunboyne Playground, which will provide more age specific play equipment for younger and older age groups and will also include repair of the existing skate park.

Enfield - €250,000

Enfield Multi-purpose Hall: The proposal seeks to develop and refurbish St. Patrick's Parish Hall, on the main street in Enfield, into a usable space for the community providing a community facility for a young and diverse community as well as bringing back into use a vacant building.

Kilcloon - €100,000

This proposal aims to develop the village square into a fully inclusive, accessible space which caters for all sections of the community and acts as a focal point in the village.

Kilmainhamwood - €250,000

Kilmainhamwood Multipurpose Centre: This proposal seeks to refurbish a derelict building in the centre of Kilmainhamwood into a community centre with a multi-purpose space and a remote working space.

Duleek - €43,506

The proposed project seeks to develop a recreational park in Duleek adjacent to Fr. Ryan's Park

7.14 CLÁR

Two projects were approved under the scheme with €50k allocated to resurface the Moylagh Community centre carpark and €48,800 allocated to surface the carpark of the Ballinacree community walking track.



Ballinacree carpark under CLAR funding

7.15 Broadband

Work continued depending on Covid restrictions on the implementation of the National Broadband Plan and related initiatives in County Meath. 15 Broadband Connection Points (BCP's) throughout the county have been connected with the following connected this year: Cortown GAA, Carnaross Mart, Kilskyrne, Syddan GAA, Drumree GAA, Ballinlough, Bective, Moynalty.

Broadband connections for the WIFI4EU network went live in businesses in Navan, Dunboyne, Ashbourne, Ratoath, Oldcastle, Trim and Dunshaughlin.

Access Officer

The Access Officer works with Council departments and agencies to address any accessibility issues and promote awareness and the importance of accessibility. The main event held during the year included the "Make Way Day in my 5k" on 24th September which is a National Public Awareness Campaign to highlight the issues people with disabilities face getting around their local communities.

7.16 Joint Migrant Strategy 2019-2022

Meath and Louth County Councils set up a joint Migrant Integration Forum comprising of representatives from state agencies, non-government departments and migrant representatives and meets on a quarterly basis. Meath secured funding from the DCEDIY over 3 years to the amount of €132,480 to roll out some of the actions in the Joint migrant strategy. The funding has been used to deliver Diversity training to frontline staff, training to community groups through the PPN in integrating migrants into the community, developing the joint integration forum and the purchase of multilingual stock and delivery of interculturalism events through the library to Mosney, Polish and Russian schools and the library branches.

7.17 Public Sector Duty

Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights & Equality Commission Act 2014 imposes a statutory obligation on public bodies to have regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Promote equality of opportunity and treatment for staff and persons to whom it provides services
- Protect the human rights of staff and service users.

The 2014 Act requires a public body to assess human rights and equality issues that is relevant to the functions of the organisation, address the issues by setting out what plans and policies already are in place or propose to be put in place and report on developments and achievements in its annual report.

The working group continued their work by virtual workshops throughout the year. A number of facilitated training sessions were held with civil society groups, senior management, staff from each section and HR. Support sessions were held for implementing the duty in the Housing Disability strategy, Community Grants scheme and Customer Service plan.

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 operates the national Age Friendly Programme which is affiliated to the World Health Organisation's global programme. The programme supports society to prepare for population ageing and to future proof communities and services for the increasing ageing demographic.

The national programme operates through a team based framework of 31 local Age Friendly Programmes. These are multi agency programmes that are hosted by local government.

2021 was a very busy year for the programme which saw an expansion of both staff numbers and programming.

Local programmes reported the following outputs for 2021:

- 13 local authorities have established interdepartmental teams
- 16 programmes provided digital skills training to older people
- 19 programmes ran intergenerational activities during the year
- 22 walkability audits were carried out in 2021
- 21 programmes delivered crime prevention or safety initiatives for older people in 2021
- There are approximately 52 Age Friendly Towns (at various stages of development) and 225 Age Friendly car parking spaces with further spaces planned.

Age Friendly Ireland publishes a weekly newsletter, with information relevant to older people and Age Friendly programme staff.

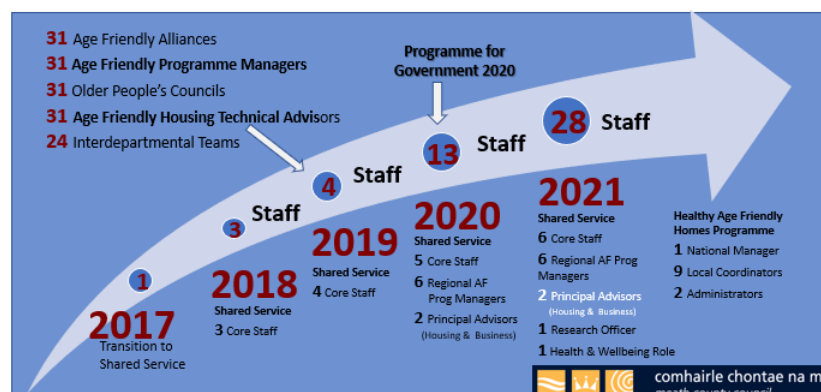
Staffing and Structures

The shared service staffing structure expanded during 2021 with additional administrative staff, a new Research Manager role and the introduction of the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme.

In addition to the core shared service staff of six, the team also includes six Regional Managers (now on a full time basis), a Research Manager, two Principal Advisors (for Housing and Public Realm & Age Friendly Business) who support the service on a contractual basis, and 12 staff employed under the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme.

The shared service supports 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 Advisors and the AFI NGO Forum.

There are 31 Age Friendly Programme Managers across the 31 local authorities, and 31 Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisors who are assigned to support Age Friendly Programming in their local areas.



International Engagement

Age Friendly Ireland commenced an international webinar series in November 2021, with eight thematic webinars planned on the domains of the WHO programme. The first webinar focused on the theme of housing, following by a December webinar on the theme of health services and community supports.

Age Friendly Ireland is also running a virtual Town Hall series with the Centre for Ageing and Brain Health in Canada, which connects Older People's Council members with their counterparts in Canada.

As an affiliate member of the World Health Organization's Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities, Age Friendly Ireland continues to work with international groups to share knowledge and learn from good practice. Age Friendly Ireland presented at the International Federation on Ageing conference in Canada in October 2021, took part in an EU SHAFE event in Denmark in September, and engaged with other international partners including Sharjah, Chile and the Sultanate of Brunei.

Policy

Various policy submissions were made during the year including to the Pensions Commission, the EU Green Paper on Ageing, Peace Plus, An Garda Síochána, COMREG in relation to postal regulation, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing via Department of Health, Connecting Ireland, and in relation to E-scooters and homecare workforce planning, and as well as submissions on Age Friendly Housing and Planning.

Sustainability

A partnership with the Climate Action Regional Offices [CAROs] resulted in climate action workshops being delivered for older people during the year. A total of 86 older people took part in this training. Follow up work is planned for 2022.

Research Office

A Research Manager was recruited in 2021 under a strategic partnership arrangement between Maynooth University and Age Friendly Ireland. The Research Manager is linking with a number of universities and had a particular focus on climate action and older people during the year with a workshop held between age friendly programme staff and academics. Analysis of capital and current expenditure in local government being used to prepare for population ageing is underway.

Age Friendly Ireland is collaborating on research to examine how older people's housing conditions impact on their health, concentrating on the South Dublin County Council catchment area linked to the Integrated Care Programme in Tallaght University Hospital.

Healthy Age Friendly Homes

The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme Phase 1 was launched in July 2021. This is a Sláintecare funded support co-ordination service that aims to help older people to remain living at home for longer and avoid premature transfer to residential care. Nine local co-ordinators are in place in the following host local authorities: Cork County, Dublin City, Fingal, Galway, Limerick, Longford, South Dublin, Tipperary, Westmeath.

Co-ordinators undertake an assessment of the home environments 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.

8.2 Suite of Age Friendly Housing Resources

In May 2021, Age Friendly Ireland launched a suite of housing resources, aligned to actions under the *Housing Options for Our Ageing Population* policy statement. These included:

- Age Friendly Primary Care Centre Guidelines
- Age Friendly Principles for the Planning Authority
- Age Friendly Pre Planning Guidance for Long-term Residential Care
- Age friendly Homes Rating Checklist
- Age Friendly Seating Guide
- Age Friendly Car Parking Design Template
- Research on Older People's Experiences and Perceptions of Rightsizing
- Ten Universal Design Features to include in an Age Friendly and Lifetime Adaptable House (brochure, update of earlier Fingal County Council publication)



A new website, www.agefriendlyhomes.ie was also launched in partnership with The Housing Agency, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning and the Department of Health.

The shared service also devised a rightsizing policy template which was circulated to local authorities.

8.3 Age Friendly Business

The Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme is one of the core areas of work for 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. In June 2021, Age Friendly Ireland recognised leading nationwide businesses, awarding Age Friendly Charters to Bank of Ireland, Vodafone, Dalata Hotels, Specsavers, FBD Insurance, Cara Pharmacy, Kilkenny Design, and Member First Credit Union. The Age Friendly Business Programme is also supported by Chambers Ireland. These leading business groups have appointed an Age Friendly Champion in their branches, completed training and achieved Age Friendly Business status. In addition to this national level work, local Age Friendly Programmes in ten areas engaged with the local business community to deliver training and supports, linking with the Chamber of Commerce and Local Enterprise Offices.



National Launch of Age Friendly Business Initiative with Minister Damien English in June 2021

8.4 Age Friendly Housing and Public Realm Training 2021 Programme

Age Friendly Ireland delivers an accredited training module called 'Housing and Public Realm'. This course aims to equip participants with essential knowledge and skills to maximise the age friendliness of their environment, and to ensure effective planning for older people. Training is delivered to local authorities every two years, and more recently to other stakeholders including voluntary housing providers and private sector bodies. Training was delivered to 17 local authorities in 2021. Training is accredited by Engineers Ireland and the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland as a Continuing Professional Development [CPD] module. This training is featured as an objective in the recent *Housing for All* policy and it supports local authorities to consider how they are preparing housing for the ageing population in local Housing Delivery Action Plans.

8.5 Age Friendly Libraries

The shared service also provides training to the network of public libraries to assist them to develop as Age Friendly. Participating libraries carry out a four-stage process to achieve Age Friendly recognition. In 2021 Age Friendly Ireland supported the existing 48 Age Friendly Libraries, offering refresher training and encouraging engagement with older people when the libraries re-opened to the public. Age Friendly Ireland also extended the programme with a roll out phase 2 to assist more libraries in achieving the national recognition award of becoming an Age Friendly Library.

Nine training sessions were delivered in 2021, with 108 Libraries participating across Ireland training (91 of them were new to the programme and 17 had previously received Age Friendly recognition). 149 library staff attended from 29 Local Authorities.

These libraries have committed to implementing some wonderful Age Friendly initiatives such as the magic table, Age Friendly parking, seating and designated areas for the older people in their libraries and many other actions.

8.6 Health and Wellbeing

The Age Friendly shared service worked in partnership with the Health Service Executive's Health and Wellbeing team during the year to research health and wellbeing initiatives for older people that were delivered during the pandemic. This information is now collated on an online searchable repository on www.agefriendlyireland.ie

8.7 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 October, creating linkages between local Age Friendly Programmes and national NGOs working in ageing sector.

Library Services

9.1 Library Programme highlights 2021

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

- Secured funding from the DRCD Capital Grants scheme to purchase an E-Delivery vehicle.
- Procured and established a new storage facility for the county library service in Kells.
- 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 from HEAnet to roll out Eduroam in all branch libraries. This is a federated service that allows students and researchers connect, via the branch Wi-Fi service, to their home institutions' network.
- Secured funding under the Dormant Accounts Funding 2021 for a Sensory Pod at Dunshaughlin library, the implementation of a 'Toys, Technology and Training' initiative and a DEIS schools initiative.
- Secured the appointment of the first fulltime County Archivist.
- Secured funding from the Heritage Council, through the Heritage Officer to engage an archivist to work on archives relating to the Industrial Heritage of County Meath.
- Secured 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 equipment for outdoor community meetings at Ashbourne library.
- Established a strong and vibrant presence for Trim library at the new temporary premises in Mill Street.
- Selected by the LGMA to participate in a new pilot programme 'Public Libraries Design Thinking'
- Meath is the pilot county for an LGMA Facebook funded pilot on Digital Literacy for Library Staff. The first tranche of staff training was delivered in 2021, with Meath staff now tasked with devising training modules suitable for delivery to staff nationwide.
- Delivered the 2021 annual plan for **Creative Ireland** in partnership with national, local and community stakeholders.
- Continued the very successful library led Writer-in Residence programme with Fiona Sherlock's residency, supported by Creative Ireland.
- Devised and delivered **Cruinniú na nÓg** on Saturday the 12th of June in partnership with national, local and community stakeholders. The programme was delivered fully online through a dedicated Meath Cruinniú na nÓg YouTube channel in partnership with the arts office. The programme was delivered through a mix of live and pre-recorded events. The programme was a major success with total views of 1,238 views within the first 28 days and with a watch time of 49.3 hours.
- Decade of Centenaries – published '*Eamon Duggan: Counsel to the Revolution*' to mark the centenary of the signing of the Treaty.
- Published '*Curraghtown: July 2022*' to promote our understanding of events during the Civil War in Meath.
- Managed the delivery of the annual 'Decade of Centenaries' programme through the wider culture team.
- Secured by donation the archives of 'The Meath Chronicle'.
- Published 'Class Novels: A Guide for Primary School Teachers'
- Published 'The Life and Legacy of Eoghan O' Growney' by Tracey Ní Mhaonaigh
- Meath County Council was awarded the Chambers Ireland Award for 'Best Library Service' for 'The 'Laptop for Loan' initiative funded by Facebook .
- Delivered a range of online events under the **Healthy Ireland @your library** initiative and supported the programming of the newly appointed Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator.

