



**Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin**
Cavan
County Council

Annual Report 2023

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2023



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Mission

A Council that leads and collaborates with all to drive and shape a better future for our County

Vision

A progressive, vibrant county which is smart, connected, innovative, inclusive and sustainable



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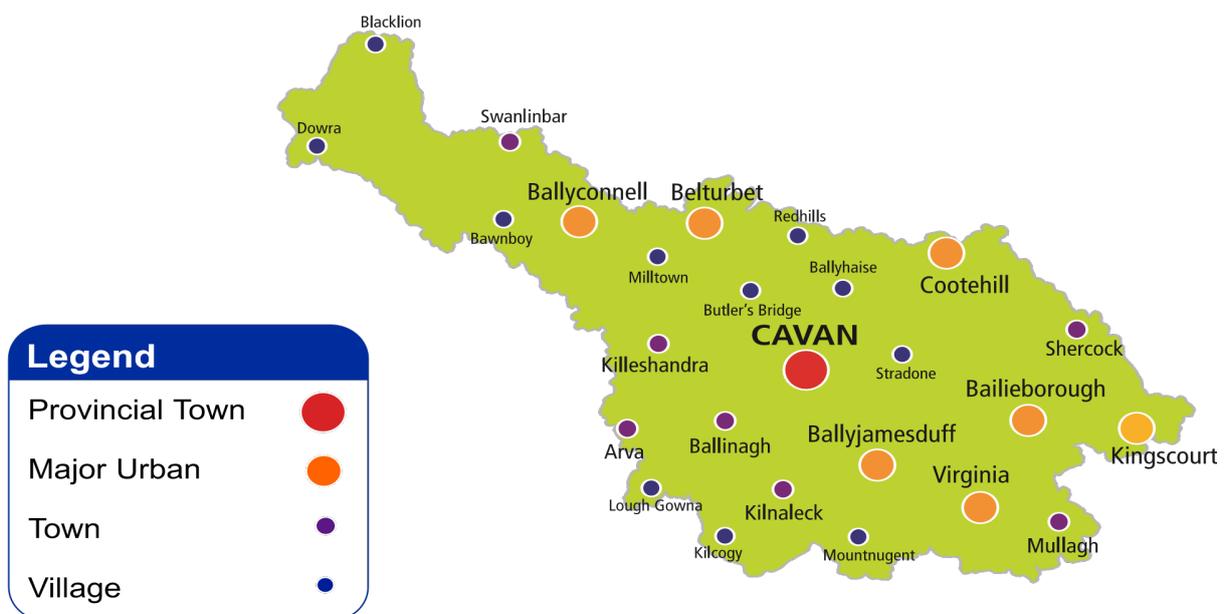
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Our County

County Cavan has a population of 81,201 (2022 census). 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.





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Cathaoirleach's Address

Mar Chathaoirleach ar Cochaired Contae an Chabháin, tá an-bhród orm Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2023 na Comhairle a chur i láthair ina sonraítear gníomhaíochtaí na Comhairle i rith na bliana. Is foinse luachmhar tagartha agus eolais é an foilseachán seo maidir leis an réimse leathan seirbhísí a chuireann an Chomhairle ar fáil.



Serving as Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council, following in the footsteps of my father in holding the highest office our county can bestow, has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. Not only because in wearing this chain of office, I feel the weight of history, and the legacy of the great Cavan men and women that went before me, but also because it has brought me all across our county, our country, and even overseas representing the people of Cavan.

I have had the pleasure of being an elected representative since 2014 but holding the office of Cathaoirleach has brought me an even greater appreciation of the excellent work that is done on behalf of the people of Cavan across the length and breadth of the county, from Blacklion to Bailieborough, from Cootehill to Kilcogy. I took office following the AGM in June and in my first week as Chair, I was given a tour of the site of the proposed St Brigid's Terrace development in Cavan Town. To see this fantastic 20-home development rise from the ground over the course of the last year has been a joy. I also observed up-close the excellent work that is being done on energy retrofits on council housing stock, with 51 such energy retrofits completed in 2023, 15 of these on vacant housing units that have been returned to the council's housing stock.

2023 also saw tenders issued for the development of 45 homes Pairc na Téile in



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Bailieborough, a vital development for the area, and one which I subsequently delighted to sign contracts for recently.

In October, I joined Minister Heather Humphreys in officially opening one of the most significant pieces of community and cultural infrastructures Cavan has seen in decades, the €6.3 million Virginia Civic, Cultural, and Library Services Centre.

Comprising a revamp of the beloved Ramor Theatre, and a brand new, state-of-the-art library branch, along with civic spaces and performance areas, this will be a truly life-changing resources for people of all ages in Virginia and its hinterland.

I was delighted to speak at the Civil Defence Officers' Conference which took place in November. Our own Civil Defence Officer, John Maguire is a stalwart of the organisation, with 50 years' service to his name, and was chair of the CDOA, so it was a special occasion and an opportunity to pay tribute to the many Civil Defence volunteers across Cavan who undertake so much good work on behalf of their community. I was subsequently glad to officially open their new Headquarters at Pullamore with Minister for Enterprise, Trade, and Employment Peter Burke TD recently.

During 2023, I have kept in close communication with our road design team regarding the progress being made on N55 Corduff South of Killydoon Realignment Scheme, Section B, and have been impressed at the swift pace of work there. This major scheme will be a major safety improvement for locals in the region and for those travelling between Cavan and Athlone.

The role of Cathaoirleach has many statutory functions, but equally important is the ceremonial role, representing the people of Cavan at home and abroad and I was fortunate to be able to engage with our diaspora and friends of Cavan in France and Germany during 2023.

Cavan Town enjoys a long-time twinning relationship with Jaunay-Clan, now Jaunay-Marigny, and we were delighted to accept an invitation from Maire de Jaunay-Marigny Jérôme Neveux in July where we discussed developing our relationship further in order to strengthen links and build opportunities for educational exchange. I also met with our German friends in Kürnach and Würzburg during the year and witnessed up close the reverence and veneration the people of that region have for



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St Kilian, the Cavan-born saint that brought Christianity to Franconia. After many years' negotiation, the relics of Saint Kilian and his colleagues Totnan and Kolonat will return to Cavan for a week in October 2024 and it promises to be a wonderful spiritual and cultural event, with over 200 German visitors making the pilgrimage to Kilian's homeplace.

Of course, 2023 was a special year for the Cavan Diaspora, as we hosted the long awaited Cavan Calling homecoming festival. It was gratifying to return the hospitality shown to us in France and Germany and also to welcome home visitors from the UK, the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand among others, not to mention Cavan people and friends of Cavan dotted across this island.

I must compliment the team here in Cavan County Council and the many community groups who organised local events – it truly was an amazing programme of events, and I consider myself very fortunate to have worn the chain of office during such an historic event. The eyes of the world were very much on the Breifne County during those five days, with an astonishing reach of 40 million people online. Welcoming Bob Geldof to the county and paying tribute to his bandmate and proud Ballyjamesduff man Pete Briquette was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me, and for the 3,000 fans who packed out the Egg Market enjoyed the spellbinding performance.

The legacy of this important event will be felt for years to come, with a fantastic cultural exchange between Cavan Arts Festival and the Rochester Fringe in New York already having presented fantastic opportunities for Cavan and New York artists.

One of the privileges of the office is the honour of being able to host Cathaoirleach's Receptions and Civic Receptions for groups or citizens that have achieved noteworthy things or given extraordinary service to their county, and I was delighted to host the Cavan Ladies Under-16 A All Ireland winning squad and management, the Breffni Blues Special Olympics Club, and Tidy Towns groups from across the county, all of whom are outstanding ambassadors for County Cavan.

I enjoyed following the Arva Senior Men's Team as they progressed through to the All-Ireland Junior Final in the latter half the year and have since extended that well-



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deserved honour to them in recognition of their success.

In December I also hosted a special Christmas gathering for all former County Councillors and Town Councillors in the county. Each and every one of these men and women stood up to be counted and whether their service was long or short, they served their communities and the people of Cavan with honour and dignity.

I was pleased to lend my voice for a call-out to the people of Cavan to provide feedback on the Draft Cavan County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan, which has since been approved and really is a tremendously ambitious and meticulous plan. Climate Action is the great challenge for this generation and generations to come and I look forward to Cavan County Council playing its part as a leader in this field.

Of course, education and understanding will play a major role in this regard, and along with our colleagues in Monaghan County Council I must say we are doing a stellar job in promoting awareness of STEAM. I attended the family fun day at St Joseph's Hall Ballyjamesduff with my own children and I can see first-hand how the festival inspires. I even learned a thing or two myself!

As I write this foreword, we are bearing down upon the local elections, and when the next Annual Report is published, there may well be some new faces among the eighteen councillors. I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all of my fellow colleagues who have worked hard for the past five years in service of their county. While there have been firm positions and differences of opinion, as there should be, there has always been a unity of purpose with regard to what's best for Cavan, irrespective of political differences. I also want to pay tribute to my colleague, Cllr Seán Smith, one of life's gentlemen, and a great servant of this council and this county, who passed away in July 2023.

A word too for the management and staff of the council, who always work with the councillors to help us represent our constituents as best we can, not least our recently retired Chief Executive Tommy Ryan who departed after eight years in Cavan and a lifetime in local government. I am in no doubt that he left Cavan County Council in a better place than he found it, laying the groundwork for several major projects, and I wish him the very best in his retirement.



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The progress outlined in this document has been facilitated by many people. The staff and management of the council, councillors, Oireachtas members, community and voluntary groups, government departments, local business, and the people of Cavan. I thank each and every one of you for your contribution to life in County Cavan and encourage to you read this report to see what is possible when we all work together towards a common goal.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Councillor Philip Brady,



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Chief Executive's Address

A chairde,

*Is cúis mhór áthais dom Tuarascáil
Bhliantúil 2023 Chomhairle Contae an
Chabháin a chur i láthair, doiciméad
cuimsitheach ina leagtar béim ar an dul
chun cinn mór atá déanta ag an údarás
áitiúil seo.*



*Is cáipéis thábhachtach é seo, toisc go dtugann sé léargas luachmhar do mhuintir an
Chabháin ar an gcaoi a bhfuil Comhairle Contae an Chabháin ag soláthar seirbhísí
ríthábhachtacha agus ag forbairt bonneagar criticiúil sa chontae.*

I am delighted to present Cavan County Council's 2023 Annual Report, a comprehensive document highlighting the significant progress made by this local authority.

This is an important document, as it gives the people of Cavan a valuable insight into how Cavan County Council is providing vital services and developing critical infrastructure in the county.

As ever, this local authority faced significant challenges during the year: worldwide inflation continued to have an impact on construction costs, while continued geopolitical uncertainty including war in Ukraine placed further pressure on the country's housing system.

Despite these challenges, great things were achieved in this county during 2023, and the staff and elected members of Cavan County Council can take great pride in the work outlined in this report.

2023 was a year where Cavan County Council made significant progress in delivering on its ambitious targets under the Government's 'Housing for All' plan, with



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92 schemes under construction by year-end. Twenty-nine new build social homes were completed during the year, 15 additional houses were acquired by the council, while approved housing bodies delivered another eight units. A further two schemes, comprising 54 units, progressed to tender stage, while our housing construction team also succeed in progressing a further ten schemes comprising over 140 units through various stages of the design process.

In a major boost for the east of the county, the Virginia, Civil, Cultural, and Library Services Centre was opened in October by Minister Heather Humphreys and Cathaoirleach, Cllr Philip Brady. Comprising a revamp of the Ramor Theatre with new ticketing area, reception and facilities upgrade, and a state-of-the-art new library branch, along with meeting space and outdoor performance area, this landmark €6.3 million facility was funded thanks to funding of €4.78 million from Minister Humphreys' department through the Rural Regeneration Development Fund, with the remaining funds contributed by Cavan County Council.

Work commenced on-site in January on the N55 Corduff South of Killydoon Realignment Scheme – Section B, a major improvement on one of the midland's most strategically important routes. 75% of the works were completed on the 3.7 kilometre scheme, which will improve safety and shorten journey times for the 5,000 daily commuters using the route, while also adding active travel facilities. While we are always striving to improve the road network, the health and environmental benefits of leaving the car at home cannot be denied, and in that regard we were pleased to secure €3.5 million from the National Transport Authority for Active Travel measures, with 32 projects undertaken in 2023.

Excellent progress was made in 2023 on some hugely significant projects for the county, including the Abbeylands Regeneration in Cavan Town and the new Shannon Pot Discovery Centre and Cavan Burren Park enhancement.

