

# Annual Report 2015

## Tuarascáil Bhliantúil

### Cavan County Council

### Comhairle Contae An

### Cabháin



Mission: *“Putting Cavan First”*

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**Note:** This Annual Report can be made available in Accessible Format. Please contact Corporate Affairs Section on 049 437 8300

## **Our County**

Cavan is the beautiful land of lakes in the middle of our island. A place away from it all; but not that far away. Quietly gaining a reputation as a food county, our restaurants rank among the best in the country and our love of music is known to continue into the early hours.

“An Cabhan” is an old Irish word meaning “The Hollow”: and in a simple way that says a lot about County Cavan. People, food, lakes, mountains and a certain serenity are here in spades and the County has a marvellous series of calming and mysterious waterways.

Cavan is known as fishing country, and rightly so it's well-stocked waters have been attracting German, French and English anglers for decades, but there is, of course, more to Cavan than that. Many visitors note that once you get here, the pace of things seems to slow down a bit. Whatever the reason for this change of pace, visitors are always surprised by just how many great attractions and activities we have to fill all that wonderfully slowed-down Cavan time.

County Cavan has a population of 73,183. It is predominantly a rural county although in recent years there have been significant population increases in its main urban centres. The County is characterised by drumlin countryside dotted with many lakes and small hills. The North West of the County is sparsely populated and mountainous with many areas of high scenic landscape. It is also home to a number of international tourism attractions including the Shannon Erne WaterWay and the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark.

The M3 has improved access to our County with the County Boundary south of Virginia now less than an hour from Dublin. Cavan Town is also strategically located and is acknowledged as a gateway to and from Northern Ireland. Cavan Town was designated

as a Hub Town in the National Spatial Strategy.

## **Cathaoirleach's Address**

As Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council I am delighted to welcome the publication of the 2015 Annual Report. 2015 was another "mad busy year". The report is intended to summarise and give an insight into the many activities undertaken by local government in Cavan.

The remit of local government places it at the heart of economic and community activity within the County. It now is a key player in the areas of economic development, tourism, social inclusion and community life generally. In parallel it continues to play a significant role in the delivery of essential services such as road maintenance, infrastructure provision and water services. The debate surrounding Irish Water sometimes overshadows the fact that Local Authorities, including Cavan, continue to play a vital role in the provision of water and wastewater services, essential to economic growth, public health and well being of our County generally.

This report also highlights the Council as being to the forefront in addressing other societal and quality of life issues, all of which positively impact on the lives of citizens. In terms of recreational activity the Ramor Theatre and Museum in Ballyjamesduff continue to develop and are market leaders in their respective fields. The development of Cavan Museum as a major tourist attraction in the county was further acknowledged with it being the recipient of three major awards during the year. The Taste of Cavan event which this year took up residence in one of Europe's leading Equestrian Centres, again attracted record crowds. It is now an important showcase for locally produced food and drink and the counties culinary expertise generally.

I had the pleasure of welcoming our new Chief Executive, Tommy Ryan, who took up office in September. Tommy comes to Cavan with a wealth of experience built up over a long career in local government. I, along with the rest of my elected colleagues look

forward to working with him to advance the undoubted potential that exists within our county.

On a personal level I had the pleasure of attending the Cavanman's Association Dinner in London and other civic events while there to coincide with the visit. I can say that the Chief Executive "walked the feet of me" in London over that weekend. Fun aside, I view it as socially and strategically important for our County that links with our diaspora are maintained and enhanced.

I was also delighted to host the annual Christmas Dinner in Ballyjamesduff, a one off annual event to round off a busy calendar which brings the executive and elected members together socially in the company of family and friends.

Other noteworthy events in 2015 included a Cathaoirleach's reception in honour of Aogán Ó Fearghail's election as Uachtaráin Tofa, Cumann Luthcleas Gael, the launch of Cavan's 2016 Centenary programme, the Peace through Arts Programme and the invitation to attend the Lord Mayor's Parade in London.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank acting Chief Executive, Ger Finn, for steering the ship up to the end of August and to the executive (outdoor and indoor) for their work during 2015.

In conclusion, may I take this opportunity to put on record my thanks to my fellow elected members for their kindness, support and co-operation since I was elected Cathaoirleach.

**Councillor Paddy Smith, Cathaoirleach**

## **Chief Executive's Address**

I am pleased to state that 2015 was a year of achievement for Cavan County Council. Despite of the continuing financial and housing resources constraints on our council we continued to provide quality service to our public and to promote and develop our county.

In 2015 marked a number of significant achievements

- Taste of Cavan event which was held in Cavan Equestrian Centre attracted over 30,000 visitors and brought much need business to the county.
- The continued marketing of Cavan through our This is Cavan brand. In addition County Cavan has been included in Fáilte Ireland's new brand Ireland's Ancient East.
- The local community and development committee made significant strides in developing a Economic and Community Plan for the county. This also will bring together the key stakeholders of the county and coordinate efforts in a broad range of matters for our county.
- Cavan Museum was recipient of three major awards 'Trip Advisor Certificated of Excellence' based on visitor reviews and feedback. The Anglo Celt 'Gold Tourism Award' and for the development of the WWI Trench Experience and Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award for 'Heritage and the Built Environment'.
- Arts Office won Public Sector Magazine Award for Providing Services to the Arts
- A new piece of music "Touchwood" was commissioned for Cavan Sinfonia Orchestra and premiered at Ramor Theatre
- Numerous exhibitions in our Library Service over the year notably Cavan and the American Civil and preparations and plans are well underway for the Centenary Commemorations of 1916
- Progression of Phase 2 of Cavan town and Environs Walking and Cycling Strategy

- Unveiling of four Public Art sculptures in Redhills, Cootehill, Ballyconnell and Bailieborough Building Peace through the Arts
- During 2015 Cavan further developed the Age Friendly County Programme
- Planning and design work on N3, Virginia Main Street scheme and improvements of N87/L1037 Junction Bawnboy
- Further development of Golden Way
- Designation of Shannon-Erne Waterway as “Blueway”
- Thirty one businesses related training programmes were run by Cavan LEO and attended by 400 participants
- Commencement of free Wi-Fi on main public streets in Cavan Town

On a personal note I was very pleased and proud to be appointed as Chief Executive of Cavan County Council in 2015. I look forward to working closely with the elected members and advancing our corporate agenda and developing and County.

**Tommy Ryan**, Chief Executive

## **Electoral Areas and their Elected Representatives from June 2014**

### **Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal Area**

- Carmel Brady, Fine Gael
- Fergal Curtin, Fianna Fáil
- Clifford Kelly, Fianna Fáil
- Paddy McDonald, Sinn Féin
- Val Smith, Fine Gael
- Niamh Smyth, Fianna Fáil

### **Cavan-Belturbet Municipal Area**

- Madeleine Argue, Fine Gael
- Damian Brady, Sinn Féin
- John Paul Feeley, Fianna Fáil
- Eugene Greenan, Sinn Féin
- Peter McVitty, Fine Gael
- Sean Smith, Fianna Fáil

### **Ballyjamesduff Municipal Area**

- Winston Bennett, Fine Gael
- Philip Brady, Fianna Fáil
- Noel Connell, Sinn Féin
- Paddy O'Reilly, Fine Gael
- Shane P O'Reilly, Fianna Fáil
- Paddy Smith, Fine Gael

## Meetings of Local Authority

Meeting	Number
Monthly, Reconvened and Special	16
Ballyjamesduff Municipal District Meetings	6
Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District Meetings	6
Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District Meetings	9
Annual General Meeting	1
Annual Budget Meetings	2
Corporate Policy Group Meetings	12
Housing, Social and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee	4
Environmental and Planning Strategic Policy Committee	4
Environment, Water, Transportation and Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee	3
Community and Social Strategic Policy Committee	4
Economic, Development Strategic Policy Committee	4
Joint Policing Committee	4

## Strategic Policy Committees from June 2014 to June 2019

<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>Environment and Planning</b>
<p>Councillor (Cllr) John Paul Feeley, <b>Chair</b>  Cllr Carmel Brady  Cllr Eugene Greenan  Cllr Peter McVitty  Cllr Niamh Smyth  Chris Kirk, Public Participation Network (PPN)  Thomas Rogers, Agriculture  Garry Allison  Nikki McGoohan</p>	<p>Cllr Damian Brady, <b>Chair</b>  Cllr Winston Bennett  Cllr Fergal Curtin  Cllr Val Smith  Cllr Madeleine Argue  Fintan McCabe, Environmental  Bernard Engle, PPN  Thomas Cooney, Agriculture  Jimmi Jackson</p>
<b>Housing, Social and Cultural</b>	<b>Transportation and Infrastructure</b>
<p>Cllr Madeleine Argue, <b>Chair</b>  Cllr Noel Connell  Cllr Clifford Kelly  Cllr Patrick O'Reilly  Cllr Shane P O'Reilly  Thomas Maughan (PPN)  Madeleine Ui Mhealoid (PPN)  Larry McCluskey (PPN)</p>	<p>Cllr Clifford Kelly, <b>Chair</b>  Cllr Paddy McDonald  Cllr Paddy Smith  Cllr Sean Smith  Cllr Philip Brady  Patricia O'Reilly (PPN)  Philip Smith (Agriculture)  Gary Meehan  Pauline Flood</p>

## Cathaoirleach's Receptions

1. Aogán Ó'Fearghail, Uachtaráin-Tofa, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael
2. The Strypes
3. Michael Lafferty, European Summer Games 2014 medalist
4. Jacinta Dunleavy, Cavan Icebreakers
5. Cavan Monaghan Under 14 Boys Kennedy Cup Football Team
6. Cavan Under 14 Girls Football Team

## Conferences, Seminars, Events Attended by Elected Representatives

Colmcille Winter School	Gartan, Letterkenny	"The Future of Local Government in Ireland under the New System"	27-28 February	5
Dundalk Chamber of Commerce	Dundalk, Louth	Border Tourism Conference	15 <sup>th</sup> April	10
Byrne Perry Summer School	Gorey, Wexford	Summer School	26-28 June	2
Patrick McGill Summer School	Glenties, Donegal	Summer School	19-24 July	3
The Institute of Professional Training Conference	Letterkenny, Donegal	"Building and Control Regulations"	23-25 October	3
Celtic Conferences	Clonakilty, Cork	A Practical Guide to Budget 2015	23-25 October	2
Association of Irish Regions	Loughrea, Galway	"New Regions, New Roles, New Responsibilities"	20 November	4

## Foreign Travel by Elected Members

Location	Purpose	Number who attended
New York	Attendance by Cathaoirleach at St. Patrick's Day Parade and Cavan Association Dinner	1 (Cathaoirleach)
Wurzburg, Germany	Development and strengthening of links with Wurzburg where St. Kilian born in Mullagh was martyred	1 (Cathaoirleach)
London	Attendance by Cathaoirleach at Cavan Association Annual Dinner Dance	1 (Cathaoirleach)

## Training Availed of by Elected Members

Title of Training	Body that Provided Training	Location	Number who attended
LAMA Spring Training Seminar	Local Authority Members' Association	Tuam, Galway	10
LAMA Autumn Seminar	Local Authority Members' Association	Kilkenny	13
Module 1: Governance (Part 1) of Local Authorities	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Castlebar, Mayo	8
Module 2: Local Economic Development and The Role of the Local Authority	AILG	Galway City	8

Module 3: Local Community Development and Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) A New Role for Local Authorities	AILG	Sligo	9
Second Annual Conference	AILG	Carrickmacross, Monaghan	13
Module 4: Local Authority Finance and Housing (National Social Housing Strategy )	AILG	Athlone, Westmeath	3
Autumn Seminar	AILG	Clonakilty, Cork	10
Module 5: Roads, Transportation and Safety: A Key Function for Local Authorities	AILG	Carrick-on-Shannon, Leitrim	8
Module 6: Septic Tanks, Ground Water and Water Pollution and Registration of Lobbying Act 2014	AILG	Ballinasloe, Galway	10

**Public Authorities and Other Bodies Elected Members are represented on**

Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board	Niamh Smyth, Clifford Kelly, Shane P. O'Reilly, Madeleine Argue, Carmel Brady, Patrick O'Reilly, Eugene Greenan
Health Service Executive Regional Health Forum, Dublin North East	Philip Brady, Peter McVitty, Paddy McDonald
Cavan Local Sports Partnership Board	Philip Brady, Madeleine Argue, Paddy McDonald
Northern and Western Regional Authority	Sean Smith, Paddy Smith
Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Winston Bennett, Fergal Curtin
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited	Val Smith
Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Philip Brady, John Paul Feeley, Carmel Brady
Local Authority Members' Association (LAMA)	Winston Bennett
Cavan Local Community Development Committee	Clifford Kelly, Patrick O'Reilly, Paddy McDonald
County Cavan Joint Policing Committee	Niamh Smyth, Shane P. O'Reilly, Clifford Kelly, Fergal Curtin, John Paul Feeley, Winston Bennett, Carmel Brady, Peter McVitty, Paddy Smith, Madeleine Argue, Damien Brady, Noel Connell, Paddy McDonald

North East Regional Drugs Task Force	Shane P. O'Reilly
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	John Paul Feeley, Paddy Smith, Eugene Greenan, Damien Brady
Local Monitoring Committee (Rural Water Programme)	Sean Smith, Winston Bennett, John Paul Feeley
County Cavan Heritage Forum	Niamh Smyth, Val Smith, Damien Brady

### **Payments to Members of Cavan County Council**

Annual Expenses Allowance (travel, subsistence and miscellaneous expenses)	€91,370
Representational Payments	€297,149.58
Cathaoirleach's / Leas Cathaoirleach's Allowances including Municipal Districts	€31,849.40
Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees	€24,000
Chairpersons of Municipal Authorities	€15,000
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at Conferences, Seminars in Ireland	€7,954.64
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at events abroad	€1,671.16
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at Training Events	€37,313.26

## Corporate Plan

### Mission Statement: “Putting Cavan First”

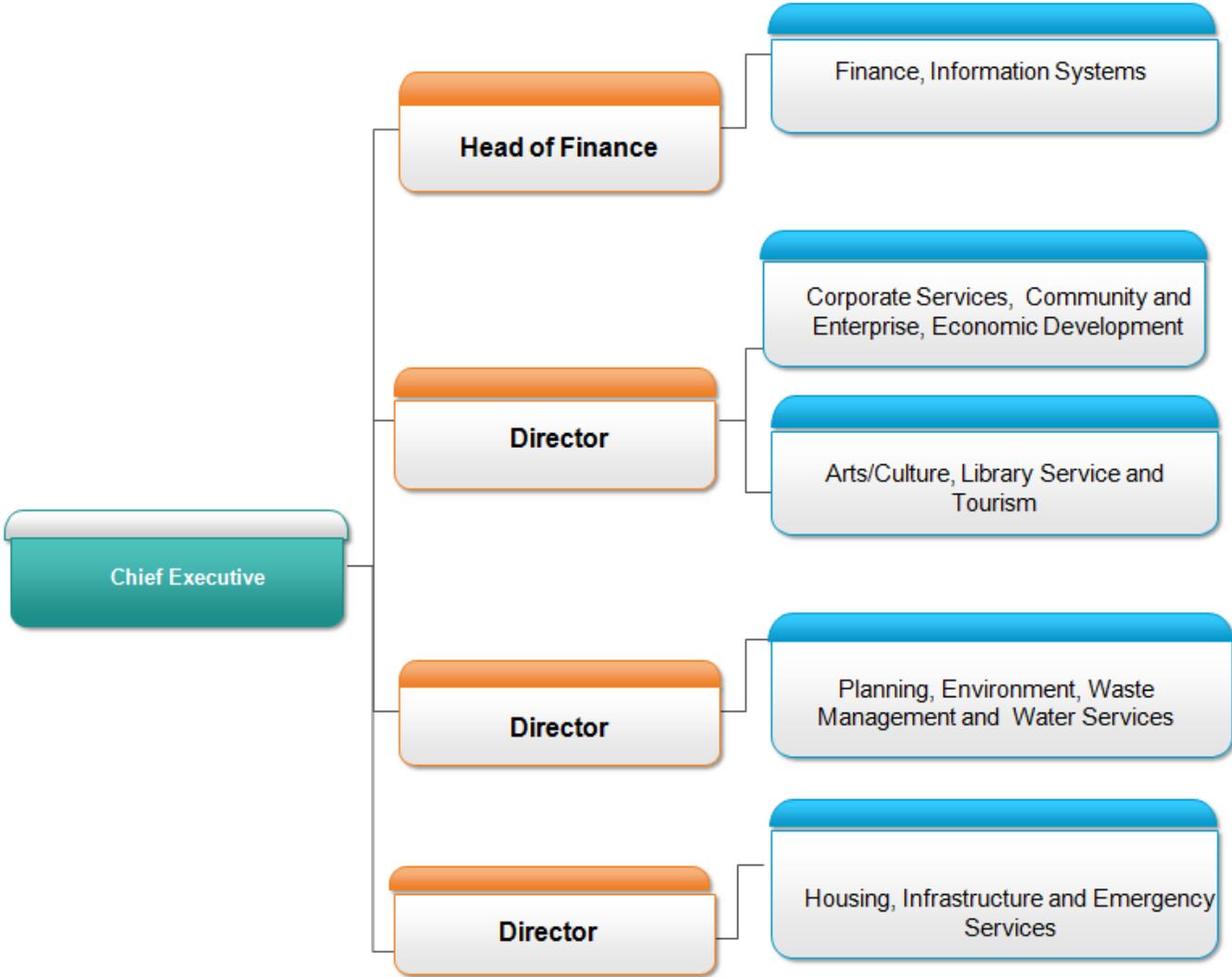
#### Our Values

We will endeavour to demonstrate these values in how we treat people, provide services and engage with the public and other organisations

<b>Honesty</b>	Tell the truth
<b>Courteous</b>	be polite and respectful
<b>Helpful</b>	be willing to assist others
<b>Ambitious</b>	be successful
<b>Innovative</b>	explore new ideas
<b>Progressive</b>	continuously improve
<b>Responsible</b>	take our duty seriously
<b>Reliable</b>	can be counted on
<b>Inclusive</b>	embrace diversity
<b>Hard working</b>	deliver on our objectives

By living out these values in our language, behaviour, relationships, and decision making, Cavan County Council, will create a positive ethos for our staff, elected members, our stakeholders and everyone who is a recipient of the services we provide.

