



KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016





”

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL WORKS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF COUNTY KERRY AND AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ITS CITIZENS, THROUGH THE PROVISION OF LEADERSHIP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTY, ENGAGING IN CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO INSPIRE, GUIDE AND POSITIVELY INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTY, AND THE DELIVERY OF QUALITY SERVICES, FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO ALL OUR CITIZENS.

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

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Rathass, Tralee, Co. Kerry

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INTRODUCTION BY

AN CATHAOIRLEACH



Cllr Michael O'Shea
An Cathaoirleach

As Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council, it is a great honour to welcome and introduce the Annual Report of the council for 2016.

This annual report is a record of what Kerry County Council has delivered and achieved across the county over the past year with expenditure in 2016 of over €172m. Management and councillors worked diligently during the year to ensure that financial support for various services and projects in the county was maintained and increased in many cases.

There is always room for further service delivery improvements and that is why, again in 2016, there was a very strong collaborative relationship between councillors, council management, Oireachtas members and other stakeholders and partners to ensure progress on revenue streams from central government and state agencies in a number of key areas.

The range of facilities and services provided by Kerry County Council is considerable and we continue to strive to ensure that our citizens receive a cost-effective, efficient, trustworthy and reliable service.

A wonderful highlight in 2016 was the commemoration of the events of 1916 which saw communities across the county embrace the call to remember, reconcile and re-imagine as the centenary of the Easter Rising was celebrated. It was an opportunity to consider what has been achieved in the county over the past century and to look ahead, plan and organise for the next one.

As Cathaoirleach of the council, I wish to sincerely thank the staff of the organisation – those based in Áras an Chontae, our Municipal District offices and our outdoor staff in every part of the county. Their dedication and professionalism are hallmarks of the council as a whole.

I thank also our Chief Executive, Moira Murrell and her management colleagues for supporting me and my fellow councillors in our work with a united aim of improving the quality of life for all of the people of Kerry.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael O'Shea". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Michael O'Shea
An Cathaoirleach

FOREWORD BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

As Chief Executive of Kerry County Council, I am pleased to present the local authority's annual report for 2016.

The past year saw the adoption of two vitally important strategic plans for the county. The Local Economic and Community Plan charts the way forward for the economic development of the county over the next five years and promotes the enhancement the communities in which we live. There has been ongoing collaboration with our strategic partners in promoting Kerry as a place to invest and do business and in which to create and support jobs and enterprise.

The new Tourism Strategy for Kerry sets out a roadmap for the development of our tourism product which is so integral to our wider economic development.

Balancing the local authority budget to ensure that the many services and facilities provided by Kerry County Council were maintained and enhanced in 2016 was a challenge. The funding priorities set out in the budget for the year illustrated the high level of expenditure and activity which Kerry County Council has undertaken across the county. The support of the elected council in maintaining and sustaining the local funding base is acknowledged.

2016 brought major capital investment to the county – the commencement of a new €30m water treatment plant at Lough Guittane, the largest water supply scheme in the county; preparatory work on the significant enhancements of Tralee and Killarney town centres; an €800,000 investment in William Street, Listowel; and significant investment in rural towns and villages through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and similar supports.

Kerry County Council commenced the delivery of the €62m Housing Programme for the county in 2016. The delivery of the three-year programme is a key priority and the acceleration of the programme under the various national schemes is an important objective of the council.



Moira Murrell
Chief Executive

Kerry County Council established an Economic and Community Unit during 2016 and this has enabled the council to drive and support a number of key projects during the year. This has facilitated the roll-out of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and Rural Economic Development Zone funding, which has been focused primarily on enterprise growth in Kerry. The local authority has been integrating successfully the work of the Local Enterprise Office within the broader economic and community functions.

I would like to acknowledge the support of the elected councillors and to thank the Cathaoirleach during 2016, Cllr Pat McCarthy and Cllr Michael O'Shea for their hard work and commitment over the period. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Senior Management Team, those who retired over the period and to acknowledge the professionalism of the staff across the local authority in Kerry.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Moira Murrell', written in a cursive style.

Moira Murrell
Chief Executive



Councillors and Management at Annual Meeting 2016

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

MEMBERS

Municipal District of Tralee

Cllr Pa Daly

23 Rock Street, Tralee
Sinn Féin

Cllr Toiréasa Ferris

Cnocáin, Barrow, Ardfert
Sinn Féin

Cllr Jim Finucane

13/14 Denny Street, Tralee
Fine Gael

Cllr Norma Foley

Staughton's Row, Tralee
Fianna Fáil

Cllr Sam Locke

81 Spa Road, Tralee
Non-Party

Cllr Pat McCarthy

Maglass, Ballymacelligott,
Tralee
Fine Gael

Cllr Thomas McEllistrim

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

Rathcommane, Ballyhar,
Killarney
Non-Party

Cllr John Joe Culloty

Knocknaskeha, Killarney
Fianna Fáil

Cllr Donal Grady

2 Maple Drive, Killarney
Non-Party

Cllr Michael Gleeson

Clasheen, Killarney
South Kerry Independent
Alliance

Cllr Maura Healy-Rae

Main Street, Kilgarvan
Non-Party

Cllr Niall Kelleher

Fairhill Business Centre, The
Courtyard, Fairhill, 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 Mike Kennelly

Coolaclarig, Listowel
Fine Gael

Cllr John Lucid

Mountway, Ballyheigue
Fianna Fáil

Cllr Jimmy Moloney

11 Cherrytree Drive, Listowel
Fianna Fáil

Cllr Dianne Nolan

47 Dromin Green,
Listowel
Sinn Féin

Cllr Liam Purtill

Main Street, Ballylongford
Fine Gael

Cllr Aoife Thornton

Finuge, Lixnaw
Fine Gael

Municipal District of South and West

Cllr Michael Cahill

Rossbeigh, Glenbeigh
Fianna Fáil

Cllr Patrick Connor-Scarteen

5 Main Street, Kenmare
Fine Gael

Cllr Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald

Droichead Bán, Na Gleannta,
Daingean Uí Chúis
Fine Gael

Cllr John Francis Flynn

Upper Tullig, Caragh Lake,
Killorglin
Fianna Fáil

Cllr Johnny Healy-Rae

Main Street, Kilgarvan
Non-Party

Cllr Dan McCarthy

Kilcurrane East, Kenmare
Non-Party

Cllr Norma Moriarty

Main Street, Waterville
Fianna Fáil

Cllr Michael O'Shea

Chapel Lane, Milltown
Fianna Fáil

Cllr Damian Quigg

Tulligmore, Killorglin
Sinn Féin

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



Moira Murrell
Chief Executive



Michael Scannell
Director of Services (Acting)
Economic and Community
Development and Municipal
District Manager



Charlie O'Sullivan
Director of Services
Operations, Safety and
Infrastructure



John Breen
Director of Services
Water, Environment, Fire and
Library Services



Martin O'Donoghue
Director of Services (Acting)
Housing and Corporate Services and
Municipal District Manager



Angela McAllen
Head of Finance and Municipal
District Manager



Rosemary Cronin
County Solicitor

COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2016

Council Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month with the exception of August when no meeting is held. Meetings are held in the Council Chamber at Áras an Chontae, Rathass, Tralee.

The full Council met on 18 occasions during 2016.

One of the key responsibilities of Council is to determine policies to ensure the effective delivery of services to the people of Kerry. During 2016, the following major decisions were made by Council:

Adoption of the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2022

Adoption of the Tourism Strategy for County Kerry 2016 - 2022

Adoption of the Annual Budget for 2017

Adoption of the 2016 - 2018 Multi-Annual Roads Restoration Improvement Programme

Adoption of the Service Delivery Plan for 2016

Adoption of the 2016 Community Support Fund Guidelines

Adoption of a Policy on the Naming and Marking of Council Owned Infrastructure

Adoption of Policy on Traffic Calming in Residential Estates and Local Roads

Adoption of a Policy for Public Lighting

Adoption of the Protocol for Civic Honours Conferral

Adoption of Variation No. 3 to the Tralee Town Development Plan 2009 - 2015

Adoption of Variation No. 4 to the Tralee Town Development Plan 2009 - 2015



Mayors and Cathaoirleach at the Annual Meeting 2016

The Cathaoirleach of the Council from June 2015 to June 2016 was Cllr Pat McCarthy and the Cathaoirleach from June 2016 was Cllr Michael O'Shea.

The Leas-Cathaoirleach of the Council from June 2015 to June 2016 was Cllr Jim Finucane and the Leas-Cathaoirleach from June 2016 was Cllr Liam Purtill.

A general election was held in February 2016 following which Cllr Danny Healy-Rae and Cllr John Brassil, who were members of Kerry County Council, were elected to Dáil Éireann. They ceased to be members of Kerry County Council from the date of their election.

In March 2016, Cllr Maura Healy-Rae was co-opted to Kerry County Council to replace Danny Healy-Rae in the Killarney Municipal District and Cllr John Lucid was co-opted to replace John Brassil in the Listowel Municipal District.



Co-Option of Cllr Maura Healy Rae and Cllr John Lucid in March 2016

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) is a committee of the council consisting of the Cathaoirleach of the council and the chairperson of each of the Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

The CPG links the work of the different SPCs and provides a forum where policy positions can be agreed for submission to the full council. The CPG also monitors the performance of the local authority and plays a key role in preparing the budget.

The CPG met on 12 occasions in 2016.

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

The Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) of Kerry County Council comprise elected councillors and representatives from many sectors to ensure an input into strategic policy from outside bodies and groups with an interest in a particular area. Meetings of the SPCs discuss broad policy and strategy issues which are brought before full council for consideration. The council has four SPCs – Operations; Economic Development and Enterprise; Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation; and Quality of Life.

OPERATIONS SPC

The Members of the Operations SPC are:



Cllr Michael Kennelly
(Chair)



Charlie O'Sullivan
Director of Services

Cllr Brendan Cronin

Cllr Séamus Cosai Fitzgerald

Cllr Dan McCarthy

Cllr Liam Purtill

Cllr Damian Quigg

Cllr Maura Healy-Rae

Mr Noel Murphy

Agriculture/Farming Sector Representative

Mr Michael Coghlan

Business/Commercial Sector Representative

Mr Michael O'Gorman

Community/Voluntary Sector Representative

Mr Brendan Murphy

Trade Union Sector Representative

During the year, the Operations Strategic Policy Committee considered draft policies including 'Public Lighting', 'Traffic Calming' and a 'Review of Policy on Naming and Marking of Council Owned Infrastructure.' The committee also reviewed the Draft County Kerry Road Safety Plan 2016-2020 which outlined the key actions in terms of education, engineering measures, enforcement and evaluation which are to be delivered by all the agencies involved in promoting road safety in the county, namely Kerry County Council, the Road Safety Authority, An Garda Síochána and the Health Service Executive.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE SPC

The members of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC are:



Cllr Jim Finucane
(Chair)



Michael Scannell
Director of Services (Acting)

Cllr Michael O'Shea

Cllr Terry O'Brien

Cllr Pat McCarthy

Cllr John Francis Flynn

Cllr Thomas McEllistrim

Cllr Dianne Nolan

Ms Catherine McMullin
Environment/Conservation

Mr Denis Reen
Trade Union

Mr Seán Brosnan
Agriculture/Farming

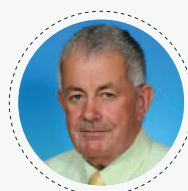
Mr Shane Walsh
Business/Commercial

An tUasal Fionán Ó hÓgáin
Business/Commercial

In 2016, the SPC oversaw the preparation and adoption of the economic elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), the Draft Development Contribution Scheme, the Economic Development Unit Work Programme 2016, the Planning Policy Work Programme 2016 and the Local Enterprise Office Work Programme for 2016.

TOURISM, CULTURE, ARTS AND RECREATION SPC

The members of the Tourism, Arts and Recreation SPC are:



Cllr Robert Beasley
(Chair)



Michael Scannell
Director of Services (Acting)

Cllr Patrick Connor Scarteen

Cllr John Lucid

Cllr Michael Gleeson

Cllr Donal Grady

Cllr Mike Kennelly

Cllr Sam Locke

Ms Marian Relihan
Environment Pillar

Mr Tadhg O'Donoghue
Community Pillar

Mr Sean Lyons
Business Pillar

Mr John O'Sullivan
Social Inclusion Pillar

Mr Pádraig Mac Fheargusa
Irish language representative

During 2016, the SPC considered the following matters: the Kerry County Tourism Strategy and the development and implementation of the Kerry 2016 commemoration programme. The SPC also received updates on the Percent for Art Scheme and its impact on Kerry and on the Music Generation Network programme.

QUALITY OF LIFE SPC

The members of the SPC are as follows:



Cllr Jimmy Moloney
(Chair)



John Breen
Director of Services

Cllr John Joe Culloty

Cllr Toiréasa Ferris

Cllr Norma Foley

Cllr Johnny Healy-Rae

Cllr Bobby O'Connell

Cllr Graham Spring

Ms Kate Carmody
Environment Pillar

Mr John Kelly
Community Pillar

Ms Margaret Wrenn
Social Inclusion Pillar

Mr Patrick Rohan
Agriculture Pillar

Mr Sean Clifford
Business/Development Pillar

The committee considered the following in 2016: the Community Support Fund 2016; review of 2016 Tenant Purchase scheme; housing capital projects approval processes; the Housing Programme; the Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness as well as the draft Litter Pollution Report 2016. It also received updates on anti-social behaviour legislation and waste management.



Council Chamber



Meeting of Council at Nagle-Rice Community Centre in Milltown in December



Cathaoirleach Cllr Pat McCarthy at the Destination Kerry Promotion in Philadelphia in March



Cathaoirleach Cllr Pat McCarthy joins the St Patrick's Day Parade in New York

MEMBERSHIP OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES 2016

Audit Committee

Cllr. Niall Kelleher
Cllr. Bobby O'Connell

Rural Water Committee

Cllr. Dan McCarthy
Cllr. Aoife Thornton
Cllr. Mike Kennelly
Cllr. John F. Flynn

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Cllr. Sam Locke
Cllr. Norma Moriarty
Cllr. Jim Finucane
Cllr. Mike Kennelly
Cllr. Jimmy Moloney
Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris

Destination Kerry Tourism Forum

Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald

Kerry Education & Training Board

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris
Cllr. Norma Foley
Cllr. Norma Moriarty
Cllr. Diane Nolan
Cllr. Aoife Thornton
Cllr. Damian Quigg
Cllr. Michael Cahill
Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald
Cllr. Terry O'Brien
Cllr. Jim Finucane
Cllr. Jimmy Moloney
Cllr. John F. Flynn

Tralee Tidy Towns

Cllr. Sam Locke

Chairs of Strategic Policy Committees

Economic Development and Enterprise

Cllr. Jim Finucane

Operations

Cllr. Mike Kennelly

Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation

Cllr. Robert Beasley

Quality of Life

Cllr. Jimmy Moloney

Local Community Development Committee

Cllr. Pa Daly

Tralee MD

Cllr. Aoife Thornton

Listowel MD

Cllr. Norma Moriarty

South and West MD

Cllr. Niall Kelleher

Killarney MD

Association of Irish Local Government

Cllr. Donal Grady

Killarney MD

Cllr. Jimmy Moloney

Listowel MD

Cllr. Patrick Connor Scarteen

South and West MD

Cllr. Norma Foley

Tralee MD

AILG – Standing Policy Council

Cllr. Donal Grady

Cllr. Patrick Connor Scarteen

Cllr. Jimmy Moloney

Regional Health Forum South

Cllr. Damian Quigg

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae

Cllr. John Joe Culloty

Cllr. Mike Kennelly

Cllr. Bobby O'Connell

Killarney National Park Liaison Committee

Cllr. John Joe Culloty

MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum

Cllr. John Sheahan

Tralee Regional Sports & Leisure Co. Ltd.

Cllr. Thomas McEllistrim

Cllr. Graham Spring

Kerry Life Skills Ltd.

Cllr. Thomas McEllistrim
Tralee MD

Cllr. Aoife Thornton
Listowel MD
Cllr. Michael O'Shea
South and West MD

Cllr. Donal Grady
Killarney MD

Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly

Cllr. Dianne Nolan
Cllr. Michael O'Shea
Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald

Mitchels Boherbee Community Regeneration Steering Group

Cllr. Pa Daly
Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris
Cllr. Jim Finucane
Cllr. Norma Foley
Cllr. Sam Locke
Cllr. Pat McCarthy
Cllr. Thomas McEllistrim
Cllr. Terry O'Brien
Cllr. Graham Spring

IRD Duhallow

Cllr. J.J. Culloty

Kerry Airport

Cllr. Terry O'Brien

Joint Policing Committee

Tralee MD

Cllr. Thomas McEllistrim
Cllr. Pat McCarthy
Cllr. Pa Daly
Cllr. Graham Spring
Cllr. Sam Locke

Killarney MD

Cllr. Niall Kelleher
Cllr. J.J. Culloty
Cllr. John Sheahan
Cllr. Donal Grady
Cllr. Brendan Cronin

Listowel MD

Cllr. Jimmy Moloney
Cllr. Mike Kennelly
Cllr. Dianne Nolan

South & West Kerry MD

Cllr. John F. Flynn
Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen
Cllr. Damian Quigg
Cllr. Michael Cahill

Local Authority Members Association

Cllr. Bobby O'Connell

Southern Regional Drugs Task Force

Cllr. Aoife Thornton

Irish Public Bodies

Cllr. Niall Kelleher

Governing Body of NUI Cork

Cllr. Jim Finucane
Cllr. Aoife Thornton

Tralee Chamber Alliance

Cllr. Graham Spring
Cllr. Norma Foley

Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership

Cllr. Pa Daly
Tralee MD

Cllr. J.J. Culloty
Killarney MD

Cllr. Damian Quigg
South and West MD

Cllr. Jimmy Moloney
Listowel MD

Kerry Community Transport

Cllr. Niall Kelleher

South Kerry Development Partnership

Cllr. Michael O'Shea
Cllr. Damian Quigg
Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae
Cllr. John F. Flynn

Killarney Municipal District Strategic Twinning Committee

Cllr. J.J. Culloty
Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae
Cllr. Bobby O'Connell
Cllr. Niall Kelleher

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

In 2015, a Joint Policing Committee for the county was established bringing together representatives from the local authority, An Garda Síochána, public representatives and community and business representatives. The JPC is chaired by Cllr Niall Kelleher and is a forum in which crime and related issues can be aired and discussed.

During 2016, the JPC met on three occasions and received updates from the Chief Superintendent of the Kerry Garda Division Con Cadogan and senior colleagues on issues around crime and public order. There were also a number of sub-committee meetings.

In 2016, the JPC developed a new Six Year Strategy and an annual plan for 2016 arising from that work. The 2016 Annual Report of the JPC can be found on the new JPC website www.JPC.kerrycoco.ie

Kerry County Council and An Garda Síochána work closely to promote a number of public initiatives. For example in November 2016, the 'Be Safe, Be Seen' initiative was launched at County Buildings with representatives from the various agencies involved.



Kerry Joint Policing Committee launching 'Be Safe, Be Seen' campaign in November

An aerial photograph of a large, multi-story residential building complex, possibly a university campus or a large apartment complex. The building has a complex roofline with multiple gables and dormers. A parking lot with several cars is visible in the foreground. The image is dark and grainy, with a large, solid green rectangular overlay in the center. The text "CIVIC EVENTS" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the green overlay.

CIVIC EVENTS

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL COMMEMORATING THE RISING

1916
2016

Throughout 2016, Kerry County Council's Arts Office coordinated a wide and varied programme of events to celebrate and commemorate the events of 1916 and the key role played by Kerry men and women in the events of a century previously. Over 100 community-based commemorative events were held across the county as it remembered this seminal period in Kerry's and Ireland's history.



Commemoration at Valentia Island 17 April 2016

Kerry County Council was the local lead partner, in conjunction with the Ireland 2016 Office and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, for the 1916 Commemorations in the county and the Kerry 2016 Office was established.

The Community, Culture and Tourism Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) had responsibility for developing the Commemorations Policy, which was adopted by councillors in 2015. This policy guided the commemorations programme with a particular focus on events at Valentia Island, Ballykissane and Banna where key incidents occurred in 1916.

Communities around Kerry hosted a range of exhibitions, parades, ceremonies, re-enactments, cultural and music events with a common theme of remembrance, reflection and re-imagining. The Kerry 2016 Office provided over €29,000 to support to over 70 groups and organisations which held commemorative events.

Kerry's libraries hosted a series of commemorative lectures and exhibitions and many schools in Kerry hosted their own commemorations on 'Proclamation Day' which was held nationally on 15 March. All generations were afforded the opportunity to remember, reflect and re-imagine.

1916 COMMEMORATIONS WEBSITE

17 APRIL 2016

VALENTIA ISLAND

The commemoration at Valentia Island was held to mark the roles of brothers Timothy and Eugene Ring and their cousin, Rosalie Rice, in alerting the outside world to the news that the Rising had begun in Dublin by sending a telegram from Valentia to the leader of Clan na Gael in the US, John Devoy. Members of the Ring and Rice families were present for the event at which the Defence Forces provided a Colour Party and the tricolour was raised. A special Valentia slate monument was unveiled bearing the text of the coded telegram: 'Tom operated on successfully today - Margaret O'Sullivan.'



Commemoration at Valentia Island 17 April 2016



17 APRIL 2016

BALLYKISSANE PIER

250 people attended the early morning ceremony at Ballykissane Pier near Killorglin, where, on Good Friday 1916, three men – Charles Monahan, Daniel Sheehan and Con Keating – drowned when they accidentally drove their car into the River Laune. They had been on the way to Caherciveen to seize wireless radio equipment for use in communicating with Volunteers and the Aud, a ship bearing arms for the rebellion and had taken a wrong turn in Killorglin. Con Keating's niece, Kay, recounted the events and the Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council, Cllr Pat McCarthy, laid a wreath. Members of the mens' families were also present.



