

# **Comhairle Contae Chiarraí Kerry County Council**



## **Tuarascáil Bhliantúil**

**2014**

## **Annual Report**

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## **Foreword by the Cathaoirleach**

As Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council, I am delighted to introduce the 2014 Annual Report for Kerry County Council.

2014 has been significant in terms of the structure and future of Local Government in Ireland. There are two areas in particular which I wish to highlight that will have a significant impact on the way Local Government operates, not only in Kerry, but throughout Ireland.

The establishment of Irish Water, which has taken over responsibility for water and wastewater infrastructure from all Local Authorities on 1<sup>st</sup> January, marks a huge change in the manner in which water is managed and delivered through the country.

As a County with a significant reliance on agriculture and tourism, investment in a reliable water network is crucial and I, along with my fellow Elected Members, local and national, will be fighting to ensure that Kerry's water network gets the investment it needs.

The second area of change is the overhaul of the Local Government structures with the dissolution of the Town Councils.

For decades, the Town Councils have represented their areas with distinction and have been crucial to the well being and success of the urban areas around the County. All involved have worked tirelessly for the betterment of their respective towns and the fruit of their labour is evident for all to see. The creation of a larger 33 Member Council and new Municipal Districts has brought new challenges but I am confident that the level of service provided heretofore can be replicated and improved.

Tourism continues to be a key part of our economy. The establishment of a new designated Tourism Development Unit within Kerry County Council will ensure that tourism receives the singular focus it deserves.

It is incumbent on us as a Council to work with local communities to help them and together better this County. In recognition of the valuable work undertaken by communities in the County, Kerry County Council has developed a Community Support Fund to provide financial support to community groups and local organisations to enable them to undertake projects which will assist them in improving the range and quality of community services and facilities within their area.

**Cllr. John Brassil**  
**Cathaoirleach**

# **Chief Executive's Statement**

As Chief Executive for Kerry County Council, I am delighted to present the 2014 Annual Report for Kerry County Council.

This year represented the single greatest reform of the Local Government System and repositioned Kerry County Council's focus on delivering economic and community development through the Local Community Development Committee and the Local Economic and Community Plan Process.

In addition, the four new Municipal Districts of Tralee, Killarney, Listowel and South & West Kerry were established incorporating the former Town Council areas of Tralee, Killarney and Listowel.

The funding of Kerry County Council remained challenging during 2014. The Council agreed at budget time on the rates harmonisation and held the Local Property Tax Income levels. This allowed for the establishment of an Economic and Community Fund to enable the Council to operate effectively within the new environment.

The adoption of the County Development Plan and the commencement of the Economic and Community Plan process are essential to guiding growth and development in the County during the lifetime of this Council.

I would like to thank the Cathaoirleach, Elected Members, Management and staff of the Council for their support and co-operation during the year.

**Moirá Murrell**  
**Chief Executive**

# MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



## Kerry County Council Senior Management Team

**Chief Executive**  
**Moira Murrell**

**Director of Job  
Creation /  
Sustainable  
Economic  
Development**

Michael McMahon

**Director of  
Sustainable  
Communities /  
Quality of Life**

John Breen

*Killarney Municipal  
District Manager*

**Director of  
Operations, Health &  
Safety**

Charlie O'Sullivan

*Tralee Municipal  
District Manager*

**Director of Water  
Services**

Oliver Ring

*Listowel Municipal  
District Manager*

**Director of Corporate  
Services**

John D. Flynn

*South & West Kerry  
Municipal District  
Manager*

**Head of Finance**

Angela McAllen

# ACTIVITIES OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

## Membership of Kerry County Council 2014

### **Membership of Kerry County Council:**

There are thirty three (33) Councillors representing four Municipal Districts - South & West Kerry, Killarney, Listowel and Tralee.

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. John Brassil  
**Leas Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. Tom McEllistrim

As set out by the Local Government Act, local elections are held every five years. In 2014, the Local Elections were held on Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014.

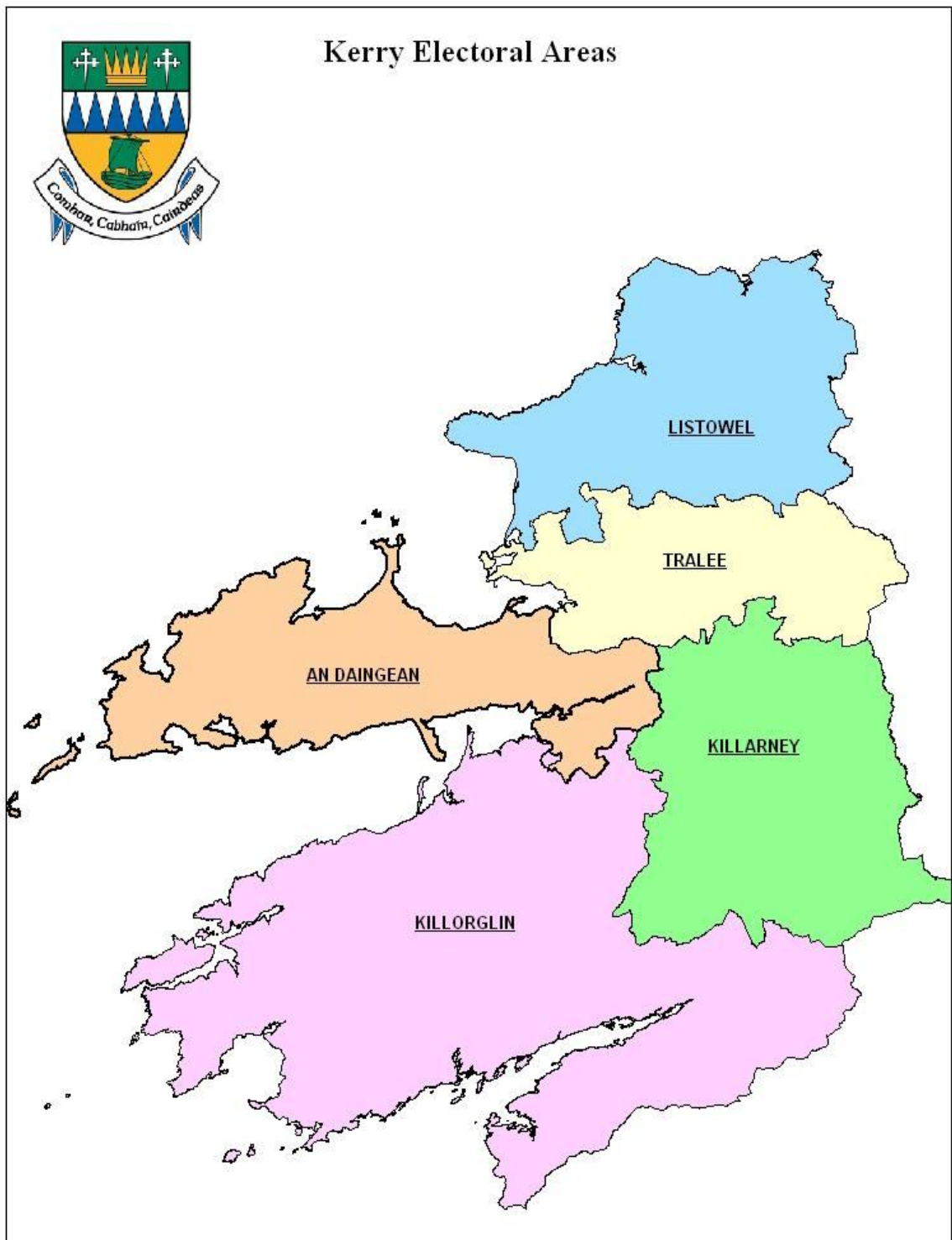
The Local Government Reform Act 2014 introduced significant change to the structure and functions of local government in Ireland.

The most significant change was the abolition of the Town Councils of Tralee, Killarney and Listowel.

As a result of this change and based on the findings of the Local Electoral Boundary Commission, the number of elected members to Kerry County Council rose from 27 to 33. The number of Electoral divisions was also reduced from five to four - Tralee, Killarney, Listowel and South & West Kerry.

The Local Elections 2014 saw a significant change in the elected membership of the Council with 14 new Councillors elected.

## Old Electoral Areas







## **Elected Members January- May 2014**

### **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-Slattey, 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 Sean Counihan, 44 Ardshanavooley Est., Park Road, 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)

## **Elected Members June - December 2014**

### **Municipal District of Tralee**

Cllr Pa Daly, 23 Rock Street, Tralee, (Sinn Féin)  
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 Sam Locke, 81 Spa Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry  
Cllr Pat McCarthy, Maglass, Ballymacelligott, Tralee (Fine Gael)  
Cllr Tom MacEllistrim, Ahane, Ballymacelligott, Tralee (Fianna Fáil)  
Cllr Terry O'Brien, Tonevane, Tralee (Labour)  
Cllr Graham Spring, 31 Sunday's Well, Lisloose, Tralee (Labour)

### **Municipal District of Killarney**

Cllr Brendan Cronin, Rathcommene, Ballyhar, Killarney  
Cllr John Joe Culloty, Knocknaskeha, Killarney (Fianna Fáil)  
Cllr Donal Grady, 2 Maple Drive, Killarney  
Cllr Michael Gleeson, Clasheen, Killarney (South Kerry Independent Alliance)  
Cllr Danny Healy-Rae, Main Street, Kilgarvan  
Cllr Niall Kelleher, The Stables, Barraduff, Headford, Killarney (Fianna Fáil)  
Cllr Bobby O'Connell, 15 Main Street, Castleisland (Fine Gael)  
Cllr John Sheahan, Coolgarraive, Tralee Road, Killarney (Fine Gael)

### **Municipal District of Listowel**

Cllr Robert Beasley, 'Puicín', Doon Road, Ballybunion (Sinn Féin)  
Cllr John Brassil, The Pharmacy, Ballyheigue. (Fianna Fáil)  
Cllr Mike Kennelly, Coolaclarig, Listowel (Fine Gael)  
Cllr Jimmy Moloney, 11 Cherrytree Drive, Listowel (Fianna Fáil)  
Cllr Dianne Nolan, Ballahadigue, Listowel (Sinn Féin)  
Cllr Liam Purtill, Main Street, Ballylongford. (Fine Gael)  
Cllr Aoife Thornton, No, 47 The Meadows, Bridge Road, Listowel (Fine Gael).

### **Municipal District of South and West Kerry**

Cllr Michael Cahill, Rossbeigh, Glenbeigh  
Cllr Patrick Connor-Scarteen, 5 Main Street, Kenmare (Fine Gael)  
Cllr Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald, Droichead Bán, Glens, Daingean Uí Chúis (Fine Gael)  
Cllr John Francis Flynn, Upper Tullig, Caragh Lake, Killorglin (Fianna Fáil)  
Cllr Johnny Healy-Rae, Main Street, Kilgarvan  
Cllr Dan McCarthy, Kilcurrane East, Kenmare  
Cllr Norma Moriarty, Rineen, Waterville (Fianna Fáil)  
Cllr Michael O'Shea, Main Street, Milltown (Fianna Fáil)  
Cllr Damien Quigg, Tulligmore, Killorglin (Sinn Féin)

## **Report on Council Meetings**

Council Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month with the exception of August where no Ordinary Meeting is held.

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

The Council met on 17 occasions during 2014.

One of the key responsibilities of Council is to determine policies to ensure the effective delivery of services to the people of Kerry. During 2014 the following major decisions were made by Council:

- Adoption of the Student Grant Scheme 2014
- Establishment of the Local Community Development Committee
- Adoption of the Annual Budget for 2014
- Adoption of New Strategic Policy Committee Scheme
- Adoption of the 2014 Roadworks Programme
- Adoption of the Dublin Declaration on Age Friendly Cities and Communities
- Adoption of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 - 2018 for County Kerry

## **Civic / Mayoral / Electoral Area / Municipal District Receptions 2014**

### **Civic Receptions 2014**

- Mr. Seán Slemon & Mr. David Geaney on winning the 2013 World Irish Dancing championship, under 11 and 18-19 titles respectively.
- Kerry Senior and Minor Football Teams on winning the GAA Football All-Ireland Senior & Minor Championship 2014.
- Special Olympics - on their outstanding contribution to the sporting life in County Kerry.

### **Mayoral Receptions 2014**

- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) - honouring its significant contribution to County Kerry as a consequence of the joint initiative between I.T. Tralee and the RCSI in relation to the International Medical Commencement Programme.

### **Scroll Presentations 2014**

- Kerry U14 Girls Football Team on winning the Munster U14 Football Championship & the U14 All-Ireland Football Championship

### **Rose of Tralee Receptions 2014**

- Welcoming the 2014 International Roses to Tralee at the Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre
- Unveiling of the Rose of Tralee Sculpture by Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Mr. Paschal Donohue
- Civic Reception for the 2014 Rose of Tralee Centres
- Barbecue for the 2014 Rose Contestants, their families and Centres.

### **Electoral Area/Municipal District Receptions 2014**

- Ms. Mary Jo Curran on winning 10 Senior All-Ireland Titles and 10 All-Stars Awards
- Home to Rome Cycle Challenge to acknowledge the cyclists involved and their achievement
- Ceoltoirí Cois Féile, Mr. Donagh McElligott & Ms. Aoife Enright - to acknowledge their outstanding achievements at the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2014
- Ms. Savannah McCarthy - to acknowledge her achievement with the Irish Ladies U17/19 Soccer Team.

## **Report on Electoral Area Meetings & Municipal District Meetings 2014**

### **Report on Electoral Area Meetings 2014**

<b>Electoral Area</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Manager</b>	<b>No. of Meetings</b>
Killorglin / Dingle	Cllr. Séamus Cosaí Fitzgerald	John D. Flynn	1
Killarney	Cllr. Michael Gleeson	John Breen	2
Tralee	Cllr. Pat McCarthy	Michael McMahon	2
Listowel	Cllr. Liam Purtill	Charlie O'Sullivan	2

### **Report on Municipal District Meetings 2014**

<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Cathaoirleach</b>	<b>Manager</b>	<b>No. of Meetings</b>
South & West	Cllr. Michael O'Shea	John D. Flynn	5
Killarney	Cllr. John Joe Culloty	John Breen	5
Tralee	Cllr. Jim Finucane (Mayor of Tralee)	Charlie O'Sullivan	7
Listowel	Cllr. Mike Kennelly	Oliver Ring	5

## **Report on Corporate Policy Group & Strategic Policy Committees**

### **Corporate Policy Group**

The Corporate Policy Group is a committee of the Council comprised of the Mayor and the Chairpersons of the five Strategic Policy Committees. The Committee co-ordinates the work of the different SPCs and provides a forum where policy positions prepared by the SPCs 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 10 occasions during 2014.

### **Economic Development & Enterprise SPC**

#### **Cllr Jim Finucane (Chair)**

#### **Membership 2014-2019**

<b><u>Councillors</u></b>	<b><u>Sectors Represented</u></b>	<b><u>Representatives</u></b>
Cllr. Jim Finucane	Environmental/Conservation	Catherine McMullin
Cllr. John Francis Flynn	Agriculture/Farming	Sean Brosnan
Cllr. Pat McCarthy	Business/Commercial	Shane Walsh
Cllr. Thomas McEllistrim	Trade Union	Denis Reen
Cllr. Diane Nolan	Údaras na Gaeltachta	Fionnán Ó Hogáin
Cllr. Terry O'Brien		
Cllr Michael O'Shea		

## **Operations SPC**

**Cllr John Sheahan (Chair)**

### **Membership 2014-2019**

<b><u>Councillors</u></b>	<b><u>Sectors Represented</u></b>	<b><u>Representatives</u></b>
Cllr. John Sheahan (Chair)	Agriculture/Farming	Noel Murphy
Cllr. Brendan Cronin	Business/Commercial	Michael Coghlan
Cllr. Seamus Cosáí Fitzgerald	Community/Voluntary	Michael O’Gorman
Cllr. Danny Healy-Rae	Trade Union	Brendan Murphy
Cllr. Dan McCarthy		
Cllr. Liam Purtill		
Cllr Damian Quigg		

## **Tourism , Culture, Arts & Recreation SPC**

**Cllr Robert Beasley (Chair)**

### **Membership 2014-2019**

<b><u>Councillors</u></b>	<b><u>Sectors Represented</u></b>	<b><u>Representatives</u></b>
Cllr. Robert Beasley (Chair)	Environment/Conservation	Marian Relihan
Cllr. John Brassil	Community/Voluntary	Tadhg O'Donoghue
Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen	Business/Commercial	Sean Lyons
Cllr. Michael Gleeson	Social Inclusion	John O'Sullivan
Cllr. Donal Grady	Irish Language Representative	Pádraig MacFhearghusa
Cllr. Mike Kennelly		
Cllr. Sam Locke		



## **Quality of Life SPC**

### **Cllr Jimmy Moloney (Chair)**

### **Membership 2014-2019**

<b><u>Councillor</u></b>	<b><u>Sectors Represented</u></b>	<b><u>Representatives</u></b>
Cllr Jimmy Moloney ( <i>Chair</i> )	Environment/Conservation	Kate Carmody
Cllr. Michael Cahill	Community/Voluntary	John Kelly
Cllr. John Joe Culloty	Social Inclusion	Margaret Wrenn
Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris	Agriculture/Farming	Patrick Rohan
Cllr. Norma Foley	Development/Construction	Sean Clifford
Cllr. Johnny Healy Rae		
Cllr Bobby O'Connell		
Cllr Graham Spring		