The Abbeylands project, which will significantly revitalise this historic quarter of the town core in our county town, received a €14.49 million funding award under the



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Urban Regeneration Development Fund, with Cavan County Council to contribute a further €4.8 million. In April, the members of Cavan Belturbet Municipal District approved the Part VIII planning application, followed by the appointment in December of an architect-led integrated multidisciplinary design team for this transformative project which will see the construction of a new multi-functional public plaza fringed by a new state-of-the-art business development hub and community service building.

Another noteworthy project of scale for the county, the redevelopment of the former Percy French Hotel in Ballyjamesduff to reintegrate the famous building back into the fabric of the town centre and to act as a focal point for the economic, tourism, and community regeneration of Ballyjamesduff, funded under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund, was progressed throughout the year.

The year also saw Cavan County Council, alongside project partners Royal School Cavan and Cavan GAA County Board, secure initial funding of €1,047,000 from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media towards developing the Cavan Regional Sports Campus, a state of the art, regionally significant development that will include an indoor sports complex with sports halls, fitness studios and café, seven outdoor sports pitches, a covered sports arena, athletics track, an ancillary facilities.

The decade-long modernisation of Cavan's ten fire stations came to fruition in February when the crew of Ballyjamesduff Fire Brigade took up residence at their new station on Rasan Road.

It was a busy twelve months for Cavan County Fire Service, with fire crews in our ten stations responding to 642 incidents during 2023, one of the most active years in its recent history.

Cavan Civil Defence, which was recognised as Ireland's Best Emergency Response Team in 2022, had yet another year of great progress, as the organisation took



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control of their new headquarters and training centre in Pullamore, Cavan Town in November.

That same month, Cavan also hosted the National Civil Defence Officers Conference in the Farnham Estate Hotel. The two day event was attended by over 300 Civil Defence Officers, Assistant Civil Defence Officers and Volunteers, together Department of Defence officials. The conference was opened by Cathaoirleach, Cllr Philip Brady, and was also addressed by then-Minister of State with responsibility for EU Affairs and Defence, Peter Burke TD

A significant moment in the ecological history of the county took place in June 2023, when Tánaiste Mícheál Martin announced that the National Parks and Wildlife Service acquired almost one thousand hectares of upland habitat at Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, allowing the State to manage the delicate biodiversity in the region.

One of the highlights of the year was undoubtedly Cavan Calling, our global Diaspora homecoming festival, which took place during July. It was particularly satisfying to welcome home members of the Cavan Diaspora to celebrate Cavan's culture, heritage, and above all, its people, considering the festival had been postponed in 2020 due to Covid-19. Watching the people of Cavan turn en masse out to join the diaspora in celebration of our county was a powerful reminder of the inherent joy in coming together in unison. The sight of Bob Geldof pay tribute to his fellow Boomtown Rat, Cavanman Pete Briquette on stage in the centre of Cavan town is one that will live long in the memory.

Cavan County Council was acknowledged as a leader in inclusive employment at the Ahead WAM Leader Awards 2023, which recognise employers' contribution in facilitating WAM placements and promoting the employment of graduates with disabilities.



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Cavan County Council's Planning section received 680 planning applications in 2023, with the majority of applications relating to developments such as industrial, rural enterprise, housing schemes, agricultural, commercial, single dwellings, extensions to existing dwellings, domestic garages and retention of existing works. Cavan Sports Partnership made a splash in Cootehill with the installation of the hugely successful Pop-Up Pool in partnership with Swim Ireland. The Pop-up pool benefitted a wide range of groups including school children, older people, children with additional needs and ethnic minority groups, with over 320 people weekly on average using the pool.

2023 was a positive year in terms of securing funding for the county, with several schemes announced that will fund the social, economic, and cultural development of the county in the coming years.

The new LEADER Programme was announced in 2023 and funding of €6.4 million was allocated to Cavan for the programme from 2023-2027. Following Cavan Local Action Group's (LAG) successful submission of an expression of Interest in December 2022 a Local Development Strategy was submitted in July 2023 to the Department, which was approved in December 2023, with a view to the new LEADER Programme will be rolled out from 2024.

The Cavan PEACEPLUS plan was developed during 2023 after extensive consultation, and following approval by the PEACEPLUS Partnership and Cavan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), the county's PEACEPLUS action plan was submitted to the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) on 29th September. The total cost of the PEACEPLUS action plan, which will help address a lack of historic investment due to conflict and enhance peace and reconciliation in the county, is over €4.3 million.

Cavan County Council submitted 15 projects under the CLÁR programme to the Department of Rural and Community Development for approval, securing a €587,073 allocation in respect of 14 Projects under Measure 1. The Department also



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announced a €1,191,206 allocation for County Cavan under the Community Recognition Fund.

The local authority also submitted five applications under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme during 2023, which recently yielded an allocation of funding of €750,000 towards three projects in Ballyhaise, Ballyconnell, and Shercock.

Of course, all that I have outlined here represents just a fraction of the excellent work being undertaken by this local authority on your behalf. I want to pay tribute to the staff of Cavan County Council, whose dedication, skill, and passion for this county shine through the pages of this document. I thank also the elected members of Cavan County Council who perform a hugely important role, particularly in terms of oversight and in supporting the projects through the budgetary process.

A final word of thanks to our Cathaoirigh during 2023, Cllr John Paul Feeley, and Cllr Philip Brady. Both exercised the role with dignity and enthusiasm and were excellent ambassadors for the county and the organisation during the year.

I encourage as many people as possible to read through this report to truly appreciate the breadth of work being undertaken across the county. Of course, the work continues, and as I write, there are extraordinary things being achieved, and seeds are being sowed for projects that will be highlights in these reports many years into the future. I look forward to working with my colleagues, our elected representatives, and our many partner departments and agencies to continue to deliver for County Cavan for many years to come.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Eoin Doyle,

Chief Executive,

Cavan County Council



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An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL (SIFC)

Introduction

I, Eoin Doyle, Chief Executive (CE) of Cavan County Council am responsible for the annual financial statement (AFS), prepared by the Head of Finance, in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

I certify that the unaudited financial statements of Cavan County Council for the year ended 31 December 2023, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Minister of Housing Local Government and Heritage. They are currently being audited by the Local Government Auditor. The Audit is expected to conclude by July 2024.

The AFS is subject to external audit, by an auditor of the Local Government Audit Service, whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts and state whether the annual financial statement presents *fairly the financial position* of the local authority and of its income and expenditure for the period in question, and whether the transactions of the audited body conform with the statutory or other authorisation under which they purport to have been carried out.

The AFS reports on the day-to-day activity of Cavan County Council in the form of the Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines Cavan County Council's overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2023.

The *Statement of Comprehensive Income* represents expenditure and income on the day-to-day running of Cavan County Council.

The key sources of income for Cavan County Council are as follows:

	2023 €	2022 €
Goods & Services	18,632,427	18,397,740
Grants & Subsidies	47,532,832	39,915,324
Contributions from other Local Authorities	182,215	288,595
Rates	17,694,942	18,144,596
Local Property Tax	10,043,051	10,162,938



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Activity on the Income and Expenditure account for 2023 is as follows:

	2023 €	2022 €
Income	94,085,467	87,100,237
Expenditure	90,145,682	80,987,895
Transfers to Capital/Reserves	3,939,489	6,111,994
Exceptional Item	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	295	349
Prior Year Adjustment	-	-
Opening Revenue Reserve	1,743,916	1,743,568
Closing Revenue Reserve	1,744,212	1,743,917

The *Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)* represents the total financial activity of the council for the year together with comparative year figures as appropriate.

The statement includes assets and liabilities as follows:

- Assets both recently constructed/purchased and historical assets
- Work in progress and preliminary schemes- mainly roads and housing
- Long Term Debtors – housing loans
- Current Assets- including Stock, Debtors, Cash at bank
- Current and long term liabilities- mortgage and non-mortgage loan borrowings
- Various Reserves/Balances

The Net Assets of Cavan Council at the end of 2023 total € 1,652,555,220 and are as follows:

	2023 €	2022 €
Fixed Assets	1,590,579,656	1,574,193,981
Works in Progress	44,876,581	22,695,916
Long Term debtors	17,927,392	17,804,251
Current Assets	41,582,598	43,227,628
Current Liabilities	16,269,886	14,215,828
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)	25,312,712	29,011,800
Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)	26,141,121	25,582,145
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	1,652,555,220	1,618,123,803



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A *Statement of Funds Flow* was introduced as part of AFS 2011. While the guidance of International Accounting Standard 7 Statement of Cash Flows has been followed, the business of local authorities is substantially different to most private sector organisations and therefore some minor changes to the format have been agreed to ensure the data displayed is meaningful and useful within the local government sector.

System of Internal Financial Controls

As CE of Cavan County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by Cavan County Council. This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to Cavan County Council. Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner. Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.

Financial control environment

As CE of Cavan County Council, I confirm that a financial control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- There is an Audit Committee which as part of its work programme regularly review the internal financial control system.
- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

Administrative Controls and Management Reporting

As CE of Cavan County Council, I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that:

- procedures for key business processes have been documented
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority and
- there are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation.



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Procurement compliance

Cavan County Council ensures that there is an appropriate and ongoing focus on good practice in tendering and purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant procurement guidelines.

Internal audit and Audit Committee

As Chief Executive, I can confirm that Cavan County Council has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which Cavan County Council is exposed and its annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.

I can confirm that Cavan County Council has an effective Audit Committee which carries out an annual effectiveness review of their activities. I can also confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

The statutory functions of audit committees as set out in section 59 and 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are as follows:

- I. to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it;
- II. to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function;
- III. to 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;
- IV. to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and
- V. to review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks.

I recognise that the audit committee plays a crucial role in the governance framework of local authorities, particularly in the context of increased public sector accountability. They have 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 local authority.



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I acknowledge the Audit Committee's role in the risk management process and in the continuing review of the control environment and governance procedures in Cavan County Council.

Risk and control framework

Cavan County Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, mitigate those risks.

A corporate risk register is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Management Team on a regular basis. There is also a risk register in place for each service division and these are also reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibilities for the operation of controls are assigned to specific staff.

As Chief Executive, I confirm that key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.

The Statement of Internal Financial Control will be included in the draft Annual Report submitted to Council Members and thereafter included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30 June 2024.

Signed by:

Chief Executive

Dated:

30th April 2024



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Municipal Districts and their Elected Representatives

Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District

- Carmel Brady, Fine Gael
- Aiden Fitzpatrick, Fianna Fáil
- Clifford Kelly, Fianna Fáil
- Paddy McDonald, Sinn Féin
- Sarah O'Reilly, Aontú
- Val Smith, Fine Gael

Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District

- Madeleine Argue, Fine Gael
- Brendan Fay, Non Party
- John Paul Feeley, Fianna Fáil
- Peter McVitty, Fine Gael
- Áine Smith, Fianna Fáil
- Patricia Walsh, Fianna Fáil

Ballyjamesduff Municipal District

- Winston Bennett, Fine Gael
- Philip Brady, Fianna Fáil
- Craig Lovett, Fianna Fáil
- Shane P O'Reilly, Independent
- T.P. O'Reilly, Fine Gael
- Trevor Smith, Fine Gael



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Meetings of Local Authority

Meeting	Number of meetings held in 2023
Monthly, Reconvened and Special Meetings of the Plenary Council	11
Ballyjamesduff Municipal District Meetings	10
Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District Meetings	7
Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District Meetings	10
Annual General Meeting	1
Annual Budget Meeting	1
Corporate Policy Group Meetings	11
Housing, Community, Social Inclusion and Corporate Services Strategic Policy Committee	3
Economic, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee	5
Transportation, Infrastructure & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee	2
Climate and Biodiversity Action & Environment Strategic Policy Committee	2
Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport Strategic Policy Committee	4
Joint Policing Committee	4
Audit Committee	4



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Conferences, Seminars, Events Attended by Elected Members

Conference / Seminar / Event	Location	Purpose	Number Attended
Celtic Conferences	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	Local Authority Procurement Process	4
Celtic Conferences	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	Irish Social Welfare System	1
Daniel O'Connell Summer School	Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry	Summer School	7
Sean MacDiarmada Summer School	Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim	Summer School	1
Patrick MacGill Summer Schoo	Glenties, Co. Donegal	Summer School	3

Training Availed of by Elected Members

Title of Training	Body that Provided Training	Location	Number attended
Module 1 A Briefing on the Electoral Reform Act	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick	7
		Tullamore Court Hotel	4
Module 2 Local Authority Climate Action Plans	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Fairways Hotel, Dundalk	6
Module 3 Overview of Existing Planning Legislation and Policy Guidance	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Mullingar Park Hotel	4
		Avalon House Hotel	4