21 APRIL 2016

BANNA STRAND

At the only State Commemoration held outside of Dublin, thousands of people attended the ceremony at Banna Strand to honour the role of Roger Casement in the events of 1916 close to where he landed with his companions Robert Monteith and Daniel Bailey in the early hours of Good Friday 100 years previously to the day. The President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins delivered an address and Casement's speech from the dock was re-enacted by Declan McCarthy.

There were musical performances and a formal wreath-laying ceremony at the anchor of The Aud. Members of Roger Casement's family were present and his grand-niece, Lesley McNaughton laid a wreath on their behalf of the family at the nearby Casement monument. A flypast by the Air Corps completed an historic and memorable occasion.



President Higgins at the Commemoration at Banna Strand 21 April 2016



Commemoration at Ballykissane Pier on 21 April 2016



Commemoration at Banna Strand 21 April 2016



Commemoration at Banna Strand 21 April 2016

CIVIC AND MUNICIPAL DISTRICT RECEPTIONS

CIVIC RECEPTIONS 2016

Brian McCarthy, FEXCO to honour his commitment and contribution to County Kerry

Sr Consilio Fitzgerald to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of Cuan Mhuire Drug and Rehabilitation Centre

Bryan Cooper to mark his international achievement in winning the Gold Cup on Don Cossack at Cheltenham

2016 Rose of Tralee Centres

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT RECEPTIONS 2016

Templenoe Gaelic Football Team on winning the All-Ireland Junior Championship

St. Mary's Gaelic Football Team on winning the All-Ireland Intermediate Championship

Ted Moynihan of the Friends of University Hospital Kerry to honour his fund raising work down through the years

Noel Browne who owns and trained 'Coolavanny Bingo' who won the 2015 / 2016 Irish Coursing Derby in Clonmel

St. Brendan's College, Killarney on winning the Hogan Cup

Cast and crew of the Play 'Patrick; a 1916 story'

St. Brendan's College, Killarney 1st Year Soccer Team who won the FAI Schools National Cup in 2016

Coastguard and Inshore Units to mark their dedicated service to the county

Dominic Lynch, All-Ireland Handball Champion

Presentation Sisters Castleisland to mark their contribution to education in the town



Rose of Tralee 2015 Elysha Brennan at Civic Reception for International Rose Centres



Civic Reception for International Rose Centres



Cathaoirleach of Killarney Municipal District, Cllr Brendan Cronin with Michael Fassbender who received the Order of Inisfallen in October 2016



Civic Reception for International Rose Centres



Civic Reception for Liam Dowling, trainer of Irish Derby winner Ballymac Matt



Civic Reception for Sr Consilio Fitzgerald on 50th anniversary of founding of Cuan Mhuire



Civic Reception for Thomas and Patrick O'Donoghue for their promotion of athletics



An aerial, grayscale photograph of a residential neighborhood serves as the background. It shows several houses with gabled roofs, a paved road with a car parked on the side, and some greenery. The image is slightly faded to allow the text to stand out.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT REPORTS

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT REPORTS

Kerry comprises four Municipal Districts which, in 2014, replaced the former Electoral Areas and former Town Councils. Each of the four Municipal Districts is overseen by a Municipal District Manager and a Municipal District Officer.

KEY DECISIONS IN 2016

During the year the following key decisions were taken by the elected members of all four Municipal Districts:

Adoption of Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District for 2016

Adoption of Schedule of Municipal District Works Plan for 2016

Adoption of 2016-2018 Multi-Annual Restoration Improvement Programme



MAP OF
MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS





LISTOWEL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Cllr Jimmy Moloney
Cathaoirleach 2015 – 2016

Cllr Aoife Thornton
Cathaoirleach 2016 – 2017

Andy Smith
Municipal District Officer

Number of meetings in 2016
13



Cllr Jimmy Moloney
Cathaoirleach 2015-2016



Cllr Aoife Thornton
Cathaoirleach 2016-2017



Joan McCarthy
Municipal District Manager



INFRASTRUCTURE

A number of key infrastructural developments commenced or continued in 2016 including:

Resurfacing of William Street in Listowel and the laying of new gas main, water main, ESB ducting and storm drains, at a combined cost of €800,000

Demolition of the former council offices at Bridge Road, Listowel

The stone Millennium Arch at the entrance to the Town Park in Listowel was replaced

Resurfacing of Church Road, Tarbert including the laying of ducting, which allows for the future undergrounding of overhead ESB lines

Refurbishment of public toilets at Ladies Beach, Ballybunion

Construction of flood defences in Ballylongford

Extensive works were carried out on footpaths throughout the Municipal District

ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS

During the year, there was progress on a number of environmental and community projects across Listowel Municipal District.

In Tarbert, a new sensory garden was constructed and new railings were fitted at the Old Pier. New refuse/recycling bins were installed at Ladies Beach, Ballybunion and a tree planting programme was delivered in villages across the Municipal District.

A programme of replacement of public seating with heritage style benches throughout the Municipal District continued as did the replacement of Community Alert signage in conjunction with Muintir na Tíre.

In Listowel, a 1916 Centenary Garden was constructed in the Town Park and Listowel Tidy Towns, in conjunction with Kerry County Council, erected a seat in the Square commemorating the awarding of the title of Ireland's Tidiest Small Town in both 2015 and 2016. Meanwhile, a fruit and nut garden was planted in the Town Park. Improved traffic management signage was erected in Listowel and included enhanced road markings.

TIDY TOWNS

There were ten Tidy Towns entries including one new entrant in 2016, Abbeydorney. Listowel was announced as Ireland's Tidiest Small Town for 2016 for second year running. Meanwhile, Duagh received a National Endeavour Award.

Local community groups established new walking trails in Ballylongford and Tarbert with easy to navigate guides being produced.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

65 groups and projects were approved for funding under the Community Support Fund with a monetary value of €98,125.

FESTIVALS/EVENTS SUPPORTED WITH INTER-AGENCY CO-OPERATION

Listowel Military Tattoo

Listowel Writers Week

Revival Music Festival (Listowel)

Pedal in the Park (Listowel)

Listowel Food Fair

Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan Lios Tuathail

Kilflynn Fairy Festival

Sean McCarthy Weekend (Finuge)

Summerfest (Ballyheigue)

Women in Media Festival (Ballybunion)

Christmas in Listowel events including the visit of the Coca Cola truck

Irish Beach Volleyball Association event (Ballybunion)

Kerry Film Festival outdoor screening (Ballybunion)

1916 Commemoration Ceremony in Ballylongford and Centenary Gardens



Municipal District of Listowel



Cllr Robert Beasley
'Puicin', Doon Road,
Ballybunion
Sinn Féin



Cllr Mike Kennelly
Coolaclarig, Listowel
Fine Gael



Cllr John Lucid
Mountway, Ballyheigue
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Jimmy Moloney
11 Cherrytree Drive,
Listowel
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Dianne Nolan
47 Dromin Green,
Listowel
Sinn Féin



Cllr Liam Purtill
Main Street,
Ballylongford
Fine Gael



Cllr Aoife Thornton
Finuge, Lixnaw
Fine Gael



KILLARNEY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Cllr Bobby O'Connell
Cathaoirleach 2015 - 2016

Cllr Brendan Cronin
Cathaoirleach 2016 - 2017

Micheál Ó Coileáin
Municipal District Officer

Number of meetings in 2016
14



Cllr Bobby O'Connell
Cathaoirleach 2015-2016



Cllr Brendan Cronin
Cathaoirleach 2016-2017



Angela McAllen
Municipal District Manager



TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

Under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, there were successful applications within the Killarney Municipal District, for example, Castleisland, where an Enterprise Centre is to be created in the Carnegie Building for the Castleisland Chamber Alliance and Gneeveguilla for the provision of undergrounding of wires and cables in the village and the expansion and surfacing of a local car park.

PURPLE FLAG AWARD

The renewal of the Purple Flag Award - which is the international accreditation for town centres in the evening and at night from 5pm to 5am - for Killarney town took place in August and an awareness day for the project was organised for September.

CULTURAL CENTRE

A successful application for funding to renovate the Cultural Centre in Killarney as a flexible performance space was made to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in October 2016. The Department will provide 50% of the funding commitment of €240,640 with Kerry County Council providing the balance.

ÁRAS PHÁDRAIG

A public consultation on the future use of the former theatre was commenced towards the end of 2016. Exodea Consulting Ltd was appointed to carry out a feasibility study to assess the potential future use of the property on Lewis Road.

TIDY TOWNS

Kerry County Council supported the work of Tidy Towns groups across the Municipal District in 2016 and all entrants received encouraging reports. In Killarney, liaising with the Killarney Looking Good Group is part of the on-going work of the Municipal District Officer. Killarney was again just a few points shy of the overall winner in 2016 and maintains a high standard nationally.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

Managing and co-ordinating the Community Support Fund in the Killarney Municipal District was a priority in 2016. Funding of €247,000 was provided to a range of local community and voluntary groups and projects.



Municipal District of Killarney



Cllr Brendan Cronin
Rathcommane, Ballyhar,
Killarney
Non-Party



Cllr John Joe Culloty
Knocknaskeha, Killarney
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Donal Grady
2 Maple Drive, Killarney
Non-Party



Cllr Michael Gleeson
Clasheen, Killarney
South Kerry Independent
Alliance



Cllr Maura Healy-Rae
Main Street, Kilgarvan
Non-Party



Cllr Niall Kelleher
Fairhill Business Centre,
The Courtyard, Fairhill,
Killarney
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Bobby O'Connell
15 Main Street,
Castleisland
Fine Gael



Cllr John Sheahan
Coolgarraive, Tralee Road,
Killarney
Fine Gael



MUCKROSS HOUSE TRUSTEES

The Municipal District Officer attends monthly meetings of the Muckross House Trustees on behalf of Kerry County Council.

ACCESS GROUP

Killarney Municipal District liaises on a quarterly basis with the Killarney Access Group to ensure that issues related to easy access to all facilities are provided in Killarney to all ages and abilities. Regular contact was maintained with the group to update them of any works in progress in the town which impact on access to footpaths, parking and other issues.



Upgrading of Plunkett Street

PLUNKETT STREET

In December, Kerry County Council published a call for tenders for a €300,000 upgrade of Plunkett Street. The project involves the widening of footpaths along the street as well as the laying of a very high-specification road surface and the development of a more pedestrian-friendly public realm.

LANEWAYS

In 2016, work began on the writing and design of appropriate signage for the laneways in Killarney including providing the correct name and a brief history of the area on metal plaques.

Killarney Municipal District commenced working with businesses, Tidy Towns group and waste collectors to find a solution to the problem of bin storage and bin collection points in Church Lane and the Glebe Car Park.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Killarney Municipal District staff have regular meetings with groups from all parts of the Municipal District dealing with a wide variety of issues. Meetings were also held in 2016 with bodies such as North East and West Kerry Development (NEWKD), South Kerry Development Partnership (SKDP), IRD Duhallow and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.



TWINNING

In order to ensure the continuity of existing twinning arrangements and to explore the potential of more strategic structuring of twinning, the elected members of the Killarney Municipal District agreed to establish a 'Strategic Twinning Committee for the Killarney Municipal District.' Councillors agreed that the committee would be a sub-committee of the Municipal District and that the membership would be appointed through a public call for expressions of interest.

The primary purpose of the committee is to make recommendations to the elected members on matters relating to twinning and to examine the potential for more strategic twinning arrangements. The terms of reference for this committee were agreed with the councillors in the Killarney Municipal District.

2016, four meetings were held and the following projects progressed:

Delegations from twin towns/sister cities, Pleinfeld, Germany, Staffanstorp, Sweden and Cooper City, USA, visited Killarney for the St Patrick's Day Festival in March 2016

The Mayor of Kendal (Cumbria, UK) visited Killarney in July.

Cllr John Joe Culloty and Maureen Hegarty of the Killarney MD Strategic Twinning Committee attended the Kendal Mountain Festival in November 2016, in order to familiarise themselves with the festival and to ascertain if this could be adapted to work in Killarney as a Kerry Mountain Festival.

In 2016, under the Community Support Fund, Killarney Municipal District Twinning Committee was allocated €6,000.





TRALEE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Cllr Thomas McEllistrim
Cathaoirleach 2015 - 2016

Cllr Terry O'Brien
Cathaoirleach 2016 - 2017

Noreen O'Connor
Municipal District Officer

Number of meetings in 2016
15



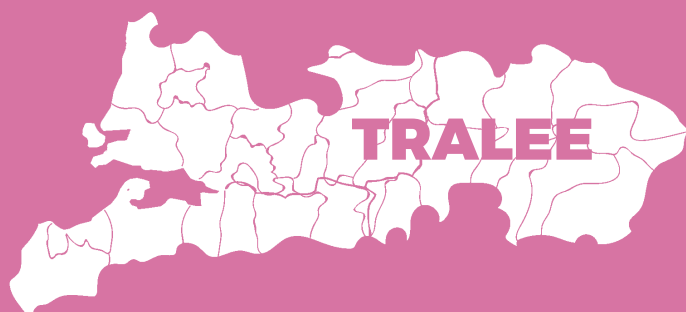
Cllr Thomas McEllistrim
Cathaoirleach 2015-2016



Cllr Terry O'Brien
Cathaoirleach 2016-2017



Michael Scannell
Municipal District Manager



INFRASTRUCTURE

Planning approval for the demolition of five dwellings and the construction of 15 new dwellings, a new road and associated site works, at Cloonmore, Tralee as part of the Mitchel's Boherbee Regeneration Scheme

Planning approval for 21 single-storey dwellings for the elderly and people with special needs at Killeen, Tralee

Planning approval for the introduction of Shared Space at Bridge Street, Russell Street and The Mall, Tralee

Improvement works at the junction between the N86 and L-6725 Ballymullen Road at Ballymullen

DENNY SITE/ISLAND OF GEESSE

There was major progress on the development of the 2.3 acre former Denny factory site at the Island of Geese and for the creation of a master-plan for the area of Tralee Town Centre West. An extensive period of public consultation took place over the summer to establish the views of members of the public on how this strategic site should be developed.

(See p. 43)

The Part VIII planning process for the demolition of the site was completed and tenders were sought for the appointment of a contractor for this work.

CANAL WALKWAY

The Canal walkway and cycleway was completed with the resurfacing of the main surface along the canal to create a shared cycleway and walkway with new public lighting and landscaping.

DENNY STREET AND THE MALL

Preparatory work commenced on the introduction of a two-way traffic system for Denny Street in 2017. Tenders were sought at the end of the year for the establishment of a shared space on the Mall as part of a €1.7m enhancement of the town centre.

TRALEE TO FENIT LINE

The transfer of ownership of the line from CIE to Kerry County Council to allow for the development of a walking and cycling route was being finalised at the end of 2016.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

€241,000 was allocated to groups across the Tralee Municipal District to support a range of community groups, events and projects.



Upgrading of Canal Bank Walk in Tralee as part of Tralee Active Travel Project



Denny Factory



Denny Factory

Municipal District of Tralee



Cllr Pa Daly
23 Rock Street, Tralee
Sinn Féin



Cllr Toiréasa Ferris
Cnocáin, Barrow, Ardfert
Sinn Féin



Cllr Jim Finucane
13/14 Denny Street,
Tralee
Fine Gael



Cllr Norma Foley
Staughton's Row, Tralee
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Sam Locke
81 Spa Road, Tralee
Non-Party



Cllr Pat McCarthy
Maglass, Ballymacelligott,
Tralee
Fine Gael



Cllr Thomas McEllistrim
Ahane, Ballymacelligott,
Tralee
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Terry O'Brien
Tonevane, Tralee
Labour



Cllr Graham Spring
31 Sunday's Well,
Lisloose, Tralee
Labour



Launch of the Pedal in the Park in Tralee Town Park

TRALEE TOWN HEALTH CHECK PROJECT

Work continued on this project, in conjunction with the Heritage Council, which is aimed at rejuvenating life and business in the town centre and involves thorough research on all aspects of life in the locality. Once complete all the research will be compiled and published in a detailed commercial, cultural and tourism report that will be used as a basis for the future planning and development of the town.

TRALEE 800

Tralee Town celebrated 800 years in existence in 2016. The Tralee 800 Festival Weekend which ran from 17-19 June was the highlight of a year-long celebration of the octocentenary. The weekend programme incorporated the annual Féile na mBláth Garden Festival and the Heroes' Week Gathering of Emergency Services which was part of the Kerry 1916 Centenary Programme. The Tralee 800 International Conference in November explored the history of Tralee.

CANAL WALKWAY

The Canal walkway and cycleway was completed with the resurfacing of the main surface along the canal to create a shared cycleway and walkway with new public lighting and landscaping.

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

Fenit village received a grant of €76,000 under the scheme for village entrance improvement works and the development a Public Realm Improvement Plan for the design of a new central public space taking in the car park/promenade.

CLÁR

Under the CLÁR programme, funding of €53,000 was received for improved road safety measures for roads adjacent to three primary schools in the district – Nohoval, Currans and Brosna.

TIDY TOWNS

Tralee secured a gold medal again in the Tidy Towns competition making it the fifth consecutive gold medal for the town.



Tralee 800 Festival



Seminar with the Ombudsman in Tralee



Launch of public consultation on Denny factory site

Launching the Tralee 800 Festival Programme





SOUTH AND WEST KERRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



**Cllr Patrick
Connor Scarteen**
Cathaoirleach 2015-2016

Cllr Patrick Connor Scarteen
Cathaoirleach 2015 - 2016

Cllr John Francis Flynn
Cathaoirleach 2016 - 2017



**Cllr John Francis
Flynn**
Cathaoirleach 2016-2017

Siobhán Griffin
Municipal District Officer

Number of meetings in 2016
12



**Martin
O'Donoghue**
Municipal District Manager

**SOUTH &
WEST KERRY**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

During 2016, meetings were held with community representatives from Baile na nGall, Annascaul, An Clochán/Bhreannáin, Milltown, Killorglin, Cromane, Caherciveen, Baile na Sceilge and Kenmare and work plans were agreed. Ongoing contact was developed with many other communities.

In addition, meetings with the Municipal District Manager, Municipal District Engineer and Municipal District Officer were arranged with Chamber-type structures in Dingle, Killorglin and Kenmare.

Through the office of the Municipal District Engineer, there was ongoing engagement with the wider community in Kenmare in relation to the casual trading arrangements in the town.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND 2016

123 applications were received in 2016 of which 80 received funding worth €132,000.

TIDY TOWNS

14 Groups from the South and West Kerry Municipal District entered the Tidy Towns Competition in 2016. All made significant progress and increased their marks.



Pride of Place participants at national awards in Belfast

REDZ (RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONES)

Kerry County Council received €150,195 shared between the South and West Kerry Municipal District and Killarney Municipal District for the MacGillycuddy Reeks Access Forum for habitat restoration and trail repair on the mountains.

IMAGINING IVERAGH

Students from the Toronto-based Institute without Boundaries, supported by the local community and Kerry County Council, considered mechanisms to stimulate tourism, entrepreneurship and investment in science and technology for a full academic year of post graduate research. They chose four main project themes – County Kerry as a destination, Science and Ecology, Culture and Heritage, and Innovation and New Industry. The Imagining Iveragh report was published during 2016 and two of the areas of work are progressing; one involves the development of the WEAVE project in Caherciveen, based on research and learning space and The Muinín project which engages with young people in the area.

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

Funding of €71,777 was allocated to Sneem for the Enterprise Centre Group. The group has been working in partnership with Kerry County Council, IDA, South Kerry Development Partnership and the Local Enterprise Office since its formation in 2014 to encourage companies to provide home/hub working opportunities for people in the Sneem and surrounding areas and to help skilled people who may wish to locate to Sneem to connect with potential employers who offer 'work from home' jobs.

Funding of €46,455 was allocated to Portmagee for a car park which supports the increased number of tourists visiting Skellig. This project will allow for the development of 22 additional car parking spaces in the village.

Municipal District of South & West



Cllr Michael Cahill
Rossbeigh, Glenbeigh
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Patrick Connor-Scarteen
5 Main Street, Kenmare
Fine Gael



Cllr Séamus Cosáil Fitzgerald
Droichead Bán, Na Gleannta, Daingean Uí Chúis
Fine Gael



Cllr John Francis Flynn
Upper Tullig, Caragh Lake, Killorglin
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Johnny Healy-Rae
Main Street, Kilgarvan
Non-Party



Cllr Dan McCarthy
Kilcurrane East, Kenmare
Non-Party



Cllr Norma Moriarty
Main Street, Waterville
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Michael O'Shea
Chapel Lane, Milltown
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Damian Quigg
Tullimore, Killorglin
Sinn Féin



CLÁR

CLÁR funding was provided for an access road to the community centre and GAA pitch in Annascaul and an access road to Killorglin poccer pitch.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PLANS

The Municipal District Officer worked with South Kerry Development Partnership on a proposal for the facilitation and preparation of three individual community-led socio-economic plans for the towns of Killorglin, Kenmare and Caherciveen under the LEADER programme. The aim is to integrate the community socio-economic plans with existing policies such as the Local Economic and Community Plan. Invitations to tender for the work were issued in December.

Meanwhile, Dr Brendan O'Keeffe of Mary Immaculate College concluded a preliminary statistical analysis of the community in Milltown. This forms the basis of a work plan and the development of a community representative structure. A number of meetings were held with community representatives to ensure engagement with the process and with a view to developing a socio-economic plan for the area.

TIDY TOWNS

South Kerry Development Partnership in consultation with Kerry County Council has invited tenders for the preparation of three-year Tidy Towns plans for towns and villages. There are up to 24 areas that would benefit from such a plan. The invitation to tender was issued in December 2016.

CAHERCIVEEN ALLIANCE GROUP

A preliminary meeting on the establishment of a community representative structure in Caherciveen with approximately 60 people present was held in Caherciveen on the 22 November and work is ongoing.

PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS

The 2016 Awards Ceremony was held in Belfast on 26 November. The Rural Mens' Project received a runner up award in its category. Both Glencar community and Imagining Iveragh were strong contenders in their respective categories.

