

Kerry Local Authorities

Údaráis Áitiúla Chiarraí

Annual Report 2012

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2012



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Foreword by An Méara

A chairde

As Mayor of Kerry, I am delighted to introduce the 2012 Annual Report for Kerry County Council.

In my time as Mayor of Kerry, I have been privileged to represent the people of Kerry at home and abroad. I have always strived to put the best case forward for Kerry, to promote our beautiful county as an ideal place to live, to raise a family, to work in and to visit.

I have also had the opportunity to meet some fantastic people who share my love of this county. Some of them are living outside of the county, but their passion for Kerry and their desire to help move this county forward is fantastic and I must pay tribute to their work.

I am delighted that this drive to push Kerry forward into a better place is shared by the management and staff of Kerry County Council. There is no doubt that the economic uncertainty has impacted upon Kerry County Council's operations. However, they continue to work to improve this county, and during the course of 2012, they have carried out significant work in this regard.

The Tralee Bypass is one of the most visible projects, and once finished in 2013, will prove to hugely benefit the town of Tralee and further afield. As a Tralee native, I was also hugely proud to see the Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre open in 2012 and this will add significantly to the town of Tralee.

In addition, the significant investment in helping people to live in their own homes through the Housing Adaptation Schemes is hugely welcome. The work allows people with illness or injury to stay in their own homes, in their own communities and local trades-people also benefit from the work.

In our county's libraries, over half a million people visited during 2012 with almost 600,000 items borrowed. Our libraries are our unheralded centres of learning and they are so integral to communities that they must be supported at all times.

And it is this investment and support in our communities that I am most proud of as a public representative. Kerry County Council does huge amounts of work with the local communities and community groups, supporting what they do and helping them prosper.

We can see this through the Kerry Community Awards, which continue to go from strength to strength, honouring those volunteers and voluntary groups who do so much good throughout Kerry. I wish to congratulate the Castleisland Family Resource Centre, who won the overall prize in 2012 and all the other category winners. That wasn't the end of the success though,

with Ballyspillane winning the overall prize in the 'Housing Estates' category in the 32 county Pride of Place Awards in November.

It is this same community spirit that has seen Kerry continue its rise up the honours list in the national Tidy Towns competition. Killarney's success in this competition is well deserved, but now we have other towns and villages pushing themselves forward, with Tralee winning a Gold Medal for the first time and Listowel capturing their fifth Gold Medal.

I would also like to pay tribute to the staff of Kerry County Council and the three Town Councils for their work throughout the year. Unfortunately, there are some out there who hold a negative view of the public service and those who work in it.

This is hugely unfair. I would challenge anyone to take a look at the positive work carried out by local authorities around the country. The staff of Kerry County Council and the Town Councils are our family, friends and neighbours and they work hard for the betterment of our county and our communities.

The local authorities face significant challenges in the near future with Minister Hogan's proposal to dissolve Town Councils and take the water services function away from local authorities.

As a member of a Tralee Town Council, I am disappointed that the hugely positive work that is carried out by Town Councils has not been recognised. However, as a member of Kerry County Council, I will work with the management and my fellow elected members to ensure that the new structures will carry on this work.

In closing, I would again like to thank the management and staff of Kerry County Council for their efforts and their assistance to me during 2012, particularly County Manager Tom Curran who has extended every courtesy to me. I would also like to thank the elected representatives for their efforts on behalf of the county of Kerry.

Cllr Terry O'Brien
Mayor of Kerry

County Manager's Statement

As Kerry County Manager, I am pleased to present the 2012 Annual Report for Kerry County Council and the Town Councils of Tralee, Killarney and Listowel.

There is no doubt that 2012 was a very busy year, with a number of events and announcements, which will have a significant impact on the local authorities in the near future.

The continued global economic downturn continues to impact upon Kerry County Council's resources, with reductions in budgets and workforce. The difficult economic climate has made the collection of revenue harder and in light of this and smaller budgets, Kerry County Council and the Town Councils have had to look carefully at all areas of expenditure and make difficult decisions in certain areas of operation.

Our focus in 2012 was to concentrate on the provision of our core services and statutory functions to the people of Kerry. We have achieved this through prudent financial management and through a careful examination of all areas of operation in order to find efficiencies, achieve cost savings and find best value for money.

To all the staff and management of the four local authorities, I would like to express my appreciation for your efforts in this regard throughout 2012, while still providing services at a high standard to the people of Kerry.

Despite the difficult operating environment, Kerry County Council still had a budget of €120m which was spent on providing vital services and making this county a better place to live in, visit and work.

Much of that budget remained within the county, paid out to local businesses and trades for goods and services, while the wages of our staff went back into local shops and businesses throughout the county.

The ongoing progress of the Tralee Bypass is a fantastic boost to the county's infrastructure, following on from the opening of the Castleisland Bypass the previous year. This will significantly benefit our capital town and the county as a whole, while we have also seen continued improvements on our national routes, including stretches of the N86 and N69.

Additionally, we are seeing continued investment in our water network in order to improve the safety and security of our water supply. More is needed in this regard, particularly in relation to pipe replacement works, and we continue to discuss this at central government level, through the good work of our elected representatives in Dáil and Seanad Éireann.

One project that I was delighted to see officially opened in 2012 was the Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre, which is a Tralee Town Council project. This is of huge benefit in attracting visitors to Kerry and it takes advantage of our natural scenic beauty.

Given that 2013 is the year of The Gathering, a good portion of 2012 was spent preparing for the year-long event. The establishment of a dedicated Gathering Office, under our Kerry Tourism Officer, John Griffin, shows our commitment to The Gathering and I think it is safe to say that this will pay off throughout 2013.

Kerry has always rolled out the welcome mat for guests and given the importance of tourism to our economy, we will continue to do so, long after The Gathering has finished.

However, we must continue to improve our tourism product, to ensure that we have the facilities to complement our fantastic scenic surroundings.

To that end, Kerry County Council is working with local communities and tourist organisations to develop these facilities and promote the county abroad. The development of walking and cycling routes around the county form part of this work. We have also worked well with our global diaspora, particularly the Kerry Associations in London and New York in promoting Kerry abroad.

The year 2012 saw a number of announcements that will have a significant impact on the make-up and operation of local authorities around the country.

Most notable of these is the announcement by the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government Mr. Phil Hogan TD, of his intention to dissolve the Town Council structure.

The Town Councils have served the people of Tralee, Killarney and Listowel well. However, it is my intention that the structures to be put in place by Kerry County Council will ensure that the three towns will not be adversely impacted.

The other significant change for local authorities sees the establishment of Irish Water, a single body which will take over responsibility for the management of Ireland's public water and wastewater supplies.

Taking this responsibility away from local authorities is a major step. I want to pay a special tribute to our water services staff in Kerry, from caretakers and engineers to our leak detection units and outdoor staff.

Their work in all hours, in all weather has always gone above and beyond the call of duty and they have been a huge asset to the county, and to the Council. I for one sincerely hope that Irish Water will be able to provide a similar service for the people of Kerry into the future.

The year 2012 also marked the introduction of the Household Charge. The reasons behind the Charge have been long debated, but the fact is that this money stays in Kerry, helping to fund crucial services such as the Emergency Services, roads, public lighting and drainage, libraries, parks and playgrounds, as well as street and beach cleaning.

I am delighted that homeowners in Kerry recognize the importance of these services, with almost 75% payment rate by the end of 2012. The Household Charge will be replaced by the Local Property Tax in 2013, but again, this source of funding is crucial to the continued provision of services to the people of Kerry.

In addition, the introduction of the 'Protect Our Water' scheme, better known as the Septic Tank charge, was highly debated by many. The need to protect our reputation as a clean, green county is crucial, particularly given the high visitor numbers to Kerry. Once more I was delighted to see the high level of response by Kerry homeowners and am delighted that Kerry is the county with one of the highest levels of registration throughout the country.

In closing, I would again like to reflect on what has been a momentous 2012 which has contained a number of significant announcements and events that will re-shape the future of local government in Ireland.

I would like to thank Mayor Terry O'Brien and his predecessor Mayor Tim Buckley for their service during 2012 and the elected members for their work on behalf of the people of Kerry. There is no doubt that serving as an elected representative is a difficult task but the councillors have not been found wanting in working together for the betterment of this county.

Tom Curran
County Manager

Management Structure



Kerry County Council Senior Management Team

Kerry County Manager
Tom Curran



**Director of Economic
Planning &
Development**

Michael McMahon



Area Manager
*Tralee
Electoral Area*

Town Manager
Tralee

**Director of Housing,
Director of Community &
Enterprise**

John Breen



Area Manager
*Killarney
Electoral Area*

Town Manager
Killarney

**Director of Roads,
Transportation &
Safety**

Charlie O'Sullivan



Area Manager
*Listowel
Electoral Area*

Town Manager
Listowel

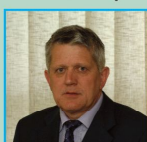
**Director of Water Services
& Emergency Services
Director of
Environmental Services**

Oliver Ring



**Director of
Corporate
Services**

John D. Flynn



Area Manager
*Killorglin
Electoral Area*

Area Manager
Dingle Electoral Area

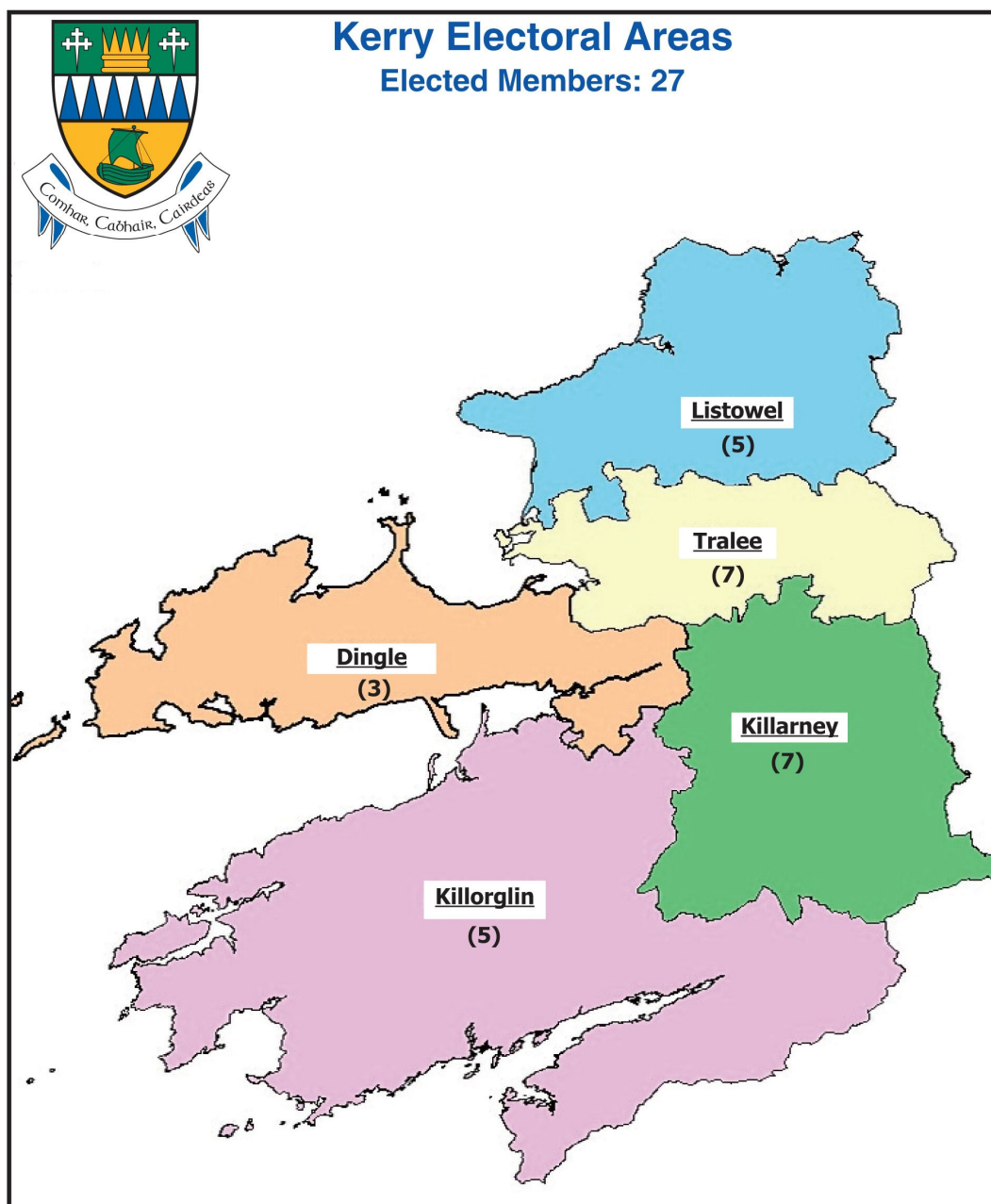
Head of Finance

Angela McAllen



ACTIVITIES OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Membership of Kerry County Council 2012



Membership of Kerry County Council

There are 27 Councillors representing five electoral areas – Dingle, Killarney, Killorglin, Listowel and Tralee.

Mayor: Cllr. Terry O'Brien

Deputy Mayor: Cllr. PJ Donovan

Tralee Local Electoral Area:-

Cllr Toiréasa Ferris, Cnocáin, Barrow, Ardfert (Sinn Féin)
Cllr Jim Finucane, 6 Edward Street, Tralee (Fine Gael)
Cllr Norma Foley, St. Joseph's Guest House, 2 Staughton's Row, Tralee (Fianna Fáil)
Cllr Pat McCarthy, Maglass, Ballymacelligott, Tralee (Fine Gael)
Cllr Anne McEllistrim, Ahane, Ballymacelligott, Tralee (Fianna Fáil)
Cllr Terry O'Brien, Tonevane, Tralee (Labour)
Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery, Rose Cottage, Ballyard, Tralee (Labour)

Killarney Local Electoral Area:-

Cllr Brendan Cronin, Rathcommene, Ballyhar, Killarney
Cllr John Joe Culloty, Knocknaskeha, Killarney (Fianna Fáil)
Cllr Michael Gleeson, Clasheen, Killarney (South Kerry Independent Alliance)
Cllr Danny Healy-Rae, Main Street, Kilgarvan
Cllr Breeda Moynihan Cronin, 10 Muckcross Grove, Killarney (Labour)
Cllr Bobby O'Connell, 15 Main Street, Castleisland (Fine Gael)
Cllr John Sheahan, Coolgarraive, Tralee Road, Killarney (Fine Gael)

Listowel Local Electoral Area:-

Cllr Robert Beasley, 'Puicín', Doon Road, Ballybunion (Sinn Féin)
Cllr John Brassil, The Pharmacy, Ballyheigue. (Fianna Fáil)
Cllr Tim Buckley, Knockane, Listowel. (Fine Gael)
Cllr Pat Leahy, Clounbrane, Moyvane. (Labour)
Cllr Liam Purtill, Main Street, Ballylongford. (Fine Gael)

Killorglin Local Electoral Area:-

Cllr Michael Cahill, Rossbeigh, Glenbeigh
Cllr Patrick Connor-Scarteen, 5 Main Street, Kenmare (Fine Gael)
Cllr PJ Donovan, High Street, Cahirciveen. (Fine Gael)
Cllr Johnny Healy-Rae, Main Street, Kilgarvan
Cllr Paul O'Donoghue, Castlequin, Cahirciveen (Fianna Fáil)

Dingle Local Electoral Area:-

Cllr Séamus Cosaí Fitzgerald, Droichead Bán, Glens, Daingean Uí Chúis. (Fine Gael)
Cllr Matt Griffin, Sleepy Hollows, Ardcanought, Keel, Castlemaine (Fine Gael)
Cllr Michael O'Shea, Main Street, Milltown. (Fianna Fáil)

Report on Council Meetings

Council Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month with the exception of September where it is held on the second Monday and August when no meeting takes place.

Meetings are held in the Council Chamber at Áras an Chontae, Rathass, Tralee.

During 2012 the Council met on 17 occasions.

One of the key responsibilities of the Council is to determine policies to ensure the effective delivery of services to the people of Kerry. During 2012, the following major decisions were made by the Council:

- Adoption of the 2012 Roads Works Programme (March Special Meeting)
- Making of the Dingle Functional Area Local Area Plan 2012 – 2018 (June Meeting)
- Approval of Higher Education Grants Scheme 2012 (July Meeting)
- Making of Variation No. 8 to the Kerry County Development Plan 2009 – 2015 – Renewable Energy Strategy (November Special Planning Meeting)
- Adoption of the 2013 – 2016 Multi-Annual Roads Works Restoration Programme (December Meeting)
- Adoption of Kerry County Council's Budget for 2013 – (December Special Meeting)

Civic/Mayoral/Area Receptions 2012

Civic Receptions 2011

- Castlemaine/Milltown Football Team – to mark their success on winning the All-Ireland Intermediate Football Championship
- Mr. Brian Wall and his trainer Mr. Patrick O'Brien – to mark their success on winning a silver medal at the European Boxing Championship 2012

Mayoral Receptions 2012

- The Kerry Ploughing Association – to mark their success on winning titles at National level.
- Barbecue for the 2012 Rose Contestants, their families and Centres
- Kerry Handballers – to mark their success on winning titles at World and National levels
- The Shannon Vale Ceilí Band – to mark their success on winning the All-Ireland Fleadh Band Competition

Electoral Area Receptions 2012

- Scór Winners –
 - The Glenflesk GAA Set Dancers on winning the All-Ireland Senior Scór Set Dancing
 - Rathmore GAA Question Time Team on winning the All-Ireland Scór Quiz Team
 - Cumann Spa Killarney on winning the All-Ireland Senior Scór Rince Foirne
- Comhaltas All-Ireland Winners to mark their success on winning All-Ireland competitions at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Cavan-
 - Glenflesk Senior Ladies 4 Hand Ceilí
 - Sliabh Luachra Senior Ladies 8 Hand Ceilí
 - Sliabh Luachra U18 Mixed Full Set
 - Kilcummin Senior Mixed Full Set
 - Kilcummin Senior Mixed Half Set
 - Sliabh Mish U15 Mixed 8 Hand Ceilí

Report on Electoral Area Meetings 2012

Electoral Area	Chair	Area Manager	No. of Meetings
Dingle	Cllr. Seamus Cosáí Fitzgerald	An tUasal Seán Ó Floinn	4
Killarney	Cllr. Michael Gleeson	Mr. John Breen	5
Killorglin	Cllr. Paul O'Donoghue	Mr. John Flynn	5
Listowel	Cllr. Robert Beasley	Mr. Charlie O'Sullivan	5
Tralee	Cllr. Pat McCarthy	Mr. Michael McMahon	5

Report on Corporate Policy Group & Strategic Policy Committees

Corporate Policy Group

The Corporate Policy Group is a committee of the Council whose membership comprises the Mayor and Chairpersons of the five Strategic Policy Committees. The committee co-ordinates the work of the different SPC's and provides a forum where policy positions prepared by the SPC's are discussed in advance of submission to the full Council. The full Council retains the decision making responsibility on all policies recommended by an SPC.

The Corporate Policy Group met on 11 occasions during 2012.

Transport SPC

Report by Cllr Patrick Connor Scarteen (Chair)

During 2012 the committee considered a number of plans and policies. These included:-

- Policy on the Taking in Charge of Private Roads
 - Provision of a Hardship and Emergency Scheme on Private Roads
 - Review of 2011 Corporate Objectives for Roads, Transportation and Safety Directorate
 - Briefing on 2013 Budget
- Update on the Kerry Forum for Integrated Transport

<i>Councillors</i>	<i>Sectors Represented</i>	<i>Representatives</i>
Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen (Chair)	Community/Voluntary	Carmel Walsh
Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae	Trade Union	John Boner
Cllr. Pat Leahy	Agriculture/Farming	Pat Flahive
Cllr. Anne McEllistrim	Business/Commercial	Michael O'Carroll
Cllr. Tim Buckley	Environmental/Conservation	Oonagh Comerford
Cllr. Jimmy Moloney (Listowel Town Council)		

Environment & Water SPC

Report by Cllr Brendan Cronin (Chair)

The Environment and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee met on three occasions during 2012. The following items were considered at the meetings:

- EPA Drinking Water Report for 2010
- “Water Ireland” position paper
- Food Waste Regulations Presentation
- Update on Lough Lein
- Update on Oil Pollution Plan
- Presentation on historic and legacy landfills
- Plastic Bottle Bring Banks
- Update on leachate pipeline at NKL
- Sale of refuse collection service
- Update in relation to policy on election posters
- Tour of new development at the North Kerry Landfill facility ”
- Update on Integrated Constructed Wetland projects
- Briefing on Dog Fouling Campaign
- Report on Spring Clean 2012
- Update on Recycling Banks
- Water Metering Presentation on the RAL – Water Quality Improvement Programme
- Presentation On New Consolidating of Smoky Coal Ban Regulations
- Update on the Capital works at NKL and revision to NKL Licence
- Update on Public participation on identification of bathing waters
- Update on Regional Waste Management Review

Membership 2012

<i>Councillors</i>	<i>Sectors Represented</i>	<i>Representatives</i>
Cllr. Brendan Cronin (Chair)	Community/Voluntary	Seamus Roche
Cllr. Michael Gleeson	Environmental/Conservation	Susan Vickers
Cllr. Paul O'Donoghue	Development/Construction	Sean Clifford
Cllr. Jim Finucane	Agriculture/Farming	Conor Creedon
Cllr. Matt Griffin		
Cllr. Denis Stack (Listowel Town Council)		

Planning & Economic Development SPC

Report by Cllr Pat McCarthy (Chair)

The Committee met on three occasions throughout 2012 and the following are the principal issues which were considered by the SPC during the year.

- Housing Estates Unit - various issues involved to ensure that the unfinished estates in the county are satisfactorily completed
- Quarries – Section 261A of the 2010 Planning Act and the issues involved in the assessment of 170 no. quarries before August 2012
- The 8th Variation of the Kerry County Development Plan 2009-2015 – Renewable Energy Strategy adopted in November 2012
- Local Government Reform – implications for the new County Development Plan to include the 3 Town Councils.