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Title of Training	Body that Provided Training	Location	Number attended
Module 4 Uisce Eireann – A Briefing for Councillors	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Radisson Blu Hotel, Sligo	10
Module 5 Elected Member Personal Security – Positive Home, Workplace and Mobile Security Practices	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Hotel Kilmore, Cavan Rose Hotel, Tralee	3 6
Module 6 Road Safety: New Speed Limit Policy and Safeguarding Road Users	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Clayton Hotel, Galway	12
Annual Conference	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Hotel Kilkenny	11
Autumn Seminar	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Sligo Park Hotel	12
Regions in Focus Seminar and Training	Association of Irish Regions (AIR)	Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan	7
Spring Training Seminar	Local Authority Members' Association (LAMA)	Bantry, Co. Cork	11
Autumn Training Seminar	Local Authority Members' Association (LAMA)	Tuam, Co. Galway	12



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Public Authorities and Other Bodies Elected Members are represented on

Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board	Clifford Kelly, Patricia Walsh, Brendan Fay, Sarah O'Reilly, Madeleine Argue, Carmel Brady, Áine Smith
Health Service Executive Regional Health Forum, Dublin North East	Aiden Fitzpatrick, Trevor Smith
Cavan Local Sports Partnership Board	Brendan Fay, Paddy McDonald, Craig Lovett, Patricia Walsh, Madeleine Argue
Northern & Western Regional Authority	Áine Smith, Clifford Kelly
Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Patricia Walsh, Craig Lovett, Winston Bennett
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited	Paddy McDonald
Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	John Paul Feeley, Shane P O'Reilly, Peter McVitty
Local Authority Members' Association (LAMA)	Clifford Kelly
Cavan Local Community Development Committee	Clifford Kelly, Aiden Fitzpatrick, T.P. O'Reilly
County Cavan Joint Policing Committee	Sarah O'Reilly, Shane P. O'Reilly, Clifford Kelly, John Paul Feeley, Carmel Brady, Peter McVitty, Madeleine Argue, Paddy McDonald, Patricia Walsh, Aiden Fitzpatrick, Philip Brady, Craig Lovett, Brendan Fay, Trevor Smith, T.P. O'Reilly
North East Regional Drugs Task Force	Aiden Fitzpatrick, Carmel Brady
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	John Paul Feeley, Patricia Walsh, Trevor Smith, Madeleine Argue
Age Friendly Alliance	Brendan Fay, Carmel Brady
Local Monitoring Committee (Rural Water Programme)	John Paul Feeley, Winston Bennett, Áine Smith
County Cavan Heritage Forum	Brendan Fay, Aiden Fitzpatrick, Shane P. O'Reilly, T.P. O'Reilly
HSE Cavan/Monaghan Suicide Prevention Steering Group and Community Implementation Group	Sarah O'Reilly, T.P. O'Reilly



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Payments to Members of Cavan County Council in 2023

Annual Expenses Allowance (travel, subsistence and miscellaneous expenses)	€53,071.43
Representational Payments	€512,664.86
Local Representation Allowance	€ 64,970.48
Cathaoirleach / Leas Cathaoirleach Allowances (including Municipal Authorities)	€ 40,965.69
Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees	€ 25,589.00
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at Conferences, Seminars	€ 7,289.45
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at Training Events	€ 35,047.30
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at events abroad	€ 6,355.66



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Strategic Policy Committees

<p>Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning</p>	<p>Climate, Biodiversity Action & Environment</p>
<p>Cllr John Paul Feeley Chair Cllr Peter McVitty Cllr Sarah O'Reilly Cllr Winston Bennett Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick Cllr Carmel Brady Thomas Rogers (Agriculture & Farming) Jim McGaughran (Development & Construction) Tom Brady (Business & Commercial) Stanley Nwaneri (Community & Voluntary)</p>	<p>Cllr Philip Brady Chair Cllr Madeleine Argue Cllr Winston Bennett Cllr T.P. O'Reilly Cllr Shane P. O'Reilly Cllr Craig Lovett Fintan McCabe (Environment /Conservation) Barry Wilson (Community/ Voluntary) Joe Brady (Agriculture)</p>
<p>Housing, Social Inclusion and Corporate Affairs</p>	<p>Transportation, Infrastructure and Emergency Services</p>
<p>Cllr Val Smith Chair Cllr Paddy McDonald Cllr Clifford Kelly Cllr Patricia Walsh Cllr Trevor Smith Cllr Madeleine Argue Leanne Coyle (Community/Voluntary) Thomas Maughan (Social Inclusion) Paul Elliott (Development & Construction) Theresa Thompson (Trade Unions)</p>	<p>Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick Chair Cllr Peter McVitty Cllr Sarah O'Reilly Cllr Trevor Smith Cllr T.P. O' Reilly Cllr Brendan Fay Padraig J Young (Agriculture & Farming) Eamon Mulcahy (Community/ Voluntary)</p>
<p>Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport</p>	
<p>Cllr Clifford Kelly Chair Cllr Philip Brady Cllr Paddy McDonald Cllr Craig Lovett Cllr Val Smith Cllr Shane P O'Reilly Michelle Duffy Rudden (Business & Commercial) Evija Nwaneri (Environment / Conservation) Grainne McPhillips (Social Inclusion) Mary B Duffy (Community / Voluntary)</p>	



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Political Donations

The Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act, 1999 (as amended) requires that Elected Members of Local Authorities furnish donation statements to their Local Authority by 31st January each year giving details of donations received by them in the preceding twelve-month period. No political donations were declared by the elected members for the period 1st January 2023 to the 31st of December 2023 as per donations statements submitted by each elected member by the 31st of January 2023.

The Corporate Plan 2019 -2024

The Corporate plan was adopted in February 2020 and outlines the Local Authority’s strategic framework for activity during the lifetime of the Council. (It is adopted in accordance with section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 as inserted by section 49 of the Local Government Act 2014).

Our Values

The focus of Cavan County Council is to deliver a quality service to the citizens of Cavan in an efficient, accountable and transparent way.

The following core values will inform and underpin our decisions:

Local Democracy:	Promote and support greater community involvement while recognising and respecting the democratic mandate of the elected members and their role in providing representation and civic leadership in the county
Quality Customer Service	Commit to delivering a high-quality service which meets the changing needs of our customers
Integrity	Maintain proper standards of integrity in the performance of our duties
Progressive	Strive continuously for improvements in all that we do to promote an innovative and forward-thinking organisation
Sustainability	Deliver our services in accordance with the principles of sustainability, respecting our natural resources and safeguarding the environment for future generations.
Equality	Commit to improving equality of opportunity for everyone and to promoting a culture of wellbeing, inclusion and respect for all.

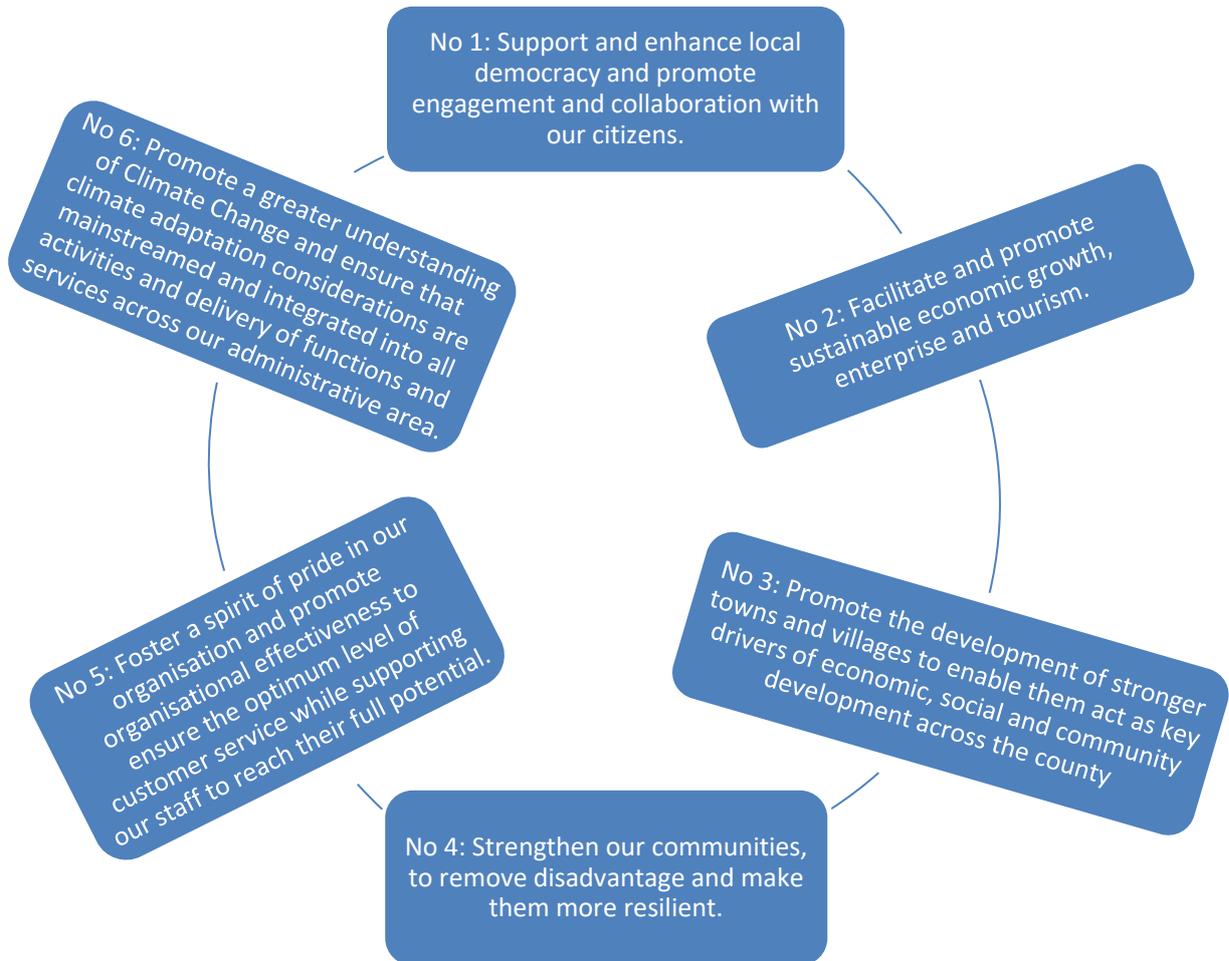


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The Strategic Objectives identified in the Corporate Plan are as follows:

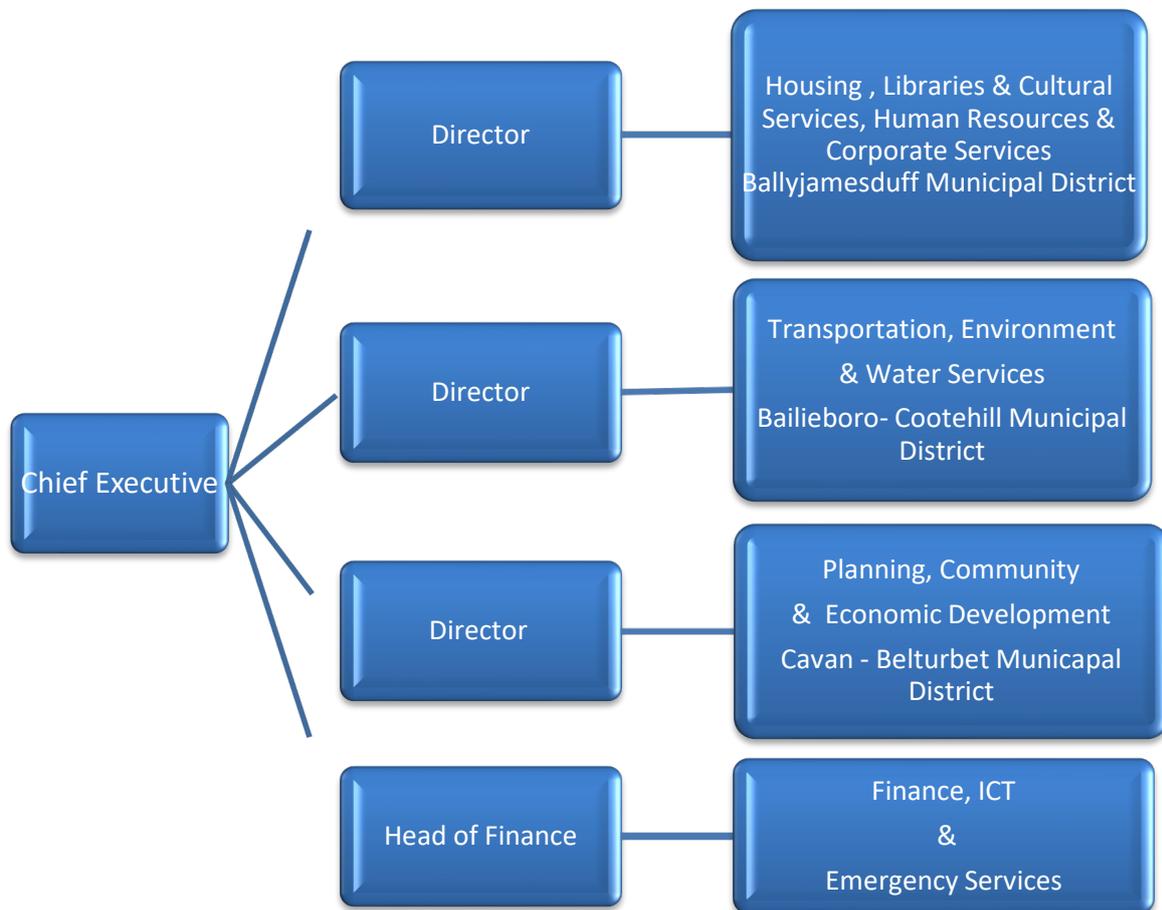


In accordance with section 134 (9) (a) of the local Government Act 2001 Cavan County Council is required to prepare an Annual Progress Report on the implementation of the Corporate Plan. This annual review was carried out and presented as part of the budget report submitted to the members at the time of the statutory budget meeting. The annual progress report included reports by the various departments and is supplemented by the Annual Service Delivery plan and the chief executives' monthly reports. The report highlighted progress made during 2023 and also sets out progress made in relation to commitments set down by the Council's Corporate Plan for the period 2019-2024.