# Management Team



## **Corporate Affairs, Community and Enterprise, Cultural Affairs and Tourism**

### **Corporate Affairs and Human Resources**

Human Resources Department is responsible for the delivery of all aspects of the human resources function which includes the recruitment, selection, and organisation of staff, training and development, staff welfare, industrial relations, performance management and development, workplace partnership, equality and diversity and superannuation.

The ongoing moratorium on staff recruitment has resulted in staff numbers decreasing year on year. Filling of vacant posts must now receive sanction from Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. At year end 384 staff were employed by the Council. The numbers of core staff in each of the categories:

<b>Staffing</b>	<b>Number</b>
Managerial	5
Clerical/Administrative	172
Professional/Technical	62
Outdoor	129
Contract Posts/Projects	13
Temporary/Seasonal	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>385</b>

## Staff Welfare

We are conscious of the need for staff to balance their working and domestic lives. Employees have access to a wide range of schemes that aspire to assist employees achieve a proper work life balance. Schemes include parental leave, force majeure leave, work sharing, term time leave, shorter working year and career breaks.

## Service Indicators

% of working days lost to sickness:

	<b>Certified Sick Leave</b>	<b>Uncertified Sick</b>
2010	4.19%	0.34%
2011	4.17%	0.25%
2012	3.14%	0.39%
2013	3.39%	0.18%
2014	3.01%	0.18%
2015	2.43%	0.19%

## Register of Electors

We have responsibility for the compilation of the Draft and Live Registers and also for the compilation of the Supplement to the Register of Electors. The Register is published every year on the 1st February and comes into effect on 15th February of that year. The Register is comprised of the following categories of electors:

- Presidential
- Dáil
- European and
- Local Government electors.

A person's citizenship will determine their category and the type of election at which they may vote.

<b>Citizenship</b>	<b>Type of election at which eligible to vote</b>
Irish Citizens	All Elections and Referenda
British Citizens	Dáil, European and Local Elections
Other EU Citizens	European and Local Elections
Non-EU Citizens	Local Government Elections only

To be eligible for registration a person must be:

- 18 years or over on 15th February in the year in which the Register comes into force.
- Be normally resident in one of the three electoral areas on the 1st September of the year before the Register comes into force.

If a person changes residence, they may be included in the supplement to the Register at their new address. Provided they are not already registered as an elector at any other address or that they arrange for their name to be deleted from the Register at their other address. The total number of Electors for 2015/2016 was 53,787 (Cavan-Monaghan 43,594 and Sligo-Leitrim 10,193).

The Constituency Commission Report of 2012 removed 36 electoral divisions, loosely alluded to in the report as “West” of County Cavan, from the Cavan-Monaghan constituency to the new constituency incorporating Sligo, Leitrim and part of Donegal.

<b>Local Electoral Area</b>	<b>Number of Electors</b>
Bailieborough-Cootehill	19,400
Ballyjamesduff	18,881
Cavan-Belturbet	17,165
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,446</b>

## **Training and Development**

Our commitment to learning and development for staff continued in an effort to assist staff achieve their full potential, contribute effectively to the overall vision of our organisation and the accomplishment of its goals and objectives.

Learning and development needs continued to be reviewed throughout the year with a particular emphasis on health and safety, information technology, professional and technical expertise, operational training, legislation, PMDS, seminars, conferences, workshops, site visits and networking opportunities. Training for the participants on the Gateway Scheme relevant to their needs was delivered. Support continued to be provided to staff wishing to pursue further education study programmes. Congratulations to all who achieved qualifications.

Our Engineers Ireland Continual Professional Development Programme was developed further in 2015. Training continued to be delivered to all our Elected Members.

## **Performance Management and Development System (PMDS)**

PMDS is the mechanism used to support and improve performance at individual, team and organisational levels and is a means of engaging, supporting and developing individual staff members. The Full Performance Cycle is a key component of PMDS.

The competency framework, now embedded in the organisation for both Senior and Middle Managers, is an integral part of our PMDS process with the aim of enhancing and supporting the delivery of Cavan County Councils' vision, values and strategic objectives. Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) in Cavan County Council is driven by the Senior Management Team.

## **Official Languages Scheme**

Under Section 11 of the Official Languages Act 2003, Cavan Local Authorities have produced a Irish Language Scheme and are committed to the ongoing implementation of this scheme.

## **Freedom of Information (FOI)**

The Freedom of Information Act came into effect on 21 April 1998. The following rights were conferred on members of the public:

- right of access to official records held by public bodies
- right to have personal information about them held by such bodies corrected or updated where necessary
- right to be given reasons for decisions taken by public bodies which affect them.

The Current Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation was enacted and applied to local authorities in October 2014. The 2014 FOI Act provides that every person has the following legal rights to:

- access official records held by Government Departments or other public bodies as defined by the Act.
- have personal information held on them corrected or updated where such information is incomplete, incorrect or misleading.
- be given reasons for decisions taken by public bodies that affect them.

### **Freedom of Information (FOI) Statistics:**

Cases brought forward from 2014	0
Number of applications received:	37
Number of applications granted:	31
Number of applications part granted:	2
Number of applications refused:	3
Withdrawn/Dealt with outside FOI:	0
Number live at 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2015	1

## **Student Grants Scheme**

The final number of Renewal Students Grants awarded by the Council last academic year 2015/2016 was 9.

The number of applications received from Renewal Students for the current academic year 2015/2016 was 10. Of these:

<b>Awarded a Grant</b>	<b>Refused</b>	<b>Cancelled/Withdrawn</b>	<b>Ongoing/Further Documentation Required</b>
9	0	1	0

A Special Rate of Maintenance Grant is available to students who have a low household income and who meet a range of conditions. By end of December a total of zero Top Up Grants were awarded for the current academic year 2015/2016.

## **Community and Enterprise, Social Inclusion**

The Department of Community and Enterprise is responsible for the Local Community Development Committee, the Economic Development Unit, Cathaoirleach's Awards, the Social Inclusion Unit, Peace IV Programme, Comhairle na nÓg (Junior Council), Community and Voluntary Grants, Diaspora Grants, Cavan Sports Partnership and major annual events such as Taste of Cavan and Cavan Walking Festival. The Department supports and funds the Public Participation Network, an independent network of community and voluntary groups in County Cavan that has a remit for improving engagement with citizens.

### **Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

The Local Community Development Committee, or LCDC, is a 17 member committee made up of statutory and non -statutory representatives. It plays a coordinating role at county level, helping to ensure that there is a coherent approach to local and community

development in the county.

This year could be described as a planning and preparation year for much of LCDC activity. The committee has overall responsibility for the delivery of programmes such as LEADER, PEACE IV and Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP).

The Department of Community and Enterprise was engaged in consultation, in preparation for these programmes being open in 2016. A LEADER local development strategy plan was researched and developed in 2015. Peace target groups were consulted to inform a PEACE IV application. During the year the LCDC prepared the community elements of a six year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). This was achieved through widespread consultation with the diverse communities of Cavan and different interest groups. The overall LECP plan contains economic development actions which were prepared by the Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee.

The community elements of the plan contain actions around auditing and mapping community services, networking opportunities, setting up a volunteer information service, supporting crime prevention initiatives, establishing a youth network, setting up a 'community first responder' scheme through the Health Service Executive, establishing a drugs and alcohol forum, improving local transport services, supporting the inclusion of minority and excluded groups such as Travellers and People with Disabilities, age friendly actions, community based arts actions and environmental actions with local groups.

### **Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme**

Breffni Integrated Ltd was awarded the tender to deliver the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) in County Cavan. This new programme aims to tackle poverty and social exclusion. The three goals of SICAP are focused on

- Community Development
- Education and Training
- Employment.

Target groups of SICAP programme are:

- Children and Families from Disadvantaged Areas
- Lone Parents
- New Communities (including Refugees/Asylum Seekers)
- People living in Disadvantaged Communities
- People with Disabilities
- Roma
- Unemployed People (including those not on the Live Register)
- Travellers, Young Unemployed People from Disadvantaged areas
- Low-income Workers/Households.

SICAP is funded by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and managed by the LCDC. Its supports are delivered through Breffni Integrated staff working on a one-to-one and group basis with clients. End of year Key Performance Indicator [KPI] outputs for the SICAP Programme in Cavan were:

- 743 disadvantaged individuals (15 years +) engaged under SICAP on a one-to-one basis
- 39 local community groups assisted

Clients included

- 348 people assisted with Goal 2 educational supports and
- 438 people were assisted with Goal 3 employment supports. 113 people progressed to self-employment up to 6 months after receiving a Goal 3 employment support.

## Taste of Cavan



The Taste of Cavan took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> August at its new home in Cavan Equestrian Centre with over 38,000 visitors. Following on from the success of the 2014 event, food lovers and families enjoyed two days of demonstrations, exhibitions and the best of midlands provenance.

The Taste of Cavan was bigger and better than before with a stellar cast of chefs who all gave cookery demonstrations and tips.

- Kevin Dundon
- Rachel Allen
- and Cavan's own award-winning Neven Maguire
- Other top chefs including 'The No-Salt Chef', Brian McDermott
- Máire Dufficy of Bord Bia
- Shane Smith, Head Pastry Chef at Fallon & Byrne
- Gearóid Lynch of the Olde Post Inn
- Adrian Martin, Craft Butchers' Association
- Anjula Devi, London, winner of a BBC Good Food Show Bursary Award

There were over 130 stalls from all over the country sampling their tasty wares from chocolates to cheeses, mushrooms to meats and delicious Irish craft beers. In addition, there were lots of fun activities for the whole family to enjoy. The two day festival showcased the wealth of excellent produce available in the county.

### **Bowling Green, Cavan Leisure Centre, Drumalee, Cavan**

The development of a Bowling Green in Cavan Town was the culmination of many years of hard work by a dedicated committee in partnership with Cavan County Council. The need for a Bowling Green was identified some years ago and was included in Cavan Sports Partnership Strategic Plan. It is a 4 Rink Green and was completed by Clive Richardson Limited from County Armagh following a competitive tendering process.

It cost €137,000 and was funded through a grant from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport under the Sports Capital Programme and a further grant from the Irish Public Bodies under the Sports Nation funding. The remaining €32,000 was funded by Cavan County Council; it will be officially open in 2016.

Cavan County Council acknowledges the funding of €77,788 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport under the Sports Capital Programme for development of this project. The State's investment is protected and will not be used as security for any other activity without prior consultation with the parent Department and sanction of Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Cavan County Council is compliant with tax clearance procedures.

### **Community/Festival Grants Scheme**

The community grants scheme aims to encourage organisations and groups to implement projects which will enhance the quality of life for local citizens. The purpose of the scheme is to provide low level support to projects which may not receive funding from other sources and is to a maximum of €1,000.

The generation of increased economic and social activity from community grant funded projects enhances greater self sustainability in the local area. Grant funding of €36,300

was allocated to 80 community groups.

### **Cathaoirleach's Awards**

The Cathaoirleach's Awards gives due recognition to those in the County who, through participating in unpaid Community and Voluntary activities, have had a significant impact on the quality of life of their communities. Delivered by Community and Enterprise in conjunction with the Cavan Public Participation Network. Over 130 people attended the Awards Night to celebrate with the 21 nominees. Under the various categories, the recipients of the awards were:

Maghera Community Development	Youth
Marisa Goldstone, Cavan Multicultural Network	Social Inclusion
Virginia Cancer Care	Community
St Patrick's College MacRory Football Team	Sport
Cross Mullagh Friendship Club	Active Age

St Patrick's College MacRory Football Team took the overall winner's prize winning €1,000 for the College.

### **Community Tourism Diaspora Project**

This Project is a partnership between Fáilte Ireland, Irish Public Bodies Insurance and Local Authorities and has been established as a follow on from the success of the Gathering for the benefit of local tourism. A total of €32,450 was allocated to 29 festivals in the County which was a great boost for tourism in the County.

### **Strategic Policy Committees**

The Strategic Policy Committee members are listed on page10. Four meetings took place.

<b>Service Indicators</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme	7.62%	100%
Number of organisations registered with the Public Participation Network	597	632
Number of organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	N/A	158

### **Cavan Public Participation Network**

Cavan Public Participation Network (CPPN) was established in July 2014, replacing the Community and Voluntary Forum. A total of 36 community representatives were elected to speak and act on behalf of community in County Cavan. They will provide the public with an opportunity to have a voice in decision making processes through non-political means. The representatives meet with their mandating electorate twice per year to hear local issues to become more informed voices for the community and represent public views at a countywide level. The representatives are from the following sectors:

- Environment
- Social Inclusion
- Community and Voluntary
- Municipal Districts: Cavan/Belturbet, Bailieborough/Cootehill and Ballyjamesduff

### **The Bridge Street Centre**

The Bridge Street Centre continued to enhance its standing as a key resource for facilitating social inclusion and increasing community cohesion in Cavan town.

Service users who are based in the building are Cavan Traveller Movement, Mediation Border Counties, Tearmann Domestic Violence Service, Cavan EmployAbility and the Youth Advocate Programme.

The centre offers community and voluntary organisations, training providers, youth and family support groups a safe, secure and neutral environment to meet in. The Centre has a diverse and ever increasing range and number of service users.

During the year there were new groups and training activities in the Centre. These included

- Cavan Academy of Music, music classes for younger children.
- Training and job-skills courses such as the Momentum Tourism and Hospitality Training, the Health Service Executive Chatterbox speech and language course, and the Midland School of Childcare training for Special Needs Assistants.
- 'On the One Road', a cross community project group; Cavan Drug Awareness's Déis Nua programme, cooking and nutrition classes; Congolese Resettlement Programme computer classes; Afro-Diaspora parent and toddler group; plus a number of health and well-being activities including sound-bath meditation, and baby reflexology.

One of the highlights was the Daffodil Day lunchtime fundraiser in March, in conjunction with Cavan-Monaghan Education Training Board. Tutors and class members of the CALC catering course made sandwiches and pastries, and over 60 people dropped in to get their lunch and donate. A total of €500 was raised for The Irish Cancer Society.

RehabCare held a launch event for their New Directions programme, which aims to encourage and empower people with disabilities to fully integrate into their local community. The event was led by Bernard McVeigh, the manager of RehabCare Services in Cavan, and was attended by Deputies Brendan Smith, Caoimhghin O'Caolain and Joe O'Reilly, Cathaoirleach Shane P. O'Reilly, Councillor Madeline Argue who all addressed the gathering and outlined their support for the project.

EmployAbility Cavan hosted a successful Coffee Morning in August, during the Bridge Street Summer festival, with the proceeds going to SOSAD and GROW. During the summer months, a number of improvement works were carried out in the centre:

- boardroom was re-floored and new floor covering laid
- wifi network was upgraded, and eFibre broadband introduced.
- building was painted both externally and also internally in a number of the rooms and public areas.

### **Social Inclusion Unit**

The role of the Social Inclusion Unit (SIU) is to improve services for marginalised customers and to work on an interagency basis to address poverty and exclusion in the county.

A significant area of work that was further developed was the Age Friendly County Programme. This initiative is steered by an alliance of senior managers from the main public sector agencies, older people's representatives and other organisations. Activity during the year included:

- Support for the Cavan Older People's Council, a representative network of older people in the county.
- Expansion of the Age Friendly Business Recognition Scheme, working with Cavan Chamber of Commerce. This scheme provides training for businesses who wish to become more 'age friendly'. The businesses then make changes to their services to better meet the needs of their older customers.
- Older Person's Drop in Centre took place in the Library Events Space in Spring and Autumn. Different talks and activities are organised for older people on a weekly basis.
- Cavan Town completed a process of becoming an Age Friendly Town, having worked with a graduate planner on a nine month project that identified areas for improvement.

The Social Inclusion Unit (SIU) coordinates the Cavan Traveller Interagency Group. This is a statutory group that provides an interagency response to social exclusion issues among the Traveller community.



Back row (From left): Evelyn Brady, Larry Carthy, Mary Gilroy, Geraldine Clarke, Ann McKiernan, Marie Tierney, Seamus Donohoe and Ann O'Donoghue. Front row (From left): Eileen Johnston, Ann Lynch Bob Gilbert, Marian Fay and Elizabeth Coyle. Photo by Adrian Donohoe.

The group implements a work plan every year; activities included 'Know Your Rights' workshops for Travellers delivered by the Citizens Information Service, suicide awareness training, setting up a Traveller Men's Shed, hosting an education seminar during Traveller Pride Week, and continued support for a community development service delivered through Cavan Traveller Movement. The group secured funding from the Department of Justice for a Traveller Youth Engagement Project..

Preparatory work took place to establish a Drugs and Alcohol Forum in Cavan. This involved planning meetings and a facilitated session with a range of stakeholders. Information on local needs and services was documented and draft terms of reference were developed for the Forum. The role of the Forum will be to respond to identified issues such as transport for people accessing drug services, residential treatment options, referral pathways, supports for parents and young people, and out of hours services.

The SIU also supports internal local authority equality and diversity actions, particularly

through the IDEAL Network, a cross sectional staff working group. This work included developing a 'Literacy Friendly Local Authority Plan' and delivering relevant actions to improve communication.

### **County Cavan Joint Policing Committee**

The function of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussion and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the Local Authority's administrative area.

The JPC hosted a meeting for Community Alert groups in June to enable networking and exchange of information between the groups and the Gardaí. The JPC also focused on the following areas, rural crime, road safety, fuel smuggling, age friendly community policing and CCTV system in operation in Cavan Town. Four quarterly meetings were held.