Membership 2012

<i>Councillors</i>	<i>Sectors Represented</i>	<i>Representatives</i>
Cllr. Pat McCarthy (Chair)	Environment/Conservation	Catherine McMullin
Cllr. John Brassil	Trade Union	Patrick Hanafin
Cllr. Séamus Fitzgerald	Agriculture/Farming	James McCarthy
Cllr. Michael O'Shea	Business/Commercial	Bláithin McElligott
Cllr. John Sheahan		
Cllr. Terry O'Brien		
Cllr. Cathal Walshe (Killarney Town Council)		

Community, Cultural & Tourism SPC

Report by Cllr Michael Cahill (Chair)

The Community, Culture & Tourism SPC met on three occasions in 2012 and a number of issues were considered as follows:-

- A Work Plan for the SPC for the period Sept 2012 – December 2013 was agreed
- Kerry Library - Collection Development Policy
- Fórum Gaeilge Chiarraí Report
- Presentation by Siamsa Tire on “*The Economic Potential of Arts & Cultural Tourism*”
- Kerry Library Development Plan 2007-2012, Addendum to cover 2013-2014
- Update on Building Community Preparedness and Resilience
- Proposed Smoking Ban at Playgrounds – Amendments to Bye-Laws
- Presentation on The Gathering 2013 – Kerry events
- Developing a policy for the Marketing of Irish Language Tourism in Kerry
- Briefing on “*Putting People First: Action Programme for Effective Local Government*” – Implications for the CDB and work of the community & Enterprise Dept
- Briefing on Kerry Tourism Structures and proposal to develop a County Tourism Strategy
- Kerry Arts Plan 2007-2012, extended to cover 2013-2014
- Updates from the Library Service, Kerry County Development Board, Community & Enterprise Dept, Arts Office and Oifig Gaeilge at each meeting

Membership 2012

<i>Councillors</i>	<i>Sectors Represented</i>	<i>Representatives</i>
Cllr. Michael Cahill (Chair Jan-June 2012)	Trade Union	Andrew McCarthy
Cllr. Robert Beasley	Community/Voluntary	Maura Fitzgerald
Cllr. Bobby O’Connell	Community/Voluntary	Matt Mooney
Cllr. Liam Purtill	Business/Commercial (Tourism)	Mary Rose Stafford
Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae (Chair July to date)		
Cllr Mairead Fernane (Tralee Town Council)		

Housing & Social Support SPC

Report by Cllr Breeda Moynihan Cronin (Chair)

The Housing & Social Support SPC met 4 times in 2012. Among the main items considered were as follows:-

- New initiatives to progress the roll out of the Social Housing Leasing Initiative & the Rental Accommodation Scheme
- Developing a Local Authority Mortgage Arrears Resolutions Process
- National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability
- Applications for construction of Single Rural Dwellings – review of eligibility criteria.
- Prioritisation Scheme for Tenants of a Local Authority rented Property applying for a Disabled Persons Grant.
- Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme for Older People and People with a Disability
- Review of our current Tenancy Agreement
- Regional & local developments in relation to Homelessness
- Voluntary Housing provision in Kerry

Membership 2012

<i>Councillors</i>	<i>Sectors Represented</i>	<i>Representatives</i>
Cllr. Breeda Moynihan Cronin (Chair)	Community/Voluntary	John O'Sullivan,
Cllr. PJ Donovan	Community/Voluntary	Mary Grandfield,
Cllr. John Joe Culloty	Community/Voluntary	Eileen Mayse
Cllr. Norma Foley	Development/Construction	Sean Clifford
Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery		
Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris		
Cllr. Seán O'Grady (Killarney Town Council)		
Cllr. Pat Hussey (Tralee Town Council)		

Membership of Boards/Committees 2012

Audit Committee	Chairs of SPCs
<p>Cllr. Liam Purtill</p> <p>Cllr. Terry O'Brien</p>	<p>Community, Culture & Tourism Cllr. Johnny Healy Rae</p> <p>Planning & Economic Development Cllr. Pat McCarthy</p> <p>Roads & Transportation Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen</p> <p>Housing & Social Support Cllr. Breeda Moynihan Cronin</p> <p>Environment & Water Services Cllr. Michael Gleeson</p>
Kerry County Rural Water Committee	Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
<p>Cllr. Michael O'Shea</p> <p>Cllr. John Sheahan</p> <p>Cllr. Matt Griffin</p> <p>Cllr. Gillian Wharton-Slattery</p> <p>Cllr. Breeda Moynihan Cronin</p> <p>Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen</p>	<p>Cllr. John Joe Culloty</p> <p>Cllr. Matt Griffin</p> <p>Cllr. Jim Finucane</p> <p>Cllr. Breeda Moynihan Cronin</p>

Association of County and City Councils	IRD Duhallow
Cllr. Michael O'Shea Cllr. P.J. Donovan Cllr. John Sheahan	Cllr. John Sheahan Cllr. Breeda Moynihan Cronin
Kerry County Enterprise Board Ltd.	Kerry Education Service
Cllr. Anne McEllistrim Cllr. Jim Finucane Cllr. Gillian Wharton-Slattery Cllr. Terry O'Brien	Cllr. John Brassil Cllr. Anne McEllistrim Cllr. Norma Foley Cllr. Tim Buckley Cllr. Seamus Fitzgerald Cllr. Jim Finucane Cllr. P.J. Donovan Cllr. Terry O'Brien Cllr. Breeda Moynihan Cronin
Killarney National Park Liaison Committee	Local Authority Members Association
Cllr. John Sheahan	Cllr. Pat Leahy
	North and East Kerry Development Company
	Cllr. John Joe Culloty Cllr. Tim Buckley Cllr. Gillian Wharton-Slattery

Regional Health Forum – South	South West Regional Authority
Cllr. John Joe Culloty Cllr. Matt Griffin Cllr. Bobby O’Connell Cllr. Breeda Moynihan Cronin Cllr. Brendan Cronin	Cllr. John Brassil Cllr. Michael O’Shea Cllr. Liam Purtill Cllr. Bobby O’Connell Cllr. Seamus Fitzgerald Cllr. Pat Leahy Cllr. Gillian Wharton-Slattery
South and Eastern Regional Assembly	South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd.
Cllr. Liam Purtill Cllr. Bobby O’Connell	Cllr. Michael O’Shea Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen Cllr. Breeda Moynihan Cronin
Southern Regional Drugs Task Force	Tralee Bay Oyster Fishery Society Ltd.
Cllr. Pat Leahy	Cllr. Terry O’Brien
Kerry Airport plc	Tralee Regional Sports and Leisure Company Ltd.
Cllr. Terry O’Brien	Cllr. Terry O’Brien
Governing Body of NUI Cork	Fáilte Ireland Kerry Tourism Board
Cllr. Jim Finucane	Cllr. Seamus Fitzgerald
New Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta	Kerry Recreation & Sports Partnership
Cllr Seamus Fitzgerald	Cllr. Matt Griffin

County Kerry Joint Policing Committee		
County Councillors		
Dingle Electoral Area	1.	Cllr. Matt Griffin
	2.	Cllr. Seamus Cosaí Fitzgerald
Killorglin Electoral Area	3.	Cllr. Michael Cahill
	4.	Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen
	5.	Cllr. P.J. Donovan
Killarney Electoral Area	6.	Cllr. Bobby O'Connell
	7.	Cllr. Michael Gleeson
	8.	Cllr. John Joe Culloty
Listowel Electoral Area	9.	Cllr. Pat Leahy
	10.	Cllr. Robert Beasley
	11.	Cllr. Tim Buckley
	12.	Cllr. Norma Foley
	13.	Cllr. Jim Finucane
	14.	Cllr. Terry O'Brien
Oireachtas Members	1.	Deputy Tom Fleming
	2.	Deputy Brendan Griffin
	3.	Deputy Arthur J. Spring
	4.	Senator Mark Daly
	5.	Senator Marie Moloney
Community and Voluntary Members	1.	Mr. John O'Sullivan
	2.	Mr. Sean Quinlan
	3.	Mr. Bill Morrell
Garda Síochána Members	1.	Chief Superintendent Pat O'Sullivan
	2.	A.N. Other Superintendent
Kerry County Council Executive Members	1.	County Manager, Mr. Tom Curran
	2.	Director of Housing and Director of Community & Enterprise, Mr. John Breen

Conferences Attended by Elected Members in 2012

Conference/Event	Location	Number Attended
The Role of the Council in Encouraging & Supporting the Development of Enterprise through Tourism & Sport	The Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	5
AMAI Spring Seminar 2012	Kilmore Hotel, Dublin Road, Cavan, Co. Cavan	12
Mid-West Regional Authority 17th Annual Conference	Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare	2
21st Annual Kerry Environmental Conference	Meadowlands Hotel, Oakpark, Tralee, Co. Kerry	1
A - Z of Irish Local Government	Clare County Council, Ennis, Co. Clare	1
Mental Health & Suicide Awareness	The Park Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford	9
Colmcille Winter School	Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Churchill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	9
Kerry Associations 60th Annual Dinner	Berkeley Hotel, Lansdowne Road, Dublin.	1
Building Community Preparedness and Resilience	The Malton Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry	7
Eures Cross Border Partnership Tourism Conference	Ballymascanlon House Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth	2
Shannon LNG Delegation	Leinster House, Dublin 2.	5
Elected Member's Training Seminar	The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway	8
LAMA Spring Seminar 2012	Tower Hotel, Waterford.	14
ACCC Annual Conference 2012	Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny.	9

Daniel O'Connell Commemoration 2012	Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.	1
Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly Annual Conference	Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny.	1
Irish Public Bodies	The Convention Centre, Spencer Dock, North Wall Quay, Dublin 1.	1
Planning Seminar for Councillors	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick.	3
Resilience During Times of Regeneration	City Hotel, Derry.	4
Justice Conference 2012	Chartered Accountants House, Dublin.	1
10th National Tourism Conference	The Dolman Hotel, Kilkenny Road, Co. Carlow.	5
Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2012 Draft	Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo.	8
MacGill Summer School 2012	Glenties, Co. Donegal.	14
Elected Member's Training Seminar	The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway.	3
Elected Member's Training Seminar	Manor West Hotel, Killarney Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry.	2
Elected Member's Training Seminar	The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway.	4
Regional Economic Conference	The Department of Environment and Local Government, Carricklawn, Co. Wexford.	2
AMAI	Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	5
8th Annual Environment Ireland Conference 2012	Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin.	1

Kerry Autumn Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Conference	The Meadowlands Hotel, Oakpark, Tralee, Co. Kerry.	1
LAMA	Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.	7
Third Age Conference	Croke Park Convention Centre, Dublin.	1
Training Seminar for Councillors	Carlton Milrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford.	1
Reform of Local Government II	Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare.	5
Association of Irish Festival Event's Annual Conference 2012	Carlton Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	2
European Union Open Days 2012 - Association of Irish Regions Seminar	Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny.	2
Environmental Implications of Harvesting Wind Energy	Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo.	4
Home Truths Conference	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry.	2
Elected Members Training Seminar	The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Galway.	2
Professional Development Conference for Councillors	Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare.	5
Elected Members Training Seminar	The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Galway.	4

Conferences/Seminars attended by Elected Members outside of Ireland 2012

Conference/Event	Location	Number Attended
Attendance of Mayor Tim Buckley at London Rose Selection	London, United Kingdom	1
Promotional Visit by Deputy Mayor Cllr. Jim Finucane to Washington & New York	New York, United States of America	1
Visit to New York by Mayor P. Leahy for St. Patrick's Day.	New York, United States of America	1

The total payments to Councillors by Kerry County Council in respect of attendance, authorised by the authority, at a meeting of a prescribed association of local authorities of which the authority is a member, and attendance, authorised by the authority, at a Conference, Seminar or other meeting or event was €83,699.73 in 2012. The breakdown of this figure is as follows:

Travel and Subsistence expenses within the state	Travel and Subsistence outside the state	Conference Registration Fees
€81,604.42	€2,095.31	€25,232.38

Director's Report on Housing & Social Support

Director of Services: John Breen

Senior Staff:

Senior Executive Officer: Liam Quinlan

Senior Executive Architect: Deirdre Sullivan

"We continue to ensure that within available resources, housing and social support services are targeted to help people with a social housing need. Increasingly this need is being met through making homes available to qualified households under the various social housing leasing options. We also continue to manage and maintain our housing stock to a high standard and facilitate the development of sustainable communities"

The Housing & Social Support Directorate is responsible for the provision, management and maintenance of social housing and social housing supports in the County of Kerry. We continue to maintain a very sizeable housing stock of just under 2,400 units which has been built up through the various construction & acquisition programmes.

However social housing need is now increasingly met through various leasing arrangements between Kerry County Council and private landlords due to the significant curtailment in exchequer capital funding. These options have become the main housing delivery mechanism for households who are unable to meet their housing needs from their own resources. At the end of 2012 a total of 644 clients had their housing need met through the Rental Accommodation Scheme in the county.

The significant number of applications for social housing support which we continue to receive reflects the difficult ongoing economic conditions and the inability of many households to meet their own housing needs.

We also continue to assist in the housing needs of homeless persons through our Homeless Information Centre, enforcement of private rented standards and other regulations and legislation dealing with housing policy and social supports. The Housing Section also provides community and development supports and tenancy management services to help tenants within their community.

Kerry County Council also continues to provide grant assistance to private households in the county through the successful operation of the Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme for Older People and People with a Disability. In 2012, a total allocation of

€3.258m was made which has allowed us to allocate in excess of 600 grants under the various schemes.

Capital Programme

The Department of Environment, Community & Local Government again made One single overall allocation for Kerry County Council and the three Town Councils.

Of the overall allocation of €2.045m, around €1m was used to meet outstanding construction and acquisition commitments, mainly as a result of Final Accounts & Part V obligations. This was distributed between each authority based on their individual outstanding commitments.

The balance was allocated towards various housing stock improvements including energy efficiency works, which was required to be distributed between the four housing authorities.

A further capital allocation under the heading of 'Social Housing Work Programme 2012-2014' was notified to us at the end of July 2012. This overall €0.9m allocation was used to buy three houses to meet special needs and for the construction of three single rural dwellings (1 per year over a three year period).

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

Applicants from April 2011 accommodated under RAS are considered to have their social housing need met and will only be considered for a transfer to alternative RAS or other social housing accommodation if they have a specified need as set out in the Housing Allocations Scheme.

- 145 new RAS agreements entered into during 2012
- 644 households in RAS accommodation at the end of 2012

2012 Energy Efficiency Plan - Improving Energy Efficiency in Local Authority stock

€637,500 was made available to the four Kerry housing authorities to further increase residential energy efficiency standards in social housing. In Kerry County Council's area 149 local authority dwellings were upgraded i.e. retrofitting of insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older Persons & People with a Disability

- €3.258m allocated in 2012
- Grant payments made to 600 households.

While 80% of grant payments are recoupable from Central Government, staffing and associated costs remains a challenge for Kerry County Council. However there are immense benefits from these schemes as living conditions are improved, elderly and disabled citizens can continue to live in their own homes and the local economy is boosted by the work which is carried out by local tradesmen and businesses.

1995 & 2011 Tenant Purchase Scheme

- 28 sales completed in 2012
- Proceeds of €0.98m were ring-fenced for housing improvements works in Kerry.
- National regulations were made to give legal effect to the decision by the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government (DoECLG) to terminate the above schemes. No new applications can be accepted after 31st December 2012.
- Further details on alternative sales scheme awaited from the DoECLG

Social Housing

- 354 new applications for social housing received in 2012
- 1,601 applicants now deemed as qualified for social housing.
- 97 new Council tenancies began in 2012.
- Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy continues to be enforced with significant benefits to be gained on the ground.

Voluntary Housing

The Minister for Housing officially opened 'Clogheresta', Hawley Park, Tralee on 12th October 2012. The construction of this apartment complex for elderly persons by Kingdom Voluntary Housing Association was completed earlier in the year and all 22 units are now fully occupied. This project received €3.364m grant aid from the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government under the Voluntary Housing Capital Assistance Scheme which is operated by Kerry County Council. Also, the Kerry Mental Health Association completed the construction of four units in Ardmoniel, Killorglin earlier this year with Capital Assistance Scheme funding of €0.343m.

Derelict Sites/Dangerous Structures

In 2012, dereliction in towns and villages along the main tourist routes and some of the larger towns was the focus of attention. In general, site owners were co-operative and completed required works when requested, thereby avoiding the serving of statutory notices and entry on the Derelict Sites register. Ten sites were removed from the Derelict Sites register and two new sites were added.

The table below details the statutory measures utilised in 2012 under the Derelict Sites Legislation.

2012 Action	Total
Section 8 notices issued	3
Section 11 notices issued	2
Levies demanded	30
Derelict Sites removed from Register	10
No. of sites on register at end of 2012	87

Footnote

Section 8 Notice – advises owner that property will be entered on register if dereliction is not addressed

Section 11 notice – informs owner that property is being entered on register unless certain specified minimum works are carried out within a specified timescale

Levies – imposed on owners of derelict sites in “urban areas” who fail to comply with requirements of Section 11 notice.

Director's Report on Roads, Transportation & Safety

Director of Services: Charlie O'Sullivan

Senior Staff:-

Senior Engineer - Transport Network Operations: Ger MacNamara

Senior Engineer - Kerry National Road Design Office: Matt Corridan

"It is our aim to have a modern, safe and sustainable road network which benefits the people, both local and visitor, the economy and the environment and which actively contributes to social inclusion and quality of life"

In 2012 almost €62.5m was invested in the planning, design, development and maintenance of our 4,717 km road network, with €57.9m being provided in state grant aid. Kerry County Council spent €30.5m on our local and regional road network.

The delivery of the Roadworks Programme during 2012 was challenging but rewarding. A 3.5km length of realigned road on the N69 National Secondary Route was opened to traffic at Rae/Tullig, while 4km of the N86 near Annascaul has progressed well and is due to open in early 2013. Over 16km of National Primary and Secondary overlays were completed along with 228km of surfacing/strengthening on the regional and local road network.

Three major traffic calming schemes were completed on the national routes while necessary tourist route infrastructure was completed at Breanlee and at Valentia. Significant progress was made on the construction of the Kenmare Relief Road, while the Dingle/Daingean Ui Chúis link from John Street to Spa Road was opened to traffic in late 2012.

Major safety improvement works were completed at Ballyseedy, Rathmore and Cahirciveen.

Tralee Bypass

Despite the poor weather, significant progress was achieved on the Tralee By-Pass. The By-Pass, which contains both dual and single carriageway, is 13.5km in length and will connect the four National Routes, N21, N22, N69 and N70 that terminate in Tralee and will also improve linkages to the N86.

The scheme includes the construction of seven roundabouts, four junctions, 24 structures and approximately 3km of side roads. A cycle track is proposed along the full

length of the dual carriageway section and a footway/cycleway is proposed on the link road between the By-Pass and Forge Cross.

The project is progressing well and is on target for completion in mid 2013. A total of 150 people have been employed during the construction phase and when completed should help to stimulate inward investment which is required to create sustainable diverse employment.

Tralee-Fenit Railway Line

The proposal to link the town of Tralee with Fenit along the old disused railway line was progressed. In September work began on the development of the section between Rock Street and Mounthawk utilising funding provided by the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport.

Key Achievements 2012

National Primary Roads (95km)

- Construction continued on the Tralee By-Pass
- Pavement improvements carried out on the N23 adjacent to Kerry Airport
- Major safety works completed at Ballyseedy

National Secondary Roads (335km)

- Construction began on a section of the N86, Annascaul to Gortbregoge
- Construction began on a section of the N69, Rea to Tullig and opened to traffic in December
- Major Safety Works completed at Rathmore and Cahirciveen
- Pavement Overlays completed N69 Ahalahana to Dooncaha, at N70 Dunkerron, Garranearagh, Kells and Tooreenasligaun, at N71 Castlough and at N72 Gortanahaneboy to the value of €6.3m

Improvement under Specific Improvement Grant Allocation

- Pavement improvements completed at Duagh Village
- Further improvements on R561 Annascaul and R569 Poulgorm to Kilgarvan
- Construction continued on the Kenmare Eastern Relief Road
- Phase 2 of the Dingle/Daingean Uí Chúis completed and opened to traffic in December

Non-National Roads (530km of Regional Roads & 3757km of Local Roads)

- €30.5m spent on maintenance, improvement and administration of the non-national roads programme
- Safety improvement works carried out at 7 locations
- 235km of regional and local roads improved under the Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance Programme
- €900,000 spent on public lighting countywide

Road Enforcement and Road Safety

- Roads Enforcement Officer investigated approximately 445 complaints e.g. overloaded vehicles, drainage, road openings, road damage, obstruction signs
- 311 health & safety audits carried out on both local authority and contractor works
- 1,015 material tests carried out
- Launch of the Road Safety Calendar Competition in national schools countywide

Piers and Harbours

- Port/Marine Facilities Manager appointed for Fenit Harbour
- Improvement works carried out on the Viaduct and West Pier, Fenit
- Improvement works carried out at Dooneen and Knightstown Piers

Other Achievements

- Tralee Transport Strategy went on public display
- Construction completed on the mountain access car park at Breanlee, Glencar
- Construction of a Salt Barn for the County completed and stocked
- Repair works carried out to Gweestin Bridge and Crag Bridge
- Repair works began to Teeranearagh Culvert, Ballinskelligs

Director's Report on Environmental Services

Director: Oliver Ring

Senior Staff:

Senior Engineer: Tom Sheehy

***Senior Executive Engineers – Mick Boyce
John Aherne***

The Environment Section of Kerry County Council is responsible for the protection of the environment of the County through implementation and enforcement of the many Regulations, Directives and Legislation dealing with Waste Management and Pollution.

In addition, the Section provides infrastructure for the recovery, recycling and disposal of waste. The provision of veterinary services and energy management also come within the remit of this Section.

Waste Management

Waste Recycling

Kerry County Council operates recycling facilities at North Kerry Landfill and at the four Transfer Stations at Killarney, Milltown, Kenmare and Cahirciveen, as well as the civic amenity site with extensive recycling facilities at Ionad Athchúrsála agus Dramhaíola Chorca Dhuibhne.

- 5,329.20 tonnes of recyclables were accepted in 2012
- 91 Bring Banks
- 33 Community Groups involved in Adopt a bring Bank Scheme

North Kerry Landfill

- 71,006.59 tonnes of residual waste was presented for disposal at the North Kerry Landfill
- 76.6% increase on 2011 total
- 65,404.07 tonnes was deposited directly to the Landfill
- 5,602.52 tonnes was deposited at the five Transfer Stations.

The increase in tonnage deposited is due to the reduction in landfill capacity around the country and competitive pricing by Kerry County Council

Capital Works: North Kerry Landfill

Phase 9 Development of North Kerry Landfill

The Phase 9 Development Works (Cells 17, 18 & 19) was opened in April 2012.

Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW)

In order to reduce transport and treatment costs of leachate from the North Kerry Landfill, construction of a pilot ICW at the landfill was begun at the end of 2012.

The ICW uses particular plant species to treat older leachate. It is a treatment method that uses naturally occurring processes. It is intended to establish if the ICW can treat leachate from the landfill which will be generated for 20 years post closure.

The leachate is currently transported by road tanker to wastewater treatment plant for treatment. The system will be fully commissioned in April 2013.

Environmental Regulation.

Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement

Under the Waste Management Acts, and associated statutory instruments, Kerry County Council has responsibility for the enforcement and regulation of a broad range of waste-related activities in the county.

The waste enforcement team responded to over 110 reports from members of the public and state agencies regarding unauthorised waste activity such as illegal dumping and fly-tipping in 2012.

In addition, the team also has responsibility for the regulation and monitoring of a range of authorized waste facilities in the County: there were a total of 37 permitted facilities and 11 certified facilities operating in County Kerry at year end (2012).

Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution

Kerry County Council carries out a broad range of activities in this area, including the following:-

- Monitoring of water quality throughout the county in accordance with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive;
- Responding to reports of water pollution received from members of public and state agencies;
- Enforcement and implementation of a broad range of water quality legislation, including the implementation of elements of both the Shannon and South Western River Basin Management Plans (adopted in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive);
- Provision of oil pollution response and maintenance of the Council's oil pollution response capacity.
- Enforcement and implementation of the Air Pollution Act.

Implementation of the River Basin Management Plans continued in 2012. Inspection activities were primarily targeted on a number of drinking water source catchments and designated shellfish catchments within the county.

The inspection/investigation team also responded to over 160 reports of water pollution received from members of public and state agencies.

Type of Complaint	Number of Complaints
Litter Pollution Acts	405
Noise Pollutions Regulations	12
Waste Managements Acts/Protection of the Environment Acts	116
Water Pollution Acts	154
Air Pollution	35
Total Number of complaints received	722

Environmental Awareness

Adopt a Road Scheme

This scheme, introduced in 2010, involves the local community participating in regular clean-ups of the roads in their local area. During 2012 a total of ten Community groups were involved in the scheme, Listowel, Tarbert, Kilmoyley, Cromane, Ballyheigue, Castleisland, Glenflesk, Gneeveguilla, Rathmore and Valentia Island. This has resulted in 80kms of roadway in the county being maintained with a litter-free status.

Kerry County Council allocates a grant of €500 to each community group, funded from the Anti-Litter Initiative Grant Scheme. The Council also provides support materials and permits access to the Transfer Station for the disposal of the litter collected. Grants totaling €4,500 were paid to nine community groups during the year.

Litter Management

The litter control initiatives implemented during 2012 incorporated awareness programmes such as National Spring Clean, Dog Fouling Campaigns etc. which were promoted through the local media, schools, Tidy Town Committees and community groups. Surveillance cameras were used during the year to monitor dumping at Bring Banks and remote locations around the county which have previously been used for illegal dumping.

Blue Flag Beaches

The 2012 season proved very successful with the retention of all 13 Blue Flags from the previous season.

The following beaches retained their Blue flag status:

- Baile an Sceilg (Ballinskelligs)
- Fenit
- Ballybunion North
- Ballybunion South
- Inch
- Kells
- Ballyheigue
- Maharabeg
- Banna

- Rossbeigh
- Doire Fhionáin (Derrynane)
- Ceann Trá
- White Strand (Cahirciveen)

Green Coast Award

Green Coast Awards are awarded to beaches for their clean environment, excellent water quality and natural beauty. Kerry was awarded its first Green Coast Award at Béal Bán (Smerwick Harbour), near Ballyferriter in 2010 and retained this status in 2012.

Energy Office

The Energy Office (EO) works with Council departments and the Town Councils to promote energy conservation, monitor energy consumption, ensure value for money where energy consuming equipment is installed (e.g. pumps, electric motors, lighting and heating systems) and progress the Councils Renewable Energy Programme. The EO is also responsible for tendering for the Local Authority (LA) electricity supply and reporting on LA energy consumption.

Overview of Energy Use in 2012

The total expenditure on energy in Kerry County Council in 2012 was €4,470,000. Grid supplied electricity and fossil fuels represent the main energy sources for the Local Authority. Electricity is also generated at the 230kW Council owned hydro electric plant at Lough Guitane. This energy is consumed at the water treatment plant at the site.

In 2012, 1,091,423kWh was generated and this yielded a reduction in electricity bills of €146,222 for this site. Other renewable energy sources utilized by the Council in 2012 include solar energy, wood pellet and wood chip. Heat pump and CHP technology is also utilized at Council properties to minimize primary energy consumption.