## Membership of Boards / Committees 2014

<b>Audit Committee</b>	<b>Chairs Strategic Policy Committees</b>
Cllr. Niall Kelleher  Cllr. Bobby O'Connell	<b>Economic Development &amp; Enterprise</b> Cllr. Jim Finucane  <b>Operations</b> Cllr. John Sheahan  <b>Tourism, Culture, Arts &amp; Recreation</b> Cllr. Robert Beasley  <b>Quality of Life</b> Cllr. Jimmy Moloney
<b>Rural Water Committee</b>	<b>Local Community Development Committee</b>
Cllr. Dan McCarthy Cllr. Aoife Thornton Cllr. Mike Kennelly Cllr. John F. Flynn	Cllr. Pa Daly – Tralee Cllr. Aoife Thornton – Listowel Cllr. Norma Moriarty – South & West Cllr. Niall Kelleher - Killarney
<b>Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee</b>	<b>Association of Irish Local Government</b>
Cllr. Sam Locke Cllr. Norma Moriarty Cllr. Jim Finucane Cllr. Mike Kennelly	Cllr. Donal Grady – Killarney Cllr. Jimmy Moloney – Listowel Cllr. Patrick Connor Scarteen– South&West Cllr. Norma Foley - Tralee
<b>Destination Kerry Tourism Forum</b>	<b>AILG – Standing Policy Council</b>
Cllr. Seamus Fitzgerald	Donal Grady Patrick Connor Scarteen Jimmy Moloney

<b>Kerry Education &amp; Training Board</b>	<b>Regional Health Forum South</b>
Cllr. Toireasa Ferris Cllr. Norma Foley Cllr. Norma Moriarty Cllr. Diane Nolan Cllr. Aoife Thornton Cllr. Damian Quigg Cllr. Michael Cahill Cllr. Seamus Fitzgerald Cllr. Terry O'Brien Cllr. Jim Finucane Cllr. John Brassil Cllr. John Francis Flynn	Cllr. Damian Quigg Cllr. Danny Healy-Rae Cllr. John Joe Culloty Cllr. Mike Kennelly Cllr. Bobby O'Connell
<b>Killarney National Park Liaison Committee</b>	<b>Local Authority Members Association</b>
Cllr. John Joe Culloty	Cllr. Bobby O'Connell
<b>MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Forum</b>	<b>Southern Regional Drugs Task Force</b>
Cllr. John Sheahan	Cllr. Aoife Thornton
<b>Tralee Regional Sports &amp; Leisure Co. Ltd.</b>	<b>Irish Public Bodies</b>
Cllr. Thomas McEllistrim Cllr. Graham Spring	Cllr. Niall Kelleher

<b>Kerry Life Skills Ltd.</b>	<b>Governing Body of NUI Cork</b>
Cllr. Sam Locke - Tralee MD Cllr. Aoife Thornton - Listowel MD	Jim Finucane

Cllr. Michael O'Shea-Sth & West Kerry MD Cllr. Donal Grady - Killarney MD	
<b>Southern &amp; Eastern Regional  Assembly</b>	
Cllr. Dianne Nolan Cllr. Michael O'Shea Cllr. Seamus Fitzgerald	

### **Conferences Attended by Elected Members in 2014**

<b>Conference/Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number Attended</b>
Developing and Supporting Enterprises Locally	The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Ireland	6
The Building Control Amendment Regulations 2013	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Ireland	11
The Councillor and Irish Water - Water Services Bill No 2 2013	Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Ireland	9
Valuation Process for Rating Properties - Seminar for Councillors	Scotts Limerick, Ashbourne Avenue, South Circular Road, Ireland	2
Domestic Water Charges - Preparations and Practicalities	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Ireland	7
An Inconvenient Reality - Eco Energy - Wind Turbines – Pylons	Gold Coast Hotel, Ballinacourty, Dungarvan, Ireland	3
LAMA Spring Seminar 2014	Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan, Ireland	14
Hydro Power - How Local Authorities can harness our rivers and streams	Kenmare Bay Hotel, Kenmare, Ireland	1
Keeping Communities Safe - Fire Safety	Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Ireland	5
Spring Seminar 2014	Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Ireland	1
The Irish Economy - Post Bailout	Colmcille Heritage Centre, Church Hill, Letterkenny, Ireland	5
Folklore - Heritage - Tourism - 25th National Tourism Conference	Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Ireland	6
Annual Conference 2014	Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Ireland	6
1848 Tricolour Festival	City Hall, The Mall, Ireland	1

The Councillor Post 2014	Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Ireland	1
Rural Development Programme 2014 - 2020	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Ireland	3
Role of Ombudsman Conference	Scotts Limerick, Ashbourne Avenue, South Circular Road, Limerick, Ireland	5
12th Carlow Tourism National Conference	The Talbot Hotel, Portlaoise Road, Carlow Town, Ireland	1
National Planning Conference 2014	Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick City, Ireland	1
88th Annual General Meeting	Wicklow Hall 1, Convention Centre, Spencer Dock, North Wall Quay, Dublin 1, Ireland	1
Reformed Local Government and the Councillor	Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Ireland	1
Induction Training Seminar for Councillors (Dublin)	Red Cow Moran's Hotel, Dublin, Ireland	4
Induction Training Seminar for Councillors (Cork)	Silver Springs Hotel, Tivoli, Ireland	17
AILG Training on Finance and Budgeting	Seven Oaks Hotel, Ireland	13
AILG Training on Housing	Nenagh (Abbey Court Hotel), Ireland	18
LAMA Autumn Seminar 2014	Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Ireland	17
Inaugural Annual Conference 2014	Hotel Kilmore, Cavan, Ireland	21
Regional Briefings for Elected Representatives	Landmark Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Ireland	17
Regional Briefings for Elected Representatives	Silver Springs Hotel, Tivoli, Ireland	4
Local Authority Audit Committee Induction Training Programme 2014	Oriel House Hotel, Ballincollig, Ireland	2

AILG Training on Planning	Wexford (Ferryarrig Hotel), Ireland	18
Chamber Ireland Awards Night	Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland	1
National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management	Red Cow Moran Hotel, Naas Road, Ireland	1
Age Friendly Ireland	Dublin Castle, Ireland	1

### **Overseas Conferences / Seminars attended by Councillors 2014**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number Attended</b>
Kerry Association Dinner attended by Cathaoirleach Cllr. John Brassil	London, United Kingdom	1
Entente Florale Europe Competition attended by Cllr. Jim Finucane	Szazhalombatta, Hungary	1
UNESCO Valentia Transatlantic Cable Fund Raising Launch attended by Mayor Seamus Fitzgerald	New York, United States of America	1
London Rose Selection attended by Mayor Seamus Fitzgerald	London, United Kingdom	1
Visit to New York for St. Patrick's Day attended by Mayor Seamus Fitzgerald	New York, United States of America	1



The total payments made 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, Training event or other meeting or event was €95,419 in 2014. The breakdown of this figure is as follows:

<b>Travel and Subsistence expenses within the State</b>	<b>Travel and Subsistence outside the State</b>
€93,215	€2,204

The amount of registration fees which was paid to organisers for the authorised attendance of elected members at conferences, seminars, training events or other meetings, in 2014 was €17,974.

Other payments made to Councillors in 2014.

<b>Allowance</b>	<b>Total amount paid in 2014</b>
Cathaoirleach's Allowance	€32,233
Leas Cathaoirleach's Allowance	€ 7,600
Mayor of Tralee & the Cathaoirligh of Killarney, Listowel and South & West Kerry Municipal Districts	€16,603
Strategic Policy Committee Chair Allowance	€24,921
Mobile Phone Allowance	€ 7,953
Annual Allowance	€200,999
Representational Payments	€506,072
Gratuities/Ex-gratia payments	€204,478

## 2014 Local Elections

### Total Election Expenses Incurred & Donations Received

<b>Candidates</b>	<b>Total Election Exp</b>	<b>Donations</b>
Robert Beasley	3,081.11	0.00
John Brassil	8,010.79	0.00
John Buckley	5,429.87	0.00
Tim Buckley	0.00	0.00
Michael Cahill	2,977.51	2,700.00
Kate Carmody	717.60	0.00
Patrick Connor-Scarteen	8,892.48	0.00
Sean Counihan	2,388.60	595.00
Brendan Cronin	11,682.84	0.00
John Joe Culloty	8,093.75	0.00
Pa Daly	3,853.74	0.00
Tom Doherty	7,889.00	0.00
PJ Donovan	7,647.89	1,000.00
Toiréasa Ferris	2,224.81	0.00
Brian Finucane	2,404.25	0.00
Jim Finucane	4,205.32	0.00
Brendán Fitzgerald	9,925.05	603.23
Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald	6,930.00	0.00
Ted Fitzgerald	4,550.00	0.00
John Francis Flynn	2,941.00	0.00
Norma Foley	4,861.98	225.00
Pádraig Garvey	4,714.70	0.00
Michael Gleeson	6,005.00	0.00
Donal Grady	4,775.00	0.00
Matt Griffin	9,589.98	0.00
Danny Healy-Rae	10,588.79	0.00
Johnny Healy-Rae	12,358.42	0.00
Lynda Horgan	2,729.38	1,000.00
Niall Kelleher	11,647.71	0.00
Mike Kennelly	4,984.14	0.00
Daniel Kiely	1,900.00	0.00
Pat Leahy	2,545.00	0.00
Sam Locke	550.00	0.00
Katie Lucid McCabe	2,990.55	0.00
Dan McCarthy	6,108.33	0.00
Pat McCarthy	4,943.36	0.00
Anne McEllistrim	10,151.84	0.00
Thomas McEllistrim	8,192.61	733.00
Jimmy Moloney	1,198.41	0.00
Norma Moriarty	11,024.14	1,376.00
Dianne Nolan	3,603.48	0.00
Terry O'Brien	2,634.50	0.00
Tomás Ó Coileáin	3,230.00	0.00

Bobby O'Connell	4,030.79	0.00
John J O'Connor	3,106.23	0.00
Grace O'Donnell	3,607.11	0.00
Michael O'Gorman	2,100.00	0.00
John O'Shea	3,777.73	0.00
Michael O'Shea	10,113.51	300.00
Donie Rua O'Sullivan	5,026.68	0.00
Liam Purtill	4,320.33	0.00
Damian Quigg	6,980.59	0.00
John Sheahan	5,690.15	700.00
Graham Spring	2,696.80	0.00
Aoife Thornton	9,308.84	0.00
Johnnie Wall	3,746.35	0.00
Tom Walsh	5,314.56	0.00
Cathal Walshe	3,457.20	1,340.00
Gillian Wharton-Slattery	3,350.72	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>311,800.52</b>	<b>10,572.23</b>

# **Director's Report on Job Creation / Sustainable Economic Development**

**Director of Services: Michael McMahon**

**Senior Staff:**

***Kerry Local Enterprise Office:***

*Tomás Hayes (Head of LEO)*

***Tourism Development & Built Infrastructure Unit***

*Joan McCarthy (Senior Executive Officer)*

***Capital Infrastructure Unit***

*Tom Sheehy (Senior Engineer)*

***Planning & Sustainable Development Unit***

*Paul Stack (Senior Engineer)*

***Kerry National Road Design Office***

*Paul Curry (Senior Engineer)*

## **Kerry Local Enterprise Office**

Kerry Local Enterprise Office (LEO) demonstrated good performance in 2014.

The transition to the Local Enterprise Office within Kerry County Council and dissolution of the County Enterprise Board Ltd. commenced in April and work has progressed well over the year in the transfer of duties and integration of financial systems.

Services to clients continued throughout the process and there has been a full corporate re-branding.

### **Key Achievements 2014**

- €308,823 in grant assistance was approved to 31 micro enterprises with the potential to create 71 full time jobs and 11 part time/seasonal jobs. This additional support will help retain an additional 47 jobs in supported businesses.
- A total of €263,274 was actually paid in grant assistance to businesses with a further financial commitment to businesses of €210,381 awaiting drawdown.

- €280,007 was spent on the provision of a range of training initiatives.
- 836 individuals participated in training events.
- The **Food Academy Programme** was completed in March with 10 early stage food producers completing the six month programme.
- The **Kerry Enterprise Month** was delivered with great success in March 2014 with our colleagues in Enterprise Ireland, ITT and LEADER.
- The Local Enterprise Office ran a vibrant **Student Enterprise Programme** with over **60 mini-businesses** being set up by over 200 second level school students involved in the competition.
- The LEO also supported a **CoderDojo** initiative.
- The Kerry LEO applied for the pilot **Online Trading Voucher Scheme** administered by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. Vouchers were approved to 32 businesses since August to assist online trading initiatives.
- The national **Microfinance Ireland loan fund** was promoted locally and 6 clients submitted applications for funding of up to €25,000 each facilitated by the Local Enterprise Office.
- The LEO also launched the **Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Competition** with over 30 Kerry based businesses competing for the prize fund of €50,000.
- The LEO also launched the Kerry **County Enterprise Awards** and supported the **Rural Biz Programme** in cooperation with LEADER Groups in the County.
- Other initiatives such as the food network **Taste Kerry** ([www.tastekerry.ie](http://www.tastekerry.ie)), the craft network **Original Kerry** ([www.originalkerry.ie](http://www.originalkerry.ie)) and the **Kerry Business Women's Network** received ongoing financial support to assist the coordination of activities and trade fair participation.
- The LEO was closely involved in the organisation of the **Cork Kerry Food Forum** and the **National Women's Enterprise Day**.
- The current development of the **Firies Food Hub** with the active engagement of the local community supported by Enterprise Ireland and Killarney Technology Innovation Ltd. is a significant achievement. The LEO had discharged it's financial commitment to the project by year end.

## **Tourism Development & Built Infrastructure Unit**

In June 2014 the Council established a dedicated Tourism Development and Built Infrastructure Unit, headed by a Senior Executive Officer and five full time officials, supported by an engineering division. These work closely with Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland and Destination Kerry to bring projects to fruition and ensure that tourism receives the singular focus it deserves in a county which attracts 1.5 million visitors annually and where one in four are employed in tourism related enterprises.

The Unit is also responsible for the management and operation of the following visitor facilities in Kerry: Blennerville Windmill, Fenit Lighthouse, Harbour & Marina, Killarney Sports & Leisure Centre, Kerry County Museum and Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre.

### **Key Achievements 2014**

- **Kerry Tourism Strategy** - In co-operation with Destination Kerry Forum we commenced the process of developing an integrated Tourism Strategy to support the expansion of tourism in Kerry.
- **Social Media/Website** - A number of social media sites were established e.g. Facebook and Twitter using the tagline #EnjoyKerry and commenced the design phase for our webpage under Kerrycoco.ie. A daily Events Calendar is compiled that is circulated monthly and is accessible on our social media pages.
- **Community Tourism, Festivals and Events** - Kerry County Council supported approximately 50 festivals and events e.g. Rose of Tralee, Listowel Writers Week, Women in Media, Christmas in Killarney and a myriad of local, both small and large community, activity and sporting events like marathons, cycle challenges and triathlons. The Unit administers the IPB Community Diaspora Fund with €30,000 allocated to small community based events.
- **Wild Atlantic Way** – Working closely with Fáilte Ireland two national Signature Viewing Points:- Bray Head, Valentia Island and Dun Chaoin were identified and plans for their sensitive development progressed.
- **Tralee Bay Wetlands** - Funding was secured through the 'Sport Nation Initiative' for the development of a state of the art Climbing Wall, climbing boulders and a new innovative toddler playground. Contracts were signed on December 5<sup>th</sup> 2014 and work commenced shortly thereafter.
- **Kerry Gathering Yearbook** - The Kerry Gathering Yearbook 2013 was produced. This is a compilation of written and visual accounts of the Gathering year in Kerry, submitted by event organisers themselves. This was launched at regional venues throughout the county in December.

- **Valentia Island UNESCO World Heritage Project** – The Council continued to play a lead role in the Valentia UNESCO Working Group. It jointly funded a feasibility study on the project by Prof Alexander Gillespie and in May hosted the high profile launch of the project bid in New York with the Mayor in attendance.
- **EuroParc Conference** and the **Adventure Travel World Summit** - The Council hosted 'Official Welcome Evenings' in Killarney and supported these major conferences which brought over a 1,000 delegates to the county.
- **Kerry Dark Skies** – The Council hosted the launch of the International Dark Skies Gold Tier Award for SW Kerry in Caherciveen, receiving wide international media coverage and continue to work closely with the Dark Skies Committee to develop its tourism potential.
- **Marketing Initiatives** - Supported Kerry trade participation in the Holiday World Travel Fairs. Kerry Tourism Tent at the National Ploughing Championships. Provided grant support to the Chambers of Commerce & Tourism in Tralee and Killarney and continued as a major sponsor of the International Rose of Tralee. With the tourism trade it jointly funded the participation of Destination Kerry at the iFest and Jump into Ireland promotions in North America and Sponsorship of the Sunday Independent / Go Kerry Travel Supplement.

## **Planning & Sustainable Development**

The key role of the Forward Planning Unit is in the formulation of economic, social and infrastructural policies/objectives which give effect to the delivery of sustainable and planned development in County Kerry. These policies / objectives are contained within the County Development Plan / Functional Area Local Area Plans.

The Draft County Development Plan (2015 - 2021), which was developed over the last two years, was adopted in February 2015 and will come into effect on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

The following is a further sample of the work undertaken by the Forward Planning Unit during 2014:

- Began work on a new Development Contribution Scheme which will apply to the whole county and replace the Development Contribution Schemes adopted by the four authorities in place prior to the abolition of the Town Councils.
- Design briefs have been prepared for a number of opportunity sites identified in the adopted Local Area Plans.
- The Environmental Unit have reviewed all plans and projects undertaken by the Council including SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment), HDA (Habitats Directive Assessment) and SFRA (Strategic Flood Risk Assessment) along with assessing planning applications.