- Supported the delivery of the **Colmcille 1500** programme with the production of a Colmcille Education Pack, and the delivery of an innovative Colmcille Digital School Folklore project across 5 primary schools. This project was delivered in partnership with Donegal County Council, Sligo County Council, and the Nerve Centre in Derry.
- The annual '**Children's Book Festival**' in October was delivered fully online for the second year running. Extensive range of live and pre-recorded author readings were programmed enabling thousands of children access online library events through their local schools.
- 1,700 children participated in the annual Summer Reading Challenge despite the restrictions which prevented in-branch events or activities.
- Received the **Right to Read Award** from the LGMA.
- Delivered the '**Little Library Book Bag**' initiative to participants in the Early Childcare and Education (ECCE) sector.
- Delivered local programming for the **Ireland Reads** campaign.
- Delivered online programming for '**Science Week**'.
- Delivered a range of online material for **Culture Night** and supported the Arts Office with the delivery of the Poetry Town programme in Dunshaughlin.
- Secured funding from Facebook Community Action grant scheme to deliver STEAM events for adults and families.

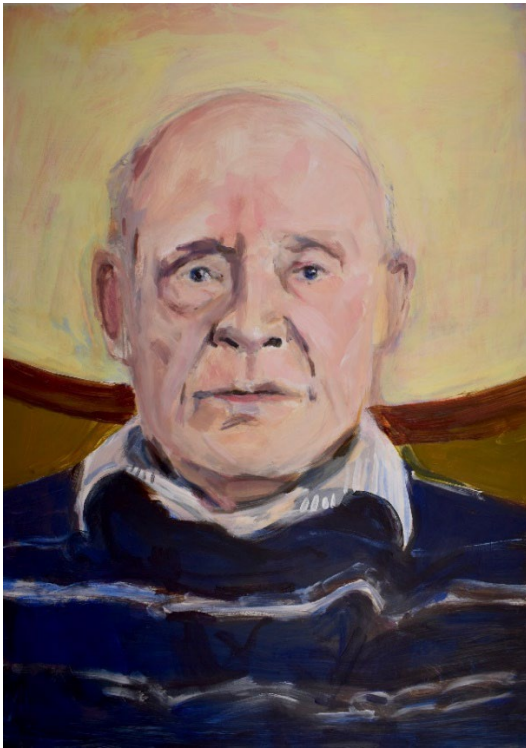
9.2 Covid -19 – Response

- Promoted online offering, eBooks, eMagazines and eLearning resources.
- Redeveloped the Meath County Library website www.meathlibraries.ie
- Created a continuous stream of new online content via author readings, staff workshops and storytimes etc.
- Programming continued online – Cruinniú na nÓg, Summer Stars, Children's Book Festival
- 'Laptop for Loan' scheme to second-level students. Almost 1,000 laptops are on loan to date and the take-up from schools and community groups is very high. All schools involved in the scheme renewed their loans for 2021.
- Established the Music Instrument lending scheme across the branch network in partnership with Music Generation. The instrument bank is based in Ashbourne library and it is complemented by a wide range of newly purchased AV and book related material.

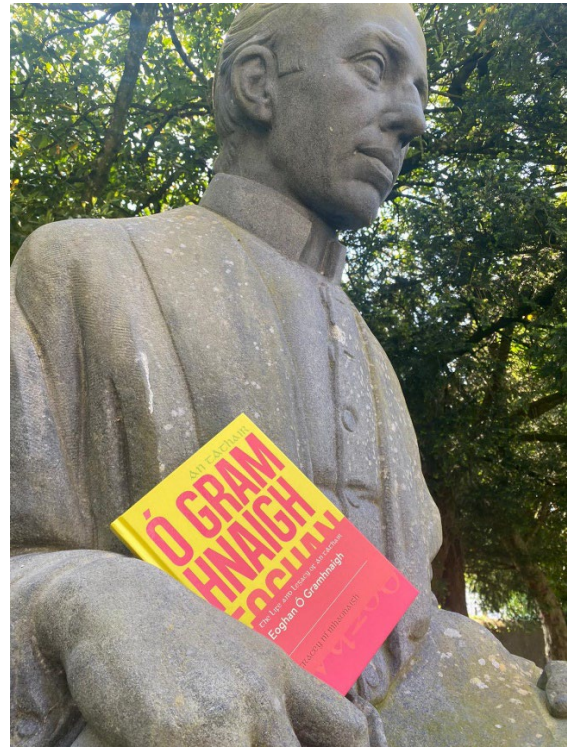


Young musicians trying out the instruments at Ashbourne library as Music Generation and Meath County Library launch new instrument lending bank.

- Provided 'Magic Tables' at Navan and Trim public nursing homes. This digital equipment enables families and staff to interact with patients suffering from dementia.
- Supported Hinterland to deliver an online decade of centenaries themed lecture series. The festival was delivered fully online in January 2021.
- Devised and delivered the 'Virtual Portrait Project' – 'A Great Reader of a Great Age' to support older persons who were cocooning.
- Delivered the local 'Grow it Forward' campaign. This was the first year of the national campaign and libraries reached out to many new patrons during the project.



Michael Gormley, Trim participated in the 'Keep Well' funded covid-19 response project 'A Great Reader of a Great Age' 'Conversations in Portrait'



Fr Eoghan O'Growney, Athboy takes possession of the first copy of 'The Life and Legacy of Eoghan O' Growney' by Tracey Ní Mhaonaigh' after the launch in Athboy library.

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 in accordance with 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 2021 Arts programme and engaged with creative partners, artists, groups, organisations and the greater creative community. It has also engaged with the Dept of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the Arts Council and Creative Ireland in Covid Response development.

10.2 Arts Programme Highlights 2021

The challenges presented by covid continued in 2021 and in some ways were greater with an initial optimism towards a return to work by creatives diminishing as restrictions rolled on. 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 and 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
- Revised the Arts Grants criteria & application process moving applications online.
- Introduced several new funding initiatives including RE: Form - an initiative that aims to directly respond to the current challenges faced by the local arts sector through digital conversion.
- Introduced the Digital Equipment Purchase Scheme.
- Expanded the Professional Artists Development Fund to twice yearly.
- Introduced the new 'Sing Ireland' Bursary Award.
- Expanded the Words Ireland Mentorship Award to 2 recipients in 2021.
- 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 were supported under the 2021 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 and audiences. These included:

- Toradh Gallery Ashbourne & Toradh2 Kells online exhibition programme including the Art and Mindfulness programme based on the Council Art Collection.
- Ceol Comfort – music series
- Colmcille 1500 Co Club 2 short film commissions as a contemporary response to the life and Legacy of Colmcille with over 10k views to date.
- Poetry Town– as part of a national initiative in collaboration with Poetry Ireland and Co Library Services, Dunshaughlin being the inaugural Poetry Town for Meath. A series of twelve spoken word, dance and music videos filmed and released as part of the Culture Night celebrations.

Implementation of the DTCAGSM Local Live Performance Scheme in Meath

Representing significant investment in and support of the professional arts performance and production sector in Meath, under this scheme the following were delivered:

In partnership with Sofft Productions, Equinox Live event ‘*Until The Harvest Comes*’ at Dunderry Park featuring an eclectic mix of performances by musicians and poets.



In partnership with Sofft Productions – *‘Until the Dew Falls’* filmed with support of the OPW at Loughcrew Cairns and at Loughcrew Gardens, featuring performances by some of Meath’s finest musicians, writers, poets and performers. *Until the Dew Falls* was premiered with a screening at the live Dunderry Park event and premiered online by HotPress Magazine across all their platforms.

All Rise – Kells Courthouse Sessions – a filmed series of performances by Meath musicians, writers & actors. Co-curated and produced by Sofft Productions and streamed across the HotPress social media platforms.

Circus Gerbola - support of the Circus Gerbola/Duffys/Fossetts Circus extravaganza at Slane Castle.

OutWall by Selina Daniels – contemporary live in-person dance event at Solstice

Theatre Day at Hinterland Festival

Meath Beo traditional music event at Slane Castle December 2021, featuring some of the counties finest musicians.

HARK A celebration of Meath Arts, co-curated and produced by Sofft Productions. Music, theatre, spoken word, comedy, circus at Kells Theatre December 2021.



All of the above initiatives were intended to provide alternative means of supporting those artists and creatives who have seen their work, performances and engagements cancelled or postponed for the foreseeable future, whilst providing greater access to the wider community to quality creative and cultural experiences.

Tea and Chats and Tunes

Connecting Nursing Home Residents in County Meath and their Families at Home or Abroad. Tea, Chats and Tunes is a project partnership between Meath County Council Arts Office & Kids' Classics, supported by funding from Meath County Council, Creative Ireland, the Arts Council and the Age-Friendly Meath Keep Well Fund 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 are 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 Kids' Classics in all nursing homes across the county.

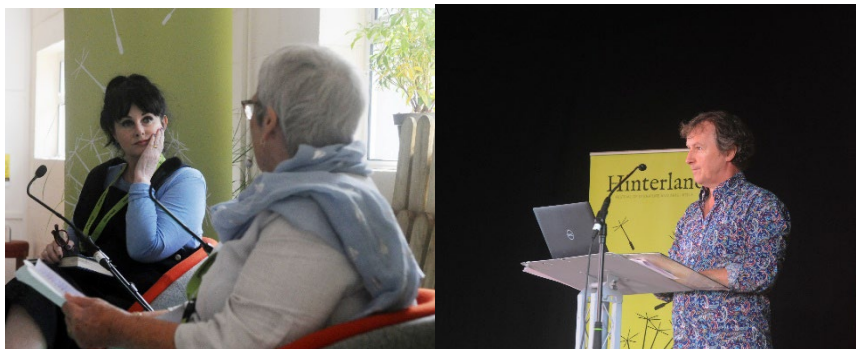
Kells Creative Placemaking

Hinterland Festival successfully took place in September with 34 events across 3 venues. Type Trail Festival took place Aug.– Oct. showcasing the work of 30 artists across 21 internal and external sites.



Type Trail 2021

Strategic Review of Hinterland Festival undertaken with funding support from the Arts Council and a new Festival Consortium established - Hinterland, Type Trail and Guth Gafa with support from the Arts Council Capacity Building Support Scheme.



Marion Keyes and Ann Ingle in conversation and Tom Dunne at Hinterland 2021

Several visiting film production companies hosted at the Courthouse as production hubs for varying durations.

When restrictions allowed several artists were provided with work-in-development rehearsal & workshop space.

Capital works as funded under the RRDF programme ongoing.

10.3 Children and young persons programmes

New strategic partnership with Droichead Arts Centre whose recent Strategy Document considers East Meath as part of their catchment area. This has enabled us to expand the range and reach of our C&YP programme in that area. Projects included support of the Leanbh Festival, Back in The Grove programme & the Colaiste na hInse Clós Arts Festival.

Working with the County Library Service events team has enabled us to deliver a wide range of projects, in person and online to communities across the county. The Library service has proved invaluable in facilitating and managing this blended programme.

Act Out Youth Theatre continued to flourish despite the challenges presented by Covid and under the expert directorship of Anthony Kinahan has delivered an exciting blend of online and in-person projects managing even to extend numbers and workshop sessions.

Bóinn: The River Goddess by Meath singer Róisín Ní Ghallóglai project. Originally composed in 2020 as part of the Songs for Our Children Project. Bóinn is about the Boyne River and tells of its history, mythology, geography and environmental importance. To accompany the song, an animated video was commissioned which combined the visual aspects of the song with natural soundscapes and found sounds in nature. A schools 'making of' video was also recorded with the singer, animators and sound recordist which proved very popular.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2021 Delivered in partnership with County Library Services, included a blended programme of in-person and online activities with over 40+ events taking place for children and young people 2 – 18yrs. The programme encompassed a wide range of activities and disciplines – Arts, Heritage & STEM - and contained a balance of passive and interactive events. Some events took place on the day only, others had a workshop/engagement element running over a six-week Cruinniú lead in time. Public events attendances were 463 with school's engagement programme accommodating 513 participants. The dedicated Cruinniú na nÓg Meath YouTube channel received over 1500 views.

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 regarding the roll out of MGM programme in Covid 19 context. MGM continues to go from strength to strength. The Music Development Officer has successfully devised and implemented a number of exciting and innovative programmes.

Creative Ireland Continued implementation of the Creative Ireland Meath Five Year Strategy in collaboration with Cultural Services Team.

LEO and Economic Development

11.1 LEO highlights 2021

LEO Meath ranks number 2 in the country for job creation in 2021

At a live virtual event on January 17th, An Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Leo Varadkar TD, announced the annual results of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) for 2021 which showed that LEO Meath supported companies, created 421 jobs in 2021.