Actions undertaken in 2012

Kerry County Council undertook a range of initiatives to improve energy performance in 2012. Financial assistance was received from SEAI under the Better Energy Workplaces II scheme in 2012 for completion of efficiency improvement projects. Projects completed in 2012 include:

- Retrofitting of fine bubble diffuser technology into aeration tanks to replace existing vertical aerators at Listowel waste water treatment plant
- Installation of 3 high efficiency condensing gas boilers at County Buildings
- Pump efficiency improvement projects at:
 - Slugaire Pump Station (PS)
 - Lyreacrompane Water Treatment Plant (WTP)
 - Castleisland Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP)
 - Ballyheigue PS
 - Ballyferriter PS
 - Lackabane PS

- Heating system upgrade at Lyreacrompane WTP

Other energy related initiatives ongoing and undertaken in 2012 by Kerry Local Authorities include:

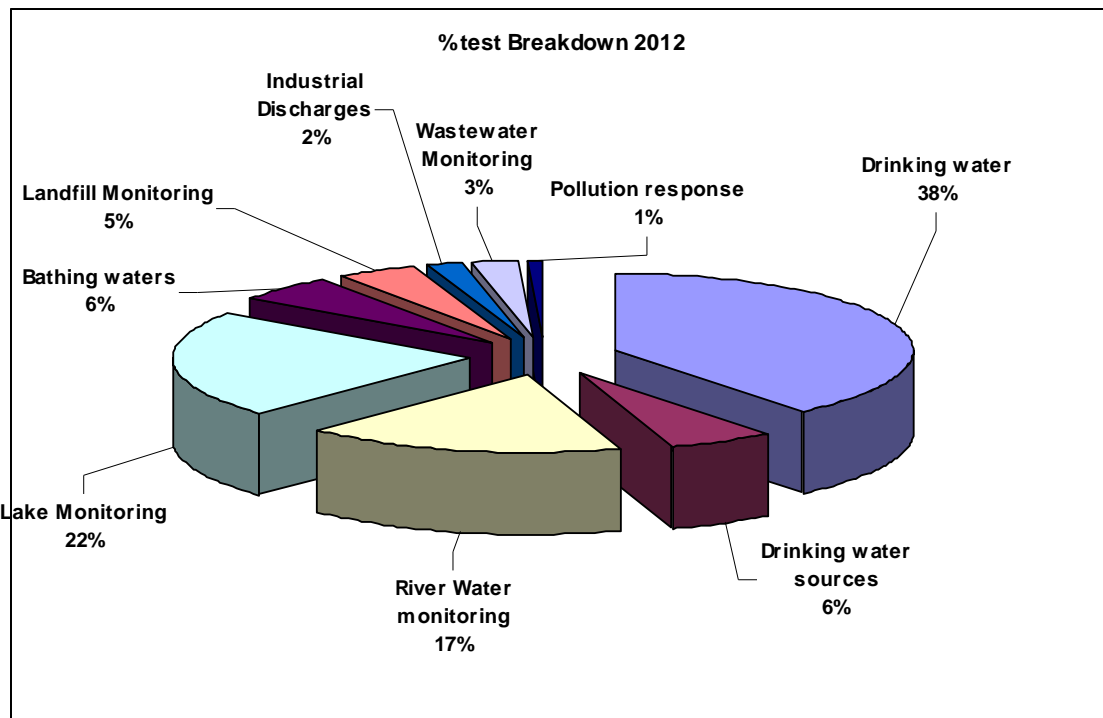
- Generation of electricity from Landfill gas; 1,903,000 kWh of electricity was generated from land fill gas at North Kerry Landfill in 2012 and the associated value of royalties generated for Kerry County Council was €39,011. This project also serves to remove the financial burden of flare and collection infrastructure maintenance from the Local Authority
- Tendering for supply of electricity to medium voltage and low voltage maximum demand electricity connections. Competitive tendering was also completed for the smaller consuming sites through the National Procurement Service mini competition for Local Authorities
- Maintenance of energy performance indicators at waste transfer and water treatment and pumping stations
- Efficiency upgrades at the following Tralee Town Council foul pumping stations in Tralee: Ashley Downs, Moyderwell, Denny Street, Castlemaine Road, Cloghers, Blennerville and Mulgrave Bridge
- Lighting upgrade at Tralee Town Council machinery yard at Rock Street Tralee
- LPG high efficiency boiler installed at Town Hall Tralee
- Connection of Moyderwell primary school and Tralee Library to the wood chip fired district heating system completed in 2012
- Woodchip fired district heating was extended to 35 additional houses
- Heating system upgrade and window replacement completed in office section of Ashe Hall Tralee

Laboratory

The role of this laboratory is to monitor the environment of the county and the activities which impact on it in accordance with relevant national and EU environmental and sanitary legislation.

Environmental legislation embraces drinking water, rivers, lakes and bathing waters, wastewater discharges and industrial licensed discharges. Impacts include agriculture, industrial, municipal, domestic and waste management activities.

Extensive sampling is undertaken in the field by the laboratory staff. Analyses for specific parameters are then conducted in the field or in the laboratory in Áras an Chontae for a range of Biological, physical, chemical and microbiological parameters. This laboratory is responsible for analysis of up to 95% of all mandatory parameters resulting in significant cost savings to Kerry Co Council.



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a laboratory proficiency scheme, which lays out a set of various parameters which all of the 104 laboratories in Ireland are assessed on. Kerry County Council's laboratory is one of only nine laboratories out of the 104 which is registered to test for all 26 parameters.

The overriding priority for the Laboratory is that all laboratories supplying data to EPA and EU will have to be formally accredited to **ISO 17025** standard by 2015. The process of achieving this accreditation has already begun. Formal application will be submitted in 2013.

Veterinary Service

The veterinary services administered by Kerry County Council include the management and administration of the Service Contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, dog and horse control, control of animal diseases and other miscellaneous matters.

The dog warden service has consistently been one of the most efficiently run services in the country with Kerry having maintained second position on the national league table over the past 10 years in terms of the number of dog licences issued annually.

The dog control service continues to record high levels of compliance in terms of the Control of Dogs Act 1986.

We have also adopted a proactive approach through the council's website and in cooperation with a local animal welfare organisation to re-homing unwanted or stray dogs.

We succeeded in re-homing 389 dogs in 2012 while the number of dogs euthanized increased slightly during the same period.

2012 also saw the introduction of the Dog Breeding Establishment Act. This Act is primarily directed at "puppy farms" and happily none have come to light in the county.

In relation to the control of horses, the services of a private security firm are employed to carry out certain functions on behalf of the Council. The Veterinary Service continues to play a hands-on role in supporting the Tralee Horse Stabling project and is happy to report a continuing improvement in the co-operation of the horse owners. We will continue to implement the Control of Horses Act 1988 and take appropriate action where necessary.

During 2012 all animals slaughtered in Kerry County Council abattoirs underwent Ante and Post mortem examination before the application of the health mark. There continues to be resurgence in interest in locally produced food and this is reflected in the fact that Kerry continues to have 16 local authority approved abattoirs while the number is falling nationally.

Food-based tourism will play an increasingly important role in the economic development of the county over the next decade and the Veterinary Service will continue to facilitate this by supporting business start-ups where appropriate and ensuring the necessary high standards.

Director's Report on Water Services & Emergency Services

Director of Services: Oliver Ring

Senior Staff:

Senior Engineer (Operations): John Kennelly
Chief Fire Officer (Acting): Vincent Hussey

Water Services Operations

The primary functions of the Water Services (Operations) Department are:

- (a) To provide safe and secure Drinking Water for all consumers*
- (b) To manage the treatment of Wastewater in an environmentally friendly way*
- (c) To provide and maintain Public Convenience facilities in key locations*
- (d) To provide sufficient grave spaces to meet current and future demands of the county*

Public Water Supply

In 2012, Kerry County Council produced approximately 29.45 million cubic metres (29.45 billion litres) of drinking water for 130,000 consumers served by some 60,000 water connections. The water is produced from 59 public water schemes, which are supplied from more than 90 separate water sources throughout the county.

There were 104 new water connections and 17 new waste water connections completed in 2012.

Some key improvements to the water supply network were carried out during 2012. These were funded both from Kerry County Council's own resources and grants from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DOEC&LG).

The works in 2012 included

- Extensive health and safety works were carried out at the Lahardane Ballybunion, Hearthill-Ballyduff, Tarmons-Tarbert and Lenamore Ballylongford reservoirs on the North East Kerry Regional Water Supply Scheme.
- New chemical tanks were provided at NEKRWSS Dromin WTP.

- Pumps were replaced at NEKRWSS Dromin WTP.
- Pressure reducing valves were installed on the watermains network in Ballybunion.
- Replacement of water mains at Ballinclare and Ballinacourty in Annascaul and at Cill Maoilchéadair, Curraheen Tralee, Farmers' Bridge Tralee, Emlaghmore West and Dún Géagáin in Baile An Sceilg.
- Extensions to the watermains networks at Rae Kilflynn, Ballintobeenig Tralee and An Rian Rua beach in Baile An Sceilg.
- Replacement of filter sand at Daingean Uí Chúis and Coulagh Cahirciveen WTPs and the installation of standpipes at the filter beds in Coulagh.
- Installation of new ball-valves in the reservoirs at Gualainn in Lios Póil, Keelballylahive in Castlegregory, Baile Móir in Daingean Uí Chúis, Maulin in Cahirciveen, An Mhaoilin in Baile An Sceilge, Behaghanees in Castlecove, and Coomnahorna East and Gowlanes in Caherdaniel.
- Replacement of ductile iron pipework at Ballyseedy and Lissardboola in Tralee.
- The development of a radio link between Ballybeggan Pump house and Ballintobeenig reservoir near Tralee on the CRWSS.
- The provision of level sensors at Churchill and Ballymacadam Castleisland reservoirs.
- Significant landscaping and fencing works at the reservoir in Madam's Height, Killarney.
- Substantial fencing and other works at reservoirs in the greater Killarney area.
- A major upgrade of the pumping system and controls, which will result in considerable energy savings in the coming years, was carried out at Ardfert North (1 set of pumps). This project is 45%-funded by a Grant from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.
- The installation of a new booster pump station at An Ghleann to facilitate the connection to the Baile An Sceilg WSS.
- The installation of a new pressure reducing valve on the trunk water main from Coulagh to Cahirciveen.
- The replacement of the pump and the installation of a radio receiver at the bored well source at Sosadh Baile An Sceilg WSS.
- The installation of new in-line meters at Coulagh Cahirciveen water treatment plant, Maulin Cahirciveen WTP, Portmagee WTP, Waterville WTP, Sosadh Baile An Sceilg and An Ghleann WTPs
- Replacement of fire hydrants and Scour valves at Caherdaniel, Lamb's Head Knights town and Cahirciveen.
- The provision of meters on public mains at Kineigh Waterville, Beenbawn Waterville, Main St. Cahirciveen, Glanbeg Caherdaniel, Skehanagh Castlecove, Lower Liss Castlecove, Rath Caherdaniel, Lamb's Head Caherdaniel and Farranahow Waterville.
- Provision of a water supply to the waste water treatment plant in Causeway.
- Automatic chlorine shut off at Lough Guitane
- Improvements to the intake at Breanlee.
- Booster Chlorination to four sites at Dromin Water Supply Scheme.
- New SCADA system at Ardfert North / Glenderry Water Supply Scheme.

- New SCADA at Valentia, Ardfert South, Graig and Tir Abhain.
- Upgrade of reservoirs at Mid Kerry and Caherdaniel.
- Sludge storage at Inch and Dingle.
- Elimination of contact time issues at Lough Guitane, Brandon and Annascaul.

Remedial Action List (R.A.L.)

In 2008, The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government made funds available for a Remedial Action List for Public Drinking Water Supplies. Kerry County Council received €9.863 million in RAL funding in 2008, followed by a further €5.716 million in 2010.

Major upgrade works involving the provision of disinfection, alarms and monitoring equipment has now been completed for all public water supply schemes in the county.

Treatment Upgrade Works were completed on the following schemes in 2012;

- Ardfert North,
- Cahirciveen,
- Seem,
- Annascaul,
- Aughacasla,
- Baile Breac
- Baile Mor,
- Kilgarvan,
- Shrone,
- Barraduff,
- Rathmore,
- Breanlee,
- Emlaghpeasta,
- Ceann Trá,
- Camp,
- Castlegregory,
- Liscarney,
- Minard 3,
- Feoghanagh,
- An Mhuiríoch
- Baile na nGall.

The following schemes were decommissioned and serviced by the upgraded schemes;

- Glenbeigh (John Falveys),
- Minard No. 2,
- Duagh,
- Fan,
- Glean Fan
- Baile an Lochaigh.

It is anticipated that a further 20 schemes will be commissioned in 2013.

The following 10 schemes were removed from the Remedial Action List by the EPA in 2012.

Water Supply Scheme	Population Served	Date Removed from RAL
Baile Mor	1,040	Nov-12
Rathmore	850	Nov-12
Annascaul	480	Nov-12
Baile Breac	630	Nov-12
Sneem	470	Nov-12
Baile an Lochaigh	50	Sep-12
Mhin Ard 2	180	May-12
Ardfert North	1,820	May-12
Mid Kerry	9,970	May-12
Glen Fan	50	May-12

Public Waste Water

A total of 16 public full waste-water treatment plants and 32 public primary treatment facilities are maintained throughout the county.

Waterville Waste Water Treatment Plant is currently under construction as part of a Design Build and Operate contract. This scheme will be operational in 2013.

Key upgrades made to the waste water infrastructure in 2012 included:

- Castleisland Waste Water Treatment Plant: Installation of energy efficient aeration system.
- Killorglin Waste Water Treatment Plant: Replacement of the inlet screens.
- Cahirciveen Waste Water Treatment Plant: Replacement of the inlet screens.
- Listowel Waste Water Treatment Plant: Installation of energy efficient diffused air aeration system.
- Moyvane Waste Water Treatment Plant: Provision of new diffused air package plant.
- Causeway Sewerage Plant: Provision of a water supply.
- Tralee Waste Water Treatment Plant: Improvements to the treatment process and upgrade of pumping stations.
- Automated sludge return at Ballybunion.

Rural Water

Kerry County Council administers the Rural Water Programme, which is funded by the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government. The Water Services Department provides administrative and engineering assistance to Group Schemes.

A total of 509 Group Water Schemes have been developed in Kerry and 194 have been taken over and are now maintained by Kerry County Council.

Upgrade Works Prior to Takeover by the Council were carried out in 2012 on 5 Group Water Supply Schemes.

Key developments in 2012

- Kerry County Council spent €850,000 in the advancing of Group Water Supply Schemes. This included the construction under private contracts of new water treatment plants at Dawros and Tuosist. These are the first full water treatment plants developed under the Rural Water Programme in Kerry.
- Upgrade Works Prior to Takeover resulted in over 10.5km of replacement pipework being laid on Ballantourig GWSS, Rossdohan GWSS and Clanmaurice GWSS.
- One new Group Water Supply Scheme, Caher East (Kilgarvan) consisting of 650m of pipeline was constructed, connecting it to the public mains.

- A further €733,000 was spent on additional works, principally aimed at improving drinking water quality on small public water schemes.
- A total of 18 applications for Well Grants were received.
- A total of 62 Group Schemes received subsidy payments

Water Conservation:

The national Water Conservation Programme, which was started in 2005, has evolved in Kerry County Council into the Water Conservation Unit which now operates as a core Business Unit within the Water Services (Operations) Department.

Water Conservation continues to be a focus for proactive management, with emphasis on leakage control and reduction of water wastage, which reduces water demand and leads directly to cost savings on water production. Water Conservation also protects the capital investment that has taken place in Water Services.

In 2006, the average quantity of water produced per day was 99,980 cubic metres, while in 2012 it has been reduced by 20% to 80,458 cubic meters per day. This represents an annual reduction of 7.1 million cubic meters of water.

Dedicated leak detection crews who specialise in leakage management procedures are actively working on the ground. Since mid-2006 around 4,300 leaks have been located and repaired in the County.

Mains Rehabilitation Programme:

As part of Stage 3 of the Water Conservation Programme, the Water Conservation Unit prepared a Mains Rehabilitation Programme and submitted nine Mains Rehabilitation Works packages between July 2011 and July 2012 to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government under the Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) 2010 – 2013.

These submissions involved the replacement of 67 existing watermains at an estimated cost of €12,742,907.

To date the Department has approved a total budget of €10,616,886 to replace 57 of these watermains in the county.

Burial Grounds

The Council is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the 141 cemeteries under its control. Of these, 92 are classified under the National Monuments Acts as archaeologically protected sites and works in these burials grounds require specific archaeological approval and supervision. Any such works must be carried out in a particularly sensitive manner.

As finances have decreased in recent years, the growing influence of community groups on the upkeep and maintenance of cemeteries has become more important. The Council currently works with over 50 community groups and is continuing to expand this number. This co-operation has contributed to obvious improvement in many cemeteries across the County. The Council is highly appreciative of this assistance and continues to obtain outstanding value for money when working closely with such groups.

Key Achievements in 2012

- The Council carried out significant upgrades to a number of graveyards in 2012 as part of the ongoing Improvement Programme. This facilitated the extension of the paths networks and improvements to existing infrastructure in the New Cemetery Killarney, Kilfeighney Kilflynn, Portmagee, Duagh, An Clochán, Ballyheigue, Ballynakilla Glenbeigh, Baile An Sceilg, Annagh and Kilcummin.
- The completion of Conservation Reports for Abbey Island, Derrynane and Dromavalla, Killorglin, part funding for which has been received from the Heritage Council.
- The completion of works on the development of an extension to the graveyard at Baile Uí Bhaoithín.
- The completion of Conservation works in Kyrie Eleison, Abbeydorney.
- The Council continued a programme of sealing unsightly and potentially dangerous tombs in graveyards throughout the County in 2012.
- The completion of the public 'Part 8' Planning process for the development of a proposed new cemetery in Cromane.
- Quotations were sought in late 2012 for the development of an extension to the Cemetery in Scartaglin and a contract for the works will be awarded early 2013.
- The trimming of ivy and cutting and treatment of trees in cemeteries has continued in 2012. This work, which involved extensive consultation with the County Archaeologist, has significantly enhanced the appearance of the burial grounds selected.
- The publication of 'The Unquiet Grave: the Development of Kerry's Graveyards through the Ages', a high quality booklet which assesses the importance of graveyards through studies on the cemeteries themselves and the monuments they contain. The County Archaeologist, Michael Connolly, is the editor.

Public Conveniences

Kerry County Council has Public Conveniences at 26 locations - An Daingean, Ballybunion (2 No.), Ballyheigue, Baile An Sceilg, Banna, Cahirciveen, Cromane, , Castleisland, Castlegregory, Fenit, Fionntrá, Gap Of Dunloe, Inch, Kells, Kenmare, Killorglin, Knightstown, Maharees(Béal Geal beach), Portmagee, Rossbeigh, Scraggan pier (Maharees), Sneem, Staigue Fort, Tarbert, Waterville and White Strand Cahirciveen.

The operational arrangements of these facilities are varied. Most are operated on a part-time basis by caretakers but seven of the facilities are operated by local community

groups on behalf of the Council. These facilities are located at Ballybunion (2), Portmagee, Sneem, Waterville, Cromane, Kells and Knightstown.

The Council is appreciative of the outstanding works of these local groups. This partnership represents good value for money as these facilities are provided at a relatively low cost and maintained to a high standard.

Significant upgrade works were carried out to the important Kenmare facility in 2012. In other cases relatively minor improvements works such as re-tiling and painting were undertaken.

Value For Money Initiatives

In 2012, Water Services (Operations) made significant savings in expenditure through procurement of goods and services and changes to work practices. Further savings were made through active participation in energy saving initiatives, in particular participation in the Better Energy Workplace Scheme, which is part-funded by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

Significant expenditure savings in 2012 through procurement and work practices included:

- Centralised procurement for cleaning of Reservoirs led to annual savings in 2012 of up to €50,500.
- Central Contract for the transport and disposal of sewage sludge from three WWTP'S resulted in an estimated saving of €37,000.
- Establishment of Framework Contracts for trades such as electricians, fitters and instrument technicians has led to savings of up to 25% in hourly rates for these services.
- Use of NPS tender for the purchase of 5 fleet vehicles resulted in savings of €17,500
- The LAQuotes Plant Hire Tendering System continues to yield substantial savings and amounted to approximately €35,000 for 2012.

Energy Saving Initiatives, including those part-funded by SEAI Better Energy Workplace Scheme (BEW), were carried out in 2012 and included the following:

- Installation of 2 high efficiency pumps at Slugaire pump station.
- Windows, heating system and insulation improvement at Lyreacrompane water treatment plant.
- Reduction in sludge return pump sizing at Castleisland Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP).
- Installation of fine bubble diffused aeration system at Listowel WWTP.
- Installation of 2 high efficiency pumps at Ballyheigue waste water pump station.

- Installation of high efficiency pumps and motors at Ballyferriter waste water pump station.
- Installation of 2 high efficiency pumps at Lyreacrompane WTP.
- In 2012 Water Services Department initiated participation in a waste-gas project at Tralee Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) supported by Enterprise Ireland. The objectives include generation of heat and electricity and reduction in sludge disposal from site. The value of the funding to be provided towards this project from Enterprise Ireland through the Technology Centre for Bio-refining and Bio-energy is estimated at €266,000.
- Roll-out of Energy Performance Indicators (EPI) at Tralee WWTP, Listowel WWTP, Carroll's Yard WWPS Listowel, WWPS Tea Lane Listowel, Moyvane WWTP, Lyreacrompane WTP, WWPS Dingle, and WWPS Quay Street Cahirciveen which maximises power usage and efficiency.
- Participation in the National Procurement Service (NPS) national tender for electricity suppliers has led to substantial savings in electricity tariffs.
- Participation in the Winter Peak Demand Reduction Scheme in 9 Water Services Sites led to savings in 2012.

It is estimated that these energy initiatives will result in energy savings of approximately €47,000 in a full year.

Water Services Capital

The Water Services Capital Section is responsible for the provision of water and wastewater infrastructure for the county, including the design of new schemes and the management of these schemes through the construction stage. The two main external sources of funding for work carried out by the Water Services Capital Unit are:

- Water Services Investment Programme administered by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
- Rural Water Programme administered by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government

All of the schemes progressed also require a substantial local contribution from Kerry County Council, varying from 10% to 36% of the final cost.

2012 was a busy year for the section with the ongoing construction on 27 water treatment plants along with mains rehabilitation in 16 areas in the county. All of the design and project management for this work was carried out in house. 2012 also saw the commencement of construction of Waterville Water Treatment & Wastewater Treatment Plants (€8.7m) and Scart Reservoir (€3.5m).

Below is a list of the main progress made on projects during 2012.

Water Services Capital Unit Progress 2012

2012 Progress	Projects	Cost Estimate
Completed Construction	RAL –Water Improvements– Kilgarvan, An Baile Mór, Shrone, Barraduff, Ardfer North, Breanlee, Rathmore, Emlaghpeasta, Baile an Lochaigh, An Mhin Áird 2	€3.60m
Began and Completed Construction	RAL – Alarms and Monitoring	€0.20m
	Water Conservation – Mains Rehabilitation – Proposal No1– County Direct Labour	€1.84m
	Water Conservation – Mains Rehabilitation – Tralee Town Lead Mains	€0.06m
	Water Conservation – Mains Rehabilitation – Ballygarron West	€0.21m
Construction Began and Ongoing	Waterville WSS & SS – Design Build & Operate Contract	€8.70m
	Central Regional Water Supply Scheme – Scart Reservoir	€3.50m
	RAL – 7 West Kerry Water Treatment Plants – An Fheothanach, An Mhin Árd 3, An Mhuiríoch, Baile na nGall, Camp, Castlegregory, Ceann Trá, Lios Cearnaigh	€2.77m
	RAL – 8 An Daingean Water Treatment Plants –An Clochán, Baile an Féirtearaigh Black Cat, Baile and Féirtearaigh Leath Thaoibh, Baile and Féirtearaigh Riasc, Cé Bhreanainn, Cill Maolchéadair, Dún Chaoín, Milltown(Poulgorm)	€3.42m
	RAL – An Chapaigh Iarthair, Baile úi Bhaoithín, Glenderry Tieraclea	€0.57m
	Water Conservation – Mains Rehabilitation – Proposal No 7 – County Direct Labour	€1.95m
Design Progressed	RAL- Caherdaniel, Castlecove, Portmagee, Maulin, Minard 1, An Daingean, Inch, Baile an Sceilig, An Ghleann, Caragh Lake, Lauragh, Templenoe & Mountain Stage	€4.61m
	Water Conservation – Mains Rehabilitation – Tralee Town Mains Rehabilitation	€2.64m
	Water Conservation – Mains Rehabilitation – Derry, Listowel	€1.16m
Approval to Preliminary Report and Tender for Advance Works	Tarbert Sewerage Scheme	€2.00m
EIS and Approval to Preliminary Report	Ardfer Sewerage Scheme	€3.05m
CPO and Approval to Preliminary Report	Ballylongford Sewerage Scheme	€1.70m
Design Review and Prepare Contract Documents	Central Regional Water Supply Scheme - Treatment	€25.40m
Further Information/ Submissions to DECLG	Fenit Sewerage Scheme	€3.65m
	Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme	€2.60m

Kerry Fire Service

The Kerry Fire Service Fleet continued to be upgraded in 2012.

This included the purchase of a new Water Tanker and a second hand Dennis B Class Fire Appliance which was bought in the UK.

Additionally, four 4x4 Jeeps were purchased to provide on/off road capabilities during severe weather conditions and over harsh mountainous terrain. One Jeep has been delivered in 2012 and the remaining three vehicles are expected in 2013.

In addition the construction of a new Scania B Class Fire Appliance, funded by the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government (DoECLG) Capital Allocation 2011, began in 2012 with delivery anticipated mid-2013. This is a joint procurement venture with Cork and Clare Fire Authorities.

The Fire Service Change Programme

The Fire Service Change Programme continued to be rolled out in 2012.

Under the Smoke Alarm Scheme 2012, a total of 1,500 smoke alarms were received from the DoECLG for distribution to vulnerable members of the community in association with the Community & Enterprise Section.

An additional 50 specialised alarm sets for people with hearing disabilities were also requested and received from the DoECLG.

The Primary Schools Programme is also ongoing with basic Fire Safety instruction and Fire Safety packs being provided by Fire Service personnel to third class primary students.

Key Operational Activity 2012

The Brigades were mobilised on 791 occasions during 2012.

Gorse fires, Chimney fires, Road Traffic Collisions were again the most frequent incident types requiring Brigade mobilisation.

However, on the positive side 2012 saw a significant 60% reduction in the number of Gorse fires when compared to 2011. This can be attributed mainly to a successful public awareness campaign, interagency co-operation with the relevant stakeholders and also the assistance of less favourable burning conditions. In particular, Kerry Fire Service would like to recognize the contribution and assistance of landowners for contacting the Fire Service ahead of planned, controlled burns and for their efforts to practice safe methods of burning gorse in a responsible manner.

Building Control Activity 2012

- 390 Commencement Notices/7 Day Notices received in 2012, comprising of 405 building notifications
- Officers inspected 224 or approximately 55% of the buildings notified.
- 135 Fire Safety Certificates granted
- 68 Disability Access Certificates granted

The Building Control Section continues to promote greater awareness of the Building Regulations in the County by:

- Ensuring a visible presence on Building sites, with a good geographical spread.
- Inspection of Buildings for compliance with the Building Regulations
- Providing advice on compliance with the Building Regulations
- Monitoring the provision of access for people with disabilities
- Furthering the conservation of fuel and energy in relation to buildings by requiring the submission of Building Energy Rating Certificates (BER's).