### **Planning Control**

The improving economic climate was reflected in a slight increase in activity levels in planning control with approximately 1,000 planning applications received during 2014, this figure includes 94 applications received in the three Town Council's prior to their abolition.

This small increase in activity was in line with other rural local authorities around the country and may be an indication that the decline in applications during the past number of years has bottomed out.

Changes introduced by Section 28 of the Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2010, has resulted in a considerable number of applications for extensions of duration of planning permissions. Approximately 140 such applications were received in 2014.



## **Value for Money Initiatives**

A number of value for money initiatives progressed during 2014 as follows:

- All printing associated with Plans was carried out in-house and all Local Area Plans etc. are now burnt onto CDs 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 was 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 (SEAs) and Habitats Directive Assessment (HDAs) required in relation to Plans, Strategies and Variations etc. were carried out in-house by existing staff.
- The abolition of the 3 Town Councils and the resulting formation of a single planning authority for the county should produce operational efficiencies and generate cost savings through consolidation of services.

## **Quarries**

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 contained significant changes relating to quarry developments, particularly in relation to applications for retention permission and planning enforcement. Following a review of all quarries (pursuant to Section 261A), the following is the position in Kerry:

- 20 quarries have been served with Enforcement Notices requiring closure and reinstatement of the sites no. [Note: many of these sites are small in nature and were previously served with enforcement notices.] 2 of these have been referred to our Legal Department for proceedings under S160 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2014.
- 9 Quarries have applied for Substitute Consent from An Bord Pleanála and 1 quarry has recently been granted Substitute Consent by ABP. The remaining quarries may continue to operate provided that they adhere to the conditions of their 261 Registration or of their planning permission.

## **Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme 2014**

The BHJLS seeks to encourage the investment of private capital in a number of small scale labour intensive projects, to repair and conserve historic structures and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craft workers and tradespeople. The scheme is designed to assist the owners/ occupiers of protected structures. Kerry County Council received an allocation of €146,000 out of a national allocation of €5million.

Fourteen projects were funded and completed in Kerry during the year.

**Section 57 Declarations:** (relating to Protected Structures). Four Section 57 Declarations were requested and completed during 2014.

**Additions to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS):**

An additional sixty eight structures were included in the Record of Protected Structures as part of the process of adopting the County Development Plan 2015 - 2021.

## **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 2014**

- Archaeological Impact Assessment completed for fifteen projects
- Archaeological monitoring undertaken in relation to two projects
- Archaeological testing undertaken for one project
- Archaeological excavation in relation to one project
- Recommendations made in relation to 230 planning applications
- Design and erection of information signage at the Abbey Car Park, Tralee
- Design and erection of information signage at Holy Cross Caherciveen
- Conservation works completed to Ballybunion Castle
- Research excavation undertaken at Eightercua stone row and enclosure with a view to improving knowledge of these monuments and linking in with the Dark Skies Reserve in the area
- Submissions of all recorded damage to archaeological sites/monuments during Winter Storms 2013/14 made to National Monuments Service
- Tomb sealing, trimming back/cutting overgrowth on church ruins and general maintenance oversight in relation to the county's archaeological graveyards continued in conjunction with Burial Grounds Section.

## **Capital Infrastructure Unit**

### **Energy Section – Capital Infrastructure Unit**

The Energy Section of the Capital Infrastructure Unit completes energy efficiency improvement projects, ensures value for money where energy consuming equipment is installed (e.g. lighting and heating systems, pumps and electric motors,) and progresses the utilization of renewable energy technologies. The Energy Section also tenders for the supply of electricity to the Local Authority (LA) and reports on LA energy consumption to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) as required by 426 of 2014.

#### **Overview of Energy Use**

The total expenditure on energy in Kerry County Council in 2014 was €3,576,029. Renewable energy sources utilized by the Council in 2014 include solar thermal and solar PV, wood pellet and wood chip. Heat pump and CHP technology is also utilised at Council properties to minimize primary energy consumption. In 2014, KCC compiled annual energy consumption data for the preceding year; the total final energy consumption in 2013 was 38,606MWh divided between electricity (27,966MWh) and thermal and transport (10,640 MWh).

#### **Actions Undertaken in 2014**

Kerry County Council and former Town Councils received funding from two strands of the SEAI Better Energy Communities Programme in 2014. The BEC is the national upgrade programme to retrofit Ireland's building stock and facilities to high standards of energy efficiency, thereby reducing fossil fuel use, running costs and greenhouse gas emissions. €356k was received for three contracts. Projects completed at Local Authority sites included:

- insulation and heating system upgrades at 122 Local Authority houses
- lighting upgrade at one Fire Station and a heating system upgrade at one public convenience

As part of the BEC scheme, the Energy Section also coordinated the draw down of funds for energy efficiency upgrade projects at three Churches, one pastoral centre, three commercial businesses, one Waste Water Treatment Plant and two community centres in Kerry.

Other energy related initiatives undertaken in 2014 by Kerry County Council Energy Section include:

- Generation of electricity from Landfill gas; Royalties of €47,456 were received by Kerry County Council from the land fill gas project. 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 metered sites was completed through the National Procurement Service in October 2014

- Kerry County Council commenced work on the SmartReflex project; this is a Intelligent Energy Europe funded project which runs over 36 months and aims to increase the use of flexible district heating grids and systems utilizing a high share of renewable energy sources in European Towns and cities

Other initiatives progressed in 2014 include the development of a large scale public lighting energy efficiency improvement project based on an “Energy Performance Contract” model and also the development of increased District Heating utilization to stimulate the local wood fuel market and reduce fuel emissions and costs in the County.

Planned actions for 2015 include applying to SEAI for funding towards energy efficiency upgrades in the County under the BEC 2015 scheme and progressing the development public lighting and district heating EPC projects.

## **Kerry National Road Design Office**

### **Scheme openings**

After successfully opening three road improvement schemes between 2012 - 2013, in 2014 it was the turn of the Tralee Bypass Public Art feature which was in the form of "The Roses". The sculpture was unveiled in August during the Rose of Tralee International Festival by Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport Minister Paschal O'Donoghue, TD.

### **Scheme closeouts**

The closing out of the final accounts for the schemes recently opened to traffic were the subject of dispute resolution in 2014.

The N86 Annascaul to Gortbreagogue scheme final account was resolved through conciliation after a lengthy process throughout the year. The N21 Castleisland Bypass is before the Arbitrator, while the conciliation process continues for the N22 - N69 Tralee Bypass.

### **Scheme Planning Consents**

Following the disappointment in 2013 of An Bord Pleanála's decision to refuse to approve the EIS and to annul the CPO for the N86 Dingle to Annascaul and Gortbreagogue to Camp Scheme, a Judicial Review of the process was sought by Kerry County Council.

In May 2014 the Commercial Court quashed the Board's decision on the basis that they had not considered the needs of all road users. An Bord Pleanála subsequently re-considered the application and decided to approve the EIS and confirm the CPO in November.

***(An Taisce have since sought a Judicial Review of this new decision. This new Judicial Review is due to be heard in mid 2015.)***

This is a further reminder of how difficult it is becoming to secure planning consent for infrastructural projects.

### **Scheme Planning and Development**

Meanwhile planning and design has advanced on a number of National Secondary improvement schemes.

The preparation of the CPO / EIS for the N69 Listowel Bypass continued with further planning undertaken to ensure that the scheme is published in 2015. Preliminary land acquisition appraisals and Geophys surveys were undertaken.

The final design for realignment works to 1.6km of the N71 between Releagh and Letterdunane was completed. The land was bought and NRA approval was secured in order to enable construction to begin in early 2015.

The Part 8 process for the Kilderry Bends was completed in early 2014. Further design and investigation work advanced and preliminary land acquisition appraisals were carried out for this 3.5km scheme.

The planning of further proposed realignments were advanced on the N70 between Waterville Bridge and Ballybrack and between Sneem and Blackwater Bridge.

### **Wild Atlantic Way**

The co-ordination of the procurement programme to erect directional signage on both national and regional and local roads on the southern section of the Wild Atlantic Way national project was undertaken successfully by Kerry NRDO on behalf of Fáilte Ireland. The erection of signage within the County was completed in 2014.

## **Key Achievements 2014**

### **National Primary & Secondary**

- Completion of “The Roses” -Tralee Bypass Public Art feature.
- Final Account resolution on the N86 Annascaul to Gortbreagoge scheme.
- Successful Judicial Review of the An Bord Pleanála refusal decision on the N86 CPO/EIS leading to a decision to approve the EIS and confirm the CPO.
- Part 8 planning process completed for the N70 Kilderry Bends Scheme.
- Completion of the Wild Atlantic Way Procurement Programme.

# **Director's Report on Sustainable Communities / Quality of Life**

**Director of Services: John Breen**

**Senior Staff:**

***Housing & Social Support***

*Kathleen Moriarty (Senior Executive Officer)*

***Community Services & Engagement***

*Michael Scannell (Senior Executive Officer)*

***Environmental Protection***

*Liam Quinlan (Senior Executive Officer)*

***Kerry Fire Service***

*Michael Hession (Chief Fire Officer)*

## **Housing & Social Support**

***The objectives of the Housing Dept are to maximise provision of suitable accommodation for those who are unable to provide their own, utilising the various social housing options, to manage and maintain our housing stock and to facilitate the development of sustainable communities.***

2014 saw the amalgamation of the Housing Sections of the Town Councils of Tralee, Killarney and Tralee to a central Housing Department for the whole county. As part of the corporate re-organisation, Housing Maintenance now falls under the Operations Directorate and Housing Capital falls under the Capital Infrastructure Unit.

The housing stock now comprises over 4,000 housing units at year end which is a very sizeable housing stock to manage and maintain. The number of qualified applicants on the housing list at year end was 4,911 households. Single person households make up the largest household type (49%) followed by single adult with a child or children (21%) with the remaining 30% being made up of two or more adults with or without children. 60% of qualified applicants have selected the towns of Tralee and Killarney as their area of choice.

Social housing need is now increasingly met through various leasing arrangements between Kerry County Council and private landlords due to the

continued curtailment of 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.

In 2014 Kerry County Council again focused on the retrofitting of insulation and other energy efficiency measures to older local authority stock using available Department of Environment, Community & Local Government funding. The main beneficiaries of these retro-fitting works are our tenants who will have warmer and more energy efficient homes.

The Housing Section also provides community and development supports and tenancy management services to help tenants within their communities. We also continue to actively engage with tenants and local authority borrowers in relation to debt resolution and apply the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process.

### **Capital Programme**

In 2014, Kerry County Council was allocated €468,000 by the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government (DoECLG) under the Social Housing Investment Programme for the completion of four Single Rural Dwellings.

In addition, €880,000 was allocated towards the acquisition of 6 houses to meet specific disabled persons' needs. A total of €273,000 was spent on the Local authority extensions/adaptation programme of local authority stock.

### **Voids Programme**

In 2014, €718,000 was received from DoECLG for carrying out works to houses under the Voids Programme. This facilitated the return of 80 vacant properties in an energy efficient condition in order to re-let to qualified housing applicants.

### **Energy Efficiency Measures - Improving Energy Efficiency in Local Authority stock**

The DoECLG continued to fund an energy efficiency programme in 2014 and circa €468,000 was received from DoECLG for qualifying works which facilitated the upgrading of 593 houses on estates throughout the County.

### **Housing Grants**

In 2014, the Council received an allocation of €2.038m which allowed us to make grant allocations to 421 households under the various schemes. The Council was required to contribute €408,000 from our own resources to support this programme. Demand for the scheme continues to exceed funding available and a prioritisation system is in place. Overall, this programme continues to offer immense benefits for the living conditions of eligible elderly and disabled household members in our community as well as a welcome stimulus package to local trades and businesses.



### **Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)/Social Leasing**

The RAS Scheme continued to operate successfully in 2014 and targets qualified applicants who are in long term-receipt of rent supplement:

- 146 new RAS agreements (including transfers) entered into during 2014
- 801 households in RAS accommodation at the end of 2014

The Council had entered into 63 Lease Agreements at the end of 2014.

### **National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011 - 2016**

A Housing and Disability Steering Group for County Kerry was recently established in accordance with the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011 - 2016. The purpose of this group is to facilitate integrated and timely responses to the housing needs of people with physical, intellectual, mental and sensory disabilities by the various statutory and voluntary organisations working with the disability sector in Kerry.

The Group held its inaugural meeting in October 2014 and one of the initial goals of the group is to prepare a Strategic Plan and Work Plan with a timeframe for delivery of targets.

### **Traveller Accommodation Programme**

The Council prepared a Traveller Accommodation Programme for the period 2014 - 2018 in consultation with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Town Councils and other interested bodies. The Council adopted the Programme in February 2014.

### **Voluntary Housing**

In January 2014 a request was received from DoECLG to issue A Call for Proposals to Approved Housing Bodies. A prioritised list was submitted to the DoECLG for consideration for funding under the Capital Assistance Scheme. The list was prioritized based on the most cost effective and sustainable proposals which would address special housing needs for qualified households. In May 2014 the Council was notified of €1m for construction / acquisitions to be undertaken in 2014/15 and these projects were proceeding through the planning stages at year-end.

### **Homeless Service**

The Council continues to assist in the housing needs of homeless persons through our Homeless Information Centre and through the provision of a range of homeless accommodation. In 2014, a total of 270 persons were accommodated through the Homeless Information Centre.

### **Private Rented Standards**

The Council continued its enforcement role of private rented standards with 714 inspections carried out in 2014.

### **Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014**

The Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 gives effect to three important elements of the Government's housing policy:

- It provides a legislative basis for the new Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).
- It introduces a new tenant purchase scheme for local authority tenants
- It also reforms the process for the termination of local authority tenancies

### **Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)**

This will provide a new framework for the provision of rental assistance, and will, in as much as it can, facilitate the removal of existing barriers to employment in the Rent Supplement Scheme by allowing HAP recipients to remain in the scheme if they gain full-time employment. Under the new scheme, applicants will source their own accommodation within the private rented market (as currently happens with rent supplement) and the tenancy agreement will be between the HAP recipients and the private landlord. The tenant will pay a rental contribution to the Local Authority based on a Differential Rent Scheme.

HAP will also ensure that all long-term housing support lies with local authorities and will help ensure that all accommodation in the private rented sector is to standard and that landlords are tax compliant. HAP is currently being rolled out in a number of selected local authorities and is expected to be introduced in the remaining local authorities, including Kerry, next year.

### **New Tenant Purchase Scheme for Local Authority Tenants**

The Act also provides for the introduction of a new Scheme will be linked to household income, with the highest discount available to those families in the lowest income band who can sustain a mortgage payment. The scheme will enable tenants to become homeowners and remain in their community. The Act empowers the Minister to make Regulations in respect of different aspects of the scheme and these are awaited.

### **New system for the repossession of local authority houses**

This legislation also introduces a new system for the repossession of local authority houses in cases of serious breaches of the tenancy agreement, such as anti-social behaviour or continued failure to pay rent or rent arrears. The new system will provide a transparent system, with review provisions, for tenants while also allowing local authorities to recover possession of a dwelling.

## **Community Services & Engagement**

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

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 sets out reforms to improve the delivery of services for citizens, deliver greater efficiency and effectiveness and give local government a more central role in local and community development. This together with the local reorganisation within Kerry County Council provided for many changes in the Community Department.

The LCDC (Local Community Development Committee) was established which will assume responsibility for co-ordinating community development and local development. This will include managing the funding process for programmes in these areas.

The LECP (Local Economic & Community Plan) is the primary means through which the LCDC will seek to co-ordinate public-funded local and community development activity in the county by identifying key priorities and objectives for the area, allocating available resources and agreeing responsibility for actions.

The act also provides that a new structure for community engagement, the PPN (Public Participation Network), be established in each local authority area at municipal district and at county level. The PPN will be the vehicle through which nominations will be made to a wide range of local government bodies including the SPCs, the JPC and the LCDC.

The Department continued to work with external agencies, the Community and Voluntary sector and Government Departments in the development of its work programmes in other areas.

### **Key Achievements 2014**

- The Kerry Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was established and held its inaugural meeting in September 2014. The purpose of this committee is to develop, coordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development in Kerry. It will do this by bringing together local authority members and officials, state agencies and people actively working with local development, community development, and economic, cultural and environmental organisations to implement a joined-up, cross-sectoral approach to local and community development programming.
- Work commenced on preparing the community elements of a 6 year Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) including preparing a Socio-Economic Profile on the County. The LECP will set-out the

objectives and actions needed to promote & support the economic development and the local & community development of the county.