Management Team

In October 2023 Mr Tommy Ryan retired from Cavan County Council after eight years in the role as Chief Executive. The management team was restructured, with Mr Eoin Doyle currently acting as Chief Executive and Ms Lynda McGavigan acting as Director of Service.





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Management Team January 2023 to October 2023



Eoin Doyle
Director of Services



Paddy Connaughton
Director of Services



Brendan Jennings
Director of Services



Margaret McNally
A/Head of Finance

Management Team from November 2023



Paddy Connaughton
Director of Services



Brendan Jennings
Director of Services



Margaret McNally
A/Head of Finance



Lynda McGavigan
A/Director of Services

Housing, Libraries & Cultural Services, Human Resources & Corporate Services

Human Resources and Corporate Affairs

Human Resources

The 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.

On 31st December 2023 440 staff and 90 retained firefighters were employed by the Council.



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Recruitment

During 2023 the Human Resources Department finalised competitions advertised at the end of 2022 and also organised a further 30 separate competitions for various posts within the Council. The 2023 competitions attracted 1,275 applicants and a significant number of employees have been appointed as a result of these competitions, including new employees joining the organisation and in many cases, existing employees attaining promotion.

The Council was also among only four local authorities in Ireland to participate in the WAM programme, a graduate programme for people with disabilities. Three staff were employed on this programme in 2023 and a further four graduates will be employed in 2024.

Gender Pay Gap Report

In December 2023, the Council published its Gender Pay Gap Report, the second such report to be commissioned by this local authority. The Gender Pay Gap calculates the percentage difference between the average earnings of males and females irrespective of their role. The Gender Pay Gap is not the same as equal pay. Employment Equality legislation provides for equal pay for like work. All male and female employees in the local government sector are paid equally for work that is the same or similar or for work of equal value, therefore this report does not examine equal pay. Rates of pay within the sector are agreed through national wage agreements negotiated regularly between employers and staff representatives. Most employees are paid according to an incremental salary scale.

Organisations are asked to select a 'snapshot' date in the month of June. The reporting period is the 12-month period immediately preceding and including the snapshot date, which for local authorities, the snapshot date is 30 June 2023. Organisations have six months to prepare their calculations, before reporting six months later during December 2023.

By way of comparison, in terms of gender balance on 30th June 2022 62% of all Cavan County Council's employees were male and 38% were female, and this



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remained the same in 2023. The Mean Gender Pay Gap shows that on average, in 2022 females are paid 2.01% less than males whereas in 2023 females were paid 0.94% less than males. The Median Gender Pay Gap shows that the median rate of pay in 2022 for females is 8.31% higher than the median rate of pay for males and in 2023 this increased to being 14.23% higher for females than the median rate of pay for males.

More detailed information in relation to part-time employees, pay band quartiles etc. is outlined in the Gender Pay Gap Report which is available on the Council's website or on request from the Human Resources Section.

Staff Welfare

Work/Life Balance Options

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, shorter working year and career breaks.

Blended Working

In accordance with national guidelines for the public sector, blended working arrangements were also introduced in 2022. Blended working is a combination of office based/on-site and remote working which can be undertaken at home, in a hub or alternative office-based location.

Blended working, where consistent with the organisational needs of the local authority and where a role is deemed suitable, enables a local authority (subject to certain criteria) to offer a choice to an employee of the location where their role will be undertaken. Whilst this does not change the nature of the role or the substantive duties to be carried out by the employee, it will require all employees to be more flexible in the undertaking of their duties both in the remote and office-based environment.

It was a matter for each Council to develop its own Blended Working Policy, consistent with the sectoral national framework. The policy has considered the



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functional and operational needs of the Council, having due regard to national and sectoral policy to ensure consistency. This consistency reflects in the application of blended working to grades, roles, and functions across the sector and takes into account the individual service delivery models/process of each local authority. Employees have the right to request the option of blended working within the policy of the Council. However, reflecting the nature of local government services, a significant proportion of the Council's services must be delivered within a specific workplace on a full-time basis and therefore, would not be suitable for blended working.

Employees availing of blended working will be required to attend the Council's work premises for a minimum of 3 days per week and can therefore work remotely for a maximum of 2 days per week. The move to blended working does not, of itself, change existing hours of attendance.

The application process opened in June 2022 and blended working arrangements were implemented from Monday 3rd October 2022. To date, 95 employees are currently availing of blended working arrangements.

Staff Newsletter

In 2021 we reintroduced a staff newsletter, which proved very popular amongst employees and continued on a regular basis. The newsletter provides information to staff on Council activities and also information on health and wellness issues, as well as updates on retirements, new staff joining the organisation etc.

Wellness Programme

The Council continues a Wellness Programme for staff which not only promotes the Council's employee assistance programme, but also encouraged employees to participate in Council organised free talks and workshops on issues such as mindfulness, men's and women's health promotion, physical activities, parenting advice etc. throughout 2023.



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Learning & Development

A comprehensive Learning & Development Programme was delivered in 2023 to enable staff carry out their role in a confident, competent manner and contribute effectively to the overall vision of the organisation and the accomplishment of its goals and objectives. Staff training was delivered via 38 online courses and 249 in-person courses, with specific emphasis on health & safety and mandatory organisational training needs. Cumulatively, training was provided to 1,189 indoor staff and 859 outdoor staff. Support continued to be provided to staff wishing to pursue further education study programmes.

Performance Management and Development System (PMDS)

Performance Management and Development System (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 competency framework, now embedded in the organisation for both Senior and Middle Managers, is an integral part of our PMDS process. Performance Management and Development System in Cavan County Council is driven by the Senior Management Team.

Corporate Affairs

Freedom of Information (FOI)

The Freedom of Information Act came into effect on 21 April 1998. 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.



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Freedom of Information (FOI) Statistics 2023:

Cases brought forward from 2022:	0
Number of applications received:	60
Number of applications granted:	32
Number of applications part granted:	2
Number of applications refused:	16
Withdrawn/Dealt with outside FOI:	8
Ongoing requests:	2

Data Protection

GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 came into effect in May 2018. GDPR has wider scope, standards and sanctions & is seen more fit for purpose in the digital age.

The following rights have been conferred on members of the public:

- the right to be informed;
- the right of access;
- the right to rectification;
- the right to erasure;
- the right to restrict processing;
- the right to data portability;
- the right to object;
- rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling.

As a Data Controller Cavan County Council is legally obliged under legislation to:

- Process it lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner;
- Collect it only for one or more specified, explicit and legitimate purposes, and do not otherwise use it in a way that is incompatible with those purposes;
- Ensure it is adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for the purpose it is processed;
- Keep it accurate and up-to-date and erase or rectify any inaccurate data without delay;



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- Where it is kept in a way that allows you to identify who the data is about, retain it for no longer than is necessary;
- Keep it secure by using appropriate technical and/or organisational security measures;
- Be able to demonstrate your compliance with the above principles; and
- Respond to requests by individuals seeking to exercise their data protection rights (for example the right of access).

Data Protection Statistics 2023: Subject Access Requests 2

Council Meetings and Elected Members

Corporate Affairs has responsibility for the administration of plenary Council meetings and provides support to the Cathaoirleach and the Elected Members in carrying out their functions and duties.

During 2023 the Council received a visit from H.E. Stanislav Vidovic, Ambassador of Slovenia to Ireland and hosted Cathaoirleach's and Civic receptions to honour Michael Hanley, Lacken Camogie Team, members of Jugendblasorchester Kurnachtal EV, Cavan Under 16 Ladies Football Team, Breffni Blues Special Olympics Club and Cavan Tidy Towns Committees. As part of the Cavan Calling festival the Council also hosted a reception in honour of our Cavan Associations and our Twinning/Sister Cities & Partners from the United States, Canada, Australia, Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Register of Electors

The Electoral Reform Act 2022 was signed into law on the 25th July 2022. This Act is a fundamental strengthening of our electoral system and processes, and it will make them more streamlined, effective, inclusive and resilient into the future. Under the new Electoral Reform Act 2022, the processes of producing a draft, final and supplement registers have been replaced by a single live and continuously updated register. This means that the same process is in place all year around and electoral records can be updated at any time up to fifteen days before an electoral event. The



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most significant change to the electoral register process lies in the move from fixed statutorily imposed deadlines for updating electoral register to continuous or rolling registration which can now be done online or through a form. From the age of sixteen years, one can apply to be added to the Pending Electors List and the registration system will record the elector as pending until they reach the eligible voting age of eighteen years. Once they reach eighteen the registration system will automatically update their status to active.

HOUSING

2023 was another busy year for Cavan County Council's Housing Section. The provision of good quality, affordable accommodation presents challenges, but also opportunities for the county and significant funding has been provided for the delivery of housing solutions for those in need.

The principal work areas for the Housing Services in 2023 were:

- Delivery of the Housing Capital Programme
- Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2023
- Management of the Housing Assistance Programme (HAP), Rental Accommodation Scheme, Local Authority Home Loan Scheme, Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme and Social Leasing Scheme
- Operation and management of the three Housing Grant Schemes
- Mortgage to Rent
- Housing, Social Inclusion & Corporate Services Strategic Policy Committee – review and development Housing Policies
- Homelessness/Tenancy Sustainment and Housing First Initiative implementation
- Estate Management Programme
- Implementation of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024
- Management and Maintenance/Refurbishment of Housing Stock
- Corporate Building Projects



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Delivery of the Housing Capital Programme

Funding for the construction of new social housing schemes, the acquisition of houses for use as council owned social housing, and other capital grant aid comes from the Social Housing Investment Programme. The 2023 Capital Funding Allocations received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage were as follows:

• New Build Programme	€ 10,465,569
• Acquisition Programme	€ 4,061,460
• Part V Purchases	€ 445,207
• Energy Retrofit	€ 1,464,788
• Voids Programme	€ 568,068
• Housing Adaptation Grants to Council Houses	€ 176,747
• <u>Traveller Accommodation Programme</u>	€ 100,552
TOTAL	€ 17,282,391

In 2023, 29 new build social housing units were completed under the Council's "Housing for All" Programme.

- 23 units at Blackridge, Mullaghduff, Ballyconnell.
- 6 units at Glenwood Park, Tullybuck, Butlersbridge.



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Official Opening for 23 units at Blackridge, Mullaghduff, Ballyconnell

By the end of 2023, seven schemes for 92 units were under construction:

- 19 units at Main Street, Mullagh.
- 13 units at Elm Park, Cavan.
- 32 units at Woodlands, Ballyjamesduff.
- 20 units at St. Brigids Terrace, Cavan.
- 3 units at Fairymount Close, Kingscourt.
- 3 Units at the Duckin Stool, Belturbet
- 2 Units at Taoibh Coille, Virginia.



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Contract Signing for 20 units at St. Brigids Terrace, Cavan

Two schemes for 54 units progressed to tender stage:

- 45 units at Páirc na Teile, Bailieborough.
- 9 units at Widows Row, Cavan

Significant progress was made on a further ten other schemes for 146+ units:

- 50+ units at Swellan Lower, Cavan.
- 33 units at Lisaturrin, Kingscourt.
- 11 units in Kilnaleck.
- 11 units at Ashgrove Court, Ballyjamesduff.
- 10 units at Chapel Lane, Town Centre, Cootehill.
- 8 units at Portaliffe, Killeshandra.
- 7 units at Townparks, Ballyhaise.
- 6 units at Cavan Road, Errigal, Cootehill.
- 6 units at Taoibh Coille, Yew Park, Virginia.
- 4 units at Drumbarlow Road, Kilconny, Belturbet.