AGE FRIENDLY STRATEGY

As part of the Kerry Age Friendly Ireland initiative, training was delivered to key people whose actions and decisions have an effect on the lives of older people in Kerry. The half-day session covered good practice in housing and the public realm. The outcomes included increased awareness of design techniques and good practice that can be used in ongoing work. In June an outline work plan was developed and submitted for consideration. Desk research was carried out in September/October and a survey was circulated following a presentation at the Sean Cháirde Annual Information Day.



Michael Scannell
Director of Services (Acting)

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

DIRECTORATE OF

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

TOURISM

COMMUNITY

KERRY LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Kerry County Council's Local Enterprise Office (LEO) provides support and services to help start, grow and develop small businesses in Kerry.

Since 2014, the Local Enterprise Office has been part of the local authority and relocated to County Buildings at Rathass, Tralee. The transition of systems and integration with the local authority continued throughout 2016. Office refurbishment neared completion and staff have moved to the new offices.

The Kerry Local Enterprise Office demonstrated a solid performance in 2016. There were a number of achievements:

The Approvals and Evaluation Committee met on five occasions and 24 projects were approved for funding of €346,430. This support has the potential to create 95 jobs and additional further employment.

A total of €299,856 was paid to approved projects over the course of the year and at year end, the Local Enterprise Office had €288,198 committed to new projects.

A total of €276,867 was spent on training supports and mentoring with over 1,200 persons attending training programmes and seminars.

A further €66,000 was committed to Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Competition with over 70 entries.

60 businesses were approved for Trading Online Vouchers (TOVs) and €80,241 was spent on this initiative.

19 client businesses were assisted in making loan applications to Microfinance Ireland.

21 schools participated in the Student Enterprise Awards with over 60 mini-businesses being established by students.

The 2016 Kerry Enterprise Month was delivered in March with sister agencies including the ITT, Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta and the local development Companies.

The LEO was closely involved in the 2016 Cork Kerry Food Forum and National Women's Enterprise Day.

Ongoing support was provided to the Kingdom Food Network, Original Kerry Craft Network and the Kerry Business Women's Network.

The LEO and the Tourism Department in conjunction with Taste Kerry submitted a joint funding proposal to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and additional funding of €57,400 was secured for a range of activities under the CEDRA Agri-Tourism programme.

The LEO continues to work closely with the Innovation Centre Network including Killarney Technology Innovation, Tom Crean Business Centre and the Kerry Food Hub.



273

ACTIONS IN
TOURISM STRATEGY
AND ACTION PLAN
2016-2022



512

COMMUNITY GROUPS
REGISTERED ON KERRY PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION NETWORK

21,774

PAYING
VISITORS TO
TRALEE BAY
WETLANDS
CENTRE IN
2016



1,308

PLANNING
APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED
DURING 2016



24

PROJECTS
APPROVED FOR
FUNDING OF



€346,430

BY LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

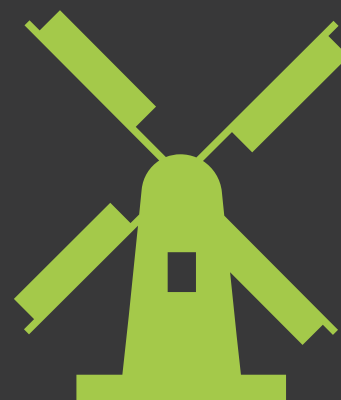
11% INCREASE
ON 2015

€750,000

ALLOCATION TO OVER

350

PROJECTS
UNDER
COMMUNITY
SUPPORT FUND



4,000

INCREASE IN VISITORS TO
BLENNEVILLE WINDMILL IN 2016



Firies Food Hub

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

FORWARD PLANNING

A key role of the Planning Policy Unit is in the formulation of economic, social and infrastructural policies and 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.

During 2016, the following areas were progressed:

Completion and adoption of variations to the Tralee Town and Listowel Town Development Plans 2009-2015

Progression on the draft Development Contribution Scheme

Commencement of preparation of the Killarney Municipal District Plan

Progression of Shopfront Design Guidelines

Monitoring and review of all residential and commercial statistics in the county

Preparation of the Tralee Town Centre Health Check pilot project in conjunction with the Heritage Council and Tralee Institute of Technology.

PLANNING POLICY UNIT

The Planning Policy Unit includes the Economic Development Unit (EDU) and the Environmental Assessment Unit (EAU). The EDU promotes and facilitates job creation and economic development within the county. During 2016:

The Economic Development Unit identified and assessed a number of opportunity/industrial sites throughout the county for their developmental potential.

The unit engaged with the Local Enterprise Office and the Local Community Development Committee on LEADER schemes and other projects

Significant progress was made on the redevelopment of the former Denny Bacon Factory site in Tralee. There was significant public consultation regarding the preparation of the master-plan for the entire site.

ISLAND OF GEESE / DENNY FACTORY SITE

In July 2016, Kerry County Council announced the first phase of public consultation on the future use of the Denny Bacon Factory site at the Island of Geese in Tralee, which was donated to the people of Tralee by Kerry Group in 2014. The Council has received €1.5m in European Regional Development funding with the assistance of the Southern Regional Assembly for the regeneration of the historic site which has enormous and exciting potential for the wider revitalisation of Tralee.

The opening of consultation on the future of the 'The Island of Geese' – the historic name of that part of Tralee – coincided with the launch of a new website, www.theislandtralee.ie which allowed people to log on and submit ideas. Survey forms were available at up to 20 locations around Tralee. Over the course of six weeks, members of the public proposed ideas which will be used to form a master-plan for the 2.3 acre site, a minimum of 30% of which will be retained as a public amenity space.

Of a full total of 766 submissions, 605 responses were received through the 'Share My Idea' forms online at www.theislandtralee.ie and in hard copy; there were 69 written submissions; and 92 submissions made at workshops which were held in Tralee on 21 September. All of the submissions have been collated and categorised by the Planning Section of Kerry County Council and will feed into a master-plan for the redevelopment of the site.

The Part VIII planning process to allow for the demolition of the buildings and clearance of the site was agreed by Council in December.



Launch of public consultation on Denny factory site



Denny factory

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



Bridget Fitzgerald
Economic Development Officer

Kerry County Council appointed a new Economic Development Officer, Bridget Fitzgerald, in November 2016. Central to the Economic Development Officer's role is the promotion and facilitation of job creation and economic development within the county and the implementation of the Local Community and Economic Plan which was adopted in 2016.

BROADBAND

Kerry County Council appointed a Broadband Officer in 2016 to work with the Economic Development Officer to ensure that Kerry is prioritised for the provision of high speed broadband connectivity.

Kerry County Council engaged with the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in the selection of Strategic Community Access Hubs and Strategic Connection Points in communities across Kerry. These locations were developed with reference to the County's Broadband Strategy developed in 2015. These locations will be prioritised by the winners of the National Broadband Plan contracts when they are awarded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in 2017. The new GIS mapping engine was used to assist with this process.

COASTAL HUBS

Kerry County Council is supportive of the Coastal Hub Initiatives underway in Dingle, Cahirciveen and Sneem and worked closely with those involved in the projects throughout the year.

FORWARD PLANNING

A key role of the Planning Policy Unit is in the formulation of economic, social and infrastructural policies and 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.

During 2016, the following areas were progressed:

Completion and adoption of variations to the Tralee Town and Listowel Town Development Plans 2009-2015

Progression on the draft Development Contribution Scheme

Commencement of preparation of the Killarney Municipal District Plan

Progression of Shopfront Design Guidelines

Monitoring and review of all residential and commercial statistics in the county

Preparation of the Tralee Town Centre Health Check pilot project in conjunction with the Heritage Council and Tralee Institute of Technology.

SKELLIG CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

A satellite higher education and research initiative was advanced for the Iveragh area. In partnership with UCC, a project leader was assigned in 2016 to develop the project which will provide locally-based educational and research opportunities.



Launching the Kerry Business and Jobs Expo 2016

PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Planning and Sustainable Development Section aims to encourage, promote and facilitate measures that will contribute to a well managed physical and economic environment within the County of Kerry. The section comprises the following business units:

FORWARD PLANNING

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PLANNING ADVICE AND SUPPORT

ENFORCEMENT

PLANNING ACTIVITY

The improving economic climate was reflected in a continuing increase in activity levels in planning control with 1,308 planning applications received during 2016, an 11% increase on the 2015 figure.

This further 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 and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, have resulted in a considerable number of applications for extensions of duration of planning permissions with 59 such applications received in 2016.

HOUSING ESTATES UNIT

Kerry County Council has made substantial progress over the last number of years in addressing issues identified in unfinished housing estates across the county. Works have been carried out in the most problematic estates which have greatly improved the quality of life for the residents. Throughout 2016, the HEU continued to work with developers and pursue outstanding bonds in order to address issues in such estates.

The introduction of a National Taking in Charge Initiative for Residential Estates (NTICI) in 2016 accelerated the taking in charge process. Kerry County Council spent its allocation from central government of €362,652 to carry out works on 18 estates under this initiative in 2016.

Nine housing estates were taken in charge with the statutory process for taking in charge commenced for a further nine.

VALUE FOR MONEY INITIATIVES

A number of value for money initiatives progressed during 2016 as follows:

All printing associated with plans was carried out in-house and all Local Area Plans are now produced on CDs for distribution to all prescribed bodies.

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 Appropriate Assessment Screening and subsequent Stage Two reports where relevant.

All Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessments required in relation to plans, strategies and variations were carried out in-house by existing staff.



CONSERVATION OFFICE

The Conservation Office is responsible for the delivery of technical advice and guidance in relation to the protection of the county's built heritage. The objective is to conserve Kerry's rich architectural heritage while ensuring its sustainability into the future. The county has 1,255 protected structures along with a wealth of vernacular heritage which plays a vital role in terms of tourism, landscape character, the local economy and sense of place.

Key achievements in 2016:

Successful administration of the Structures at Risk Fund 2016 with a total allocation of €48,800 for the prevention of serious deterioration of Carhan House, Caherciveen (the birthplace of Daniel O'Connell), Beaufort House in Beaufort and the Cable Station building on Valentia Island.

Six protected structures received funding to carry out conservation works administered under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2016. The county received an allocation of €50,000 which part-funded 490 days of local employment for conservation craftspeople and professionals. The Conservation Officer was responsible for the successful administration of this funding stream which enabled conservation work to Belleville House in Portmagee, Flesk Castle in Killarney, Saint Stephen and Saint John's R.C. Church in Castleisland, a private house on Main Street, Blennerville, Ballymacelligott Church of Ireland, and Castleview House in Castleisland.

22 Section 57 Declarations (relating to protected structures) were completed during 2016, up from 11 in 2015.

Conservation advice was delivered for 215 planning applications to inform development of protected structures, development within Architectural Conservation Areas and assessment of proposed demolitions in terms of impact on built heritage.

Conservation input into Part VIII planning proposals

Assistance to local community groups provided including public workshop and school workshops delivered and facilitated in the preparation of a Public Realm Plan on behalf of Kenmare Tidy Towns.

Workshops and lectures were delivered to second and third level students to improve and promote the understanding of the architectural heritage of Kerry.

HERITAGE OFFICE

Kerry County Council's Heritage Office works to promote awareness of, interest in, and pride in the abundant heritage assets to be found in our county. The office works closely with various partners to ensure that the county's vast heritage is being protected, enhanced and promoted at a local and national level. The office assists with policy formulation and delivers education and training packages both within the local authority and to local community groups.

Heritage Office projects during 2016:

Ecclesiastical Heritage Audit of County Kerry **Phase 2**

Heritage Hunters 20/20 Schools Outreach Programme **Phase 2**

Kerry Way Folklore and Heritage Trail App Development **Phase 2**

Audit of Historic Monuments, Memorials and Plaques **Phase 1**

Listowel Heritage and Community-Led Regeneration Strategy

Architectural Toolkits for Listowel Historic Town Centre **Phase 1**

National Town Centre Health Check Programme **Tralee Pilot**

Heritage Week event management and promotion

Technical Assistance was provided to a large number of local and national heritage, folklore, environmental and historical projects and groups.



Flesk Castle, Killarney

BIODIVERSITY/ ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

In 2016 the Biodiversity Office/Environmental Assessment Unit reviewed a significant number of planning applications within the zone of influence of Natura 2000 sites, enforcement cases and Section 5 referrals.

The EAU also undertook Strategic Environmental Assessment/ Appropriate Assessment screenings of a number of variations and plans including variations to Listowel, Tralee and Killarney Town Development Plans.

The unit also screened Part VIIIs, capital projects and minor works proposed by both Kerry County Council and TII (Castleisland) for compliance with the EIA and AA directives.

The Biodiversity Officer worked with various Tidy Towns committees on biodiversity projects and funding applications. During the year the Biodiversity Officer also played an increased role in dealing with invasive species, specifically Japanese Knotweed.

COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIST

The County Archaeology Section has responsibilities in the following areas:

Archaeological Impact Assessment/Screening, monitoring and testing

Historic graveyards

Planning and policy

Recording, preserving and conserving the archaeology of the county



Killagha Abbey, Milltown

Key developments in 2016:

Archaeological Impact Assessment/Screening completed for 26 projects

Archaeological monitoring undertaken in relation to three projects

Archaeological testing undertaken for five major projects

Archaeological excavation in relation to one project

Liaison with National Monuments Service and applications in relation to Notification and Ministerial Consent for five projects

Recommendations made in relation to 320 planning applications with subsequent assessment of submitted reports and secondary comment where necessary

Excavation and basic conservation undertaken on a hut site and gable-shrine at Cill Buaine early ecclesiastical site, An Gleanna, Baile an Sceilg, one of only eight gable shrines in the country, five of which are in Iveragh

Sourced grant funding and carried out major conservation works on the west gable of Killagha Abbey, Milltown, a national monument in Kerry County Council ownership

Lecture at Tralee 800 Conference

Submission to Archaeology 2020 consultation

Continued to advise on and oversee all works in historic graveyards as well as vetting proposed community work programmes and applications for maintenance funding

Continued to advise Kerry County Museum on the development of the website and educational programme for secondary schools based around the excavation of the portal tomb at Killaclohane, Milltown in 2015



Portal tomb at Killaclohane, Milltown

TOURISM

Kerry County Council's Tourism Unit aims to promote the economic development of the county by facilitating the sustainable development, diversification and promotion of tourism through the establishment of effective partnerships and collaborations with relevant stakeholders.

TOURISM STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2016-2022

A major highlight of 2016 was the publication and launch of the County Kerry Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2022 following its adoption by the Kerry County Council on 18 July 2016.

In co-operation with the Destination Kerry Tourism Forum and various stakeholders, an extensive programme of consultation took place with Fáilte Ireland, other State agencies, the local tourism industry, transport companies, local communities, elected members and the general public. Public consultation meetings were held at nine venues throughout the county and a further 44 written submissions were received.

The Strategy and Action Plan has involved the most in-depth examination and consultation on Kerry tourism to date, and is informed by detailed analysis of the most up-to-date research of the many factors that are likely to affect future performance. It is informed by the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2022, the Government's Policy for Tourism, People, Place and Policy (2015) and the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021.

The aims, actions (of which there are 273) and objectives set out in the strategy are challenging, relevant and focused on responding to the current threats, challenges and opportunities facing the tourism sector in Kerry.



County Kerry Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2022



Launch of County Kerry Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2022



Launch of County Kerry Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2022

SOUTH KERRY BLUEWAY

The Tourism Unit in conjunction with South Kerry Development Partnership progressed the development of a South Kerry Blueway. Blueways are a network of multi-activity recreational trails, based on or alongside idyllic lakes, canals and rivers in Ireland. They provide scenic routes into the heart of rural Ireland by canoe, bike or on foot.

KERRY DESTINATION BRAND AND LOGO

A design company was awarded the tender for the provision of a destination/place brand and logo for County Kerry. A new clear, compelling destination/place brand and product sub-brands for Kerry based on our strengths and characteristics and to encourage stakeholder participation is being developed.

DESTINATION KERRY TOURISM FORUM

The Destination Kerry Tourism Forum, formed in 2012, represents all the major players and destinations in Kerry tourism. During 2016, the Forum continued to meet frequently and had a huge input into the formulation of the County Kerry Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2022. The forum has an active marketing sub-committee, comprised of marketing and sales representatives from within the trade who utilise an annual marketing budget to create an awareness of Kerry among key target markets, both domestic and overseas.

WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Work progressed with Fáilte Ireland to improve the visitor facilities at the Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point at Bray Head, Valentia Island, following the appointment of architects and environmental consultants.

KERRY DARK SKY RESERVE

In collaboration with the Destination Kerry Tourism Forum, Blackrock Observatory, UCC and CIT Cork, the Tourism Unit held a residential training weekend in Valentia in 2016 to train tour guides and tourism providers to become Stargazing Guides. Kerry County Council continued to work closely with the local community to develop the Dark Sky Reserve, whose full potential has yet to be realised with work already commencing on the preparation of a design and business plan for a mobile observatory for the Reserve.

SOUTH KERRY TOURISM NETWORKING SHOWCASE

A networking event for tourism providers throughout the county was held in the Malton Hotel, Killarney in April 2016. Guest speakers on the day included Ms Fiona Monaghan, Fáilte Ireland's Head of the Wild Atlantic Way Programme, Ms Katherine Webster, Director of the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre and John Leonard, Accolades Marketing and Advertising.

TOURISM AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

In collaboration with IT Tralee's Irish Academy of Hospitality and Tourism, a pilot Tourism Ambassador Programme was commenced in Listowel in November 2016. The aim of the programme is to train tourism providers and their staff with the skillset to ensure an enhanced visitor experience in their local area and to entice visitors to stay longer in the locality by cross-selling of local businesses and attractions.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

The Tourism Unit continued to support the county's community events and festivals which are at the heart of our tourism product, enticing much needed visitors, often in the shoulder and off-season periods.

In 2016, the Rose of Tralee International Festival held its regional finals in Tralee resulting in an extended Festival with Roses, their families, friends and visitors to the festival, spending several extra nights in the town. The Tourism Unit hosted the Roses and their Escorts over two days at various attractions in North Kerry.

As well as supporting this and other larger, well established festivals such as Listowel Writer's Week, the Unit continued to administer the Diaspora Support Fund which supports smaller events which attract overseas visitors to the county.

During 2016, Tralee celebrated the 800th anniversary of its founding in 1216. The Tralee 800 Festival held over the mid-summer weekend included historical re-enactments, music, a garden and craft show in the town park and town Square. A Tralee 800 Conference hosted jointly by the Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society and Tralee Municipal District was held in November.

In order to further support communities who work tirelessly to organise and run events and festivals which attract thousands of visitors each year, the Tourism Unit together with AOIFE (Association of Irish Festival Events) held workshops in Killorglin and Tralee in February 2016.

TASTE KERRY

The Tourism Unit, in collaboration with the Local Enterprise Office, helped secure funding to develop the 'Taste Kerry' brand in 2016. Taste Kerry aims to grow and expand Kerry's food offering and support the large network of food and beverage producers based in the county. A new Taste Kerry brand, logo, website and a food producers directory was created and a food trail was also developed.

ANNUAL WALK COMMITTEE GRANT SCHEME

In early 2016, The Kerry Way, Dingle Way, North Kerry Way and Beara Way Committees received funding towards the upkeep and improvement of established walking routes around the county which attract thousands of walkers annually.

GRADIENT SIGNAGE

Kerry County Council erected information signage for cyclists on the Conor Pass. This was an action recommended by local cycling clubs and it is hoped to erect similar signage in north Kerry in 2017.

TUI GROUP VISIT

TUI Group, a multinational travel and tourism company, visited the county with the aim of assessing Kerry's potential to act as a new destination for its German market. They were very impressed with what the county has to offer and the Tourism Unit will continue to develop the professional relationship that has now been established with the group, to ensure Kerry is a key element of their marketing strategy for Ireland.



Participants in the Astronomy Course in South Kerry in May 2016



Launch of Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2022

COMMUNITY

The core functions of the Community Department are to support the Local Community Development Committee in the administration of its functions and in the implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plan to engage proactively and positively with communities throughout the county.

Its role expanded significantly in 2016 and currently comprises the following functions, many of which require significant interagency collaboration and engagement with other internal sections within Kerry County Council:

Local Community Development Committee

Monitoring community elements of Local Economic and Community Plan

Kerry Local Action Group (KLAG)

Social Inclusion Activation Programme (SICAP)

Public Participation Network (PPN)

LEADER administration

Administration and management of the Community Support Fund

Municipal District Officer functions in Killarney, Tralee, Listowel and South

and West Kerry Municipal Districts

Built Infrastructure, including Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre, Blennerville Windmill and the Killarney Sports and Leisure Centre

Comhairle na n-Óg

Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership

Mitchels Regeneration Project, Tralee

Community Awards

Pride of Place

Environmental Awareness

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

The Kerry Local Community Development Committee is made up of public and private sector representation, state agencies, elected members and community development representatives. Its chairperson is Cllr Norma Moriarty. Its key functions and objectives include the coordination, management and oversight of the implementation of local and community development programmes like the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP), the Rural Development Programme and implementation of community elements of the Kerry Local Economic and Community Plan. The LCDC met on seven occasions in 2016.





Members of the Local Community Development Committee

LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

The Local Economic and Community Plan (2016-2022) was adopted by the elected members in April 2016 and was published and launched in July 2016 at the Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre by the Cathaoireach, Cllr Michael O'Shea. The plan – for which Kerry County Council is the lead partner – brought together a wide range of organisations and agencies working in the areas of economic and community development.

The plan builds on the national and regional policy framework, particularly the Regional Action Plan for Jobs, and will provide enhanced strategic planning, better targeting and co-ordination of resources with the objective of improving the quality of life for everyone living and working in Kerry. Specific targets for economic and community development are included, those responsible for delivery of these goals are identified and delivery timeframes are set out. The LECP is being overseen by a special implementation group. The plan provides the county with a roadmap for achieving improved economic and community development in the next number of years, working in partnership with everyone in public and private sector organisations. It highlights the resilience of our communities, the strength of our indigenous base but it also sets out the various challenges we face as a county and how they can be tackled. Working with bodies like the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to attract more employment and investment to Kerry, the County Council and other agencies will continue to strive for improvements in our employment and economic environment. The Council will work to build stronger communities ensuring the facilities and services required are achieved and targeted in a meaningful way.