Civil Defence

The goal of the Civil Defence is to promote, develop and maintain Civil Defence as an effective volunteer based professional organisation providing emergency response and community support services”.

Civil Defence volunteers work under the direction of the relevant local authority and are trained in various skills such as first aid, rescue, emergency feeding, evacuee care, communications, land / water search and radiation monitoring.

There are 273 volunteers registered in the volunteer database for County Kerry. Kerry Civil Defence has 22 qualified Instructors to teach various disciplines across the organisation.

Key Achievements in 2012

- Kerry Civil Defence participated in the Regional Civil Defence Exercise in West Cork area on behalf of the Civil Defence Board.
- Kerry Civil Defence co-ordinated the Medical Plan for the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle Event for 2012. We had over 400 casualties, the majority with very minor injuries, with only four casualties transferred to Kerry General Hospital on the day.
- Called out to provide sandbags to the local community in the Tralee Area during the "Flash Flooding"
- Civil Defence assisted with the Boot Camp for the Rose of Tralee escorts for 2012 with outdoor pursuits.
- First Aid and Ambulance activity at major sporting functions, including Listowel Races, Dingle Marathon, Rallies, Puck Fair, the Festival of Kerry and the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle Event.
- Covered 94 different Events in the County in 2012.
- Trained and qualified ten new Emergency First Responders in the Casualty Service.
- Trained and qualified two new Emergency Medical technicians.
- Trained ten members into the Auxiliary Fire Service for the purpose of responding to flooding in Water Awareness.

Director's Report on Economic Planning & Development

Director of Services: Michael McMahon

Senior Staff:

Senior Engineer, Paul Stack

Senior Executive Officer, Joan McCarthy

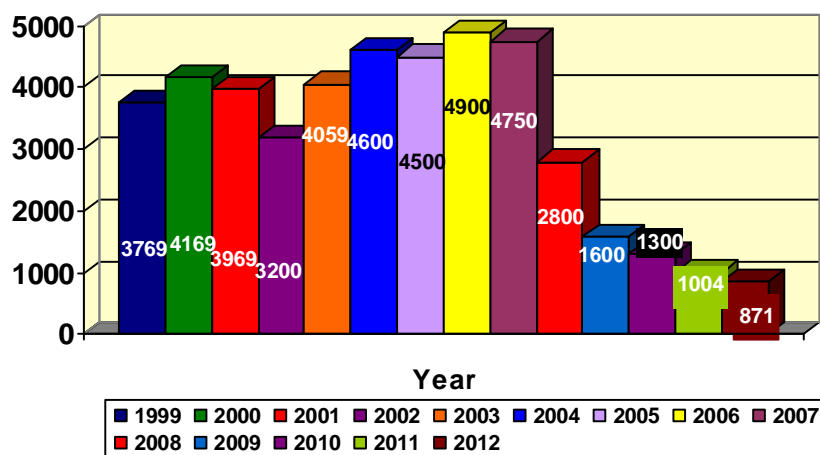
'To encourage, promote and facilitate measures that will contribute to a well managed physical and economic environment within the County of Kerry'.

Planning Control

A total of 871 planning applications were received during 2012, representing a decrease of 13% on the 2011 applications. This major change in activity is in line with other local authorities around the country and reflects the continued downturn in construction activity experienced in recent years.

Changes introduced by Section 28 of the Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2010, has resulted in a significant increase in the numbers of applications for extensions of duration of planning permissions. 185 such applications were processed in 2012.

Number of Planning Applications



Planning Enforcement

The workload in this area has not witnessed any significant decrease in activity. Some people continue to show a total disregard for planning laws and a total disrespect for their neighbours.

	Jan – Dec 2012	Comments
Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	248	All written complaints received by the Planning Authority as well as the number of reports received from Kerry County Council staff
Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	117	Number of complaints investigated that did not warrant the issue of a Warning Letter and/or Enforcement Notice
Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	130	Number of files resolved through either the granting of Retention Permission or the developer undertaking the necessary works to comply with Planning & Development Regulations
Number of enforcement procedures taken through Warning Letters	124	Warning Letters served under Section 152 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 to 2007
Number of enforcement procedures taken through Enforcement Notices	216	This figure represents all the Enforcement Notices served under Section 154/155 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 to 2007
Number of Prosecutions	5	Cases heard in Court for the first time – additional files were referred to the County Solicitor during this period.

Forward Planning

The Planning Policy Unit is responsible for the preparation, monitoring and implementation of the Kerry County Development Plan and all Local Area Plans for the County.

The Kerry County Development Plan 2009 – 2015 was adopted on the 6th April 2009 and came into effect on the 4th May 2009. The Plan will be in place for six years and sets out the policy framework for the county.

- During 2012 work continued on the Renewable Energy Strategy and it was adopted as a variation to the County Development Plan in November 2012 (Variation No. 8).
- The Dingle Area Functional Area Local Area Plan was finalised and adopted as a variation of the County Development plan in June 2012.

- In co-operation with Clare County Council, Limerick County Council, Limerick City Council and Shannon/Foynes Port Authority, consultants were appointed to prepare a Shannon Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary (SIFP). The Plan will act as a framework plan for the Estuary, directing both water and land based developments to suitable locations along the Estuary and will address the infrastructural issues along with the Environmental issues associated with the area. The Draft Plan was on public display for a period of six weeks before the end of 2012 and will be incorporated into the County Development Plan in due course.

Work is ongoing on the review of Local Area Plans in accordance with the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan.

- The Cahirciveen/Sneem/Waterville Functional Areas Plan was reviewed during 2012 and was adopted on 21st January 2013.
- Pre-plan consultation for the Listowel & Ballybunion Functional Area Plans ended on 20th August 2012 and a draft will be published early in 2013.
- A review of the Tralee/Killarney Hubs Plan began in late 2012.

Housing Estates Unit

Considerable progress has been made with regard to inspecting housing estates in the county since the establishment of the Housing Estates Unit in 2009. Significant resources have been allocated to the Unit.

To date, 760 inspections have been carried out which have identified unfinished estates and estates where works need to be carried out. The Estates Unit is endeavoring to liaise with developers to ensure that estates are completed to a satisfactory standard.

It is important that appropriate insurance/financial bonds are received in these cases to better safeguard against non-compliance of planning conditions. In such circumstances, this bond can be drawn down and the Estates Unit can arrange for the necessary works to be carried out. During the period 2009 to 2012, bonds have been drawn down by the Council and outstanding works in a number of estates completed.

Inspections are also carried out on new estates prior to and during construction. To date, 25 such estates have been identified and the Unit is liaising with the developers and monitoring each phase of construction.

The Council continues to examine and evaluate applications to have estates taken in charge.

Year	No. of Applications received	No. of applications taken in Charge
2009	45	6
2010	8	5
2011	12	8
2012	5	8

The following estates were taken in charge in 2012

- Grace's Development, Cloghane, Ballyduff
- Piper's View, Killorglin.
- Phase 1, Ballyoughtragh Heights, Milltown
- Phase 2, Ballyoughtragh Heights, Milltown
- Kilgobnet Close, Shanacloon, Beaufort.
- Cnoc A Run, Scartaglin.
- Valley View, Knockacaska, Kilflynn.
- Clogherbrien, Tralee.

Quarries

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 Act contains significant changes relating to quarry developments, particularly in relation to applications for retention permission and planning enforcement.

Sections 74 & 75 of the Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2010 began on the 15th November 2011. Under this Act Kerry County Council had to examine each quarry in the county and make a determination as to its planning status, by 15th August 2012. Following this examination notices were issued as follows;

- (a) **21 Quarry owners** were issued with a notice that an application for substitute consent be made to An Bord Pleanála. This is required to enable them to continue with their existing operations.

Appeals have been lodged with An Bord Pleanála in respect of 14 of these sites while the remaining seven have not appealed the Council's decision.

The owner/operator of these sites must prepare and lodge a Planning Application for Substitute Consent with An Bord Pleanála within 12 weeks of the date of the Council's notice together with a Remedial Environmental Impact Statement and a Remedial Natura Impact Statement. Should the owner/operator fail to lodge such an application then Kerry County Council must issue an enforcement notice seeking the closure of the quarry site.

- (b) **Ten Quarries** were issued with a notice stating that it is the Council's intent to issue an enforcement notice.
- (c) Letters were issued to **150 Quarry operators** confirming that no further action is necessary under section 261A of the Act. The majority of these quarries may continue to operate in compliance with their section 261 conditions or planning conditions which ever applies.

Structures at Risk Fund 2012

The purpose of the Structures at Risk Fund is to assist with works to safeguard structures included in the Record of Protected Structures and to safeguard structures within Architectural Conservation Areas, where, in the opinion of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG), an urgent need for such works has arisen.

Due to the limited funding available each Local Authority is limited to submitting two projects for approval by the DAHG. Both applications submitted by Kerry County Council were considered eligible for funding and a sum of €20,000 was allocated for the two projects in Castleisland and Valentia. The two projects were successfully completed on schedule.

Section 57 Declarations: (relating to Protected Structures) Seven Declarations were requested and completed during 2012.

Architectural Conservation Areas: Four additional ACAs were designated during 2012.

Vernacular Architecture: Kerry County Council in conjunction with NEKD provided funding for a survey of vernacular architecture in North and East Kerry, began late 2012 and due to be completed mid 2013.

County Archaeologist

The County Archaeology Department has responsibilities in the following areas:

- **Archaeological Impact Assessment/Monitoring/Test Excavation**
- **Graveyards**
- **Planning & Policy**
- **Recording and preservation of the archaeology of the county**

Key Achievements 2012

- Archaeological Impact Assessment completed for two projects
- Archaeological monitoring undertaken in relation to four projects
- Ministerial Consent and associated reports completed for two projects
- Recommendations made in relation to 218 planning applications
- 18 archaeologically important landscapes protected in the Renewable Energy Strategy and related land use plans
- Detailed submissions to the following Functional Area Plans:
Listowel/Ballybunion & The Tralee-Killarney Hub Area
- Full surveys of a further 21 archaeologically protected graveyards completed. This project is now completed.
- Conservation Reports commissioned and completed for Dromavally, Killorglin and Abbey Island, Derrynane
- Conservation Works based on the recommendations of reports completed in 2011 were carried out on the Kerry County Council owned National Monuments Killagh Abbey, Milltown and *Kyrie Eleison* Abbey, Abbeydorney
- Tomb sealing and trimming back/cutting overgrowth on church ruins continued in conjunction with Water Services. Works carried out in 26 graveyards in 2011
- The book *'The Unquiet Grave: The Development of Kerry's Burial Grounds through the Ages'* completed. The book was well received and 1,000 copies have been distributed free of charge to the general public.
- Began work on major Graveyard Signage Project arising from the Graveyard Surveys. LEADER funding secured in principal towards the manufacture and erection of detailed maps with name listing at all archaeologically protected graveyards.

Heritage Office

Work in the Heritage Office in 2012 included the completion of eight main projects and assistance given to a further 12 community-based projects including the Béaloideas Chiarraí community folklore recording project and Killorglin Archive.

In addition, planning applications and several Part XIII applications were referred to this office for comment. Assistance was given in relation to the compilation of functional area plans and preparation of Strategic Environment Assessments (SEA) and Appropriate Assessments (AA).

Key Achievements

- In excess of 100 Heritage Weeks events advertised.
- Heritage and economics seminar Listowel
- Reenagross Management and Invasive Alien control
- Heritage Trail Development – Listowel and Castleisland
- Rive Lee Enhancement works
- Biodiversity Week
- Secured funding for Graveyard Signage through LEADER
- Killarney Urban Habitats survey

The following projects were funded in 2012:

Heritage Council Funded Projects	Kerry County Council Funded Projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban Habitat Mapping Survey• Archaeological Graveyard Survey• Conservation Reports on 2 Graveyards• Heritage Mapping project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heritage week advertising & events• Listowel Heritage Trail• Castleisland Heritage Trail• Reenagross Invasive Species Project• Conservation works in county graveyards• Bat Survey workshop in assoc with KES• Biodiversity Week in association with the Wetlands Centre• River Lee enhancement works

Value for Money Initiatives

A number of value for money initiatives progressed during 2012 as follows:

- All printing associated with Plans are carried out in-house and all Local Area Plans etc. are now burnt onto CD's for distribution to all prescribed bodies etc. in the interest of value for money savings. This initiative will continue to yield significant savings over the coming years.
- Significant Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment support is now provided by the Forward Planning Unit to all sections of the Local Authority in relation to Plans and Projects requiring AA (Appropriate Assessment) Screening and subsequent Stage 2 reports where relevant.
- All Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA's) and Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA's) required in relation to Plans, Strategies and Variations etc. are carried out in-house by existing staff.

Director's Report on Community, Culture, Heritage & Recreation

Director of Services: John Breen

Senior Staff:

County Librarian: Tommy O'Connor

Community & Voluntary Forum Co-Ordinator: Siobhan Griffin

Community & Enterprise

The Community & Enterprise Department contributes to the achievement of the corporate objectives of Kerry County Council in the areas of economic and tourism development, community development, social inclusion, the arts and cultural development.

Since the establishment of County Development Boards in 2000, the department has provided technical and administrative support to the Kerry County Development Board (KCDB) and works with external agencies, the Community and Voluntary sector and Government Departments in the development of its work programmes.

The Local Government reforms announced in "*Putting People First: Action Programme for Effective Local Government*" in October 2012 outlined the dissolving of the County Development Boards and the establishment of Socio-Economic Committees who will take on some of the work currently done by the County Development Board.

This policy document envisages local government as the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level – leading economic, social and community development, delivering efficient and good value services, and representing citizens and local communities effectively and accountably.

Under these proposals Local Government will also have a strong role in promoting economic development. Operation of the local micro-enterprise support service through Local Enterprise Offices (LEO's), embracing the functions of County Enterprise Boards and local authority Business Support Units will be a key element of the local government role in economic development.

The development and roll-out of these new structures is likely to be accelerated in 2013.

Key Achievements 2012

The emphasis in 2012 continued to be on the integrated approach to delivering services in an efficient manner and within the constraints of a very difficult economic climate.

Economic

- **Kerry County Development Board** continued to work on priority actions which reflected the challenges of the economic recession for the County and implementing national initiative requiring inter-agency collaboration.
- Launch of www.countykerry.ie in June 2012, an initiative to promote Kerry as the ideal place to live and work.
- Initiated market research on www.countykerry.ie in conjunction with Institute of Technology Tralee (ITT) to facilitate feedback on digital marketing campaign.
- Promotional DVD developed for both English & Chinese speaking markets.
- **Labour activation** measures – two Job Bridge Programme participants engaged by the department. A Content Archivist for the Aerial Footage Project, Stage 1 completed in 2012 and a Statistical Analyst to analyse the CSO data for Kerry - initiated in 2012.
- Over 250 video and 150 still shots of **Aerial Footage** was archived and indexed in preparation for stage two of the project.
- **Innovate Kerry** (subgroup of Kerry Enterprise Development Unit (KEDU)) initiated market research on measuring innovation in the Food & Agriculture sectors in conjunction with ITT.
- Innovate Kerry held '*Finance & Pitching*' Workshops in March 2012 and '*Meet the Talent*' Workshop in conjunction with ITT in November 2012.
- The late Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Mr Shane McEntee, TD attended the February meeting of the Agriculture, **Fisheries & Food sub committee** and also visited the District Heating Project.

Tourism

- **County Tourism Strategy** initiated with the objective of developing a vision for tourism in the Kerry with a primary focus on the economic sustainability of this major industry.
- Involved in organising the **Kerry promotion** at the Ploughing Championships and in developing the *gokerry.ie* supplement circulated with the Sunday Independent in July.
- Facilitated '**Gathering**' sessions in three geographical areas in the county to identify Gathering events for Kerry.

Social & Community

- Kerry County Council nominated three groups to the All-Ireland **Pride of Place** competition. Ballyspillane won the overall prize in the 'Housing Estates' category and Rathmore was runner up in 'Previous Year's Winners' category at the Pride of Place Awards Ceremony held November 2012.
- The 9th **Kerry Community Awards** saw the overall prize for 2012 awarded to the Castleisland Family Resource Centre.
- Implementation of the Community & Voluntary Forum Work Programme. 815 groups were registered with the **Kerry Community & Voluntary Forum** register in 2012.
- Approval by Kerry CDB of NEKD and SKDP **Local and Community Development Plans**.
- On-going implementation of the **Kerry Integration (Immigrant) Strategy 2010 – 2012**. In November, began review of the strategy and planning extension to the strategy to cover the period 2013 to December 2014
- The **Kerry Joint Policing Committee** met 4 times during 2012 at which the Gardaí gave a comprehensive report on crime figures for the County.
- Promotion of Tralee **RAPID** Programme and areas
- **Comhairle na nÓg** is a forum for structured input into decision-making by children and young people in the development of local services and policies to be supported and resourced appropriately by relevant statutory and voluntary organisations in the county/city. 103 young people attended the Comhairle na nOg AGM. Main areas of work for the year were the Peer Mentoring Programme Sexual Health promotion.
- Kerry County Council in collaboration with the Kerry Community & Voluntary Forum hosted a seminar on **Building Preparedness and Resilience** in Killarney on 9th March, 2012. The seminar offered international, national and local perspectives on the role of the community in partnering the emergency services in responding to events like severe weather, gorse fires, flooding and other emergencies.
- 855 **Smoke Alarms** were given to local development companies for installation in 2012.
- The **Community, Culture & Tourism SPC** met 3 times during 2012 where policy items were considered and updates given on the Library service, Community & Enterprise Dept, Oifig Gaeilge and the Arts Office.

Value for Money

The Community and Enterprise Department continues to strive for increased efficiency and the delivery of value for money in all of its activities.

- Ongoing review of department structures and processes to ensure more efficient and effective use of staff resources.
- Continuing to seek efficiencies through funding/progressing common actions by sharing of financial/human resources with other agencies.
- Meetings/events are held in free/low cost venues
- Correspondence/documentation issued electronically (a few exceptions where broadband coverage very poor).
- Endeavouring to share administration of meetings/projects with other agencies where feasible.

Arts Office

In 2012 the Arts Office awarded Grants countywide under the Arts Act towards the purpose of;

- Stimulating public interest in the arts
- Promoting knowledge and appreciation of the arts
- Improving standards in the arts

Two Artist in schools schemes were awarded and four individual artist bursaries were awarded

A selection of the programmes delivered in 2012 by working in partnership where possible included:

- A number of Master Classes and Workshops focusing on the art forms of literature, film and dance in schools & libraries for children and adult groups.
- Art for the Young at Heart: Bealtaine Workshops and Screenings targeting older people were held in libraries around the county during the month of May. This program offered professional artists the opportunity to work with older age people interested in the arts.
- Dance for the Young at Heart in partnership with the Local Sports Partnership (targeting older people to avail of dance as a means of creativity, fitness, health and happiness promotion!)
- Kerry Film Festival - Kerry County Council contributed towards the Youth Education Programme
- Culture Night 2012 – Kerry Local Authorities continued to support Culture Night; though activities were not as countywide in the absence of the Arts Officer.

The Arts Council co-funded program was brought forward for 2013.

Partnership development for Kerry Music Generation remains on going with lead partner, Kerry Education Services and support partners Tralee Institute of Technology and Ealaíon na Gaeltachta.

Kerry Libraries

Kerry Library Mission statement

'To provide a modern, responsive and inclusive library service of equal quality for all, which fosters reading, provides information and supports culture, recreation and education'

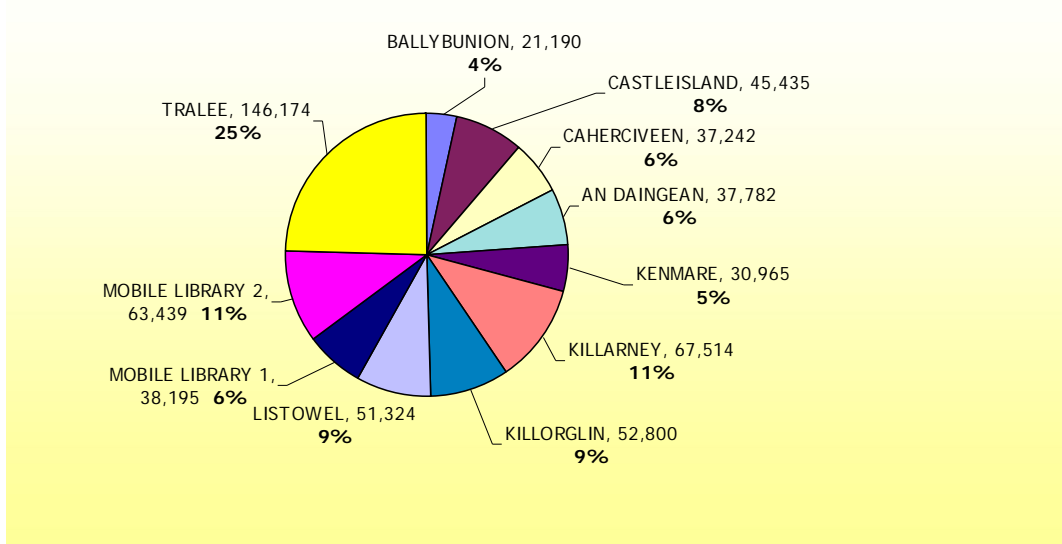
Kerry Library operates nine full time branch libraries throughout the county - at Ballybunion, Cahirciveen, Castleisland, An Daingean, Kenmare, Killarney, Killorglin, Listowel and Tralee while two Mobile Libraries serve 91 locations throughout rural and urban Kerry. In addition a dedicated Local History and Archives section operates from Library Headquarters.

Key Achievements:

- The core service is that of adult and children's book lending and a record number of **592,060** items were borrowed during 2012. This was a 5% increase on the previous year. This usage included increased borrowings of fiction (1%), children's (8%) and audio items (10%).
- **500,867** individual visits were made to the 11 service points during 2012, the first time that the half million figure was reached.
- **47,374** free internet sessions were taken up by members of the public. Each library now provides a Wi-Fi service.

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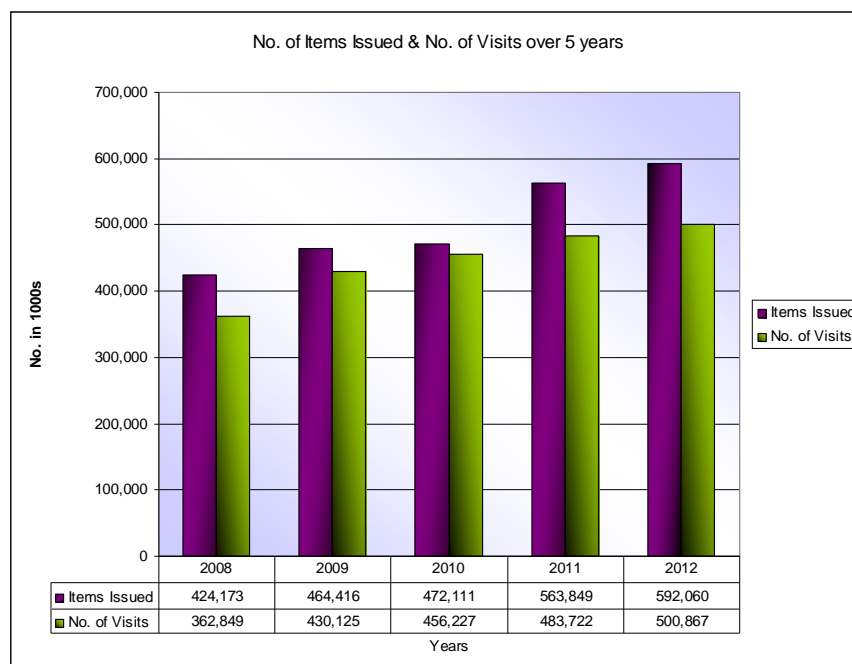
Items Borrowed by Location - 2012



Kerry Library has quite extensive opening hours, with all day opening on Saturdays. Tralee, Killarney and Listowel libraries have six day opening together with two late evenings until 8.00p.m. Dingle has six day opening with 1 late evening. Cahirciveen is open five days together with one late opening while Killorglin, Kenmare and Castleisland libraries have five day opening. The library catalogue and a range of online resources, including national and international newspapers are accessible at all

times via the Kerry library website www.kerrylibrary.ie. Overall, the Kerry Library network was open for a total of 20,395 hours during 2012.

- Cahirciveen Library was renovated and it re-opened to the public on 20 March 2012. There has been a 23% increase year on year in the number of items borrowed from this library since re-opening. Of the funding of €400,000 for the renovation works, 75% was received from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DoECLG) while the balance was funded by Kerry County Council.
- The county-wide Mobile Library service, serving both urban and rural communities continues to be well used. 38,195 items were borrowed from Mobile 1 (North & West Kerry) in 2012 (a 3% increase) while 63,439 items (a 23% increase) were taken on loan from Mobile 2 (South & East Kerry).
- The fourth and final year of the grant aided Europe Direct Information service operated at Killarney Library.
- There were 7,628 visits to the Local History & Archives section at Library HQ.
- Service improvements put in place include the installation of a self-service facility for the public at Tralee Library and the further roll out of the SMS text notification system to prompt the early return of books, greater circulation of titles and the provision of user title requests.
- Among the initiatives taken with regard to Kerry local history was the cataloguing of the An Seabhaic manuscript collection, the commencement of the digitisation of the McGillicuddy archive and the acquisition of some National School records.



Director's Report on Corporate Services

Director of Services: Mr. John D. Flynn

Senior Staff:

Senior Executive Officer Corporate Affairs: Gerard O'Brien

Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources:

Martin O'Donoghue

Head of ICT: Brian Looney

The Corporate Services Department of Kerry County Council consists of the Corporate Affairs, Human Resources and Information Technology Departments.