In 2023, Approved Housing Bodies delivered 8 new build social housing units:

- 8 units at Drumalee Manor, Cavan.



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House Acquisitions

The Council completed the acquisition of 15 No. houses in 2023.

Management, Maintenance and Refurbishment of Housing Stock.

Housing Construction Section is responsible for the maintenance of the Council's stock of 2217 housing units. A sum of €1,419,820 was allocated in the Council Budget 2023 for response maintenance to council houses.

The budget allocation is used for day-to-day repairs such as:

- Heating Issues.
- Plumbing Issues.
- Electrical Issues.
- Roof Repairs.
- Window repairs - fair wear and tear only – (tenant responsible for broken windows).
- Door repairs – fair wear and tear only.
- Stove repairs.
- Repairs to demountable dwellings.

Inspection of Private Rented Accommodation:

Housing Section carries out inspections on private rented accommodation to assess compliance with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019.

187 private rented dwellings were the subject of at least one inspection for compliance with the Regulations during 2023.

77 of these properties (41%) were deemed compliant by the end of the year.

Adaptation Works for Disabled Persons & Improvement Works in Lieu Scheme

This scheme provides for either an extension to a council property where the tenants either require additional space due to overcrowding or need a ground floor extension due to a disability. Funding of €176,747 was received from the Department of Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with 10% co-funding from the Council allowed for the completion of adaptation works to 24 council houses for tenants with a disability.



Programme of Works to Vacant Housing Units

A funding allocation of €568,068 was received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the completion of improvement works on vacant houses which allows for funding up to an average value of €11,000 per property per claim. With this funding, together with funding from the Council's own resources, a total of 59 No. vacant council houses were returned to use in 2023.



Refurbishment Works in Progress at Jubilee Terrace, Cavan

Croí Conáithe (Towns) Fund - Vacant Properties Refurbishment Grant

This scheme was launched in July 2022, it was expanded in November 2022 and again in May 2023. It is focused on first time buyers and those qualifying for “fresh start” and confirmation of vacancy must be verified.

By the end of 2023:

- Total number of Applications received to date 212
- Number of Applications to provide further information 55
- Number of Applications approved in principle to date 135



Energy Retrofit Programme

This programme provides for a significant upscaling in the level of funding available and focuses on ensuring that the fabric of the home is upgraded, and an energy efficient heating system provided. An upgrade to a BER of “B2” is the target for each unit.

In 2023, the Council received funding of €1,464,788.

In total, retrofit work was completed on 51 No. houses – fifteen vacant houses and thirty-six tenanted houses.



Energy Retrofit Works completed at Laragh Crescent , Cavan

Summary of Social Housing Needs Assessment 2023

The annual Summary of Social Housing Needs Assessment was carried out on 1 November 2023. A total of 1137 households qualified for social housing support. 580 of these were already in receipt of support and were seeking a transfer from existing council or HAP tenancies leaving the total nett need for social housing support in the county at 557, a 21% increase on nett need in 2022. 304 new applicants were met face to face in 2023 and a further 388 applications were reviewed because of change in circumstances or as part of Housing Needs Assessment.



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Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

HAP plays a vital role in the delivery of affordable housing to the residents in the County. It is a form of social housing support whereby the Council provides financial assistance to people who are qualified renting in the private rented sector. There was a total of 429 active tenancies on 31st December 2023. A HAP Place Finder Service commenced in September 2023. The service provides guidance and financial support to those households who find themselves in homelessness or with impending homelessness.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The RAS Scheme continued to operate in a very challenging environment. Many landlords sought to terminate the tenancies as they wished to sell their properties and given the limited availability of alternative properties resources concentrate on the provision of alternative solutions for these tenants. Despite this the total active tenancies at year end were 465 (incl. Approved Housing Body).

Leasing of Property

A total of 223 active lease agreements are in place with both private landlords and Approved Housing Bodies under the social housing leasing scheme. All of these are rented by the Council to qualified applicants on its waiting list.

Mortgage to Rent Scheme

On 31 December 2023 40 homeowners were successfully housed in the scheme. Activity in this area continues to increase which is beneficial for homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes and becoming homeless.

Loans and Tenant Purchase

The Council continued to offer loans to first time buyers under the Housing for All Local Authority Home Loan Scheme. In 2023, 1 loan was paid out with a further 4 finally approved and 5 approved in principle. Seven tenant households purchased their houses under the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme in 2023 and 28 letters of



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offer were issued.

Differential Rent Scheme 2023

The Differential Rent Scheme 2023 came into effect on 1st August 2023. All rents will be reviewed in accordance with the Scheme in 2024. A total of €6.8m income is being included in the 2024 budget under this heading.

National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027

The National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027 was launched in January 2022. Developed under the guiding principles of Housing for All, the government's National Plan for Housing to 2030, the strategy seeks to facilitate disabled people to live independently with the appropriate choices and control over where, how and with whom they live. Working together with the relevant Agencies the Council seeks to meet the objectives and the targets set out in the Local Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disabilities 2022-2027. A review of this Plan is currently being undertaken to ensure it meets the requirements of the National Implementation Plan which was recently launched by the Minister. A Mental Health Housing Action Team and Disability Housing Action Team has been established to arrange for both the accommodation needs and the support packages to enable disabled people to live independently if the so wish.

Homelessness Provision

2023 seen a significant increase in homelessness within the County. The housing department dealt with 182 homeless presentations in 2023, a 50% increase on 2022. A total of 66 adults and 24 children were provided with temporary emergency accommodation. In recognition of the difficulties being experienced by people a new Homeless HAP Placefinder Service was introduced in September and work is ongoing to develop this service in the County as a preventative measure to homelessness. Cavan County Council have service level agreements with Dublin Simon and the Peter McVerry Trust to deliver on programmes for homeless prevention, accommodation



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solutions and support for housing applicants with complex needs. Cavan County Council continues to roll out Housing First and there is a total of 6 active tenancies participating in the programme at 31st December 2023.

Private House Grants

There are three types of grants provided by the council: Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability Scheme, the Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme and the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme. The schemes are designed to help people remain living in their homes when they are no longer suited to meet their needs. A total of €1,739,019 was spent on 187 grants in 2023 which was over the allocated amount and additional funding was approved by the Department. The total committed expenditure at the end of the year was €2,622,017.

Grant	Number	Amount
Housing Adaptation Grant for people with a Disability	93	€1,153,832
Housing Aid for Older People Scheme	13	€70,739
Mobility Aids Grant Scheme	81	€514,448
Total	187	€1,739,019

Traveller Accommodation Programme

The Council continued to address the targets agreed as adopted in the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2019 – 2024. The targets set out in the Programme up to 2023 have been achieved. At the end of 2023, a total of 147 traveller households were in receipt of social housing support.

Estate Management Programme

The Estate Management Programme includes pre-tenancy training, tenant liaison, estate enhancement and grant scheme. 132 local authority tenancies and 28 approved housing body tenancies were created in 2023. A total of 132 pre-tenancy



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training sessions were completed in 2023 prior to tenant receiving keys to their local authority properties.

162 complaints of anti-social behaviour were received in 2023, 131 of which were dealt with and closed by 31st December 2023. The Council regained possession of 3 abandoned properties.

Cavan County Council's Tenant Liaison Officers work with residents of local authority estates supporting them in their efforts to improve the living environment of social housing areas. The annual estate grant scheme continued in 2023 and grants were awarded to 54 resident groups who applied for and submitted plans for improving the appearance of their estates.



The Fairgreen, Belturbet, Co.Cavan

CORPORATE BUILDING PROJECTS

New Civic, Cultural and Library Services Centre, Virginia

Housing Construction Section provided Project Management services for this “new build” project which includes a new library incorporating a complete restoration of the former Parochial House and significant improvement works to the existing Ramor Theatre including the provision of a new “box office” area. The Project Architect was Cooney Architects/Keys and Monaghan JV. The Main Contractor, DEMAC



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Construction Ltd, commenced construction of this scheme in May 2021 and the project was substantially completed on the 12 June 2023.



Playgrounds

There are 27 existing playgrounds and 8 outdoor gym areas in the County and Cavan County Council is responsible for the maintenance and insurance of these. A sum of €148,694 was allocated in the Council Budget 2023 for the general maintenance, repairs, and grant match funding of council playgrounds. In addition, €100,000 from CLÁR for Kilnaleck and Cootehill Playgrounds, €16,000 from Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for Tullacmongan Playground and €46,000 for Virginia Lakeshore from DRCD & Council Match Funding was allocated for major refurbishment works in 2023.



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Tullacmongan Playground Before & After



Kilnaleck Playground Before & After

Libraries and Cultural Affairs

Cavan Library Service

Cavan County Library Service provides a vital service in the heart of every community it serves with branches serving as welcoming civic spaces for all.



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ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Cavan Library Service continued to adopt a blended approach to event programming in 2023, with key local and national festivals such as Seachtain na Gaeilge in March and Cavan Monaghan Science Festival in November being celebrated in libraries and also in an online setting.

Social media is utilised to maximum effect to highlight the range of online services freely available through the library service, which has seen strong usage of e-books and e-audiobooks, online newspapers, magazines and language and other training courses.

ONGOING LIBRARY INITIATIVES

Cavan Library Service continues to roll out national initiatives such as Right to Read and Healthy Ireland at your Library. Right to Read supports the development of literacy, and Cavan Libraries engages with our library users in-branch and via social media to support home schooling/study and reading for pleasure with online activities to support Spring into Storytime, Summer Stars and Children's Book Festival.

Cavan Library consistently works with other local organisations to ensure that our services support and enhance existing local literacy programmes. We are committed to stocking wide ranging and varied book collections to support literacy projects, continuing to train staff to offer advice on reader development and book selection and to providing an events and activities programme suitable for children of all ages. Cavan County Council has achieved a national Right to Read Award annually since 2017.

Following training with Age Friendly Ireland, Cavan Library Service is proud to include an Age Friendly Champion in each branch who is committed to implementing initiatives to support our older members.

CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL 2023

Cavan County Library Service has been organising Children's Book Festival events in October for many years, and it remains a central focus of the annual programming



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calendar. In 2023, Cavan Library Service delivered an engaging programme of author visits, storytellers, illustrators and drama workshops, including sessions as Gaeilge, and a special sensory session. Primary school children from the surrounds of Ballyconnell, Arva, Belturbet, Cavan, Cootehill, & Bailieborough visited their local branch libraries in the county, or alternatively received a visit from some of the featured professional storytellers and authors, thus promoting children's literature, encouraging children to read, and to use their local branch library on a regular basis! It was the perfect opportunity to offer 'live performances' to children who were confined to online activities for the most part of the last couple of years.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Cavan Library Service acknowledges the important role of the many partners we work with in delivering our annual programmes, including Cavan County Council's Community and Enterprise Section, Culture and Creativity Team, Cavan Sports Partnership, and external agencies such as Cavan/Monaghan ETB, the HSE and many more.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

In partnership with Healthy Cavan and Cavan Sports Partnership, Cavan Library Service launched a new and exciting opportunity for physical activity as part of the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme. Library members can now borrow, free of charge, a set of activator walking poles from designated libraries in the county. Walking with activator poles not only makes walking easier, but supports mobility, promotes recovery from illness and surgery, and improves overall health and wellbeing.



Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council Cllr Philip Brady, pictured with Cllr. Carmel Brady, members of the Older Person's Council in Cavan at the launch of the Activator Poles initiative, at Virginia Library.

PHOTO: Adrian Donohoe

Creative Cavan Programme

Cavan Library Service plays an integral role in the coordination of the Creative Ireland programme for the county and 2023 highlights include Cruinniú na nÓg in June and Culture Night in September. Cruinniú na nÓg, a national day to celebrate creativity among children and young people, took place Saturday 10th June with a host of fun, interactive activities coordinated by Cavan County Library Service, Cavan Arts Office and the County Museum. Cavan County Council continued to collaborate with Monaghan County Council on developing content for the Cavan Monaghan Creative Youth YouTube channel. This channel continues to showcase content across multiple art forms by young people across Cavan and Monaghan.



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Minister Heather Humphreys, pictured with Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council Cllr. John Paul Feeley, and Fanzini, outside Johnston Central Library, celebrating Cruinniú na nÓg 2023, on 10th June 2023. PHOTO: Lorraine Teevan

Cavan Library Service successfully applied for Dormant Account Funding to continue its work with marginalized, socially excluded, and disadvantaged communities, including the provision of specialised reader pens to assist children and adults with learning difficulties such as dyslexia.