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME

The LCDC continues to oversee the delivery of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and established a subgroup specifically to assist in this process. The programme is being delivered at a local level by three local development companies, the South Kerry Development Partnership, North East and West Kerry Development and IRD Duhallow.

2016 was a productive year in terms of delivering 12 actions across three goals supporting SICAP target groups. In particular significant progress was made in 2016 on the areas of estate management, social farming and social enterprises. A total of €1.6m was invested in social inclusion projects for example, Mens' Sheds, social farming initiatives and other community projects.

The subgroup has placed a particular emphasis on collaboration and new procedures were introduced to ensure continued engagement with the local development sector.

There was also progress on the development of Kerry's first Age Friendly Strategy. In May 2016, the LCDC was nominated as the co-ordinating body responsible for overseeing the strategy.



The board of the Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership

LEADER PROGRAMME

Kerry County Council, like all local authorities, is now the lead agency in relation to the delivery of Leader Programme funding to projects in the county. The local development companies (the implementing partners – SKDP, NEWKD and IRD Duhallow) continue to work with and offer advice to applicants as was the case under previous Leader programmes.

The Leader Funding Agreement was signed by the Local Action Group (LAG) and by each of the Programme Implementers on 7 July 2016 and the programme was officially launched at a national event hosted by Minister Heather Humphreys on 8 July. The Department has published a comprehensive set of operating rules which provide a clear governance framework for implementation.

Under the new programme, all potential applicants must submit an 'Expression of Interest (EOI)' prior to submitting an application for support. To ensure equal treatment of all applicants each EOI is notified to the Local Action Group members. Accordingly a full list of EOIs received in Kerry was presented at a meeting of the Kerry Local Action Group in November 2016.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

Through the Public Participation Network (PPN) – formerly the Community and Voluntary Forum – the Local Community Development Committee provides a mechanism by which the community and voluntary sector can meaningfully participate in local development. The network recognises the role that community and voluntary groups play in the delivery of economic, social and environmental initiatives that are set out in the Local Economic and Community Plan. There are 512 community groups registered on Kerry's PPN.

The Kerry County Register of Community and Voluntary Groups is a crucial element of the PPN structure and the online registration process for the PPN groups was commenced in November 2016. This register is the vehicle through which nominations are made to a wide range of local government bodies including the Strategic Policy Committees and the Local Community Development Committee. The most comprehensive work undertaken during 2016 was the development of the new website for the PPN: www.kerryppn.ie



KERRY RECREATION AND SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership comprises representatives from a range of organisations and agencies in Kerry, all working towards increasing participation rates in sport and physical activity, whilst developing and delivering sport and physical activity at a local level.

The Partnership includes representatives of Kerry County Council, An Garda Síochána, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, HSE, ITT, Kerry County Childcare Committee, KDYS, Kerry Education and Training Board, the Primary Principal Schools Network, Public Participation Network, South Kerry Development Partnership, and representatives from the business and leisure sectors.

The Partnership is a sub-committee of Kerry Local Community Development Committee and the work of the Partnership is managed by a coordinator and administrator based at County Buildings. Its primary funder on an annual basis is Sport Ireland (formerly Irish Sports Council).

In 2016 former minister and former GAA star, Jimmy Deenihan became Chairperson of the Partnership and the KRSP Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 was finalised in 2016 in preparation for its publication and launch in 2017.

There was a notable increase in the number of physical activity programmes delivered in 2016, due to joint partnership collaboration. These programmes were delivered to specific target groups with low physical activity participation rates.

The Partnership continued to work with schools by promoting Kerry's Safer Cycling Programme in 14 schools countywide, supporting the BeActiveASAP afterschools programme and the Scoil Gníomhach programme which aims to increase physical activity participation among first years.

National Bike Week activities included Pedal in the Park cycles in Tralee, Listowel and Killarney which were an enormous success and educational talks took place. The weekly parkrun events continued in Tralee, Listowel and Killarney with the number of participants continuing to grow.

The Partnership continued to support people with disabilities in sport through projects like Adapted Halliwick Swim Training in Killarney and Ballyunion and Swim for All for young people with disabilities.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

The Community Support Fund has supported over 700 projects across the county since its inception in 2015 to the value of €1.5million. It recognises the valuable contribution of the community and voluntary sectors in Kerry and the vital work that those organisations do. Those supported over the past two years include community groups, sports clubs, residents' committees, Tidy Towns groups, Chamber Alliances and other organisations across the four Municipal Districts in Kerry.

In 2016, the second year of the programme, the Community Support Fund was revised to cover the following seven categories of support:

Community Based Tourism, Festivals and Events

Community Economic Innovation

Community Tidy Towns Initiatives and Amenity Projects

Minor Enhancement to Community Facilities

Community Planning and Project Development

Community Sport and Physical Activity Programmes

Community Seed Capital

Following the approval by the elected members of Kerry County Council €750,000 was allocated to support over 350 projects in 2016. Allocations were agreed for each of the Municipal Districts at special meetings of councillors in each district. The fund has had a very positive impact in communities and 2016 saw an increase of 50% on the number of applications received. The scheme for 2017 was launched in November 2016 with details announced of a series of advisory workshops to assist applicants.



National Bike Week launch in Kerry in May

COMHAIRLE NA nÓG

The Kerry Comhairle na nÓg is a youth council which gives young people to the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies. For those under 18 and who are therefore unable to vote, it gives them a voice on the services, policies and issues that affect them in their areas.

Comhairle worked on several projects with Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC), Kerry Education and Training Board (KETB), and KDYS during 2016 including the 'Think About Alcohol' booklets and the #Connected#Respected Campaign.

In 2016, the Comhairle decided to focus on two topics: developing a YouTube channel with a web series to look at issues affecting young people, and sexual health education as a pilot programme. 2016 saw the expansion of the work programme into all four Municipal Districts. The aim is to encourage countywide participation and to increase the influence of Comhairle na nÓg at a Municipal District level. Sub-groups took on the following areas of the work for the year:

Listowel: Public Relations and Annual General Meeting

Killarney: YouTube web series

Caherciveen: Sexual health

Tralee: 1916 fashion show

Comhairle members also took part in the 'Ireland 2016' consultation process which was held in Limerick.

Eight members of Comhairle na nÓg travelled to the European Youth Event (EYE) in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France in May. Sponsored by Seán Kelly MEP, the group was chosen as winner of the Voluntary Group Category in the 2016 Kerry Garda Youth Achievement Awards. In addition two of the members received individual awards for their work with the Comhairle.



Members of Kerry Comhairle na nÓg with Máiréad McGuinness MEP at the European Parliament

TRALEE COMMUNITY HORSE PROJECT

The purpose of the community horse project is to enable Travellers to manage their horses in a controlled manner away from residential areas. The issue of roaming horses has historically been a major issue within the Mitchel's/Boherbee area. There were up to 80 horses being kept within Tralee town the vast majority of which were kept within this area.

Under the project, registered horse owners are responsible for the maintenance costs of the stables as well as meeting the other costs of insurance, the removal of waste and auditor's fees. The project is fully sustainable and self-funded by the members. It is unique within Ireland and annually attracts visiting groups from local authorities and development companies through the country.

In 2016, the members produced an information DVD which can be distributed to other groups hoping to establish such a project. It highlights the process which was undertaken in Tralee to establish the project and gives first-hand accounts of issues which arose and how they were overcome. Meanwhile, water drinkers were fitted into the stables to reduce water consumption.



Comhairle na nÓg



ARTS OFFICE



In 2016, the Arts Office continued to promote the arts in the county and worked closely with individuals, groups and organisations with that common objective. The 2016 work programme, involving spending of €72,000, included the following initiatives led by the Arts Office, co-funded by the Arts Council:



Writer in Residence Programme



Culture Night

Writer in Residence programme

Art for the Young at Heart

Dancer in Residence programme

Filmmaker in Residence programme

Dance Arts Residency in An Lab, Dingle

Professional Development Workshops for Artists

Bealtaine

The 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

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. Countywide, €32,550 was awarded to 46 applicants. Other funding provisions in 2016 include:

€3,000 under the Artist in Schools schemes;

€8,200 was awarded in individual artist bursaries

€68,800 was granted to the arts venues and festivals

€25,000 was awarded between five groups across the county to support artistic programmes and development, to encourage engagement with target audiences and to promote platforms for arts practitioners in accordance with the aims of the Kerry County Council Arts Strategy 2016 - 2021.



Dancer in Residence

The Arts Office worked with the Killarney Municipal District Arts Working Group to appoint a Drama Facilitator for secondary schools in area and assisted in the design of the new crest and chain of office for the Cathaoirleach of the Killarney Municipal District.

Culture Night 2016 was a wonderful success. 50 events across the county were supported by Kerry County Council and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The night had a strong national profile with RTÉ news featuring the dance event Welcoming the Stranger by Catherine Young at Siamsa Tíre. The programme aims to support artists, to develop arts practitioners and audiences as well as art form development. More information can be found at www.culturekerry.com.

The development of the Kerry Music Education Partnership is ongoing with the lead partner, the Kerry Education and Training Board and support partners, the Institute of Technology, Tralee and Ealaíon na Gaeltachta. There is also a Choral Singing Initiative, co-funded by the Arts Councils on behalf of Kerry Music Education Partnership.

The Sliabh Luachra Music Trail is an Arts Tourism partnership project with Cork County Council. Funding of €10,000 was secured in 2016 for expenditure in 2017 through a competitive application to the Arts Council's Invitation to Collaborate fund for the development of the Sliabh Luachra Music Trail with Cork County Council and from now on, Limerick County Council. See www.sliabhluchra.ie.

Separately, the Arts Office secured funding of €71,000 in 2016 for expenditure in 2017 through the Arts Council's Invitation to Collaborate fund for Creative Mentoring of six festivals with Cork City and County Councils – two festivals in each local authority.

The Arts Office is home to the Kerry Screen Commission which is working closely with the Irish Film Board. The office dealt with numerous location queries for film, TV, commercial and documentaries in 2016. The Kerry Screen Commission website is www.kerryfilm.ie.

The office oversaw Kerry County Council's 2016 Commemorations Fund, supported by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Awards of funding were made to over 70 organisations across the county which held events to mark 1916. Events at Banna, Ballykissane and Valentia were co-ordinated by the Arts Office with OPW and other statutory bodies.

During 2016, with the support of Kerry County Council, the Arts Office began a new 30-minute slot on Radio Kerry's 'Saturday Supplement' programme called 'Creative Kingdom' which showcases what is happening in the arts community in the county and gives a platform to practitioners, events and cultural organisations in Kerry.

The Arts Office maintains a strong profile on social media with over 2,000 followers on Twitter (@KerryCoArts) and almost 900 followers on Facebook (KerryCoArts). A fortnightly newsletter issues to an audience of over 800.



Culture Night



President Michael D Higgins views the Roger Casement exhibition at the Kerry County Museum

KERRY COUNTY MUSEUM

Kerry County Museum plays an important role in promoting and preserving the distinct culture and heritage of the county. Located in the Ashe Memorial Hall in Tralee, the facility comprises 1,500 square metres, which includes the permanent gallery, temporary exhibition space, Medieval Experience, reception, collections stores, and education space. The Museum's staff members include those with professional qualifications in archaeology, history, education and museum studies, as well as extensive experience of visitor services. Its core functions are collections, exhibitions, education, and marketing.



Casement exhibition at Irish Embassy in Nigeria

Key activities and achievements in 2016

The museum recorded a 50% increase in visitors in 2016, with total visitor numbers of 40,000

The museum received a Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence for a consistent standard of 5-star reviews

Collections

Operating to the highest standards of collections care, the Museum participates in the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme for Ireland, and it achieved Full Accreditation in 2013. In 2016 it submitted an application for Maintenance of Accreditation, and following a site visit the assessor noted:

"In its journey through the accreditation process, Kerry County Museum has consistently demonstrated the highest professional standards across every area of its work."

New additions to the museum's collection in 2016:

Casement sketch map and accompanying note

Casement exhibition loans from Imperial War Museum, Scotland Yard Crime Museum, National Museum of Ireland, National Library, and from private lenders

Music composed to honour Thomas Ashe

Thomas Ashe Memorial Card

Photographs of the 75th anniversary of Casement's landing

1916 centenary commemoration stamps

Silver shrine lamp from Balloonagh Convent

House Blessing

Wake Sheets

Early 20th century electrical insulators

Early 20th century milk bottles

Portable cassette player

Denny family Bible (loan)

Exhibitions in 2016

Casement in Kerry: A Revolutionary Journey: launched in April 2016 by President Michael D Higgins as part of the centenary commemorations of the 1916 Rising. It has attracted some high profile publicity, notably a feature article in the New York Times, as well as very positive feedback

A touring version of the Casement exhibition was produced for the Department of Foreign Affairs and it has so far travelled to Dublin, Edinburgh, and Nigeria

A series of lectures and talks associated with the Casement exhibition were held in Kerry and around the country

Rose of Tralee Fashion Exhibition

Ciar Quilters Exhibition

Original Kerry Foinse Exhibition

Education

Participation in Tralee 800 Working Group and associated festivities

Tralee 800 Primary Schools Competition and Exhibition

Tralee 800 Living History event at Kerry County Museum on Friday 17 June: Free workshops for 130 local primary school pupils (in conjunction with Deise Medieval from Waterford)

Free entry to Medieval Experience on St Patrick's Day: 516 visitors

1916 Casement Trail for primary schools in Museum Gallery prior to opening of exhibition in April

Free entry to Medieval Experience during Park Festival 18-19 June: 1,800 visitors in total

Free entry to Medieval Experience, Casement in Kerry and Rose of Tralee Fashion exhibition on selected days during Heritage Week and Rose of Tralee Festival (16-28 August): 6,704 visitors

Participated in Tralee School Tours package and maintained numbers at 2,000

History Club: record member numbers of 16 local children every Wednesday afternoon during school term (September - May)

Funding for Killaclohane Schools Project from the Heritage Council for workshops, exhibition and outreach visits

Articles in Kerry Magazine and in The Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society Journal 2016

Talks presented to Tralee 800 Conference

Walking Tours of Tralee for primary and secondary schools given in conjunction with guided tours of the Medieval Experience

Summer Camp for children throughout July

Culture Night attracted 603 visitors

The Haunted Hall Halloween event for schools and families co-produced with Bryan Carr drew 2,800 visitors

The Festive Hall Christmas event for schools and families co-produced with Bryan Carr brought 2,500 visitors

The Museum was promoted and marketed at a range of events during 2016 including the National Ploughing Championships, the Mallow Home and Garden Show and over a dozen other events in the county and around the country.



Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre and Nature Reserve

TRALEE BAY WETLANDS CENTRE AND NATURE RESERVE

The Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre attracted 21,774 paying visitors to the site in 2016, generating revenue of €137,806. The number of actual visitors to the centre is much higher due to the open park space around the lake which attracts walkers.

Education remains an important part of the work of the centre with 3,173 schoolchildren visiting in 2016. A total of 1,263 people visited the very successful Santa Experience, an increase of over 27% on the previous year.

A number of improvements were carried out during 2016, several through a partnership with the Kerry Branch of the Irish Wildlife Trust. A pollinator garden was planted, a community garden showcasing different plant communities in Kerry was planted, and 12 nest boxes for migrating swifts were added to the viewing tower. 100 metres of electrified predator fencing was added to the southern bird hide area, the first phase of a project which will introduce more ornamental birds and showcase specimens to the centre in 2017. Additionally, the central island in the activity lake was planted with grasses and flaxes to better facilitate nesting ducks during the summer.

Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre was awarded a prestigious Gold Award by Ecotourism Ireland in 2016, in recognition of the efforts made to promote sustainability and environmental awareness both through the centre operations and its tourism/education product.

BLENNERVILLE WINDMILL

Blennerville Windmill welcomed 14,000 visitors in 2016 –an increase of 4,000 from the 2015 figure. Visitors to the windmill are offered a guided tour of the workings of the windmill. Significant upgrade works were undertaken to the roof in 2016 to safeguard against birds entering. The entire windmill was also cleaned and painted and a bird watching area introduced to watch the birds on Tralee Bay from the windmill.



Blennerville Windmill



John Breen
Director of Services

WATER SERVICES

FIRE SERVICES / BUILDING REGULATION

DIRECTORATE OF

**WATER
ENVIRONMENT
FIRE AND
LIBRARY SERVICES**

LIBRARY SERVICES

IRISH OFFICE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

VETERINARY SERVICES

WATER SERVICES

The strategic objective of the Water Services Section is to deliver, in partnership with Irish Water, a quality service to resident and businesses in an efficient, friendly and helpful manner.

The enactment of the Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013, effective from 1 January 2014, means that Irish Water is Ireland's 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.

Water Services is responsible for the delivery of all public water services in the county as provided for in the Service Level Agreement in both operations and capital projects. It is also responsible for delivery of the Rural Water Programme.



PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

In 2016, Kerry County Council produced approximately 27.0 million cubic metres (27.0 billion litres) of drinking water for 122,000 consumers served by some 68,000 water connections. The water is produced from 64 public water supply zones, which are supplied from more than 85 separate water sources throughout the county.

Some key improvements to the water supply network were carried out during 2016 which were funded by Irish Water. These works included the laying of 38km of new watermains at a cost of €5m. Replacement of old and deficient watermains took place as follows:

6.5km from Derry, Listowel to Tarmons near Tarbert

3.5km laid at Lisselton

7.9km laid at Baile Na Buaile, Baile Uí Shé, Cinn Aird, Com An Liaigh, Baile An Liaigh, Cill Ura Thoir/Thiar, Na Gorta Dubha, Dún Chaoin and the Wood, Dingle.

1.45km laid at Kilgobnet and Carhoonahone

2.1km laid at Coolbane and AGLISH

0.5km laid at Shronedarragh, Barraduff

2.7km laid at Bushmount, Firies, Gortagullane, Muckross and Glenash, Killorglin

1.9km laid at Ballyledder and Cappagh South, near Kilgobnet

2km laid at Abbeylands and Kilderry, near Milltown and at Faha West, Listry

1.4km laid at Dromhall Park, Mill Road and Woodlawn Road in Killarney

2.2km laid at Loreto and Black Road, Killarney

1km laid at The Kerries, Árd Na Lí and The Mall, Tralee

3.3km laid by tendered contract works at Dromulton, Scartaglin, Abbeylands, Milltown, Kilcoolaght, Kilgobnet, Laccamore, Abbeydorney and William Street, Listowel

2.5km laid at Dún Géagáin, Baile An Sceilg, Formaoil, Baile An Sceilg and Portmagee



2.7
MILLION

VOLUME IN CUBIC METRES
OF DRINKING WATER
PRODUCED FOR

122,000

CONSUMERS SERVED BY



68,000

WATER CONNECTIONS

9.5
MILLION



ANNUAL REDUCTION IN CUBIC
METERS OF WATER LOST
THROUGH LEAKAGE



958

INCIDENTS ATTENDED BY
FIRE SERVICES IN 2016

30
MILLION



INVESTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT
FOR NEW LOUGH GUITANE
WATER TREATMENT PLANT

103



NUMBER OF TONNES OF
WASTE COLLECTED DURING
SPRING CLEAN PERIOD



4,589

SAMPLES ANALYSED FOR

50,000 TESTS

BY COUNCIL LABORATORY

74



DIFFERENT EVENTS ATTENDED BY
CIVIL DEFENCE
DURING THE YEAR



33

COMMUNITY
GROUPS
INVOLVED IN
ADOPT A BRING
BANK SCHEME

478,560

INDIVIDUAL VISITS TO
KERRY LIBRARIES



3%

ON 2015

644,376

ITEMS BORROWED IN
KERRY LIBRARIES



REMEDIAL ACTION LIST PROGRAMME

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

At the beginning of 2016, a total of 43 new Water Treatment Plants were commissioned under the RAL Programme. A further two RAL Water Treatment Plants were completed during 2016 at An Mhín Aird Puc and Málainn.

During 2016, five schemes were removed by the Environmental Protection Agency from the RAL List at Mid Kerry Knockavota (Milltown Poulgorm), Maulin, Caherciveen, An Mhin Ard Puc No. 1 and An Mhurioch/Baile Breac.

PUBLIC WASTE WATER

There are 48 public sewerage schemes maintained throughout Kerry, of which 16 have full waste water treatment plants and 32 have primary treatment facilities. Key upgrades made to the wastewater infrastructure in 2016 included the completion of a new Wastewater Treatment Plant at Knightstown.

RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

Kerry County Council administers the Rural Water Programme, which is funded by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. Water Services 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 2016:

Kerry County Council spent €180,600 in 2016 in the advancing of Group Water Supply Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes within the county

33 applications for Well Grants were processed

61 Group Scheme applications for subsidy payments were processed

One new Group Waste Water Scheme at Killeen, Tralee was completed and works were also carried out on the Group Sewerage Scheme on the High Road, Dingle. Alderwood Road Group Sewerage scheme in Tralee received a commitment from the Department to fund the scheme in 2017 and 2018

A total of six applications for funding under the Septic Tank Improvement Grant Scheme were received and processed.



WATER CONSERVATION

The national Water Conservation Programme is managed by the Water Conservation Unit which operates as a core Business Unit within the Water Services Department.

Water conservation continues to be a focus for proactive management, with emphasis on leakage control and reduction of water wastage, which reduces water demand and leads directly to cost savings on water production. Water conservation also protects the water capital infrastructure investment that has taken place. Dedicated leak detection crews who specialise in leakage management procedures are actively working on the ground. Since mid-2006 over 6,500 leaks have been located / repaired in the county.

In 2006, the average quantity of water produced per day was 99,980 cubic metres, while in 2016 it has been reduced by 26% to 74,028 cubic metres per day. This represents an annual reduction of 9.5 million cubic meters of water lost through leakage.

In 2016, Kerry County Council was selected as one of six local authorities to pilot Irish Water's 'Find and Fix Programme' whereby additional dedicated resources would be deployed to identify and repair leaks, leading to a significant reduction in 'Unaccounted for Water.' Ambitious targets have been set for leakage reduction under this programme and it is hoped that the scheme will be rolled out fully during 2017.