The net jobs created by LEO Meath supported clients in 2021 was 205, which takes into account companies that amalgamated, ceased trading and those that transferred on to Enterprise Ireland. The new figures show that the LEO Meath financially supported 277 small businesses in their portfolio across the county, these companies in turn employ **1509** people. This was an excellent result for the LEO Meath companies.

2021 Training Courses & Mentoring

- 201 training courses completed with **2388** attendees
- **11 Start Your Own Business Courses** with 162 attendees
- 155 clients assigned a Business Mentor (ranging from 3-9hrs of mentoring)

Grant Funding

Name of Grant	Amount €	Number
Feasibility/ nnovation	47,075	7
Priming Grant	146,650	7
Business Expansion	270,500	12
Green for Micro	11,900	7
Agile Innovation	212,539.00	4
LEAN for Micro	79,050	17
GradStart	60,000	2
Trading Online Vouchers	324,316	165

Micro Finance Ireland Loans 2021

LEO Meath comes in **2nd in Country** with 53 jobs created, associated with MicroFinance Ireland Loan application processes administered by LEO Meath in 2021.



.IE Domain Registrations

Meath came in **3rd in the country** with new .ie website registrations, a huge 58.7% growth versus 2019 in new .ie domain registrations (source .IE Domain Profile Report 2021)

Networking Groups

LEO Meath in association with Meath Chamber of Commerce continues to run 2 business networks within the county, supporting peer to peer networking with businesses of all sizes and stages of growth.

In 2021 **14** Networking events were held (all virtually) made up of **3** events from our Women in Business & Technology #WIBT Events attended by 340 people.

A further **11** events with **605** people attending at our Meath Business Owners Network sessions #MBON.

Food Academy 2021

3 LEO Meath companies were successful in reaching the final stages of the Food Academy Programme and launched onto the SuperValu Food shelves in summer of 2021 with listings in SuperValu Stores regionally, these companies include: BruBiotics, JackedUp and A Bit on the Side Jellies.



LEO Meath Clients Transferred to Enterprise Ireland

3 clients from LEO Meath – have moved to EI – 1) Bellow Food Company Limited 2) Dara Craiceann Limited and 3) HoloToyz Ltd

HoloToyz is a very exciting Irish augmented reality technology start-up and has recently secured licensing agreements with Nickelodeon and Sega to produce a range of augmented reality / virtual reality toys.

LEO Meath Client Success Stories

Cubicle 7, Stamullen, Co. Meath



One of the biggest role-playing games companies in the World, Cubicle 7 Entertainment, based in Stamullen, credits support from Meath LEO at a critical time of growth.

Established in 2018, the company employs 15 people at its headquarters in the City North Business Campus in Stamullen, county Meath.

It's chief executive Dominic McDowall says the Priming Grant from the LEO enabled it to grow its team to bring in much needed management skills and product design experience.

14 Schools in Meath took part in The Student Enterprise Awards with a total of **1019** students entering the competition

Meath Finalist at **Local Enterprise Awards 2021**

Qualitas Electronics, Duleek **Regional Winner for the North East**



The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Meath works as a first-stop shop for new entrepreneurs, existing micro-enterprise and small business owners in County Meath. The LEO is the front door through which all information on State supports for small and micro-businesses can be accessed and signposted to other supports and agencies.

11.2 Trading online vouchers

During the pandemic, the LEO was inundated with applications for the vouchers which provided funding of up to 90 percent of the cost of developing a website.

11.3 Tourism

2021 has been a difficult year for the tourism industry but it has also been a year of innovation and opportunity. Boyne Valley Tourism and Meath County Council have worked with the tourism industry to facilitate, advise and support and invested in a strong domestic marketing campaign.

New Website

New website was launched in March 2021 <https://www.discoverboynevalley.ie/> making booking a visit to the Boyne Valley easier than ever before. Pageviews increased by 62% to 415,000.

Increased online presence in 2021 to over 36,000 social media followers and a 177% increase in reach. Each week new content is released including blogs, travel inspiration, itineraries and ezines.

Marketing and Promotion

- Time to Enjoy **Summer Campaign** included print and digital advertising achieving 1.1mn impressions and almost 9k click throughs to www.discoverboynevalley.ie.
- **15 Boyne Valley Ambassadors** /local tourism businesses were chosen to contribute to a social media campaign to highlight the destination, funded by Failte Ireland.
- **Boyne Valley brochure** was designed, printed and distributed at Dublin Airport, tourist offices and in businesses.
- Boyne Valley held a **Virtual Media Event** in March ahead of the industry reopening and had 16 national journalists and influencers in attendance.
- Over **12 travel journalists** and influencers were invited to visit Meath and the Boyne Valley during 2021. This has resulted in 13 articles and 17 social media blogs from key national newspapers and social media travel bloggers.
- Henry McKean, **Newstalk** was invited to visit in July. Henry did an interview on the Pat Kenny Show with a recording from Slane. His piece entitled 'There are so many hidden gems in the Boyne Valley' was produced as a video and article and published on the Newstalk website.
- **U105** radio presenter Denise Watson was invited to visit the Boyne Valley and did 6 live phone ins and an online article supplemented by 2 months of radio adverts.
- **The Royal Canal Greenway** was launched in March 2021 and collaborative marketing activity was undertaken throughout the year.
- Meath County Council and the **Boyne Blueway** Steering Committee submitted an application for Phase 2 Accreditation for the Blueway which was successful and due to be launched in April 2022.
- Collaborated with Failte Ireland on **the Re-Imagined Boyne Valley Drive Project** and the completion of the new **Ancient Destination Experience Development Plan**.



Destination Towns Project

Meath County Council is developing a performance space and enhanced walking trails in the Porchfield in Trim with funding from Failte Ireland and Meath County Council. The project includes a performance area with power available for small events, interpretive storyboards and a digital storytrail, a wildflower meadow, recreational area, resin pathways and seating throughout.



Tourist Offices

Meath County Council continues to support the operation of two tourist offices at the Trim Visitor Centre and Kells Courthouse Tourism and Cultural Hub. The tourist offices reopened in May and June 2021 respectively and have remained open since, operating a full service to visitors and locals alike.

Water Services

12.1 Overview

In 2021, Meath County Council completed the 8th 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 many 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 2021 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 planned economic and residential development and growth of county Meath.

Drinking Water Supply and Conservation: In 2021, over 47 million litres of drinking water was 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 2021 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. Consequently, at 28% the unaccounted for water level for Meath was significantly lower than the national average of 38%.

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 2021, all wastewater treatment plants in Meath were consistently compliant with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive standards.

Capital Development: During 2021, the Council project managed and delivered a number of major Water Services capital projects, including;

- Navan Trunk water main replacement.
- Ashbourne Bottlenecks watermains replacement programme.
- Water mains rehabilitation at several locations countywide.
- Trim and Kells Waste Water Treatment Plants – aeration upgrades.
- Disinfection Programme upgrades at several Water Treatment Plants countywide.

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.

The Council progressed the planning and construction of several other major projects in 2021, including;

- Liscarton Water Treatment Plant upgrade.
- Trim Water Treatment Plant upgrade.
- Windmill Hill Reservoir expansion and Trunk main to Ratoath replacement.
- Ashbourne Trunk main replacement – Phases 3 & 4.
- Staleen to Primatestown Trunkmain replacement.
- Drumconrath Water Supply – new source development.
- Stamullen Sewerage Scheme.
- Enfield Waste Water Treatment Plant Expansion.
- Navan Waste Water Treatment Plant Expansion.



12.2 Meath County Council as Water Service Authority

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 2021 overall compliance for these supplies in Meath was 98%.

Financial: The Council's 2021 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.

Finance

13.1 Overview

The first quarter of 2021 saw the Finance section prepare and complete the 2020 Annual Financial Statement, issue the 2021 rates demands and continue day to day work in its accounts payable, procurement, rents, loans and NPPR sections.

COVID-19 continued to impact and alter the focus of the finance teams throughout 2021 as we responded to the continuing government schemes and incentives aimed at supporting the business community, individuals and the wider community during the pandemic. These supports included the commercial rates waivers, SBASC (Small Business Assistance Scheme) mortgage repayment breaks and rent adjustments.

As well as processing and implementing the above measures 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 €184m in the 12 months ended 5th November 2021. This included over 12,500 transactions totalling €155m being processed by the Invoice Processing Team.
- 2 projects within the Agresso MS4 system were undertaken and completed successfully this year. They were in relation to our SEPA arrangements and eProfessional Services Withholding Tax.
- Regular monitoring and reporting continues 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 manage many central contracts and provide administration support for systems such as SupplyGov and e-Tenders
- Procurement is an integral part of the purchase to pay cycle, providing a management overview function for all procurement related acquisitions.

13.4 Commercial Rates

- Government support has continued throughout 2021, with a revised commercial rates waiver scheme for Q1 to Q3 and a further targeted rates waiver for Q4 which was announced in the National Budget on October 12th 2021.
- Through the rates waiver scheme Meath County Council have supported over 2,000 businesses and waived rates to the value of €10m by the end of the year.

13.5 Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC)

- The SBASC was introduced by the Government to give grants to businesses who were not eligible for the Government's COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS), the Fáilte Ireland Business Continuity grant or other direct sectoral grant schemes. This scheme aimed to help businesses with their fixed costs, for example, rent, utility bills, security. Between Phase 1 and 2 of the scheme Meath County Council processed 270 successful applications totaling €1,035,000

13.6 Rents

- Bi-annual statements are issued to all tenants. This enables tenants to monitor and confirm their payments. Tenants continue to submit rent review forms and assessments are ongoing for tenants with changing circumstances.
- Currently 3,467 tenants accruing rent at present.

13.7 Loans

- The Loans team has been very proactive engaging with customers and dealing with enquiries and adjustments to loan account repayments. 44 customers availed of the mortgage repayment breaks.
- Over 80 fully completed applications have been received and over 26 new home loans have been drawn down totalling €5.2M

13.8 Non Principal Private Residence (NPPR)

- The service of providing NPPR compliance and exemption certificates is a sizeable task as these are being sought for all residential property sales, regardless of whether the property is liable or not.
- Despite Covid-19 the housing market remained buoyant during 2021 and Meath County Council will have processed in excess of 1,600 requests for discharge and exemption certificates. It should be noted that the number of liable properties is diminishing and the income from the NPPR will decrease in time
- As of August 2021, the 2009 liability has expired and from 1st April 2022 the 2010 liability will expire. This will lead to a reduction from €7,230 to €5,160 (€3,900 reduction) for a liable property.

Human Resources

14.1 Overview

The HR Department continued to implement its programme of work in the context of the Covid 19 pandemic and in line with the various public health measures. Much of the HR Department's work continued to support the organisation in implementing measures to ensure continued delivery of essential services and to support individual staff and line-mangers in dealing with the impacts of the virus on time and attendance and sick leave. The Department remained agile in responding to the changing circumstances during 2021 and had to respond to the significant HR issues arising from the removal of each phase of restrictions and the ongoing change to the operating environment with restrictions being reintroduced.

A number of its processes, such as recruitment, were also significantly changed and adapted to ensure that organisational requirements were met.

14.2 Covid 19 Pandemic Response

- The continued focus for HR during the response to Covid-19 included the following examples:
- Development and management of communication methods including (a) updating the text-alert system, (b) further roll-out of the MCC Connect App, (c) correspondence to staff in relation to returning to the workplace, and (d) managing the phone line to support staff during the period of restrictions.
- Providing advice and guidance to staff in relation to the public health advice on Covid-19 and the impact on the workplace and on individual staff.
- Supporting staff in the high-risk category and liaising with line managers.
- Reviewing Time and Attendance Flexi-time for all staff due to the impact of the restrictions.
- Continued assurance in business continuity in relation to the Payroll function.
- Continued the process for recruitment to ensure all contracts were completed, competitions for essential staff were completed and all retirements and resignations were processed.
- Continued industrial relations engagement.
- A continued focus on staff support and wellbeing.

As part of the Covid 19 response and the need for ongoing workforce planning, the HR department continued to review staffing levels and requirements during 2021. HR has continued its work with senior management and the various service areas of the organisation in order to identify current and emerging requirements.

The implementation of the ongoing workforce planning process throughout 2021 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 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 and the shift towards new recruitment methods arising from the impact of Covid-19.
- 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.

The HR Department has continued to work very closely with staff and unions on a range of issues.

14.3 Recruitment and Selection

In 2021, the Recruitment and Selection Team facilitated 24 recruitment competitions, with a total of 1334 applications processed and 600 candidates interviewed. Covid 19 continued to bring challenges on the recruitment programme during 2021 due to public health restrictions, however the number of candidates interviewed from 2020 to 2021 increased by 95%. All interviews were held online with the exception of one competition. A new online recruitment system enabled the recruitment section to review processes from application to shortlisting processes, which delivered some efficiencies and reduced timeframes in the process.

14.4 Learning and Development

In terms of Learning and Development, the Department continued to build on its programme which 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 Wellness Programme has further developed with the provision of additional supports on the Spectrum platform as part of the new Employee Assistance Programme with Spectrum Life which launched in July 2021.

In addition, the HR Department facilitated greater delivery of online training and developed the option of recorded resources through MCC Connect App. This has afforded greater connectivity and more flexible access for staff to attend training/wellness sessions, which has been positively received.

The Department continue to review and assist with training and up-skilling requirements throughout the organisation.