During Sustainable Development Goals Week in September, storytime sessions on the theme of SDG were arranged in library branches to gently convey the message to children about the importance of protecting our planet. Demonstrations of the Codema Home Energy Kit for adults were also organised.

Decade of Centenaries 2023

Cavan Library Service, working in partnership with the Cavan Culture and Creativity Team, coordinated the final year of the Decade of Centenaries programme on behalf



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of Cavan County Council. The continued engagement of a Historian in Residence delivered a solid programme of in-person and online activity with schools and the wider public. The 2023 Autumn Centenary Lecture Series, coordinated by Cavan Library Service and the Historian in Residence, took place in libraries and in the County Museum, and was also made available to access online. Cavan County Council, working in partnership with Monaghan County Council, has presented a number of commemorative events featuring young people from across the region.

Cavan Library Service coordinated an event to mark the 25th anniversary of the Belfast Agreement, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Martin Mansergh and a panel discussion.

Encouraging the Reading Habit

During February 2023, Cavan Library Service encouraged everyone to take part in 'Ireland Reads', a national reading campaign, aimed at promoting the power of reading for enjoyment and wellbeing.

Our branch libraries play a central role in supporting local community activities by providing venues and promotion for events, such as Cootehill Library hosting a play and musical concert and Bailieborough Library hosting a local photographic exhibition as part of Culture Night.

Opening of Virginia Civic, Cultural and Library Services Centre

The much-anticipated official opening of the Virginia Civic, Cultural and Library Services Centre took place on 13th October 2023.



Minister Heather Humphreys, pictured with Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council Cllr Philip Brady and County Librarian Emma Clancy with children from St. Mary's NS at the opening of Virginia Library on 13th October 2023.

PHOTO: Sheila Rooney

Staffing Developments:

Cavan County Library Service appointed the following staff in 2023:

Julie Sheridan, Eleanor Flood, Leanne McMahon, Valeriya Yeremenko, Anne Dolan, Helen McCabe, Margaret Bannon and Susan Gilsean.

The Creative Cavan Programme was greatly enhanced in 2023 with the appointment of a new Creative Communities Engagement Officer. Ms. Sharon Howe took up her post in September 2023, and is based in Cavan Library Headquarters.

Kathleen Brady, Johnston Central Library, retired in 2023, and is wished good health and happiness in her retirement.



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Service Indicators - 2023

L1: Library Visits, Issues and Registered Members	
A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the local authority area per the 2022 Census	1.43
B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	134,957
C. Library active members per head of population	0.13
D. Number of registered members of the library in the year	10,115
L2: Cost per capita of operating a Library Service and per capita expenditure on collections	
A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2023 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	€ 37.65
B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 1/01/2023 to 31/12/2023	€ 1.65

Strategic Policy Committee

Cavan County Library Service reports to the Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport Strategic Policy Committee

Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport Strategic Policy Committee	
Chairperson	Cllr Clifford Kelly
Elected Members	Cllr Philip Brady Cllr Paddy McDonald Cllr Craig Lovett Cllr Val Smith Cllr Shane P O' Reilly
Business & Commercial	Michelle Duffy Rudden
Environment/Conservation	Evija Nwaneri
Social Inclusion	Grainne McPhillips



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Community / Voluntary	Mary B. Duffy
Administrator: Emma L. Clancy	
2023 Meetings: February/ May/ September/ December	
Topics/Issues Covered: Creative Cavan/ Decade of Centenaries/ Arts Grants/ TownHall Programming/ Cavan Calling/ Culture Night/ Irish Language/ Cavan Sports Partnership/ Reopening of the Ramor Theatre/ Amateur Drama Scene in Cavan/ Music Generation Cavan-Monaghan/ Opening of Virginia Civic, Cultural & Library Services Centre	

LIBRARY FUNDING 2023

Cavan County Library Service received over €330,000 in funding to upgrade facilities and support library initiatives.

Funding Initiative	Amount
Dormant Accounts Funding	3778.92
DRCD Funding to support ICT Upgrades	32388.40
Decade of Centenaries	47767.60
Creative Ireland	224,044.10
Healthy Ireland at Your Library	6321.12
Cavan Monaghan Science Festival	18261.30



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CAVAN CALLING 2023

Taking place from 26th to 30th July, Cavan Calling 2023 was a spectacular success, drawing Cavan people from across the globe back home, capturing the imagination of the residents of County Cavan, and generating huge amounts of positive press for the Breffni County in the international media.

The event, a celebration of the global Cavan family – the county’s diaspora, culture, and heritage – was initially scheduled to take place in 2020, but was postponed due to Covid-19. The long-awaited celebration, organised by Cavan County Council, proved worth the wait, with a line up including a sell-out show by the legendary new wave group The Boomtown Rats, a street carnival, fireworks spectacular, food markets, ancestry conference, military show, theatre performances, concerts, and much, much more.

The event committee, led out by County Librarian Emma Clancy, featured participants from across the organisation with contributions from Corporate Services, Cavan-Belturbet MD, Theatres, Arts Office, Library Service, Community, Enterprise and Tourism, Environment, Local Enterprise Office, Heritage, Museum, Fire Service, Civil Defence, and Health and Safety, not to mention the many volunteers from across the organisation who put on the blue jersey to assist the event. Cavan County Council is also grateful to An Garda Síochána for their assistance in the planning and running of the event, and Cavan Genealogy whose ‘In Anxious Expectation’ ancestry conference proved very popular.

The event also coincided with the centenary celebrations of Breffni Park, now Kingspan Breffni, and Cavan County Council and the Cavan GAA County Board collaborated on a special ecumenical service at the Cathedral of Saints Patrick and Felim, Cavan, which was followed by a colourful parade of the county’s juvenile clubs through town as far as GAA headquarters at Kingspan Breffni.

As well as attracting Cavan people across the county, and indeed across Ireland, the programme saw Cavan people and friends of Cavan travel from New York, Rochester, Philadelphia, Chicago, Australia, New Zealand, London, Manchester, Toronto, Jaunay-Marigny, Kürnach, and many more.

Cavan Associations, societies, and twinning committees around the globe were



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recognised for their central role in maintaining diaspora relations across the globe at a civic ceremony held on Friday, 28th July and Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council, Cllr Philip Brady and Chief Executive Tommy Ryan made presentations to key individuals and organisations in this sphere.

The event reached its crescendo on Saturday, 29 July when international superstars The Boomtown Rats, featuring original members Bob Geldof, Pete Briquette, and Simon Crowe, performed an exhilarating outdoor show at Cavan Town's Egg Market for an audience of 3,000 delirious fans. During the show, Cavan native Pete Briquette, or Patrick Cusack as he is known in Ballyjamesduff, was honoured with a presentation by the Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive and expressed his great pride in being recognised by his home county during his first ever Cavan performance with the band.

The show was particularly poignant as it marked the first occasion the band had performed since the loss of their dear friend, Irish pop icon, Sinéad O'Connor, and Bob Geldof gave an emotional tribute to Sinéad, and their own bandmate Garry Roberts, who passed away in 2022.

The concert helped secure a massive level of international coverage for Cavan Calling, with online impressions for Cavan Calling over a five day period reaching a staggering 40.2 million. Every major Irish and UK publication featured mentions of Cavan Calling, and international media in Canada, Australia, Norway, New Zealand, India and the United States picked up on the festival, including the New York Post, People Magazine, and the Irish Examiner USA.



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Hands Down Circus acrobats, pictured at the launch of Cavan Calling 2023 Festival, 22nd February 2023

PHOTO: Lorraine Teevan

Arts

In accordance with **Section 6** of the **Arts Act 2003** local authorities may provide financial assistance for the purpose of: (a) Stimulating public interest in the arts, (b) Promoting knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts, or (c) Improving standards in the arts within its functional area.

Cavan County Council Arts Office is guided by **Inclusivity and Ambition – A Strategy for Cavan Arts 2018 – 2023**.

The Priorities for Arts Are:

- Artistic
- Audience Development
- Diversity
- Infrastructure



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Framework Agreement Cavan County Council and the Arts Council 2019 to 2026 shared priorities.

1. Supporting Artists
2. Young People and the Arts
3. Reaching More People

The role of the arts office facilitates artists and communities to make great artwork in County Cavan. This work includes mentoring, advising, networking and partnering with local, regional and national stakeholders. The arts office recognizes the crucial role of the professional artist in the development of the arts and the value that creative communities bring to the lived experience of citizens of the county.

Funding

Cavan County Council is the primary source of funding for arts development with annual revenue support from the **Arts Council** in 2023 of €83,100.

The **Specialist Staffing Scheme Awarded by** the Arts Council enabled the appointment of a p/t Assistant Arts Officer. Annetta Brides was appointed to the post in August 2023.

Arts Programme

ARTS AWARDS AND BURSARIES

2023			
	Received	Requested	Allocated
Arts Development Award	46 (30) A	€76,578.95	€25,944
Emerging Artist	24 (14) A	€39,760.00	€24,585
Professional Artist Awards	30 (31) (12) A	€82,521.15	€26,178
	101	€275,566	€76,707

1. A = No of Artists / Grants Awarded



Awards under the Arts Act were approved by the Members of Cavan County Council. The increased level of applications indicates recovery post Covid 19.

PUBLIC ART

Maintenance

‘The Arch of Peace’ by Imogen Stuart was installed on Farnham Road with the co-operation of the Municipal District.

Re-Imagining

The collaborative project with the School of Engineering, Purdue University, Indiana, USA, artist Joey Burns and Cavan County Council on reworking of the ‘Yellow Bittern’ harp sculpture was completed.

The Waking Walls

An environmental lament was hosted on Lough Oughter on the 8 and 9 September by lead artist Alan James Burns, following 3 years research. It was supported by Cavan County Council Arts Office through Public Art with Creative Cavan funding.

- *“The Waking Walls was a collaborative theatrical artwork created to reawaken age-old methods of coping with loss, to equip us with traditional skill sets to come together and collectively process climate disruption. The project aim was to allow those present to reframe environmental grief. Echoing from the walls of Cloughoughter Castle the visceral cries of Irish caoineadh reverberate over the rippling water. Together, gathered on boats and at the lakeside we absorb this iconic monument’s sorrowful lament for the shared environmental and biodiversity losses it’s witnessed over its lifetime.”*

Alan James Burns, artist

Caoineadh Dúlra

A series exploring pressing issues of biodiversity loss and climate grief while commemorating the artistic, cultural, and musical heritage of the Island of



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Ireland took place in counties Cavan and Fermanagh with lead artist Alan James Burns.

Bottle, a short film on bullying was commissioned and filmed in Cavan made by John McKeown and Joe Keenan.

Sites of Significance an action research project led by Professor Aoife McGrath (Queen's University Belfast) and Dr Victoria Durrer (University College Dublin) on dance development in Cavan and Fermanagh was managed by the arts office. These partners have been working together for some time mixing dance practice as research with social science methods to understand the value and lived experiences of dance on the island, including Building Capacities for the Cultural Industries Report. It was funded by Public Art budget and Creative Cavan. Outputs include short art film and research report.



Photo hand on coloured markers and pastels on table. Image copyright Donnie Phair from Sites of Significance



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CREATIVE IRELAND

The Shared Island aspect of Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027 granted *Dance Connects in Rural Border Regions* €250,000 further to an application by the Arts Office and Creative Cavan.

Dance Connects partners local authorities of **Cavan, Monaghan and Fermanagh-Omagh** with diverse dance communities across professional, amateur, community and commercial dance in contemporary, jive/country, line/social, Sean-Nós, hip hop/urban, Scottish Country and Flamenco in their border areas and researchers Dr Victoria Durrer (School of Art History and Cultural Policy, **University College Dublin**) and Prof Aoife McGrath (School of Arts, English and Languages, **Queens University Belfast**).

This work builds on evidence of need for sustainable cross-border exchange including the Sites of Significance project.

ARTS AND HEALTH

'A Cushla My Own Native Land' by **Kim Doherty** the first 360 degree art film shot in Cavan with 6 professional artists featured reminiscences from the residents at the John Sullivan Centre.