- Establishing the PPN -Public Participation Network (which replaced the existing Community & Voluntary Forum).
  - Registration of Community and Voluntary Groups to develop the PPN Register from May to September 2014.
  - County Plenary Meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> 2014 where appointments were made to all Strategic Policy Committees, the Joint Policing Committee and the Secretariat of the PPN.
  - Preliminary meetings commenced in December to establish the Municipal District PPN in Listowel and Tralee.
- Commenced Stage 2 of tendering process for the delivery of the new Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP). SICAP is the primary social inclusion programme of government for 2015-2017 with a focus on community activation, social inclusion and community development.
- Kerry County Council nominated four groups to the All-Ireland Pride of Place competition - Kenmare, An Bhainseach Housing Estate Killorglin, Mitchel's / Boherbee Regeneration Project and Ballyduff Community of Excellence promoting Mental Health & Wellbeing. Kenmare won the overall prize in the '1,500-4,000 population' category.
- The 11th Kerry Community Awards saw the overall prize for 2014 awarded to Féile na Bealtaine.
- Implementation of the Community & Voluntary Forum Work Programme. 1,023 groups were registered with the Kerry Community & Voluntary Forum register in 2014.
- IIG (Integration Implementation Group) review of progress on the implementation of the Kerry Integration Strategy Extension 2013-2014 and preparation of a hand over document outlining remaining key issues & priorities. The following was undertaken during the year:
  - Access to English classes: On-going work to widen provision of informal/voluntary classes to compliment formal classes and identify and try to address gaps in English classes provision
  - Cultural Diversity & Integration Awareness Raising Poster Campaign & Countywide Exhibition which ran from May-Dec 2014
  - Supporting the development of a Migrant Forum in Kerry
  - Voter registration campaign for migrants and information sessions in advance of local & European elections.
- The **Kerry Joint Policing Committee** met twice during 2014 at which the Gardaí gave a comprehensive report on crime figures for the County. The committee also considered reports from the Migrant

Forum, Comhairle na nÓg and the rise of Money Lenders due to financial difficulties. A consistent topic throughout the work programme related to the anti social behaviour arising out of the misuse of alcohol.

- **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. 160 young people attended the Comhairle na nÓg AGM. The main area of work for the year was Mental Health promotion.
- Meetings/training events were held in collaboration with Civil Defence in two communities under the Building Preparedness and Resilience programme in relation flood damage prevention.
- The Community **Smoke Alarm Scheme** is administered by the Kerry Fire Service in collaboration with the Community Department and voluntary organisations. This co-operation continued during 2014.
- Under the **Public Area Enhancement Scheme** a total of €120,000 was provided to 35 Tidy Town Committees in the county to support communities to carry out improvements to public areas such as parks, seating areas, walking areas, etc.
- **Tralee Community Horse Project** was set up to deal with the problem of roaming horses which historically had been a major issue within parts of Tralee. They were principally owned by members of the Travelling Community and were a cause of great tension between the settled and travelling communities. In 2008, Kingdom Curragh Ltd was set up to overcome this problem by developing a Traveller horse project, which enabled Travellers to manage their horses *“in a controlled manner away from the residential area”* at stables and grazing along the Dingle Road. The registered horse owners are responsible for the maintenance costs of the stables, as well as meeting the other costs attached to the project and monthly meetings are held in conjunction with Kerry County Council to address any issues which arise. This project was a first in Ireland and its success has lead to numerous groups visiting it annually.

## **Kerry Recreation & Sports Partnership (KRSP) / Páirtíocht Spóirt & Aineasa Chiarraí**

Kerry Recreation & Sports Partnership (KRSP) was established in 2001 in response to the Irish Sports Council Local Sports Partnership initiative and formally recognized in 2003. The source and availability of income on an annual basis is primarily provided by the Irish Sports Council.

The overall aim of KRSP is to increase participation levels in sport and physical activity in the county and to ensure that local resources are used to best effect. Increasing participation levels correlates with creating opportunities for people to be physically active through the delivery of targeted physical activity/sport based programmes.

### **Key Achievements 2014**

- **Scoil Ghníomhach/Active School:** A partnership initiative designed to evaluate and equally engage 1<sup>st</sup> year JCPE students of all abilities in physical activity through a 16 week fitness test and evaluation programme. The purpose of which is to create a pro-active culture towards fitness and physical activity amongst the young people of Kerry.
  - During 2014 over 250 students from 7 post primary schools engaged in programme with resulting improvement fitness levels of +23% Boys and +18% Girls.
  - Programme Partners include Dept of Social Services, Institute of Technology Tralee, Kerry Education & Training Board, and Kerry Recreation & Sports Partnership.
- **Kerry's Safer Cycling Programme:** A collaborative initiative to help primary school children of all abilities to learn how to cycle in a safe and appropriate manner on our roads.
  - During 2014 over 240 students from 9 schools county wide participated in the training.
  - Programme Partners include Get Ireland Active, HSE, Kerry Recreation & Sports Partnership and Schools.
- **Walking Mass Participation Event:** A very successful Let's Get Kerry Walking Operation Transformation Walk took place in Killarney, January 2014 with local leader. The success of this event was as a result of the partnering of agencies.
  - Over 3,000 walkers participated in the event with great national coverage.
  - Programme Partners include An Garda Síochána, Civil Defence, Kerry Recreation & Sports Partnership, Killarney Chamber of Commerce, Killarney National Park, Killarney Town Council and dedicated volunteers.

## **Kerry Library Review 2014**

Kerry County Council operates 9 full time branch libraries at Ballybunion, Caherciveen, Castleisland, An Daingean, Kenmare, Killarney, Listowel and Tralee. There are 2 mobile libraries and a local history and archives service operating from Library Headquarters.

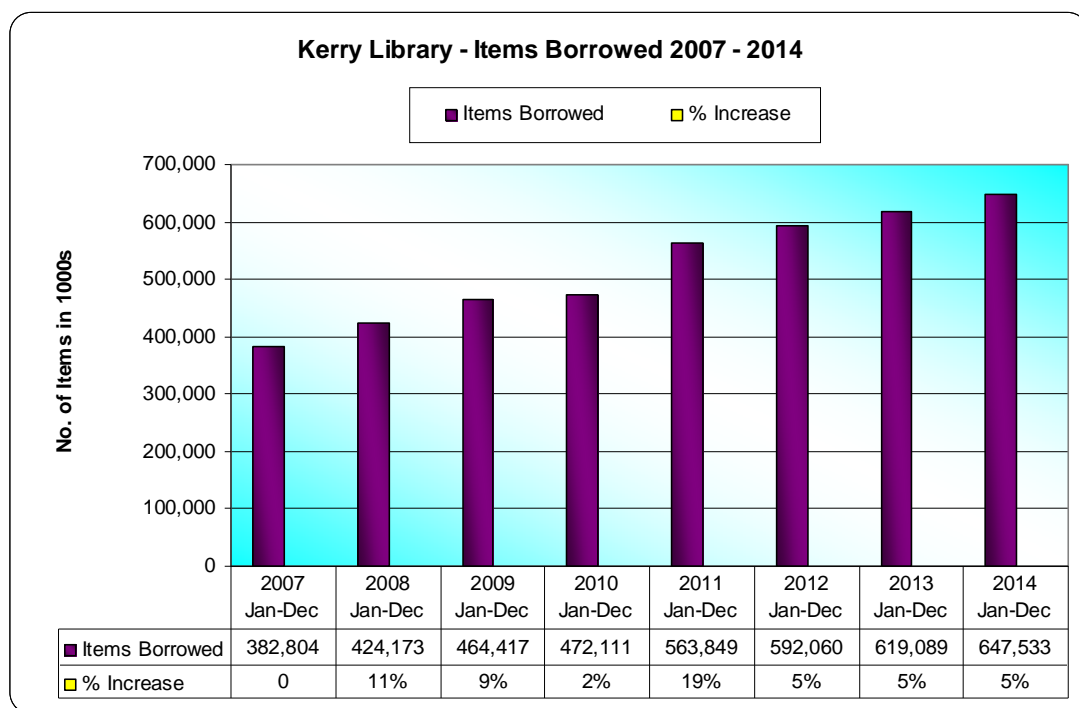
Services and usage at Kerry Library continues to expand. In 2014, a record number of 647,533 items were borrowed, an increase of 5% on the 2013 figure. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year in succession that the number of borrowings has increased and it is a 59% increase on the 2007 figure.

The number of verified visits to Kerry's Libraries in 2014 was 435,010 while 53,221 internet sessions were provided. WiFi usage accounted for 11,051 of this figure.

### **Significant service improvements during the year included:**

- An enhancement of the Classroom Novels service to primary schools. Two (2) guides were published and issued to each school (i) a 36 page catalogue, organised alphabetically and subject coded (ii) a shorter listing of the collection.
- The initiation of a service for children with special needs at Killarney & Castleisland Libraries following receipt of funding from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. This library of toys, technology and sensory facilities will be operational early in 2015.
- A revised membership process was put in place where the former pay per item system was replaced by an annual membership fee of €5. This system was very favourably received by the public and for such a nominal fee, members have access to a wide range of services including book lending, internet access and usage of the various online services that the library provides.
- Additional online resources were made available via the library website [www.kerrylibrary.ie](http://www.kerrylibrary.ie) including the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century British Parliamentary Papers, Naxos music online and Origins.net.

## Mobile Libraries

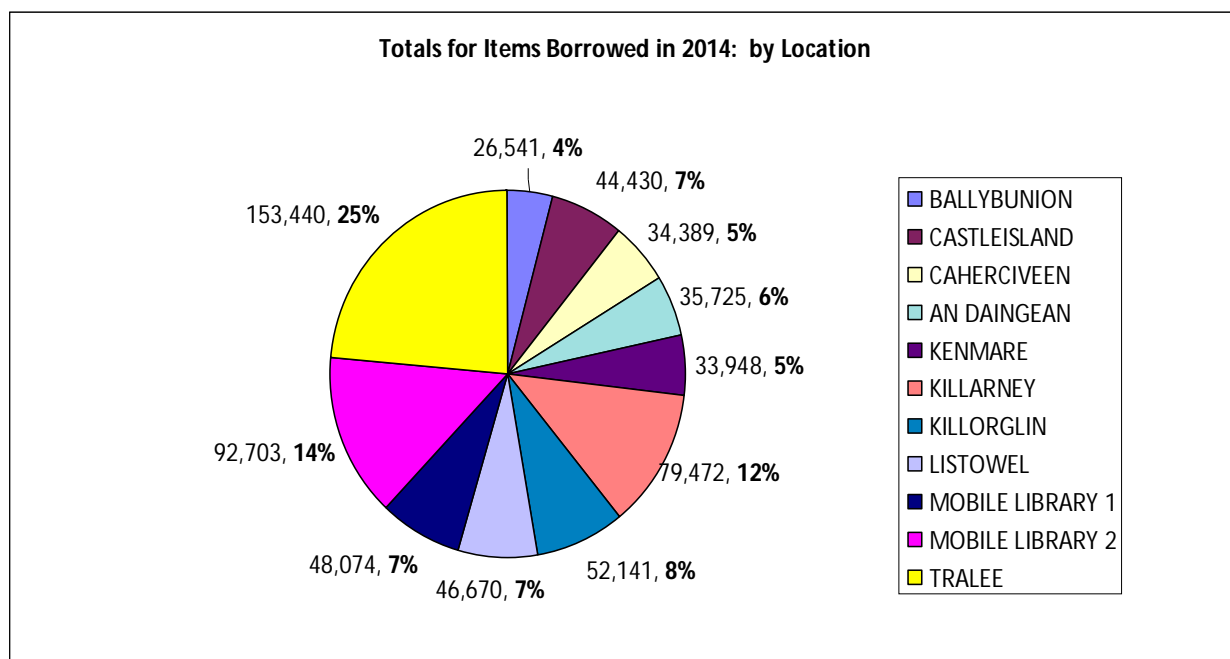


The Mobile Libraries serve 93 different locations county wide and engage with community centres, family resource centres, schools, crèches and members of the general public at a range of both urban and rural locations. At the 2014 Chambers Excellence in Local Government Awards, the Kerry Mobile Library Service was 'Highly Commended'. Cllr. John Brassil (Cathaoirleach, Kerry County Council), John Breen (Director of Service) and Tommy O'Connor (County Librarian) were present to receive the award.

## Events & Exhibitions programme

Over 200 events, workshops, exhibitions and lectures were provided free of charge during 2014. Highlights included the high profile Dingle Library summer lecture series, where speakers included Kevin Myers and Diarmaid Ferriter; the Daniel O'Connell Summer School at Caherciveen Library and the World War 1 Exhibition at Tralee Library [which attracted over 1,000 visits to the library on Saturday, 24 May]. The Bealtaine and Children's Book Festival events again proved very popular. Some great initiatives at local level included: 'Ag léamh liom' at Listowel, the Parent & Toddler link at Killorglin, the 6 Book Challenge at Killarney and the very successful Reader Development programme at all libraries. The Kerry County Council Writer and Composer Residencies were supported in their programmes at all libraries.





## Arts Office

In 2014 the Arts Office awarded grants countywide under the Arts Act 2003 towards:

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

Over €29,000 was awarded across 72 applications countywide.

### **Support to individual artists & groups:**

€7,000 was awarded via the Artist in schools schemes; €5,800 was awarded to 10 individual artist bursaries.

€60,000 was awarded between 6 groups across the county under Contributions to voluntary organisations to support artistic program and development, to encourage engagement with target audiences and to promote platforms for arts practitioners.

The 2014 work program (€52,000) included the following initiatives led by the Arts Office, co-funded by the Arts Council:

Writer in Residence programme: 38 library clinics; 3 library festivals 11 schools visited; 19 workshops / mentoring sessions; publication.

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.

Dancer in Residence programme: 3 specific projects – “Woman Stood Regardless”, “Inside My Head” & Tocht Festival of Dance along with outreach workshops, master classes and “Dance Thursday” with Siamsa Tire.

Community Dancer in Residence programme: 7 schools with 12 visits - 503 students in total; 2 dance groups with 3 visits - 36 people in attendance (on-going contract).

Composer in Residence programme: 30 schools with 50 visits - 721 students in total.

Film-Maker in residence programme: (1) contract ended May: 5 schools - each produced a short film; (2) contract on-going: 8 schools with 11 visits; organised the Youth Jury for Short Films Competition in conjunction with Kerry Film Festival.

Culture Night 2014 – 38 events across the county. Supported by Kerry County Council and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The above program aims to support artists, to develop arts practitioners and audiences as well as art form development.

### **Partnership development**

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

Youth Band Mentoring Initiative, co-funded by the Arts Councils on behalf of Kerry Music Education Partnership. In January, Walking on Cars mentored three young local bands in an initiative that aims for higher standards of practice in contemporary and popular music performance.

The Sliabh Luachra Music trail is an Arts Tourism partnership project with Cork County Council, supported by the Arts Council Deis Scheme and IRD Duhallow in 2014. [www.sliabhluchra.ie](http://www.sliabhluchra.ie)

The Arts Office continues to work with Original Kerry with advice and guidance for the continuous development of the craft trail [www.originalkerry.com](http://www.originalkerry.com)

The Arts Office is home to the Kerry Screen Commission working closely with the Irish Film Board. 2014 saw the re launch of our film website [www.kerryfilm.ie](http://www.kerryfilm.ie). We dealt with numerous location queries for film, tv, commercial and documentaries in 2014. The higher profile film locations to come to Kerry in 2014 include the feature film ‘The Lobster’ filmed in Sneem and Kenmare, and the Star Wars scenes filmed on the Skellig. A National

Lottery advert was filmed in Killarney, Hags Glen, an American sports and fashion brand shot in Dingle. Two BBC documentaries located in South and West Kerry as well as other smaller films, commercials etc.

### **Burial Grounds**

Kerry County Council now operates and maintains 152 cemeteries, 92 of which are classified as archaeologically protected sites under the National Monuments Acts including Burial Grounds previously operated by the Town Councils.

The Council currently works with more than 50 community groups and provides funding to many of them for the upkeep and maintenance of the cemeteries. The provision of this funding is based on the submission by the community groups of Programmes of work which are subject to the approval of the Community Department. This co-operation has contributed to substantial improvements in many cemeteries across the county and the Council is highly appreciative of this assistance.

### **Key Achievements 2014**

- The new Cromane Burial Ground was constructed during 2014, a Caretaker / Registrar has been appointed and this Burial Ground is now fully operational.
- Construction of an extension to the Burial Ground at Abbey Island, Derrynane is ongoing and this will be completed and fully operational in 2015.
- Construction of the extension to Inch Burial Ground is ongoing and this will be complete and fully operational in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2015.
- The part 8 planning process for extensions to Causeway and old Kilcummin Burial Grounds and a new Burial Ground for Lixnaw are ongoing, and part 8 planning has been achieved for an extension to Fionn Trá Burial Ground.
- The Council has carried out significant works at a number of burial grounds as part of an ongoing Improvement Programme. This includes the provision of paths and headstone plinths, and improvements to entrances, gates, walls, drainage etc. Capital improvements were carried out in 2014 at Killaha, Rahealy, Kilmoley, Ardfert and New Cemetery Killarney Burial Grounds. Works of a similar nature will continue in 2015.
- The storms of early 2014 caused damage to the Burial Grounds throughout the County. Walls and trees were blown down and footpaths and access roads were uprooted. Repairs were carried out at Killowen,

Rahealy, Kilmore, Kilshannig, Abbey Island, Baile an Sceilg, and Annagh Burial Grounds.

### **Public Conveniences**

Kerry County Council owns and operates public conveniences at 29 locations throughout the County which includes the public conveniences previously operated by Town Councils.

The operational arrangements for these facilities are varied. Seven of the facilities, located at Ballybunion, Portmagee, Sneem, Waterville, Cromane, Kells and Knightstown are operated by local community groups on behalf of the Council. The Council is most appreciative of the outstanding works of these local groups.

The storms early in 2014 caused damage to Inch and Ventry Public Conveniences. Both these facilities were repaired and upgraded where necessary and are now fit for purpose for the future. The Public Convenience at Castlegregory Beach was washed out to sea during the storms. This has now been replaced with a new demountable unit.

<b>Deliver a best value for money ethos through all our operations</b>
--

The Community 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.