NEW CONNECTIONS

There were 85 new water connections and 32 new waste water connections completed in 2016.

WATER SERVICES CAPITAL

A significant amount of work was carried out by the Kerry Capital Projects Office advancing new major water and wastewater capital schemes through the Irish Water Capital Investment Programme 2014-2016. A large number of other schemes were reviewed for future development under emerging Irish Water investment programmes.

The Kerry Capital Projects Office is also responsible for the delivery of the Irish Water Minor Capital Programme. Elements of this funding programme provide a great opportunity to upgrade and modernize existing installations.



NEW €30M TREATMENT PLANT AT LOUGH GUITANE

A major infrastructural development commenced in 2016 with the announcement that a new water treatment plant will be constructed as part of a €30 million investment by Irish Water in the Kerry Central Regional Water Supply Scheme. Over 62,000 people depend on the water supply scheme on a regular basis which feeds nine water supply zones all of which are currently on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Remedial Action List (RAL) due to lack of adequate water treatment facilities.



Glan Agua was appointed the contractor to carry out the design and construction works on behalf of Irish Water, with engineering services provided by Nicholas O'Dwyer and work to date completed by Kerry County Council.

The €30 million investment will ensure that the required treatment processes are in place by December 2017 with full completion of the project by mid-2018. This will allow for the removal of over 62,000 people from the RAL.



Turning of the sod for the new €30m Lough Guitane water treatment plant

The new plant will provide 51 million litres of water per day to the communities of Central Kerry including Tralee, Killarney, Castleisland and Castlemaine in addition to an extensive rural area across the county.

The sod was turned on the project by the Minister of State for Housing and Urban Renewal, the Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council, Cllr Michael O'Shea and the Managing Director of Irish Water, Gerry Grant on 26 August 2016.

Other capital works in 2016 included:

Water

Construction of Kenmare Water Treatment Plant commenced (€4.5m)

Contract documents prepared for Mountain Stage Water Treatment Plant (€1m)

Networks

Work completed by Council direct labour on the replacement of 7.25km of old watermain from Gearha, Kilgobnet to Meanus, Killorglin (€2.5m)

Upgrade works on Rising Main Facilitation Works by direct labour as part of overall Lough Guitane Water Treatment Plant project ongoing (€1.2m)

Contract documents prepared for replacement of 5.85km of deficient 100mm watermain throughout the county (€0.76m)

Construction commenced by direct labour on replacement of 3.5km of watermain in Derry, Listowel (€0.75m)

Contract documents commenced for replacement of long lead connections in Tralee (€0.25m)

Contract documents commenced for replacement of deficient cast iron mains in Tralee (€4.15m)

Wastewater

Work completed on and flows diverted to new Waste Water Treatment Plants at Ballylongford and Tarbert (€2.7m).

Upgrade works completed on Kilgarvan (€160,000) and Knightstown (€166,000) Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Ardfert Wastewater Treatment Plant progressed through tender stage to contract award in November 2016 (€3.5m)

Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme design review completed and planning documents prepared to go for planning permission in 2017 (€2.5m)

Castlemaine Sewerage Scheme design review completed and Irish Water approval received to progress to completion of Contract Document Stage (€1.2m)

Fenit Wastewater Treatment Plant land acquisition completed and contract documents prepared for Irish Water to get approval to go to tender for construction. (€2.8m)

RAL Schemes

Upgrades to Water Treatment Plants were completed at An Gleann, Baile an Sceilg, Caherdaniel and Castlecove.

Upgrades to Water Treatment Plants commenced at Kenmare, Templenoe (connecting to Kenmare), Lauragh and Caragh Lake.

Designs were progressed for upgrades to Water Treatment Plants at Mountain Stage and Kilgarvan.

Minor Capital Programmes

In 2016, Kerry County Council submitted 38 Business Cases (Asset Needs Briefs – ANB) to Irish Water for minor capital upgrades to water and wastewater assets and facilities. Irish Water approved 49 business cases in 2016 totalling €9.3m. Some of the projects approved in 2016 were submitted in 2015.

Design and development works progressed on numerous projects throughout the county in 2016 under the various Irish Water minor capital sub-programmes and planning for future projects was undertaken as part of ongoing developments and improvement works.



Improvements at Knightstown Wastewater Treatment Plant



Improvements at Ballylongford Wastewater Treatment Plant



Kerry Fire Services dealing with a gorse fire

FIRE SERVICES / BUILDING REGULATION

The Kerry Fire and Rescue Service deals with fires and other emergencies in Kerry and works in close partnership with local communities to deliver crucial safety messages in the fight against fire.

Operational volumes of work during 2016 showed a slight decrease on 2015. The total number of incidents attended decreased from 1,110 in 2015 to 958 in 2016 and the number of mobilisations decreased from 1,259 in 2015 to 1,138 in 2016.

During 2016:

The number of fire incidents decreased by 10%, from 595 in 2015 to 531 in 2016

The number of chimney fires decreased by 12%, from 141 in 2015 to 123 in 2016

The number of gorse fires decreased by 27%, from 223 in 2015 to 161 in 2016

The number of road traffic accident incidents increased by 12%, from 120 in 2015 to 135 in 2016

The Kerry Fire Service public awareness campaign continued to assist in efforts to reduce the number of gorse fires. In 2016, this was 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.

Promotion of Fire Safety Week 2016

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS/ EVENTS IN 2016

Upgrading of the Kerry Fire Service fleet continued during the year to ensure that the average fleet age profile is maintained at below nine years and that the working life of frontline appliances is below 15 years.

Under the Smoke Alarm Scheme 2016, a further 850 smoke alarms, funded by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, were procured for

distribution to vulnerable members of the community in association with charitable organisations working in the community.

The primary schools programme continued with basic fire safety instruction and fire safety packs being provided by Fire Service personnel to third class primary school students.

Kerry Fire and Rescue Service hosted the Chief Fire Officers' Association Conference in the Malton Hotel, Killarney, in May 2016.

BUILDING CONTROL ACTIVITY

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

Ensuring a visible presence on building sites, with a good geographical spread

Inspection of buildings for compliance with the Building Regulations

Providing advice on compliance with the Building Regulations

Monitoring the provision of access for people with disabilities

Furthering the conservation of fuel and energy in relation to buildings by requiring the submission of Building Energy Rating Certificates (BERs)

Volumes of work in this area during 2016 showed an overall increase on 2015:

418 Commencement Notices/7 Day Notices received in 2016 pertaining to 461 buildings

37 or 13.5% of the 281 new buildings notified in 2016 were inspected by officers with an overall total of 217 building control inspections carried out

141 Fire Safety Certificates granted

83 Disability Access Certificates granted

KERRY CIVIL DEFENCE

Kerry Civil Defence is a voluntary second line emergency service and provides assistance to members of the public and front line emergency services in Kerry. It aims to provide a respected service with highly trained and effective members providing valued and appreciated support to the emergency services and the community. Civil Defence cover was provided at 74 different events in the county during 2016. Some of the major events which involved the support of members of the Kerry Civil Defence include:

Major sport and festival events including the Listowel Races, Dingle Marathon, Puck Fair, Rose of Tralee International Festival, and the Kerry and Munster Fleadhanna Cheoil.

1916 Commemorations at Ballykissane, Banna, Ardfert and Valentia

Co-ordination of the Medical Plan for the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle 2016: over ten thousand cyclists participated in this event with 145 medical staff present including 18 ambulances, three medical centres and 27 doctors. The Tetra satellite communication system was used by Civil Defence and proved very successful.

Among the other achievements and developments in 2016 were:

The Killorglin Civil Defence Centre at Killorglin Fire Station was reopened

Training and qualification for three Swiftwater Responders in the Auxiliary Fire Service

Training of six members in 4x4 professional off-road driving

Training of two Advanced Driving Instructors (ADIs)

Defibrillator training for Na Gaeil and Austin Stacks GAA Clubs and issued certification to the successful students

Training and assistance to Curraheen Community First Responders Group



Civil Defence dealing with flooding in South Kerry.



Mobile Library at Annascaul

KERRY LIBRARY

2016 brought some significant changes across the Kerry Library service with the introduction of free membership, a new Library Circulation Management system and a range of new online services.

Kerry County Council operates nine full time branch libraries - Ballybunion, Caherciveen, Castleisland, An Daingean, Kenmare, Killarney, Killorglin, Listowel and Tralee. In addition, a Local History and Archives service together with two Mobile Libraries operate from Library Headquarters in Tralee.

The level of usage of the county's public libraries continues to be quite positive. Borrowings were 57% higher than the number of items borrowed ten years ago, in 2006. During 2016, the number of items borrowed across all Kerry's libraries was 644,376.

Tralee continues to be the busiest library with 153,483 items borrowed. Kenmare at 42,786 and Ballybunion at 32,260 items borrowed, both showed significant increases of 14% on their 2015 figures.

The number of individual visits was 478,560, an increase of 3% on 2015. Most visits, 117,718, were to Tralee library with Killarney second busiest at 74,139.

Free membership

The national Strategy for Libraries: Opportunities for All (2013-2017), sought to 'enable free access to core services by 2017'. In line with this, Kerry Library put free library membership in place from 1 January 2016.

New Library Circulation Management system

The Sierra Library Management system came in to operation in Kerry on 12 July, as part of the national roll-out. It has a range of benefits for the library user, including the option to now borrow up to 12 items at any given time [up from eight], access to the catalogues of all participating libraries and a free national book request and delivery service. The changeover was well managed by the staff which was facilitated by the smooth transition to the new system.

New online services

Kerry Library added an expanded range of free online services for members through its website, www.kerrylibrary.ie. These include online newspapers, digital magazines, e-books, e-audio, online languages and e-learning courses and have proved an excellent addition to the services to the public. Staff familiarisation was provided through both online webinars and group training sessions. Usage continues to grow and will increase significantly as user education progresses.

Other developments in 2016:

Kerry Library was allocated €0.25m towards the replacement of one of its Mobile Libraries, as part of a new Library Capital Investment programme 2016 - 2021, by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

The fines amnesty brought about the return of two books – one 85 years after it was borrowed and another which was first borrowed in 1949:



Kerry's Eye : December 2016



Kerry's Eye : November 2016



'The Sun is Rising for Ireland' exhibition at Killarney Library

Kerry Library was highly commended for its 'Toys and Sensory Resources Collection' at the 2016 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards ceremony in Dublin on 24 November. The service, operating from Castleisland Library, is designed to complement quality of life services countywide for children and adults and to offer support for the use of the toys and sensory resources through professional partnerships between Kerry Library and health care professionals.

Over 1,000 children in Kerry participated in the 2016 Children's Summer Reading programme - Summer Stars - which was organised at all Kerry Libraries and most public libraries throughout the country. Summer Stars was a free programme, using existing library resources, open to all children. The Tralee area awards presentations were made by the Cathaoirleach to over 100 children at Tralee Library on Saturday, 8 October, while other award presentations were held at local libraries.

Library Ireland Week 2016 took place nationally from Monday, 28 November to Saturday, 3 December. Kerry Library had two main initiatives, a fines amnesty on overdue books, and user education events at each library to promote the library online resources

Kerry Library completed the digitisation of a further set of eight historical Kerry newspapers - Kerry Reporter; Kerry Champion; Tralee Liberator; Kerry Press; Kerry Advocate; Kerry People; Kerry Evening Star and the Kerry News. 20 Kerry newspapers are now available in this format and they are available fully searchable, free of charge at each library.

Kerry Library played a significant role in the county Decade of Commemorations programme. A major in-house exhibition 'Kerry 1916 from the Archives' went on display at Tralee Library during April and May. In addition, a programme of lectures and events was organised at various libraries countywide, while the local history and archives sources available at library headquarters continue to be used extensively for research.



Launch of Tralee Diverse Writers Group book, Tralee Library, 10 November



Council staff who received a Certificate (Diploma) in Irish in December 2016 from University of Limerick

OIFIG NA GAEILGE/IRISH OFFICE

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT 2003

The Irish Office/Oifig na Gaeilge is responsible for reporting to An Coimisinéir Teanga on the implementation of our statutory obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003 and the implementation of Scéimeanna Gaeilge Chomhairle Contae Chiarraí by all sections within the council. The office also liaises with An Coimisinéir Teanga on behalf of Kerry County Council regarding complaints by the public about non-compliance with its language commitments.

The Irish Office established Meitheal na Gaeilge, a committee to monitor and report on the implementation of the Council's commitments under the Official Languages Act 2003 such as regulations, Scéimeanna Gaeilge and the Placenames' Orders. The Meitheal looks at ways to support Act na Gaeltachta 2012 and the Government's 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language. Meitheal na Gaeilge also provides regular reports to the Senior Management Team, as well as reports for An Coimisinéir Teanga and the Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation SPC. Meitheal na Gaeilge met once a month throughout 2016.

Oifig na Gaeilge established 'An Gréasán Tacaíochta' a support network for Kerry County Council's Oifigigh Ainmnithe Gaeilge that meets regularly to support front line staff to deliver services as Gaeilge to the public.

OPPORTUNITIES TO USE IRISH

The Office provided funding of €5,000 for festivals/events as Gaeilge throughout Kerry including Éigse na Brídeoige, Scoil Cheoil an Earraigh, An Fhuinneog is Gaelaí during Seachtain na Gaeilge, Cibeal ar an Meal, Féile na Bealtaine, Ceardlann Filíochta ag Seachtain na Scríbhneoirí, Féile Peile na nÓg, Regatta Fionntrá, Féile an Phráta, Regatta Bhaile na nGall, Comóradh Thomáis Ághas 1916, Ceiliúradh an Bhlascaoid and An Fhéile Bheag Filíochta.

In 2016, a detailed bilingual exhibition developed by Conradh na Gaeilge on 'An Ghaeilge agus 1916' was displayed extensively across Kerry in libraries, schools and at festivals during the important commemorative year. 'An Eilifint sa GPO', a bilingual dramatic representation of the cultural and linguistic revolution in Ireland that led up to 1916 Easter Rising was supported. The presentation was crammed with historical snippets and orations, songs and poetry and is suitable for drama groups and schools to present as a flash-mob at festivals, events or at lunch breaks.

Opportunities to learn Irish

The Irish Office developed and established TEG (European Certificate In Irish) courses in the West Kerry Gaeltacht, in conjunction with Údarás na Gaeltachta, Kerry Education Training Board, Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne, Dún Chiomháin

of Cork University, and Maynooth University. Ten participants received European Certificates in Irish at A2 and B1 levels. Developed and delivered two TEG courses for staff of which 20 members of staff received European Certificates in Irish at A1, A2 and B1 levels. It also organised and funded the delivery of a Certificate in Diploma in Irish by the University of Limerick for 11 members of staff.

FÓRAM GAEILGE CHIARRAÍ

Regular support was provided in 2016 for the administration of Fóram Gaeilge Chiarraí, a platform for the Irish speaking and Gaeltacht communities in Kerry. Fóram Gaeilge Chiarraí plays an important role in supporting the development of Irish language policies that promote the use of Irish in Kerry. The Fóram has been active in public consultations on the County Development Plan and the Tourism Strategy, and nominated the Irish language representative on the Tourism, Culture, Arts & Recreation SPC. Oifig na Gaeilge developed the website www.eolaire.ie in conjunction with Fóram Gaeilge Chiarraí.



Launch of Seachtain na Gaeilge events



Presentation of Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge Certificates in Irish (Diploma) to staff members

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Environmental Services Section is responsible for the protection of the environment of the county through the implementation and enforcement of the many regulations, directives and laws dealing with waste management, pollution control and litter abatement, the provision of veterinary services, environmental awareness programmes, laboratory services and beach management.

In 2016, the Environmental Services Section continued to play a crucial role in maintaining Kerry's reputation as being a clean, tidy and pristine place in which to live and to visit given the significant role which tourism plays in the local economy.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Recycling

Recycling facilities were provided in 2016 at the four Transfer Stations in Killarney, Milltown, Kenmare and Caherciveen, and the Civic Amenity site at Ionad Athchúrsála agus Dramhaíola Chorca Dhuibhne in Lios Póil as well as an extensive bring bank network for glass, steel and aluminium cans throughout the county

2,490 tonnes of recyclables were accepted at the above waste facilities and bring bank network in 2016

There are 99 Bring Bank locations throughout the county. These were maintained by Kerry County Council staff and there were also 33 Community Groups involved in the Adopt a Bring Bank Scheme

Waste Disposal

5,767 tonnes of residual waste was deposited at our waste facilities in 2016 which is collected by a third party selected under a competitive procurement process for recovery and disposal. 97,970 waste transactions were processed during this period.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

Litter, Water Quality, Air, and Noise Pollution Monitoring and Enforcement

131 complaints of alleged water pollution were received in 2016

There were no major oil pollution incidents in 2016

45 reports were investigated in 2016 under the Air Pollution Acts.

Reported pollution during 2016 included:

Type of reported pollution	Number
Litter pollution	675
Noise pollution	18
Water pollution	131
Air pollution	45
Total	869

Enforcement and implementation of both the Shannon and South Western River Basin Management Plans (adopted in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive) continued throughout the year based on priorities set out in the plans

DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS NATIONAL INSPECTION PLAN

Kerry County Council is responsible for carrying out inspections of Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems in Kerry under the Environmental Protection Agency's National Inspection Plan. A total of 67 such inspections were carried out in 2016 in accordance with selection criteria as set out by the Department.

LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017-2019

A new Litter Management plan was prepared in 2016 to cover the period 2017- 2019 in accordance with section 10 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

The plan contains a review of litter management in the county over the last three years. The plan highlights the many successes in the county in particular relating to various awards received in the Tidy Towns competition, the cooperation shown by business, community groups and Kerry County Council working together to tidy the county during County Clean up day and during the annual Spring Clean period in particular.

The plan sets out the principal litter challenges facing the county which include:

Illegal dumping in the countryside and on bogs, mountainside, in rivers and in forests

Litter tipping along road ways by passing motorists and pedestrians

Dog fouling along walking routes and in housing estates

The growing amount of litter discarded from convenience food and other outlets

Cigarette and gum littering

In order to address these issues the plan has a number of primary objectives:

Educate and raise public awareness

Litter prevention and control

Enforcement

Develop partnerships

Promote recycling and recovery

SOUTHERN REGION WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2015-2021

The Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021 is focused on the safe and sustainable prevention and management of waste in the region. Among the key performance indicators in its 2016 annual report are a number of telling comparisons in the waste management practices across the region, for example, between 2012 and 2014 the disposal rate of waste to landfill from households has dropped from 37% to 25%.

Other positive results include that the recycling and recovery rate in the region has improved from 63% in 2012 to 75% in 2014. The report revealed that the annual amount of household waste produced per person has increased from 295kgs to 299kgs between 2012 and 2014. The average amount of waste produced per household in 2014 was 807kgs.

Other key findings in the report include:

Household waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) recovery in the region is now at almost twice the minimum EU target of 4kgs per inhabitant

67% of households have signed up for a waste collection service

45% of households availing of a collection service have an organic bin

WASTE ENFORCEMENT REGIONAL LEAD AUTHORITIES

In late 2015, the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government advised of the establishment of Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities for each of the three Waste Management Planning Regions in the country. Cork County Council is the new Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority for the Southern Waste Management Region which includes Kerry.

Each of these new Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLAs) has responsibility for coordinating waste enforcement actions within regions, setting priorities and common objectives for waste enforcement, ensuring consistent enforcement of waste legislation across the three existing waste management planning regions while still leaving local authority personnel as first responders on the ground to specific breaches of waste legislation. These regional authorities have been bedding in during 2016.



Raising one of Kerry's 14 Blue Flags at Ballybunion in June

BLUE FLAG BEACHES

The 2016 season proved a successful one with the county awarded 14 Blue Flags. The following beaches retained their Blue flag status: Baile na Sceilge (Ballinskelligs), Fenit, Ballybunion South and North, Inch, Kells, Ballyheigue, Maharabeg, Banna, Doire Fhionáin (Derrynane), Ceann Trá (Ventry), White Strand (Caherciveen). Rossbeigh's Blue Flag was restored and Fenit Marina regained its Blue Flag in 2016.

In order to achieve a Blue Flag status awarded by an Taisce, each beach and marina has to meet stringent criteria in the areas of Environmental Education and Awareness Provision, Water Quality, Environmental Management, and Safety and Services.

BATHING WATER RESULTS 2016

All 15 identified bathing areas in the county which include the Blue Flag beaches were classified as 'excellent' by the Environmental Protection Agency. It is worth noting that while new standards introduced in 2014 are almost twice as strict as those previously applied Kerry continues to achieve excellent results. During the 2016 bathing season (which is designated as being from 1 June to 15 September), as part of this classification, 290 samples were taken and assessed for microbiological and physico-chemical parameters by Kerry County Council's laboratory and reported to the Environmental Protection Agency.

VETERINARY SERVICE

Veterinary Services continued in 2016 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 for farmers for a specific type of heavy butchers lamb and traditional heifer that bigger export plants don't provide. Kerry County Council acknowledges 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. 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. The total number of dog licences in Kerry at the end of 2016 is 16,994 which pro-rata is the highest number in the country.