### **Cavan Sports Partnership**

Cavan Sports Partnership is an initiative of the Irish Sports Council and was set up in 2008 as part of a national network of 33 sports partnerships. The aim is to increase participation in sports and physical activity for all people in Cavan. They currently work with over 400 clubs, groups and organisations within the county on local and national training programmes and sporting events. It was awarded funding of €124,750 from the Irish Sports Council for its operational and programme deliveries.



Run with Catherina Launch 2016

Key initiatives the Sports Partnership was involved with include the following;

- Run with Catherina: The third year of this successful Cavan Town event honouring international athlete Catherina McKiernan took place in October. Over 800 people took part on the day.
- Cavan Walking Festival: The festival included 30 walks which took place over 10 days in all areas of Cavan. Approximately 1,000 people took part in the festival walks, including visitors from other countries.
- National Bike Week: Over 1,000 children and adults took part in seven organised activities as part of National Bike Week 2015.
- Sports Club Grant Scheme: Cavan Sports Partnership allocated €6,588 in grants to sports clubs and communities throughout the county. The grant funded both mass participation events and coach education/ training activities.
- Dormant Accounts Funding: Funding was received under the Dormant Accounts Fund to deliver two programmes over 2015 as follows:
  - **Community Sports Coach Training Programme:** This targets job seekers who have an interest in pursuing a career in the sports sector. It was delivered over October to December.
  - **Sports Leader UK:** Pilot delivered in St. Mogue's College Bawnboy in December. The Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership is for learners aged 13 years+ who wish to develop their leadership skills, whilst under the supervision of their tutor.
- Community Transformation: Eight communities were partnered to introduce this physical activity programme which aimed to support communities in creating opportunities for fitter, healthier lifestyles for everybody.
- Operation Transformation: National Walk Day was hosted by Bailieborough Walking Club.
- Sports Inclusion Disability Officer (SIDO): Programmes were delivered to over 300 older adults and 200 people with a disability through day care services and clubs/communities.
- Games 4 All: An inclusive and practical training programme to enable clubs to become more inclusive to people with a disability was successfully delivered in

three schools within the county. 59 staff in all took part in the training workshops.

## **Comhairle nÓg**

Cavan County Council received €21,000 from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs administered by Pobal to support the activities of the Cavan Comhairle na nÓg.

A busy and successful year for Cavan Comhairle na nÓg members

- Dance workshop and team building day was held in Castle Saunderson and was led by Paula McPartland with 30 members attending
- Comhairle na nÓg coordinator teamed up with Junior achievement Ireland to promote Comhairle activities in Cavan Town schools to boost membership of 12 to 15 year olds
- “Let’s go mental” positive mental health awareness event organised for August at the Taste of Cavan and was attended by 80 young people
- Comhairle na nÓg AGM was held in October at the Castle Saunderson Scouting Centre and attended by 120 young people representing all post primary schools in the County. 28 new members were elected.
- 7 members attended a National Comhairle na nÓg meeting at Croke Park
- 10 committee/planning meetings at the Bridge Street Centre.

## **Library Service**

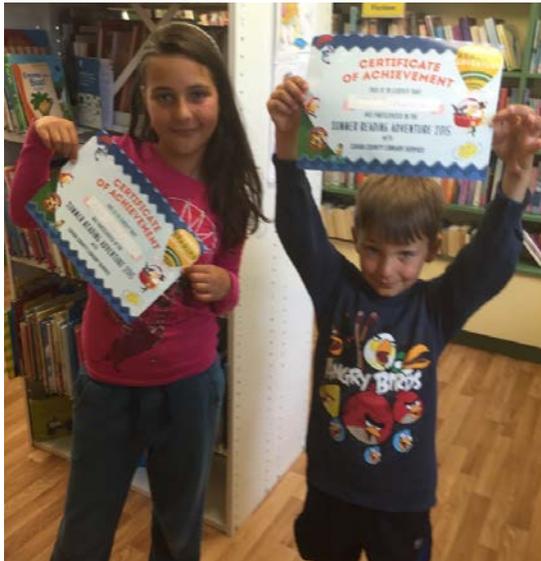
### **Focus on Folklore**

The Library service’s operational theme for 2015 was Focus on Folklore. On the Culture Night, in September, we were delighted to welcome Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh who delivered a lecture on Folklore in Cavan and in particular on University College Dublin’s 1937-38 Schools Folklore archive. Cavan’s folklore collection is deemed one of the best in the country and the county is indebted to collectors like P J Gaynor, Michael Joseph Murphy and Jim Delaney who worked tirelessly collecting folklore for many years. As a continuation of that process local historian Michael Swords has undertaken a countywide

project to interview individuals who are key sources for history, culture and tradition.

### **Children's Service**

Over 565 Cavan children read 6,000 books during the summer when they participated in the Summer Reading Adventure, a free programme open to all. Children's Book Festival in October was extremely successful with a programme packed with storytellers, author visits and school competitions. The star attractions included popular authors Brian Gallagher, Nicola Pierce, Matt Griffin, Erika McGann and Treasa Ní Ailpin. Renowned storytellers Liam Farrell, Pat Speight and Samantha McGahon visited Bailieborough, Belturbet, Cavan, and Cootehill libraries.



Ballyjamesduff members receiving their certificates of achievement on completing the Summer Reading Adventure

### **Local Studies**

The Library service deliver a comprehensive lecture series annually and the Bishop Francis MacKiernan memorial lecture in February is always a highlight. John Killen, formerly librarian in the Linenhall Library in Belfast, spoke on 'A lost Irish Manuscript, The Genealogy of the House of O'Reilly'. The manuscript has been produced in book form in a limited edition and Cavan Library service hold a copy. Monsignor Liam Kelly spoke on 'The Magaurans of Tullyhaw in April and other lectures included 'The Railways of County

Cavan' by staff member Jonathan Smyth in Belturbet Library in May. Joan Hannon and Patrick Cassidy spoke in Cootehill Library on 'Diversity- Footsteps of History in Cootehill' and 'Spinning a Yarn –The Linen Industry in Cootehill' respectively. Archaeologist Michael Drumm launched informational boards on the history of Belturbet in the Library during Heritage week and displayed a selection of artefacts found during the excavation when the Belturbet Library site was being redeveloped.

## Exhibitions

An exhibition of paintings and prints from Cavan County Council's Art collection was shown in Cootehill Library in March featuring Charles Lamb's oil painting of a Connemara scene. This was donated to the Library service by the Haverty Trust in the 1970s and is probably the Council's most valuable art piece. The renowned artist Thomas Ryan displayed a selection of his work in Johnston Central Library in June including his iconic painting of the GPO in 1916 which depicts James Connolly laid out on a stretcher. This picture hung in the Ceann Comhairle's office in Dáil Eireann for over 30 years.



Ger Finn (Director of Service), Paddy Smith (An Cathaoirleach) and Thomas Ryan RHA at exhibition launch in June

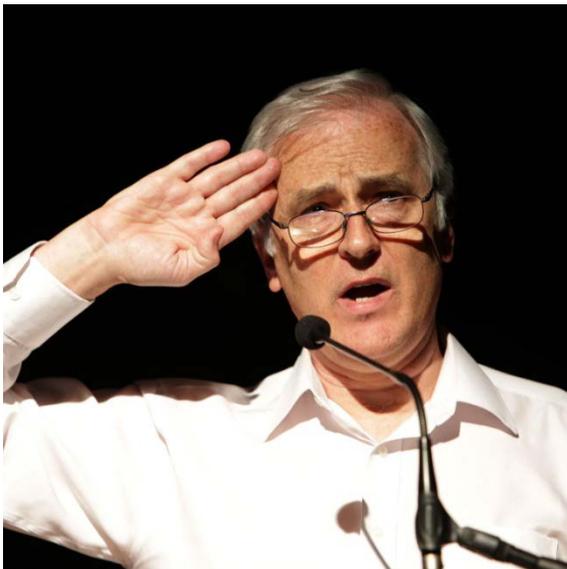
## The Irish Language

Cavan County Council's Library service has a strong commitment to the Irish language and has developed links with Glór Breifne and Cavan's national and secondary schools. Weekly conversation classes are hosted and an Irish Language Reading Group meets monthly in the Library.

### **Cavan and the American Civil War**

Our commemorative historical event this year featured Cavan and the American Civil War which began in 1861 and ended this year 150 years ago. In August, Mary Sullivan, Cavan Genealogy launched an exhibition on the Civil War and Dr Patrick Fitzgerald delivered the keynote address.

The Cavan Singers entertained with songs from the period. Additional lectures were given by Aidan O'Hara, Damian Shiels, Ian Kenneally, Myles Dungan and Brendan Scott. Singer Matthew Gilsenan and broadcaster Myles Dungan rounded off the day with a performance of their 'Fighting Irish' programme to an appreciative audience in the Town Hall.



Myles Dungan performing in 'The Fighting Irish' during our 'Cavan and the American Civil War' conference

### **The Decade of Commemoration**

The Decade of Commemoration continues with major plans in place to celebrate 1916 with Library staff to the fore in organising events for all branches and in particular the day of

celebration which will take place in Cavan town on Saturday, 23rd April 2016. The start of the 1916 commemoration took place in Bailieborough Library in June when the father and daughter team of Donal and Katie O'Kelly performed 'Revolted', two plays which celebrate the connection between James Joyce and Francis Sheehy –Skeffington, the Bailieborough born pacifist, who was murdered by a British army during Easter week.

The local launch for 2016 Centenary Programme took place in Johnston Central Library in November with Heather Humphreys, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council, Paddy Smith. Madeleine Uí Mhéalóid delivered a lecture on Úna Ní Fhairchellaigh (Agnes Farrelly) who presided at the inaugural meeting of Cumann na mBan and was a close friend of Roger Casement.



Ger Finn (Director of Service), Madeleine Uí Mhéalóid (Key note speaker), Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive of Cavan County Council), Paddy Smith (An Cathaoirleach), Minister Heather Humphreys TD, Tom Sullivan (Cavan Library) and Eoin Doyle (Director of Service) pictured at the launch of Cavan's 2016 Centenary Programme in November.

## Reading Groups

Reading groups continue to prosper and there are active groups in Bailieborough, Belturbet, Cavan and Cootehill libraries. Club Leabhar an Chabhain meets monthly in Johnston Central Library on Wednesdays at lunchtime.

## Community Links

An art feature 'Pledge of the Metalmen' by Barry Linnane was unveiled at Bailieborough Library by Minister Humphreys in September. The sculpture depicts the work of Bailieborough Iron Foundry. The piece has received much favourable comment from the Bailieborough community.

The link with the Lithuanian Community in Cavan continues to pay dividends with weekly visits from the Lithuanian weekend school taking place in Johnston Central Library. The Library service has a close working relationship with Cavan Genealogy for many years and a further beneficial link took place in October when Cavan Genealogy commenced delivery of a Quality and Qualifications Ireland Level 4 programme in Cootehill branch Library. The programme started with eight trainees and will run for 48 weeks with tutor Dr Brendan Scott.

## Publications

In June, we released our 11th Annual Summer Reading List. This is a book lover's 'must-have' guide to the best of new and classic reads for the summer and has become a much sought after annual publication. The Library newsletter, 'The Bookmark', available in print and electronic format, continues to be widely read and promotes Library news and events on a monthly basis.

<b>Library Events Programme: Full-time Libraries</b>	<b>2015</b>
Lectures	19
Exhibitions	25
Writer and Storyteller Visits	39
Book Displays and Book Launches	41
Music, Dance, Drama, Workshops	177

Class Visits	535
Community Group Meetings and Events	241
<b>Meetings:</b> Reading Group / Irish Language/ Craft Group/ Mother and Toddler Group	428
<b>Events:</b> Cavan County Council (Other Sections) and Outside State Agencies	105
Outreach Work	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,618</b>

<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>2015</b>
Visitor Levels: Full Time Libraries only	220,525*
Website: Page views	153,249
Website: Visits	63,956
Actual Opening Hours	9,924.85
Membership	10,475
Internet Public Access	24,531.80
Average Opening Hours: Full Time Libraries	40.35
Average Opening Hours: Part Time Libraries	11.6
Stock Borrowed	148,072

## **Cavan County Museum**

### **Museum Awards**

The County Museum won three major awards which significantly raised its profile. In June we were awarded a 'TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence' based on visitor reviews and feedback. In November, won The Anglo Celt 'Gold Tourism Award' and for the development of the World War I (WW1) Trench Experience and Exhibition it also won the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award for 'Heritage and the Built Environment'. These awards acknowledge the tremendous work of the Museum Staff and the support of the Members and Executive of Cavan County Council.

The Museum's Collection of artefacts and memorabilia continues to grow thanks to the generosity of the people of County Cavan and further afield. Donations of memorabilia are an invaluable resource in terms of our Exhibition and Education Programme. Caring for our collection is an extremely important aspect of our work therefore ensuring the highest standards are maintained within our archives and display galleries.

### **Highlights include:**

- Donation of Arthur Griffith's Personal Revolver
- The Irish Mission Exhibition telling The untold story of the home for Irish Immigrant Girls in Lower Manhattan (1853–1954)
- Genealogy of the House of O'Reilly by Nikolas Gruger and Dr. Angela Feeney,
- 'Connections' Exhibition by Artist Imelda Bradley
- Ed Reavy Traditional Irish Music Exhibition
- 'Fr. Brown World War I Photographic Exhibition' officially opened by Journalist Kevin Myers. This collection of photographs reflected life and combat in the trenches and added another strand to the Museum's WWI Trench Experience and Exhibition.



Michael Finnegan, Museum Staff, Cathaoirleach Paddy Smith, Savina Donohoe, Curator, Kevin Meyers, Journalist, Ger Finn, Director of Service.

### **In 2015 the Museum launched two new publications:**

**‘You had Hope in Hell’:** Over the past ten years Cavan County Museum has worked to promote peace and reconciliation through the peace project, Connecting Peoples, Places and Heritage. In this time we have engaged with thousands of school children and adults. It has found unique and novel ways to use the shared and diverse heritage of the area to tackle issues around prejudice. This handbook contains an invaluable section on the workshops developed by the project. Including a CD of the Connecting People Oral Archive.

**‘Banner, emblem, flag or symbol’:** Cavan County Museum houses one of the most important collections of marching banners on the island of Ireland. It is a diverse collection, holding public expressions of identity from across Catholic and Protestant as well as Unionist and Nationalist traditions. Their publication highlights how important community identity is in Ireland. It also gives readers some insight into the symbols and cultural references used in the past to define identity.

The Museum has developed to become one of the main tourist attraction for County

Cavan and has established many worthwhile links with tour operators nationally and internationally. Cavan County Museum is fully committed to raising the profile of the County through its wide range of events and working to give greater access to its unique historical collection, memorabilia and artefacts.

In November, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys launched the Local Authority Museums Network Strategy 2016 – 2019. ‘Preserving the Past – Shaping the Future’. The Local Authority Museums Network (LAMN) represents the 12 Local Authority Museums across Ireland, which play a vital role in the social, cultural and economic life of regions across Ireland.



Minister Heather Humphreys with Local Authority Museums Network (LAMN)

Visitor numbers continue to grow year on year with 2015 reaching over 28,000; our best since the Museum opened in 1996.

## Arts Office

25 Arts Awards totalling €10,000 were granted in 2015. Successful organisations included:

- Shercock Drama Festival
- Newstage
- Gonzo
- Kingscourt Youth Theatre
- NYAH, Ag Seinm and
- The Gerry Whelan Weekend.

Siobhan Harton was the recipient of the Tyrone Guthrie Bursary. Supported by the Arts Council four Professional Development Awards of €2,000 each made to

- Sally O Dowd
- Jessie Keenan
- Eileen Tackney and
- Heather Brett

Cavan County Council awarded two National Youth Council of Ireland Bursaries to

- Mary Farrelly and Kevin O'Connor to attend Youth Arts Training.

### **Culture Night**

Another successful Culture Night which was attended by 2,161 people and 220 artists and community groups. The programme included: multi-media art presentations, exhibitions, workshops, music performances, readings, lectures, demonstrations and theatre performances.

### **Developing Creative Practice Across Borders**

33 artists who participated in residencies with six international organisations came together for a celebratory event at Townhall, Cavan and 61 College Street. The event included exhibitions, readings, street performances and guest contributions from Elva Duggan, Léargas, Audrey Keane, Arts Council and Lemmit Kaplinski, Trykimuseum.

### **Cavan Sinfonia Orchestra**

Elaine Agnew was commissioned to write new of music for Cavan Sinfonia Orchestra.

“Touchwood” was written after a series of workshops with the Orchestra and premiered at Ramor Theatre, Virginia in December with Killygarry National School choir.



Sue King conducting Cavan Sinfonia Orchestra

## **County Choir**

The curtain closed on Cavan County Choir when they performed their last event as part of the Windows Publications Workshop Weekend May. Since 2013 the Choir have worked on the Culture Cavan project and they performed work by visual artist John Byrne and Elaine Agnew. In 2014 they performed “Testament” by Sean Doherty written for them with the poet Heather Brett for Solstice at Cavan Burren Park.

## **Building Peace through the Arts**

Four Sculptures were unveiled as part of this project funded by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and delivered with local communities to promote positive community relations through the arts. The sculptures produced were:

- The Village Green by Joanne Behan, Building Peace through the Arts, Redhills
- The Cootehill Harvester by Tony Stallard, Building Peace through the Arts, Cootehill
- The Crossing Point by Tim Ward, Circling the Square, Building Peace through the Arts, Ballyconnell
- Pledge of the Metal Men by Barry Linnane, Building Peace through the Arts,

Bailieborough (shown below)



### **Cavan Curators**

Annette Moloney and Maeve Mulrennan were appointed Curators in Residence in 2014/15 after a competitive process. Priorities agreed for the Residency included Hello Sessions to ascertain artist needs, One to One Mentoring Sessions and Artist Exchanges.