## **Environmental Protection**

The Environmental Services Section 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 Control, the provision of Veterinary Services, Environmental Awareness programmes, Laboratory services and Beach Management. The section also enforces the Litter Pollution Act in the county.

### **Waste Management**

#### **Waste Recycling**

- Recycling facilities were provided in 2014 at the four Transfer Stations in Killarney, Milltown, Kenmare and Caherciveen, and the Civic Amenity site at Ionad Athchúrsála agus Dramhaíola Chorca Dhuibhne in Lispole as well as an extensive bring bank network for glass, steel and aluminium cans throughout the county. Recycling facilities were also provided in North Kerry Landfill until it closed on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2014.
- 5,502 tonnes of recyclables were accepted at the above waste facilities in 2014.
- There are 99 Bring Banks locations throughout the county. These were maintained by Kerry County Council staff and also 35 Community Groups involved in Adopt a bring Bank Scheme.

#### **Waste Disposal**

- North Kerry Landfill ceased landfilling of waste on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2014. 4,521 tonnes of waste were landfilled at that time.

Due to its location, proximity to National Primary Road network, and available services and infrastructure on site all potential for further development and/or alternative use of the site will be considered.

- 5,130 tonnes of residual waste was deposited at our waste facilities in 2014, including 2,453 at North Kerry Landfill with the remaining 2,676 tonnes collected by a third party for recovery and disposal following a competitive procurement process.

### **Capital Works: North Kerry Landfill**

- **Phase 9 Development of North Kerry Landfill**  
The permanent capping of cells 19 and 18 commenced in Dec 2013 and was completed by May 2014. Permanent capping of cell 17 commenced in October 2014 following its closure and was substantially completed by December 2014.

## **Environmental Regulation**

### **Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement**

- 144 reports of unauthorised waste activity in 2014.
- A total of 38 facilities had permits and 8 facilities had certificates of registration in County Kerry at the end of 2014.

### **Water Quality, Air, and Noise Pollution Monitoring and Enforcement**

- 144 reports of water pollution were received.
- Enforcement and implementation of both the Shannon and South Western River Basin Management Plans (adopted in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive) based on priorities set out in the plans
- There were no major oil pollution incidences in 2014. Kerry County Council staff took part in an inter-agency Oil Pollution response training exercise in 2014.
- 69 reports were investigated in 2014 under the Air Pollution Acts.

Breakdown of reported pollution during 2014:

Type of reported pollution	Number
Litter Pollution	514
Noise Pollution	25
Unauthorised Waste Activity	144
Water Pollution	144
Air Pollution	69
<b>Total Number</b>	<b>896</b>

- In total, 2,291 reported incidents and response inspections were carried out by the Environment Department during 2014.

### **Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems National Inspection Plan**

- Kerry County Council is responsible for carrying out inspections of Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems in County Kerry under the EPA's National Inspection Plan. A total of 81 such inspections were carried out in 2014.

## **Environmental Awareness**

In the area of Environmental Awareness we continued to operate a comprehensive programme of activities informing all sectors of the community on good environmental practises that will have an impact on issues such as waste collection, litter, water conservation and food waste.

### **Draft Southern Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2020**

- A draft plan covering the period 2015 - 2020 was published in 2014. Submissions were invited from the public.

### **Awareness Activities 2014 in the Area of Litter and Waste Management**

- The EAO worked closely through the year with local Tidy Towns groups on various aspects of the competition. With an information seminar held for all groups in March 2014.
- The EAO promotes awareness of litter and waste management issues using a weekly column in the Kerryman newspaper and regular interviews on local radio.
- Various anti-litter campaigns were run through out the year such as Dog fouling awareness, National Spring Clean and the National Gum Litter Campaign.
- Adopt a Road Scheme – 10 volunteer groups involved
- Adopt a Bottle Bank – 35 volunteer groups involved
- Spring Clean Campaign - 278 volunteer groups took part in the spring clean campaign in 2014 with 80.17 tonnes of waste collected during the Spring Clean period
- Green Schools Programme - There are 113 Primary schools and 10 Secondary successful schools in Kerry flying the Green Flag for environmental excellence at the end of 2014.

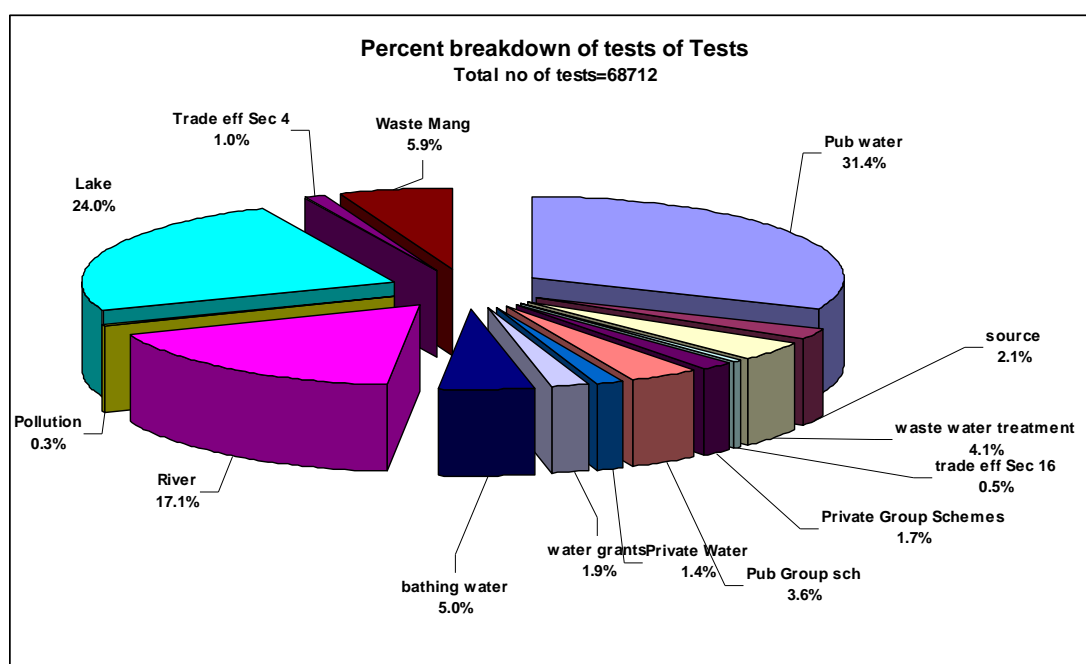
## **Beach Management**

### **Blue Flag Beaches**

- The 2014 season proved a successful one with the retention of 12 Blue Flags. The following beaches retained their Blue flag status: Baile an Sceilge (Ballinskelligs), Fenit, Ballybunnion South and North, Inch, Kells, Ballyheigue, Maharabeg, Banna, Doire Fhionáin (Derrynane), Ceann Trá (Ventry), White Strand (Caherciveen).
- Ballybunnion North regained its Blue Flag in 2014 due to its excellent water quality.
- Extensive works were carried out at Rossbeigh beach during Spring / Summer 2014 in order to hopefully regain its Blue Flag status in 2015.

## Laboratory

- The role of the laboratory is to monitor the quality of drinking water, rivers, lakes, bathing waters, wastewater discharges and industrial licensed discharges in the county.
- All laboratories supplying data to EPA and EU will have to be formally accredited to **ISO 17025** standard by 2015. Preparation for which commenced in 2014.
- In 2014 the Laboratory sampled 5,271 samples and analysed almost 69,000 tests the breakdown of which is highlighted in the chart below.



## Veterinary Service

- The veterinary services continues to implement a service level agreement with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, approving and supervising 15 abattoirs and 16 small meat manufacturing plants throughout the county. All animals slaughtered undergo ante and post mortem veterinary inspection and are consistently of a very high standard.
- Many of these artisan food producers contribute to the economic social and tourist fabric of the region by providing employment and adding value to locally sourced product.
- These abattoirs provide a valuable outlet to farmers for a specific type of heavy butchers lamb and traditional heifer that bigger export plants don't provide. We therefore wish to acknowledge the important role abattoirs play in farming.



## **Dog Control**

- The Dog Warden service continues to be one of the most effective services in the country.
- Number of dogs euthanized has reduced from 201 to 189 while the number of dogs re-homed has increased from 344 to 386.
- Kerry County Council maintains a proactive approach, through the Council's website and in co-operation with a local animal welfare organisation, to re-homing unwanted or stray dogs.
- Total Number of dog licences at the end of 2014 is 16,201.

## **Kerry Fire Service**

The Kerry Fire Service Fleet continued to be upgraded during 2014.

A further two Ford Ranger 4 x 4 Jeeps were ordered in 2014 as part of our programme to provide all stations with 4 x 4 capabilities to provide on/off road capabilities during severe weather conditions and over harsh mountainous terrain. The Jeeps will be delivered in early 2015 and will go into active service during 2015.

A second hand class B Fire Appliance was purchased in the UK during 2014 to ensure that the average fleet age profile does not exceed 9 years and that the working life of our frontline appliances does not exceed 15 years.

### **Community Fire Safety Programme**

Under the Smoke Alarm Scheme 2014, a further 424 smoke alarms funded by the DECLG were procured for distribution to vulnerable dwellings in the community in association with the Community & Enterprise Section.

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 school students.

### **Key Operational Activity 2014**

Operational volumes of work during 2014 were down on 2013. The Brigades were mobilised to 1,016 incidents in 2014 compared to 1,191 incidents for 2013.

- The number of fire incidents attended decreased by 36%, from 729 in 2013 to 464 in 2014
- The number of Chimney fires attended decreased by 35%, from 222 in 2013 to 144 in 2014
- The number of RTA incidents attended increased by 34%, from 119 in 2013 to 160 in 2014

Our public awareness campaign continues to assist in our efforts at keeping the number of gorse fires at manageable levels. This is also enabled through interagency co-operation and regular engagement with the relevant stakeholders such as Teagasc, IFA, Department of Agriculture, Coillte and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

## **Building Control Activity 2014**

Volumes of work during 2014 were similar to that of 2013.

- 343 Commencement Notices / 7 Day Notices received in 2014 comprising of 406 building notifications
- 235 or 57.88% of the buildings notified were inspected by Officers
- 115 Fire Safety Certificates granted
- 66 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 through the Building Energy Rating Certificates (BERs) submission system

On the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014, the Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 9 of 2014) came into effect. For certain building works, the new regulations require that Certificates of Compliance and other documents must be submitted with the Commencement Notice. The additional requirements also include:

1. The nomination of a competent 'Assigned Certifier' to inspect and certify the works
2. The assignment of a competent builder to carry out the works
3. The submission of Certificates of Compliance on completion

The additional requirements apply to the following works:

1. Construction of a dwelling house
2. Extension of a dwelling house by more than 40 square meters
3. Works which require a Fire Safety Certificate

In tandem with the said regulations the Building Control Management System [BCMS] was released at national level and is now in operation for Kerry.

## Civil Defence

### Key Achievements 2014

- Responded to the severe weather for January and February in Castleisland, Tralee, Ballylongford and Killorglin by supplying sandbags, pumping flood water, patrolling/monitoring the risk areas with 4WD Jeeps for local communities at high tide.
- Missing person search on request by Garda; located fatality and extracted body from a deep ravine by the Civil Defence Search and Rescue Team.
- Warehouses to garage the Civil Defence Fleet of vehicles and stores for general equipment at Monavalley Industrial Estate, Tralee
- Civil Defence Department supplied a 2011 - 17 seater mini-bus.
- Kerry Civil Defence provided two ambulances and crews for the two weeks for Cycle Against Suicide around Ireland.
- Restructure of Unit continuing as required to ensure that we have competent volunteers with current qualification to be called upon when required by the Local Authority.
- Only Adults may join Civil Defence as from the 1<sup>st</sup>.September 2014; you must be over 18 years of age to join.
- The Civil Defence Officer & Senior Casualty Instructor has been appointed by the Department as Designated Liaison Person (DLP) in Child Protection.
- Kerry Civil Defence co-ordinated the Medical Plan for the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle Event for 2014. Over ten thousand cyclists participated in this event with 145 medical staff including 18 ambulances, 3 Medical Centres and 27 Doctors. The Tetra Satellite Communication system was used by Civil Defence and was a huge success in its operation.
- Kerry Civil Defence provided an Emergency Medical Technician for the Home to Rome Charity Event for the Donal Walsh Foundation.
- Medal Ceremony for volunteers who have achieved 30, 40 and 50 years long service at Dublin Castle on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014.
- Two Technical Swiftwater Instructors appointed to teach Water Awareness and Swiftwater Responders.
- Four volunteers trained in de-contamination by the HSE Emergency Planning Office - South.
- Inter-Agency exercise at Kerry Airport with Order Of Malta, Red Cross & Civil Defence.
- Trained 185 Kerry County Council staff in first aid.

# **Director's Report on Operations & Safety**

**Director of Services: Charlie O'Sullivan, Director of Services**

## **Senior Staff:**

Senior Engineer - Gerry Riordan  
A/Senior Engineer - David Doyle

In 2014 €35.09m was invested in the planning, design, development and maintenance of our 4,881 km road network, with €27.85m being provided in state grant aid.

The delivery of the Roadworks Programme during 2014, while particularly challenging, did result in the following:-

The construction of Phase 1 of the Kenmare Eastern Relief Road was completed and opened to traffic in October 2014.

The section of the Dingle Relief Road between Milltown Roundabout and Goat Street was widened during 2014.

The visitor pontoon at Portmagee was officially opened by Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, T.D., Minister for Arts, Heritage and The Gaeltacht on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

An additional allocation of €507,500 was received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for the Restoration Improvement Programme which allowed an additional 4.4km of roads to be improved.

Pavement Improvement Works were undertaken on the national secondary network at 8 locations throughout the county.

Rehabilitation works were carried out on 3 bridges at Lauragh Clapper, Dereen and Castledrum Three.

In the early part of 2014 the country experienced extreme severe weather conditions, which caused significant damage. The intensity of the storm and the damage inflicted was substantial throughout the county. The Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government, the Department of Agriculture, Food and The Marine and the Office of Public Works (OPW) provided funding of €3.3m for clean-up costs and emergency repair works on essential infrastructure, such as, roads, piers, harbours, coastal areas, car parks, playgrounds, promenades, etc.

### **Wild Atlantic Way**

The programme to erect directional signage on national, regional and local roads for the section of the Wild Atlantic Way along with the upgrading of 23 Discovery Points within the County was completed.

### **KEY PERFORMANCES**

#### **Improvement under Specific Improvement Grant Allocation**

- Construction was completed on Phase 1 of the Kenmare Eastern Relief Road and the road opened to traffic in October 2014.

#### **Non-National Roads**

- Safety improvement works carried out at 8 locations
- 134km of regional and local roads improved under the Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance Programme
- €1m spent on public lighting countywide
- 5 Community Involvement Schemes completed

#### **Road Enforcement and Road Safety**

- Roads Enforcement Officer investigated 400 complaints e.g. overloaded vehicles, drainage, road openings, road damage, obstruction signs
- 225 health and safety audits carried out on both local authority and contractor works
- 960 material tests carried out
- Launch of the Road Safety Calendar Competition undertaken in national schools countywide

#### **Piers and Harbours**

- Mooring pontoons for tourists were installed at Portmagee
- Improvement works were carried out at Blackwater, Brandon, Caherciveen, Coonaguillagh, Dromatoor, The Glen, Kenmare, Oysterbed, Renard and Rossdohan.

#### **Derelict Sites**

- 97 sites on the Derelict Sites Register
- 18 sites removed from the Register

# **Director's Report on Corporate Services**

**Director of Services: Mr. John D. Flynn**

**Senior Staff:**

***Corporate Affairs***

*Gerard O'Brien (Senior Executive Officer)*

***Human Resources***

*Martin O'Donoghue (Senior Executive Officer)*

***ICT***

*Brian Looney (Head of ICT)*

## **Corporate Support**

The Corporate Support 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 2014**

- 17 Meetings of the Full Council organised and serviced
- 29 Electoral Area / Municipal District Meetings held and serviced
- A total of 52 new requests were dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act along with 11 complaints received from the Office of the Ombudsman
- Maintained existing levels of service to our internal and external customers with reduced staffing and financial resources

The Facilities Management Unit continued to manage and maintain a portfolio of in excess of 25 Corporate Facilities (Corporate Buildings, Area Offices, Libraries, Courthouses, leased properties) throughout the County with the portfolio increasing to in excess of 35 Corporate Facilities following abolition of the Town Councils in June 2014.

The Facilities Management Unit carried out a significant Works Programme resulting from the abolition of the Town Councils and the Re-Organisation of Kerry County Council.

- Design and refurbishment of the Council Chambers to accommodate the additional elected members and modernisation of the audio / visual equipment.
- Establishment of a file store at Monavalley Industrial Estate
- Works for and relocation of Water Services Operations to Castleisland Area Services Centre
- Works for and relocation of housing to first floor of former Motor Tax Building
- Relocation of staff from Town Councils and establishment of Municipal District Offices in Tralee, Killarney and Listowel
- Refurbishment of Prince's Quay to accommodate Motor Tax, Tralee Municipal District Office and the Capital Infrastructure Unit
- Relocation of Motor Tax to Prince's Quay
- Relocation of Procurement Office to The Reeks, Killarney
- Establishment of Tourism Unit within Áras an Chontae

The Facilities Management Unit continues utilising the NPS contacts and Frameworks to achieve savings in the purchasing of stationery, paper, office supplies and janitorial supplies.

We also continue to identify areas where the running and operational costs of Corporate Facilities can be reduced.

Kerry County Council maintained existing levels of service to our internal and external customers with reduced staffing and financial resources.