Corporate Affairs

The Corporate Affairs Department is divided into four business units, each with their own distinct areas of responsibility as follows:

- Council Services
- Communications/Customer Care/Oifig na Gaeilge/Freedom of Information
- Franchise/Higher Education Grants
- Facilities Management and Development

Key Achievements in 2012

- 17 Meetings of the Full Council organised and serviced
- 24 Electoral Area Meetings held and serviced
- A total of 46 requests were dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act along with 11 complaints received from the Office of the Ombudsman
- By utilising the NPS Contracts and Frameworks, the facilities Management Unit continues to achieve additional savings in the purchasing of stationary, paper and office supplies.
- We continued to identify areas where the running and operational costs of Corporate Facilities can be reduced, examples in 2012 include:
 - Provision of double glazed windows and upgrading of insulation to roof and walls of the extension to Áras an Chontae
 - Upgrading the boilers at Áras an Chontae
 - Renegotiation of rental agreements on our rented properties when they fall due
- Maintained existing levels of service to our internal and external customers with reduced staffing and financial resources.

Human Resources

Key Achievements

- Continued development of the **Absence Management Programme** to ensure efficiencies in relation to staff attendance at work.
- Continued development and implementation of the **Organisational Support Programme** to enhance the welfare of our staff and to comply with statutory legislation.
- Continued development of the staff **Performance Management and Development Systems (PMDS)**, both locally and as one of the lead authorities nationally.
- Continued participation in the “**Star Pupil**” **Work Experience Programme** with a view to further developing a pathway towards employment in the local authorities for Travellers.
- Continued participation in Government led work experience schemes including Redundancy Apprentice Placements, FÁS Work Placement and Job Bridge.

Training & Development

Due to the diverse operations and high risk categories of work activities being carried out by employees, our main priority in 2012 was to provide a safe working environment. A total of 52% of the training delivered in 2012 related to Health & Safety.

These are the main courses delivered in 2012

- A Water Plant Operators Assessment Course
- Abrasive Wheels
- Banksman
- Breathing Apparatus Refresher Training
- Chainsaw
- Driver CPC- Role of the Professional Driver in the transport industry
- Environmental Legislation
- First Aid Refresher
- GPS Fleet Management Software
- Managing Safely Legal Briefing
- Manual Handling
- Operation and Maintenance of Strimmers
- Safepass
- Safety for Water & Waste Water Workers
- Waste Water Plant Operators Assessment Course
- Work at Heights

General Courses

- Competency Development
- Core System (HR & Payroll)
- Customer Care
- IT Training
- Procurement
- Presentation Skills
- Superannuation Training

Number of Employees at 31 December 2012

Managerial/Administrative	393
Engineering/Technical	174
Operational/Outdoor	643

TOTAL **1,210**

Gender Breakdown of employees at 31 December 2012

	Male	Female	Total
Managerial/Administrative	86	307	393
Engineering/Technical	142	32	174
Operational/Outdoor	574	69	643
Total	802	408	1210

Competition Statistics 2012

No. Competitions Held 18

No. Applications received

Male 150

Female 48

Total no. of applications received 198

Placement Schemes and Work Shadowing

The Council continued its association with placement schemes for graduates, third level and post-primary schools:-

Work Shadowing	29
Work Experience	16
Redundant Apprentice Placement Scheme	2
FAS Work Placement Programme	1
JobBridge Internships	13

Total no. Work Placements in 2012 61

Job-bridge Internships

No. Competitions Held 11

No. Applications received 104

Male 79

Female 25

Information Technology & Information Systems:

eParticipation: Dingle Functional Area – Local Area Plan

As a part of a pan-European project which had partners from 10 countries, Kerry Co. Council developed its first online consultation tool, which sat side-by-side with the traditional planning consultation process, but which:

- changed how the plan was structured into more user friendly
- exploited other web resources (GIS mapping, Google Streetview) to help make the planning concepts more accessible and contextualised
- provided a context / narrative using a YouTube video
- allowed online expression of opinion against individual Planning Objectives
- used Social Media to encourage participation and update citizens on the process
- used online surveying tools
- used email and SMS notification to participants to keep them in the loop as the process developed

This pilot was successful from the point of view of stakeholders and will inform how future public consultations are run.

The screenshot displays the 'Dingle Functional Area Local Area Plan' website. The header features the title in large green letters over a map background, with the Kerry County Council logo on the left and 'Produced by Kerry County Council' on the right. A left-hand navigation menu lists sections: 'Dingle F.A. LAP' (Home Page, Proposed Alterations), 'Using the Online Plan' (Introduction, F.A.Q.s, Online Interactivity, Google Streetview, Google Map of area), 'Settlement LAPs' (Dingle Town, Annascaul, Ballydavid, Ballyferriter, Dún Chaoin, An Mhuiríoch, Lissole, Ventry, The Blaskets, Rural Area), 'Submissions' (How to submit, Contact information), and 'Downloads' (Download Plans as PDF, Download Maps as PDF). The main content area is titled 'Dingle Functional Area - Local Area Plans Online' and includes a welcome message and a link to the 'Notice of proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Dingle FA LAP 2012-2018 & Determination for SEA and AA'. Below this is a large map of the Dingle Peninsula with a red outline of the functional area. A text box above the map says 'Click on an area of the map to jump directly to the selected settlement LAP'. The map includes a scale bar (0-10 km) and a legend. At the bottom, there is a 'KerryPlan' section with a video player showing an aerial view of a coastal town.

System Implementations:

IT staff were heavily involved in a number of system implementations in Council business areas:

Major implementations advanced in 2012 were as follows:

- UISCE – an information systems project for Water Services

At all stages, from catchment and purification, through transportation and storage, to consumption, water must be monitored. The complexity of the system arises from the large volume of information to be processed and from the regulation needed throughout the process.

The UISCE system was implemented in 2012 and is a centralised SCADA system that acquires and stores data from all the remote Water Treatment plants across the County.

The system provides real-time data accessible from anywhere, operational and management reporting and monitoring that assists the engineers/technicians in the management and operational controls of the water distribution system.

- Fire Prevention – an information implemented in the Fire Service

The application allows the various activities of the Fire and Building Control Authorities of Kerry Local Authority to be combined into a single integrated system. Efficiencies introduced as a result include

- Master Premises List Creation
 - Greater integration across key modules from commencement notices, inspections, complaints to fire safety certificates.
 - Improved management of premises and easy identification of cases i.e. Fire Safety Certificates.
- Environmental Complaints System – implemented for the Environment section in Maine St.
 - Weighbridge and Waste Management Systems in our Landfill and Transfer Stations
 - GIS – Led by the Council's GIS team – the first phase of compliance for spatial data cataloging as required by the EU INSPIRE Directive
 - Service Desk – a new System for managing IT support calls and to supplement the IT Service Desk Team's support for users across the four Kerry Local Authorities was implemented
 - Fleet Management – procurement and specification assistance were provided to the Roads and Transportation section to implement a new GPS based Fleet Management & tracking system.
 - Significant further savings in the costs of telephony were achieved through VoIP projects and consolidations.

ICT Support:

ICT support is provided to over 900 desktop, laptop, tablet and smartphone users in over 100 locations countywide. Over 8,000 support calls were dealt with in 2012.

Financial Statement

Director of Service: Angela McAllen, Acting Head of Finance

Senior Staff:

Kathleen Moriarty, Acting Senior Executive Officer

Pat O'Shea, Acting Senior Executive Officer

During 2012 Kerry County Council continued to maintain delivery of the core services that are essential to the functioning of the County. The Finance section of Kerry County Council has played an essential role in this, demonstrating resilience and flexibility in facing the difficulties that the current economic climate presents.

The overall economic and National Exchequer positions continued to remain difficult in 2012. Uncertainty in the Eurozone and the global economy prevailed, which restricted the potential for economic growth and impacted on the availability of income to the Council.

Consumer sentiment, liquidity and demand continue to remain low and uncertainty on key fundamentals persist. Implementation of the measures necessary to meet targets as set out under the EU/IMF Programme of Support for Ireland will continue to impact both directly and indirectly on the finances of this Council. In that context, the availability of income remains a source of serious concern.

These factors affected the funding available for Budget 2012, which in turn, restricted our works programmes during the year. In managing the Revenue Budget during the year, the Council aimed to:

- Maintain our core services at satisfactory levels.
- Deliver our services cost effectively and to the best quality practicable.
- Maximise all revenue income sources and maintain effective budgetary control of expenditure.
- Maintain strict debtor controls.
- Minimise the need for any increase in commercial rates or user charges wherever possible.
- Maintain a balanced Budget.

On balance, the Council succeeded in its aims.

Our reliance on locally sourced income is increasing and will, no doubt, gain greater significance into the future. Significant attention was paid during 2012 to the collection of the debtor streams including government departments, state agencies and Council paying customers.

The collection levels across many of our major income streams have been maintained compared to 2011 and have met or exceeded budget targets in some cases.

Kerry County Council, while making all efforts to optimise collections, will continue to review the position of businesses on a case-by-case basis particularly those experiencing difficulties due to the current economic climate, subject to the submission of required documentation.

A distinction, however, needs to be made between those businesses that have genuine trading difficulties and those apparently unwilling to pay. The latter businesses will be pursued through the appropriate channels. This year again saw a similar level of activity to 2011, in relation to issuing appropriate court or other recovery measures as a means of debt collection where reasonable efforts were not being made to address the outstanding debt.

Our collection staff continues to engage fully and constructively with our debtors in order to address their situation and work through satisfactory payment plans, where appropriate.

The charge on Non-Principal Private Residences, introduced in 2009, yielded a net income of €2.709m in 2012 to the Council. This significant additional income meant that our works programmes were retained at a level which would not have been possible otherwise owing to the decreases in other income sources. Some €508,920 was collected in late fees for Kerry County Council in 2012 and legal proceedings are pending in a number of cases. The Council is continuing to follow up on the potential for additional income from this source.

Achieving better value in our procurement practices continued to remain a key issue across all our services during the year. Cost savings have been achieved in a range of purchases/contracts such as plant hire, trade services, civil works, road making materials, telecommunications, advertising, energy, general goods/services. Procurement Initiatives such as the use of LA Quotes and Framework Agreements continued to be maximised in order to achieve further savings and efficiencies.

Ongoing commitments to the successful implementation of the EU/IMF/ECB Memorandum of Understanding in the Programme of Financial Support for Ireland, The National Recovery Plan 2011-2014, the implementation of the recommendations from the Local Government Efficiency Review Group and Putting People First – Action Programme for Effective Local Government, will continue to impact on our funding streams and our operating environment. All our revenue works and capital investment programmes are likely to continue to incur further significant reductions over the coming years. In that context, prioritising our key services and securing best value for the available funds must be over-riding considerations across all our operations.

The achievement of the objectives of the Public Sector Savings Agreement (Croke Park Agreement) will also contribute to further cost-effectiveness and efficiency and the Council continues to report savings achieved as required to the National Implementation Body. The skill and flexibility of our staff are distinct advantages in that regard.

Over the coming year and far beyond, the Council must continue to relentlessly implement strict budgetary and debtor control so as to sustain our financial capacity to deliver the core essential statutory services to the residents of and visitors to the county.

The accompanying tables and pie charts give an overview of the financial position of the Council and analysis of expenditure and income for the year. The current overall financial standing of the Council can be described as continuing to be generally satisfactory as at 31 December, 2012. The Council took actions during 2012 to adjust and match both operational day-to-day spend and the long term capital investment programme with available funding and resources. This will continue in 2013.

In this regard, in 2012, the Council was notified in September of a reduction in the Local Government Fund Allocation for 2012 of €19,005,401. The final adjustment was a reduction in the total sum of €316,193. This reduction was made following a review of payment compliance levels of the Household Charge in Kerry in the National Context.

The Council continues to implement a significant water services investment programme. The local contribution towards that investment, together with the additional operation/maintenance costs resulting from the improved treatment systems and plant, and the increasing standards for water quality /water effluent discharges will require substantial on-going local expenditure.

Funding both at National and Local level remains very restricted for water and waste water schemes. In addition, very strict limitations apply to borrowing approvals from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and the receipts from development contributions have dramatically reduced in recent years.

In summary, service demand remained high in 2012 notwithstanding economic pressures, and this remains the case into 2013. Optimising outcomes in service delivery from the available resources will be a key requirement in the continuing drive to achieve the highest quality combined with maximum extent of service practicable.

Financial Statement

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2012

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

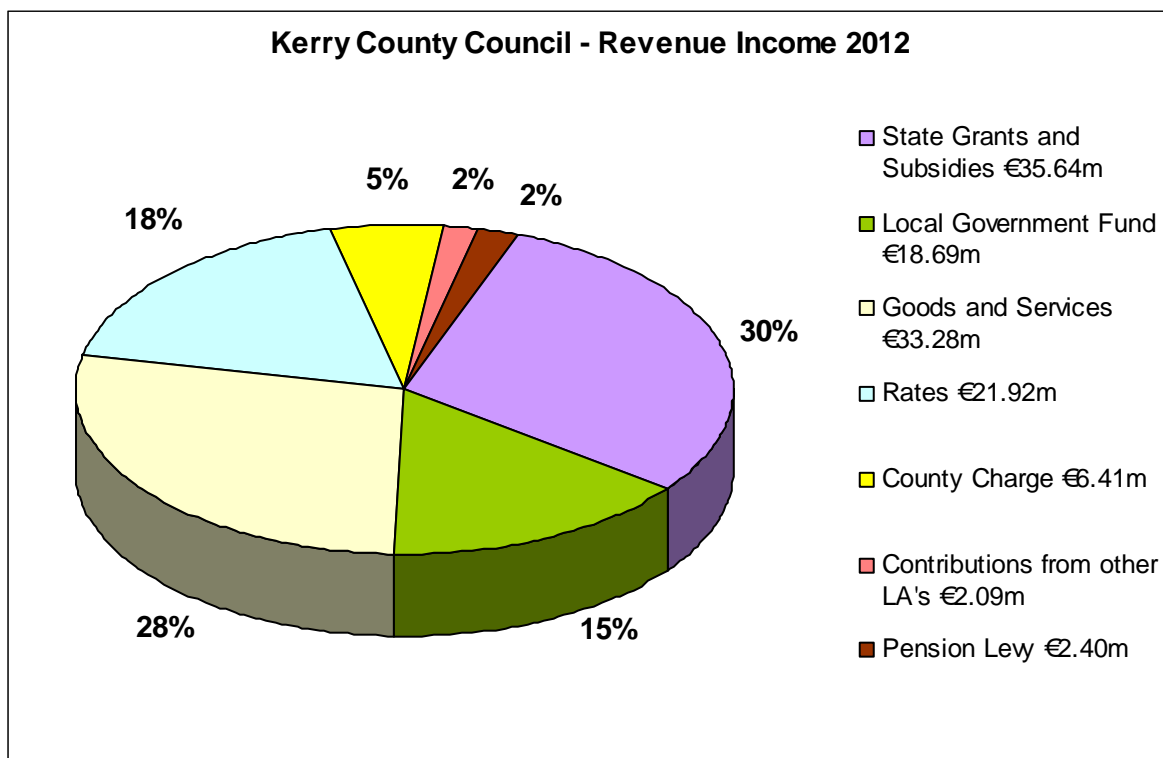
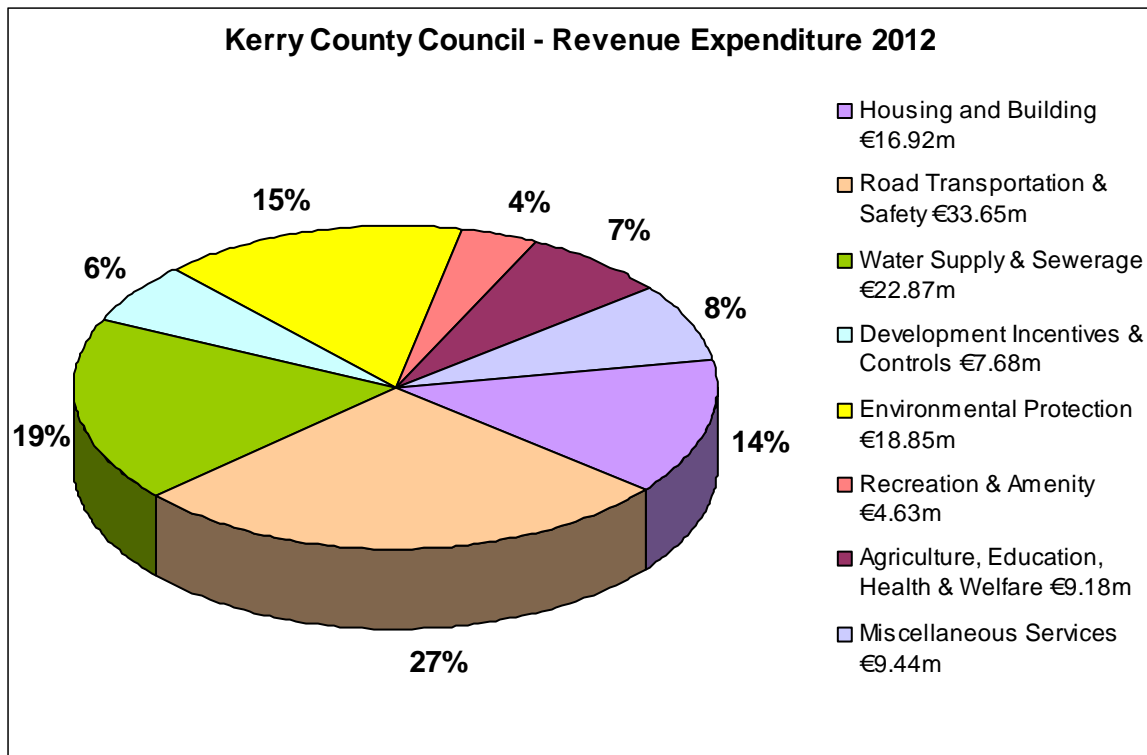
	Gross Expenditure 2012 €	Income 2012 €	Net Expenditure 2012 €	Net Expenditure 2011 €
Expenditure by Division				
Housing and building	16,233,242	15,635,360	597,884	748,793
Road transport & safety	32,571,213	20,305,005	12,266,208	13,210,790
Water services	20,969,969	11,081,588	9,888,381	8,757,135
Development management	7,445,979	1,789,596	5,656,383	5,781,017
Environmental services	16,851,237	9,041,322	7,809,915	10,518,168
Recreation and amenity	4,431,828	399,370	4,032,458	4,129,223
Agriculture, education, health & welfare	8,702,494	8,207,584	494,910	515,117
Miscellaneous services	9,154,050	4,546,194	4,607,856	5,032,956
Central management charges	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure/Income	116,360,012	71,006,019		
Net Cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Government Fund			45,353,993	48,693,199
Rates			21,917,800	21,778,442
Local Government Fund – General Purpose Grant			18,689,208	20,574,023
Pension Related Deduction			2,404,428	2,482,348
County Charge			6,415,752	6,618,359
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers			4,073,195	2,759,973
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(3,933,680)	(2,472,906)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			139,515	287,067
General Reserve at 1st January 2012			2,813,213	2,526,146
General Reserve at 31st December 2012			2,952,728	2,813,213

Financial Statement

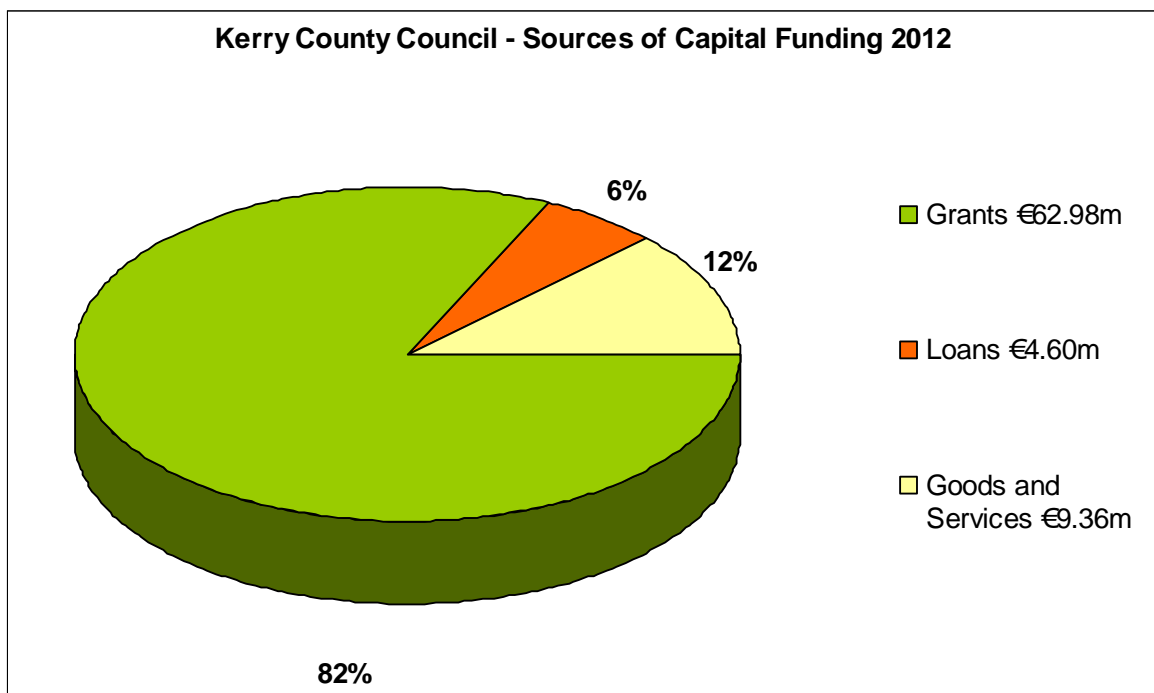
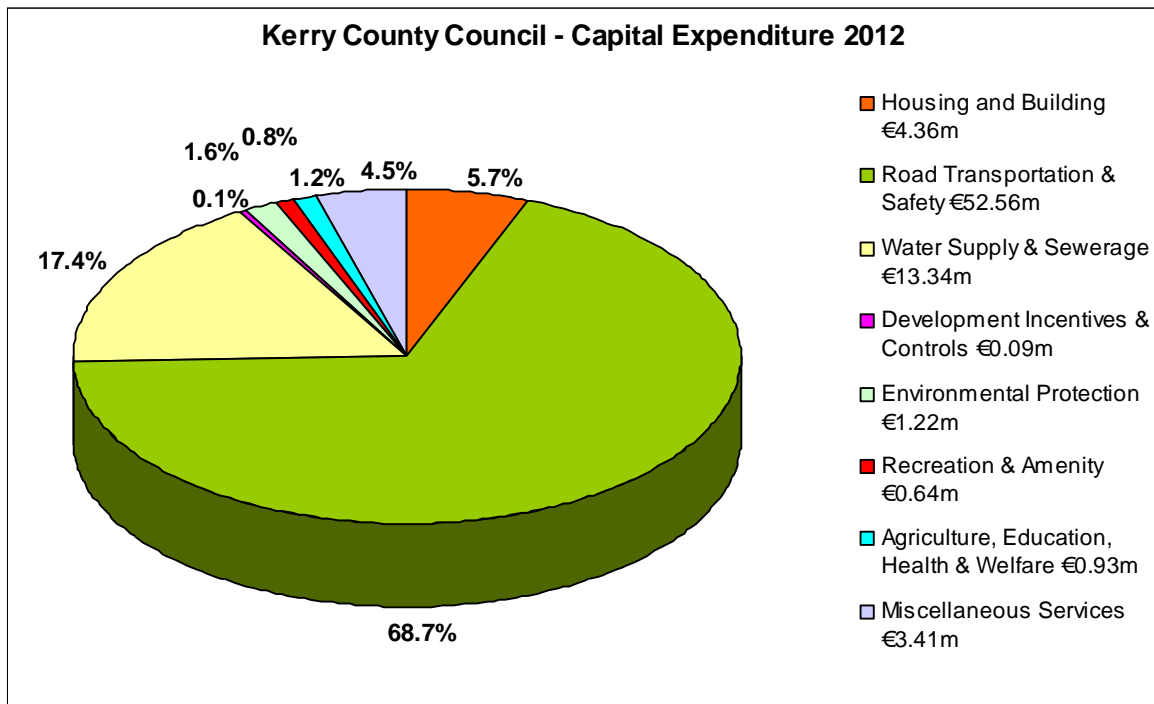
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2012

	2012 €	2011 €
Fixed Assets		
Operational	404,293,523	405,613,971
Infrastructural	3,056,744,483	3,059,757,905
Community	899,168	934,428
Non-Operational	2,508,738	2,487,327
	3,464,445,912	3,468,793,631
Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses	97,078,819	68,838,850
Long Term Debtors	36,228,028	38,428,111
Current Assets		
Stock	940,972	985,528
Trade Debtors and Prepayments	15,343,181	13,321,296
Bank Investments	55,485,744	61,100,865
Cash in Transit	530,908	467,932
	72,300,805	75,875,621
Current Liabilities (Amounts Falling Due Within One Year)		
Bank Overdraft	2,048,133	4,254,788
Creditors & Accruals	25,930,639	24,677,178
Urban Account	308,835	365,352
Finance Leases	26,988	28,571
	28,314,595	29,325,889
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	43,986,210	46,549,732
Creditors (Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year)		
Loans Payable	94,033,598	96,045,097
Finance Leases	108,644	128,572
Refundable Deposits	2,147,328	2,326,945
Other	211,856	367,120
	96,501,426	98,867,734
Net Assets / (Liabilities)	3,545,237,543	3,523,742,590
Represented By		
Capitalisation Account	3,464,445,912	3,468,793,631
Income WIP	95,367,062	69,286,851
Specific Revenue Reserve	5,476,624	5,476,624
General Revenue Reserve	2,952,728	2,813,213
Other Balances	(23,004,783)	(22,627,729)
Total Reserves	3,545,237,543	3,523,742,590

Financial Statement



Financial Statement



Late Payments 2012

In accordance with the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997, and European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions Regulations, 2002) the details of late payments to Creditors is set out below.