Training Figure for January 1 - to December 31, 2021

No. of Course Types Held	105
No of Training Course/Workshops held	298
No. of Individual Staff Scheduled for Training	765

14.5 Developing Technologies

MCC Connect App

The MCC Connect App which was introduced in 2020 has now entered its second year. The induction process has been amended to include the downloading of the App for all new entrants. A further 100 staff have registered on the App in 2021 and there are currently 728 active users. The App is an excellent platform for HR and corporate communications. It has been an invaluable tool during 2021 with the regular updates from the Chief Executive during the various stages of restrictions particularly well received. Due to its continued use by staff, the App has increased its content and now includes a Cyber Security Awareness widget, User guide video of the App, along with interactive Learning and Development sections including course registrations, renewal of online cards, completion of forms online. Delivery of competitions and prizes through the App has increased positive engagement with staff.

HR Analytics Toolkit

Meath County Council was the pilot site, on behalf of the local government sector, for the inception and development of a HR Analytic Toolkit. The development of this analytics tool supports and helps inform the HR Department and senior management on strategic people management and development issues across the organisation. The deployment of this tool will continue to assist the Council in future workforce planning matters.

Information Systems

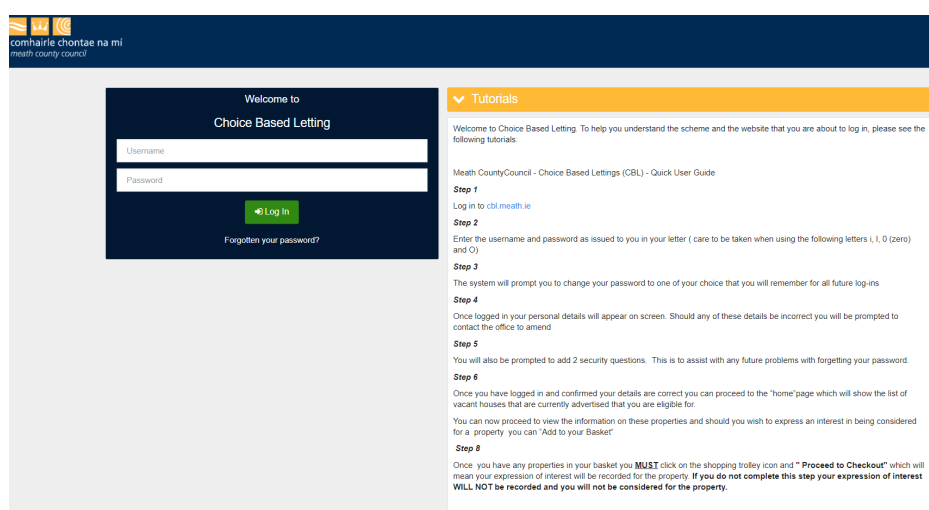
15.1 Overview

During 2021, the Information Systems department continued to deliver business improvement projects across the entire organisation maintaining its focus on operational stability and information security, while still being required to redirect a lot of its efforts to enabling and supporting the entire organisation in dealing with the impact of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

- We continued to support the operational needs of council employees whether working in council offices or from home;
- We continued the modernisation of user devices, with laptops by default for users, thus allowing flexibility for remote working;
- Laptops were deployed to elected members as replacement for tablets;
- Wi-Fi networks were expanded, including rollout of Eduroam to all library branches allowing students and researchers connect to their home intuition via public Wi-Fi in libraries;
- Projects to provide tablet devices to mobile workers including transport crews and national age friendly coordinators were completed;
- An implementation of firewall facilities in a second data centre, thus ensuring continuity of service, including for remote employees in the event of failures;
- To continue to improve our security posture we undertook several projects including awareness training, vulnerability management, network penetration testing and upgrade of endpoint security software;
- A modernisation of operating systems and software versions in use continued throughout the year;
- The migration from the LGMA active directory forest was completed including migration to new email system;

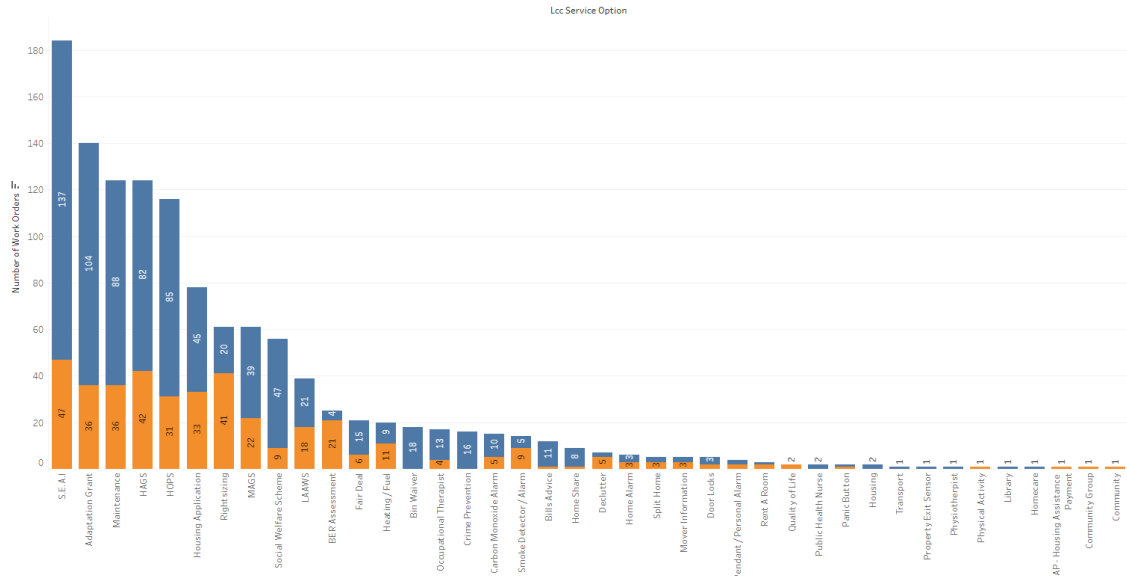
15.2 Business Solutions and Information Management

- A successful procurement was completed for the provision of an Enterprise CRM solution, with work having begun on the initial development and implementation;
- An online solution to facilitate the enhanced provisions for the allocation of housing units, via Choice Based Letting, was sourced, developed and implemented, cbl.meath.ie;



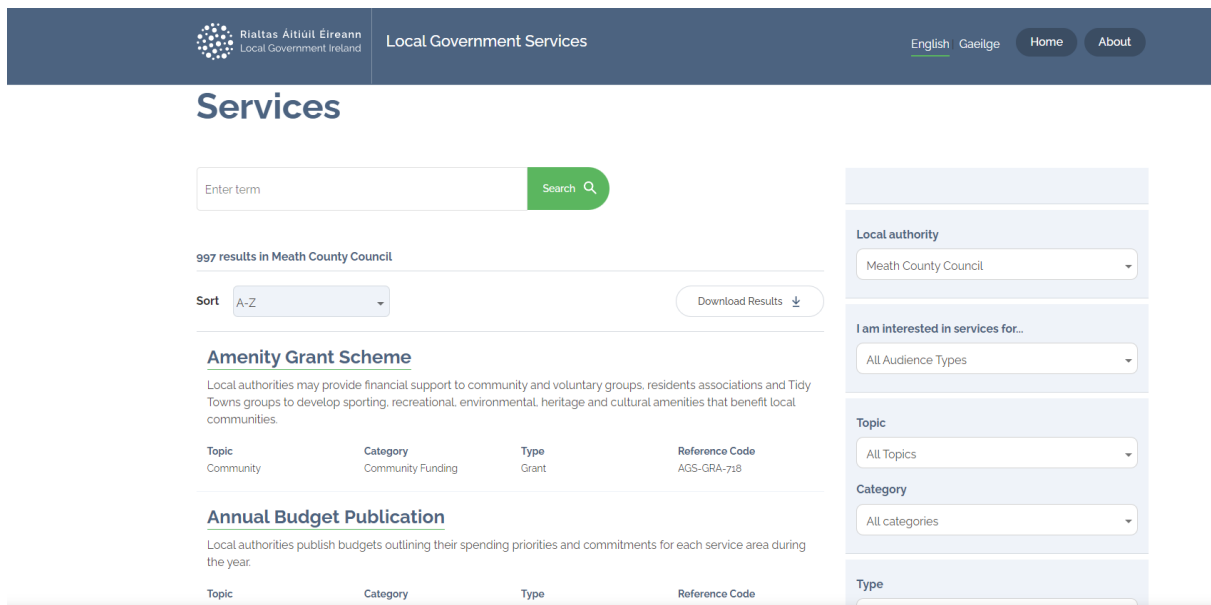
- To maintain the security of the Meath County Council website, the Content Management System a full upgrade to Drupal 9 was completed;
- Key initiatives were undertaken to implement an appropriate corporate data analytics platform, with several projects initiated to support timely decision making across the Council;
-

7. Work Orders by Service and Status



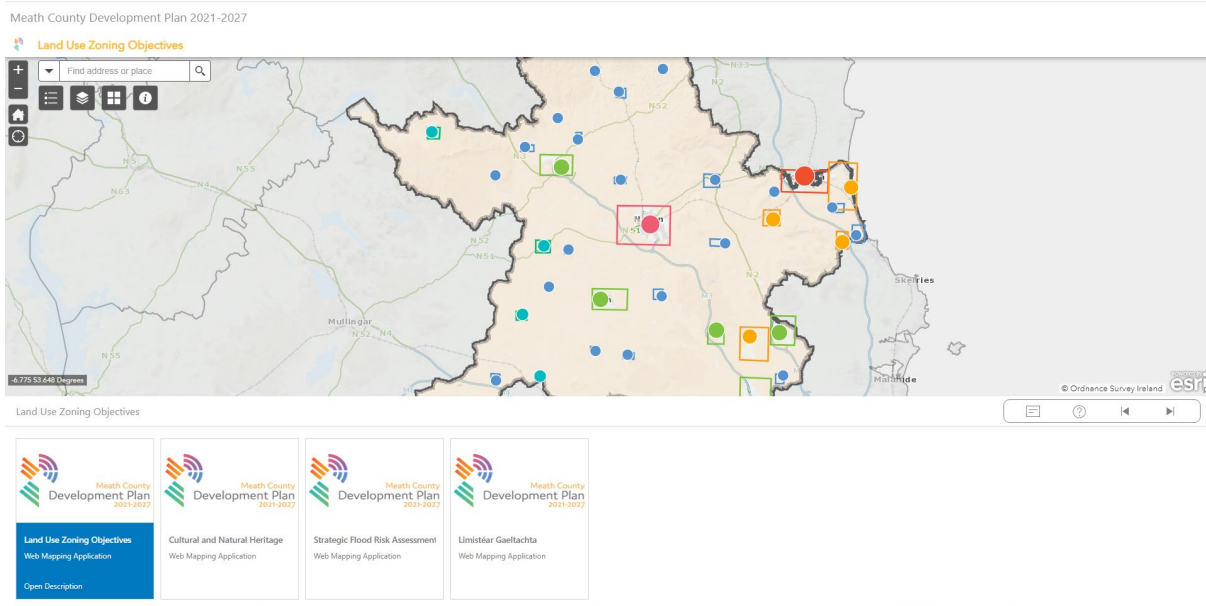
Substantial progress continued to be made on rolling out platforms to facilitate secure mobile working. The focus in 2021 was on facilitating the Age Friendly, Health & Safety and Transportation departments;

- Our corporate SurveyMonkey platform was migrated from a US, to an EU, data centre, to ensure continued GDPR compliance;
- We participated as one of the pilot sites for the LGMA’s newly developed National Service Catalogue website, services.localgov.ie;



- As pre-requisites to the roll out of the LGMA’s e-Planning Portal, our iPlan system was fully upgraded to version 4.3, the specified Document Categorisation Standards were adopted, planning.localgov.ie;
- Our iHouse system was fully upgraded to Version 3.7;
- We participated, with 5 other Local Authorities, in initiating a project to run a procurement to develop a Local Government Sector Chatbot, to deliver natural automated responses to frequently asked questions for the services provided by the Local Government Sector;

- The backend systems for processing applications under the Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC), integrating with Agresso financial management system, were implemented;
- Continued mapping support was provided to the Planning Department on both the Material Amendments to the Draft County Development Plan and the Adopted County Development Plan;



- ePlan View Map replacement tool was developed and implemented;
- Spatial analytics completed for improved reporting with Planning and Transportation departments.