1. 36 artists attended Hello Session in Belturbet, Cavan and Virginia.
2. Guest contributors to the Artist Exchanges included: Val Balance, Justine Foster, Michael Fortune and Katherine Atkinson. The curators mentored 10 individual artists. They facilitated a strategic planning day with Cavan Arts and Culture Centre Board Members at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig.
3. After receiving submissions from a number of artists Amanda Jane Graham's project 'The Pram that Helped the Rising' was selected for further support and Martin Donohoe was invited to collaborate on this project.
4. A writer witness text was commissioned as part of the project.

## **Bullock Lane Residency**

The Bullock Lane Residency took place at Townhall, Cavan for the first time. Marilyn Gaffney was the recipient of the bursary and worked on the theme of landscape and memory. Eimear Crowe completed her residency at Bullock Lane and her exhibition entitled “Drumlin Spoons” took place at Johnston Central Library. Her exhibition included work she completed with students from Breifne College Cavan.

Rita Duffy, working at Ballyconnell Courthouse was selected as one of the Arts Council 1916/ 2016 artists. Rita Duffy provided events in Blacklion and Cavan.

Linger Residency with traditional Irish dancers Breandán de Gallaí and Nick O’Connell provided local dancers an opportunity to work with these professionals. The residency enabled a number of musicians to work on an original music score with musicians: Joe Csibi, Zoey Conway, Katie O’Connor, Paula Hughes, Dr. Óscar Mascareñas Garza and Alma Kelleher.

## **The Arts Council**

The Arts Council provided funding of €45,400 to Cavan County Council to support the 2015 arts development programme.

## **Awards**

- Building Peace through the Arts was shortlisted for the Chambers Ireland Sustaining the Arts Award 2015.
- Cavan County Council Arts Office was the overall winner of Providing Services to the Arts 2015, Public Sector Magazine Award for the second year running.

## **Ramor Theatre**

The year started with the annual panto and this year’s show was “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” by Ramor Young Players. Followed by the 10th anniversary Celebrations of Livin Dred Theatre Company with a presentation of “Emerald Germs” by Pat McCabe performed by Padraic McIntyre and Aaron Monaghan.

Local drama groups presented a number of comedies and shows throughout the year among them Sillian Players Shercock with the “Lost Weekend”, Farney Players with “Wanted One Body” and Sliabh Glah with “Off the Hook”.

The theatre programme also included the wonderful story of Tom Crean Antarctic Explorer which played to a full house and the Abbey Theatre presented a production of “Maeve’s House”. Mary McEvoy and Jon Kenny proved very popular in John B. Keane’s play “Letters of a Matchmaker” as did local man Seamus O’Rourke with “Indigestion” and “Victor’s Dung The Whole Story”.

Music events and artists during the year included Jimmy Buckley, Cavan Big Band, Eleanor Shanley, Vladimir, Brendan McCahey, Cavan Sinfonia, Niamh Kavanagh and Sean Keane. New writing was a feature kicking off in May with two local writers Liz O’Hanlon and Freda Donoghue. In October local man Jimmy Fox presented his one man show “No business Like Shoe Business” which played for 6 nights.

However it was “Hero of the Half Acre” written and directed by Padraic McIntyre and produced as an in house production by the Theatre that was the real success story. Telling the story of Willie Doonan one of the great Cavan footballers who played in the polo ground in New York in 1947 it was received with great acclaim and was a resounding success.



Hero of the Half Acre

The Film Club and Book Club continue to be a regular feature at the theatre with the numbers attending both increasing. Culture Night in September has become an annual event where the community comes together to celebrate and enjoy all art forms and admission is free. It is part of a National night of arts celebration.

Children's events and engaging in an active schools programme remains a feature of the theatres work and productions for children included "Me Too" by Barnstorm, "Little Light" by Monkeyshine, "Cuckoo Connolly" by Padraic McIntyre, "Puss in Boots" by Lyngo and "The Girl who Forgot to Sing Badly" by Theatre Lovett pictured below. In 2015 in excess of 12,000 people attended the theatre.

## **Tourism**

A positive year for tourism in County Cavan with 58% of the Tourism trade reporting that 2015 was 'better' than 2014. 29% said it was 'the same' with only 13% saying it was 'worse'. The domestic (Irish) visitor is still the most important source market with the Great Britain the second most important. Angling; Visiting Friends and Family' and 'General Holidaymakers' are the three most frequent reasons given for visiting County Cavan.

## **Angling**

Angling remains the leading activity and reason given for visiting County Cavan. This is Cavan! received some funding from Fáilte Ireland for Angling Festivals under a small Festivals Grant's scheme. This money was used to promote angling festivals in the County and to promote both festivals and angling in general at the Angling Ireland Expo in the National Show Centre in Swords in February. A Small grant was given to six angling festivals in the county. New tourism information promoting 'Special Offers' for angling accommodations in Cavan was produced and distributed at the show. Two features on Angling in Cavan were included in Angling Times UK throughout 2015.

## **Promotion of County Cavan**

County Cavan was included in Manchan Magan (who reported on Cavan on Newstalk's George Hook Show); a feature in German newspaper Der Speigal; the Bristol Post; Spinal Injuries Magazine; a double page spread in the Fermanagh Herald and tourism

supplement of Celtic Media group (distributed to 6 regional newspapers within the group); a double page feature in Ireland of the Welcomes magazine; a feature by freelance journalist Deirdre Conroy in the Irish Independent.

This is Cavan! had a promotional stand at the Angling Ireland EXPO 2015, at the GAA National Congress in the Slieve Russell, at the Taste of Cavan, Virginia Show and represented Cavan at the Irish Tour Operator Workshops 2015 in Fitzpatrick's Hotel, Killiney. Also, the Tourism Officer did a half hour interview on Ocean FM on visiting County Cavan.

### **This is Cavan! - the brand**

We continued to develop and promote the use of the brand This is Cavan! A workshop with designers in local printers and signage companies was held, the purpose of which was to equip designers to further develop and embrace the brand. Twelve new and updated gateway road signs were installed at the county boundaries. New back-drops and new pop-up signage was created for events and for general promotion. Three new 3x3m banners were manufactured for use at large indoor events such as Taste of Cavan. Merchandise including This is Cavan! Tote bags, DVDS, balloons, pencils and pens were produced for distribution at shows and general enquiries. New This is Cavan! folders for press releases were also produced. This is Cavan! wallpaper branding was also placed at the entrance to Cavan Equestrian Centre.

### **This is Cavan! - online**

Online presence at [www.thisiscavan.ie](http://www.thisiscavan.ie) and receives approximately 10,000 unique hits per month. Tourism staff fully maintain and manage the website, which received a 'Best Local Authority Tourism Website' award from Public Sector Magazine 2015. We also manage This is Cavan Facebook (8,800 fans), Twitter (4,500 followers) and Pinterest platforms. Tourism staff manage and administer other council-run social media platforms such as Taste of Cavan, Cavan Walking Festival and Townhall Cavan Arts Space.

### **This is Cavan! Brochures**

The following brochures and leaflets were produced

- This is Cavan! general guide
- County Cavan visitor map
- Guide to Accessible Visitor Attractions in County Cavan
- Angler Friendly Accommodation Special Offers

### **Cavan Walking Festival**

Tourism staff undertook the promotion of the Cavan Walking Festival 2015 through extensive online promotion and the development of a facebook page which had garnered 2400 'likes' in its first year.

### **Taste of Cavan**

Surveys undertaken by This is Cavan! At the Taste of Cavan revealed that the average spend per person at the event was in excess of €40. The Taste of Cavan received significant media coverage for County Cavan as a food and tourism destination in the national media throughout July and August including mentions in the Irish Times, Sunday Business Post; Irish Independent; The Sunday Times; Farming Independent; the Sunday World; Irish Country Living; on radio by Newstalk Sean Moncrieff; Alison Curtiss on Today FM; on BBC 4 and numerous interviews and mentions on Northern Sound and publicity in the Anglo Celt.

RTE Nationwide show on County Cavan aired in late September and RTE's 'Do you need to see a doctor?' was filmed at the Taste of Cavan and was aired in Autumn 2016. This is Cavan! have compiled a comprehensive media file. The value of free publicity received for the Taste of Cavan can be valued at over €100K. This is Cavan! Set up a facebook page and twitter account for the Taste of Cavan and has managed both since inception. By end 2015, the facebook page had 4800 followers. The tourism officer is a member of the Taste of Cavan committee and also promotes Cavan at the event. This is Cavan! succeeded in obtaining a grant of €4000 from Failte Ireland for the event.

## Ireland's Ancient East



County Cavan has been included in Fáilte Ireland's new brand proposition for the Eastern half of the county: **Ireland's Ancient East**. The proposition will be heavily promoted overseas and in the domestic market and will bring many opportunities for County Cavan. The county will be included in the regional and national road signs programme for Ireland's Ancient East. Cavan County Museum and Cavan Burren Park are key sites in Ireland's Ancient East. In addition, This is Cavan! has successfully applied for €65K in funding to develop a trail, gate, entrance sign, car-park and visitor signage around the castle at Castle Saunderson.

### **Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark**

The tourism officer is a member of the Geopark Management Committee and continues to support the development of the Geopark and the significant Cavan sites within it - such as Cavan Burren Park, Tullydermot Falls, and Clogh Oughter Castle. A new suite of photography as delivered to aid promotion of the Geopark.

### **Shannon - Erne Blueway**

The Belturbet - Ballyconnell section of the Shannon - Erne Waterway was chosen by Waterways Ireland to be developed and promoted as a 'blueway' for recreational users of the waterway and surrounding area. Work took place and the Blueway is to be launched in 2016.

### **Access in Cavan**

A guide was produced for 'Accessible Tourist Attractions in County Cavan' which was distributed to all hotels and tourist information offices in the county and surrounding counties. In addition the Tourism Officer was asked to speak at the Irish Responsible

Tourism conference 2015 about the works undertaken in Cavan to make the County more accessible to people with disabilities. The contract with DisabledGo, who provide an online access audit of the county, was renewed and 15 new businesses/ locations in the county were surveyed and uploaded to DisabledGo website – where access information on over 515 businesses and public spaces in Cavan is now available.

### **Age Friendly Business Scheme**

An Age-Friendly Business Scheme workshop was co-delivered for 14 local businesses in Cavan town. We attended two Age Friendly regional meetings in Dublin and Athlone, maintained the [www.cavanagefriendly.ie](http://www.cavanagefriendly.ie) website, visited day care centres to exhibit same and provided training at Cavan Older People's Forum Annual General Meeting.

### **Trade Networking**

A networking event for the tourism trade in Cavan was held in May, with 35 members of the trade attending, networking and exchanging contact details.

### **Castle Saunderson**

€64K was successfully secured in funding under **Ireland's Ancient East** small grants scheme for the development of a car parking, gate, welcome sign, a new trail and interpretation around the Castle on the Castle Saunderson Estate.



### **Killykeen Forest Park**

A workshop was held on the future of Killykeen Forest Park. In partnership with Coillte, the objective of the workshop was to elicit the views of a select number of Coillte, Council and Community persons in regard to Killykeen. The output of the workshop was a document highlighting the potential of Killykeen and its place in the community. It was agreed that a piece of work would be undertaken to further research the views of the users of Killykeen and begin the process of developing a master plan for the park.

# Infrastructure, Housing, Fire and Emergency Services

## Roads Infrastructure

### 1. Roads Infrastructure Overview

Cavan County Council is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of all National, Regional and Local roads within the County. In total, Cavan County Council is responsible for the maintenance of in excess of 3,000km (1,880 miles) of public road annually.

#### 1.1 Cavan Road Network Classification

The total estimated value of the road network in the County is over €1.1 billion, with the Regional and Local Road network accounting for €1 billion of this total. There are a total number of 779 road bridges (span greater than 2 metres) in the county.

Category	Road Type	Length (Kilometres)
National	National Primary	62.21
	National Secondary	61.07
Non –National	Regional	399.14
	Local Primary	747.83
	Local Secondary	1315.08
	Local Tertiary	426.03
<b>Total</b>		<b>3011.36</b>

The total length of public roadway in County Cavan is 3,011km.

## 2.0 Funding

Funding for the improvement and maintenance of public roads in Cavan comes primarily from three sources. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), formerly known as NRA, provides funding for National Roads with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) providing funding for the Regional and Local Road Network. Technical and administrative backup for this funding is provided by the TII as required. Cavan County Council provides a substantial annual allocation from own resources towards the upkeep of the Local and Regional Road Network.

### 2.1 2015 Funding Allocations

The table below shows the funding allocated by each funding source for each road category.

Road Category	Funding Source	Initial Allocation
National Roads	Transport Infrastructure Ireland	€ 2,927,614
Non National Roads	Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTaS)	€ 8,452,277
Non National Roads	Cavan County Council	€ 2,400,000
		<b>€13,779,891</b>

### 2.2 Cavan County Council Contributions

The Council provided €2.4 million of its own resources towards the Maintenance and Improvement of the Non National Roads Network (Local and Regional Roads). This demonstrated the Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining its road network.

### 2.3 Additional Allocations

The Council were able to avail of additional funding from TII and DTTAS. This is primarily

due to projects being ready in advance and an emphasis on maximising income into the county for the improvement of our roads infrastructure. The table below shows the additional allocations obtained.

<b>Road Category</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Initial Allocation</b>	<b>Additional Allocations</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>
<b>National Roads</b>	National Roads Authority (NRA)	€ 2,927,614	€ 4,798,690	€ 7,726,304
<b>Non National Roads</b>	Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTaS)	€ 8,452,277	€ 950,970	€ 9,403,247
<b>Non National Roads</b>	Cavan County Council	€ 2,400,000	€ 500,000	€ 2,900,000
		<b>€13,779,891</b>	<b>€6,249,660</b>	<b>€20,029,551</b>

During 2015 Cavan County Council also provided an additional €500,000 for the maintenance and improvement of regional and local roads. This brought significant benefit to the road network

### **3.0 National Roads**

The National Primary road network consists of the N3 and N16. The N3 is the Dublin/Enniskillen/Ballyshannon Road; the N16 is the Sligo/Enniskillen Road. The National Secondary network consists of the N54 Cavan/Monaghan road between Butlersbridge and the County Boundary at Leggykelly, the N55 Cavan/Athlone road and the N87 from Staghall Roundabout, Belturbet to the Border at Swanlinbar.

### **3.1 Major Schemes**

#### **3.1.1 N3 Butlersbridge Belturbet**

Whilst this project was fully opened to the public in December 2013, works are on-going in relation to accommodation works for landowners. The arbitration process to deal with contractual disputes that arose on the main construction contract was also progressed. Extradosed Type Bridge over the River Erne.

#### **3.1.2 N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon**

This 3km realignment of the N55 to the south of Ballinagh progressed rapidly during 2015. Route Selection and Part 8 Planning were completed on Phase 1 (Garrymore to Potahee) and Phase 2 (Corduff to Ballytrust).

The Compulsory Purchased Order was lodged with An Bord Pleanála on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Following its approval the CPO was confirmed by Cavan County Council and became operative on the 12 June 2015. Cavan County Council subsequently appointed Designers Roughan and O'Donovan Ltd. / AECOM Ltd JV to carry out the Detailed Design for Phases 1 and 2.

#### **3.1.3 N55 Dundavan Mullaghoran**

This scheme was substantially completed in 2013. During 2015 some works continued in relation to minor accommodation works for landowners and some additional road safety improvement works on N55 Dundavan Mullaghoran project.

### **3.2 National Road Safety Schemes**

Planning and design work progressed on the N3 Virginia Main Street Scheme with the main focus being at the Bailieboro Road junction. The construction stage will take place during 2016. Safety improvement works were also designed and constructed at the junction of the N87/L1037 in the village of Bawnboy.

### **3.3 National Road Bridge Projects**

Following a design and procurement process Cavan County Council received an increased allocation of €2,138,390 from the TII for the repair and rehabilitation works on ten national road bridges in the County. These are Beaghy Bridge, Billis Bridge and Virginia Bridge on the N3 and Cranaghan Bridge, Doon Bridge, Derryginny Bridge, Killycrin Bridge, Borim Bridge, Cladagh Bridge and Drumconra Bridge on the N87. The works on these bridges will take place during 2016.

### **3.4 National Road Pavement Overlays Schemes**

The following HD 28 Pavement Renewals 2015 and Minor Pavement Improvement Works were completed in 2015, including resurfacing:

- 4km of the N3 National Primary Road at Drummanbane and Drummallaght.
- 1.4km of the N3 National Primary Road at Edenburt and Lisduff
- 1.6km of the N3 National Primary Road at Deerpark and Ballaghanea

The value of these works is €1,381,000. New surfacing works on the N3 at Lisduff.

## **3.0 Regional and Local Roads**

### **3.1 2015 Road Works Programme**

A total grant of €8,452,277 was allocated to Cavan County Council at the start of 2015 for the improvement and maintenance of Regional and Local Roads in the county. Based on this allocation a Roads Works Programme (RWP) for 2015 for the Regional and Local Roads was presented at the March Council Meeting and was subsequently adopted.

Works generally consist of drainage improvement, strengthening with granular and macadam materials and surface dressing. The 2015 RWP was delivered through the three Municipal Districts.

### **3.2 Regional and Local Road Safety Schemes**

€188,400 was assigned to 7 No. Low Cost Safety Schemes for 2015. These schemes are located in Ballyhaise, Crosserlough, Maghera, Mullagh, Sallaghan, Bailieborough and the Virginia Bailieborough Road.

### **3.3 Regional and Local Road Bridge Projects**

Cavan County Council received €220,000 in DTTAS Grant Allocations for the rehabilitation of six Regional and Local Road Bridges for 2015. The works were carried out at Ballanacargy Bridge, Claudia Bridge, Cullies Bridge, Dunacory Bridge, Killinkere Bridge and Vicars Bridge. An additional €180,000 has been allocated from own resources in the Road Works Programme 2015 for Bridge Maintenance.