### **Protected Disclosures**

The Protected Disclosures Act 2014 offers legal protections for employees who report concerns about wrongdoing in the public, private and non-profit sectors. The legislation aims to protect workers who disclose information that, in their reasonable belief, shows wrongdoing.

Under the Protected Disclosures Act 2014, local authorities are obliged to prepare and publish a report detailing the number of protected disclosures made to the Council in the previous year and any action taken in response to these protected disclosures.

Kerry County Council received no protected disclosures during this period.



## **Human Resources**

### **Key Achievements:**

- Continued development of the Attendance 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).
- Continued development of Child Protection Policies and Procedures to ensure compliance with forthcoming Child Protection Legislation and Children First: National Guidance for Protection and Welfare of Children.
- Continued participation in Government led work experience schemes including Job Bridge Internships and the Gateway Labour Activation Scheme.

### **Training & Development**

The Training Section provides a wide range of training programmes to enable staff and management carry out their duties in a confident, competent manner and in a safe environment. The training delivered is divided into the following categories:

- Health and Safety (Mandatory) training
- Business/Management Skills
- Job specific knowledge, skill and competence training
- Personal Development
- Performance Management

To ensure compliance with Health and Safety legislation, Health and Safety Training is a priority within the organisation. Training in this area accounted for 46% of all training delivered during 2014.

Kerry County Council work with Kerry Education and Training Board to deliver “Return to Learning” programmes such as computer skills and communications with FETAC certification.

Categories of training delivered during the year:-

- Agresso Training
- Chainsaw
- Change Management

- Child Protection
- Conflict Training
- Construction Regulations
- CPC Driver
- First Aid Awareness
- Irish Water Training
- PMDS
- Procurement Training
- Report Writing & Courtroom Skills
- Safepass
- School Warden
- Signing, Lighting & Guarding
- Spraying Courses

#### **Number of Employees at 31 December 2014**

Managerial/Administrative	453
Engineering/Technical	187
Operational/Outdoor	725
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1365</b>

#### **Gender Breakdown of employees at 31 December 2014**

	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Managerial/Administrative	102	351	453
Engineering/Technical	155	32	187
Operational/Outdoor	651	74	725
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>1365</b>

#### **Competition Statistics 2014**

##### **Competitions**

No. Competitions Held: **23**

Total no. applications received: **592**

Male: **467**

Female: **125**

##### **3<sup>rd</sup> Level Placements**

The Council continued its association with 3<sup>rd</sup> Level placements programmes, and **13** no. placements were facilitated.

### **Government led labour activation initiatives**

Kerry County Council continues to implement Government led initiatives to assist long-term unemployed persons to re-enter the workforce.

#### **JobBridge Internships**

No. Competitions Held: **3**

Total No. applications received: **252**

Male: **205**

Female: **47**

No. Placements facilitated: **5**

### **Gateway Local Authority Labour Activation Scheme**

In accordance with agreed levels as set out by the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government, Kerry County Council will employ a total of 80 no. participants under the Gateway Scheme.

Working in conjunction with the Department of Social Protection, a total of 35 no. placements were filled in 2014, with recruitment ongoing in order to fill all placements in early 2015.

Kerry County Council acknowledges the support of the Dormant Accounts Fund in relation to the operation of the Gateway Scheme.

## **Information and Communications Technology**

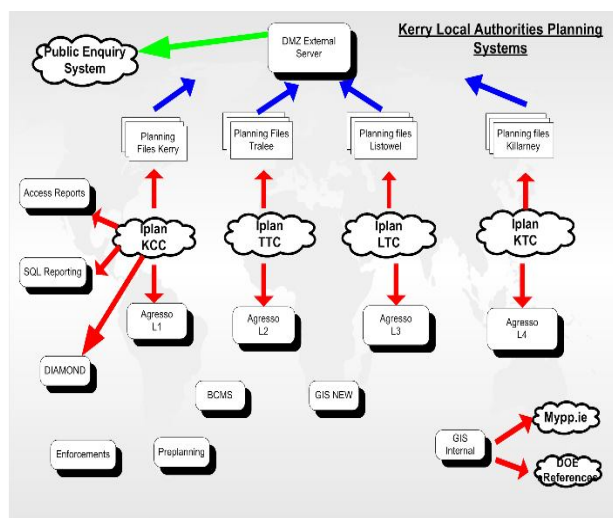
### **Business & Information Systems Department**

#### **Merger of ICT Systems**

As a result of legislative changes introduced in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the Town Council structure in Ireland was abolished from June 1<sup>st</sup> 2014. As a result, the three Town Councils in Kerry, those in Tralee, Killarney and Listowel ceased to exist on June 1<sup>st</sup>. All activities, operations and functions that were previously carried out by the Town Councils were merged into Kerry County Council. All computer systems formerly used by the town councils were seamlessly amalgamated with Kerry County Council systems with minimum impact on the customer.

The Merge Systems Project was a collaboration between ICT personnel from disparate disciplines (Project & Business Management, Software Development, Database Management, GIS, Operations, Technical & Service Desk), Business Users & third Party vendors. All worked together to successfully merge ICT systems and have them operational by the immovable deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Project was deemed to be a success and systems

were seamlessly merged with their Kerry County Council Counterpart and business continued un-interrupted for customers of Kerry County Council and former Town councils. Diagram above shows an example of the complexity of just one of the suite of systems merged :



### **Alfresco Document Management**

Alfresco provides a hybrid document management solution that works on-premise and in the cloud. Simple to use and easy to deploy, Alfresco is delivered as an open source solution that provides enterprise-grade security, easy administration, and seamless integration with other business applications.

- A single repository to manage any kind of electronic file
- Integrated workflow to manage complex business processes
- Longer term retention and compliance through managed content

Council meeting documentation is presently published on a secure Alfresco site and all Councillors can access this information via their mobile Devices – Tablet/ Smart Phone.

Alfresco Document Management For Laboratory (public portal) was also Implemented Document Management system for easy storage and retrieval of Standard Operating Procedures required for accreditation assessment, for storage of Certificates of Authorisation and retrieval by Water Services, Environment and Irish Water.

### **Implementation of new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)**

This project provides support for the sampling and analysis of monitoring programmes for the following categories of concern to County Kerry: Drinking water, rivers and lakes, groundwater, bathing water, landfills and transfer stations, wastewater treatment plants, industrial discharges to sewer and water, response to pollution incidents, lake algal blooms etc. Some of the project management tasks involved were: establishment of a Steering Group, specification of requirements, market research and tendering for solution,

progress reporting, development and configuration of the system, liaising with other Directorates & External Bodies, development of policies and procedures, Identifying user training needs and devising, managing and delivering user training programmes, managing project and Lab resource, Development of reports.

### **Weighbridge Data Warehouse**

A self-service system was developed for environment to utilise the consolidated weighbridge data from the Transfer Stations. The data from the sites is consolidated nightly and a data warehouse is updated nightly. This is an invaluable management tool for environment who can then manipulate data as required.

### **Self-service Reporting Suites& Data Analysis**

- Housing Administration Suite
- Municipal Districts Operational Suite.
- Water Services and Environment Suite

### **FSi (Fire Service Information) Project**

The Fire Service Information (FSi) is a management tool which is designed specifically for the fire service. It is broadly divided into three components: Payroll (for retained fire fighters via CORE), Statistical departmental returns, Billing for attendance at incidents (via Agresso). The system went live in Q4 in 2013 and the role during 2014 involved the ongoing support, bedding in and resolution of issues.

### **Building Control Management System**

The Building Regulations are a set of legal requirements for the design and construction of new buildings, extensions and material alterations to, and certain changes of use of, existing buildings. In relation to buildings, the Building Regulations provide for, the health, safety and welfare of people, conservation of fuel and energy, and access for people with disabilities.

A centrally hosted service which records Commencement notice and Seven day notice was developed the LGMA. The records are now logged by the clients directly onto the system. The Fire Services Department then uses this system to record onto the Diamond Fire system.

### **Online Systems& GIS Departments**

2014 saw continued Support & development of our Council websites, hosting maintenance& domain administration. Various websites were developed and implemented live during 2014. One of our most popular sites was the new walking and audio tour in Tralee. ***The Secret Tralee Audio Trail*** gives walkers and tourists a unique opportunity to learn the secrets of the town in medieval times. The tour has 17 strong stopping points of interest and starts at St John's Church. It takes in medieval churches, ancient clocks, Tralee's

Old Market Place and trading streets, the Old Port of Tralee and many more stops along the route. It is accessible from [www.gokerry.ie](http://www.gokerry.ie) and [www.kerrycoco.ie](http://www.kerrycoco.ie)

### **Social Media**

Kerry County Council presently has 5,221 Twitter followers of Kerry Council Twitter Account which tweets regularly about weather warnings, road temperatures, road conditions, water outages, road closures and important business notifications. Kerry County Council also has 4,625 Likes for Kerry County Council Facebook site.

### **Graphical Information Systems**

Our GIS department supported/Developed/updated the various Council GIS systems and browsers, Migration of Planning Data for ESRI compatible usage, Installation of a new planning digitizer, development of new GIS browsers, Upgrade of Mapinfo ,Migration of all relevant data layers to Esri and integration to Flex Viewer. Upgrade of MapRoad, Mapgenie installation, Installation of ArcGIS.

### **ICT Operations Department**

The re-organisation of Kerry County Council impacted on our ICT Department and all staff spent a significant amount of time on re-organisation related activities (Business Systems Support, Database Support, VOIP, and Networking). IT Operations also managed to progress many other priority projects in 2014. On-going support of our infrastructure (Network, Database, Servers and Virtual Machines).

New Network and VoIP (Voice over IP) installations in Castleisland, Tralee Municipal District (Building refit), Killarney Municipal District, Killarney Procurement offices. New firewalls were also put in place in order to protect our networks.

SAN (Storage Area Network), Servers & Networks were all moved to a new secure purpose built air conditioned Data Centre; the old server room was decommissioned. We experienced Radio WAN issues in Jan/Feb 2014 due to severe weather. New Library Wireless Access System was installed with 2nd Phase due in early 2015. A new Fibre link between Headquarters and Tralee Municipal District was installed. We are currently engaged in a Cloud Tender Evaluation. Business continuity was ensured by implementing redundancy in our database management systems e.g. Database Server clustering was implemented. Upgrade of most business systems from SQL 2000 to SQL 2008.

Server Infrastructure - The IT Operations Team are involved in all new Business System deployments by providing the necessary servers - in 2014 the supported the Diamond Fire, BCMS, LIMS, FSI, WebDog.

## **Technical Management & Service Desk Departments**

The process of replacing the legacy computer stock running Windows XP operating system commenced in 2014. The re-organisation of Kerry County Council Project entailed significant movement of staff and their IT equipment. With regard to our Citrix Farm, Hardware was purchased for our new farm and we renewed our managed support services contract.

All 33 Councillors were provided with tablets and all were trained and can now access Councillor Meeting's documentation via an Alfresco portal. Mini-competitions were ran & awarded for large format printers, PCs and laptops. We have commenced an evaluation of IGEL units and a national technology Pilot commenced in Motor Tax.

### **ICT Service Desk Support**

ICT support is provided to over 900 desktops, laptop, tablet & smartphone users in over 100 Locations Countrywide. In 2014, over 6,800 incident requests were logged in our centralised Service Desk System.

# **Report of Head of Finance**

**Head of Finance: Angela McAllen**

***Senior Staff:***

***Finance***

*Michael O'Leary (Senior Executive Officer)*

*Pat O'Shea (Senior Executive Officer)*

***Local Government Operational Procurement Centre***

*Catherine Carmody (Project Manager)*

**Director of Service: Angela McAllen, Head of Finance**

***Senior Staff:***

***Michael O'Leary, Senior Executive Officer***

***Pat O'Shea, Acting Senior Executive Officer***

Over the course of 2014, Kerry County Council has managed the resource base effectively despite the many challenges faced. The Council has prudent expenditure controls in both Revenue and Capital and strengthened debt management measures to maximise income where possible.

In managing the Budget during the year, the Council aimed to maintain financial stability and probity throughout the organisation through sound budgetary processes, treasury and income management, procurement and good governance.

We actively promote best practice in the areas of risk management and corporate governance and these, combined with the principle of Value for Money, encourage efficiency and ensure transparent and robust accounting and financial systems to respond effectively to the existing environment.

Proactive management of the long and short term finances of the Council and the identification and securing of new sources of income will ensure the organisation can meet its liabilities and priorities in the short and long term.

There were some significant changes to Local Government in 2014 which included



- The abolition of the Town Councils, creation of four Municipal Districts and centralisation of services.
- The provisions of the Water Services Act, 2013, and No. 2 Act, 2013, in respect of the transfer of assets and liabilities to Irish Water.
- A Service Level Agreement with Irish Water for the delivery of Water Services.
- Establishment of Local Enterprise Office in Kerry County Council following the dissolution of the County Enterprise Board in April 2014.

These changes are reflected in the outturn figures for 2014 which include the activities of the former Town Councils for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan to 1<sup>st</sup> June.

The severe storms of early 2014 incurred additional expenditure than that budgeted across many divisions of the Council and former Town Councils for 2014. This additional expenditure was partially offset by storm grant support received at year-end.

Our reliance on locally sourced income is increasing. Significant attention was paid during 2014 to the collection of the debtor streams including government departments, state agencies and Council paying customers. The percentage collections across many of our major income streams have been broadly maintained compared to 2013. Commercial Rates are now more than ever an extremely important local income and the unification with the former Town Councils will have a major impact on this area.

Kerry County Council continues to work on a case-by-case basis with businesses and debtors who are experiencing difficulties, but unfortunately there are those who are unwilling to pay and choose not to engage with the Council's Revenue Department. These cases will be pursued through the appropriate channels in order to collect outstanding debts. As stated before, genuine cases will be dealt with sympathetically in terms of payment plans, but those who choose not to engage in a meaningful manner will be pursued.

The efficient centralisation of our services post unification and better value in all our procurement practices remained a key senior management imperative across all our services during the year and will continue to be further targeted in 2015. 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. It is notable that in 2014, Kerry County Council was established as the National Procurement Office to host procurement initiatives on a shared service basis on behalf of 33 other local authorities.

The achievement of the objectives of the Public Sector Savings Agreements 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. It continues to be a priority to use internal staff to the greatest extent possible and make full use of the available skills.

The Council continues to invest in the infrastructure of the county. The Council Programme is prepared on a 3 year basis in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001 and this is considered as part of the Annual Budgetary Process. The Capital Programme must have regard to available resources. The sources of capital funding, government grants, borrowing capacity and development contributions are significantly reduced in recent years.

Kerry County Council took actions during 2014 and continues into 2015 and the future, to adjust and match both operational day-to-day spend and its long-term capital investment programme with available funding and resources. Central to all of Kerry County Council's services is the objective to maintain and support business and households through provision of quality driven services within the current financial constraints.

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 may be described as satisfactory as at 31 December, 2014.

In summary, service demand remained high in 2014 notwithstanding the many challenges, and this remains the case into 2015.

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT) FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2014**

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure.

It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

Transfers to/from reserves are shown separately and not allocated by service division.