ASHBOURNE



Conor Tormey Fianna Fáil



Suzanne Jamal Fine Gael



Alan Tobin Fine Gael



Joe Bonner Non-Party



Amanda Smith Non-Party



Aisling O'Neill Sinn Féin

KELLS



David Gilroy Non-Party



Paul McCabe Fianna Fáil



Mike Bray Fianna Fáil



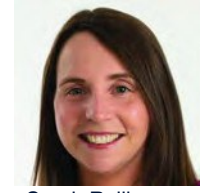
Eugene Cassidy Fine Gael



Sean Drew Fianna Fáil



Michael Gallagher Sinn Féin



Sarah Reilly Fine Gael

LAYTOWN-BETTYSTOWN



Tom Behan Fianna Fáil



Elaine McGinty Labour



Wayne Harding Fianna Fáil



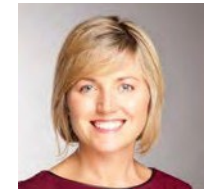
Geraldine Keogan Non-Party



Stephen McKee Fianna Fáil



Paddy Meade Fine Gael



Sharon Tolan Fine Gael

NAVAN



Francis Deane Non-Party



Edward Fennessy Sinn Féin



Yemi Adenuga Fine Gael



Padraig Fitzsimons Fianna Fáil



Alan Lawes Non-Party



Tommy Reilly Fianna Fáil



Emer Tóibín Aontú

RATOATH



Damien O'Reilly Fianna Fáil



Gerry O'Connor Fine Gael



Brian Fitzgerald Non-Party



Nick Killian Non-Party



Maria Murphy Fine Gael



Gillian Toole Non-Party

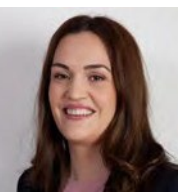


Deirdre Geraghty Smith Fianna Fáil

TRIM



Ronan Moore



Aisling Dempsey



Joe Fox



Noel French



Trevor Golden



Niamh Souhan

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
Kim Reilly	Environmental – Pillar
Thomas Rogers	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. Padraig Fitzsimons, (Chair – 01.01.21 to 05.12.21)	Cllr. Stephen McKee, (Chair – 06.12.21 to 31.12.21)
Cllr. Aisling Dempsey	Cllr Aisling O’Neill
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	Cllr. Sarah Reilly
Cllr. Joe Fox	Cllr. Tommy Reilly
Cllr Elaine McGinty	Cllr. Alan Tobin
John Curran	Agriculture/Farming - Pillar
Kieran Cummins	Environment/Conservation – Pillar
Gary Plunkett	Development/Construction – Pillar
Sean Boyle	Business/Commercial - Pillar
Michael Wall	Business/Commercial - Pillar

Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC

Cllr. Damien O’Reilly (Chair – 01.01.21 to 05.12.21)	Cllr. Alan Lawes
Cllr. Yemi Adenuga	Cllr. Maria Murphy
Cllr. Sean Drew	Cllr. Niamh Souhan
Cllr. Edward Fennessy	Cllr. Emer Tóibín
Cllr. Nick Killian	Cllr. Conor Tormey (Chair – 06.12.21 to 31.12.21)
Niamh Bn Ui Loinsigh	Community/Voluntary – Pillar
Gerard Weldon	Community/Voluntary - Pillar
John Regan	Trade Union - Pillar
Sinead Smith	Social Inclusion - Pillar
Michele McCullough	Social Inclusion – Pillar

Appendix 3 – SPC Activities

Activities of the Strategic Policy Committees 2021

Strategic Policy Committee	Number of Meetings
Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs	4
Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services	5
Transportation	3
Housing, Community and Cultural Development	7

Appendix 4 – Other Committees of the Council

Committee	Name	Party
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	Clr Yemi Adenuga	Fine Gael
	Clr Nick Killian	Non-Party
	Clr Elaine McGinty	Labour
	Clr Aisling O'Neill	Sinn Féin
	Clr Noel French	Fine Gael
	Clr. David Gilroy	Non-Party
Meath Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee	Clr Mike Bray	Fianna Fáil
	Clr Ronan Moore	Social Democrats
Regional Advisory Council Teagasc	Clr Francis Deane	Non-Party
Regional Health Forum	Clr Tom Behan	Fianna Fáil
	Clr Aisling O'Neill	Sinn Féin
	Clr Niamh Souhan	Fine Gael
	Clr Emer Tóibín	Aontú
	Clr Gillian Toole	Non-Party
(LCDC) Local Community Development Committee	Clr Yemi Adenuga	Fine Gael
	Clr Mike Bray	Fianna Fáil
	Clr Elaine McGinty	Labour
Audit Committee	Clr Sean Drew	Fianna Fáil
	Clr. Gerry O'Connor	Fine Gael
(LMETB) Louth Meath Education Training Board	Clr Deirdre Geraghty-Smith (01.01.21 to 04.07.21)	Fianna Fáil
	Clr Wayne Harding	Fianna Fáil
	Clr Nick Killian	Non-Party
	Clr Paul McCabe (05.07.21 to 31.12.21)	Fianna Fail
	Clr Maria Murphy	Fine Gael
	Clr Gerry O'Connor (06.12.21 to 31.12.21)	Fine Gael
	Clr Damien O'Reilly	Fianna Fáil
Clr Emer Tóibín (01.01.21 to 05.09.21)	Aontú	

Committee	Name	Party
	CLr Amanda Smith (06.09.21 to 31.12.21)	Non-Party
	CLr Sharon Tolan (01.01.21 to 05.12.21)	Fine Gael
Association of Irish Local Government	CLr Joe Fox	Fine Gael
	CLr Nick Killian	Non-Party
	CLr Damien O'Reilly	Fine Gael
LAMA	CLr Amanda Smith	Non-Party
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd	CLr Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
Navan Enterprise Centre Company Ltd	CLr Yemi Adenuga	Fine Gael
	CLr Francis Deane	Non-Party
	CLr Edward Fennessy	Sinn Féin
	CLr Pdraig Fitzsimons	Fianna Fáil
	CLr Emer Tóibín	Aontú
East Border Region (Directors)	CLr Sean Drew	Fianna Fáil
	CLr Trevor Golden	Non-Party
	CLr Gerry O'Connor	Fine Gael
Forum of East Border Region	CLr Tom Behan	Fianna Fáil
	CLr Paul McCabe	Fianna Fáil
	CLr Paddy Meade	Fine Gael
Meath Local Sports Partnership Ltd	CLr Pdraig Fitzsimons	Fianna Fáil
Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly	CLr Paddy Meade	Fine Gael
	CLr Brian Fitzgerald	Non-Party
	CLr Damien O'Reilly	Fianna Fáil
Board of Meath Arts Centre Ltd	CLr Yemi Adenuga	Fine Gael
	CLr Francis Deane	Non-Party
	CLr Pdraig Fitzsimons	Fianna Fáil
Boyne Valley Tourism Ltd	CLr Tom Behan	Fianna Fáil
	CLr Aisling Dempsey	Fianna Fáil
	CLr Edward Fennessy	Sinn Féin
	CLr David Gilroy	Non-Party

Committee	Name	Party
	CLlr Sarah Reilly	Fine Gael
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

Committee	Name	Party
	CLlr Edward Fennessy	Sinn Féin
	CLlr Pdraig Fitzsimons	Fianna Fáil
	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	John Tobin	
	Tinu Achioya	
	Bernard Kenny	
	Conor O'Leary	
	Ronnie Owens	
	Sarah Maher	
	Bill Commerford	
Meath Co. Council Staff	Jackie Maguire	
	Barry Lynch	
	Fiona Fallon	
Gardai	Chief Superintendent Fergus Healy	
	Superintendent Dermot Drea	
Oireachtas Members	Thomas Byrne	
	Damien English	
	Johnny Guirke	
	Helen McEntee	
	Darren O'Rourke	

Committee	Name	Party
	Peadar Tóibín	
	Shane Cassells	
	Regina Doherty	
	Annie Hoey	
	Sharon Keogan	
Protocol Committee	Clr Aisling Dempsey	Fianna Fáil
	Clr Francis Deane	Non-Party
	Clr Sean Drew	Fianna Fáil
	Clr Edward Fennessy	Sinn Féin
	Clr Trevor Golden	Non-Party
	Clr Paul McCabe	Fianna Fáil
	Clr Gerry O'Connor	Fine Gael
	Clr Sarah Reilly	Fine Gael
	Clr Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
Corporate Policy Group (CPG)	Clr Eugene Cassidy	Fine Gael
	Clr Sean Drew	Fianna Fáil
	Clr Pdraig Fitzsimons	Fianna Fáil
	Clr Trevor Golden	Non-Party
	Clr Wayne Harding (01.01.21 to 05.12.21)	Fianna Fáil
	Clr Stephen McKee (06.12.21 to 31.12.21)	Fianna Fáil
	Clr Damien O'Reilly (01.01.21 to 05.12.21)	Fianna Fáil
	Clr Alan Tobin (01.01.21 to 05.12.21)	Fine Gael
	Clr Conor Tormey (06.12.21 to 31.12.21)	Fianna Fáil
Municipal District Chairs (change yearly)	Clr Suzanne Jamal	Ashbourne
	Clr Mike Bray	Kells
	Clr Elaine McGinty	Laytown/ Bettystown
	Clr Pdraig Fitzsimons	Navan
	Clr Nick Killian	Ratoath
	Clr Joe Fox	Trim

Appendix 5 – Payments to Members of Meath County Council

Annual Councillors Expenses (Travel, subsistence, vouched/unvouched element)	€217,835.67
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)	€783,022.80
Allowance Municipal District Members (subject to taxation)	€40,000.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	€7,507.14

Appendix 6 – Conferences Abroad

List of Approved Abroad Conferences and members who attended in 2021

Title	Dates	Members Attended
Navan travels to Bobbio for the Celebration of the Feast of St. Columbanus	November 2021	Cllr. Padraig Fitzsimons

Appendix 7 – Conferences/Training at Home

Conferences

Title	Dates	Members Attended	Travel & Subs Cost	Conference Cost	Total Cost
Mental Health & Wellbeing	08/10/2021 – 10/10/2021	Cllr. Joe Fox	€538.74	€100.00	€638.74
		Cllr. Wayne Harding	€597.23	€100.00	€697.23
		Cllr. Paul McCabe	€564.65	€100.00	€664.65
		Cllr. Damien O'Reilly	€574.39	€100.00	€674.39
A Practical Guide to Budget 2022	15/10/2021 – 17/10/2021	Cllr. Tommy Reilly	€224.40	€100.00	€324.40

Training

Title	Dates	Members Attended	Travel & Subs Cost	Training Cost	Total Cost
AILG Online Webinar – The Decision on the Planning Application and Appeal	22/01/2021	Cllr. Yemi Adenuga	€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 Online Webinar - Local Authority Planning Enforcement Functions	26/02/2021	Cllr. Elaine McGinty	€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. Gillian Toole	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
AILG Online Webinar - Communications Infrastructure and Local Authorities	26/03/2021	Cllr. Trevor Golden	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Wayne Harding	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Paul McCabe	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Elaine McGinty	€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
		Cllr. Damien O'Reilly	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00

Title	Dates	Members Attended	Travel & Subs Cost	Training Cost	Total Cost
AILG Online Webinar - County Development Plan Policy: Housing – Part 1: Housing Supply Targets and Core Strategies	30/04/2021	Cllr. Aisling Dempsey	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Maria Murphy	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Aisling O’Neill	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Damien O’Reilly	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Sarah Reilly	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Alan Tobin	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Gillian Toole	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
AILG Online Webinar - Local Authority Housing and the Housing Agency	07/05/2021	Cllr. Noel French	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Elaine McGinty	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Maria Murphy	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Aisling O’Neill	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Sarah Reilly	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
AILG Online Webinar - County Development Plan Policy: Housing – Part 2: Rural Planning and Development Policy	28/05/2021	Cllr. Sean Drew	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Michael Gallagher	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Deirdre Geraghty-Smith	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Wayne Harding	€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. Gerry O’Connor	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Aisling O’Neill	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Damien O’Reilly	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Sarah Reilly	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Alan Tobin	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
AILG Online Webinar - “County Development Plan Policy: Housing – Part 3: Programme for Government and Affordable Housing Delivery	25/06/2021	Cllr. Michael Gallagher	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Aisling O’Neill	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Damien O’Reilly	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
AILG Online Webinar - Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme	09/07/2021	Cllr. Damien O’Reilly	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Sarah Reilly	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00

Title	Dates	Members Attended	Travel & Subs Cost	Training Cost	Total Cost
		Cllr. Alan Tobin	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
AILG Online Webinar - "County Development Plan Policy: Housing – Part 4: Delivery of High Quality Housing Appropriate to its Setting"	23/07/2021	Cllr. Mike Bray	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Maria Murphy	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Alan Tobin	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
AILG Module 1 Training 2021 – "Government Decision on the Reform on Remuneration Payable to Local Authority Elected Members and Update on Planning and Development Bill 2021 and other Planning Related Matters"	18/09/2021	Cllr. Wayne Harding	€313.89	€65.00	€378.89
		Cllr. Paul McCabe	€314.95	€65.00	€379.95
		Cllr. Damien O'Reilly	€287.46	€65.00	€352.46
		Cllr. Tommy Reilly	€312.28	€65.00	€377.28
		Cllr. Joe Fox	€312.28	€65.00	€377.28
	02/10/2021	Cllr. Geraldine Keogan	€271.90	€65.00	€336.90
		Cllr. Amanda Smith	€305.38	€65.00	€370.38
		Cllr. Alan Tobin	€305.38	€65.00	€370.38
		Cllr. Nick Killian	€326.61	€65.00	€391.61
		€118.02	€65.00	€183.02	
AILG "County Development Plan Policy: Climate – Part 1: On and Offshore Renewables" – Online Webinar	24/09/2021	Cllr. Deirdre Geraghty-Smith	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Elaine McGinty	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Gerry O'Connor	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Damien O'Reilly	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Sarah Reilly	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
		Cllr. Alan Tobin	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
LAMA Autumn Training Seminar 2021	03/11/2021 – 05/11/2021	Cllr. Joe Bonner	€0.00	€150.00	€150.00
		Cllr. Joe Fox	€405.74	€150.00	€555.74
		Cllr. Wayne Harding	€421.02	€150.00	€571.02
		Cllr. Trevor Golden	€0.00	€150.00	€150.00
		Cllr. Suzanne Jamal	€311.38	€150.00	€461.38
		Cllr. Geraldine Keogan	€451.03	€150.00	€601.03
		Cllr. Paddy Meade			
		Cllr. Damien O'Reilly			
Cllr. Amanda Smith					