At the end of June the R165 Edergole Bridge was identified as requiring urgent deck replacement. This additional work was designed, procured and construction completed by 1st October. Also the R191 River Wall at Latsey Bridge, Canningstown was identified as requiring urgent rehabilitation works. These works were completed before the end of 2015. These two additional projects were funded to the value of €175,000 by DTTAS.

### **3.4 Community Involvement Schemes**

Cavan County Council Roads and Transport Department continues to focus on Community Involvement in the improvement of Local Roads. In 2015, 3 Community Involvement Schemes were funded out of the Council's Restoration Improvement Grant, with the applicants providing 20% of the cost of the works. These schemes were located at;

- Cordevlis, Billis
- Raheg, Ballyhaise
- Drumhirk, Stradone

## **4.0 Road Maintenance**

Ongoing maintenance of the road network is critical in maintaining the investment of improvement works of previous years. The table below shows the value of maintenance works carried out per year on each road type.

#### **4.1 National Road Maintenance**

The Council has received €560,563 in funding for maintenance of the national primary and secondary network in Cavan under the Winter Maintenance, Route Lighting and Ordinary Maintenance programmes.

#### **4.2 Regional and Local Road Maintenance**

The DTTAS provided an allocation in the form of a Discretionary Grant specifically for the maintenance of the Regional and Local Road network. Cavan County Council provided an additional €1.380m from its own resources for the same purpose. The principle maintenance operations include drainage and surface repair work.

#### **4.3 Winter Maintenance**

Cavan County Council treats a designated 530km of the Road network as part of its Winter Maintenance Service. A Severe Weather Plan and a map of the salting routes are posted on the Council's Website for public viewing. The National Road Network is prioritised as it carries the greatest volume of traffic.

Winter Maintenance is carried out as a pre-treatment on the basis of forecast conditions. The Council has invested in new Winter Maintenance equipment, including new large salt spreaders, which pre-wets the salt with brine, for faster de-icing action and more effective treatment allowing for cost savings in the volume of salt applied.

#### **5.0 Public Lighting**

The Council provides and maintains Public Lighting to a total of 29 towns and villages. Throughout the year the Council has upgraded sections of the lighting infrastructure within each of the three Municipal Districts, including the use of LED technology which reduces the energy and maintenance costs. The Council has taken responsibility for the

maintenance and operation of public lighting in 27 housing estates in 2015.

SSE Airtricity Utility Solutions Ltd is the Council's Maintenance Contractor for public lighting and Energia provide the supply of unmetered electricity.

## **6.0 Smarter Travel**

### **6.1 Active Travel Towns 2014-2016**

Cavan County Council secured an allocation of €500,000 for the partial implementation of Phase 2 the Cavan Town and Environs Walking and Cycling Strategy. This allocation from the DTTAS has been provided for the provision and upgrade of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure in Cavan Town.

The planning and design work is well advanced on all elements of the project with works at the site at St Clares junction complete. The upgrade of the Cootehill Road is the main focus for 2016. New layout at St. Clare's Junction, Cavan Town

### **6.2 Cavan Leitrim Railway Greenway**

Cavan and Leitrim Local authorities are working in partnership on the development of this Greenway project. This 54km Greenway development that plans to utilise the old railway that ran from Belturbet in County Cavan through Tomkin Road, Ballyconnell, Ballyheady, Templeport, Killyran, Garadice, Ballinamore, Lawderdale, Fenagh, Adoon, Rosharry, Mohill and Dereen to Dromod in County Leitrim.

Cavan County Council as the lead authority, following a procurement process, has appointed Roughan and O'Donovan Consulting Engineers to prepare a detailed Preliminary Design and to carry out AA Screening and EIA Screening for the project. Their brief also incorporates Specialist Services including Environmental, Structural, Archaeological, Geological, Geotechnical, Electrical, Mechanical, Civil Engineering and Quantity Surveying.

This Greenway Project is being developed in conjunction with the local community groups and development associations along the proposed route.

### **6.3 Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railway Greenway**

Cavan County Council, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and with Leitrim County Council as Lead Authority, and in conjunction with the Sligo Leitrim and Northern Counties Rail Trail Group plan to develop a Greenway by converting the old railway line from Manorhamilton to Enniskillen via Blacklion into a sustainable Multi Use trail to accommodate walkers, cyclist, horse riders and mobility challenged.

This project is currently at preliminary design stage with consultation taking place with affected landowners to finalise the route and associated works. It is envisaged that this project will have significant social, recreational and economic benefits, in particular significantly enhancing Tourism and the Promotion of the Region

### **7.0 Road Safety**

The Cavan Road Safety Working Together Group was established in July. It is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary group of professionals from all the relevant public sector organisations that deal with the consequences of road traffic collisions on a day and daily basis. The mission of this Group is: **“Working together to implement a Road Safety Plan to make Cavan’s roads safer.”**

The committee is comprised of the following members:

David Farrelly, Road Safety Officer, Cavan County Council

Gerry Corrigan, Road Safety Engineer, Cavan County Council

Brendan Jennings, Senior Engineer, Cavan County Council

John Wilson, Manager, Road Design Office, Cavan County Council

Martin Trainor, Senior Asstistant, Chief Fire Officer, Fire Service, Cavan County Council

Michael Mussi, Manager, Roads Office, Cavan County Council

Damien McCormack, Road Safety Engineer, North Region, Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Harry Cullen, Head of Road and Tunnel Safety, Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Seamus Boyle, Inspector, An Garda Síochána

Emma Clerkin, Road Safety Promotion Officer, Road Safety Authority

Vincent Duffy, Operations Resource Manager, Health Service Executive Ambulance Service

Ciaran Maguire, Senior Executive Officer, Health Service Executive

There continues to be an increased focus on safety for road users and pedestrians. Locations that have been identified as particular accident black spots are addressed through Low-Cost Safety Schemes. Cavan County Council aims to reduce road collisions based on Education, Enforcement measures and Engineering. These are carried out in line with the National Road Safety Authority Strategy.

1. Education: Road Safety Officer Promotes Road Safety to the General Public, as well as providing Road Safety Awareness in Schools
2. Enforcement: Collision Prevention Programme: Road Engineers work alongside the Gardai. Traffic Bye-Laws are enforced by our Traffic Wardens.
3. Engineering: Our Road Engineering team design and implement Low Cost Safety Schemes and Traffic Calming Measures

Road Safety Roadshow delivered to secondary schools students in conjunction with AXA.

## **8.0 Strategic Policy Committees**

One of the main objectives of Better Local Government was to enhance Local Democracy. As a result Strategic Policy Committees were set up. These provide a new forum for Elected Representatives of the Council and Representatives of Community and State Organisations to work together to develop new policies and review old ones. Each Committee is chaired by a Member of the Council and is serviced by a Director of

Services.

The Strategic Policy Committee members are listed on page 10. One of the main objectives of Better Local Government was to enhance Local Democracy. As a result Strategic Policy Committees were set up. These provide a new forum for Elected Representatives of the Council and Representatives of Community and State Organisations to work together to develop new policies and review old ones. Each Committee is chaired by a Member of the Council and is serviced by a Director of Services.

3 Meetings took place and the following topics were discussed and progressed:

- 2015 Roadworks Programme
- Greenways
- Fleet Management System
- Pavement Management System
- Road Safety Strategy
- TII Funding
- Commercial Vehicle Roadworthiness Reform
- Public Lighting and Winter Maintenance.

## **9.0 Implementation of Regulatory Responsibilities**

Parking Bye-Laws are in force in Bailieborough, Ballyconnell, Belturbet, Cootehill and Virginia. With the exception of those for Ballyconnell the Bye-Laws set time limits for parking in the commercial centre of each town in order to facilitate commercial activity. Temporary Speed Limits are put in place at various locations to accommodate the roadworks programme. This is to ensure road safety for the duration of the works.

## **10.0 Performance Indicators**

The maximum use of resources is of major importance to the Road and Transportation Department. Objective assessment of trends can be made through the use of Service Indicators. The Service Indicators for Non National Roads:

<b>Number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum</b>	<b>Km</b>
Local Roads	217.80
Regional Roads	39.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>257.58</b>
<b>Number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the Specific Improvement Grants Scheme per annum</b>	<b>Km</b>
Local Roads (Km) *	0.00
Regional Roads (km)**	2.42
<b>Total (Km)</b>	<b>2.42</b>

## Housing

The policy of the Housing Department is to ensure that every household can obtain an affordable dwelling of good quality, suited to its needs, in a good environment, at a price or rent it can afford.

- Provides Housing for those with a long term housing need
- Manages and maintains Housing provided by the Council and encourages tenant involvement
- Helps persons to secure their own housing through the provision of loans
- Provides housing for Travellers
- Processes applications for Grants for Housing Aid for Older People and those with a Disability
- Meets the long term accommodation needs of long term rent supplement recipients through the Rental Accommodation Scheme

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Number of House Lettings	115	160	162
Number of Extensions Completed	0	0	1
Number completed under Scheme of Improvements	0	0	0
Number of Sales completed	5	4	0
Number of Applications to purchase dwellings under Tenant Purchase Scheme	1	1	0

### **Strategic Policy Committees**

The Strategic Policy Committee members are listed on pages 10. Four meetings took place.

### **Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee**

Under Section 21 and 22 of the 1998 Act, Cavan County Council established the Cavan Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee to facilitate consultation between the Housing Authorities and Travellers and to advise on all aspects of accommodation for Travellers. Four meetings of the committee were held and the following topics were discussed

- Terms of Reference
- Energy Retrofit Programme
- Provision of Barriers at Townparks, Cavan
- Involvement of Voluntary Housing Agencies
- Procedures for appointment of replacement Traveller Representative
- 2014 -2018 Traveller Accommodation Programme and Targets
- Incremental Purchase Scheme

- Community Fire Safety
- Communications

#### Membership of the committee:

**Elected Members:** Councillor (Cllr) Eugene Greenan (Chairperson), Cllr Damien Brady, Cllr John Paul Feeley and Cllr Paddy Smith.

**Traveller Representatives:** Teresa Mongan, Thomas Maughan, Bernard Joyce, Michael McDonagh and Mary Stokes.

**Council Officials:** Joe McLoughlin, Director of Service, Philip Coleman, Senior Engineer Orla Brady Administrative Officer, and Emer Coveney, Community and Enterprise.

#### Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018

The target for accommodation in 2015, set out in the 2014-2018 Traveller Accommodation Programme, was 10 and accommodation was provided as follows

- 6 Social Houses
- 4 Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

#### Housing Grants

- **Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability Scheme:** this assists with the provision/adaptation of accommodation to meet the needs of people with a disability.
- **Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme:** assists with adaptations to address mobility problems primarily associated with ageing.
- **Housing Aid for Older People Scheme:** provides targeted support to improve conditions in the existing housing of older people.

Expenditure was **€1,221,821**

Grant	Number	Amount
Housing Adaptation Grant for people with a Disability	33	€473,655

Housing Aid for Older People Scheme	83	€477,472
Mobility Aids Grant Scheme	49	€270,694

### Housing Estate Management

The Housing Department works in partnership with its tenants, through its Housing Liaison Officer (HLO). Residents of local authority estates are encouraged to play an active role in community life, by working together with neighbours and by joining their residents association.

There are now 77 formally registered active estate groups in social housing areas across county Cavan. They work in partnership with the council, in order to care for and maintain public spaces and they work as volunteers to improve the appearance of their locality.

The Housing Department provides grant support to all of these residents' groups and invites them to enter an annual Estate Awards Competition.

An Estate Awards Night for residents groups was held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015, at the Council Chamber in Cavan. Chairman, Councillor Paddy Smith, made presentations to prize winners, under various categories.

The prize categories were: Best Estate, Best Individual House and Garden, Best Youth Group, Best Upcycling Award and Best Special Feature. Litter Free Awards were also presented to a number of estates.



## **Cavan County Council Estate Awards Winners**

Cavan and Belturbet Municipal District

**Best Estate Category A:** 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: St Patrick's Terrace, Cavan and 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Sean Lee Drive, Belturbet

**Best Estate Category B:** 1st Prize: The Steeples, Cavan Town and 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Loughview, Cavan Town

**Best Estate Special Feature:** Winner: Drumgola Woods, Cavan Town – 'Lake View'

**Most Improved Estate:** Winner: O'Raghallaigh Park, Cavan Town, Bailieborough and Cootehill Municipal District

**Best Estate Category A:** 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Lodge View, Cootehill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Lisanisky, Kingscourt

**Best Estate Category B:** 1st Prize: Fairymount, Kingscourt and 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Drumbannon, Bailieborough

**Best Estate Special Feature:** Winner: Twin Oaks, Bailieborough 'Estate Signage'

**Most Improved Estate:** Winner: Cabra View, Kingscourt, Ballyjamesduff Municipal District

**Best Estate Category A:** 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Rathdrum, Virginia and 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Kilmore, Ballyjamesduff

**Best Estate Category B:** 1st Prize: Marian Row, Ballinagh and 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Lochview, Gowna

**Best Estate Special Feature:** Winner: Ardkill, Ballinagh – 'Flower Beds'

**Most Improved Estate:** Winner: Rosehill, Mullagh

**Overall Winners:** Shane Donnelly Perpetual Shield and Winner Rathdrum, Virginia

**Litter Free Status:** The Steeples, Cavan Town; Sean Bothar, Cavan Town; Loughview, Gowna; Cloneary, Templeport; Portaliffe, Killeshandra.

**Best Individual House and Garden:** Winner Michael and Pauline McDonagh, Doonbeg, Ballyconnell

**Best Youth Group:** Winner Cluain Dara, Kingscourt 'Spring Clean Crew'

**Best Upcycling Award:** Winner Rathrdum, Virginia 'The Minions'



### **Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)**

RAS provides housing for long-term rent supplement recipients (18 months plus) through the sourcing by the housing authority of accommodation from the private rented market or through other social housing measures.

The council leases the property directly from the landlord and the tenants pay their rent contribution to the Council. The scheme makes provision for the recoupment of the Rent Supplement from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. By year end there were 63 RAS tenants accommodated in voluntary housing and 499 in private rented accommodation.

### **Social Leasing Initiatives**

This initiative represents an expansion of the options available to Local Authorities for the delivery of social housing. Properties are leased from the private sector and used to

accommodate households from Local Authority waiting lists. Leased properties are allocated to tenants in accordance with the Local Authorities allocations schemes. In addition to the RAS this initiative facilitates the housing options for Local Authority applicants. By the year end there were 15 Lease tenants accommodated in private rented accommodation.

### **Housing Construction**

The 2015 Capital Allocation for Housing Construction was €3,478,333. Allocated as follows:

i. Housing Construction/Acquisition Programme	€1,420,193
ii. Voluntary CLSS and CAS	€ 901,798
iii. Energy Retrofit Programme	€ 775,875
iv. Voids Programme	€ 307,018
v. DPG's/Extensions	<u>€ 73,449</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>€3,478,333</b>

### **Social Housing**

The following works were carried out in 2015 under the SHIP Programme

- Construction of 6 no. units at Rosehill Mullagh.
- 14 units were purchased at various locations
- €1.78 million was secured to provide 14 new social housing units in Butlersbridge and Ballyhaise.

### **Energy Retrofit Programme**

2015 energy upgrade works were completed on 534 no. units at various locations throughout the county. The scheme included for the following works;

- Attic and Wall Insulation
- Draught Proofing
- BER Certification

## **Voids**

Works have been completed on 29 units under the 2015 Voids Programme.

## **Voluntary Housing**

Under the Voluntary Housing Capital Assistance Scheme €901,798 was allocated for the provision of 14 units in Cavan Town.

Negotiations are ongoing with the relevant Voluntary Bodies and DEHLG.



## **Fire Service**

Cavan County Council currently employs 90 retained Firefighters in 10 fire stations. During the year 2 Firefighters retired and 11 new personnel were recruited and trained. The Council is striving towards bringing the full compliment to 94. 585 responses to 506 incidents and attended one Fatality as a result of fire. The average time taken to mobilise the fire brigades in the County was 6.18 minutes to fires and 5.80 minutes to other type incidents. €163,917.64 received in fire service fees.

## **Capital Programme**

The Minister for Housing, Planning and Co-ordination of Construction 2020, Mr. Paudie Coffey T.D., communicated that it had been proposed to engage with a number of local authorities, including Cavan County Council, to reappraise their requirements and ascertain if a number of proposed projects, including Virginia, can be progressed through the pre-tender stages with a view to forming the basis for future capital expenditure programmes.

## Fire Service Call Outs

Type of Call / Number Callouts	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Chimney Fires in Houses	61	51	49	64	40	45
Other Domestic Building Fires	43	25	37	36	40	60
Other Fires	61	43	24	37	35	28
Bog/Forest Fires	112	63	16	38	12	17
Motor Vehicle Fires	34	28	18	23	25	28
Road Traffic Accidents	85	62	57	55	82	73
Flooding	20	22	15	8	15	16
Chemical Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Services	154	199	191	194	147	218
False Alarm (Good Intent)	59	33	33	20	19	18
False Alarm (Malicious)	9	3	16	4	1	3
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>506</b>

### National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management

The Keeping Communities Safe Framework Document provided for the establishment of the External Validation Group (EVG) to assist the National Directorate in its mandate of developing consistent and effective fire services. The Group visited Cavan Fire Service on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and reviewed the service. Positive verbal feedback was given to the Fire Service and the Chief Executive at the end of the day. A final report has yet to be issued.

### Major Emergency Planning

With the appointment of a new Chief Executive during the course of the year and the level

of staff turnover since the issue of the previous version of the major emergency plan in 2012 it was considered appropriate to review the entire document. A review of the document was carried out and the updated version of the plan shall be prepared for publication in early 2016.

Work has been progressing with the cross border emergency management working group to forge closer working relationships between emergency response services both north and south of the border.