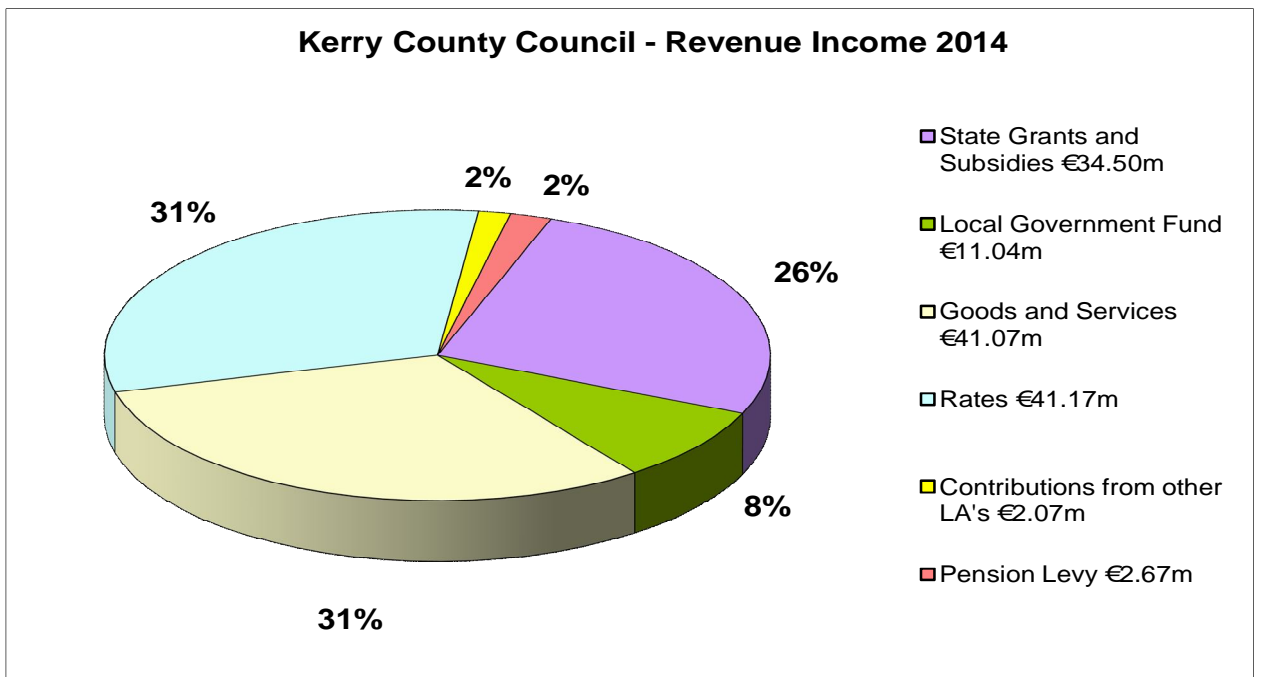
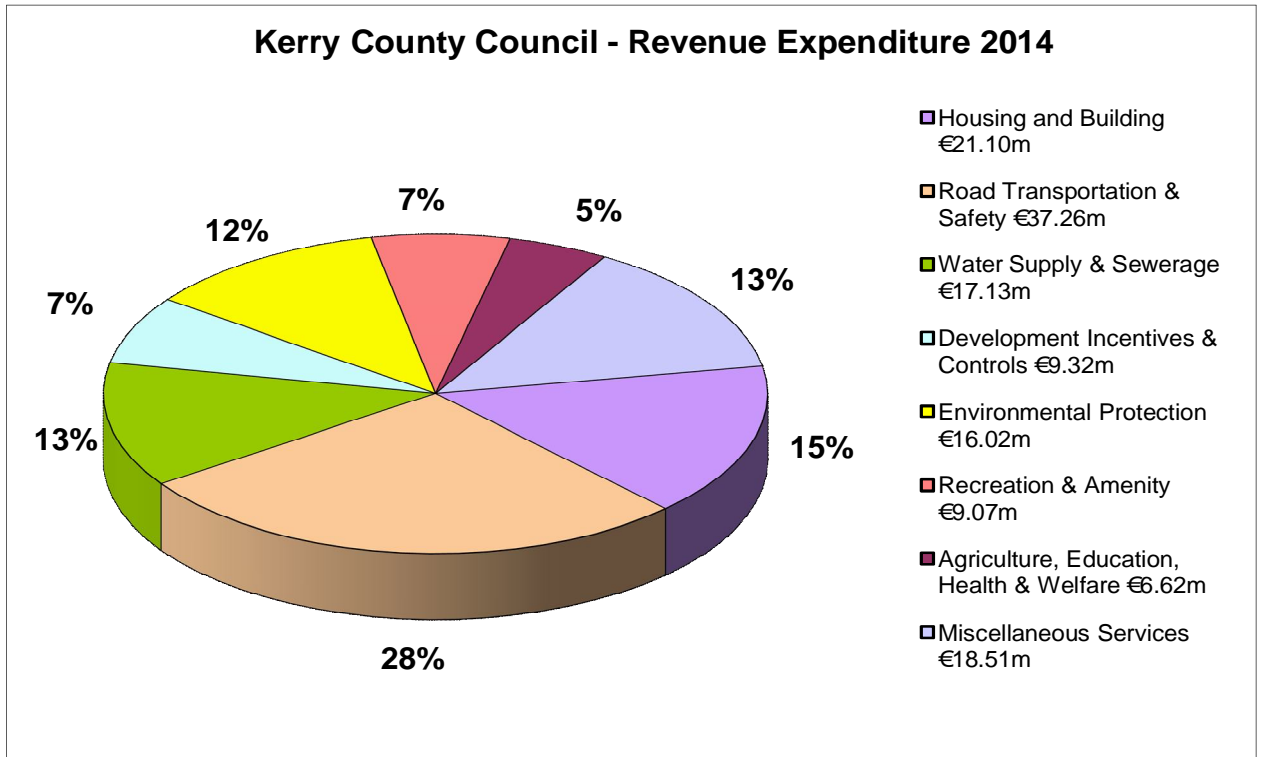
<b>Expenditure by Division</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Gross Expenditure 2014 €</b>	<b>Income 2014 €</b>	<b>Net Expenditure 2014 €</b>	<b>Net Expenditure 2013 €</b>
Housing and Building		19,700,679	20,000,764	(300,085)	(323,471)
Roads, Transportation & Safety		35,840,340	23,092,971	12,747,369	13,055,000
Water Services		15,347,614	16,411,570	(1,063,956)	13,358,700
Development Management		8,929,540	2,256,109	6,673,431	6,827,400
Environmental Services		14,757,926	3,399,191	11,358,735	10,106,600
Recreation & Amenity		8,066,723	1,569,303	6,497,420	6,470,100
Agriculture Education, Health & Welfare		5,898,777	5,167,321	731,456	514,500
Miscellaneous Services		17,957,095	5,742,665	12,214,430	9,592,300
County Charge		-	-	-	6,348,800
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>16-17</b>	126,498,694	77,639,894		
Net Cost of Division to be funded from Rates and Local Government Fund				48,858,800	65,950,200
Rates				41,169,215	41,387,300
Local Government Fund				11,043,837	22,238,900
Pension Related Deduction				2,670,557	2,884,200
County Charge				-	6,348,800
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers</b>				6,024,809	6,909,200
<b>Transfers from/(to) Reserves</b>	<b>15</b>			(5,933,879)	(6,664,100)
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>				90,930	245,100
<b>General Reserve at 1st January 2014</b>				6,093,078	5,847,900
<b>General Reserve at 31st December 2014</b>				6,184,008	6,093,000

## Financial Statement

### Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2014

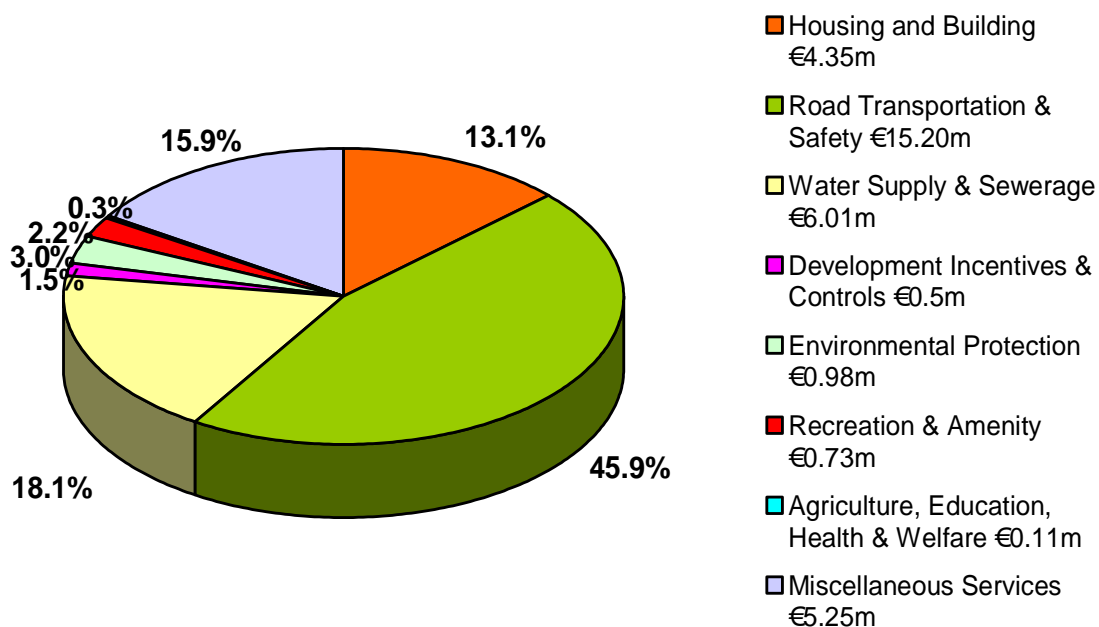
	Notes	2014 €	2013 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	1		
Operational		695,969,956	702,217,402
Infrastructural		2,776,246,759	3,244,436,063
Community		13,254,424	8,519,021
Non-Operational		5,078,468	5,225,443
		<b>3,490,549,607</b>	<b>3,960,397,929</b>
<b>Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses</b>	2	<b>11,785,832</b>	<b>25,333,435</b>
<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	3	<b>45,471,274</b>	<b>35,140,049</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Stock	4	1,007,071	974,208
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5	28,850,118	12,859,773
Bank Investments		74,371,546	77,954,546
Cash at Bank		-	-
Cash in Transit		619,285	592,677
Urban Account	7	-	-
		<b>104,848,020</b>	<b>92,381,204</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Bank Overdraft		445,526	781,474
Creditors & Accruals	6	47,216,351	25,226,098
Urban Account	7	-	-
Finance Leases		29,343	28,259
		<b>47,691,220</b>	<b>26,035,831</b>
<b>Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</b>		<b>57,156,800</b>	<b>66,345,373</b>
<b>Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)</b>			
Loans Payable	8	85,054,499	107,166,205
Finance Leases		48,686	79,114
Refundable Deposits	9	2,591,146	2,281,864
Other		348,005	523,790
		<b>88,042,336</b>	<b>110,050,973</b>
<b>Net Assets / (Liabilities)</b>		<b>3,516,921,177</b>	<b>3,977,165,813</b>
<b>Represented By</b>			
Capitalisation	10	3,490,549,607	3,960,397,931
Income WIP	2	11,093,257	24,108,590
Specific Revenue Reserve		7,478,134	7,478,134
General Revenue Reserve		6,184,008	6,093,078
Other Balances	11	1,616,171	(20,911,920)
<b>Total Reserves</b>		<b>3,516,921,177</b>	<b>3,977,165,813</b>

## Financial Statement

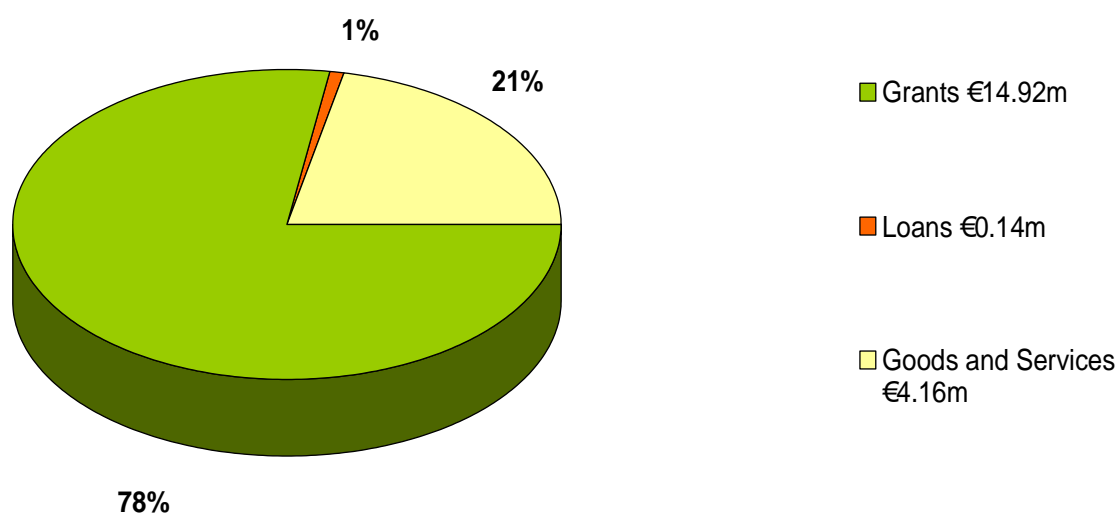


## Financial Statement

### Kerry County Council - Capital Expenditure 2014



### Kerry County Council - Sources of Capital Funding 2014



## **Late Payments 2014**

In accordance with the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997, and European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions Regulations, 2012) the details of the Councils payment practice is set out below.

The European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial transactions) (S.I. No 580 of 2012) came into effect on 16 March 2013.

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

Kerry County Council complied fully with the legislation in respect of late payments during 2014.

## **Development Contributions 2014**

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 benefiting 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 2014 came into operation on the 21/3/2011. 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 2014 (Note 11) and may be summarised as follows:-

	€
Net opening position 1/1/2014 surplus/(deficit)	21,135,185
Income	1,460,878
Expenditure	13,135,270
Net Closing Position 31/12/2014 surplus/(deficit)	9,460,793

Amounts owed by Debtors (short term) € 3,403,503 and Debtors (long term) € 348,005 per annual Financial Statement 2014 Note 5 and Note 3.

## **Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (LGOPC)**

### **Background:**

The Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (LGOPC) was established in May 2014 in Kerry County Council. The LGOPC has and will continue to play a key role in the implementation of the local government procurement programme. It is an operational centre with responsibility for the operation of the local authority sector led Category Councils for (i) Plant Hire (expenditure of €49.1m) and (ii) Minor Building & Civil Works (expenditure of €522.2m), as set by the Office of Government Procurement (OGP), as well as the development of relevant procurement enabling software in conjunction with the OGP and other relevant stakeholders.

As the operational centre for the local government procurement programme, the LGOPC is responsible for the sectoral categories of spend through the development, implementation and management of all elements of the Category Councils of Plant Hire and Minor Building & Civil Works, on behalf of the Public Service within an approved budget.

### **Savings:**

The LGOPC reports to the Local Government Strategic Procurement Centre (LGSPC) which is anchored, in the Local Government Efficiency Review Programme Management Office for the purpose of overseeing the delivery of €58.5 million in savings to be achieved through the use of procurement in the local government sector in the period 2014- 2016 inclusive. In 2014 the sector achieved procurement savings of €4.25m. Target procurement savings for the sector for 2015 are €14.8m and the LGOPC play a crucial role in delivering these savings.

### **Key Performances since established in May 2014**

- Kerry County Council has managed the recruitment process for the Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (LGOPC). 22 posts in place
- Pipeline identified for 2015
- Numerous bilateral meetings held with OPW, Health and Education to assess their requirements and progress the implementation of frameworks within these sectors
- Independent verification of the value for money of the LGOPC Bulk Fuel Framework was undertaken by KPMG
- Team meetings set up and reporting systems agreed with LGSPC and LGOPC
- Four training sessions for buyers of LGOPC frameworks provided in Dublin and Galway in December



- Engaged with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government on the Energy Retrofitting Programme and the VOIDS programme
- Working closely with the Office of Government Procurement, OGP on a number of category councils where there is a cross over, improvement and integration of systems, data analytics, policy, processes, etc.
- Engaged with the Department of Transport and NRA on the Supply of Bitumen
- Hosting workshops and business engagement seminars. Actively engaging with SME's - 160 people attended the latest seminar on the 11th of February

# **Director's Report on Water Services**

**Director of Services: Oliver Ring**

**Senior Staff**

*John Kennelly (Senior Engineer)*

***The strategic objective of the Water Services Directorate is:***

***“To deliver in partnership with Irish Water a quality service to our people and visitors in an efficient, friendly and helpful manner”***

The enactment of the Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, means that Irish Water is Ireland's new national water utility, bringing the water services of Local Authorities together under one national service provider.

Kerry County Council continues to provide water services to the people of Kerry, as an Agent of Irish Water, under a Service Level Agreement.

The new Water Services Directorate was established under the Kerry County Council reorganisation project and, as part of this, the Operations Division was relocated to the Area Services Centre in Castleisland in July 2014, alongside the Capital Division.

The Directorate is responsible for the delivery of Water Services through the Service Level Agreement in both Operations and Capital projects. It is also responsible for the Rural Water Programme.

## **Water Services Operations**

### **Public Water Supply**

In 2014, approximately 30.1 million cubic metres (30.1 billion litres) of drinking water was produced for 130,000 consumers served by some 60,000 water connections. The water is produced from 60 public water schemes, which are supplied from more than 90 separate water sources throughout the county.

There were 93 new water connections and 10 new waste water connections completed in 2014.

Some key improvements to the water supply network were carried out during 2014. These were funded by Irish Water and works included:

- A €1.53m contract for the replacement of 6km of old and deficient cast-iron and lead watermain in 6 housing estates in Tralee – more than 40% of the job was completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014.
- The replacement of 3km of 4" Cast Iron watermain with lead connections at Ballyduff
- The replacement of 2.5km of 3" watermain at Na Cúla and Formaoil, Baile An Sceilg
- The replacement of 1.7km of 2" watermain at Cathair An Treantaigh, Ceanntá
- The replacement of 1.6km of 4" watermain at Cill Chuáin, An Mhuiríoch
- The replacement of 1.6km of 2" watermain at Tír, Cé Bhréanainn
- The replacement of 1.0km of 4" watermain at Curraduff, Camp
- The replacement of 600m of 1" watermain at Moyvane
- The replacement of 450m of 3" watermain at Old Forge and Minish, Killarney
- The replacement of 300m of 4" watermain at Ballynakilly, Glenbeigh
- The replacement of 730m of 4" watermain at Carhan Road and Main Street, Cahersiveen
- A total of 3.0km of watermain were also replaced at Annascaul, Baile An Lochaigh, Baile Na Buaile, Cahersiveen (Carhan Rd. and Main St), Castlecove, Tralee (Curraheen), Killorglin (Douglas), Beaufort (Gearha), Imileá, and Dingle (Marian Park).

### **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.

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.

At the beginning of 2014, a total of 39 new Water Treatment Plants had been commissioned under the RAL Programme. A further 4 "RAL" Water Treatment Plants were completed in 2014 at Baile an Fheirtéaraigh (An Riasc), Portmagee, An Daingean and Inch.

During 2014, 11 schemes were removed by the EPA from the RAL List at An Clochán, An Daingean, Castlegregory, Cill Maoilchéadair, Dún Chaoin, Inch, Portmagee, Aughacasla, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh, Camp and Tieraclea, Tarbert.

## **Public Waste Water**

A total of 16 public full Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTPs) and 32 public primary treatment facilities are maintained throughout the county.