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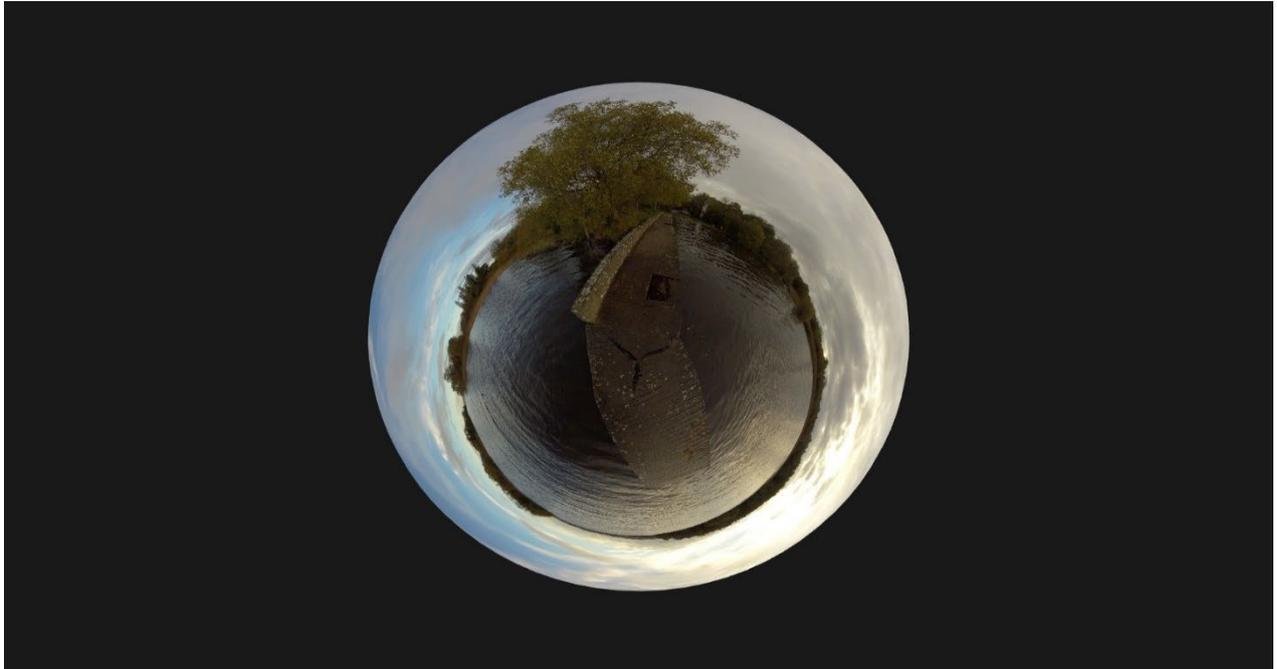


Photo text: globe image of Lough Sheelin surrounded by sky with a black background. Image copyright Sean Burns from Acushla My Own Native Land.

Program Delivery Singing for Health Workshops Autumn and Winter program – 30 participants.

We Drum Ireland Autumn/Winter program – 16 participants.

Singing Program at County wide Nursing Homes Summer/ Winter

Partnership programs with Cavan GAA and Cavan Monaghan Youth Arts Hub.

Create to Connect Programme Workshops with 158 participants.

Peer Support Network 2 events with 26 participants

4 Continuous Professional Development: 62 participants.

ARTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Recipient of the Regional Hub Bursaries in association with NCYI were:

Bounce Back Youth Service (South-East: Ballyjamesduff): Led by youth worker Con Cullen, the young people worked with theatre practitioner Niamh McPhilips.

Bounce Back Youth Service (West): Led by youth worker Jason Brady, the young



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people worked with artist Emma Lennon to explore wooden sculpture, eco arts and design.

Gonzo Youth Theatre: Led by youth theatre facilitator Kevin O'Connor, the young people worked with artists Raquel Montero and Rosie Cole exploring set and prop design.

Bounce Back Youth Service (South-East: Bailieboro): Led by youth worker Con Cullen, the young people will work with artist Heather Brett to explore mythology and folklore through writing, illustration and drama.

The **Local Arts and Education Partnership** continues to support CREATIVE SCHOOLS and add value to arts in educational settings with partners CMETB and Cavan County Council. Cavan also sits on the board of the newly founded CMETB Creative Youth Arts Committee.

Cavan County Council partners with Monaghan County Council and lead partner Cavan Monaghan Education Training Board on **Music Generation**. The program included: Music on Wheels Tour Cavan/Monaghan with Music Educators in 28 schools, Ukele workshops with Templeport Foroige, Come Sing With Me Townhall, Cavan and the Youth Orchestra and work in formal education and community settings.

CULTURE NIGHT 2023

The event organized by the Arts Office collaborating with cultural partners, artists and communities took place in 10 towns, 5 villages and 3 rural locations in County Cavan. RTE broadcast events from Cavan town as part of Culture Night 2023.

Total Audience: 4,500

Total Artists Employed: 115

Total Technical staff: 10

Culture Night Cavan **Irish Enterprise Awards for 'The Most Innovative Traditional Irish Culture Event'**.



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COLLABORATION

Working collaboratively, particularly within the Cultural Sector is essential to the work of the arts office.

The arts office is part of a successful **Invitation to Collaborate** through the Arts Council with lead partner Wexford County Council and Roots for the Future Arts Collective. The research and development work will support the foundations and data for a Climate Art Assembly in 2025.

Drumlinia Music Industry Week

The inaugural music industry week was held in Cavan in October 2023 in association with Don Mescall, singer / songwriter, and Cavan Institute.

The aim is to support artists and musicians in early and mid-career development.

- The event included an Industry Day with 10 leaders in music attended by 121 musicians.
- 17 workshops with 10 tutors attended by 235 musicians over a range of instrument.
- 10 Listening Room events took place in local businesses.
- The Arts Offices supported the independent event Classical in the Cathedral with Celine Byrne organised by Fr Fay and Don Mescall.



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Photo of Lough Oughter Castle publicity image for The Waking Walls. Photo credit Hu O'Reilly

Creative Places / Cumas Ceantar

Working with Ballyconnell Community Centre Committee, the Market House and members of the local community, the arts office made a successful bid to be part of the 17 funded Arts Council Creative Places program. Creative Places provides an opportunity for places to benefit from sustained arts investment to build local arts programmes with local people.

The €30,000 Research and Development Grant will support the ambition to create connection, opportunity and understanding for arts participation and sense of place in Ballyconnell. The project will engage a co-ordinator and a researcher to work with local artists to animate the area.

Cavan Arts was part of the re-branding of Ramor and Townhall Arts Centres as identified in the Venues Review carried out by the Arts Office in 2019.

The **Artist Liaison** enabled a program of exhibitions, studio awards and capacity building for the arts community in association with the arts office and Townhall Arts



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Centre. The studio awards were through open call advertised and managed by the arts office. An independent panel advise on the exhibition program.

Reporting

The arts office reports to Emma Clancy, County Librarian, the Housing, Corporate and Cultural Affairs Special Policy Committee and Lynda McGavigan, Director of Services.

2023 Staff Structure

Danielle McDermott, Clerical Officer, Annetta Brides, Assistant Arts Officer p/t, Elisha McCaffrey, Arts and Health Manager p/t, Rhonda Tidy, Public Art Manager and Catriona O'Reilly, Arts Officer.

County Museum

2023 marked another fantastic year of growth at Cavan County Museum. Increases in all aspects of our operation have been seen, demonstrating a growing interest from schools and the public in the Museum and its work. A 24.5% increase in visitor numbers was reported in comparison to the previous 12 months, with 12,469 visitors in 2023 recorded, compared to 10,0035 in 2022.

A rise of 15% was recorded in the Museum reception and gift shop in 2023, reflecting not just the increase in visitors but also indicates a positive impact of visitor engagement and sales. Schools and groups also showed a significant increase in 2023, with a 73% increase in numbers taking part in group visits, up to 545 in 2023, compared to 315 in 2002. This was despite the closure of the WW1 Trenches for the first half of 2023. The team at the museum aims to continue to build and develop our offer to ensure sustained growth beyond 2023.

2023 was a year which saw many successful events held in the Museum. In July the Museum held a two-day Military Show as part of Cavan County Council's Cavan Calling festival. The show featured military re-enactments from LAOCH Living History, military vehicle displays from the Irish Military Vehicle Group and military aviation



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displays from Ulster Aviation Society. We also featured a travelling exhibition from the National Library of Ireland, entitled 'World War Ireland', which was a wonderful partnership piece to have. The event closed with a wreath laying ceremony to honour all the men and women of Cavan, and Ireland, who have served in military combat throughout history, organised by the ONE O'Neill Branch Cavan.

Some 2,000 visitors came to the museum over the two days, despite inclement weather. Their enthusiastic participation contributed to the event's success and showcased the community's interest in history and heritage. The event received valuable support with funding from Creative Ireland and Cavan County Council through Creative Cavan.



**Museum Curator Holly Roche with members of LAOCH Living History, a military re-enactment group and one of the highlights of the two-day Cavan Calling Military Show held in July 2023.
Photo credit Adrian Donohoe**

The museum's commitment to preserving and sharing the region's history continued to resonate with both locals and visitors throughout the year, with the Museum hosting events for many national celebrations, including Cruinniú na nÓg, Heritage Week, Science Week and Culture Night. Our Culture Night performance was a world premiere performance of Cavan playwright Tara Maria Lovett's "The Half Coat", an



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original piece of writing inspired by an item in the first ever issue of the Anglo Celt newspaper. "The Half Coat" is a dual-timeframe family history, set part in 19th century Ireland and part in modern times. The project is funded by Creative Ireland and Cavan County Council through Creative Cavan and saw a capacity crowd turn out for the performance as part of a packed Culture Night line up throughout the county.

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=699d16eb533053c5JmItdHM9MTcxMDg5MjgwMCZpZ3VpZD0yMDgzZTgwNi0yNDIyLTY5YjEtMTk3Ny1mYmM5MjVjMjY4NTMmaW5zaWQ9NTU0Nw&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=3&fclid=2083e806-2422-69b1-1977-fbc925c26853&psq=cruinin+na+nog&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly9lbi53aWtpcGVkaWEub3JnL3dpa2kvQ3J1aW5uacO6X25hX27Dk2c&ntb=1>



Poster advertising the Museum’s Culture Night performance of “The Half Coat” by Tara Maria Lovett

Cavan County Museum continued its commitment to lifelong learning by hosting a series of evening lectures throughout 2023. In April 2023, the Museum held its annual Arthur Griffith lecture, the first in-person occurrence since the COVID-19 pandemic.



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This emotive and thought-provoking talk from Stephen Travers, survivor of the Miami Showband Massacre and co-founder of Truth and Reconciliation Platform (TARP), was attended by a capacity crowd of over 100. Stephen's talk focused on his 'long day's journey into light', exploring the journey he has been on since that fateful day of July 31st, 1975. Stephen's powerful words resonated deeply with the audience, prompting a heartfelt standing ovation at the end of the lecture. Their positive feedback and praise underscored the impact of his story and advocacy.



Museum Curator Holly Roche, local historian and Arthur Griffith lecture organiser Dermot McMonagle, guest speaker Stephen Travers and Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council John Paul Feely. Photo credit – Adrian Donohoe

As well as our visitor facing operations, 2023 saw a great deal of work behind the scenes at the Museum. This included a project to work on the storage and documentation of the Museum's collections, which was supported in part by a grant from the Heritage Council's Heritage Stewardship Fund, who awarded the Museum €5,500 towards this project. Through this work the Museum will continue to safeguard artifacts, artworks, and historical items for future generations. An application has been



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submitted to the Heritage Council for funding to support this work into 2024 and beyond.

This ongoing work also complies with best practice as set out by the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme for Ireland, which awards accreditation status to museums who met the standards of the programme. Cavan County Museum has been accredited since 2012; accredited museums are reviewed through an accreditation maintenance application every 5 years. Having been delayed due to COVID-19 and staff changes, Cavan County Museum's maintenance application was reviewed in 2023, which included a site audit in September 2023. The outcome of the application was received in March 2024, and the Museum has successfully retained its accreditation status – the team will attend an award ceremony in July 2024, organised by the Heritage Council, to officially confirm the Museum's status for the next 5 years.

2023 saw an increase in our Education and Group numbers compared to the previous year, despite the closure of the popular "WWI Trench Experience" exhibition, which is a main feature of the Museum's current Education offer and is a unique draw for schools and groups. The Trench Experience had closed in October 2022, after some sections were identified as needing repair and maintenance work. The experience remained closed until July 2023, when the necessary work had been completed. This was a big loss to the Museum, but the work carried out was a necessity. Further work is planned for 2024, to ensure the long-term future of this popular exhibition.

The year concluded with the appointment of a new Education and Research Officer to the Museum staff. Catherine McGuinness joined the Museum in September 2023, bringing with her a wealth of experience from previous roles including with the OPW, National Museum of Ireland and the National Print Museum. The role of Education and Research Officer will be vital in continuing to grow and develop the offer at the Museum, which is a key aim for the whole Museum team as we look towards 2024 and beyond.