### **Training**

2015 was a particularly busy year for Cavan County Fire Service in relation to the high level and quality of training delivered to Fire service Personnel due to the significant intake of new recruits and expanding scope of incidents that Fire Services are being expected to deal with.

In April the Fire Officers in the County and most of the Driver mechanics attended one of two, 3 day Incident Command and Control Training Courses ran in conjunction with Monaghan County Fire Service aimed at further enhancing command and control procedures at emergency incidents and safe systems of work. Also in April 43 no Firefighters from Cavan County Fire Service attended one of 3 No. one day refresher training courses on the National Incident Command system held at Cavan Fire Station.

41 Firefighters attended two day breathing apparatus refresher training courses in Clonmel during the month of May where their continued competence to undertake the role of a Breathing Apparatus Wearer was assessed with well defined procedures and performance criteria.

Two Road Traffic Collision (RTC) Courses held over three days each, in June, was delivered to all the Firefighters who did not get the opportunity to attend the Cross Border Road Traffic Collision training courses delivered over the previous two years in conjunction with Northern Ireland Fire Service and other Fire Authorities along the Border.

Two days of Firefighter recruitment selection tests and activities was undertaken at Cavan Fire Station as part of the applicant selection process at the start of June. Following the completion of the interview stage of the selection process in July 12 new Recruits from nine of the stations in the County subsequently attended a three week recruit course at Cavan Fire Station during August. The recruits progressed on to complete a two week Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearer's Course in Clonmel Fire Service Training Centre organised and assessed by Cavan County Fire Service Instructors during October.



New Fire Recruits

5 two day Chainsaw Operator Refresher Training Courses took place in October with 19 Firefighters from across the ten Fire Stations obtaining recertification.

An initial compartment Fire Behaviour training course lasting 3 days was held for the new recruits in Ballinrobe Fire Service Training Centre. This Course was run by Cavan County Fire Service Instructors during November following the completion of 4 one day refresher courses attended by 32 experienced firefighters from around the County

Throughout the year, 14 Cavan County Fire Service personnel attended dedicated advanced driver training and assessment courses as part of the on-going initial and refresher training programme to further enhance the competency and safe driving focus of Cavan County Fire Service.

A Junior Officer completed a two week Sub-Officer Officer's Course in Bray Fire Station and a Senior Officer Completed an Instructor course on the use of Compressed Air and Foam Systems (CAFS) for firefighting.

In additional to the above block training courses each of the 10 fire Brigades in the County undertake training at local station level in accordance with the detailed quarterly training night schedules in order to maintain and enhance their skills and competencies. Over the course of the year each station completed 32 training nights each lasting for a period of 2 hours and fifteen minutes.

### **Fire Prevention**

A continuing programme of fire prevention and media campaigns were carried out to improve fire safety of buildings throughout the County and the education of the public in fire prevention. The fire service endeavours to visit third class in every primary school in the county each year and almost eighty schools were visited and safety packs were given out to every student in the classes visited on the day.

169 inspections were carried out under the Fire services Act in 2015 and two notices were served. Three Retail and Private Petroleum Store licences were issued in 2015. 52 Fire Safety Certificates were received, 53 Granted and 1 invalidated. Fees for Fire Safety Certificates totalling €73,431.73 were received for the year

A review of fire safety in Traveller accommodation was initiated as result of the tragedy which occurred on the 10<sup>th</sup> October in Carrickmines, Dublin. The initiative was led at local level by the Chief Fire Officer. The Fire service carried out an inspection at St Francis's site, Townspark, Cavan and a Pre-fire plan was completed. A Meeting took place in

December with the Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

### **Health and Safety**

On average two Pre fire planning inspections are being carried out per station. A draft accident, dangerous occurrence and near miss reporting and investigation manual and associated report forms have been drafted and are being reviewed as part of the health and safety management system.

A safety manual based on the provisions contained in the OHSAS 18001 standard for occupational health and safety management systems was signed off by the Chief Executive, Director of Service and Chief Fire Officer in June.

### **Cavan County Civil Defence**

Civil Defence had 168 duties which included the provision of transport for the Public Health Nurse, Home Help and the Public during the severe weather and the Flooding, a week long missing person search, the McKenna Cup, league and Championship matches in Breffini Park, and various community events.

Civil Defence held a large search and rescue exercise on the 7<sup>th</sup> June on Brackley Lake and its environs involving 68 Volunteers, all of its equipment and vehicles and a boat crew from Roscommon Civil Defence. The disciplines covered in the exercise included Communication and Control, Casualty Care, water and land based search and search management, Welfare and the setting up of a Command Point.

Volunteers also took part in a National Radiation Exercise on the weekend in November to assess the radiation monitoring service, the text alert system and the tetra radio communications system.



**Brackley Lake Exercise**

During Storm Desmond in December Civil Defence evacuated two Families from Eonish and assisted the Council in providing transport for Residents from Innish Connell, Drumard and Derries. Civil Defence also provided transport earlier in the year in West Cavan for the Public Health Nurse during the snow.



Civil Defence held 13. first aid classes in 11 Centres around the County each week during the year. 1 Auxiliary Fire Service Class each week and 2 Boat classes each month were also held during the year. In addition to the classes some Volunteers attended driver training (12), Emergency First Responder (5), Radio Procedures, Land Based Searching, Food Safety and You, Heights Rescue Supervisor (3), EMT CPC (13), and Vehicle Walk-around (25) training.

Cavan Civil Defence adopted a new Health and safety Ancillary Statement. A Driver Walk-around Checklist for all the vehicles was also adopted at the end of the year.

Members join a national Civil Defence organisation but they serve in their local community. The Local Authority is responsible for delivering Civil Defence services at a local level through the Civil Defence Officer and the Assistant Civil Defence Officer.

# **Planning/Economic Development, Water Services, Waste and Environment**

## **Planning, Economic Development**

The Planning Department is responsible for implementing the Planning and Development Acts 2000 as amended and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended. The work of the Planning Department covers four main areas:

- Forward Planning
- Development Management and other Statutory Functions
- Derelict sites & Dangerous Structures
- Taking in Charge of housing estates
- Unfinished Estates
- Development contributions and Bonds
- Building Control
- Development Compliance/Enforcement:
- Heritage

### **Forward Planning**

Both the Cavan County Development Plan 2014 -2020 The Cavan Town & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 came into effect in June 2014. During 2015 the forward planning team procured the services of retail specialists to carry out a comprehensive Retail Strategy for County Cavan. This was identified as an objective in the County Development Plan to be carried out during the lifetime of the plan.

Ongoing implementation and monitoring work of the objectives of the Cavan County Development Plan and Cavan Town and Environs Development Plan was undertaken. This included collation of information on the number and trends of rural housing and

urban housing within the county. The forward planning team also collaborated with Community and Enterprise Section for the production of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Appropriate Assessment for the Local Economic and Community Plan. The forward planning.

### **Development Management and other Statutory Functions**

The section received 519 planning applications in 2015- an increase of 56% on the number received in 2014. The majority of applications related to smaller developments such as: single dwellings, extensions to existing dwellings, domestic garages and retention of existing works. There were a number of applications for the upgrading and extension to existing commercial; light industrial and retail developments within the County.

There is a decrease in the number of applications for Extension of Duration of Time for planning applications in 2015. There were 30 EOT applications received in 2015. This reflects the decrease in planning applications in the 2009/2010 period. 98% of decisions made in 2015 were grants.

### **Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures**

The 2015 register has identified 40 derelict Sites at the end of December 2015.

### **Taking In Charge**

A review of the taking in Charge policy document was undertaken in 2015 to take account of changes in building control legislation and the introduction of the memorandum of understanding with Irish Water. The document now outlines the steps required when applying to have an estate considered for taking in charge. To date, 12 number housing developments have being taken in charge. An additional 8 developments have being brought up to a standard acceptable for taking in charge under the Special Resolution Funds project. 29 estates have applied to be taken in charge and their applications are now being processed. No estates were taken in charge.

## **Unfinished Housing Estates**

The number of unfinished estates in Cavan decreased from 147 in 2010 to 33 by December 2015. This equates to a reduction of 22.5%. The Building control team continues to work closely with various stakeholders including residents, developers, and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government to ensure that unfinished estates are brought up to an acceptable standard. Once this is achieved, the estate can then apply for Taking in Charge.

## **Development Contributions**

This 2013 Development Contribution scheme was operational in 2015 and this contribution is attached to applications granted in the County and in accordance with the adopted scheme. A number of exemptions and reductions are also available. A total of €994,914.69 (net) was collected in development contributions.

The Development Contribution Team continue to pursue outstanding development contributions by issuing invoices as commencement notices are lodged and following up on existing accounts to ensure payments are being made. Permissions granted since 2004 where no commencement notices have been lodged are also being checked to establish if development has taken place and payment of development contribution is being sought where appropriate.

## **Building Control**

May 2014 saw the introduction of the Building Control Management System or BCMS. This is an online system for registering and managing all building applications.

The Building control department offer advice and guidance to agents and users of the system as well as conducting site inspections to ensure compliance and accuracy of information submitted.

The Planning Section, Building Compliance, Enforcement and Building Control Section

continue to regularly monitor and inspect developments to ensure that buildings are constructed in accordance with the relevant Planning Conditions and Building Regulations.

### **Development Compliance/Enforcement**

The Enforcement Section dealt with 65 cases which were subject to complaints. 20 of these cases were resolved through negotiations or through development being deemed exempted development. In 2015, 22 enforcement procedures were taken through the issuing of Warning Notices and 2 enforcement procedures were taken through the issuing of an Enforcement Notices. 11 cases have been or are in the process of applying for retention planning permission. No prosecutions were taken.

### **Heritage**

Another busy year for the Heritage Office. The Heritage Office received approximately €28,000 from the Heritage Council, Kilkenny to implement Heritage Plan Projects as detailed below:

#### **Feasibility Study for the Provision of a Walking Trail to Cuilcagh Mountain in Northwest Cavan:**

There are a number of well-utilised unofficial trails to the summit of Cuilcagh Mountain in County Cavan. None of these trails are approved and promoted by a statutory authority. In the tender document consultants were asked to present a report assessing and recommending trail options, design of the trails, specification and bill of quantities to provide the basis for possible path construction and implementation.

#### **The Black Pig's Dyke**

This is a joint County Heritage Plan Project between Cavan, Leitrim, Longford, Monaghan and Roscommon Heritage Offices. Phase II commenced in 2015 to establish chronology of the earthworks associated with the Black Pigs Dyke and to raise awareness of the research findings to date.

## **Cavan Golden Way**

Another very successful year for Cavan Golden Way and with the number of communities participating in the Golden Way growing. Mentors were appointed to work with participating groups and these successfully developed Heritage inventories and identified areas along the Golden Ways, where aspects of heritage could be improved and developed.

## **Abbeylands, Public Realm Study**

The ambition of this plan is to integrate this special place into the daily life and urban fabric of Cavan Town, while preserving its substantial historical significance. The site of Abbeylands is vitally important in terms of Cavan Town. The open space of Abbeylands is a green heaven within the tight urban fabric of Cavan Town, offering habitat for wildlife as well as a welcoming calm area for visitors and local people. Cavan town's oldest heritage is located here, both in the fabric of the buildings, graves and walls which evoke stories of the past.

## **Planning Strategic Policy Committee**

The Strategic Policy Committee members are listed on page 10. The Environment and Planning SPC met on 4 occasions. Two of the meetings included planning presentations and updates which included

- Update from Forward Planning Section
- Retail Strategy
- Flood Risk Assessment
- Review of Bio-Diversity and County Heritage Plan
- Unfinished Estates
- Age Friendly Strategy and Impact on Planning

## **Water Services**

The transition to Irish Water has continued throughout 2015. Cavan County Council Water Services Section has risen to the challenges of our new operating environment. Cavan is to the forefront of shaping and delivering an operating framework to ensure a modern

efficient infrastructure is in place to avail of any opportunities presented by an economic upturn.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 delivery of water and wastewater services became the responsibility of Irish Water. We have come to the end of Year 2 of a 12 year Service Level Agreement (SLA) in place for the delivery of the services.

Water is considered a 'social good' and activities related to water services support the three aspects (economic, social and environmental) of sustainable development. The objectives of the section working on behalf of Irish Water are to:

- provide an adequate water supply of sustainable quality for domestic, industrial, agricultural and other users.
- provide sewerage facilities for the safe and adequate disposal of sewage and other waterborne wastes.
- provide the infrastructure to support the above objectives.
- provide an efficient and responsive service to customers at all times.
- plan for future growth and development.
- deliver all of the above at the most economic cost and minimum charge to customers.

There are 17 Public Water Schemes in the County of which 8 are being supplied by private Group Water Schemes. There are 26 public wastewater treatment plants in the County.

### **Performance Indicators**

Testing of all Public Water supplies and effluent discharges from wastewater plants is undertaken by the Council's own accredited laboratory.

Performance indicators for the section relate to compliance with the Drinking Water Regulations 2007.

The following are the compliance figures for the Public Schemes.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Compliance</b>	97.8%	98.4%	98.8%	99.1%	98.4%	98.5%	99.1%	99.4

Unaccounted for Water (UFW) is currently under 35%

## Major Capital Works Projects

### Gate 1 Projects

- Cavan WWT networks Contract D
- Ballinagh / Ballyhaise / Buttlersbridge
- Wastewater pumping to Cavan town
- Water supply from Cavan to Ballyhaise

### Gate 2 Projects

- Upgrade of the Belturbet and Swanlinbar Water treatment facilities
  - Belturbet, new raw water source and plant upgrade
  - Swanlinbar, new raw water source
- Consultant appointed and currently investigating potential new water sources and upgrades to the water treatment plant.

Consultants report should be completed by 1 March 2017. Upgrade of the Kingscourt Water treatment facility to produce 1000m<sup>3</sup>/day.

- 10001740 Kingscourt WT Plant upgrade retender
- Tender date 1 November 2015
- Contract signing 1 June 2016
- Construction start 1 August 2016

### Gate 3 projects

Replacement of 60% of the sewer network in Cavan Town including 5 Pumping Stations

- 10001032 Cavan WWT Network upgrade

Programme completion	31 April 2016
Progress to date	95% complete
Contractor	P&S Civil Works
Site returned to LA	31 April 2016
Total Cost	€ 9,494,486.94

Construction of a new wastewater treatment facility to treat 38,000 PE.

- 10001741 Cavan WWT Plant Upgrade

Programme completion	30 September 2015
Progress to date	100% complete
Contractor	Glan Agua Ltd
Site returned to LA	30 September 2016
Total cost	€ 13,794,136.53

Supply new raw water source for treatment at Kingscourt water treatment plant.

- 10001040 Kingscourt WT Borehole contract

Programme completion	30 November 2014
Progress to date	100% complete
Contractor	Briody Drilling
Site returned to LA	18 January 2015
Total Cost	€ 331,350.03

Upgrade the existing production of the Cavan Knockataggart water treatment plant from 4000 to 5250 m<sup>3</sup>/day

- 10001131 Cavan WT Knockataggert plant upgrade
 

Programme completion	27 September 2015
Progress to date	100% complete
Contractor	Glan Agua Ltd
Site returned to LA	27 September 2015
Total Cost	€ 1,985,655.31
Extension to complete	1 July 2016
Chemical upgrades	

Installation of 4000m of raw water rising main to supply raw water for treatment at Kingscourt

- 10001045 Kingscourt WT Rising mains

Programme completion	15 December 2015
Progress to date	95% complete
Contractor	P&S Ltd
Site returned to LA	15 December 2015
Total Cost	€ 1,985,655.31

### **Group Water Schemes**

Cavan County Council is responsible for administration of grants for Group Water and Sewerage Schemes under the Rural Water Programme in Cavan. In Cavan over €91 million has been expended under the programme up to the end of 2015 since administration was devolved to Local Authorities in 1997. The strides in recent years in the Rural Water Programme continued to grow apace with an initial allocated budget of €300,000.00. The spirit of partnership between the various stakeholders in Rural Water which had been fostered under the stewardship of Cavan County Council continued to reap dividends.

## **Water Conservation/Upgrades**

The Rural Water Programme in Cavan continued to upgrade the network in order to meet the stringent drinking water parameters set under the EU drinking regulations in 2015. The overall spend on this measure was €496,668.65. The Group Water Schemes funded in this category were Cliffernagh, Erne Valley, Kildallan, Glangevlin, Mountainlodge, Dernakesh, Bunnoe, Barraghy/Farmoyle, Corlough, Drumkeery, Doobally, CMM, Crosserlough, Poles, Gowlan, Kilsherdany and Dhuish.

The works involved a mixture of bulk meter replacements allied to upgrade of telemetry systems plus reservoir refurbishments to assist in Water Conservation measures. Towards the end of November Cavan County Council received an extra allocation of €196,668.65 under this measure and the funding was fully utilised for the schemes that required it.

## **Group Sewerage Schemes**

Substantial work was completed on the new wastewater network at Stradone, Cavan. Grant aid of €204,725.64 was provided for this network which will eventually connect into the existing Stradone Wastewater Treatment Plant.

## **Capital Replacement Works**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011 Cavan County Council submitted a detailed report to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government setting out the estimated cost of Capital Replacement for all of the qualified schemes in Cavan over the 20 year relevant period.

Most of the schemes in the 3 Design, Build and Operate (DBO)'s are entering their 8<sup>th</sup> year or more of operation. Capital Replacement works were completed on the schemes in the West and South West Cavan DBO bundles plus Annagh Group Water Scheme (GWS). Overall grant aid provided to these schemes was €597,000.00.

## **Source Protection Funding**

A total of 12 group water schemes were identified in County Cavan as being eligible for

grant aid towards completion of the first phase of their source protection planning process. To date the Council had approved 10 schemes which had successfully completed the studies required under the programme. The remaining two schemes completed their studies and received grant aid of €5,100.00.