### **Key upgrades made to the waste water infrastructure in 2014 included:**

- New WWTPs at Ballylongford & Tarbert began construction
- New WWTP at Knightstown
- New UV Disinfection System at Tralee WWTP

## **Rural Water Programme**

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 508 Group Water Schemes have been developed in Kerry and 234 have been taken over and are now maintained by Kerry County Council on behalf of Irish Water.

### **Key developments in 2014:**

- €492,540 spent in progressing Group Water Schemes.
- 1.65km of replacement pipework laid for Clanmaurice GWS, at Kilmore, as part of Upgrade Works Prior to Takeover.
- 61 Group Water Schemes received subsidy payments.
- One new Group Water Scheme, Knocknaboola, Killorglin, was connected to the public mains.
- Two specific Source Protection Studies were carried out at Inch/ Foildaun GWS and Lougher GWS.
- 26 applications for Well Grants were received.
- 15 Well Grants, totalling €25,500, were paid during 2014
- Two applications for funding under the Septic Tank Improvement Grant Scheme were received and processed.

## **Water Conservation**

The National Water Conservation Programme, which was initiated 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) Directorate.

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 2013 it has been reduced by 17% to 82,617 cubic meters per day. This represents a reduction of 6.3 million cubic meters in annual water production. Data for 2014 is currently being collated.

Dedicated leak detection crews who specialise in leakage management procedures are actively working on the ground. Over 6,100 leaks have been located and repaired in the County since mid 2006.

In October 2014, an additional three staff were assigned to the Water Conservation Unit which in effect meant that Kerry County Council was in a position to operate a Leak Detection and Repair/“Find & Fix” policy. This “Find & Fix” operation began in the general Castleisland area where approximately 150 issues were identified and rectified which has resulted in a 47% reduction in night flows.

In addition approximately 20 existing unmetered connections (domestic and non-domestic) were identified and metered which in effect means that their consumption will no longer be classified as Unaccounted For Water but will actually be accountable water and also billable.

## **Water Services Capital**

The Capital Project Office carried out a significant amount of work in 2014 advancing new major water and wastewater capital schemes through the Irish Water Capital Investment Programme 2014-2016, as well as delivering the Irish Water Minor Capital Programme. The Capital Works in 2014 included:

### **Major Schemes:**

- New Waste Water Treatment Plants at Ballylongford and Tarbert (value €2.7m) started in February 2014. Both plants will be completed and commissioned in the first half of 2015.
- Work commenced on the Tralee Estates Mains Rehabilitation Contract (value €2.6m)
- The new Water Treatment Plant for the Central Regional Water Supply Scheme at Lough Guitane progressed to tender stage (value €25.4m)
- New Water Treatment Plant for Kenmare was approved to completion of contract documents stage

- Ardferf Sewerage Scheme was approved to completion of contract documents stage

#### **RAL Schemes - Upgrades to Water Treatment Plants:**

- Completed at An Daingean, An Riasc, Inch and Portmagee
- Commenced at An Gleann, An Mhin Ard Puc, Baile an Fheirtearaigh (Baile Ui Bhaoithin), Baile an Sceilg, Caherdaniel, Castlecove, Maulin and Caragh Lake
- Designs were progressed for upgrades at Mountainstage, Templenoe and Lauragh.

#### **Minor Programmes:**

In 2014, Kerry County Council **submitted 56 Asset Needs Briefs** to Irish Water and secured **€2.20m in funding** for Minor Improvement Works. Kerry County Council also secured funding for the replacement of “failed or failing” assets through the Irish Water Minor Reactive Works Programme.

## National Service Indicators

	Service Indicators	2014			
	<b>CORPORATE</b>				
<b>C1</b>	The whole time equivalent staffing Nos at year end (consistent with figures provided to DECLG by way of staffing returns at year end	1042.57			
<b>C2</b>	% of working days lost to sickness absence through <b>MEDICALLY CERTIFIED LEAVE</b>	3.23%			
	% of working days lost to sickness absence through <b>SELF CERTIFIED LEAVE</b>	0.29%			
	No of working days lost to sickness absence through <b>MEDICALLY CERTIFIED LEAVE</b>	7642.56			
	No of working days lost to sickness absence through <b>SELF CERTIFIED LEAVE</b>	685.13			
	No of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days	671.24			
	No of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included with the total of self-certified sick leave days	0.00			
<b>C3</b>	<b>No. of page visits to LA website</b>				
	Cumulative total page views for the period 1/1/14 to 31/12/14	424,306.00			
<b>C4</b>	<b>Overall cost of ICT provision per WTE</b>	€ 2,274.00			
	<b>WASTE/ENVIRONMENT</b>				
<b>E1</b>	The no.of waste facility permits & certificates of registration granted by the LA and not yet expired as at 31/12/14	51			
<b>E2</b>	No./% of households with access to a 3 bin service	supplied by NWCPO			
<b>E3</b>	No. of distinct complaints relating to waste within LA area that were referred to the OEE in the period 2014 because the problem persisted after the investigation of the complaint by the LA	1			

<b>E4</b>	%of Litter pollution cases closed by 31/12/14	95.68%			
	%of Air pollution cases closed by 31/12/14	72.46%			
	%of Noise pollution cases closed by 31/12/14	28.00%			
	%of Water pollution cases closed by 31/12/14	70.14%			
	Total no. of Litter pollution cases in respect of which a complaint/s was/were made through any medium during 2014 whether instigated by the public or by the LA itself	671			
	No of Litter pollution cases received in 2014 on which either a decision was taken that no investigation was warranted or an investigation was finalised during the year	642			
	Total no. of Air pollution cases in respect of which a complaint/s was/were made through any medium during 2014 whether instigated by the public or by the LA itself	69			
	No of Air pollution cases received in 2014 on which either a decision was taken that no investigation was warranted or an investigation was finalised during the year	50			
	Total no. of Noise pollution cases in respect of which a complaint/s was/were made through any medium during 2014 whether instigated by the public or by the LA itself	25			
	No of Noise pollution cases received in 2014 on which either a decision was taken that no investigation was warranted or an investigation was finalised during the year	7			
	Total no. of Water pollution cases in respect of which a complaint/s was/were made through any medium during 2014 whether instigated by the public or by the LA itself	144			



	No of Water pollution cases received in 2014 on which either a decision was taken that no investigation was warranted or an investigation was finalised during the year	101			
<b>E5</b>	<b>% of Areas within the Local Authority that are (TES Consulting will submit info (a) to (e))</b>				
	(a) Unpolluted (i.e. litter free)	TES Consultancy will complete			
	(b) slightly polluted with litter				
	(c) moderately polluted with litter				
	(d) Significantly polluted with litter				
	(e) Grossly polluted with litter				
	<b>FIRE SERVICE</b>				
<b>F1</b>	<b>Cost per Capita of the Fire Service</b>				
	Cost per capita	€45.66			
	AFS for Prog E consisting of E11+E12 and the relevant proportion of the Central Mgt charge	€6,644,014.00			
<b>F2</b>	<b>Service Mobilisation</b>				
	Average time, in minutes to mobilise fire brigades in <b>Full time</b> stations In respect of Fires	0			
	Average time, in minutes to mobilise fire brigades in <b>Part time</b> stations In respect of Fires	6.2			
	Average time, in minutes to mobilise fire brigades in <b>Full time</b> stations In respect of non fire emergency incidents	0			
	Average time, in minutes to mobilise fire brigades in <b>Part time</b> stations In respect of non fire emergency incidents	6.12			
<b>F3</b>	<b>% of attendance as scenes where</b>				
	(a)% of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at scene within 10 minutes	31.60%			
	(b)% of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	50.56%			
	(c) % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at scene after 20 minutes	17.84%			

	(d) % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 min	31.94%			
	(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	51.33%			
	(f) % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 min	16.73%			
	Total Number of incidents in respect of Fire	538			
	No of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 min	170			
	No of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 min but within 20 min	272			
	No of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 min	96			
	Total no of incidents in respect of all other emergency incidents (not including fire)	263			
	No of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 min	84			
	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	135			
	No of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 min	44			
	<b>HOUSING</b>				
<b>H1/H2</b>	<b>Social Housing stock/Housing Voids</b>				
A	The overall total number of dwellings provided by the LA in 2014	144			
B	The no. of dwellings provided (constructed or purchased) by the LA in 2014	11			
	No. constructed	2			
	No. purchased	9			

C	No. of units provided under the RAS in 2014	98			
D	No. of units provided under the Housing Assistance Payment scheme in 2014	0			
E	No. of units provided under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative in 2014	35			
F	Overall no. of Social Housing dwellings in the LA	4843			
G	Total no of dwellings directly provided ( constructed or purchased) by the LA	4038			
H	Total No. of units provided under RAS	731			
I	Total no. of units provided under the Housing Assistance payment Scheme	0			
J	Total no. of units provided under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative	74			
H2	% of the total no of dwellings at H1(G) about that were vacant on 31/12/14	3.44%			
	No. of dwellings units within the overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/14	139			
H3	<b>Average Re-Letting Time &amp; Cost</b>				
A	The time taken from the date of vacation of the dwelling to the date in 2014 when a new tenancy had commenced in the dwelling,averaged across all units re-let in 2014	48.84w			
B	The cost expended on getting the re-tenanted units in 2014 ready for re-letting,averaged across all units re-let in 2014	€17,888.28			
	No. of units that were re-tenanted on any date in 2014(exclud.those vacant due to an estate wide refurbishment scheme)	103			
	No of weeks from when the previous tenant vacated the dwelling up to the date of the new tenants first rent debit,with any partial week decimalised to two decimal places,totalled for all units included above	5030.14w			

	Total expenditure on repairs necessary to enable re letting of the units included above	€1,842,493.00			
<b>H4</b>	<b>Housing Maintenance Costs</b>				
	Exp during 2014 on the repair & maintenance of Housing bought or built by the LA compiled on a continuous basis from 1/1/14 to 31/12/14, divided by the no. of directly provided units in the LA stock at 31/12/14(H1G above)	€2,139,791.00			
<b>H5</b>	<b>Private rented sector inspections</b>				
	Total no. of registered tenancies in the LA area (PRTB)	6276			
	No. of inspections carried out	714			
<b>H6</b>	<b>Long Term Homeless Adults</b>				
	No. of adult individuals that are long term homeless as a % of the total no. of homeless adult individuals	35.48%			
	The total no of adult individuals classified as homeless in the PASS system as at 31/12/14	31			
	The number of homeless adult individuals who, on 31/12/14 have been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously , or for 6 months cumulatively over the previous 12 months	11			
<b>J</b>	<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>				
<b>J1</b>	<b>No. of Jobs created</b>				
A	The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/12/14 to 31/12/14	76			
	<b>LIBRARY SERVICES</b>				
<b>L1</b>	<b>Library Visits</b>				
	No of visits of full time libraries per 1,000 population	3622.63			
	Total no of visits to full time libraries	527,100			

<b>L2</b>	<b>Cost of operating a Library Service</b>					
	Cost of operating a Library Service per 1,000 population	€ 25,475.24				
	AFS Prog F(F02 + proportion of the CMC)	€ 3,706,698.33				
	<b>FINANCE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>M1</b>	<b>5 YEAR SUMMARY OF Revenue Account balance</b>					
	The debit/credit balance at year end in the Revenue Account from the income & expenditure account statement of the AFS	€ 6,184,008.00	€6,093,078.00	€5,847,957.00	€5,418,545.00	€4,659,000.00
<b>M2</b>	<b>5 YEAR SUMMARY OF % collection levels for major Revenue sources</b>					
	Rates	77.64%	75.35%	75.50%	76.15%	
	Rent & Annuities	93.63%	94.35%	94.28%	94.83%	
	Housing Loans	82.51%	86.63%	87.97%	90.41%	
	<b>PLANNING</b>					
<b>P1</b>	<b>New Buildings Inspected</b>					
	Total no. of new building notified to the LA	406				
A	Buildings inspected as a % of new buildings notified to the LA	57.88%				
	No. of new buildings notified to the LA in 2014 that were subject to at least 1 inspection undertaken by the LA under S11 of the Building Control Act '90	235				
<b>P2</b>	<b>Planning decisions confirmed by An Bord Pleanála</b>					
A	No. of LA planning decisions which were subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála on any date in the last year	43				
B	% of the determinations at 'A' above which were to confirm either with or without variation the decision made by the LA	46.51%				
	No of determinations confirming the LA's decision with or without variation	20				
<b>P3</b>	<b>% of Planning Enforcement cases closed as resolved</b>					

A	Total no of planning cases(as opposed to complaints) referred to or initiated by the LA in the period 2014 that were investigated	228			
B	Total number of cases that were closed during 2014	235			
C	% of the cases at 'B' above that were dismissed under section 152(2) Planning & Development Act 2000	5.53%			
D	% of the cases at 'B' above that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	48.51%			
E	% of the cases at 'B' above tat were closed due to enforcement proceedings	67.66%			
F	Total no. of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/14	655			
	No. of the cases at 'B' above that were dismissed under section 152(2) Planning & Development Act 2000	13			
	No. of the cases at 'B' above that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	114			
	No. of the cases at 'B' above that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	159			
<b>P4</b>	<b>Cost per Capita of the Planning Service</b>				
	Cost per Capita	€ 19.67			
	AFS Prog D data consisting of D01-Forward Planning,D02-Development Management,D03 - Enforcement and the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme D	€ 2,861,901.00			
	<b>ROADS</b>				
<b>R1</b>	<b>Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index</b>				
	<b>Regional Road Surface</b>				
	% at PSCI rating Category 1	0%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 2	8.40%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 3	9%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 4	6.60%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 5	5%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 6	13.8%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 7	17.4%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 8	29.8%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 9	34.40%			

	% at PSCI rating Category 10	34.40%			
	Overall % (based on length) of condition recorded on MapRoad	75.62%			

	<b>Local Primary Road Surface</b>				
	% at PSCI rating Category 1	6.2%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 2	9.6%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 3	26.1%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 4	21.8%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 5	29.6%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 6	28.0%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 7	29.8%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 8	32.1%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 9	32.4%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 10	40.5%			
	Overall % (based on length) of condition recorded on MapRoad	51.29%			

	<b>Local Secondary Road Surface</b>				
	% at PSCI rating Category 1	10%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 2	33.4%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 3	31.3%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 4	33%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 5	31.8%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 6	25.2%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 7	25.2%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 8	18.7%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 9	17.1%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 10	19.3%			

	<b>Local Tertiary Road Surface</b>				
	% at PSCI rating Category 1	83.8%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 2	48.6%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 3	33.6%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 4	38.5%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 5	33.6%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 6	33.1%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 7	27.6%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 8	19.4%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 9	16.1%			
	% at PSCI rating Category 10	5.4%			

<b>R2</b>	<b>% of Motor Tax transactions which are conducted online</b>				
A	% of Motor Tax transactions which are dealt with online	59.88%			
	Total no. of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	49740			
	Total no. of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	21807			
	Total no. of motor tax transactions which are dealt with online	106778			

	<b>Water</b>				
<b>W1</b>	Unaccounted Water (UFW) as a % of the total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the Local Authority is responsible for	51.71%			
	Total volume of water (m3 per day) under the water supply schemes that the Local Authority is responsible for	76,889			
	Volume of unaccounted for water (m3 per day) under the water supply schemes that the Local Authority is responsible for	39,756			
<b>W2</b>	<b>Drinking Water Analysis</b>				
	% of Drinking Water Analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to:	EPA to supply data			
	(a) Public Schemes				
	(b) Private Schemes (where appropriate)				
	<b>Youth &amp; Community</b>				
<b>Y1</b>	<b>Participation in Comhairle na n-Og scheme</b>				
	% of Local Schools & Youth Groups involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Óg Scheme	67.74%			
	Total Number of local schools & youth groups	31			
	No of local schools & youth groups involved in the Local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Óg scheme	21			
<b>Y2</b>	<b>No of gateway participants employed as % of target</b>				
	No. of Gateway participants who commenced work placement during 2014 as a % of the placements allocated to the LA	43.75%			
	No. of employed Gateway participants who commenced a work placement at any time during 2014(inclusive of those who dropped out before the year-end)	35			
	No of gateway participants allocated to the LA as agreed between the Dept. of Social Protection and the CCMA	80			
<b>Y3</b>	<b>% of nominees to LCDC membership via the PPN structures from the most marginalised SICAP groups</b>				



	The overall no.of private sector members of the LCDC at 31/12/14 nominated via the PPN structures who are of any of; Travellers, Roma...	0			
<b>Y4</b>	<b>No.progressing to FT,PT or self employment within 6 months of receipt of a Goal 3 employment support</b>				
	No.of people who commenced employment within 6 months of receipt of a Goal 3 employment support,included in the 2014LCDP annual report	350			

## **Corporate Plan**

At year end, work on the preparation of the new Corporate Plan 2014 - 2019 was nearing finalisation, however, with new requirements emerging from the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) in relation to its content, adoption of the Plan was deferred to March 2015.

The new Corporate Plan sets out the vision and Key Corporate Priorities for Kerry County Council over the period 2014 - 2019.

Our Strategic Objectives are derived from our Mission Statement and outline our highest priority areas.

In delivering on the Mission Statement, we will focus our activities in two key strategic areas:

- Job Creation and Sustainable Economic Development
- Sustainable Communities and Quality of Life

## 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
<p>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.</p>	

1926 – 1927	Jeremiah McSweeney
1927 – 1928	Jeremiah McSweeney
1928 – 1929	Jeremiah McSweeney
1929 – 1930	Jeremiah McSweeney
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
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
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
2013 - 2014	Seamus Cosaí Fitzgerald
2014 - 2015	John Brassil