Title	Dates	Members Attended	Travel & Subs Cost	Training Cost	Total Cost
		Cllr. Conor Tormey	€430.88	€150.00	€580.88
			€430.88	€150.00	€580.88
			€452.38	€150.00	€602.38
			€456.41	€150.00	€606.41
AilG Module 2 Training 2021 – “Elected Members Mental Health & Well-Being and Briefing on the National Office for Suicide Prevention”	06/11/2021	Cllr Joe Fox	€200.55	€65.00	€265.55
		Cllr. Trevor Golden	€0.00	€65.00	€65.00
		Cllr Wayne Harding	€262.35	€65.00	€327.35
		Cllr Paul McCabe	€337.16	€65.00	€402.16
		Cllr Damien O’Reilly	€220.74	€65.00	€285.74
		Cllr Geraldine Keogan	€255.21	€65.00	€320.21
		Cllr Amanda Smith	€249.84	€65.00	€314.84
Irish Planning Institute Annual Conference 2021 – “Delivering Plan Led Development	17/11/2021 – 19/11/2021	Cllr Joe Fox	€345.63	€360.00	€705.63
		Cllr Wayne Harding	€417.05	€360.00	€777.05
		Cllr Geraldine Keogan	€407.79	€360.00	€767.79
		Cllr Damien O’Reilly	€505.67	€360.00	€865.57
		Cllr Tommy Reilly	€407.34	€360.00	€767.34
		Cllr Amanda Smith	€396.59	€360.00	€756.59
		Cllr Conor Tormey	€391.22	€360.00	€751.22

Appendix 8 – Meetings of the Council – 2021

Monthly Meetings	10
Special Meetings	1
Special Planning Meetings	17
Annual	1
Pre Budget and Budget	2
Protocol	9
CPG	12
SPC – Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services	5
SPC - Transportation	3
SPC – Housing, Community & Cultural Development	7
SPC – Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs	4
Municipal District – Ashbourne	
Kells Laytown/Bettystown Navan	13
Ratoath Trim	13
	13
	14
	13
	13

Appendix 9 – Annual Financial Statement

Meath County Council Annual Financial Report 2021*

Expenditure	Revenue (€m)	Capital (€m)
Housing & Building	38.972	44.650
Roads Transportation & Safety	46.793	27.699
Water & Sewerage	10.533	1.267
Development Incentives & Controls	16.248	3.928
Environment Protection	14.980	2.251
Recreation & Amenity	8.385	3.197
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	0.839	0.251
Miscellaneous	19.756	(0.566)
Total	156.506	82.677
Income (see funding sources below)	113.229	85.449
Net Transfers		12.428
Net Revenue Cost to be funded from Rates & LPT	(43.277)	
Rates	43.989	
Local Property Tax	14.023	
Transfer from/(to) Reserves	(14.189)	
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	0.545	15.200
Opening Balance (01/01/19)	(0.684)	75.063
Closing Balance	0.047	90.263

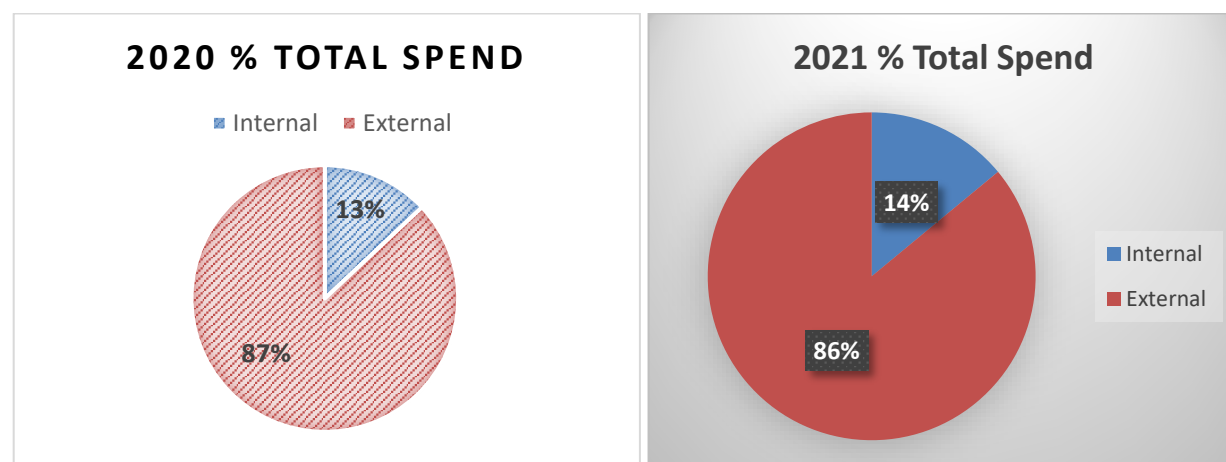
* Based on draft AFS

Appendix 10 - Municipal District Allocation 2021

This section of the report provides an overview of expenditure for the overall Municipal District Allocation Scheme for 2021.

Overview

(a)	Total no. of applications received	627
(b)	No. of applications withdrawn	5
(c)	No. of applications deferred to 2021	26
(d)	No. of valid applications for processing received (a – b & c)	596
(e)	Total annual fund	€600,000
(f)	Total amount deferred from 2020	€26,774
(g)	Total fund available in 2021	€626,774
(h)	Total amount deferred to 2022	€55,432
(i)	Amount that reverted to MD at year end	€15,000
(j)	Total amount allocated - 2021	€555,942



Internal Allocations¹

TOTAL NUMBER OF INTERNAL APPLICATIONS COMPLETE	77
TOTAL INTERNAL ALLOCATION	€76,699.95
% OF TOTAL ALLOCATION (J)	14%

Department/Project	No. of allocations	Total amount allocated €	% of total allocation (i)
Community –	1	1,700	0.5%
WiFi project	1	1,700	-
Environment	2	2,650	0.5%
Climate Action Forum	1	1,150	-
Wall repair	1	1,500	-
Housing –	2	15,000	3%
Homeless Services	2	15,000	-
Transportation –	72	57,349.95	10%
Benches	1	1,000	-
CIS	43	25,700	-
Green area maintenance	1	150	-
LIS	17	14,450	-
Painting railings	1	500	-

¹ Internal allocations are allocations made to a Council department for agreed works to be carried out by that department; External allocations are allocations made to an external group or project, e.g. a community group.

Planters & bench	1	1,000	-
Roadworks	1	10,000	-
Salt bins	3	510	-
Signage	2	2,039.95	-
Traffic calming	2	2,000	

External Allocations

Total number of external applications complete 519

Total external allocation €479,642.05

% of Total Allocation (j) 86%

Category	No. of allocations	Total amount allocated €	% of total allocation (i)
Sports organisations/facilities	141	141,616.05	25%
Support Services	78	88,180	16%
Community development/organisations	58	66,146	12%
Residents Associations	128	61,540	11%
Tidy Towns/Pride of Place	33	44,070	8%
Heritage/Tourism/Environment	29	28,900	5%
Youth organisations/facilities	14	18,110	3%
Schools	17	13,400	2.5%
Recreation/Amenity	5	7,580	1.5%
Festivals/Events	5	5,400	1%
Drama/Culture/Arts	11	4,700	1%

Number of projects/services & groups that received funding in 2021:

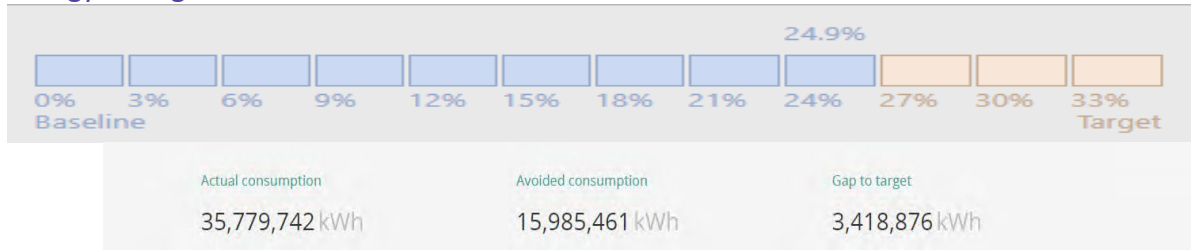
Municipal District	Internal No. of Projects/Services	External No. of Groups
Ashbourne	3	55
Kells	23	83
Laytown-Bettystown	4	65
Navan	2	83
Ratoath	2	51
Trim	1	35
Total	35	362*

* 8 groups received allocations from more than one municipal district

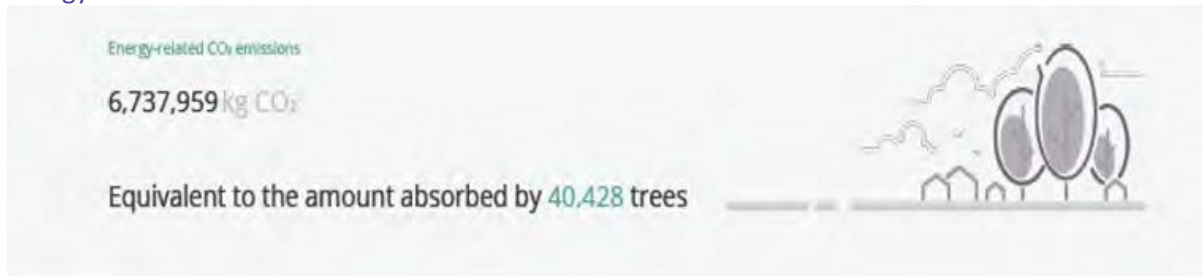
Appendix 11 – Energy Efficiency Statement 2020

For an explanation on figures and data, see the footnotes below.

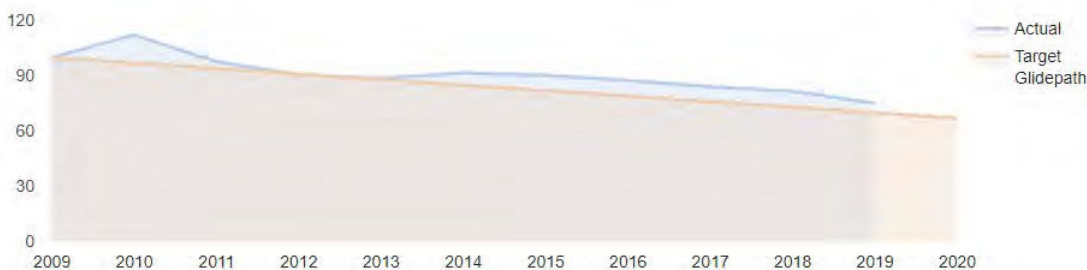
Energy savings since baseline



Energy-related CO2 emissions



Energy Performance to date



8% better than 2018 24.9% better than the baseline For explanation of figures and data, see footnotes below.

Meath County Council improved its energy performance in 2019 by Improving energy management practices. Additional Comments on energy performance

Meath County Council was without a full-time energy officer for a period of about 6 months in 2019, as a result no major energy efficiency projects were undertaken during the reporting period. While the Council did see a modest decrease in energy consumption this was mainly attributable to Kells Swimming Pool not being operational for over 6 months as it was shut down for renovation works. Some energy efficiency upgrade works

(replacement of SONs/SOX lights with LED lighting) were carried out on the Public Lighting network as part of the Councils ongoing maintenance contract and improved energy management across facilities since a facilities team was put in place to manage our building portfolio have resulted in reduced energy consumption.

Projects Implemented in 2019



Project name	Total savings (kWh TFC)	Total savings (kWh TPER)
2019 Ongoing PL Maintenance	114,522	217,088
Total:	114,522	217,088

Annual Energy Statement

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 2019 through SEAI's public sector monitoring and reporting (M&R) system.

TPER and TFC

Almost all energy values shown above 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 2020 using an Energy Performance Indicator (EnPI)

Actual Consumption

Actual Consumption is the total energy consumed by Meath County Council in 2019, expressed as primary energy consumption, it includes electricity, thermal (heat) energy and transport consumption.

Avoided Consumption

Avoided consumption is the amount of additional energy that would have been consumed by Meath County Council in 2019 had it not made the reported efficiency gain since its baseline.

Gap to Target

The gap to target is an estimate, based on 2019 date, of the additional energy savings required by 2020 to reach the efficiency target. The calculation on this value incorporates several simplified assumptions, including that the organisational activity level will remain constant between 2019 and 2020.