### **Revised Subsidy Arrangements**

There are now two types of subsidy set out as follows. Subsidy A relates to the general operational and management costs incurred in the operation of a group scheme. Subsidy B relates to the Operation and Maintenance costs associated with the “bona fide” Design/Build/Operate contracts for schemes that have their own treatment plants. There are amendments to the processing of advance payments set out in the explanatory memorandum distributed to the group schemes.

The improved rates again demonstrate the commitment of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to the Rural Water Programme and to the work that is ongoing throughout the country and is a direct result of the partnership approach taken by the group schemes, the National Federation of Group Water Schemes, the Local Authorities and the Department in the delivery of potable water. The amount of €3.5 million has been paid in subsidies to group schemes for 2015.

### **Grant for the provision or necessary improvement of an individual water supply to a house**

Under this scheme a grant of 75% of the cost of the work (subject to a maximum of €2,031.58) is available to qualifying applicants to improve their water supply. The main qualifying criteria are that the dwelling is over 7 years old, is the permanent residence of the applicant and is not in a position to be supplied from a group water scheme or a public scheme. A total of €27,583.98 in grant aid has been paid out.

## **Environment and Waste Management**

The Environment and Waste Management Section is the section responsible for all matters related to the environment in the county. It also manages the Dog Warden Service, Veterinary Service, Maintenance of Vested Burial Grounds and Casual Trading bye-laws.

Cavan is a predominantly rural county with numerous rivers and lakes it is therefore no surprise that the issue of water quality demands our greatest attention. Water quality can be impacted by industrial and commercial discharges, farming practices, discharges from urban wastewater treatment plants and wastewater treatment systems serving one-off housing. The Environment and Waste section play a vital role in source protection of our many drinking water supplies public, group and private across the County. We also deal with other environmental issues, including on site wastewater treatment inspections, noise and air pollution, planning applications and bye-laws. We monitor energy consumption and drive sustainable energy practices and reduced energy consumption within Cavan.

### **Natural Waters**

It is said that Cavan has a lake for every day of the year and because of its unique geology Cavan is where two of Irelands biggest rivers the Shannon and the Erne rise. Our natural waters are an essential part of the attractiveness of the county for residents and visitors alike. By maintaining good quality waters we reduce the cost of treating drinking waters and we also make our county more attractive both for the people of Cavan and tourists.

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000 seeks to protect and improve our natural waters, including rivers, lakes, groundwater, coastal water and transitional waters. The Water Framework Directive objectives are implemented through River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) and Programmes of Measures (POMs).

In July 2014, The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government issued the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2014, which gave effect to a new, three

tier, governance framework and placed new obligations on local authorities to co-ordinate the catchment management and public participation elements of the Water Framework Directive. Every water body has been given a quality status. We are obliged to protect all waters that are either good or high status and those waters that are below good status must be improved.

These River Basin Management Plans set target dates for achieving all our quality goals. In order to meet these targets we have a range of actions that we carry out throughout the year that target the main sources of pollution. These include monitoring industrial discharges, some farming activities, sewage treatment plants and wastewater systems for one-off housing.

Much of the work we do to improve water quality is not readily apparent. It can take a long time for the water quality in lakes in particular to show improvement. However, given the systems we have in place, we expect to be able to show steady continuous improvement in the coming years until we achieve good status for all our waters. The expected intensification of agricultural practices following the removal of the milk quotas in 2015 has not yet occurred, primarily for international economic reasons. It is expected that when this intensification occurs it will lead to significant challenges in maintaining progress.

## **Water Supply**

All drinking water from public water supply schemes and major group water schemes are monitored. This is done to ensure that the schemes are producing water that meets the highest standards with regard to public health, and to ensure that drinking water complies with the relevant regulations.

## **Domestic WasteWater Treatment Systems**

The Water Services (Amendment) Act was enacted in 2012, to protect ground and surface water quality (particularly drinking water sources) from the risks posed by malfunctioning domestic water treatment systems. All owners of premises connected to a domestic wastewater treatment system were required to register their systems by February 2013. A

National Inspection Plan (NIP) set out the inspection requirements on a National basis and prioritises the inspection selection on the basis of pollution Risk. Four Environment staff have been trained and have undertaken inspections of wastewater treatment systems. 39 inspections were carried out. The vast majority of these took place in areas identified as high risk

### **Public Engagement**

The Environment staff meets with members of the public on a day to day basis. They use these opportunities to educate the public in relation to, improving water quality, maintaining good water quality by protecting our rivers, lakes as well as our drinking water supply sources.

On a more formal basis we carry out school visits to spread this message to the younger members of our community by giving presentations on water quality in the locality of the school as well as across the County. These presentations also include advice on water conservation. We have provided information sessions in local library branches and community centres. We regularly use social media and local media to educate and inform the public in relation to seasonal environmental issues. The Environment Section works in an integrated way with other Council departments including:

- Pre planning meetings, planning application referrals and responding to issues/queries from Planning with water quality, air or noise elements
- Assisting with green school assessment visits and awareness presentations
- Advising Housing on site suitability for demountable rural housing
- Dealing with queries and referrals from Municipal Districts, Area Offices and Roads in relation to water quality, protection and rivers
- Resolving “unfinished estates” and taking in charge of estates

<b>Certification, Enforcement and Licensing activities</b>	
Number of Section 4 Discharge Licenses	57
Number of Section 16 Discharge Licenses	16
Number of Air Pollution Licenses	1
Number of Solvent Regulation Registered Sites	5
Number of Decorative Paints Registered Sites	17
Number of Petroleum Vapour Regulations Registrations	25
Number of Farm Inspections	49
Number of complaints received	90
Number of cross reports to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	1
Number of Section 12 Notices served in accordance with the Water Pollution Acts	5
Number of legal actions initiated	2
Number of Domestic WasteWater Treatment System inspections (also including compliance Inspections from 2014)	49

### **Energy Management**

Across the entire organisation the Council's Energy Manager is responsible for the following

- Improving energy efficiency
- Introducing sustainable energy practices
- Raising energy awareness

- Reporting on Cavan County Council's Energy Reduction Targets
- Ensuring Cavan County Council's energy supply complies with the Office of Government Procurement national contracts.
- Establishing procedures to monitor energy consumption
- Providing guidance and advice on energy regulations and statutory requirements.

Our target is a 33% improvement in energy efficiency by 2020. Based on the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) scorecard, Cavan County Council has made a 25% saving by 2014. This figure is based on the data reported to the SEAI on annual energy consumption and related data.

All electricity consumed by Cavan County Council is procured in accordance with the National Procurement Service tender. Airtricity was awarded via the Office of Government Procurement to supply Cavan County Council for metered supplies (excluding domestics) until June 2016 when a new tender will be awarded.

The Public Lighting electricity supply contract is also administered via the Office of Government Procurement with Energia supplying the electricity to the public lights under Cavan County Council's control. We operate approximately 50 individual sites supplied with electricity which include Office Buildings, Libraries, Laboratory, Waste Management facilities, Recreational facilities, Museum, Theatre, etc. The most significant user of energy within Cavan County Council is the provision of public lighting.

Cavan County Councils consumption for

- electricity was: 5,228,814 kWh
- gas consumption was: 26,700 kWh.

Energy Type	Energy Consumption		
	kWh	MWh	GWh
Electricity	814	5,228	5.23
Fossil Fuels	3,523,803	3,523.80	3.52
<b>Total Energy Consumed</b>	8,752,617	8,752.62	8.75

### Actions Undertaken

- The energy team have completed Energy Map Training
- Raising awareness within the Council regarding specification and purchasing of goods from the Triple E Register.
- Raising awareness within the Council regarding the purchase/lease of buildings or portions of a building rated at B3 from 2012 or A3 from 2015.
- In accordance with the requirements of European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012, Cavan County Council are required to have a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) for any building in excess of 500 m<sup>2</sup> which is frequently visited by the public. Certificates have been issued on completed buildings. This project is currently ongoing.
- Ongoing allocation of sites in accordance with the National Procurement Service winning tenders as new sites come online.
- Compilation of data regarding energy consumption by Cavan County Council for monitoring and reporting in accordance with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland Monitoring and Reporting Tool.
- Ongoing procedure for monthly monitoring of energy usage
- Review of energy connections and utility charges of vacant or derelict properties with consideration given to achieving possible savings.
- Ongoing procedure for frequent meter reads
- Replacement of the old library boiler system with an improved energy efficient Boiler

## **2016 Planned Actions**

- Preparation and submission of a lighting project for inclusion on the Better Energy Communities Programme 2016 in conjunction with Cavan Chamber of Commerce.
- Roll out of an Energy Awareness Programme
- Re-enactment of the Energy Policy
- Re-enactment of the Energy Charter
- Re-establish register of opportunities
- Maintain procedure for monthly monitoring of energy usage
- Maintain procedure for frequent meter reads
- Liaise with all Sections in the Council to raise awareness via Team Meetings
- Audits of Top 5 Usage Sites
- Complete SEAI Monitoring and Reporting in accordance with deadlines imposed.
- Continue to allocate new sites in accordance with National Procurement Service winning tenders.
- Liaise with Irish Water in accordance with the Service Level Agreement and Protocols.
- Complete Energy MAP training for identified staff
- In accordance with the requirements of European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012, completion of the assessment process to generate Display Energy Certificates (DEC) for all Cavan County Council buildings in excess of 500 m<sup>2</sup> which are frequently visited by the public

## **Waste Management**

The Waste Management section of Cavan County Council has responsibility within the County for Waste Management, Litter Management and Environmental Awareness and Education. It also manages the Dog Warden Service, Veterinary Service, Maintenance of vested burial grounds and Casual Trading bye-laws.

Our remit extends from Waste Management Policy and Planning to Managing the Waste Infrastructure and Enforcement of the Waste Regulations

## **Waste Management Policy and Planning**

Cavan is part of the Connaught Ulster Waste Management Planning Region. In May the Connaught Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 was formally made by Chief Executive's order in each respective Local Authority. In October the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government announced that Donegal /Leitrim Local Authorities would be the new Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority for the Connaught/Ulster Region. It will be responsible for coordinating waste enforcement actions in the region.

## **Waste Infrastructure**

### **Landfills**

Corranure Landfill facility is currently closed for the intake of household and commercial waste and is licenced by the Environmental Protection Agency. Ongoing monitoring is taking place at the Landfill to ensure compliance with the terms of the licence.

The County has three other landfills licensed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Bailieborough, Ballyjamesduff and Belturbet. These three sites are closed and restoration remediation works have been completed on them. We continue to monitor them to ensure they cause no adverse environmental effects and are in compliance with EPA licensing.

There are 14 historic landfills within the County which come under the remit of the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity ) Regulations 2008. We completed remediation works on the former town dumps in Kingscourt and Cootehill.

### **Recycling Centres and Bring Centres**

A recycling centre is a facility provided for the householder where they can dispose of their household waste and recyclable material for a fee. The Bring Centre provides a free to use community service where people in local areas can recycle materials such as clothing, plastic bottles, glass bottles and food and drink cans. The County is well served with a full range of recycling infrastructure. With 3 fully operational Recycling Centres and 30 Bring



- Non-Routine Inspections typically involve those inspections associated with the investigation of Waste Complaints.

Environmental Inspections carried out by the Waste Management Section include inspections under a wide range of Waste Regulations.

Non-Routine Inspections that are carried out are normally associated with complaints received by members of the public, or from within the Cavan Local Authorities or outside agencies and organisations. Typical inspections that are carried out include inspections of unauthorised waste disposal or recovery sites, inspections of fly-tipping sites and inspections relating to general unauthorised waste activities (illegal burning and illegal movement of wastes for example). The table below shows the number of waste complaints received over the past three years.

<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
109	122	155

### **Priorities for Enforcement**

The priorities listed in the Inspection Plan took regard for the requirements of relevant Government Circulars and Ministerial Policy Directions in relation to waste management and enforcement and also took into account National, Regional and Local requirements.

The priorities included

- Implementation and Enforcement of Food Waste Regulations
- Regularisation or closure and remediation of all unauthorised End-of Life Vehicle sites
- Implementation of Historic Landfill Regulations
- Enforcement Illegal dumping and fly-tipping sites.

## **Food Waste Regulations**

The European Union (Household Food Waste and Bio-waste) Regulations, 2013 (SI Number 71 of 2013) are designed to promote the segregation and recovery of household food waste and divert biodegradable waste from landfills. Waste collectors must provide a separate collection service for household food waste. Householders that produce food waste must segregate such waste and keep it separate from other non-biodegradable waste and make it available for separate collection. These regulations became effective in Cavan Town in 2014 and in Bailieborough, Ballyjamesduff, Cootehill, Kingscourt and Virginia since the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

The following actions were undertaken by staff to promote awareness of these regulations:

- Advertisements and interviews were conducted on local radio and with features in the Anglo Celt Council page;
- Presentations were made to schools, community groups and local events and Tidy Towns Committees;
- Information leaflets were also placed in libraries, dentist and medical practices;
- Food Waste Prevention displays at the Taste of Cavan, Virginia Agricultural Show and Kingscourt Christmas Craft Fair.

## **End-of-Life Vehicle facilities**

The main regulations dealing with end-of-life vehicles are the Waste Management (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations, 2006 (SI Number 282 of 2006). These regulations came into operation in June 2006 and introduced higher environmental standards to ensure that specified vehicles and their components are recovered and disposed of appropriately so as to ensure no adverse environmental effects arise with this activity. The regulations set new minimum technical requirements for the collection, storage and treatment of End-of-Life Vehicles.

The new higher standards applied from 1 January 2007 and required that in order for facilities to be recognised as “Authorised Treatment Facilities” they must be operated

under a valid waste facility permit in the first instance and secondly the facility should meet the standards as set out in the Second Schedule of the Waste Management (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2006.

It is an offence under the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended to operate a waste disposal or recovery business (eg car dismantling) without a waste license. In addition, failure to comply with the provisions of the Waste Management (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2006 is also an offence.

### **Litter Management and Enforcement**

We are required to implement a litter management plan in respect of our functional area. The current plan indicates the key objectives which are used by the Local Authority to prevent and control litter in County Cavan. These objectives are twin track concentrating both on the raising of public awareness and on enforcement.

We provide an enforcement and educational function in the areas of litter management, control and prevention. 151 on-the-spot fines were issued for offences committed under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended. The penalty for an on-the-spot fine is €150. A larger fine may be issued if court proceedings are initiated. The maximum fine in this case is €4,000.

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Total Number of Full Time Wardens	2	2
Total number of part-time litter wardens	4	4
Total number of litter wardens (both full and part-time)	6	6
Number of on-the spot fines	223	151
Number of Complaints Received	390	532

## **Environmental Awareness and Education**

National Spring Clean runs throughout Ireland in April. In support of this campaign, we encouraged School's, Tidy Towns Committees, Local Community Groups and Resident Associations throughout the County to become involved in cleanup projects in their area. Bags, gloves, litter pickers and high-vis vests were among the items provided to groups to assist in their clean ups. Groups from all over the county participated in the campaign and 2,300 bags of roadside litter were collected.

Cavan County Council also participated in National Recycling Week in October and this promoted the suite of recyclable waste options that are available to the Householder at the Council's three Civic Amenity Sites in Corranure, Ballyconnell and Bailieborough.

## **Gum Litter Campaign**

A national campaign aimed at highlighting the need to dispose of chewing gum into the bin and to inform the public about the problems caused by gum litter. As part of our local campaign a launch day was held in Ballyjamesduff in August. Cathaoirleach Cllr. Paddy Smith was present on the day along with representatives of Ballyjamesduff Tidy Towns Committee and members of staff from Waste Management.

## **The Adopt a Road Litter Programme**

This programme relates to the collection of litter from roadside verges by businesses or community groups who participate in the scheme. The groups and businesses manage and supervise the scheme themselves.

We publicly acknowledge the involvement of community groups etc through the provision of signage in each area. Over 144 km of roads form part of this scheme

## **County Cavan Litter League**

We worked with local communities to improve the cleanliness and appearance of our towns, villages and countryside. The Council uses similar inspections and scoring criteria employed by Irish Business Against Litter for Cavan Town, the County Cavan Litter

League is based on regular inspections of 26 towns and villages within the County. All selected towns and villages are surveyed by Litter Enforcement staff.

The development of the County Litter League has improved cleanliness levels in towns and villages throughout Cavan immeasurably over the past number of years. This is due to the increased level of activity from businesses and local communities and individuals which has resulted in a reduction in litter levels in the County.

### **Tidy Towns Committees**

We have strong linkages with 19 Tidy Towns Committees across the County. They play a key role in litter prevention and assisting the Local Authority in implementing its current Litter Management Plan. All of the Tidy Towns Committees play a major part in enhancing and maintaining their local green spaces and natural environs and protecting natural amenities and keeping them free from litter. Cavan County Council held an information workshop for Tidy Towns Committees in March in the Council Chamber with presentations from 2 Adjudicators familiar with the National Tidy Towns Competition. We provide ongoing assistance and support to Tidy Towns throughout the year.

### **Green-Schools Programme**

We are delighted to work in partnership with Green Schools, An Taisce and all of the schools throughout County Cavan to promote the Green Schools programme. It is a testament to all who are involved at every level of the process. In May, Green Schools Awards ceremony in the Helix, Dublin, County Cavan schools received::

- 4 = their first green flag for the litter and waste theme
- 6 = their second green flag for the energy theme
- 6 = their third green flag for the water theme,
- 5 = their fourth green flag for the travel theme and

This is a testament to the work of the Council as well as the students, staff and parents in each and every school who have dedicated so much time and effort to their individual

Green Schools programme especially at the moment when everyone is under so much pressure to achieve so much with a lot less time and resources available to them.

Some of the programmes in which we have liaised with schools throughout the past academic year include; the teachers seminar in our Council Chamber, co-ordinating visits to our local public and privately operated civic amenity sites, attendance by Council staff at some schools highlighting litter, waste, water and energy matters as well as local issues and also spreading the word of all the great work being carried out by our students, teachers and parents in the local newspaper and local radio.