In March 2011, under the Government's commitments to the National Recovery Plan 2011-2014 and the EU/IMF Programme of Support for Ireland, the payment period in relation to valid invoices was reduced from 30 to 15 calendar days with effect from 1st July, 2011. Compliance reports are compiled quarterly for submission to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government and these reports are also published on Kerry County Council's website.

Late payment penalty interest only arises in the context of delayed payments beyond 30 days in accordance with legislation. No penalty interest is payable in cases where payments are made outside the 15 day administrative period but within the 30 day period.

Late Payments	2012
No of late payments in excess of €317.44	NIL
Value of late payments in excess of €317.44	NIL
Value of late payments as a proportion of the value of total payment made to suppliers 0%	NIL
Total Payments	€114,322,427
Penalty	NIL

Development Contributions 2012

Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 enables Kerry County Council when granting a planning permission under Section 34 of the Act to include conditions requiring the payment of a contribution. This contribution is in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefitting development in the area of the planning authority and that is provided, or that is intended will be provided by or on behalf of a Local Authority (regardless of other sources of funding for the infrastructure and facilities).

The Development contribution Scheme in operation for 2012 came into operation on the 19/5/2008. The table below sets out the values for Development Contributions – to be applied to either specific or general developments, reflected in the Annual Financial Statement for 2012 (Note 11) and may be summarised as follows:-

	€
Net opening position 1/1/2012 surplus/(deficit)	16,302,042
Income	1,182,780
Expenditure	(2,953,050)
Net Closing Position 31/12/2012 surplus/(deficit)	14,531,772

Amounts owed by Debtors (short term) €1,733,382 and Debtors (long term) €211,856 per annual Financial Statement 2012 Note 5 and Note 3.

County Enterprise Board

Chief Executive: Tomás Hayes

Introduction

Board activity in the year to 31st December 2012 yielded a solid performance despite the underlying financial and business environment.

Grant aid in the sum of €479,602 was approved in respect of 41 micro enterprises with the potential to create 119 full time and 29 part time/seasonal jobs.

A total of €253,502 was actually paid in grant assistance to businesses and the Board had a further €359,607 in commitments waiting to be drawn down by 31/12/2012.

In addition the Board spent a sum of €420,855 on the provision of a range of other business supports to over 850 individuals. These include Business Start-Up Training, Business Growth Training, Marketing, IT skills, Design, Networking and 'One to One' Mentoring.

Student Enterprise Awards

Over 35 mini-companies set up by local Second level schools participated in the competition. The competition promotes the development of innovation, idea development, business structure, sourcing of finance, marketing/sales and the presentation of a formal business plan.

Sectoral Initiatives

The Board also embarked on an ambitious campaign in the Food and Craft sectors resulting in strong engagement with small producers through the "Taste Kerry" (www.tastekerry.com) and Original Kerry – Craft producers group (www.originalkerry.com).

2012 County Enterprise Awards

The 2012 County Enterprise Awards was won by Chase Resourcing Ltd in Killorglin. This business has increased its workforce from 1 to 10 employees by year end. 40% of its business now comes from overseas contracts.

Reform of the Board

The Board awaits the outcome of the dissolution process and reform of structures to establish Local Enterprise Offices (LEO)

The proposed LEO need to be given a clear and unequivocal mandate for microenterprise support and job creation measures to prevent overlap and duplication.

REPORTS FROM THE TOWN COUNCILS

Tralee Town Council

Foreword by Mayor of Tralee

As Mayor of Tralee, I am very pleased to be associated with the 2012 Annual Report. A review of 2012 shows continued marked improvement in the infrastructure of the town, facilities within the town and the overall appearance of Tralee. 2012 was particularly pleasing in that it saw the completion of a number of important projects that had taken many years to plan and develop.

One of the major highlights of the year was the completion and opening of the Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre on 31st March 2012. The centre is proving a great attraction to locals and visitors alike and will continue to improve as the site develops and matures over the coming years. The continued investment of Tralee Town Council in tourism attractions within the town reflects the importance of this industry to the commercial activity of Tralee.

The €4.5m project, grant-aided to the tune of €2.9m from Fáilte Ireland is a wonderful amenity both to the people of Tralee and the visitors that it will attract to the town. This unique attraction will draw significant additional visitors to the town and will be a valuable resource in education and in the development of an appreciation of the natural environment.

The Regeneration Project in the Mitchels area of Tralee continues to attract national support and 2012 saw the wonderful Convent Building being restored to its former glory, housing both the new St Patrick's Day Care Centre on the ground floor and eight apartments on the first floor. The Centre is up and running under the management of the HSE and is a wonderful example of interagency co-operation in providing improved services and facilities for the community.

The first phase of the environmental works in Mitchels Avenue and Dean's Lane was completed and work on the Integrated Services Building finally got under way. This will provide the centre piece for the regeneration area and will be an important facility for service delivery for the local community and the wider population.

This is a project which continues to have huge support from the community and I am grateful for their valuable time and skills. I also would like to thank the Council staff for their efforts in moving the project forward. I wish to acknowledge the co-operation of all agencies involved in the project.

In a year of many successes achieving a gold medal in the Tidy Towns competition was a special moment for all who have worked tirelessly over many years to achieve success. The increased community involvement in the Tidy Towns efforts throughout the year was rewarded with the town turning its silver medal to gold, and increasing its overall marks. I must acknowledge the efforts of the elected Council in supporting the community by actively engaging with litter-picks, flower planting and general hard work. We look forward to a revitalised campaign in 2013 with all sections of the community involved.

The Festivals, Parades and events throughout the year provided great enjoyment for the people of Tralee and beyond and I wish to acknowledge the hard work of everyone involved. These occasions are invaluable in promoting our town and in creating a sense of civic pride within the community. I also wish to acknowledge the work of Tralee Chamber Alliance in 2012.

To the staff and management of Tralee Town Council, I would like to thank you, on behalf of all the elected members, for your hard work and efforts.

Cllr Johnny Wall
Mayor of Tralee

Town Manager's Report

2012 was a major year of advancement for Tralee despite the continuing difficult national and local economic climate. Tralee was fortunate to have a number of major projects come to fruition during the year and others advance considerably for completion in 2013. The major capital investment in infrastructure is welcome as the trading conditions for our local businesses continue to be challenging in the current environment.

I must again acknowledge the collection from local income sources, including commercial rates, parking and housing rents which all stabilised or showed slight improvement in 2012. This is a welcome outcome given the serious decline in commercial rates and parking in 2009 & 2010. That we have had two years of stability or slight improvement in the collection performance is very positive. As manager I acknowledge the work of council staff in securing this revenue and also acknowledge the efforts of ratepayers, and our housing tenants in meeting their commitments in these challenging times.

In 2012 we saw huge advances in the delivery of the Tralee Eastern By-Pass which involves an investment of €97m in the road network in the environs of Tralee and which will have significant long term benefits for the town in improving accessibility and reducing congestion within the core area. This By-Pass is due for completion in July 2013.

In conjunction with this major investment a traffic management plan for the town is currently under consideration and will be finalised in 2013. The traffic management plan will tackle all aspects of traffic including junctions, one-way systems, pedestrianisation, cycleways and parking.

The programme of upgrading roads within Tralee town continued during 2012 with the town's main routes greatly enhanced. Work has also continued in the provision of better footpaths around the town, with particular attention being given to making pathways fully accessible.

The Mitchels Boherbee Community Regeneration Project progressed well in 2012. The continuing support of the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government is acknowledged and appreciated. Minister for State for Housing & Social Support Jan O'Sullivan officially opened a number of projects in October, including St Patrick's Day Care Centre, Croí Lar Na Misteallaigh, the Kingdom Voluntary Housing Project in Hawley Park, and also turned the sod on the Integrated Services Building.

Environmental improvements continued in the town in 2012, Prince's Quay Phase 3, Barrack Lane, Tralee Fenit Walkway, Canal Bank refurbishment, landscaping of Fels Point and the refurbishment of Abbey Street footpaths. These projects continue to enhance the appearance of the town and provide wonderful walking routes within the town. The Mayor has already referenced the completion of the Tralee Bay Wetlands project and this has been the culmination of many years work in the developing this project.

During 2012 the Council continued to invest in its housing stock, with energy upgrades, window & door replacement programmes, roof upgrades and radon remediation works. The Council also carried out significant works on its own buildings which are important architectural structures in Tralee, including the roof of the Blennerville Windmill, the Ashe Memorial Hall and the Town Hall.

I would like to pay tribute to the elected members who have worked well with the Council executive for the good of the town.

Michael McMahon
Tralee Town Manager

Membership of Tralee Town Council

Cllr Mairéad Fernane

Cllr Toiréasa Ferris (*Resigned her seat, Cllr Patrick Daly co-opted on 8th May 2012*)

Cllr Ted Fitzgerald

Cllr Cathal Foley

Cllr Norma Foley

Cllr Dan Galvin

Cllr Pat Hussey

Cllr Sam Locke

Cllr Terry O'Brien

Cllr Grace O'Donnell

Cllr Dan Galvin

Cllr Johnnie Wall

Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery

Membership of Boards/Committees

Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland

Cllr Ted Fitzgerald
Cllr Dan Galvin

Blennerville Windmill Company

Cllr Dan Galvin

Famous Sons & Daughters Heritage Committee

Cllr Johnnie Wall
Cllr Máiread Fernane
Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery
Cllr Cathal Foley

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd

Cllr Grace O'Donnell

Joint Policing Committee

Cllr Mairéad Fernane
Cllr Ted Fitzgerald
Cllr Cathal Foley
Cllr Norma Foley
Cllr Pat Hussey
Cllr Sam Locke
Cllr Dan Galvin
Cllr Toiréasa Ferris (*replaced by
Cllr Pat Daly*)
Cllr Terry O'Brien
Cllr Grace O'Donnell
Cllr Johnnie Wall
Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery

Kerry County Council Housing & Social Support Strategic Policy Committee

Cllr Pat Hussey

Kerry County Council Community, Culture & Tourism Strategic Policy Committee

Cllr Máiread Fernane

Kerry County Development Board

Cllr Terry O'Brien

Kerry Education Service

Cllr Mairéad Fernane
Cllr Ted Fitzgerald

Kerry Life Education Service

Cllr Grace O'Donnell

Kerry Recreation & Sports Partnership

Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery

North & East Kerry Development Company Ltd

Cllr Johnnie Wall

RAPID

Cllr Sam Locke

South Western Regional Authority

Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery

Tidy Tralee

Cllr Mairéad Fernane
Cllr Ted Fitzgerald
Cllr Cathal Foley
Cllr Norma Foley
Cllr Pat Hussey
Cllr Sam Locke
Cllr Dan Galvin
Cllr Toiréasa Ferris (*replaced by
Cllr Pat Daly*)
Cllr Terry O'Brien
Cllr Grace O'Donnell
Cllr Johnnie Wall
Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery

Towards a Better Tralee

Cllr Johnnie Wall

Tralee Farmers' Market

Cllr Grace O'Donnell
Cllr Dan Galvin

Tralee Regional Sports & Leisure Company Ltd

Cllr Mairéad Fernane
Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery

Conferences attended by Councillors in 2012

Conference/Event	Location	Number Attended
AMAI	Hotel Kilmore, Dublin Road, Cavan, Ireland	5
The 21st Annual Kerry Environmental Conference	Meadowlands Hotel, Oakpark, Tralee, Ireland	1
Building Community Preparedness and Resilience: An International, National and Local Perspective	The Malton Hotel, Killarney, Ireland	1
Local Authority Members Association	Tower Hotel, Waterford, Ireland	3
Irish Public Bodies	12-14 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2, Ireland	1
AMAI Centenary Annual Conference	Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Ireland	2
LAMA Autumn Seminar	Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Ireland	2

Members Expenses 2012

Annual Allowances

Mayor	10,112.18
Deputy Mayor	2,607.22
Members Allowances	36,354.35
Representational Payments	71,751.89

The total payment made by Tralee Town Council in respect of attendance authorised by the authority at a meeting of a prescribed association of local authorities of which the authority is a member, and, attendance authorised by the authority at a conference seminar or other meeting or event, was €7,092.16, in 2012, all of which related to travel and subsistence expenses within the State.

Civic Receptions

The following Civic Receptions were held in 2012:

- Kerry Choral Union
- Easter Commemoration
- Tralee Educate Together
- Kerry School of Music
- Mounthawk Girls Basketball Team
- Mayor Arts Scholarship Awards
- Tralee Community Nursing Unit
- Rose of Tralee

Mayoral Awards

There were no Mayoral Awards in 2012.

Report on the Activities of Tralee Town Council 2012

Housing & Social Support

Social Housing

Tralee Town Council's rented stock at the 31st of December 2012 comprised of 1,189 units. A total of 1,007 inspections were carried out following the receipt of maintenance requests and 49 vacant units were brought back into productive use in 2012.

In relation to Tralee Town Councils housing waiting list:

- 2,171 applicants qualified for social housing support at the end of 2012
- 308 new applications were received in 2012
- 83 new tenancies were set up in 2012
- A total of 1,969 applicants were assessed for social housing support by Tralee Town Council, in accordance with the 2011 Social Housing Assessment Regulations

Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)

Under the Social Housing Investment Programme, Tralee Town Council was allocated €424,093 in 2012 to improve the standard and overall quality of our social housing stock.

- €248,714 was spent to improve the energy efficiency standards of 21 housing units.
- €140,000 was allocated to complete remedial works to 9 houses in the Mitchels Regeneration area.
- €35,379 was spent adapting 9 local authority houses to make them more suitable for the accommodation needs of the household.

Mitchels/Boherbee Community Regeneration Programme

In 2012 there was significant progress in the physical redevelopment and upgrading of the Mitchels/Boherbee Regeneration area.

In February 2012 the redevelopment of the former convent at Moyderwell was completed and officially opened by Minister Jan O'Sullivan in October 2012. This joint venture between Tralee Town Council and the Health Service Executive has seen the ground floor of the convent modified to meet the needs of a daycare centre which replaces the facility which occupied a section of St. Patrick's bungalows complex for more than 25 years.

The centre, located in the heart of the community and close to the town centre, serves people from the local community and the greater Tralee area. The centre currently facilitates up to 40 older people on a daily basis for full

day services and others call in to avail of specific HSE services or social activities in the afternoon. The first floor of the building has also been redeveloped into eight residential apartments, which are linked to Tralee Town Council's residential development at Tobar Naofa. These apartments have been allocated to people from Tralee Town Council's housing list.

In March 2012 the construction of 'Cloghareasta' a 22 apartment complex, which is managed by the Kingdom Voluntary Housing Association was completed. The project was funded under the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government's Capital Assistance Scheme and administered through Kerry County Council.

In June 2012 the houses at 'Croílár na Mistealach' were allocated to people from Tralee Town Council's housing list and to residents who originally resided in the old Mitchels Crescent. This new development of 18 houses marks the first phase of construction on the Mitchels Crescent site where 81 houses were demolished two years ago.

The housing scheme comprises of eleven low carbon neutral housing units which surpass any developments previously constructed in Tralee for energy efficiency, utilising renewable energy sources from locally grown timber supplies and also solar energies. It is one of the first low carbon projects identified and delivered by a local authority in the country.

In November 2012 construction began on the Integrated Services Building. The project which has an estimated cost of €4.27million is jointly funded through the Dormant Accounts Fund, loan facilities from Tralee Credit Union and the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government with additional support from Tralee Town Council. The centre which will be located on a portion of the former Mitchels Crescent/ St. Patrick's Bungalows site will ensure that services are delivered at a local level and will be crucial in bringing a new dynamic to the regeneration area. The project has a construction period of 12 months and it is envisaged that the centre will be fully operational in early 2014.

Tralee Town Council has also been pro-active in seeking additional funding streams to carry out improvements to the quality of residential accommodation within the regeneration area. The Council has been particularly successful in the area of improved energy efficiency both for domestic properties and in the district heating project. In 2011 the Council embarked in a partnership with Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and ESB Electric Ireland in the 'Tralee Partnership Retrofit Pilot Project', which enabled Tralee Town Council to provide external insulation to 89 houses in Mitchels Avenue and Mitchels Road, this work was completed in May 2012.

Significant progress was also made in 2012 in relation to service upgrades and environmental improvement works in Deans Lane and parts of Mitchels Avenue up to Mitchels Square. The works completed included the undergrounding of services, installation of a new energy distribution network, pathways, road surfacing, lighting, landscaping and the provision of CCTV cameras in the area.

Improvement Works Programme 2012

The work completed in 2012 includes the following:-

- 21 number units refurbished under the energy retrofit programme during 2012. Measures undertaken included heating upgrades, controls, insulation and general refurbishment works
- Windows & Doors were replaced to 20 units in 2012 which were located in Balloonagh Estate & Shanakill Estate
- Two houses purchased in 2011 were fully refurbished during 2012. Measures included new roofs, internal joinery and plasterwork, new heating and wiring in addition to external works.

Better Energy Workplace project 2012

- Energy Upgrade Works included the following:
- Heating, lighting & secondary glazing to the office space in the Ashe Memorial Hall
- Upgrade of sewer pump stations
- Upgrade lighting to Machinery Yard, Rock Street
- Upgrade heating system to the Town Hall, Princes Quay
- Degraded pump which has been replaced in 2012

Roads & Transportation

In 2012 Tralee Town Council continued its programme of road surfacing and footpath improvement works utilising the following funding:

- Block Grants: €410,000
- Own Resources: €65,000

Projects undertaken in 2012 included surfacing works at:

Racecourse Lawn, JJ Sheehy Road, Back of Ashe Hall, Ogham Rian, Derrylea, Killeen Road, Brewery Road, Mitchels Road;

Footpath renewal works took place at:

Cloonanorig, Cloonanorig Road, Knockmoyle, Rae St bungalows, Ragoonane, Shanakill, Fountain Court, Ashgrove, St. Brendan's Park, Ashe Hall, Old Gallowsfield

Traffic Calming Schemes (Ramps) were undertaken at Spa Road, Shanakill, Leedale/Ard Carraig, Cloonanorig Road, as well as a one-way system at Friary Lane.

From Development Levies, the ongoing Lighting Programme continued with works at CBS/Brewery Road, River Lee Walkway, Maine Street. Improvements were undertaken at Barrack Lane and the redevelopment of the Abbey Car Area was commenced

Taking in Charge

The following roads were taken in charge in 2012:

Fortfield, Quarryvale, Lee Drive (Final Phase), Fels Point Road, Highfield Grove. All roads taken-in-charge result in a greater burden on the Council's Maintenance budgets.

Environmental Protection & Enhancement

In 2012 Tralee received 'Gold Medal' status for the first time ever in the Tidy Towns Competition.

This, in no small manner, was due to the integrated efforts of Towards a Better Tralee, Tidy Tralee and the Local Authority.

Mayor of Tralee, Cllr. Johnnie Wall said "We have worked hard and we have created a fantastic partnership approach between Tralee Town Council, local voluntary effort, residents associations, community groups and commercial interests. This has been achieved under the umbrella of Towards a Better Tralee and we've made spectacular progress achieving gold standard for the first time ever in 2012'.

The town won bronze medals in 2005 and 2006 and silver medals from 2008 -2011.

Burial Ground Survey:

Tralee Town Council undertook a survey of the two burial grounds within its' functional area in 2012. The burial grounds are situated at Rathass and Brewery Road, Tralee, Co Kerry. The scope of the survey included a GPS linked instrument survey and a photographic survey of all headstones which is linked back to survey drawings showing location of each headstone.

All photographs of headstones are shown with alphabetical listing of surnames and details, where visible, of the inscriptions.

This survey is a major asset for anyone wishing to trace their ancestors.

Tralee Town Council Amenity Projects:

For the second year in a row the largest amenity project undertaken by Tralee Town Council was environmental and accommodation works undertaken at Tralee Bay Wetlands.

The facility here includes both activity based areas and nature zones.

Projects undertaken by the local authority included environmental planting, protection and accessibility works.

Other works included Prince's Quay Phase II, Fels Point, Ballymullen Pump Stations, Prince's Street Phase II, Big River Amenity Walk Phase II and Ballyard Park.

General

2012 saw a noticeable increase in Residents' Associations, groups, schools and individuals engaging with the Local Authority in an attempt to do work and upgrade their areas.

The Council responded by putting more resources into places where people were energised to help upgrade their environment.

Works ranged from the simple purchase of equipment or plants to hard and soft landscaping areas in conjunction with residents associations.

Groups which were assisted included, Rahoone, Spa Road, Bruach na hAbhann, Manor Estate, Leedale, The Orchard, Lohercannon, Ogham Rian, Stack's Villas, Oakvilla Avenue, Kerins Park, Reidy's Terrace, Gallowsfield, Cois Coille, Woodbrooke Manor, KDYS, Connolly Park, Connolly Park, Marian Park, Gallowsfield Allotments, Community Garden Project (Town Park), Suicide Awareness Group and Muing Estate.

Many small scheme works were also undertaken to enhance or 'clean up' areas, including planter boxes in the Town Centre, fencing and placing tree planters in the

lesser Parklands Site, minor hard and soft landscaping to Kerins O'Rahilly's Park, Matt Talbot Road / Balloonagh junction, Balloonagh Car Park and Blennerville Park.

In the spring of 2012 we conducted works in the following areas

Rear of Ashe Memorial Hall, Town Park, Town Centre, Basin Road, O'Rahilly's Villas, Prince's Quay / Day Place, Knockmoyle, Cill Dara, Marian Park Old/New/Entrance, Lioscarraig Drive, Racecourse Lawn (Park Area), Oakview, Green Area Cahermoneen, West Court, St Brendan's Park, Kevin Barry Villas, Connolly Park, Blackberry Lane / Gallowsfield, Killarney Road / Marian Park, Leedale, Ardcarraig, Michael O'Regan Place, Rae Street Bungalows, Castle Demesne, Cahermoneen, Carrigeendaniel, Boherbee, Matt Talbot Road & Ashe Street.

Litter Management

During 2012 Litter abatement personnel, during pro active patrolling, dealt with 776 items of indiscriminate dumping plus 6 abandoned vehicles. They responded to 191 'Respond Requests', issued 44 cautions and issued 22 fines.

The CCTV system, with recording facilities installed at the 'Bring Centre' at Matt Talbot Road Car Park has been a great success and has reduced indiscriminate dumping at this location to negligible proportions.

Féile na mBláth

The seventh annual Féile na mBláth was an outstanding success. This is a fun festival for all the family with in excess of 60 separate events to choose from. Several thousand visitors were attracted to Tralee Town Park including a large number from overseas.

The festival was officially opened by the outgoing Mayor Cllr. Grace O'Donnell who had a busy weekend presenting prizes and hosting events. The Féile is a community based event celebrating the people of Tralee and focused on communities coming together and participating in fun, educational and competitive events. It is organised to highlight the amenities of the Town Park and Tralee and to offer a cultural, educational and community experience.

Since its inception in 2005 the Féile has grown incrementally with great input from individuals, groups and communities all coming together on a voluntary basis to promote the positive aspects of the people of the greater Tralee area.

Events encompass a broad spectrum and cater for all age groups and is inclusive of people with disabilities and ethnic minority groups.

We outline the positives that Tralee has to offer and through our events welcome all to participate and encourage individuals, local communities, schools etc to get actively involved in the Arts, Arts and Crafts, History, Food, Gardening, Music, the Environment.

This engenders a sense of pride in local areas/communities through participation by individual and/or community effort.

Water Services

The following projects were undertaken in 2012:

- Provision of new watermain and new house connections at Stacks Villas Bungalows
- New mains connection from Cloonanorig Road to Gallowsfield Estate
- New valves were provided at St. Brendan's Park to facilitate ongoing leak detection

- Completion of new watermain and business connections at the Old CWS Complex, Rock St.

Planning & Development

Planning Applications

Tralee Town Council received a total of 81 planning applications during 2012, of which there was a total of 5 (6.17%) invalid. This compared to 78 applications in 2011, 2 (2.56%) of which were invalid.

The following is a breakdown by category of the valid planning applications received in 2012.

Domestic Dwellings including extensions:	22
Commercial	26
Retention	6
Change of use	6
Other	16

The total number of permissions granted in 2012 was 71 and there were 7 Refusals.

Appeals

The applicant or any member of the public (who has made a valid submission on a planning application) has a right to lodge an appeal with An Bord Pleanála against the decision of the planning authority. Three planning decisions were appealed to An Bord Pleanála in 2012. Of the 6 appeals dealt with, An Bord Pleanála upheld the Council's decision in all 6 cases.

Planning Enforcement

The role of planning enforcement is to ensure that all identified unauthorized developments are eliminated or regularized, as quickly as possible through appropriate enforcement procedures. During 2012, 51 new complaints were received, and Tralee Town Council issued 31 warning letters and 14 enforcement notices for breach of Planning.

Development Contributions

In 2012, a total of €316,329 was collected in development contributions as compared to €218,584 in 2011.

Derelict Sites

Progress continued to be achieved in 2012 in relation to Derelict sites in Tralee Town area. Works were completed to 13 properties during the year. 34 Notices in all were issued under the Derelict Sites Act during 2012 and levies were imposed on five properties. Ongoing survey has shown however that further work is required in this area.

Taking in Charge

Five private housing estates were taken in charge by Tralee Town Council in 2012. Two other applications are currently being processed with a view to Taking in Charge in 2013.