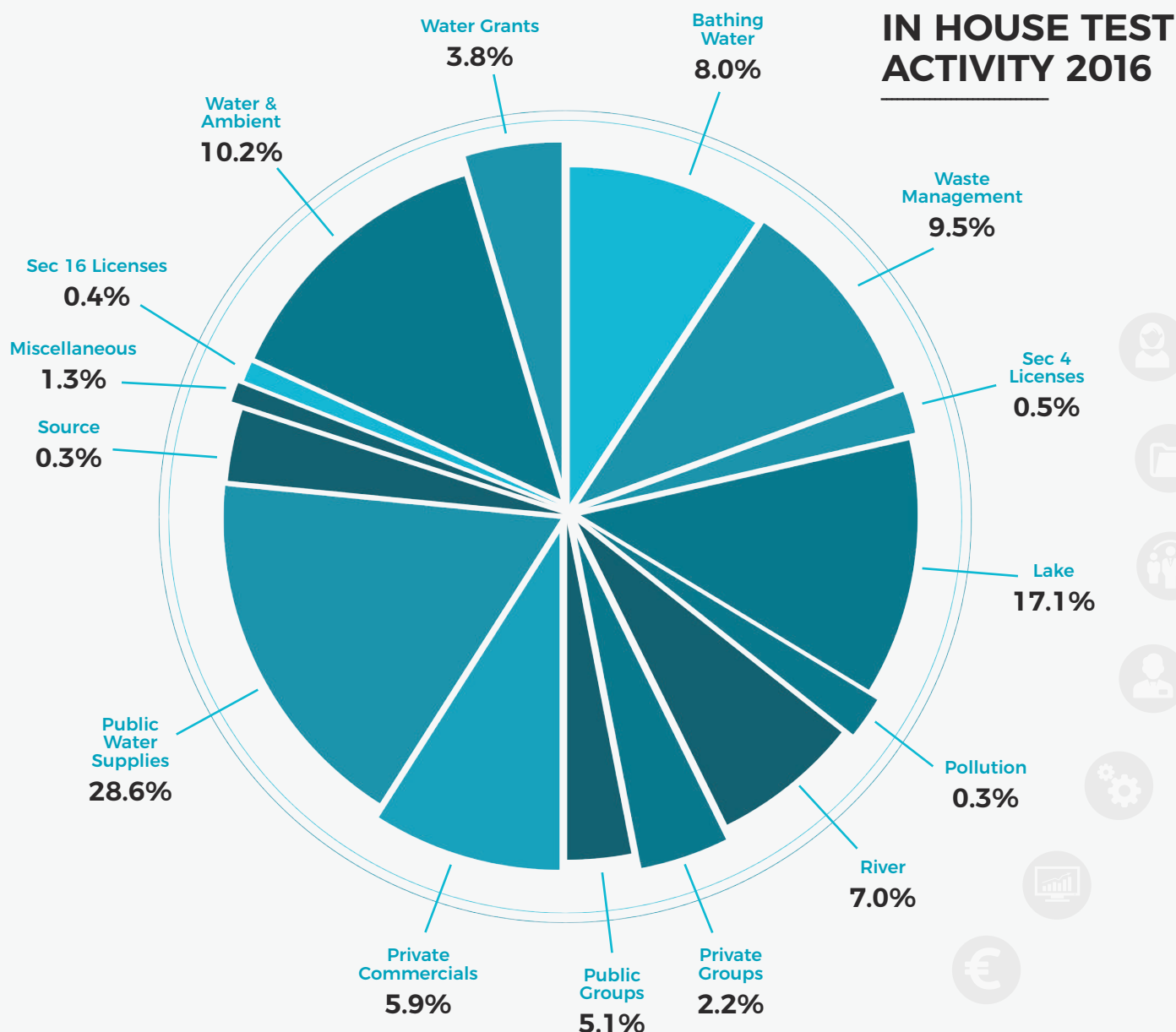
LABORATORY

The role of Kerry County Council's laboratory is to monitor the quality of drinking water, rivers, lakes, bathing waters, wastewater discharges and industrial licensed discharges in the county.

The Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) awarded ISO17025 accreditation to the laboratory in December 2015, for analysis of a range of chemical and microbiological parameters in freshwater and drinking water. The laboratory has sought accreditation in respect of additional strategic parameters in drinking water and bathing water. ISO 17025 is a much sought after international management standard for

laboratories. Achieving this accreditation is formal recognition that the Kerry County Council laboratory delivers a high quality service and is compliant with regulatory requirements and industry best practice.

In 2016, the laboratory sampled 4,589 samples which were analysed for approximately 50,000 tests, the breakdown of which is as follows:



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

In the area of environmental awareness, Kerry County Council continued to operate a comprehensive programme of activities informing all sectors of the community on good environmental practices which will have an impact on issues such as waste collection, litter, water conservation and food waste.

Adopt a Road Scheme – 10 volunteer groups involved

Adopt a Bottle Bank Scheme – 33 volunteer groups involved

Spring Clean Campaign – 314 volunteer groups took part with 103.20 tonnes of waste collected during the Spring Clean period

159 schools participated in the Green School Programme in 2016 and 130 successful schools in Kerry were flying the Green Flag for environmental excellence at the end of 2016.

TRANSITION KERRY

Transition Kerry aims to create awareness and networks to ensure that local sustainability is at the core of all actions and policies made at local, national and international levels. The group's objective is to accelerate change through inspiring, encouraging, supporting, networking and training our communities and then implement their vision for the future they want to live in. For more information see www.transitionkerry.org

Transition Kerry had a busy programme of events during 2016 including ongoing support for the Tralee Allotments Programme and the Kerry Sustainable Energy Co-Op. 2016 highlights include:

Spring 2016 - Educational Programme – Building Community resilience in Killarney

March – May 2016 - Community Fruit and Nut Orchard Project

May 2016 – Film Screening: 'This Changes Everything'

June 2016 - Sustainable Village at Féile na mBláth Festival

September 2016 – Transition Village at Tralee Food Festival

October 2016 – Climate change public talk 'The Burning Question'

November 2016 – Public meetings – 'Feeding the Kingdom'

November 2016 – Bee Talk at Siamsa Tíre - National Pollinator Plan

December 2016 – Public event – Seasonal Gathering

GREEN SCHOOLS

159 schools participated in the Green School Programme in 2016 and 130 successful schools in Kerry were flying the Green Flag for environmental excellence at the end of 2016.

In 2016, Kerry County Council worked with nine schools who received their first flag for the Litter and Waste module and with 44 schools who were renewing one of the following green school modules – energy, water, sustainable transport, biodiversity and global citizenship.



Tidy Towns Awards at the Helix in Dublin

TIDY TOWNS

Five gold medals were awarded to Tralee, Killarney, Listowel, Kenmare and Sneem at the 2016 Tidy Towns national awards with Listowel being named Ireland's Tidiest Small Town. Knightstown and Portmagee, meanwhile, received bronze honours. This was a wonderful achievement for all concerned and testament to the huge voluntary effort of tidy towns committees around the county, all of which received encouraging reports from the judges in 2016.

A seminar was held in March 2016 for all Tidy Towns groups in Kerry where speakers dealt with a variety of issues. It was also a networking opportunity for groups to meet and share experiences.

COUNTY CLEAN UP DAY

2016 was the fifth year of the County Clean up with community and voluntary groups getting involved in making their areas spick and span. 7,000 volunteers collected 3,500 bags of litter from across the county.

FOODSHARE KERRY

As board members of Food Share Kerry, Kerry County Council and its partners oversaw the collection of nine tonnes of excess food from suppliers and supermarkets and redistributed it to charity groups in Kerry.

NETWORKING

The Environmental Awareness unit attended a number of networking meetings at regional and national level. These included quarterly meetings with the Southern Regional Waste Office, two meetings with the Department of Housing, Planning, Environment, Community and Local Government and regular meetings with the Local Authority Prevention Network which is coordinated by the Environmental Protection Agency.

MEDIA

The Environmental Awareness Officer provides a weekly environmental column to The Kerryman and also participates in regular radio slots on both Radio Kerry and Raidio na Gaeltachta.





Martin O'Donoghue
Director of Services (Acting)

DIRECTORATE OF

HOUSING AND CORPORATE SERVICES

HOUSING AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

CORPORATE SERVICES

HUMAN RESOURCES

INTERNAL AUDIT

HOUSING AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

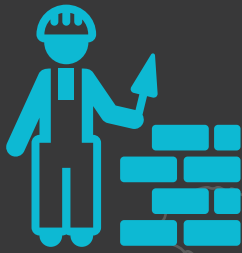
The objective of the Housing Section is to maximise provision of suitable accommodation for those who are unable to provide their own, utilising the various social housing options, to manage and maintain Kerry County Council's housing stock and facilitate the development of sustainable communities.

2016 saw increased demands and increased delivery activity in the area of Housing and Social Support. There was a root and branch review conducted of the Housing Section and this resulted in a restructuring of service delivery into three key areas – Asset Management, Customer Services and Social Support Services. This will lead to the realisation of efficiencies and enhanced customer service over the coming years.

HOUSING STOCK

The council has a rented housing stock of 4,026 units as detailed in the table (inset right). This is a substantial housing stock to manage and maintain. A total of 4,141 housing maintenance requests were received in 2016 – 96% of these requests were completed by year end. The breakdown of requests received across the four Municipal Districts is as follows:

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	% OF OVERALL HOUSING STOCK	% OF HOUSING MAINTENANCE REQUESTS RECEIVED
SOUTH & WEST	25%	26%
KILLARNEY	18%	20%
LISTOWEL	22%	19%
TRALEE	35%	35%
TOTAL	100%	100%



4,141

HOUSING
MAINTENANCE
REQUESTS
RECEIVED IN 2016



96%

OF THOSE REQUESTS
COMPLETED BY
YEAR END



410

GRANT **ALLOCATIONS**
FOR HOUSING
ADAPTATIONS FOR
OLDER PEOPLE
AND PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES



804



PRIVATE-RENTED
PROPERTIES
INSPECTED
RESULTING IN

1,105

INSPECTIONS



462

HOUSING
ALLOCATIONS USING
VARIOUS SOCIAL
HOUSING OPTIONS



446

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
IMPROVEMENT
WORKS CARRIED
OUT IN 2016



HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2016

A housing needs assessment was carried out in September 2016 in an effort to ensure that all applicants' information was updated. A total of 5,541 households were included in the assessment. 8,336 letters (including reminders and follow-up letters) were issued and processed as part of the assessment. 2,319 phone calls and computer checks were carried out.

The number of qualified applicants on the housing list at year end was 4,177 households. A total of 607 new housing applications were received in 2016. Single person households make up the largest household type (50%) followed by single adult with a child or children (22%) with the remaining 30% being made up of two or more adults with or without children.

27%

of the applicants have
an Area of Choice in the
Killarney MD

18%

of the applicants have
an Area of Choice in the
**South and West
Kerry MD**

42%

of the applicants have
an Area of Choice in the
Tralee MD

13%

of the applicants have
an Area of Choice in the
Listowel MD

The age profile of our qualified housing main applicants shows that the majority are in the 25-40 year old age group (50%) and that 7% of the main applicants are over the age of 60 years. This trend remains consistent with recent years in terms of activity levels.

Social housing need is now increasingly met through various social housing options. A major change in 2016 in this regard was the roll out of the Housing Assistance Payment scheme.

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

HOUSING ALLOCATIONS



Kerry County Council made a total of 462 housing allocations in 2016 utilising the various social housing options available.



HOUSING PROGRAMME 2015 - 2017

In early 2015, a €62m housing investment package for the provision of social housing in Kerry for the period to the end of 2017 was approved. This package of capital and current funding includes provision for development of capital schemes by the local authority itself, the purchase of houses, the continued sourcing of properties through the Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS), leasing schemes and provision for supply by the Approved Housing Bodies.

In total there are 1,058 units of accommodation included in the current capital programme to be provided through the various delivery methods. Progress in 2016 took place in a number of areas:

House Purchase Programme

The council completed the purchase of 57 houses by the end of December 2016 as part of the Housing Construction and Acquisition Programme 2015-2017, which was in excess of a target of 50 houses. The breakdown by Municipal District is as follows: 17 houses in Tralee, 13 in Killarney, 14 in South and West and 13 in Listowel.

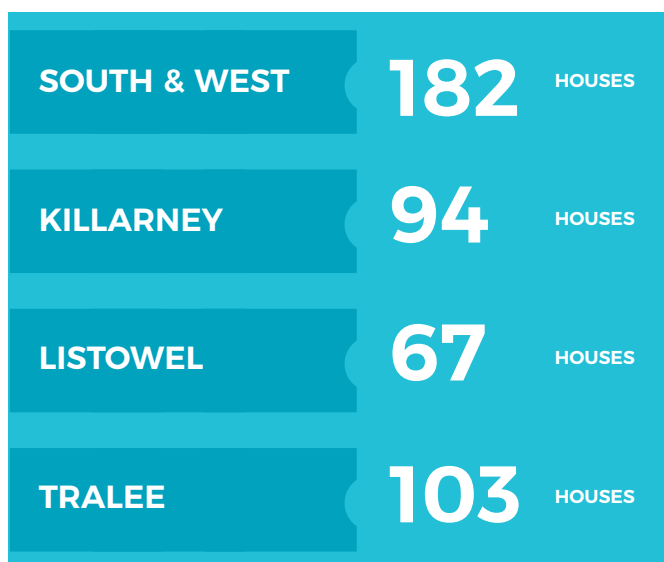
Voids Programme

In 2016, works to a total of 125 houses were funded through the Voids Programme. The aim of this programme is to return vacant properties to productive use in order to meet the needs of qualified housing applicants. This facilitated the return of 125 vacant properties in an energy efficient condition available to re-let to qualified housing applicants.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES

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

Energy efficiency improvement works were carried out in 446 houses across the four Municipal Districts, thus improving roof, wall and cavity insulation and the overall energy efficiency and the fabric of Council houses. Total expenditure was €449,587 which was received from the Department. The breakdown of houses across the 4 Municipal Districts is as follows:



HOUSING GRANTS

In 2016, 410 grant allocations were made under the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability Grant Schemes totalling €1.929m. A total of 474 grant applications were made to the Council in 2016, reflecting an approval rate of 86%. The 410 grants allocated are broken down across the three types of grants as follows,

Mobility Aids Grants - 143 issued - €0.675m

Housing Aid for Older People - 176 issued - €0.502m

Housing Adaptation Grants - 91 issued - €0.751m

Demand for the scheme continued to exceed the funding available and a prioritisation system is in place. The 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.

ADAPTATION WORKS

Work was carried out to 28 properties such as bathroom adaptations, stair-lifts, ramps during 2016 with a total expenditure of €132,482. Funding under this scheme allows tenants to remain in their homes with minor adaptations.

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME (RAS)/ SOCIAL LEASING

The RAS Scheme continued to operate very successfully in 2016 and targeted qualified applicants who are in long term-receipt of rent supplement. The target for delivery of units under the RAS and Leasing schemes for the period 2015-2017 is 754 units and at the end of 2016, Kerry County Council achieved 416 units. There are now over 900 active RAS contracts providing a much needed social housing option to those in need of housing.

NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY 2011-2020

A Housing and Disability Steering Group for County Kerry was established in Kerry in 2014. 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.

During 2016, the Housing and Disability Steering Group met four times. The Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with Disabilities was updated and includes delivery targets. The implementation of this work-plan for housing persons with a disability will be advanced further with the various stakeholders in 2017.

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

During 2015, a survey of fire safety requirements at each of Kerry County Council's Traveller halting sites in the county was undertaken. Issues identified were all completed in 2016. In addition to on-going monitoring of fire safety at halting sites is reviewed at the regular meetings of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC).

Rebuilding Ireland restates the commitment that housing authorities deliver Traveller Specific Accommodation based on a multi-annual Traveller Accommodation Programmes (TAPs) in their areas. Kerry County Council adopted its current round of TAP in April 2014, with a five year rolling programme running from 2014 to 2018. Since the inception of the plan, new social housing supports have come into place which include availability and leasing options.

In 2016, a mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation programme was undertaken which also focussed on the number of Traveller families on the housing waiting list, Housing Needs Assessment findings and Group Housing Scheme requirements. Kerry County Council is committed to working with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Traveller households, the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and the wider community in providing housing for Travellers in accordance with the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME

Kerry Council Council participates in the Department of Justice's Refugee Resettlement Programme. The objective of the programme locally is to ensure that Syrian and Iraqi refugees who have come to Kerry are settled into the community with access to services and facilitated in building relationships with the communities in which they are located.

During 2016, 19 refugee families were resettled in Kerry which included a total of 44 children under the age of 18 years. The families were located in Tralee, Killarney and Killorglin. The Resettlement Support Worker worked to ensure the refugees had access to services in an appropriate manner.

An inter-agency group involving the council, the HSE, Kerry ETB, An Garda Síochána and the Department of Social Protection works with families who have been settled in Kerry. A number of sub-groups were formed to focus on key areas such as education and integration. Many of the families have been connected with local services including Local Employment Services, local development companies, Local Enterprise Office and voluntary groups.

HOMELESS SERVICES

Kerry County Council continues to assist in the housing needs of homeless persons through its Homeless Information Centre and through the provision of a range of homeless accommodation. In 2016, the total number of presentations at the Homeless Information Centre was 1,020 – this number includes 144 family units which is an increase of 64% on family units who presented in 2015.

Kerry County Council has designated a number of its own properties throughout the county as transitional properties for the homeless – these properties are only used as a short-term measure for families especially and also for those who have been in long-term emergency accommodation for a number of years prior to sourcing more permanent accommodation. The council has 14 beds in Arlington Lodge, Tralee, provided

through NOVAS Initiatives and nine beds at Muckcross Road, Killarney which are used for emergency accommodation. There is also a seven-bed long term supported facility at Knocklee, Tralee.

The Inter Agency Homeless Forum group met on a quarterly basis and the Homeless Action Team meetings took place on a weekly basis.

VOLUNTARY HOUSING

During 2016, the Housing Section continued to work closely with voluntary housing bodies and seven housing units were secured for accommodating qualified housing applicants: five units were secured in Killorglin, one in Tralee and one in Killarney.

PRIVATE RENTED STANDARDS

The council continued enforcing standards in the private rented accommodation sector with 804 properties inspected resulting with 1,105 inspections, and re-inspections during 2016.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT (HAP)

2016 saw the introduction of the new Housing Assistance Payment scheme in Kerry. The introduction of HAP means that local authorities can now provide housing assistance for households which qualify for social housing support, including many long-term Rent Supplement recipients. HAP commenced operation in Kerry on 1 December 2016. A substantial number of queries were received from the public in December with 33 applications being issued and eight recipients being signed up to HAP by year end.

CUSTOMER SERVICES

In order to better deliver the level of customer services to customers and public representatives, a number of changes were made in 2016

A dedicated staff member has been assigned to acknowledge and respond appropriately to councillors and other public representatives

A contacts list has been circulated to each councillor detailing the services provided by Housing and a contact point for each service.

A revised list of telephone/email contacts has been introduced to reflect each service area within the Housing Department.

Customer services staffing has been strengthened to better deliver services both to public representatives and the general public. The number of customers calling to the public counter averages 100 daily and can increase considerably at the time of rent reviews, housing needs assessments and at other times.



CORPORATE SERVICES

The Corporate Services Section provides administrative support to meetings of full Council and the four Municipal Districts and also includes a number of business units – Communications, Customer Relations, Freedom of Information, Register of Electors and Facilities Management.

Details of the meetings of Council and the Municipal Districts during 2016 can be found ([on page 7](#))



The Count Afresh for the Listowel Electoral Area in February

COUNT AFRESH IN THE LISTOWEL ELECTORAL AREA

In February 2016, Kerry County Council carried out a full recount or Count Afresh of all ballots cast in the Listowel Electoral Area at the local authority elections of 2014.

The Count Afresh arose from a legal challenge to the original result of the poll by one of the candidates, Dan Kiely and took place following a Supreme Court ruling which required that, having regard to the provisions of Section 8 of the Local Elections (Petitions and Disqualifications) Act, 1974, that the votes in the local election for Listowel, held on the 23rd day of May 2014, were to be counted afresh.

Under the direction of Returning Officer, Charlie O'Sullivan, the count took place at John Mitchel's GAA Complex in Tralee on 10 February 2016. The counted ballot papers and related documents had been held in nine sealed ballot boxes since the original result was declared.

Following the conclusion of the Count Afresh, the Returning Officer appeared before Judge Tom O'Donnell at Limerick Circuit Court. Judge O'Donnell made an order confirming the result of the poll and confirming the candidates elected for the Listowel Electoral Area.

The Count Afresh resulted in no change to the candidates originally elected. Accordingly, the following candidates were deemed elected for the Listowel Electoral Area (now Listowel Municipal District):

Cllr Robert Beasley
'Puicín', Doon Road,
Ballybunion
Sinn Féin

Cllr Mike Kennelly
Coolaclarig, Listowel
Fine Gael

Cllr Aoife Thornton
Finuge, Lixnaw
Fine Gael

Cllr John Brassil
Main Street, Ballyheigue
Fianna Fáil

Cllr Jimmy Moloney
11 Cherrytree Drive, Listowel
Fianna Fáil

Cllr Dianne Nolan
47 Dromin Green,
Listowel
Sinn Féin

Cllr Liam Purtill
Main Street, Ballylongford
Fine Gael

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

During 2016, the Media and Communications Unit continued to deal with external communications, principally through the local and national media, and, occasionally, the international media. The unit maintains a strong working relationship with journalists, particularly in the local media and deals with several queries daily. It issued press releases and information about events and projects in which the council was involved during the year and assisted in organising publicity campaigns and policy launches.

The Media and Communications Unit oversees social media engagement on behalf of the council and ensures that it maintains a strong profile and channels of communication with the media, customers, and the wider public.

During 2016, the unit continued to work closely with other agencies and organisations on matter of mutual interest from a communications perspective.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Freedom of Information Unit deals with requests for records held by Kerry County Council from members of the public, journalists and organisations. Kerry County Council is a public body which is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014, which allows for access to certain records held by the local authority subject to a number of exemptions.

In 2016, Kerry County Council received 94 Freedom of Information requests, 86 of which were for non-personal records, six of which were for personal records and two which were withdrawn and handled outside of FOI. 21 requests were received from journalists and three were from Oireachtas members. One decision was appealed to the Office of the Information Commissioner which instructed that a fresh decision making process be carried out.

CUSTOMER RELATIONS

Kerry County Council values strong engagement with customers and welcomes feedback and comments from customers and members of the public. Customer complaints are handled by the Corporate Services Section. The Section also deals with complaints which are made to the Office of the Ombudsman. In September 2016, Kerry County Council hosted a seminar with the Ombudsman in Tralee at which the work of his office was outlined and cases relevant to the council were discussed.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

The Facilities Management Unit operates, manages and maintains a portfolio in excess of 40 corporate facilities throughout Kerry, including Corporate Buildings, Municipal District Offices, Area Offices, libraries, courthouses and leased properties.