Energy Performance Indicator

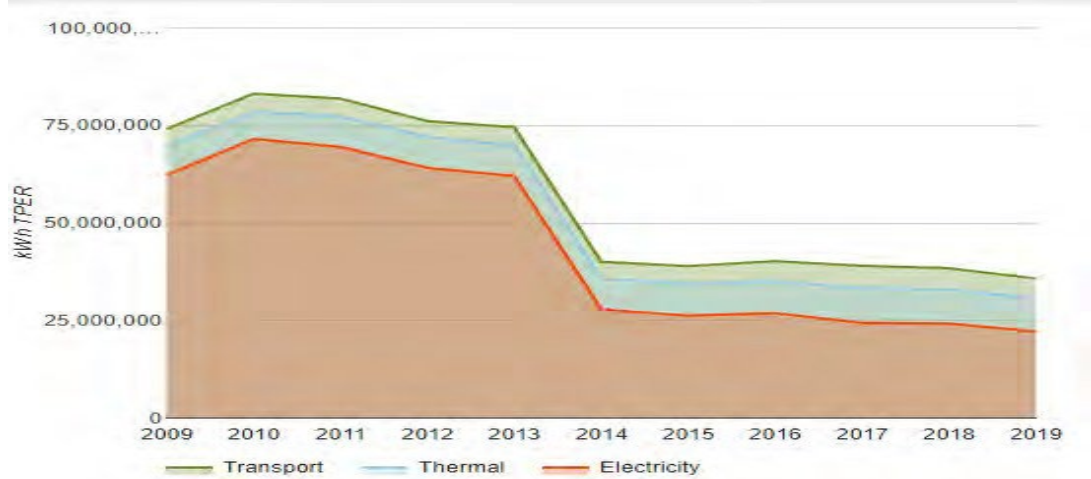
The Energy Performance Indicator (EnPI) is a way of measuring an organisation's energy performance. Each year, an EnPI is calculated by dividing the organisation's energy consumption by a measure of its activity (activity metric). A decreasing EnPI indicates an improvement in energy efficiency because 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 2020.

Project energy savings

The energy savings shown for specific periods are absolute savings per year, as reported by Meath County Council, i.e. they are the reductions in consumption attributable to each project. They do not account for any changes in activity level within the organisation.

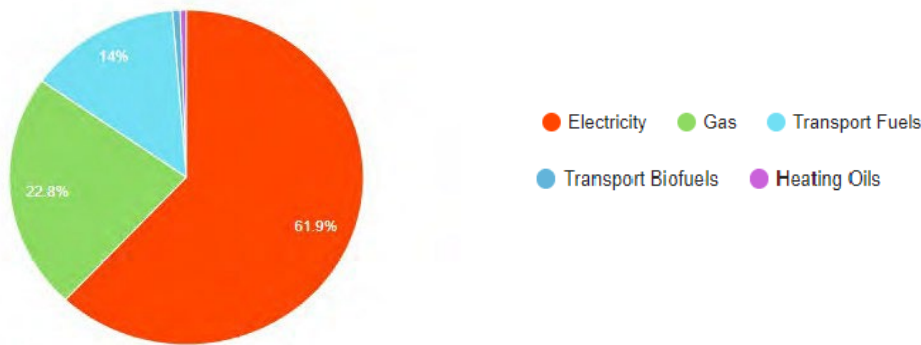
For an explanation on figures and data, see the footnotes below.

2019 Energy Consumption 35,779,742 kWh
Energy Consumption to date



Note: any apparent drop in consumption between 2013 & 2014 is due, in a large part, to the transfer of water services assets to Irish Water.

Energy Consumption 2019 (TPER)



6.8%
less than 2018

51.7%
less than baseline

2,606,540 kWh
less than 2018

38,326,046 kWh
less than baseline

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.

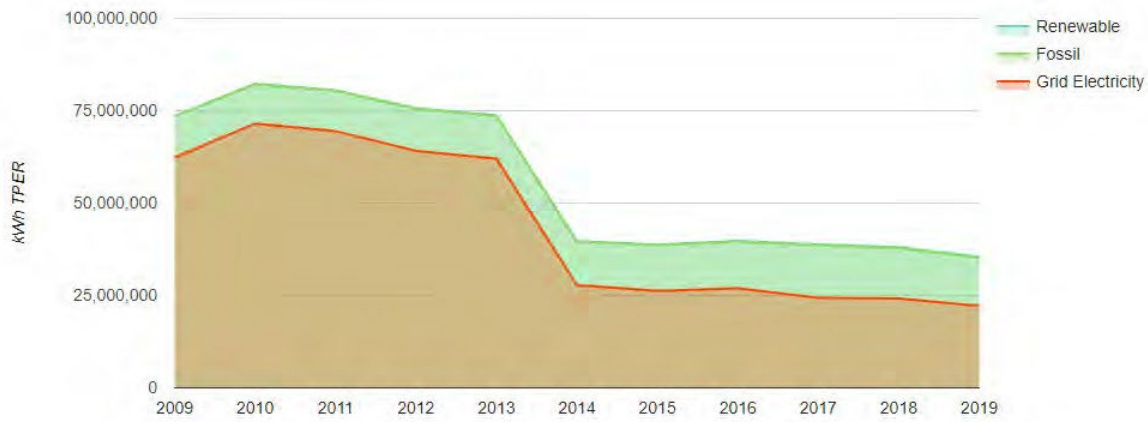
For an explanation on figures and data, see the footnotes below.

2019 Renewable Energy Consumption

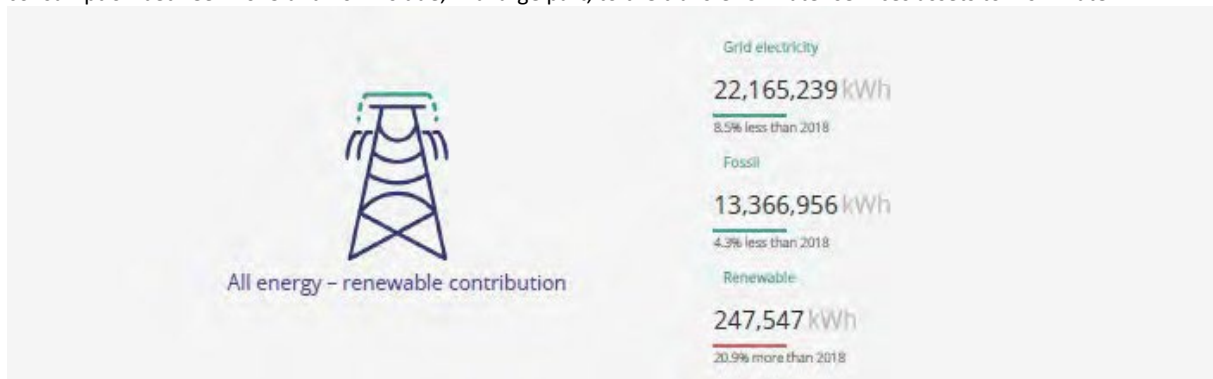
Renewable: 247,547 kWh

Renewable share is 0.7%

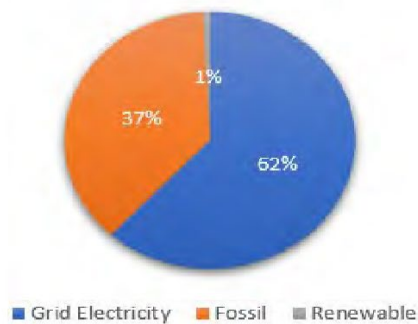
Renewable energy to date



consumption between 2013 and 2014 is due, in a large part, to the transfer of water services assets to Irish Water



Share of energy consumption



Share of energy consumption

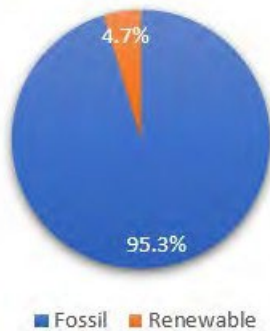


Transport energy - renewable contribution

Fossil
4,995,831 kWh
4.1% less than 2018

Renewable
247,547 kWh
20.9% more than 2018

Share of 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.

Electricity

Electricity from the grid is not broken down between renewable and fossil sources, instead all of this electricity consumption is classified as grid electricity. Electricity reported by the organisation as having been generated within the organisation's facilities from renewable sources (e.g. solar PV) is included in the renewable figures.

Biofuel

The vast majority of road transport fuels placed on the market contain a single digit percentage of biofuel. The percentage is calculated annually and is trending upwards over time. The renewable consumption figures shown above include an amount of biofuel consumption for Meath County Council that has been calculated using the national biofuel contribution figure for 2019.

For an explanation on figures and data, see the footnotes below.

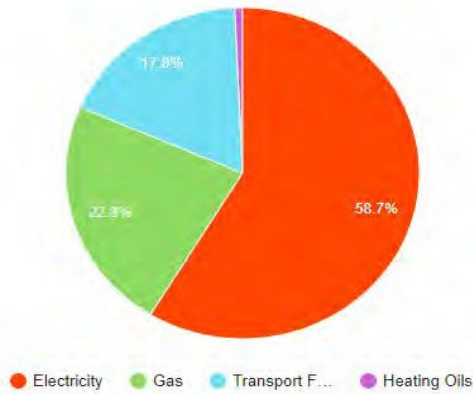
2019 CO₂ emissions

6,737,959 kgCO₂

CO₂ emissions since baseline



C
2019



11.8%
less than 2018

901,561 kgCO₂
less than 2018

61.6%
less than baseline

10,818,273 kgCO₂
less than baseline

Energy-related CO₂ emissions

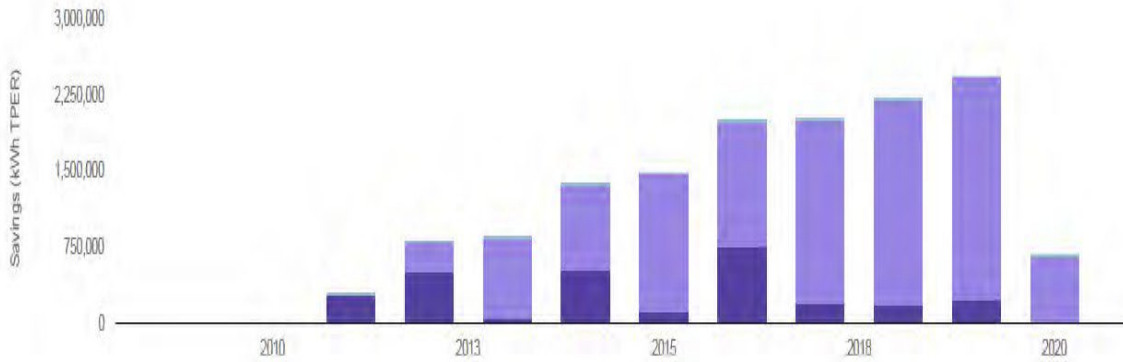
The CO₂ emission values shown are attributable to the energy consumption reported by Meath County Council.

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.

For an explanation on figures and data, see the footnotes below.

Annual energy savings from reported projects



The coloured bar above corresponds to one of the coloured stripes in the table headings below. The dark blue/purple bars show savings already achieved in each year from project(s) implemented in that year. The light blue/purple bars indicate savings still being made in each year from project(s) implemented in a previous year. The Dark green indicates savings expected in each future year from project(s) planned for implementation in that year. Light green indicates savings expected in each year from project(s) planned for implementation before that year.

Year	Projects Implemented in Year (kWh TPER)	Projects Implemented in a Previous Year (kWh TPER)	Projects Planned for Implementation in a Year (kWh TPER)	Projects Planned for Implementation in a Previous Year (kWh TPER)
2009	-	-	-	-
2010	-	2	-	-
2011	297,192	2	-	-
2012	504,323	297,193	-	-
2013	44,514	801,516	-	-
2014	522,332	846,030	-	-
2015	110,427	1,368,363	-	-
2016	748,471	1,254,728	-	-
2017	189,545	1,827,848	-	-
2018	187,284	2,017,394	-	-
2019	217,088	2,204,678	-	-
2020	-	672,276	-	-

Projects Implemented in 2019



Project name	Total savings (kWh TFC)	Total savings (kWh TPER)
2019 Ongoing PL Maintenance	114,522	217,088
Total:	114,522	217,088

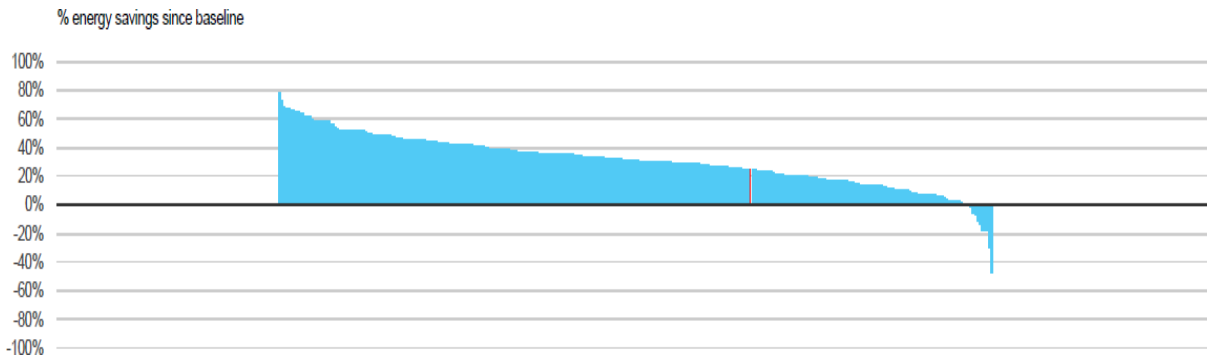
TPER and TFC

Most of the energy values shown above 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 processes. The savings values shown for specific named energy projects are also expressed as total final consumption (TFC), which does not account for the energy consumed and/or lost in transformation, transmission and distribution processes.