The Green Schools programme throughout County Cavan uncovers and highlights so many enthusiastic, hard working, ingenious and environmentally conscious students, teachers and parents working tirelessly throughout our schools promoting the Green Schools themes. The following Schools were awarded green flags in May:

#### **Litter and Waste**

1. Greagrahan National School, Belturbet
2. Laragh National School, Laragh
3. St. Maodhog's National School, East Knockbride, Bailieborough
4. St. Patrick's National School, Loch Gowna

#### **Energy**

1. Butlersbridge National School, Butlersbridge
2. Castlerahan National School, Castlerahan
3. Scoil Bhride, Killeshandra
4. St. Clare's National School, Cavan
5. St. Patrick's National School, Castletara, Ballyhaise
6. St. Patrick's National School, Kilnaleck

## **Water**

1. Holy Family School, Cootehill
2. Killyconnan National School, Stradone
3. Knocktemple National School, knocktemple, Virginia
4. Scoil Bhríde, Mountnugent
5. Scoil Naisiunta Naomh Feilim, Ballinagh
6. St. Patrick's National School, Bruskey, Ballinagh

## **Travel**

1. Curravagh National School, Curravagh, Glangevlin
2. St. Aidan's Comprehensive Cootehill
3. St. Brigid's National School, Killygarry
4. St. Joseph's National School, Kingscourt
5. St. Mary's National School, Virginia

## **Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund**

This fund promotes sustainable development by assisting small scale, non-profit environmental projects at a local level. The funding is provided by the Department of Environment and Local Authorities. Projects and schemes such as community gardens, allotments and compost schemes and educational initiatives can be funded.

A total of 31 applications were received in 2015 under the Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund. 20 Projects were subsequently awarded funding by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

Projects include local community based initiatives (tidy towns), bio-diversity and wildlife,

environmental workshops, rejuvenation of river and green areas. A number of school environmental initiatives for up to 1,500 pupils in national and secondary schools were supported under the Fund.

### **Dog Warden Service**

The Implementation of the Control of Dogs Act 1992-1996 requires the Local Authority to employ a full time Dog Warden. The Dog Warden provides an effective and efficient service, dealing with the control and management of stray dogs, unwanted dogs and anti-social behaviour by dogs and issuing of dog licences. 6,808 dog licences were issued.

### **Veterinary Services**

We employ one full time Veterinary Officer who is assisted by 5 part time veterinary inspectors. The Veterinary Officer inspects/licences and audits slaughter houses and small meat plants within the county.

One hundred audits/hygiene inspections were carried out along with over

- 950 pre and post slaughter, animal/meat examinations, during the slaughter of 6,071 sheep
- 38,045 pigs
- 2,595 cattle and
- over 10,000 turkeys at local authority regulated slaughter houses.

Throughout the year, random samples of meat are submitted to the Department of Agriculture and Foods Central Meat lab in Kildare for testing for residues of antibiotics and other chemicals residues. A total of 41 such samples were submitted for analysis.

Three new premises were registered under the Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010.

### **Environment and Planning Strategic Planning Committee**

Four meetings were held and the following issues were discussed:

- Household Food Waste Regulations
- Flood Risk Assessment
- Retail Strategy
- Review of Bio-Diversity and County Heritage Plan
- Waste Enforcement and illegal dumping
- Water Transformation Plan
- Environmental Monitoring of the Agricultural Sector
- Presentations on Corranure Civic Amenity Site and Ancillary Services;
- Presentation on Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund
- Connaught Ulster Regional Waste Plan 2015-2021
- Report on Domestic Water Treatment Systems
- Presentation on Unfinished Estates
- Age Friendly Strategy and Impact on Planning
- Changes to charges at Cavan's Civic Amenity Sites

<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
109	122	155

#### **Priorities for Enforcement**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Total Number of Full Time Wardens</b>	2	2
<b>Total number of part-time litter wardens</b>	4	4
<b>Total number of litter wardens (both full and part-time)</b>	6	6
<b>Number of on-the spot fines</b>	223	151
<b>Number of Complaints Received</b>	390	532

# Finance, Information Services

## Finance

The provision of accurate and timely financial information in respect of all Council services and ensuring appropriate effective internal control procedures are in place. The Finance Department plays an important role in the support and delivery of services. It deals with the financial management and financing of the authorities' operations, both of a revenue and capital nature, across all Service Divisions.

The primary objectives are to:

- Achieve the financial objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan
- Provide and promote the best financial management and practices throughout the Council
- Manage the financial affairs of the Council
- Ensure that statutory and financial accounting principles, which apply to all County Council financial transactions, are complied with
- Ensure that adequate internal controls are in operation to safeguard the assets of the organisation, and ensure the accuracy and reliability of the accounting records
- Ensure that value for money is achieved throughout the organisation.

## Loans

The Council has 186 loan accounts, which generated mortgage repayments of €431,090 during 2015. Over 73% of all loans for 2015 were collected in that year. Throughout 2015 Cavan County Council has proactively engaged with customers who have found

themselves in unsustainable arrears positions. The Council has empowered customers to address their arrears by way of the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP Process) and the Mortgage to Rent Scheme. During 2015 the Finance Department processed two Mortgage to Rent Schemes applications.

## **Payroll**

This service involves the processing and payment of wages and salaries for all staff including deduction of P.A.Y.E. and P.R.S.I. and other statutory and non-statutory deductions and completion of all relevant returns. There are approximately 522 employees on Cavan County Council's payroll, spread across the following pay groups:

Wages:	141 (fortnightly)
Salaries:	265(fortnightly)
Firefighters:	98 (Quarterly)
Councillors:	18 (4 weekly)

In addition the payroll section also processes payments for 293 pensioners.

## **Non Principal Private Residence (NPPR) Charge**

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Charges) Act, 2009 as amended a Non Principal Private Residence charge applies to all residential properties in the state that are not occupied as the owner's principal residence. Examples of chargeable properties include Rented Properties, Holiday Homes and Vacant Properties.

The administration and collection of the charges is operated nationally, on a shared services basis, by the Local Government Computer Services Board (LGCSB). The LGCSB have developed a website ([www.nppr.ie](http://www.nppr.ie)) which includes information on the charge as well as a system for registration of properties and payment of the NPPR charge online. An amount of €1,323,996 (net of LGCSB collection costs) was collected in NPPR charges and late penalties during 2015.

## **Rates**

A total of 2,568 Rate Demands were issued for the year 2015 which resulted in a total levy of €13,536,702. The Annual Rate on Valuation fixed by the Council for the year was €56.85. In accordance with the Local Government Reform Act 2014 (S.29) an additional levy in sum of €16.17 was fixed in relation to the former Cavan Town Council rating area resulting in a total annual rate in valuation in respect of this area of €73.02. The percentage collected for 2015 was 76%.

## **Internal Audit**

Internal Audit provides an independent appraisal function that is charged with conducting reviews on policies, plans, procedures, practises and performances of the organisation. Its prime objective is to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal controls within Cavan County Council. The role of Internal Audit contributes to the economic and efficient use of resources and is very much a core element of good corporate governance which is pivotal to achieving the main priorities of the Corporate Plan for 2015-2019.

The core areas covered by Internal Audit assessments are:

- Accounting and management systems
- Compliance with internal controls
- Adequacy and integrity of financial data produced
- Compliance with laws and regulations
- Exposure to fraud and / or corruption
- Effective use and safeguarding of assets
- Economic, efficient and effective use of resources

It is the policy of Cavan County Council to maintain and support a quality Internal Audit function in accordance with the Internal Audit Charter 2015. All Council's activities fall within the remit of Internal Audit. The Internal Auditor reports directly to the Chief

Executive and the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis.

### **Value for Money**

The concept of Value for Money in relation to Local Authorities means delivering Local Authority services in a more economical, efficient and effective manner. Local Authorities operate in an environment where accountability and responsibility for decisions made must be clear to customers, elected members and staff. Increased emphasis on Value for Money determines the need for a structure which links authority with accountability.

### **Internal Audit training**

Various courses and seminars were attended by the Internal Auditor on Data Protection Regulations, Performance Management, Health & Safety, Regulatory Updates, Risk Management, the Public Spending Code and Collaboration of Internal Audit within local Government.

### **Internal Audit and Council Policy Awareness Programme**

Internal Audit organised an in-house awareness programme for Council Officials on Audit Functions, Procurement, the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 and Health and Safety Regulations. Approximately 60 staff members attended the course over a three day period. The main objectives of this briefing were to enhance the relevance of Internal Audit within the Council and to highlight the importance of adherence to best practices, and control procedures.

### **3 Year Strategic Internal Audit Plan**

This plan sets out audit priorities for the medium term (3 years) and shows intended coverage of areas identified in the risk assessment process.

To ensure maximum audit coverage is achieved a systematic and structured approach was applied. Particular attention was given to the principles of good corporate governance, organisational changes under the Local Government Reform Act 2014, prioritisation of audit work identified in the annual risk register and regulatory audit requests by

Government Depts, NOAC (National Oversight Audit Commission) and the Irish Sports Council. This plan aims to embrace the operations and objectives of the organisation as set out our Corporate Plan. The 3 year plan was approved by both the Senior Management Team and the Audit Committee and may be adapted to meet future developments and cultural changes within the Council.

### **Annual Audit Plan**

The Annual Audit Plan is the detailed plan prepared for each year of the Strategic Audit Plan Cycle and concentrates mainly on operational, financial and regulatory risk. The plan set out specific audit reviews to be undertaken on the basis of availability of staff resources and potential risks identified by the Directors of Service, the Audit Committee and the Local Government Auditor.

### **Internal Audit Work**

Audit work undertaken during 2015 incorporated control inspections in the Motor Tax Office, the Ramor Theatre, the County Museum, Landfill Sites, Cashier Offices, the Civil Defence and Cavan Town Car Parking Charges. Specific audit areas looked at the Council's MyPay Shared Payroll System, (LVPC) System-Low Value Purchase Cards, and Management of the Taste of Cavan Festival, Waste Management Procurement Procedures and Public Spending Code In-depth Reviews.

Various audit requests from the Local Government Auditor were also dealt with it. The effectiveness of Internal Audit is a key factor in the Local Government Auditor's assessment of the controlled environment of the Local Authority and the related risks.

### **Audit Overview**

Internal Audits acknowledges that Cavan County Council has effectively managed many difficult challenges in recent years that ensured quality services were maintained regardless of ongoing budget constraints and staffing embargos. In doing so accountability and transparency of its operations was of extreme importance. Internal Audit continues to

monitor the implementation and compliance of all relevant policies; procedures and controls of Cavan County Council to ensure efficiencies, value for money and improved effectiveness in the provision of all services are maintained.

### **Audit Committee**

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provided statutory effect to the Action Programme for effective Local Government and re-stated the legislative provisions relating to audit committees. The committee has an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters, as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of the Council.

The statutory functions of audit committees per the Act are as follows to:

- Review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it.
- Foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function.
- Review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its chief executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings.
- Assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and to review systems operated by the local authority for the management of risks.

The current audit committee was established by resolution of the Council upon nomination by the Corporate Policy Group and following consultation with the Chief Executive. The term of the committee is concurrent with that of the current Council which commenced on 1st June 2014 and will terminate on 31st May 2019.

As recommended this committee consists of three (3) external members and two (2)

serving Councillors and operate under a charter adopted on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015. The committee members are as follows:

Term June 2014 to May 2019

- Con Dolan (Chairperson)
- Jim Lalor
- PJ Dunne
- Cllr Madeleine Argue
- Cllr Clifford Kelly

The Audit Committee held quarterly meetings between January and December with regular consultations with the Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Finance and the Internal Auditor. The main items on the agenda included the Annual Budgets and Financial Statements, IT systems, Fire Services, Corporate Services Risk Registers, Protected Disclosers and External Audits Reports.

The committee also met with the Local Government Auditor in regard to the Annual Auditor's Report and issued an audit opinion report to the Elected Council.

### **Motor Taxation**

Motor Tax Section is responsible for:

- Issue of vehicle licences.
- Issue of duplicate Registration Books, Receipts and Trade Plates for motor traders
- Processing change of ownerships and refunds
- Issuing S103's and CT53's Certificates
- Issuing of and recording statutory off road declarations (SORD's)
- Processing changes of particulars for motor vehicles.

### **Motor Tax Online**

58,450 taxes were processed online and amounted to 58.87% of total motor tax transactions for County Cavan. The Motor tax online service is available to owners of private cars; commercial vehicles (with renewal pin) motorcycles, agricultural tractors, exempt vehicles and motor caravans for renewal and first time taxations. Customers are encouraged to avail of the online service by logging onto [www.motortax.ie](http://www.motortax.ie).

**Breakdown of income and transactions:**

	<b>Total Transactions</b>	<b>Total Income</b>
Vehicle Licences	31,878	€6730217
Road Worthiness Certificates	0	0
Trade Licences	68	24004
Miscellaneous Receipts	8889	532307
<b>Total</b>	<b>40835</b>	<b>7286528</b>

Service Indicators

<b>M.1 Number and Percentage of Motor Tax Transactions</b>	<b>2015</b>
Number which are dealt with over the counter	<b>33475</b>
Number which are dealt with by post	<b>5464</b>
% which are dealt with over the counter	85.97%
% which are dealt with by post	14.03%
<b>M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications</b>	
Number which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	4128
Number which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of application	1015
Number which are dealt with on the 4th or 5th day from receipt of the application	237
Number which are dealt with in over 5 days from receipt of the application	84
% which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	75.55%
% which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of the application	18.58%
% which are dealt with on the 4th or 5th day from receipt of the application	4.34%
% which are dealt with in over 5 days from receipt of the application	1.54%
<b>M.3 Time Taken to Process Driving Licence Applications</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Number which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	N/A
Number which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of the application	N/A
<b>M.4 Public opening hours</b>	
Average number of opening hours per week	32.5

## **Information and Communications Technology (ICT)**

The ICT department has continued to deliver improvement for technology and digital services within the Council and local community. As well as the operational management of more than 1000 devices in a large Local Area (LAN) and Wide Area (WAN) network infrastructure, we have focused on leveraging cost efficiencies to allow us to extend our ICT services.

We upgraded our internet connection speeds to a 1GB service to allow us to remove internet bottlenecks and maximise the speeds at which all staff can work. These speed improvements also allow us to extend the ICT services we can offer, for example, cloud based services.

We began the upgrading of our Area offices and libraries to fibre broadband connections which will allow us to reduce our reliance on expensive radio links and mast rentals for the communications. This project will extend to all remote offices on our network with the Virginia and Cootehill Areas currently live.

We have moved our voice communications to VOIP (Voice over IP) which has allowed us to reduce costs by removing surplus ISDN lines. Following this move, we virtualised our Phone Hardware systems which allowed us to remove server racks and legacy phone hardware. This reduced costs but also, by freeing up this space, we were able to utilise extra office space.

We developed a print management policy in an effort to reduce the costs of printing with the use of controlled printing at centralised stations in the Council buildings. This policy also allows us to use metrics and reporting to manage the service more effectively.

We completed an ICT project to provide a free Wi-Fi service on the main public streets of Cavan Town for the local community. This live service now allows both tourists and local people in Cavan town to access the internet without cost. There are multiple ICT applications and services which we control and manage on a daily basis, these include

- iDocs: Document Management System
- Agresso FMS (Financial Management System)
- In-house database management
- iPlan: Planning Administration System
- iReg: Register of Electors
- eHeg: Higher Education Grants
- iHouse and RAS: Housing Administration Systems
- Spatial Intranet Browser and other GIS Services
- Custom in-house programming and system development
- LabInfo: Water Quality Monitoring
- SMS: Bulk Messaging
- Social Media
- Website Development and Content Management
- Mobile App Development
- Print Management

## Summary of Expenditure and Income Revenue Account

	2014	2015
	€000	€000
Expenditure (A)	62,935	58,173
Receipts		
State Grants	21,615	19,323
Good and Services	18,165	15,677
Commercial Rates	13,337	13,537
Other Local Authorities	338	189
Pension Levy	1,022	989
Local Government Fund	8,458	8,458
Total Income (B)	<b>62,935</b>	<b>58,173</b>
(Deficit) / Surplus (B-A=C)	0	0
Opening Revenue		
Balance 1st January (D)	1,743	1,743
Closing Revenue		
Balance at 31st December (C+D+E)	1,743	1,743

## Revenue Expenditure

	€M	%
Housing and Building	7.23	12.43
Road Transport and Safety	17.92	30.81
Water Supply and Sewerage	8.00	13.75
Development Incentives and Control	4.63	7.96
Environment Protection	6.60	11.35
Recreation and Amenity	3.65	6.27
Health Welfare, Education and Agriculture	0.84	1.44
Miscellaneous	5.53	9.51
Transfer to Capital	3.77	6.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>58.17</b>	<b>100</b>

## Expenditure and Income on Capital Account

	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Income</b>
	2015	2015
	€000	€000
Programme Group		
Housing and Building	6,299	4,261
Road Transport and Safety	10,717	7,920
Water Supply and Sewerage	2,025	1,836
Development Incentives and Control	-720	1,955
Environment Protection	1,555	1,138
Recreation and Amenity	526	480
Health Welfare, Education and Agriculture	0	0
Miscellaneous	441	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,843</b>	<b>17,650</b>

## Revenue Expenditure

	€M	%
Housing and Building	8.02	13.79
Road Transport and Safety	11.56	19.87
Water Supply and Sewerage	8.08	13.89
Development Incentives and Control	2.21	3.80
Environment Protection	1.64	2.82
Recreation and Amenity	0.68	1.17
Health Welfare, Education and Agriculture	0.68	1.17
Miscellaneous	2.31	3.97
Rates	13.54	23.28
Local Government Fund	8.46	14.54
Pension Levy	0.99	1.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>58.17</b>	<b>100</b>