The following projects were carried out by the unit in 2016:

Demolition of the Neodata building in Listowel

Purchase of the former EIR building in Dingle to accommodate the Dingle Area Office

Improvement works to Cultural Centre in Killarney

Erection of boundary fence between Rath Cemetery and council lands in Rathass, Tralee

Installation of Fall Arrest System at Filestores Unit in Monavalley, Tralee

Oil to Gas Heating Boiler Conversion Works in Civil Defence Headquarters

Procurement of leisure centre management company for Killarney Sports and Leisure Centre

Lighting upgrade works to Pool Hall in Killarney Sports and Leisure Centre

Installation of Solar PV in the Ashe Memorial Hall, Tralee

Refurbishment works to Operations, Health and Safety Office in County Buildings

Commencement of Refurbishment of Killarney Town Hall

Ongoing centralisation of Access Control System

The Facilities Management Unit continued to utilise the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) Contracts and Frameworks system to achieve savings in the purchasing of stationery, paper, office supplies and janitorial supplies and continued to identify areas where the running and operational costs of corporate facilities can be reduced.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

Kerry County Council is responsible for compiling and publishing the Register of Electors for the county each year within the statutory timeframes. In 2016, there were approximately 116,000 individuals registered to vote in Kerry.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Number of employees at 31st December 2016

Managerial/Administrative	457		
Engineering/Technical	220		
Operational/Outdoor	714		
Total	1,391		

Gender Breakdown of Employees at 31st December 2016

	Male	Female	Total
Managerial/Administrative	98	359	457
Engineering/Technical	184	36	220
Operational/Outdoor	641	73	714
Total	923	468	1,391

COMPETITION STATISTICS

Number of employees at 31st December 2016

Number of competitions held in 2016	33
Total number of applications received	1,070
Male applicants	710
Female applicants	306

THIRD LEVEL PLACEMENTS

The council continued its association with third level placements programmes and nine placements were facilitated.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2016

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 staff and to comply with statutory legislation.

Continued development of the staff Performance Management and Development Systems (PMDS), both locally and as one of the lead authorities nationally.

Implementation of retrospective vetting requirements under the National Vetting Bureau (Children's and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 – 2016 was commenced.

Continued development of child protection policies and procedures to ensure compliance with child protection legislation and national guidance for the protection and welfare of children.

TRAINING AND 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 training (mandatory)

Business/Management Skills

Job specific knowledge, skill and competence training

Personal Development

Training delivered during the year:

I.T Skills training

Procurement training

Child Protection

Data Protection training

CPC Driver/Plant Operators training

First Aid

Irish Water training

Environmental Services training

Safepass

Manual Handling

Pesticides

Chainsaw

Fire Services training

Surface Dressing

CSCS training

BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY IRELAND

The Council maintained its participation in the Business in the Community Ireland School's Business Partnership Programme. Working in conjunction with Causeway Comprehensive School, a series of interactions with the school helped inform students to allow them prepare for entry into further education and the working world.

GOVERNMENT-LED LABOUR ACTIVATION INITIATIVES

Gateway

Kerry County Council completed the work placements of 70 participants under the Gateway Scheme. A number of participants from the scheme have gone on to secure employment with Kerry County Council.

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

Local Authority Graduate Recruitment Programme

Kerry County Council provided four placements under this national programme. Graduates in specialised fields are employed on two-year contracts to provide them with practical experience in their area of speciality. Graduates were employed by Kerry County Council to work in the fields of Economic Enterprise and Business Development, Innovation Strategy and Change Management, and Human Resources Management.

INTERNAL AUDIT

Internal Audit is an independent appraisal function which reviews the internal control system in operation within Kerry County Council. During 2016, the Internal Audit unit undertook a number of audits and the findings and recommendations from each audit were reported to management and the Audit Committee. The unit also undertook follow up audits to assess the implementation of the recommendations from previous audits.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee aims to foster the developments of best practice in the performance by Kerry County Council of its internal audit function. The Committee approves the Internal Audit Strategic Plan, the annual Internal Audit Plan and the Internal Audit Charter. It reviews Internal Audit reports and monitors the implementation of recommendations.

During 2016, the Audit Committee met on five occasions. The committee membership consists of two elected members and three external members.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITOR

The primary focus of the Local Government Auditor's work is to obtain sufficient evidence to form an opinion on Kerry County Council's Annual Financial Statements. Internal Audit co-operates with the Local Government Auditor to ensure that maximum audit coverage is achieved in this context. The Local Government Auditor produces an annual Audit Report.



Angela McAllen
Director of Services

DIRECTORATE OF

FINANCE

FINANCE

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONAL

PROCUREMENT CENTRE

FINANCE

The Finance Section is responsible for the overall control and management of the council's finances, both revenue and capital. It develops and implements effective financial policies, procedures and structures for Kerry County Council and provides support services to the organisation. The Section produces the statutory reports including Budget and Annual Financial Statement and adheres to EU/IMF and Department of Finance Quarterly reporting requirements.

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

Over the course of 2016, Kerry County Council 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. This effective resource management has facilitated continued delivery of local services by the council.

The Revenue Surplus for 2016 is €83,445. The accumulated revenue reserve as at the end of 2016 is €6,355,213. The retention of a cumulative revenue reserve is a very positive reflection on both the elected members and the continuous efforts of staff of Kerry County Council in maximising resources, achieving better value for money, maximising revenue and increasing overall efficiencies over the past number of years.

The council has ongoing and future responsibilities in relation to financial liabilities which are significant. Investment is required for successful delivery of the Action Plan for Jobs, the Local and Economic Community Plan and Tourism strategy which will require substantial own resource funding to match any grant aid available. In addition, further capital investment is required for the purchase of the Kerry Technology Park, and the development of Greenways and Smarter Travel projects throughout the county.

This investment is set against a backdrop of challenging revenue collection and reducing income streams.

Kerry County Council took actions during 2016 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 businesses and households through provision of quality driven services within the current financial constraints.





THE MAIN UNITS WITHIN FINANCE ARE:

Insurance Unit

The main areas of activity are Public Liability, Employers Liability, Fire and Motor Insurance. The unit ensures that Kerry County Council has the appropriate level of cover and through monitoring and reporting on accidents advises on best practice in Risk Management.

FMS Project Team

This unit is responsible for the implementation, including training and support, of Local and National Financial Systems and Enhancements.

Revenue Unit

This unit mainly deals with the recovery of commercial rates, NPPR, development levies and other charges due to Kerry County Council.

Payroll Unit

As part of the Shared Services initiatives across the Local Government sector, the Shared Superannuation and Payroll Service Centre has been established in Laois County Council (MYPAY). From 1 October 2015 the centre processes all payroll payments for Kerry County Council employees, pensioners and councillors in conjunction with the Payroll unit of Kerry County Council.

Accounts Payable Unit

All invoices are certified for payment by the relevant sections and forwarded to the Accounts Payable unit for processing. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997 and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions Regulations, 2012). Kerry County Council complied fully with the legislation in respect of late payments during 2016.

FMS Support Unit

This unit manages the use of the Financial Management System (Agresso) which is used extensively across the Council. Support and training is provided to staff and controls are implemented to maintain system security.

Financial Management Unit

Treasury management, bank reconciliation, debtor management, monitoring of the Capital account, maintaining the Asset Register and ensuring draw down of grants, are some of the principal activities of this unit. The unit also produces management information and reports for effective budgetary management.

Motor Tax Unit

The Council administers motor taxation within its functional area on behalf of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

Local Government Operational Procurement Centre

The Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (LGOPC) which is based in Killarney, has responsibility for procuring Plant Hire and Minor Works on behalf of the entire public service.

It acts as a central purchasing body under the auspices of Kerry County Council, coordinating the establishment of frameworks of supplies/services/works for Minor Works and Plant hire categories of expenditure with the responsibility for the development of these categories and relevant procurement software.

The accompanying tables 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, 2016.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT) FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

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

Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure 2016	Net Income 2016	Net Expenditure 2016	Net Expenditure 2015
Housing and Building	22,122,929	22,865,480	(742,551)	(125,365)
Roads, Transportation & Safety	35,986,132	25,978,819	10,007,313	11,344,531
Water Services	14,577,922	13,791,239	786,683	754,332
Development Management	10,531,796	4,411,247	6,120,549	6,993,281
Environmental Services	16,571,015	3,428,803	13,142,212	12,861,236
Recreation & Amenity	7,472,182	542,263	6,929,919	6,317,652
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,302,159	1,750,610	551,549	384,987
Miscellaneous Services	17,478,623	7,654,027	9,824,596	11,299,778
Total Expenditure/Income	127,042,758	80,422,488		
Net Cost of Division to be funded from Rates and Local Property Tax			46,620,270	49,830,432
Rates			41,062,725	41,264,285
Local Property Tax			11,659,186	11,659,186
Pension Related Deduction			1,872,434	2,553,300
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfer			7,974,075	5,646,339
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(7,890,597)	(5,558,580)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			83,478	87,758
General Reserve at 1st January 2016			6,271,768	6,184,008
General Reserve at 31st December 2016			6,355,246	6,271,768

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(BALANCE SHEET) AT 31st DECEMBER 2016

	2016 €	2015 €
Fixed Assets		
Operational	711,312,947	702,162,746
Infrastructural	2,789,169,170	2,788,355,810
Community	12,420,893	13,098,554
Non Operational	4,337,451	5,188,467
	3,517,240,461	3,508,805,577

Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	6,488,401	5,122,710
Long Term Debtors	40,616,617	43,640,445
Current Assets		
Stock	967,893	986,651
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	13,112,476	8,608,535
Bank Investments	85,239,652	80,815,938
Cash at Bank	-	-
Cash in Transit	851,003	869,037
	100,171,024	91,280,161
Current Liabilities		
Bank Overdraft	1,581,576	395,229
Creditors & Accruals	36,895,574	34,539,162
Finance Leases	15,455	30,660
	38,492,605	34,965,051
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	61,678,419	56,315,110
Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)		
Loans Payable	78,148,225	81,833,380
Finance Leases	-	16,710
Refundable Deposits	2,262,939	3,003,598
Other	527,992	801,961
	80,939,156	85,655,649
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	3,545,084,742	3,528,228,193
Represented By		
Capitalisation	3,517,240,461	3,508,805,577
Income WIP	6,134,903	4,833,125
Specific Revenue Reserve	-	7,478,14
General Revenue Reserve	6,355,246	6,271,768
Other Balances	15,354,132	839,589
Total Reserves	3,545,084,742	3,528,228,193

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

BUSINESS INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The software development team delivered a number of new online frameworks on, and enhancements to, the www. SupplyGov.ie system, which lies at the heart of the shared procurement service, the Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (LGOPC).

A new national library system was implemented successfully in Kerry libraries as part of a sectoral project. Significant projects were also undertaken in the areas of Fire, Water Services, Housing and Corporate Services to implement or upgrade business systems.

DATA PROTECTION

In order to highlight issues of privacy and security, the IT service ran a number of Data Protection workshops for management and staff across the Council during 2016..

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT

The process of replacing the legacy computer stock running the Windows XP operating system continued through 2016 when over 175 old PCs were replaced. A significant programme of work also commenced to replace our Citrix Farm as well as upgrades to our main Filestores. There were upgrades to over 20 network links to utilise e-Fibre Broadband services and other technologies.

IT SERVICE DESK SUPPORT

ICT support is provided to over 900 desktops, laptop, tablet and smart-phone users in over 60 locations countywide. In 2016, over 5,000 support calls were dealt with through the centralised Service Desk System.

SECURITY

There was significant focus on security during 2016 and a number of new policies were developed to advance information security in the organisation and these gave rise to a number of security related projects.

WEBSITES

There are almost 20 websites that are currently maintained and regularly updated by Kerry Council. These include the main council site, www.kerrycoco.ie, and several others such as Alerts, Culture Kerry, Fire Services, LEO and the Island of Geese Tralee site. Support is also provided to other sites such as the Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership website. One of the main outputs during the year was the www.Kerry2016.ie website which contained information about the many commemorative events during the year.

ONLINE CONTENT AND SOCIAL MEDIA

There were over one million hits on Council websites in 2016. The number of followers on our Twitter account rose above 7,500. Kerry County Council also had over 5,500 followers on the Kerry County Council Facebook site in 2016. Twitter and Facebook were used by the Communications Unit to advise of news items, announcements, weather warnings, events and launches, road conditions and closures, water outages and other notifications.

Council meeting proceedings such as Civic Receptions and presentations were streamed live on a number of occasions in 2016 using the Council's YouTube channel. Two key 1916 commemorative events were also streamed live – the Ballykissane Pier commemorations (on Periscope) and the President's visit to the County Museum after the Banna Strand commemorations.





Charlie O'Sullivan
Director of Services

DIRECTORATE OF

OPERATIONS, SAFETY *AND* INFRASTRUCTURE

OPERATIONS

CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

KERRY NATIONAL ROAD DESIGN OFFICE



Signing of contracts for N86 road improvements

OPERATIONS

The Operations Directorate is primarily responsible for:

Improvement, maintenance and upkeep of the 4,881 km county road network

Maintenance and repair of 4,026 social houses as well as ensuring that vacant properties are brought up to an appropriate standard for re-letting

Maintenance of public lighting infrastructure

Maintenance of piers, harbours, parks and open spaces, beaches, burial grounds and public conveniences

Design, planning, procurement and development of specific roads infrastructure projects

Taking in charge of estates

Managing corporate health and safety and road safety

Implementing regulatory functions such as roads enforcement, resolving unfinished housing estates, managing dangerous structures, traffic management, speed limits

Issuing of licences and permits

The provision and implementation of emergency responses to severe weather events

Operational services are primarily delivered at Municipal District level and managed by a Municipal District Engineer, and staff in eight Area Service Centres in Tralee, Killarney, Listowel, Castleisland, Dingle, Killorglin, Caherciveen and Kenmare.

CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE UNIT

The Capital Infrastructure Unit was established in 2014 to drive the development of strategic infrastructure and investment, and promote the social and economic development of the county, including commitments under the Rebuilding Ireland programme, and the Smarter Travel 'Active Towns Initiative' as well as further development of the major tourism products.

KERRY NATIONAL ROAD DESIGN OFFICE

The Kerry National Road Design Office, established in the mid-1990s and based in Castleisland, is responsible for the design and procurement of contracts for major road schemes both in Kerry and nationally. This unit is developing the Tralee Northern Relief Road and is examining the feasibility of the expansion of Fenit Harbour.

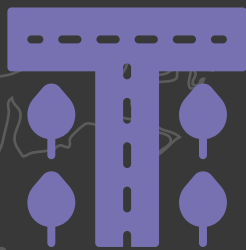
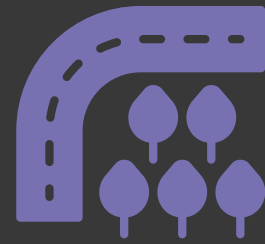


4,481
KILOMETRES

OF NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND
LOCAL ROAD IN KERRY

30.58
MILLION

INVESTMENT IN PLANNING, DESIGN,
DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF
COUNTY'S ROAD NETWORK



161
KILOMETRES

OF NON-NATIONAL ROAD
IMPROVEMENTS IN 2016

9



HOUSING ESTATES

TAKEN IN CHARGE DURING 2016



€239,952

INVESTMENT IN BRIDGE
REHABILITATION WORKS



534

LOCAL AUTHORITY
HOUSES RECEIVED
ENERGY UPGRADE
IMPROVEMENTS

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN 2016

In 2016, the Operations Directorate oversaw the design and delivery of major capital projects underpinned by the Local Economic and Community Plan which adopted by Kerry County Council during the year, including:

Support to the Housing Directorate in the design and preparation of contract documentation for the construction of the social housing under the government's Rebuilding Ireland programme

Progressing the submission of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process and Environmental Impact Assessment for the South Kerry Greenway

Progressing the redevelopment of The Mall and Denny Street in Tralee under the Tralee Active Travel Project

SEVERE WEATHER

In late 2015/early 2016, the county experienced severe storms, which necessitated the activation of the Severe Weather Emergency Response Plan and which resulted in significant flooding to homes and properties as well as critical infrastructure. Following a subsequent review of these events in 2016, a dedicated team has been established, with the following objectives:-

To progress work plans for areas identified at potential risk of future flooding, including areas identified in studies by the OPW under the CFRAM programme, and identify /secure funding for these works

Identify areas at serious risk of coastal erosion, which could impact on housing and critical infrastructure and develop plans/strategies to mitigate for or manage the risk

To prepare a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and manage the implementation of the action plan arising from the strategy.

To promote energy efficiency across the organisation and assist local communities in reducing their energy needs.

WORK PROGRAMME IN 2016

In accordance with statutory provisions, the work programme for the directorate in each Municipal District was set out in the schedule of Municipal District Works Plans, adopted by the Municipal District members in March, and in a Service Delivery Plan presented to Council in April. These plans outlined the proposed works to be undertaken with the adopted budget and the grants received.

Quarterly progress reports on the Schedule of Municipal District Work Plans were presented to each of the Municipal District members, allowing for greater accountability at local level on the effective use of resources. 2016 saw greater engagement with local communities, Tidy Towns groups, local voluntary festivals, and businesses in the delivery of our services, with a single point of contact in each Municipal District. Enhanced communication procedures were put in place in consultation with elected members on our work programmes to promote greater awareness on the timing of works and the positive impacts for local communities.

The substantive element of the Operations Directorate's work was the maintenance of the county's 4,881 km of national, regional and local roads. In 2016, €30.58m was invested in the planning, design, development and maintenance of our road network, with €26.35m being provided in state grant aid.

Whilst funding for major capital infrastructure has been limited in the past year, significant progress was made on a number of key infrastructural projects:



Preparation of the design of and planning for the South Kerry Greenway Project was substantially progressed, to allow for the submission of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Environmental Impact Study (EIS) to An Bord Pleanála in 2017.

Significant progress on the design, planning and procurement of a number of projects under the Housing Capital Programme, with five schemes going to tender (30 units) and planning approved for two schemes (43 units).

The contract was awarded for the first phase of the N86 Dingle to Annascaul and Gortbreagogue to Camp scheme, (between Ballynasare Lower and Lispole and between Ballygarret and Camp) and preparatory work began.

Further design and investigation work was advanced on the N70 Kilderry Bends scheme (3.5km) between Milltown and Killorglin. The CPO was confirmed and land acquisition commenced

The planning of further proposed realignments was advanced on sections of the N70 between Castlemaine and Milltown, at Glanbehy Bridge, between Waterville Bridge and Ballybrack, and between Sneem and Blackwater Bridge.

On the N72 the planning and development of a realignment at Gortahaneboy (between Barradubh and Rathmore) was advanced

The council took on the role of lead authority for the Kerry, Cork and Clare Bridge Rehabilitation Programme funded by the Transport Infrastructure Ireland. Tenders were sought to carry out rehabilitation works on 21 bridges (12 in Kerry) across the three counties. The Part VIII planning processes commenced for bridge improvement works at the N23 Dysert Bridge, N70 Ballynamona Bridge and N72 Beheenagh Bridge.



Progress continued on the Tralee Active Travel Project with the completion of the cycleway from Blennerville to the Basin. The design and planning for the Denny Street two-way alteration and The Mall shared space were completed and tenders were issued for the works.

The Master Plan for the Mitchels-Boherbee Community Regeneration Project was approved by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and a number of units were refurbished and constructed.

OTHER ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

There was a €300,000 investment, with the support of Transport Infrastructure Ireland, in the resurfacing of William Street in Listowel as part of a wider €800,000 project involving the laying of new gas main by Gas Networks Ireland, a new water main (Kerry County Council) and ducting (ESB).

Works at Iveragh Road, Killorglin to the value of €1.6m involved traffic calming measures, improved footpaths and lighting and resurfacing works.

The council adopted the three year 2016-2018 Multi Annual Road Restoration Programme which provides for improvement works in the urban and rural areas.

Funding of €4.65m was secured from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and €1.22m from Transport Infrastructure Ireland to repair damage to public roads, as a consequence of the severe flooding earlier in the year.

FENIT HARBOUR

A report on the strategic importance of the Tralee Northern Relief road from Forge Cross to the Bracker O'Reagan Road, and the access to Fenit harbour, particularly for economic and industrial growth, was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. There has been a substantial increase in Fenit port traffic on this route in recent years, primarily due to the expansion and increased output by Liebherr Container Cranes Ltd. Improvements to the route have been identified to facilitate ease of access to the port by the exceptional loads on the route and to enhance opportunities for port expansion.

Dredging of Fenit Harbour was completed during the year and this has afforded greater diversity in the size of ships which the port can accommodate and an application for future dredging campaigns over a longer period will be made to the licensing authorities.



Pavement Overlay on N22 between Derryreag and County Bounds

LOCAL RENEWAL PROJECTS

In 2016, the council received funding of €1.43m allocated by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional and Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs towards the development and enhancement of recreational infrastructure projects and also for projects under the CLÁR and Town and Village Renewal Schemes. This funding has provided for projects such as enhancement of amenities, loop walk developments, safety improvements at 19 schools, improvement to five roads leading to community facilities and enhancement of outdoor play facilities at Dingle and Kenmare.

HOUSING

The role of the Operations Directorate in respect of housing is to maintain the Council's rented properties, houses, demountable units, community buildings and halting sites and supports communities in the maintenance of their estates, as well as ensuring prompt repair of vacant houses for re-letting. Agreements have been put in place with the Housing Business Unit, on the standard of repair to houses for re-letting, to ensure a consistent and cost effective turnaround of such properties and ensuring value for money.



Culvert works at Laharn, Killorglin on the N70

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

National Roads

Improvement works to 1.6km of the N71 between Releagh and Letterdunane were advanced.

A 3km pavement improvement contract was completed on the N22 between Derryreag and Cummeenavrick.

Safety improvement works were carried out at N72 Gortahaneboy West and at N86 Tonevane Bend

8km of national secondary roads were improved

Culvert replacement carried out at Laharn, Killorglin on the N70 as part of flood alleviation works

Non-National Roads

161km of the non-national road network were improved at 141 locations and contracts were awarded for pavement improvement works on the N72 in Kilbonane and the N70 in Caherciveen and Tahilla.