Energy savings

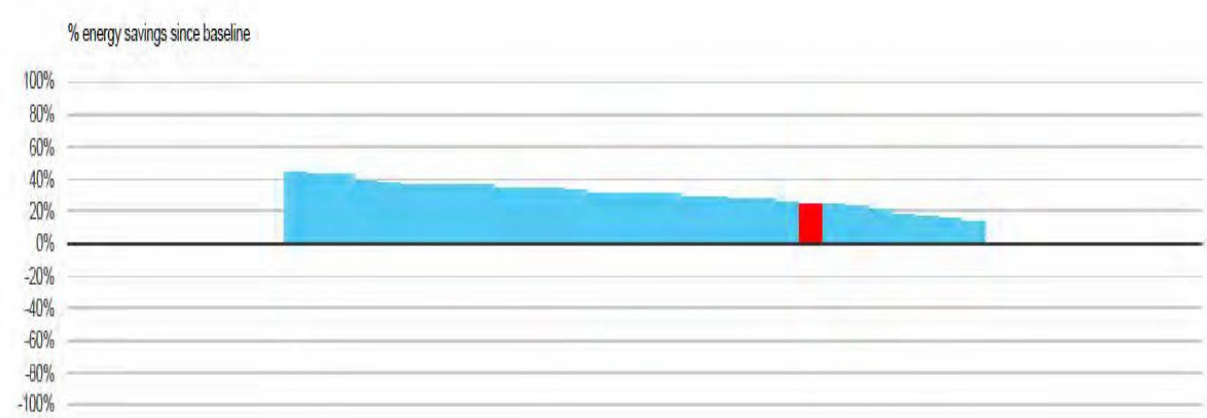
The energy savings shown are absolute savings per year, as reported by Meath County Council, i.e. they are the reductions in consumption attributable to each project. They do not account for any changes in activity level within the organisation.

Meath County Council savings compared to all public bodies



Meath County Council is the 202nd best performer out of 305 public bodies. Please note that another 46 public bodies were removed from this comparison because they either submitted insufficient data to calculate a savings result or aspects of their data need to be improved or verified.

Meath County Councils savings compared to others in Local Authority



Meath County Council is the 23rd best performer out of 30 public bodies. Please note that another 2 public bodies were removed from this comparison because they either submitted insufficient data to calculate a savings result or aspects of their data need to be improved or verified.

Savings of Local Authority public bodies

Public body	2019 Energy consumption (TPER)	2019 Energy savings (since baseline) %	SEAI comment
Cork City Council	52,743,273	44.9	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline & on track for 2020 target
Louth County Council	26,027,379	43.6	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline & on track for 2020 target
Laois County Council	18,075,410	43.2	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline & on track for 2020 target
Tipperary County Council	43,991,463	38.9	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline & on track for 2020 target
Kerry County Council	41,317,542	37.9	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline & on track for 2020 target
Longford County Council	10,758,624	37.4	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline & on track for 2020 target
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	46,179,522	37.2	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline & on track for 2020 target
Monaghan County Council	12,883,034	37.1	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline & on track for 2020 target
Dublin City Council	172,254,159	36.5	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline & on track for 2020 target
Fingal County Council	51,951,608	34.5	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline & on track for 2020 target
South Dublin County Council	47,365,440	34.4	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline & on track for 2020 target
Kilkenny County Council	22,741,894	33.9	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline & on track for 2020 target
Offaly County Council	16,035,645	33.5	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline & on track for 2020 target
Irish Water	1,076,953,062	32.1	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline & on track for 2020 target
Galway City Council	23,024,650	31.6	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline & on track for 2020 target
Carlow County Council	11,806,046	30.9	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline & on track for 2020 target
Galway County Council	27,516,333	30.8	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline & on track for 2020 target
Roscommon County Council	18,207,414	29.4	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline, but not yet on the path for 2020 target
Mayo County Council	35,934,698	29.3	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline, but not yet on the path for 2020 target
Wexford County Council	33,630,170	28.7	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline, but not yet on the path for 2020 target
Limerick City & County Council	41,171,562	27.6	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline, but not yet on the path for 2020 target
Sligo County Council	15,455,581	26.3	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline, but not yet on the path for 2020 target
Meath County Council	35,779,742	24.9	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline, but not yet on the path for 2020 target
Kildare County Council	42,758,493	24	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline, but not yet on the path for 2020 target
Waterford City & County Council	38,576,629	23.5	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline, but not yet on the path for 2020 target
Cork County Council	69,743,445	22.3	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline, but not yet on the path for 2020 target
Donegal County Council	52,349,947	17.8	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline, but not yet on the path for 2020 target
Clare County Council	29,278,677	16.9	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline, but not yet on the path for 2020 target
Wicklow County Council	34,060,008	16.2	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline, but not yet on the path for 2020 target
Cavan County Council	14,478,287	14	Overall status (2019): more efficient than baseline, but not yet on the path for 2020 target

Appendix 12 – NOAC Performance Indicators 2020

Performance Indicators

01/01/2020 - 31/12/2020 (Annual)

Meath County Council

Status: Complete

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	A. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 1/1/2020	3402	
	B. No. of dwellings added to the LA owned stock during 2020 (whether constructed or acquired)	167	
	C. No. of LA owned dwellings sold in 2020	5	
	D. No. of LA owned dwellings demolished in 2020	0	
	E. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 31/12/2020	3564	
	F. No. of LA owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved scheme	0	
	A. The percentage of the total number of LA owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2020	6.93 %	
	The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2020	247	
	A. Expenditure during 2020 on the maintenance of LA housing compiled from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020, divided by the no. of dwellings in the LA stock at 31/12/2020, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	€556.35	
	Expenditure on maintenance of LA stock compiled from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020,	€1982819	

	including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as SEAI grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works or the Fabric Upgrade Programme but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).		
Housing: H3 & H5 Approved	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2020 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2020	31.4 wk	
	B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2020, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2020	€27959.84	
	The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2020 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	69	
	The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted	2166.6 wk	
	Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	€1929229	
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at end of June 2020	8799	
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2020	1199	
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2020 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	88.11 %	
	D. Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2020 (including those originally deemed non-compliant)	244	

Housing: H6 Approved	A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a % of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2020	45.30 %	
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2020 as recorded on the PASS system	181	
	The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2020, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	82	
Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	A. (a) The % of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2020	89.10 %	
	A. (b) The % of Local Primary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2020	91.70 %	
	A. (c) The % of Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2020	92.60 %	
	A. (d) The % of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2020	73.90 %	
	B. (a.1) The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2020	6.40 %	
	B. (a.2) The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2020	5.90 %	
	B. (a.3) The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2020	71.00 %	
	B. (a.4) The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2020	12.30 %	

road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2020		
B. (b.1) The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2020	14.30 %	
B. (b.2) The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2020	3.60 %	
B. (b.3) The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2020	47.00 %	
B. (b.4) The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2020	29.50 %	
B. (c.1) The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2020	22.70 %	
B. (c.2) The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2020	2.60 %	
B. (c.3) The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2020	48.90 %	
B. (c.4) The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2020	20.60 %	
B. (d.1) The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2020	26.80 %	
B. (d.2) The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2020	3.50 %	
B. (d.3) The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2020	34.70 %	
B. (d.4) The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2020	10.40 %	
A1. Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2020	19.4 km	
A2. The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2020	€4727122.00	
A3. The average unit cost of regional road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²)	€29.69	

	B1. Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2020	21.7 km	
	B2. The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2020	€699683.00	
	B3. The average unit cost of regional road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²)	€5.06	
	C1. Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2020	61.2 km	
	C2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2020	€7721735.00	
	C3. The average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²)	€27.32	
	D1. Kilometres of local road resealed during 2020	97.6 km	
	D2. The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2020	€2346881.00	
	D3. The average unit cost of local road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²)	€4.70	
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 2020	91.00 %	
Water: W1 & W2 Approved	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements in respect of the monitoring of the quality of private drinking water supplies during 2020	1.00 %	
	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 2020	110	
	Total number of registered schemes in 2020	110	

Waste: E1 Approved	A. The number of households, based on the 2016 Census, who are situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2020	32228	32,228 as submitted by the NWCPO
	B. The % of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500)	82.53 %	
Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved	A1. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2020	2007	
	A2. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020	2012	
	A3. Total number of cases on hands at 31/12/2020	52	
	The opening number of cases carried forward from the year end 2019	57	
Litter Pollution: E3 Approved	A1. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was unpolluted or litter free	20 %	
	A2. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was slightly polluted	38 %	
	A3. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was moderately polluted	26 %	
	A4. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was significantly polluted	12 %	
	A5. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was grossly polluted	4 %	
Green Flag Status: E4 Approved	A. The % of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2020	36.43 %	
	Schools which attained a Green	3	

	Flag for the first time in 2020		
	Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2020	18	
	Schools which held a Green Flag from 2019 and therefore do not require renewal until 2021	30	
Energy Efficiency: E5 Approved	A. The cumulative % of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2020 relative to baseline year (2009)	1.00 %	
Public Lighting: E6 Approved	A. Total billable wattage of the public lighting system	8403.87 MWh	
	B. Average billable wattage of the public lighting system	99.32 W	
	C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent	23.19 %	
	Number of LED lights in the public lighting system	4653	
	Number of SOX-SON lights in the public lighting system	15414	
Planning: P1 Approved	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	77.97 %	
	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020 by a builder or developer on the local authority	1221	
	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2020 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2020 undertaken by the local authority	952	
Planning: P2 & P3 Approved	A. Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2020	64	
	B. % of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or	76.56 %	

	without variation) the decision made by the LA		
	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision (either with or without variation)	49	
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020 that were investigated	368	
	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2020	224	
	C. % 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. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	60.71 %	
	E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	39.29 %	
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2020	904	An internal audit of our statistics identified a discrepancy in the Closing Balance for 2019 which was understated by 3.
	Number of cases at 'B' that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000	0	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	136	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	88	
Planning: P4 & P5 Approved	A. The 2020 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€25.36	
	AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 -	€4945757	

	Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2020		
	A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	67.86 %	
	B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	19.64 %	
	The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2020 that were not withdrawn by the applicant	112	
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application	76	
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	22	
Fire Service: F1 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2020 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	€30.69	
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2020	€4861105.38	

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	5.02 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	5.21 min	
	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes	39.06 %	
	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	49.16 %	
	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	11.78 %	
	D. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	30.39 %	
	E. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	56.35 %	
	F. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	13.26 %	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020	594	
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	232	

	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	292	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	70	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020	362	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	110	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	204	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	48	
Library Service: L1 Approved			
	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the LA area per the 2016 Census	0.28	
	B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	287294	
	C. Library active members per head of population	0.09	
	D. Number of registered library members in the year	27155	
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020	55564	
Library Service: L2 Approved			
	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2020 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€22.69	
	B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 1/01/2020 to 31/12/2020	€1.62	
	A. AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service	€4425994	

	(inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2020		
	B. The annual expenditure on new stock acquired by the library in the year	€315000	
Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 Approved	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	72.73 %	
	Total number of second level schools in the LA area at 31/12/2020	22	New LMETB school Enfield.
	Number of second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2020	16	AGM held by zoom due to Covid.
	A. Number of organisations included in the County Register and the proportion who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	9.69	
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register for the local authority area as at 31/12/2020	1084	
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2020	224	
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	105	
Corporate: C1, C2, C4 & C5 Approved	A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2020	736.87	
	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2020	2.32 %	
	B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence	0.18 %	

	through self-certified leave in 2020		
	Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2020	4842 day	
	Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2020	295 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2020	0 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2020	968 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	52	
	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020, divided by the WTE no.	€3884.77	
	Total ICT expenditure in 2020	€2862570.8	
	A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	1.70	
	Total Revenue expenditure from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020 before transfers to or from reserves	168081549	
Corporate: C3 Approved	A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2020	12.29	
	B. The per capita total number of followers at end 2020 of the local authority's social media accounts (if any)	0.57	
	The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the local authority for the period from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service or	2397996	Significant increase in page views as a result of the public consultation process on the review of the County Development

	equivalent		Plan and the provision of information relating to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic
	The total number of social media users who, at 31/12/2020, were following the local authority on any social media sites	111828	A concerted effort to grow the Council's followers on social media during 2020. Greater focus on the use of social media by the Council generally and the production of more engaging content. Increased use of social media during the public health emergency.
	The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	36	
	Indicate if there was a change to the cookie policies on the local authority sites and the date this came into effect	6th October, 2020	
Finance: M1 to M4 Approved	A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2016 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-2495446	
	B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2017 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-1287437	
	C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2018 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-952361	
	D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2019 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-684544	-684,544 cumulative was submitted last year
	E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2020 in the Revenue Account from the	€-497931	

Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS		
F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2020 as a percentage of Total Income in 2020 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	-0.27 %	
G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2020	€861.76	
H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2020 excluding significant out of county / shared service expenditure	€861.76	
The 2020 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€184131805	
The 2020 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€168081549	
The 2020 Revenue expenditure excluding county / shared service expenditure for the service providers of HAP, MyPay, DRHE and Dublin Fire Services	€168081549	
A. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2016	89.0 %	
A. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2016	87.0 %	
A. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2016	67.0 %	
B. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	92.0 %	
B. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	89.0 %	
B. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	67.0 %	
C. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	93.0 %	
C. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	89.0 %	



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meath county council