Finance Report

Expenditure

	2012	2011
Revenue Expenditure	€20,588,824	€23,092,095
Capital Expenditure	€ 6,389,776	€16,115,710
Annual Rate on Valuation	81.18	81.18

Main Sources of Revenue Income 2012 €

Rates	9.8m
Exchequer Grants/Recoupments	2.6 m
Housing Rents	2.8m
Parking Charges	1.6m
Water/Waste Water Charges	1.1m
NPPR	0.7m
Museum	0.2m

Killarney Town Council

Mayor of Killarney's Introduction

The year 2012 will go down in the annals of local government as the most regressive since the foundation of local government in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Minister Mr Phil Hogan in October, announced that all town, borough and some city councils were to be abolished as and from June 2014, to be replaced by much larger entities without rating powers.

The winning of the National Tidy Towns competition in 2011 is continuing to have a very positive influence in the standing of the town both nationally and internationally, this is expected to be the position for years to come but only on the basis that the standards reached are maintained and built on into the future. Congratulations to Yvonne Quill and her powerful team of workers, and indeed at this juncture, it could be said, that encompasses large numbers of the population of Killarney and surrounding areas.

Since the last annual report we won our category of Communities in Bloom, a world wide competition and were represented at the prize giving ceremony by two great ambassadors Yvonne Quill and Kathleen Foley. Last year we were also chosen, in a new competition, as one of the best tourist towns in the country and also one of the best towns in Ireland to live in.

It was my pleasant duty to lead a delegation to Cumbria in October to explore the position of walking in that part of England with a view to extending the tourist season in Killarney. Accompanying the delegation was Carmel Flynn from the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. It was agreed to start by looking at extending the walking programme in October by the Chamber to a weeklong festival. To fully explore the extension of the tourist season through walking and cycling in Killarney there is a need to set up a proper structure to research, develop and market these activities. Cognisance would have to be taken of similar activities throughout Kerry.

Killarney Sports and Leisure complex, which is owned by the Town Council, continues to play a very important role in the sporting, social and economic life of the area and is teeming with activity all year round. In the past year a swimming club was formed and is thriving and very vibrant. The benefit of this facility to tourism should not be underestimated.

The walk/cycle path on the western shore extends now from Kingsbridge to Fossa Cross. I would like to thank the staff under the direction of engineer David Doyle and also the contribution of those involved in the Fossa Way, particularly Mike Doyle and Mick Spillane who assisted in no small way in reaching the end of this phase. We look forward to the commencement of the next phase of this very exciting development.

District Heating System

We are conscious that much progress in the guise of research has been undertaken for this project over the past twelve months. Very valuable background information has accumulated which is vital to us, as a local authority, to be in possession of, irrespective of who is involved in bringing the project to fruition, even that it is still our preferred option to play a leading role in its development.

The Gathering

In the latter half of 2012 the Town Council began to plan for the gathering. A committee was set up to develop a programme based on the Global Gathering of Kerry Associations. With this in view a festival of events are planned for May 2013 beginning with the Mayor's Ball on the 10th, incorporating Johnny O'Leary tribute concert, a "Connectivity" conference, street music and a golf classic. These events coincide with the May festival of Killarney races. More information at www.kerrygathering.ie There are additional gathering events planned for later in the year.

Our Committees

Our committees continue to work largely behind the scenes, enhancing and enriching the community that is Killarney i.e. Killarney Arts, Killarney Access, Killarney Twinning and Marketing, Killarney Drugs Liaison, Killarney Sports and Leisure and Killarney Honours. These committees are so vital to the advancement of Killarney as a vibrant and progressive community, these committees together with the many voluntary committees and clubs are the very soul of the town and I wish to express my gratitude and that of the whole Town Council for the work they are involved in for the benefit of all.

Unfulfilled Projects

There are many unfulfilled projects that remain outstanding like, a plan to advance the development of the former Pretty Polly site, and urgently needed graveyard, the purchase of land in the ownership of the H.S.E. (the former St. Finan's hospital) On the objective of using our influence to bring a fair and equitable charge for parking at Kerry General Hospital, I am still engaged with.

Hugh Courtney vacated the seat which was won by his late father over forty years ago, due to work consideration and was replaced by Cllr Paddy Courtney, his older brother. Tim Bartlett, traffic warden retired as did Teresa O'Sullivan, Clerical Officer and we wish all well in their retirement.

Cllr Sean O'Grady
Mayor of Killarney

Town Manager's Statement

As Killarney Town Manager, I would like to pay tribute to everybody who put in trojan work to ensure that the town of Killarney continued to be one of the best places to live in Ireland.

I am delighted that this was recognized at national level, as the Mayor refers to, when Killarney was named as one of the best places to live.

It is an affirmation of the hard work that has been put in by everyone over the years into making Killarney a cleaner, better place to live in. There is no doubt that accolades such as these do not come about by accident. They are the fruit of hard work, of a community coming together determined to put their best foot forward, do the small things well and present a great attitude.

That rubs off on everybody and I am delighted to see the community of Killarney are not resting on their laurels, but are making sure that we maintain our high standards.

To those who have been involved, I would like to express my sincere thanks on behalf of the staff, management and elected members of Killarney Town Council. You are an inspiration to us all.

I would also at this stage, like to pay tribute to our own Council staff. They work hand in hand with volunteers, communities and other organizations for the betterment of Killarney town and their contribution should not be overlooked.

At a time when the future of Killarney Town Council is uncertain, I think it is fair to pay tribute to the work carried out by the Town Council and its staff. We have always worked well with groups like the Tidy Towns, Killarney Chamber and other tourism groups. I personally think that this strong working relationship can be seen in the success that is Killarney town.

During 2012, significant work was carried out by Killarney Town Council in improving the area for visitor and resident alike. While we could not compete for the overall Tidy Towns prize, having won it the previous year, I could see no slippage in standard and I am confident that had we been in the competition, we would have again gone very close to being overall winners.

Works such as the improvement of the streetscape and the extension of the walkway out to Fossa have added greatly to Killarney.

I am delighted to see such a strong tourist product visible on the streets of Killarney town, and despite the global economic downturn, visitor numbers are strong in Killarney. The festivals and events that take place in Killarney are testament to the work carried out by the tourist sector. However, those who come to Killarney know that they are guaranteed high standards throughout their stay and this brings them back again and again.

In closing, I would like to express my thanks to the Mayor, the elected members, and my staff for their efforts over the course of 2012.

John Breen
Killarney Town Manager

Membership of Killarney Town Council

Cllr. Sean O'Grady
 Cllr. Tom Doherty
 Cllr. Donal Grady
 Cllr. M. Gleeson
 Cllr. Sean Counihan
 Cllr. N. O'Callaghan
 Cllr. Hugh Courtney. *(Cllr. Paddy Courtney was co-opted on June 11th 2012 after Cllr Hugh Courtney resigned his seat)*
 Cllr. J. O'Donoghue
 Cllr. C. Walshe

Members Expenses

Mayors Allowance	€ 8,531.38
Members Allowances	€18,045.73
Representational Payments	€32,039.63

Expenses paid directly to Members re	
Conferences/Seminars	€ 2,839.92
Conference Fees Paid	€ 1,375.00
Expenses paid directly to Members re:	
Foreign Travel	€ 3,117.28
Payment re. Flights/Accommodation:	
Foreign Travel	€ 6,235.11

Membership of Other Bodies

Group	Representatives
Kerry Vocational Education Committee (County Kerry Vocational Education Committee)	Cllr. Sean O'Grady Fr. Nicholas Flynn
Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland	Cllr. Sean Counihan Cllr. Sean O'Grady
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances	Cllr. Sean O'Grady
Killarney Working Group	Cllr. Paddy Courtney

	Cllr. Tom Doherty Cllr. Donal Grady Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan
Honours Committee	Cllr. Sean Counihan Cllr. Paddy Courtney Cllr. Tom Doherty Cllr. Cathal Walshe
Town Twinning Committee	Cllr. Sean Counihan Cllr. Paddy Courtney Cllr. Tom Doherty Cllr. Donal Grady Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan Cllr. John O'Donoghue Ms. Sheila Casey Ms. Sheila Dickson Mr. Tony Kenny Mr. Brian O'Leary
Sub-Committee for Disability Issues	Cllr. Sean O'Grady Cllr. Tom Doherty
Industrial sub-Committee	Cllr. Sean Counihan Cllr. Tom Doherty Cllr. Donal Grady Cllr. Sean O'Grady Cllr. John O'Donoghue Mr. Brian O'Leary

Director South Kerry Development Partnership Limited	Cllr. Donal Grady
Liaison Committee for Killarney National Park	Brian O'Leary
Director of Killarney Technology Innovation	Cllr. Sean Counihan
Lough Leane Working Group	Cllr. Sean O'Grady
Killarney Drugs Liaison Committee	Cllr. Sean O'Grady Cllr. Donal Grady Cllr. Tom Doherty Cllr. Cathal Walshe
Arts Committee	Cllr. Sean O'Grady Cllr. John O'Donoghue
Strategic Policy Committee	Cllr. C. Walshe (Economic, Planning & Development SPC) Cllr. S. O'Grady Housing Strategic Policy Committee
Kerry Recreation & Sports Partnership	Cllr. S. Counihan
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	Cllr. D. Grady
Joint Policing Committee	Cllr. S. Counihan Cllr. P. Courtney Cllr. T. Doherty Cllr. M. Gleeson Cllr. D. Grady Cllr. N. O'Callaghan Cllr. J. O'Donoghue Cllr. S. O'Grady Cllr. C. Walshe Senator T. Sheahan Senator P. Coghlan Senator M. Daly

Civic Receptions

Civic Receptions 2012			
Date	Individual/Group		Venue
30/01/12	Yvonne Quill	In recognition of her dedicated involvement with Killarney Tidy Towns.	Council Chambers, Killarney.
12/03/12	Connie Brosnan	In recognition of his outstanding sporting achievement at the European Transplant and Dialysis Games.	Council Chambers, Killarney
21/05/12	Gerry Adams	To welcome Sinn Fein President – Mr. Gerry Adams on the occasion of their Ard Fheis, which was held in Killarney.	Council Chambers, Killarney.
09/07/12	The Bird Family	In recognition of the 75 th Anniversary of Birds Amusements coming to Killarney.	Council Chambers, Killarney.
19/10/12	Dr. Pío Fitzgerald	In recognition of his great achievement in being named Boeing Commercial Airplanes Engineer of the Year 2011.	Council Chambers, Killarney.
30/11/12	Spa Dancers	In recognition of winning the 2012 Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.	Council Chambers, Killarney.

Civic Welcomes 2012			
Date	Individual/Group		Venue
23/04/12	Collabor8	To welcome the INTEREG NEW IVB Collabor8 on the occasion of their conference which was held in Killarney.	The Malton Hotel, Killarney.
27/04/12	ILCU	To welcome the Irish League of Credit Unions on the occasion of their annual conference in Killarney.	Council Chambers, Killarney.
18/05/12	Mayors of Bavaria & Franconia	To welcome the Mayors of Bavaria & Franconia to Killarney.	Council Chambers, Killarney.

Conferences and Seminars attended by Members 2012

Conference/Seminar	Location	No.
AMAI Spring Seminar 2012	Kilmore Hotel, Dublin Rd., Cavan	1
Waterford County Council – Mental Health & Suicide Awareness Seminar	The Park Hotel, Dungarvan	2
Kerry County Council/Kerry Community & Voluntary Forum – ‘Building Community Preparedness & Resilience	The Malton Hotel, Killarney	3
LAMA Spring Seminar 2012	The Tower Hotel, Waterford	1
Kerry Environmental Conference	Meadowlands Hotel, Tralee	1

Report on the Activities of Killarney Town Council 2012

Housing & Social Support 2012

On 31st December 2012, Killarney Town Council had 1065 qualified applicants for Housing. A total of 32 Applications were in the process of being assessed.

- Housing Stock at 31/12/12 315
- Housing Allocations 2012 7

Tenant Purchase Applications

- 2 Applications received.
- 0 Sales completed.

Radon testing

Radon tests were completed in 314 houses. Of those tested, 29 required remedial works which have been carried out. The re-testing of these houses and tests on the remaining house will be completed early in 2013

Energy efficiency works to improve the BER rating together with necessary pre-letting repairs have been carried out on 11 houses.

House acquisition

- One 3-Bedroom property was purchased

Refurbishment / Extension works

- Extension works have been carried out on two houses.

Emergency Accommodation

The Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government provides funding for 10 emergency beds in Killarney.

A total of 60 people were accommodated in 2012.

Clúid Housing Association has purchased a property in Killarney to develop a purpose built emergency hostel but the necessary funding to develop the facility has not yet been provided.

Roads, Transportation & Safety

Killarney Town Council has 49.38 km of urban roads in its administrative area. These roads include streets, housing estate roads, distribution roads and laneways. During 2012 Killarney Town council resurfaced 1,200 metres of roadway and 250 metres of footpaths.

Specific Projects:

Cycle Lanes – Killarney Town Council extended the cycle lane by 1.3 kilometres from Killarney Golf and Fishing Club towards Fossa.

Car Parks – The Glebe car park was enhanced by means of a new roadway surface, additional lighting. It was re-lined, increasing the parking capacity from 190 to 220 spaces.

Killarney Area Services Centre

The Area Services Centre continues to provide services for both Kerry County Council and Killarney Town Council.

Payments are receipted for both Councils, including payments for all the major revenue streams, such as Housing Rents and Loans, Rates, Water Services Charges, Refuse Charges and Traffic Fines.

In 2012 also, applications were processed for both Household Charge and Septic Tank Registration, and recorded the highest receipts countywide outside of the main cash offices in Tralee.

The Centre processes Motor Taxation applications; however, for administrative purposes, applications for Planning and Driving Licences need to be forwarded directly to Tralee by the applicants.

The Motor Taxation Online Service requires applicants to have a Tax Renewal Form with a valid P.I.N. From November 2011 this was extended to include goods vehicles that have a current Certificate of Road Worthiness. Cash payments are accepted and a receipt issued; the application is then processed through www.motortax.ie and the disc is issued within a couple of days.

The Self Service Kiosk for customers using the Online Tax facility with their own credit/debit cards has seen increased usage in recent times.

Water Services

The existing water mains on St. Margaret's road were replaced. A new storm pipeline was provided at Rookery Road

Planning & Economic Development

- No. of valid planning applications received – 66
- No. of planning decisions issued – 72
- No. of permissions granted – 70
- No. of permissions refused – 2

Planning Enforcement

A total of 48 new enforcement complaints (48 written/internal) were received, processed and investigated in 2012 with a number of other ongoing files still receiving attention.

In 2012 the Planning Authority issued 37 Warning Letters and 26 Enforcement Notices.

Environment

Tidy Towns 2012

Killarney scored very highly in the Annual Tidy Towns Competition again this year. At an Award Ceremony in The Helix, Dublin, Killarney received its twelfth consecutive Gold Medal. The Town was also awarded the County Award and the Regional Award.

In 2012 the National Tidy Towns Competition ran the Tidy Tourism Towns Award in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland to support towns which have achieved recognition in the Competition and which have an interest in tourism. Killarney won the Best Large Town Category in this section of the competition.

Communities in Bloom 2012

Communities in Bloom is an international competition committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community involvement and the challenge of a national program, with focus on enhancing green spaces in communities. This was Killarney's first year entering this competition, winning the International Challenge category for all its volunteer involvement.

Killarney Looking Good 2012

The Killarney Looking Good Competition got underway this year in January with a huge emphasis once again being put on volunteering. There were approximately 20 categories to choose from catering for everyone from large commercial premises to private houses. The competition has grown from strength to strength each year and we had a huge number of entries in this years Competition.

Refuse Service

Killarney Town Council continued its refuse collection service with the provision of a segregated collection service involving three separate collections during 2012. We recycled 41 % of the waste collected from our 2100 domestic customers, and 130 commercial customers.

Recreation, Amenity and Tourist Development

Killarney Drugs Liaison Committee

Killarney Drugs Liaison Committee continued its combat against substance abuse in 2012. In 2012 the following took place:-

- a) Advertising Campaign targeting parents – this was done in the lead up to the school Summer Holidays and also prior to the release of Junior Certificate results to create awareness amongst parents in relation to alcohol and drug abuse. This received a positive feedback.
- b) Killarney Town Council co-hosted with Staffanstorp, Sweden (sister city) the 2012 Mayors Conference of ECAD (European Cities Against Drugs) in May 2012.
- c) Sr. Kathleen Liston, who was a member of the Committee since its establishment in 1999, retired from the Committee. Sr. Kathleen was dedicated and committed to help combat substance abuse in Killarney.

Killarney Arts

It has been another busy year for **Killarney Arts/Ealaíona Chill Áirne**. The committee remains committed to the promotion of the arts and support of artists in the Killarney area.

- The **Éamon Kelly Arts Bursary** attracted 21 applications, the majority of which, in the opinion of the external assessors were of a very high standard. The Bursary was awarded to Denis Buckley, a Killarney native currently working in the area of film and performance arts in London.
- The seven **Spraoi Chiarraí concerts at St. Mary's and Deenagh Lodge** attracted large crowds. A number of new young performers were introduced.
- Four more names were inscribed at the **Mission Memorial Sculpture** site.
- Work was finished on the **Website** and it now "up and running". Plans to launch the website are in progress.
- **A meeting with Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Mr. Jimmy Deenihan** was held on February 18th. This meeting was primarily to introduce Killarney Arts and its work to the Minister.
- Sub-groups were formed to explore **Storytelling** (which it is hoped to introduce in an Arts Café style in May this year) and **Film**. The committee is discussed patronage of the Mons. Hugh O'Flaherty Sculpture as it agrees that this will be an excellent addition to public art in Killarney.
- The committee has also agreed to **cooperate with an intergenerational project in music and art** being organised by Ruti Lachs with the elderly residents of St. Columbanus Home and a Primary School class which continues.

Twinning & Marketing Committee

The Killarney Town Council Twinning and Marketing Committee continued their work in promoting Killarney all over the world. Delegations from Killarney travelled to Sweden, Saint Avertin, Kendal and Springfield. We were delighted to welcome visitors from Pleinfeld in Germany and Staffanstorp in Sweden.

Killarney and our twinned city of Staffanstorp co-hosted the 19th Mayors ECAD Conference in Killarney in May, 2012.

Finance

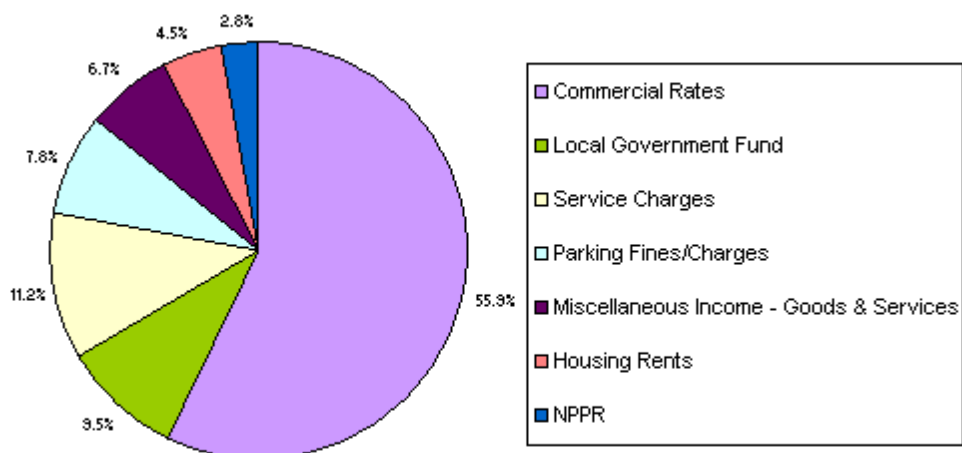
		2011	2012
Expenditure	Revenue	13,886,026	13,840,360
	Capital	2,337,959	753,484

Income	Revenue	14,200,175	14,015,360
	Capital	2,056,794	1,016,393

Annual Rate on Valuation	€70.37	€70.37
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Main Sources of Revenue Income

2012	%	€
Commercial Rates	55.9%	7,831,536
Local Government Fund	9.5%	1,325,831
Service Charges	11.2%	1,565,139
Parking Fines/Charges	7.8%	1,087,258
Miscellaneous Income - Goods & Services	6.7%	942,643
Housing Rents	4.5%	630,191
NPPR	2.8%	387,360
State Grants & Subsidies	1.8%	245,402



Killarney Sports & Leisure Centre

The Leisure Centre worked hard to increase footfall and last year managed to attract approximately 172,000 visitors to all areas. Some came as individuals and some as part of competitions being held in the Sports Hall.

- Two Biggest Loser Competitions were held in 2012,
- Suicide awareness day in March.
- The Killarney Swimming Club got off to a great start, and now train here 4 times a week with some of their swimmers qualifying in 'A' grade Competitions. Their first in house Gala was held in December
- Swim for All now run regular classes here for local kids with Special Needs who learn to float and swim. In 2012 they also held their first Kerry Gala
- Dundag Masters train here at least once a week
- There is a link with Buddies for a Splash and Play ticket.
- The Centre hosted the following events and organisations:
 - Cheerleading All Ireland Competition,
 - Bangladeshi All Ireland Badminton Competition,
 - Munster Badminton Competitions,
 - Schools Basketball Competitions,
 - Area Basketball Competitions,
 - The European Disabilities Conference,
 - Floorball Competitions,
 - KDYS Area Competitions,
 - Special Olympics Competitions,
 - Taekwondo Grading and Competitions,
 - Aikido Classes and Competitions,
 - GAA training,
 - Kerry Team GAA testing,
 - Swim for All Classes and Gala,
 - Zumba classes,
 - Ballet Classes,

- TRX Fitness Classes,
- Monkeynastix
- Pilates

The following improvements have been carried out to the Centre during 2012.

- The Reception layout has changed to give greater control over customers entering and exiting the Centre.
- The Sports Hall Floor has been sanded, remarked and re-lacquered to comply with Basketball Ireland's change of regulations, meaning we are able to offer Regional and National games once again.
- The Gym floor was strengthened in the weight use area. This also allowed for the purchase of heavier weights for Power Lifting customers.

Specific Projects

- Refurbishment of Town Hall: Killarney Town Council provided energy upgrades to the Town Hall involving roof and wall insulation, new windows and doors and provision of a gas fire heating system. These works were partly funded under the Better Energy Workplaces Scheme 2012.
- A new public space was created at Fairhill incorporating the provision of an art feature.

Listowel Town Council

Introduction by the Mayor of Listowel

As Mayor of Listowel, I am very pleased to present the 2012 Annual Report. A review of 2012 shows continued improvement in the infrastructure of the town and the appearance of Listowel.

In 2012 Listowel Town Council continued the upgrading & resurfacing works in Greenville as well as works on O'Connell's Avenue and footpath improvements in Ballygologue Park, Greenville and Cahirdown. It is encouraging that a preferred route has been selected for the N69 Listowel Bypass and I hope this can be advanced to a stage where we can see construction commence.

I would like to compliment the Town Council for footpath improvement works and low level lighting in the Town Park. This is a welcome addition to an excellent amenity and will encourage greater recreational use of the Town Park.

I would like to congratulate the Tidy Town Committee on having retained a gold medal in the Tidy Towns Competition in 2012 for the fifth year in a row. This result has been achieved as a result of many people in our community who give tirelessly of their time promoting a cleaner and tidier environment. It was pleasing to see the involvement of the local traders in support of the Tidy Towns. I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the Town Council in supporting the Tidy Towns by engaging in litter picks, flower planting and other supports given in 2012.

2012 saw Listowel selected as one of three towns to pilot the Historic Towns Initiative with a view to promote heritage-led regeneration of Ireland's historic towns. The year also saw Listowel named in the top 10 for the retail experience by Retail Ireland and this is a significant boost to the local economy.

The many festivals, such as Writer's Week, Listowel Races, Listowel Food Fair, provided a welcome boost to the economic wellbeing of the town and also promoted and fostered a sense of civic pride in the local community.

I take this opportunity to thank all the Elected Members, the Town Manager and all the staff of the Town Council for their dedication and commitment to the Town in 2012 and also for their assistance to me in my role as Mayor.

Tom Barry
Mayor of Listowel

Foreword by the Town Manager

I am pleased to be associated with the Listowel Town Council Report for 2012.

The past year continued to be difficult for the town council, and faced with a further 9% reduction in the Local Government Funding, the impact of the fiscal downturn on the local economy, and increased regulatory controls, it is necessary to look at our services and how we can provide as best a service as possible to the town of Listowel and the people of Listowel, within the financial constraints we operate under.

In providing these services to the people of Listowel, the staff of Listowel Town Council have shown a commitment to Listowel and for this I would like to express my sincere gratitude.

However, despite the continuing financial constraints, Listowel Town Council continued to carry out significant work in improving Listowel town.

Significant works took place in Greenville, in relation to the drainage network and road and footpath works. O'Connell's Avenue and Ballygologue and Cahirdown also saw road and footpath improvement works take place.

In addition, we have continued our programme of improvement works in the Town Park, and I appreciate all the positive comments that we have received for our work there.

As a Council we are aware that the difficult economic environment that impacts on the Town Council, is also affecting our customers, particularly those who pay rates and water charges. Where customers have experienced difficulties, the Council has been supportive and provided flexible payment options, which underpins the importance of local service provision. It has also continued to support the business community in promoting local festivals, including Writers Week, Listowel Race Week, and Christmas trading.

The pursuit of excellence in all sectors of our activities including service delivery to our customers will continue to underpin all our actions going forward.

I would like to express my appreciation of the dedication and commitment of the staff of the Town Council and the hard work of the Elected Members. In particular I wish to pay tribute to the contribution of the Mayor, Cllr. Tom Barry and his predecessor Cllr. Maria Gorman for their commitment and dedication to the development of the town.