55km of regional and local roads were repaired, including five bridges as part of the severe weather funding provision

Safety improvement works carried out at seven locations with an allocation of €277,741

Rehabilitation works were carried out to five bridges with an allocation of €239,952

Five Community Involvement Schemes completed with an allocation of €135,000

Four Local Improvement Schemes completed with an allocation of €100,000

€1.88m spent on energy and maintenance of the 12,737 public lights in Kerry

Road Safety

The Road Safety Action Plan 2016-2020 was developed and adopted

110 health and safety audits, 630 safety inspections and 504 Tool Box Talks were carried out on both local authority and contractor works

980 road making material tests carried out

Roads Enforcement Officer investigated 390 complaints e.g. overloaded vehicles, drainage, road openings, road damage, overgrown hedges, obstruction of signs

Unfinished Housing Estates

Funding of €362,652 was received for improvement works to 17 housing developments under the National Taking in Charge Initiative (NTICI)

Piers and Harbours

Ongoing maintenance of 59 piers throughout the county

Improvement works were carried out at Baile an Sceilg, Fenit, Renard, Scraggane, Kay Rock, Caherciveen and Kenmare with an allocation of €473,000

Major dredging works were carried out at Fenit Harbour, to facilitate increased activity at the port due to the expansion of Liebherr Container Cranes operations, with the development of their new assembly facility on the port.

Housing Maintenance

Continued maintenance and repair of council housing stock

A total of 4,014 individual response repair requests were carried out

Pre-letting works carried out to 125 properties

Burial Grounds

The planning process for the provision of a new burial ground in Killarney commenced in late 2016 and includes provision for over 2,300 grave spaces

Continued maintenance of 153 burial grounds, 92 of which are classed as protected sites under the National Monuments Acts

Specialist conservation works were carried out at Killagha Abbey, Milltown burial ground and a memorial wall was constructed in the burial ground at Kilbrack, Milltown, Dingle

Footpath works, stone walls and tomb sealing were carried out on a number of burial grounds throughout the county

Public Conveniences

Ongoing maintenance of 33 public conveniences throughout the county

Major refurbishment works were carried out at Ballybunion Ladies Beach and at Banna Beach

Improvement works were carried out in Dingle, Fenit, Ceann Trá and Scraggane

Energy

As part of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community, and Local Government Energy Improvement Scheme, 534 local authority houses received energy upgrade improvements in the form of cavity wall and attic insulation

A number of the council's public buildings in Tralee are heated via a 1MW Renewable Biomass District Heating System, which also services both private and public housing in the Mitchel's Boherbee area. 19 additional existing houses were connected to the network during the year

Procurement for the completion of a Public Lighting Inventory Survey was completed in June

CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

During 2016 Kerry County Council continued to make progress in the area of energy conservation by utilising renewable energy in the form of wood pellet, wood chip, solar thermal, photovoltaic, heat pumps, high efficiency boilers and lighting and energy management practices. The section was the lead applicant and project co-ordinator for a BEC Grant application which delivered 22 energy efficient projects to ten different project partners in Kerry. The council accepted an invitation to partake, as a pilot partner, in Hotmaps, a Horizon 2020 EU funded project, as well as committing to the implementation of an ISO50001 certified Energy Management System across the organisation.

An aerial, top-down view of a residential building complex. The building has a complex roofline with multiple gables and dormers. A car is parked in a paved area adjacent to the building. The surrounding area includes trees and other structures, all rendered in a dark, monochromatic style.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

CORPORATE PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Corporate Plan sets out the vision and key corporate priorities for Kerry County Council over the period 2014 – 2019 and it is a requirement of the Local Government Act, 2001, that a report on its implementation each year be provided in the council's annual report.

Progress on the following two strategic objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan are outlined below:

Job Creation and Sustainable Economic Development

Building Sustainable Communities and Quality of Life

The current Corporate Plan is being reviewed having regard to the Local Economic and Community Plan which was adopted in 2016.

JOB CREATION AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Corporate Plan of Kerry County Council continued to guide the work of the Economic and Community Directorate in 2016. It has, in association with the other directorates of the council, an enhanced role in leading the economic and community development of the county as envisaged in 'Putting People First' and the Local Government Reform Act, 2014. It achieves this through the delivery of the actions contained in strategic documents including the Corporate Plan, Local Economic and Community Plan, the Tourism Strategy and Action Plan, the Kerry County Development Plan, Leader Strategy and the South West Regional Action Plan for Jobs.

In 2016, the council made significant progress in developing a blueprint for the county in adopting the Local Economic and Community Plan, which provides a six year vision for the development of economic and community services within the county.

The council also significantly strengthened the economic focus of the organisation through the establishment of the Economic Development Unit, the appointment of Economic Development and Broadband Officers and both the physical and organisational integration of the Local Enterprise Office within Kerry County Council.

The council continued to develop strong collaborative relationships with key public sector organisations including the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, third level education institutions and leading private sector companies in delivering a strong economic focus for the county. The partnerships developed in 2016 will enhance the ability of the council to deliver on the economic and community development over the coming years, in marketing the county, identifying and developing necessary skills base in and available, attracting business, investment and a skilled workforce.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND QUALITY OF LIFE

The council continued through the Local Community Development Committee, its association with the Public Participation Network, the Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership, the Joint Policing Committee and other collaborative networks to deliver a range of community development priorities. The work of the Municipal District staff has been critical in the delivery of a community centred service across the county and meeting the objectives of the Corporate Plan.

Since the adoption of the Corporate Plan, the government launched its Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness – Rebuilding Ireland in July 2016. This programme sets out a range of strategies to increase and accelerate housing supply. The council has adapted its programme to ensure implementation of these strategies and the implementation of the various additional programmes and schemes being introduced by government within its Action Plan. Kerry County Council's Housing Programme is determined by funding available from central government under the various schemes and programmes.

A Capital Infrastructure Delivery Unit has been established to plan, manage and implement the Housing Capital Programme. The council's Housing Programme has been scheduled and programmed for delivery.

In conjunction with the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, the council began shaping its extended programme utilising existing land assets owned by the council. It has engaged with relevant stakeholders,

including the construction industry locally on the housing market in Kerry generally and within its own sphere of influence. There was also progress on:

Reviewing the council's land bank and their availability for housing purposes

Review of voids/vacant housing stock management approaches and implemented revised management practices

Review of housing stock preventative maintenance programme

Kerry County Council is also working with and within the established national structures and programmes to deliver appropriate service for homelessness.

The council continues to invest in and develop our water and waste water services as agents for Irish Water and the commencement of the construction of the new Central Regional Water Treatment Plant at Lough Guitane as well as many other infrastructural developments during 2016 are testament to that. These developments along with the continued protection of the environment through working with communities on initiatives like the County Clean-Up Day and National Spring Clean all stem from the vision of working for the betterment of Kerry.

Through the library network and Irish Office programmes we are working to enhance and preserve our native Kerry literature and local history and traditions and to pass them on to future generations. The council has continued to develop integration and language programmes through the libraries for those who are joining and becoming part of our communities in Kerry from other countries.

The core values set out in the Corporate Plan inform, guide and position day-to-day operations and longer term policy development in conjunction with the members of the Strategic Policy Communities and full Council. In the past year these values have guided the development, in particular, of the 1916 commemorations programme, which was embraced and received favourably by the communities involved all over Kerry.

In addressing the corporate priority of job creation and economic development into daily operations, the Water Services and Environment sections continued to develop the water and wastewater infrastructure and the conditions for job creation in Kerry through planning for the future, and ensuring the Kerry environment is one which it is desirable to live, work and visit.

OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE

Progression of these two strategic objectives as set out in the Corporate plan was supported by the Operations Directorate in 2016. The directorate was also guided by the actions identified in the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2022. Also the goals, missions and objectives contained in the Corporate Plan continued to guide and inform the work of the Directorate, as presented in the Service Delivery Plan and the Schedule of Municipal District Work Plans. These plans were the basis of the work plan delivered in 2016 and on which progress was reported at Municipal District level and to full council.

The core objectives for the Directorate are:

to promote new and existing walking trails and cycle lanes as an accessible form of outdoor recreation for locals and to make Kerry a world class destination for outdoor activities

to stimulate and support the construction industry by actively participating in various national schemes

to maintain and upgrade strategic transport infrastructure in the county

to promote and develop sustainable transport to optimise the efficiency of our road network

Having regard to these core objectives, significant progress was made on a number of key infrastructural projects including the South Kerry Greenway project, the Housing Capital Programme, roads infrastructure, bridge rehabilitation, the Tralee Active Travel project, and the Mitchels-Boherbee Community Regeneration Project and other capital projects.

FINANCE DIRECTORATE

Over the course of 2016, Kerry County Council managed the resource base effectively despite the many challenges faced. The council has effective budgetary controls in both revenue and capital and strengthened debt management measures to maximise income collection levels. This effective resource management has facilitated continued delivery of local services by the council, has enabled it to plan for existing and future substantial liabilities and also to plan for a number of on-going specific projects in achieving Kerry County Council's corporate strategic objectives as set out in this progress report.

APPENDIX II

CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY ELECTED MEMBERS IN 2016

Conference/Event	Location	Number Attended
EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 Conference	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	3
AILG In Service Training - Module 1 2016	Waterford	9
Institute of Public Administration Conference	Dublin	2
Meeting of the IPB Southern Region Members Engagement Forum	Kilkenny	1
Department of An Taoiseach 1916 Celebrations	Dublin	1
LAMA Spring Seminar	Sligo	22
Local Economic and Community Plans Conference	Clonakilty, Co. Cork.	4
Library Association - CILIP Ireland Annual Joint Conference 2016	Killarney, Co. Kerry	1
National Planning Conference 2016	Athlone, Co. Westmeath	6
Auditing and Governance in Local Government Conference	Carlingford, Co. Louth	2
Road Safety Authority iSafer Conference	Dublin	1
Irish Public Bodies AGM	Dublin	1
AILG Annual Conference 2016	Buncrana, Co. Donegal	16
AILG In Service Training - Module 2 2016	Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	2
Domestic Water Saving and Conservation Techniques Conference	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	6
AILG In Service Training - Module 2 2016	Killarney, Co. Kerry	8
Lyme Disease Conference - Patients helping Patients Conference	Portlaoise, Co. Laois	1
Auditing and Governance in Local Government Conference Part 2	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	2
AILG In Service Training - Module 3 2016	Ennistymon, Co. Clare	10
AILG In Service Training - Module 3 2016	Dundalk, Co. Louth	6
Deputation to Minister Naughten	Dublin	6
Entitlement to Health Service Conference	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	3
Signing of Leader Agreement	Virginia, Co. Cavan	1
National Day of Commemoration Ceremony	Kilmainham, Dublin	1
JPC Chairpersons Meeting	Dublin	1
AILG Induction Training for Co-opted Cllrs	Dublin	1
BREXIT - The Economic Consequences For Ireland Conference	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	6
LCDC Chairs Meeting	Dublin	1
Local Economic and Community Plans Conference	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
AOU 10th Anniversary Conference - Urban Futures Cities-Towns in Transition	Dublin	1
SICAP Support Event	Dublin	1
JPC - Policing Authority Consultation Day	Dublin	1
AILG In Service Training - Module 4 2016	Cork	16
AILG In Service Training - Module 4 2016	Longford	1

Conference/Event	Location	Number Attended
LAMA Autumn Seminar	Bantry, Co. Cork	23
Road Safety Authority Annual Road Safety Lecture on Motorcycle Safety	Dublin	1
IPB Insurance Southern Region Member Engagement Forum	Kilkenny	1
IPI Autumn Planning Conference 2016	Dublin	5
National Rural Development Forum	Charleville, Co. Cork	1
AILG Autumn Seminar 2016	Gorey, Co. Wexford	15
ICSH Housing Finance Conference 2016	Kilkenny	2
AILG In Service Training - Module 5 2016	Kilkenny	16
Launch of Irelands Edge 2016 Conference	Dublin	1
France-Ireland Memorial	Dublin	1
AILG In Service Training - Module 6 2016	Wexford	9
Fire Service 2016 Awards Ceremony	Dublin	1
Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness Conference	Carlingford, Co. Louth	5
AILG In Service Training - Module 6 2016	Dublin	4
AILG In Service Training - Module 6 2016	Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	3
Chambers Irelands Excellence in LG Awards 2016	Dublin	1
National Tourism Forum	Killarney, Co. Kerry	1
Education Conference 2016	Tralee, Co. Kerry	1
Pride of Place Awards Ceremony	Belfast	1
SICAP Support Event	Limerick	1
A Practical Guide to Budget 2017 Conference	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	2
Ireland 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal Ceremony	Dublin	1
Irish Public Bodies Training for Audit Committees	Dublin	1
Community Development Achieving Social Inclusion Reconciliation and Equality Conference	Galway	1

OVERSEAS EVENTS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS IN 2016

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations	Philadelphia, Washington and New York	1
Killarney-London Reunion 2016	London	1
Kendal Mountain Festival	Cumbria, UK	1
London Rose Ball	London	1
Kerry Association London Annual Dinner Dance	London	1

APPENDIX III

PAYMENTS TO ELECTED MEMBERS IN 2016

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 €93,495 in 2016. The breakdown of this figure is as follows:

Travel and subsistence expenses within the State	Travel and subsistence outside the State
€91,564	€1,931

The amount of registration fees paid to organisers for the authorised attendance of elected members at conferences, seminars, training events or other meetings, in 2016 was €22,776.

Other payments made to councillors in 2016:

Allowance type	Total
Cathaoirleach's Allowance	€30,033
Leas Cathaoirleach's Allowance	€6,007
Mayor of Tralee and Cathaoirligh of Killarney, Listowel and South and West Kerry Municipal Districts	€30,033
Strategic Policy Committee Chair Allowance	€24,000
Mobile Phone Allowance	€8,552
Annual Allowance	€216,082
Representational Payments	€549,023
Gratuities/Ex-gratia payments	€63,549

APPENDIX IV

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2016

Performance Indicators
01/01/2016 - 31/12/2016 (Annual)
Kerry County Council

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	A. Overall total number of dwellings provided by the LA during the year	241
	B. Number of dwellings directly provided	59
	B1. Number of dwellings constructed	1
	B2. Number of dwellings purchased	58
	C. Number of dwellings provided under RAS	113
	D. Number of dwellings provided under the HAP Scheme	1 commenced December 2016
	E. Number of dwellings provided under the SHCEP	68
	F. The overall total number of social housing dwellings in the LA at year end	5,235
	G. The total number of dwellings directly provided (constructed or purchased) by the local authority	4,102
	H. Total number of dwellings provided under the RAS	913
	I. Total number of dwellings provided under the HAP if operated	1 commenced December 2016
	J. Total number of dwellings provided under the SHCEP	219
	K. No. of single rural dwellings that are planned for demolition or sale due to dereliction	0
	A. Percentage of the number of dwellings at H1G that were vacant on year end	3.58 %
	The number of dwellings within the overall stock that were not tenanted at year end	147
	A. Expenditure in the year on repair & maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA divided by H1G	€569.69
	Expenditure on repair and maintenance of LA stock compiled on a continuous basis during the year	€2,336,873.62

	Topic	Indicator
Housing: H3 & H5 Approved	A. Average time taken from date of vacation of dwelling to date when a new tenancy had commenced	38.89 wk
	B. Average cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted during the year ready for re-letting	€10,474
	No of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in the year (excl. those vacant for estate refurbishment)	119
	No. of weeks from when previous tenant vacated dwelling up to date new tenant's first rent debit	4,628.28 wk
	Total expenditure on repairs necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings included above	€1,246,435.2
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at end of June 2016	7,554
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected during the year	804
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2016 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	75
	D. Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant during 2016	509
	The number of dwellings inspected that were found not to be compliant with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations	604
Housing: H6 Approved	A. Number of adults in emergency accommodation long-term as a % of the total number of homeless adults	14.29 %
	Number of adults classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on night of the 31/12/2016	35
	Number of adults on that date who had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	5
Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	% Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating	97 %
	% Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	88 %
	% Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	93 %
	% Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	77 %
	% Regional roads that received a PSCI rating during the year	81 %
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	4 %
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	14 %
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	38 %
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	41 %
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	10 %
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	20 %

	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	36 %
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	22 %
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	16 %
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	24 %
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	35 %
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	18 %
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	19 %
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	23 %
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	25 %
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	10 %
	A1. Kilometres of regional roads strengthened using Road Improvement grants	13.5 km
	A2. Road Improvement Grant amount spent on Regional Roads (strengthening)	€2,077,038
	B1. Number of kilometres of regional roads resealed using Road Maintenance grants	20.9 km
	B2. Road Maintenance Grant amount spent on Regional Roads (resealing)	€563,447
	C1. Kilometres of Local roads strengthened using Road Improvement grants	63.2 km
	C2. Road Improvement Grant amount spent on Local Roads (strengthening)	€4,848,979
Motor Tax: R3 Approved	D1. Number of kilometres of Local roads resealed using Road Maintenance grants	69.9 km
	D2. Road Maintenance Grant amount spent on Local Roads (resealing)	€1,390,109
Motor Tax: R3 Approved	% of motor tax transactions online	72.42 %
Water: W1 Approved	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements	1.00 %
Waste: E1 Approved	No. households in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2015, (2016 census)	22,772
	% households within the LA that the number A represents	41.95 %
Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved	Total number of pollution complaint cases	1,052
	Number of pollution cases not investigated or finalised	975
	Number of pollution cases that arose in 2016 not finalised	24

	Number of pollution cases in respect of complaint during the year	1,052
	Number of pollution cases closed during the year	975
	Total number of cases on hand at year end	24
Planning: P1 Approved	Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	13.81 %
	Total no. of new buildings notified to the local authority	268
	No. of new buildings notified to the local authority during the year subject of at least one inspection	37
Planning: P2 & P3 Approved	A. Number of planning decisions subject of appeal to An Bord Pleanála determined by board in 2016	36
	B. % of the determinations which confirmed (with or without variations) the decision made by the LA	58.33 %
	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision with or without variation	21
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the LA during 2016 that were investigated	207
	B. Total number of cases that were closed during 2016	272
	C. % cases at B dismissed re Section 152(2) or closed because statute barred or exempted development	32.35 %
	D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	11.76 %
	E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	55.88 %
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2016	551
	Number of cases at 'B' that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000	88
	Number of cases at 'B' that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	32
	Number of cases at 'B' that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	152

Planning: P4 & P5 Approved	AFS Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area	€30.55
	AFS Programme D consisting of D01, D02, D03 (inclusive of the central management charge)	€4,507,652
	A. The average no. of weeks taken to deal with applications for fire safety certificates received in the year.	3.38 wk
	Number of fire safety certificates issued in respect of applications received	79
	The number of weeks from the date on which a complete and valid application was received by the local authority to the date on which a fire safety certificate issued to the applicant, with any partial week decimalised to two decimal places, totalled for all fire safety certificates issued in respect of applications received in 2016.	267.13 wk
Fire Service: F1 Approved	AFS Programme E expenditure divided by the census 2016 population served by the Fire Service	€45.41
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service & E12 Fire Prevention	€6,433,432
Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved	A. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of Fire	No Full-Time Station in Kerry
	B. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of Fire	6.32 min
	C. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of other accidents	No Full-Time Station in Kerry
	D. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of other accidents	6.58 min
	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins	32.03 %
	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	49.61 %
	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins	18.36 %
	D. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins	27.78 %
	E. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	59.40 %
	F. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins	12.82 %
	Total no. of call-outs in respect of fires during the year	512
	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	164

	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	254
	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 mins	94
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents during the year	234
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 mins	65
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	139
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 mins	30
Library Service: L1 Approved	Number of library visits during the year	478,560
	Number of items borrowed during the year	710,826
	A. Number of library visits per head of population	3.24
	B. Number of items issued to borrowers during the year	710,826
Library Service: L2 Approved	The Annual Financial Statement Programme F data / by the population of the LA area per 2016 census	€25.31
	AFS Programme F02 Cost of Library Service	€3,733,912
Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 Approved	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	88.00 %
	Total number of secondary schools in the LA area at year end	25
	Number of second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the Comhairle na nÓg AGM	22
	A. Number of organisations included in the County Register and the proportion who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	19.14
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register for the local authority area	512
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2016	This figure is not available for 2016
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College when they registered for the PPN	98
Corporate: C1 & C2 & C4 Approved	Wholetime equivalent staffing number at year end	1,080.88
	Percentage of paid working days lost due to sickness absence through medically certified leave	3.84 %

	Percentage of paid working days lost due to sickness absence through self- certified leave	0.33 %
	Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave	9,727.58 day
	Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave	823.5 day
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave	299.13 day
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave	8.5 day
	All ICT Expenditure in the period 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016 divided by the WTE no.	€2,436.63
	Total revenue expenditure on Account Elements	€2,633,703
Corporate: C3 Approved	Total page views of the LA website in 2016	1,320,325
	Total number of social media users at 31/12/2016 following the LA on social media sites	35,589
	The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the LA during 2016	1,320,325
	Total no. of social media users who, at 31/12/2016, were following the LA on any social media sites	35,589
Finance: M1 & M2 Approved	A. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2012 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€5,847,957
	B. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2013 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€6,093,078
	C. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€6,184,008
	D. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€6,271,768
	E. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2016 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€6,355,246
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2016 as a percentage of Total Income from the AFS statement	5.00 %
	G. Revenue Expenditure per capita in 2016	€860.99
	The 2016 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€127,126,236
	The 2016 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€127,042,758
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	75.5 %

	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	75.3 %
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	77.6 %
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	79.6 %
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	81.3 %
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	94.3 %
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	94.4 %
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	93.6 %
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	94.1 %
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	93.6 %
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	88.0 %
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	86.6 %
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	82.5 %
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	80.3 %
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	81 %
Economic Development: J1 to J3 Approved	A. The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the year	82.0
	A. The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in the year	64
	A. The no. of participants who received mentoring during the year	138
	B. The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in the year	43