Charlie O'Sullivan
Town Manager

Membership of Listowel Town Council 2012

Cllr. Jacqueline Barrett
Cllr Tom Barry (Mayor 2012/2013)
Cllr. Anthony Curtin
Cllr. Maria Gorman
Cllr Mike Kennelly
Cllr Jimmy Moloney
Cllr. Tim O'Leary
Cllr. Denis Stack
Cllr. Tom Walsh

Membership of Other Bodies

Kerry Education Service	-Cllrs. Moloney & Gorman
Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland	- Cllr. Walsh & Gorman
Local Authorities Members Association	- Cllr. Gorman
Listowel Community Centre Ltd.	- Cllr. Barry
St. John's Arts & Heritage Centre	- Cllr. Moloney
Kerry Literary & Cultural Centre	- Cllr. Curtin
Representatives on SPC's of Kerry County Council	-Cllrs. Stack & Moloney
North & East Kerry Development	- Cllr. Gorman
Irish Public Bodies	- Cllr. Walsh

Conferences Seminars attended by members in 2012

AMAI Annual Spring Seminar February	Cavan (3)
LAMA Spring Conference April	Waterford (2)
AMAI Annual Conference September	Ballinasloe (2)

LAMA Annual Autumn Seminar September	Letterkenny (2)
Economic Potential of Arts & Cultural Tourism April	Listowel (9)
Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend September	Omagh (1)
Association of Irish Regions November	Kilkenny (1)

Members Expenses 2012

Annual Allowances

Mayor	€3,000
Deputy Mayor	€750
Members Expenses	€18,324
Representational Payments to Members	€38,206
Conferences/Seminars	€13,647

Civic Receptions 2012

Reception for Listowel Community Games	March
Reception for Listowel Emmets Ladies	March
Reception for Dr. Patricia Sheahan	May
Reception for Ms. Savannah McCarthy	September

Report on the Activities of Listowel Town Council 2012

The following are brief details of the Council's services in 2012: -

Housing & Social Support

At the end of year the Council had 151 qualified applicants for housing in the town and 14 houses were allocated to new tenants during the year. The Council carried out a Needs Assessment of all current applications in accordance with revised guidelines from the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government, in 2011, to ensure the housing needs of our customers are appropriately addressed.

The sale of only one home under the Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2012 was indicative of the contraction in the economy, reduced incomes, increased levels of unemployment, borrowing constraints and future uncertainty by homeowners.

Roads & Transportation

The Council received a block grant of €195,000 from the Department of Transport, which was used to fund improvement works on Greenville, including the upgrading of the drainage network, resurfacing works and a new footpath. Road improvement works were also carried out in O'Connell's Avenue. Footpath improvement works also took place in Ballygologue Park and Cahirdown.

Water Services

A pressure management survey was carried out in 2008 on the water network. Over the past year, the Council completed works on the network to reduce water pressure and repair old sections of watermain, which resulted in substantial savings in water usage. In accordance with the National Water Pricing Framework, the Council commenced charging for Waste Water discharges to the public network based on the concept of 'water in water out' in 2011.

The continued use of the Leak Detection Unit has seen improvements and savings in relation to water usage

Town Improvement Programme

The Town Improvement Programme is financed by on-street parking charges. The Programme allows the Council to provide the many facilities required of a

Heritage/ Historic Town and promote the economic development and tourism potential of the town, in conjunction with local business, festival organisers, the voluntary sector and tourism promoters. The Council has continued to maintain services, such as the Town Park, recycling facilities, public lighting and a public convenience as well as supporting important events in the town, which attract tourists. Upgrading works on the footpaths in the Town Park were undertaken during the year.

Tidy Towns 2012

In the 2012 Tidy Towns Competition, Listowel received a gold medal for the fifth year in a row. The high ranking in Tidy Towns is largely due to the combined efforts of the hard working T.A.B.L.E. (Towards A Better Listowel Everybody) committee and our outdoor staff. An initiative involving the Tidy Towns, Listowel Traders and the Town Council for hanging baskets for all commercial properties proved very successful and brought great colour to the town and it is hoped that this can be repeated in 2013.

Funding was provided through Kerry County Council, under the Anti Litter & Graffiti Grant for a contractor to carry out graffiti removal in the town. This resulted in 6 graffiti black spot areas being cleaned and the graffiti removed.

A campaign to highlight and tackle the issue of dog fouling was initiated and this involved signage, pooper scooper dispensers and bins being put in place along the John B. Keane. This has proved to be highly successful as the amount of dog fouling has reduced significantly and it is envisaged to roll out the campaign to the Town Park in 2013.

Planning & Development

The low level of planning activity continued in 2012 with 30 applications received, which was an increase of 2 compared to 2011, with the majority of applications for minor improvement works. Two applications were granted for large commercial and industrial premises.

Finances

Annual Rate of Valuation 2012

€7.07

Expenditure

Revenue	€3,955,931
Capital	€287,344

Main Sources of Revenue Income

Commercial Rates	1,535,977
Local Government Fund	555,720
Road Grants	195,000
Water & Sewerage	171,468
Rent	366,889
Planning Fees & Charges for Services	25,013
Contribution from Kerry County Council	39,000
Staff Pension Contributions	47,899
Parking Fines/Fees	131,858

Service Indicators

Service Indicators 2012		
		2012 Full Year
	COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & COOPERATION	
CP1	% of Local Schools & Youth Groups involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Óg Scheme	100%
	Total Number of local schools & youth groups	119
	No of local schools & youth groups involved in the Local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Óg scheme	119
CP2	No of groups registered with the Community & Voluntary Forum	815
	CORPORATE ISSUES	
C1	% of working days lost to sickness absence through Certified leave	4.46%
	% of working days lost to sickness absence through UNCERTIFIED leave	0.47%
	No of working days lost to sickness absence through CERTIFIED leave	11261.33
	No of working days lost to sickness absence through UNCERTIFIED leave	1174.50
C2	Exp on Training & Dev. as a % of total payroll costs	4.96%
	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
E1	Unaccounted Water (UFW) as a % of the total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the Local Authority is responsible for	52.10%
	Total volume of water supplied (m3 per day) under the water supply schemes that the Local Authority is responsible for	80,458

	Volume of unaccounted for water (m3 per day) under the water supply schemes that the Local Authority is responsible for	41,936
E2	Drinking Water Analysis	
	% of Drinking Water Analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to:	EPA will submit results
	(a) Public Schemes	
	(b) Private Schemes (where appropriate)	
	WASTE MANAGEMENT	
E3	Waste Segregation	
	% of households provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables	100%
	% of households provided with segregated waste collection for Organics	16.92%
	Total number of households provided with a waste collection service	30,914
	Total number of households provided with a segregated Waste Collection Service for Dry recyclables	30,914
	Total number of households provided with a segregated Waste Collection Service for Organics	5,231
E4	Housing waste sent for Recycling	
	% of household waste collected from Kerbside which is sent for recycling	37.18%
	Tonnage of Household Waste collected from Kerbside which is sent for recycling	9,965.88
	Tonnage of Household Waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity sites, transfer stations & other recycling facilities)	5,329.20
	Tonnage of Household Waste collected from Kerbside	26,804.20
E5	Household waste sent for landfill	
	Total tonnage of household waste collected	26,804.20
	Tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to Landfill	16,838.32
	% of household waste collected which is sent to Landfill	62.82%

E6	Recycling Facilities	
	Total number of Bring sites in the Local Authority Area	91
	Total number of Civic Amenity Centres in the Local Authority Area	6
	GLASS	
	(a) No of Bring Sites for recycling	91
	(b) No of Civic Amenity Sites for recycling	6
	(c) total no of facilities for recycling	97
	The no of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	3.34
	CANS	
	(a) No of Bring Sites for recycling	91
	(b) No of Civic Amenity Sites for recycling	6
	(c) total no of facilities	97
	The no of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	3.34
	TEXTILES	
	(a) No of Bring Sites for recycling	0
	(b) No of Civic Amenity Sites for recycling	6
	(c) total no of facilities for recycling	6
	The no of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.21
	BATTERIES	
	(a) No of Bring Sites for recycling	0
	(b) No of Civic Amenity Sites for recycling	6
	(c) total no of facilities	6
	The no of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.21
	OILS	
	(a) No of Bring Sites for recycling	0
	(b) No of Civic Amenity Sites for recycling	6
	(c) total no of facilities for recycling	6
	The no of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.21
	OTHERS	
	(a) No of Bring Sites for recycling	0
	(b) No of Civic Amenity Sites for recycling	6
	(c) total no of facilities	6
	The no of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.21
	LITTER PREVENTION & ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT	
E 7	No of Litter Wardens	
	(a) Total no of Full time Litter Wardens	3

	(b) total no of Part time Litter Wardens	12
	(c) total no of Litter Wardens (both full & part Time	15
	No of Litter Wardens (both full and part time) per 5,000 population	0.52
	On the Spot Fines	
	(a) No of on the Spot Fines issued	95
	No of on the Spot Fines paid	43
	(b) No of prosecution cases taken because of non payment of on the spot fines	6
	(c) No of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non payment of on the spot fines	3
	No of notices issued (Under Sections 9, 15, 16, 17 & 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997	1
	Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	5
	Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	2
	% of Areas within the Local Authority that are (TES Consulting will submit info (a) to (e)	
	(a) Unpolluted (i.e. litter free)	
	(b) slightly polluted with litter	
	(c) moderately polluted with litter	
	(d) Significantly polluted with litter	
	(e) Grossly polluted with litter	
E 8	Environmental Complaints & Enforcement	
	Total no of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	931
	No of complaints investigated	913
	Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	691
	No of enforcement procedures taken	199
E9	% of Schools participating in environmental campaigns	
	(a) Primary Schools	92.31%
	(b) Secondary Schools	76.92%
	Total No of primary schools	143
	No of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	132
	Total number of secondary schools	26
	No of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	20
F1	Fire Service	

	Average time, in minutes to mobilise fire brigades in Part time stations In respect of Fires	6.12
	Average time taken in minutes to mobilise Fire Brigades in Part Time Stations(retained Fire Service) in respect of all other emergency incidents	5.43
F2	% of attendance as scenes where	
	(a)% of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at scene within 10 minutes	39.70%
	(b)% of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	43.70%
	(c) % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at scene after 20 minutes	16.60%
	(d) % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 min	30.99%
	(e) % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 min but within 20 min	59.15%
	(f) % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 min	9.86%
	Total Number of incidents in respect of Fire	524
	No of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 min	208
	No of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 min but within 20 min	229
	No of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 min	87
	Total no of incidents in respect of all other emergency incidents (not including fire)	142
	No of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 min	44
	No of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 min but within 20 min	84
	No of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 min	14
F3	Fire Prevention - Total no of Fire Safety Certificate applications	
	(a) received	136

	(b) processed	151
	(c) Total no of applications deemed invalid	15
	HOUSING	
H1	Housing vacancies	
	Total no of dwellings in local authority stock	4068
	Total number of dwellings excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	4068
	Overall % of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment)	2.53%
	% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	64.08%
	% of empty dwellings available for letting	35.92%
	The average no of dwellings in local authority stock	4086
	The average no of dwellings excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	4086
	The average no of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	109.5
	The average no of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	60.75
	The average no of empty dwellings available for letting	48.75
H2	Average time taken to relet dwellings available for letting (in weeks)	
	Average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling	27.73
	The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit	19.13
H3	No of repairs completed as a % of the no of valid repair requests received	
	No of repairs completed as a % of the no of valid repair requests received	99.23%
	The no of repairs completed	2820
	The no of valid repair requests received	2842
H4	Traveller Accommodation -	
	Total no of traveller families accommodated as a % of the targets set in the local travellers accommodation programme	35.71%
	No of Traveller families accommodated	10

	Target no of Traveller Families to be accommodated in the year, as set out in the Local Traveller accommodation Programme	28
H5	Enforcement of Standards in Private Rented Sector	
	Total number of Registered tenancies	6157
	No of Dwelling Units Inspected	1091
	No of Inspections carried out	1130
	No of dwellings inspected as % of registered tenancies	17.72%
H6	Grants to adapt Housing for the needs of people with a Disability	
	Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s) from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application	21.53
	Average time take (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s) from the date of receipt of a valid application, to the date of decision on the application.	42
H7	Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses	
	Total Number of new Local Authority Tenants	191
	No of new Local Authority Tenants who have been offered pre tenancy familiarisation courses	188
	% of new Local Authority tenants who have been offered pre tenancy familiarisation courses	98.43%
	LIBRARY SERVICES	
L1	Public Opening Hours	
	(a) Average no of opening hours per week for full time libraries	39.02
	(b) Average no of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	29.18
	% of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	100%
	% of full time libraries that have evening openings	71%
	% of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	100%
	No of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	7

	No of full time libraries that have evening openings	5
	No of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	7
L2	Library Visits	
	No of visits of full time libraries per 1,000 population	2843.89
	Total no of visits to full time libraries	412,500
L3	Library Stock	
	Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)	€2.12
	No of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	3.98
	No of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	0.11
	Annual expenditure on stock	€308,000.00
	Total no of books issued	576,686
	Total no of other items issued	15,374
L4	Internet Access through Libraries	
	Total number of Internet sessions provided	47347
	Total no of internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	326.42
	MOTOR TAXATION	
M 1	No of Motor Tax transactions which are (Vehicle Registration Unit will supply data in respect of M1, M2 & M3)	
	(a) Dealt with over the counter	62872
	(b) Dealt with by post	31132
	(c) Dealt with in other ways	81552
	% of Motor Tax transactions which are	
	(a) Dealt with over the counter	35.81%
	(b) Dealt with by post	17.73%
	(c) Dealt with in other ways	46.45%
M 2	No of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application	
	(a) on the same day	22429
	(b) on the third day or less	5405
	(c) on the fifth day or less	1858
	(d) over 5 days	1440
	% of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application	
	(a) on the same day	72.04%
	(b) on the third day or less	17.36%
	(c) on the fifth day or less	5.97%
	(d) over 5 days	4.63%

M3	Time taken to process Driving Licence Applications - Number of Driver Licence applications which are dealt with from receipt of the application	
	(a) on the same day	20995
	(b) on the third day or less	202
	(c) on the fifth day or less	3
	(d) over 5 days	3
	Time taken to process Driving Licence Applications - Percentage of Driver Licence applications which are dealt with from receipt of the application (
	(a) on the same day	99.02%
	(b) on the third day or less	0.95%
	(c) on the fifth day or less	0.01%
	(d) over 5 days	0.01%
M 4	Public Opening Hours	
	Average no of opening hours per week	28.5
	PLANNING & BUILDING CONTROL	
P1	Planning Applications -Decision Making Individual Houses	
	No of Applications decided	212
	No of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	97
	No of decisions which required the submission of further information	114
	No of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	1
	Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	78.80
	% of grants	83.49%
	% of refusals	16.51%
	% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An bord Pleanála	78.95%
	% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	21.05%
	No of applications granted	177
	No of applications refused	35
	No of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by an Bord Pleanála	15
	No of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	4
	New Housing Developments	
	No of Applications decided	22
	No of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	13
	No of decisions which required the submission of further information	9

	No of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	0
	Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	77.89
	% of grants	68.18%
	% of refusals	31.82%
	% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An bord Pleanála	100.00%
	% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	0
	No of Applications granted	15
	No of applications refused	7
	No of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by an Bord Pleanála	4
	No of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	0
	Other: Not Requiring EIA	
	No of Applications decided	644
	No of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	418
	No of decisions which required the submission of further information	221
	No of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	3
	Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	80.59
	% of grants	91.15%
	% of refusals	8.85%
	% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An bord Pleanála	65.00%
	% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	35%
	No of applications granted	587
	No of applications refused	57
	No of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by an Bord Pleanála	26
	No of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	14
	Others Requiring an EIA	
	No of Applications decided	14
	No of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	9
	No of decisions which required the submission of further information	5

	No of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	0
	Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	82.8
	% of grants	71.43%
	% of refusals	28.57%
	% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An bord Pleanála	50.00%
	% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	50.00%
	No of applications granted	10
	No of applications refused	4
	No of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by an Bord Pleanála	1
	No of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	1
P 2	Planning Enforcement	
	Total no of cases subject to complaints that are investigated	346
	Total no of cases subject to complaints that are dismissed	151
	Total no of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	173
	No of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	192
	No of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	256
	No of prosecutions	6
P 3	Public Opening Hours	
	Average no of opening hours per week	38
P 4	Consultations	
	No of pre planning consultations meetings held	523
	Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre planning consultation	4.94
P5	New Buildings Inspected	
	Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	55.31%
	Total no of new buildings notified to the Local Authority	405
	No of buildings notified to the Local Authority that were inspected	224
P6	Taking Estates in Charge	

	(a) The no of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers) were on hands at the beginning of the year	35
	(b) No of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	18
	(c) No of dwellings in these estates	563
	(d) % of estates in column A not completed to the satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission -	77.14%
	(e) No of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	1
	(f) No of estates in Column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the Authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	0
	No of estates in Column A not completed to satisfaction of the Planning Authority in line with Planning permission	27
	RECREATIONAL SERVICES	
REC 1	No of Children's playgrounds	
	No of children's playgrounds per 1000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.04
	No of children's playgrounds per 1000 population facilitated by the local authority	0.10
	Directly provided by the Local Authority	6
	Facilitated by the Local Authority	15
	No of visitors to local authority facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population	2182.24
REC 2	No of visitors to local authority facilitated swimming facilities	316,530
	REVENUE COLLECTION	
Rev 1	House Rent	
	(a) the Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	94.28%
	(b) Percentage of Arrears	
	(i) up to 4 weeks old	11.30%
	(ii) 4-6 weeks old	7.01%
	(iii) 6-12 weeks old	10.13%
	(iv) more than 12 weeks old	71.56%
	Amount due at year end from house rents	€10,698,988.00

	Amount collected at year end from house rents	€10,086,726.00
	Amount of arrears at year end from House Rents	€612,262.00
	Amount of arrears on Housing Rents that are up to 4 weeks old	€98,220.00
	Amount of arrears on Housing Rents that are 4-6 weeks old	€60,913.00
	No of arrears on Housing Rents that are 6-12 weeks old	€88,077.00
	No of arrears on Housing Rent that are more that 12 weeks old	€621,908.00
Rev 2	Housing Loans	
	(a) Amount Collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	87.97%
	(b) Percentage of Arrears	
	(i) 1 month old	4.14%
	(ii) 1-2 months old	3.86%
	(ii) 2-3 months old	6.09%
	(iii) more than 3 months old	85.91%
	Amount due at year end from housing Loans	€1,514,604.00
	Amount collected at year end from house Loans	€1,332,425.00
	Amount of arrears at year end from Housing Loans	€182,179.00
	Amount of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1 month old	€12,037.00
	Amount of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1-2 months old	€11,215.00
	Amount of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old	€17,705.00
	Amount of arrears on Housing Loans that are 3 months old	€249,580.00
Rev 3	Commercial Rates	
	Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	75.50%
Rev 4	Refuse Charges	
	Percentage of households paying refuse (including waivers) charges at year end	92.82%
Rev 5	Non Domestic Water Charges	
	Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	78.19%
R1	Road Restoration Programme	
	No of Kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum	223.167
	No of Kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvements grants scheme per annum	4.8

Corporate Plan Review

A new Corporate Plan for Kerry County Council covering the period 2009 – 2014 was adopted in November 2009.

Our aim, as the democratically elected body of the County, is to enhance the quality of life of our people and visitors by building sustainable communities and delivering quality services.

To deliver on this aim, the Corporate Plan contains six Strategic Objectives and also sets out the Implementation and Monitoring Framework to ensure progress is achieved on each of the objectives. The Strategic Objectives are as follows:

1. We will lead the planning and development of the economic, social, physical and cultural infrastructure of the County.
2. We will promote and support active citizenship for the development of socially inclusive sustainable communities.
3. We will deliver quality services to our people and visitors in an efficient, friendly and helpful manner.
4. We will deliver a best value for money ethos through all our operations.
5. We will protect the environment of our County through high quality regulation and enforcement.
6. We will facilitate the ongoing development of HR best practice to ensure that we have a skilled, motivated and committed workforce to deliver optimum standards of service.

Under the Implementation Framework, each Director, along with their staff, prepares an Annual Operational Plan for the delivery of the services of the Directorate. The Director's Operational Reports, contained in this Annual Report, outline the achievements in 2012 in accordance with the Department's Operational Plan, having regard to the Corporate Priorities.

Chairpersons of Kerry County Council

Year	Name
1899 – 1900	St. J.H. Donovan
1900 – 1901	St. J.H. Donovan
1901 – 1902	D.M. Moriarty
1902 – 1903	D.M. Moriarty
1903 – 1904	D.M. Moriarty
1904 – 1905	D.M. Moriarty
1905 – 1906	D.M. Moriarty
1906 – 1907	D.M. Moriarty
1907 – 1908	D.M. Moriarty
1908 – 1909	D.M. Moriarty
1909 – 1910	D.M. Moriarty
1910 – 1911	D.M. Moriarty
1911 – 1912	D.M. Moriarty
1912 – 1913	D.M. Moriarty
1913 – 1914	D.M. Moriarty
1914 – 1915	M.J. Nolan
1915 – 1916	J.T. O'Connor
1916 – 1917	J.T. O'Connor
1917 – 1918	John McKenna
1918 – 1919	John McKenna
1919 – 1920	John McKenna
1920 – 1921	Pádraig Ó Siochfhradha
1921 – 1922	Pádraig Ó Siochfhradha
1922 – 1923	Pádraig Ó Siochfhradha
The County Council was dissolved by order of the Minister for Local Government and Public Health on 9 May, 1923 and during its dissolution, Commissioner Philip Monaghan was appointed to discharge the functions of the Council for the period 29 May, 1923 to 21 October, 1924 and Commissioner O'Farrell from 7 November, 1924 to 4 May, 1926.	
1926 – 1927	Jeremiah McSweeney
1927 – 1928	Jeremiah McSweeney

1928 – 1929	Jeremiah McSweeney
1929 – 1930	Jeremiah McSweeney

Year	Name
The County Council was dissolved by order of the Minister for Local Government and Public Health in 1930 and during its dissolution, Commissioner N. O'Dwyer was appointed to discharge the functions of the Council for the period 25 September, 1930 to 25 June, 1931 and Commissioner Enrie Seosamh McGuigan from 17 July, 1931 to 21 April, 1932.	
1932 – 1933	Jeremiah McSweeney
1933 – 1934	Jeremiah McSweeney
1934 – 1935	Jeremiah McSweeney
1935 – 1936	Jeremiah McSweeney
1936 – 1937	Jeremiah McSweeney
1937 – 1938	Jeremiah McSweeney
1938 – 1939	Jeremiah McSweeney
1939 – 1940	Jeremiah McSweeney
1940 – 1941	Jeremiah McSweeney
1941 – 1942	Jeremiah McSweeney
1942 – 1943	Thomas Brosnan
1943 – 1944	Thomas Brosnan
1944 – 1945	Thomas Brosnan
The County Council was dissolved by order of the Minister for Local Government and Public Health in 1945 and during its dissolution, Commissioner David O'Keeffe was appointed to discharge the functions of the Council for the period 1 May, 1945 to 25 June, 1945 and Commissioner H.S. Moylan from 9 November, 1945 to 19 October, 1948.	
1948 – 1949	John O'Connor
1949 – 1950	John Aherne
1950 – 1951	William Dennehy
1951 – 1952	John O'Connor
1952 – 1953	Henry Downing
1953 – 1954	William Dennehy
1954 – 1955	M.L. O'Connell
1955 – 1956	P.W. Palmer
1956 – 1957	J.J. O'Leary
1957 – 1958	P.J. McElligott
1958 – 1959	John M. Kearney

Year	Name
1959 – 1960	William Dennehy
1960 – 1961	Maurice Lawlor
1961 – 1962	Maurice Lawlor
1962 – 1963	Maurice Lawlor
1963 – 1964	Maurice Lawlor
1964 – 1965	Maurice Lawlor
1965 – 1966	Maurice Lawlor
1966 – 1967	Maurice Lawlor
1967 – 1968	Michael Begley
1968 – 1969	Dan Spring
1969 – 1970	Jack Larkin
1970 – 1971	Redmond O'Sullivan
1971 – 1972	Ed Hayes
1972 – 1973	John Joe O'Sullivan
1973 – 1974	William Dennehy
1974 – 1975	Timothy O'Connor
1975 – 1976	Michael Long
1976 – 1977	Thomas Fleming
1977 – 1978	Kit Ahern
1978 – 1979	Thomas Cahill
1979 – 1980	Thomas Fitzgerald
1980 – 1981	Jackie Healy-Rae
1981 – 1982	Eamon Walsh
1982 – 1983	Mary O'Donoghue
1983 – 1984	Denis Foley
1984 – 1985	P.J. Cronin
1985 – 1986	Noel Brassil
1986 – 1987	Thomas Cahill
1987 – 1988	Eamon Barry
1988 – 1989	P.J. Cronin
1989 – 1990	Danny Kissane

Year	Name
1990 – 1991	John O'Donoghue
1991 – 1992	Thomas McEllistrim
1992 – 1993	Dan Kiely
1993 – 1994	Denis Foley
1994 – 1995	Tommy Foley
1995 – 1996	Jackie Healy-Rae
1996 – 1997	Michael Cahill
1997 – 1998	P.J. Cronin
1998 – 1999	Noel Brassil
1999 – 2000	Ted Fitzgerald
2000 – 2001	Tom Fleming
2001 – 2002	Paul O'Donoghue
2002 – 2003	Michael Healy-Rae
2003 – 2004	Breandán MacGearailt
2004 – 2005	Ned O'Sullivan
2005 – 2006	Toiréasa Ferris
2006 – 2007	Ted Fitzgerald
2007 – 2008	Michael Healy-Rae
2008 – 2009	Tom Fleming
2009 – 2010	Bobby O'Connell
2010 – 2011	Pat Leahy
2011 - 2012	Tim Buckley
2012 - 2013	Terry O'Brien