TOWNHALL ARTS CENTRE / RAMOR ARTS CENTRE



Mission Statement 2023

Townhall Arts Centre and Ramor Arts Centre aim to impact and enable. Impact our audiences and enable our artists by encouraging, nurturing and developing an interest and participation in the arts in the county. This is done by presenting a varied program of performances by professional artists in all the art-forms together with encouraging and facilitating professional theatre companies, youth arts, community based amateur groups and individual artists to develop projects and showcase them in each venue.

The two Cavan Arts Centres have recently undergone important restoration, refurbishments and rebranding. With a strategic Countywide Arts plan from the Cavan Arts Office, the Arts Centres are in a position to undertake a whole new chapter in their development, working in unison under the one management team to create 'happening places' where art is accessible and beneficial to everyone.

Our aim is to continue "Forging connections between the arts and the public" with our Arts Centres being, public facing, professionally managed, building based organisations. They will support the creation, presentation and mediation of the arts across a range of arts practices by supporting professional, collaborative, voluntary and amateur arts practice. Ramor Arts Centre is home to Livin Dred Theatre Company which over the past seventeen years has worked in partnership with the



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venue to incubate, develop and produce top quality professional theatre, which has toured both nationally and internationally. It is our aim to grow this partnership with Livin Dred as we embark on the next chapter of our evolution.

Ramor Arts Centre and Townhall Art Centre aim to IMPACT our audiences and visitors so they will leave feeling that they have been in the presence of the spiritual, the emotional and the intellectual. Our aim is that they come away enriched through the experience the venues present, thus inspiring them to stay connected and explore these 'happening places' on their doorstep on a regular basis. We understand to achieve this we must ensure the highest quality artwork and events are programmed in our venues across the artforms. The events that we will host will be wide and varied and should meet the interests of all genres, cultures, ages, and interests.

Ramor / Townhall Art Centre's Staff

Venues Manager Padraic McIntyre

Marketing Manager Lisa Gaffney

Technical Manager Paddy Farrelly

Assistant Technical Manager Shane Carroll

Box Office Frances Brady, Liz O'Hanlon, Trinia McCann, Anna Marie Galligan

Front of House / Coffee Bar Helen Foy

Caretaker / Cleaner Aisling Fay



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Artistic Quality & Development of the Arts

The events we host are wide and varied and aims to meet the interests of all genres, cultures, ages, and interests.

In Cavan Town there is a more multicultural population to be catered for and a larger student population to be targeted and we aim to have events that will appeal to these demographics. We aim to have arts events across all genres and artforms which will appeal to and attract different nationalities, age groups, religions and genders living in Cavan into our venues.

Although Townhall Cavan's doors have only opened in September 2021, we ran a hugely successful programme of events in 2023 across all the artforms, music, theatre, dance, comedy, visual arts, opera and pantomime. Some of the Irelands best known names, across the genres visited us in 2023. Audiences responses were excellent in both turnout and reaction to our programme in 2023.

Professional Development Opportunities

Cavan Arts Centre's continue to be committed to ensure high-quality professional development opportunities for practising artists and arts professionals. We feel we are now in a much stronger position to deliver on these commitments with a much better physical infrastructure in place across both buildings. Townhall Cavan has three studio spaces on the top floor of the building which are ideal working locations for artists or arts professionals across a wide range of artforms. These studios are all serviced by a lift which means inclusivity of all artists. Several Residencies occurred in these studios in 2023 with artists having the studio for 3 months together with a payment. The third studio is a Multimedia Suite, with capabilities for design, visual art, animation, video editing, sound/music recording and editing, radio broadcasting, 3D printing and laser cutting. The iMac Core Suite also has capabilities for XR (Extended Reality - AR,VR, etc.), design (3D, technical and graphics) and visual arts and can function with related software and technology such as Adobe Suite, Solid Works, VR headsets, 3D projection, etc. It also has Windows capabilities. The 3D printing and laser cutting technology can be moved around the building to



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accommodate group workshops. Townhall Arts Centre also has a large meeting/rehearsal/workshop room located on the second floor.

Officially opened by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, on Friday 13 October 2023, as part of the new Virginia Cultural and Civic space which sees a modern library building been build alongside the current theatre building. The newly renovated Ramor Arts Centre gives us huge opportunities to engage, work with and develop professional opportunities for artists and arts professionals which much more space and a purpose-built studio.

Key Goals For 2024

For both Townhall Arts Centre and Ramor Arts Centre, we have identified the following strategic priority areas and their related key goals, which we are committed to implementing (or achieving) over the next few years.

- Artistic Programming – Something for Everyone, our theatres are for you. The events that we will host will be wide and varied and should meet the interests of all genres, cultures, ages, and interests. We want our venues to be professional, collaborative, and yet a place where volunteers and amateurs alike all feel like they belong here.
- Diversification – Showcasing a wider variety of events which will lead to a more diverse audience
- Partnerships and Collaboration
- Sustainability – Customer Retention, Cross, Link & Up-selling.
- Organisational Effectiveness

A major key goal for us is to expand our customer target market to reach those areas we are lacking in by focusing on culture, youth and disadvantaged audiences

Activity Description 2023

The Townhall Arts Centre enjoyed a stellar year with over 100 events taking place. A breakthrough year, with a nomination by Hotpress Magazine as best live music venue, and a new professional relationship formed with music promotion giants



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MCD. Ramor Arts Centre opened mid-year 2023, also enjoyed a jam-packed programme of over 30 events.

Commercial Programme

Our Commercial programme are successful high-profile acts which attracts customers and raises the profile of the Venues nationally. Cavan Arts Venues hosted a number of high-profile commercial acts in 2023 including, Don Baker, Paul Heaton, Declan Neary, Paddy Casey, Declan O'Rourke, The Seeger Sessions Revival, The FUREYS, ABBA Forever and The Bob Dylan Roadshow.



The Legend Don Baker with the Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council Philip Brady backstage before his show at Ramor Arts Centre.



Paul Heaton at Townhall Arts Centre –

The fastest selling event ever in Cavan with all tickets gone in 10 minutes. This put us firmly on the map attracting music royalty and putting us up there with the best of venues in the Country.



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Community Arts Programme

Community Arts has been and remains a huge part of what Cavan Arts Venues do in our local area. The Venues continued to collaborate with local music and drama groups, creating and developing relationship with groups and their audiences. Now in their 75th year, Cavan Three Act and One Act Drama Festival were hosted in Townhall Arts Centre Cavan in March and November respectively. Several community groups used our facilities for both meetings and workshops.

Local school, Virginia College performed High School Musical at Ramor Arts Centre, for five consecutive nights in November.

2023 seen the return of the of a very old Cavan tradition the Christmas panto, which was dormant for many years. With over 30 children taking part, a week-long of “Oh yes it will!”, “Oh no it won’t” to a consistently packed auditorium proved the timeless allure of the Christmas Panto.



Professional Theatre Programme.

From Livin’ Dred’s Danti-Dan to Enchanted Croi’s in The Midst of Plenty, Quintessence, Mikel Murphi, Dan Colley’s Lost Lear, Decadents This Low and Quiet Sea and Pat Kinevane’s King, all topics were covered to suit all tastes. The astounding Malcolm Adams held the audience ransom in his performance as The Gallant John-Joe at Townhall Arts Centre, this was shortly followed by Cavan’s Aaron Monaghan’s first solo debut performance as Super-bogger.



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Malcolm Adams as the Gallant John-Joe performed at Townhall Arts Centre

Childrens and Teenagers Theatre Programme

Home to POD Youth Theatre, Ramor Arts Centre has always advocated for voice of the young person in the arts. With weekly workshops for children and young adults (8-18years old). Both Art Venues programme consciously to cater for developing mind and tastes, featuring shows such as Polar Bear and Penguin, The Land of a Hundred Little Hills (Ceol Connected), OCD and Me, Joe the Magician, Oscars at The Ramor.

Visual Arts



Freshwater by Michelle Boyle, the first exhibition launched at the newly refurbished Ramor Arts Centre. Officially opened by Dr Margarita Cappock, and with words of support from our newly elected Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council Mr Philip



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Brady, it was truly a magical evening. Michelle's exhibition is a celebration of the essence of living water in the landscape and our responsibility to it. Much of this work was made on or around the shores of Lough Ramor and it is very apt that it should be displayed in the landscape of their making.



“The Lay of the Land” exhibition was in situ at Townhall Arts Centre in April-May 2023, an exhibition by Turner Prize Winners (2021) and one of the shortlisted entries for Ireland at Venice Biennale, Array Collective with members Laura O’Connor and Thomas Wells and invited artists Emma Brennan, Marta Dyczkowska, Méabh Meir

Workshops

Both Art Centres run regular workshops for children and young people across a number of genres. Such as song writing and recording workshop led by musicians Evan Walsh and Darragh O’Reilly, Music Generation Cavan Monaghan facilitate weekly choir classes for National School children, which has been extended to include teenagers for September 2023 to June 2024.

Women in Technical Theatre, a course run by the Abbey Theatre on Tech / Acting / Lighting visited us in November with 60 local students signing up to take part. We have also hosted “Beginnings” weekly acting class for six week block led by James O’Donnell and Ladies Arts Classes for six week block led by Deirdre O’Reilly,



Transportation, Climate Change, Environment, Waste Management and Water Services

Roads & Transportation

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.

As a land locked county with a reliance on the road infrastructure, the roads area is an integral part of delivering key strategic objectives contained within the Cavan County Council Corporate plan.

- 1. Supporting Communities
- 2. Stimulate Sustainable Economic Activity
- 3. Protect & Enhance Natural Environmental Resources
- 4. Plan and Develop Infrastructural Capacity
- 5. Promote a Positive Image of Cavan County Council and the County
- 6. Good Governance and Building Organisational Capacity

These objectives are contained within our Annual Service Plan and help shape our objectives for the year ahead.

Cavan Road Network Classification

The total length of public roadway in County Cavan is 3,011km with an estimated value of over €1.1billion, with the Regional and Local Road network accounting for €1 billion of this total.

Funding

Funding for the improvement and maintenance of public roads in Cavan comes primarily from three sources. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) provides funding for



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National Roads with the Department of Transport (DOT) 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. The National Transport Authority (NTA) from 2021 onwards is tasked with providing funding for Active Travel projects across the county within urban areas.

2023 Funding Allocations

The table below shows the funding allocated by each funding source at the start of 2023.

Road Category	Funding Source	Initial Allocation
National Roads	Transport Infrastructure Ireland	€ 24,494,512
Regional & Local Roads	Department of Transport	€ 17,510,350
Regional & Local Roads	Cavan County Council	€ 2,326,379
Active Travel	National Transport Authority	€3,500,000
		€47,831,241

Cavan County Council Contributions

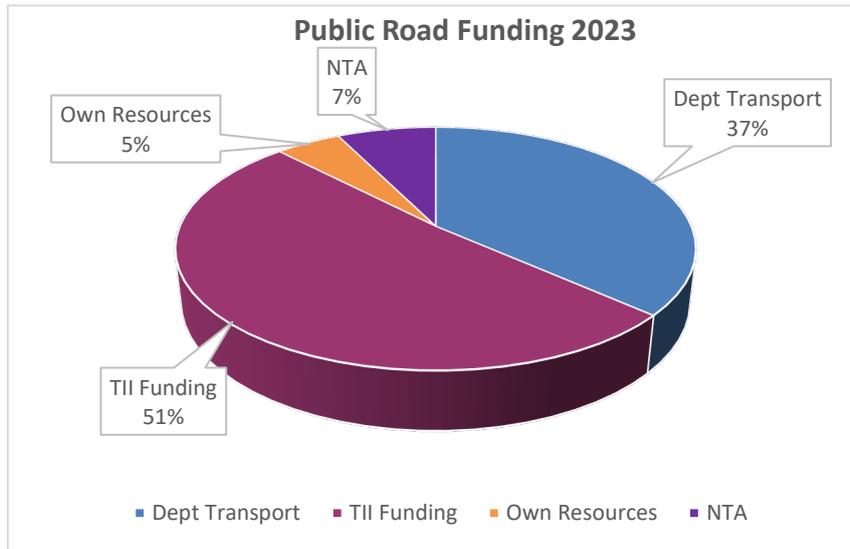
At the start of 2023, Cavan County Council provided €2.32 million of its own resources towards the Maintenance and Improvement of the Local and Regional Roads. This demonstrated the Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining its roads network.



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Additional Allocations

During 2023 Cavan County Council was able to avail of additional funding as follows;

Source	Category	Allocation
Transport Infrastructure Ireland	Pavement, Ordinary Maintenance, VRS	€6,329,461
Department of Transport	Patcher Funding	€993,072
Dept. of Rural & Community Development	Local Improvement Schemes	€1,404,498
		€8,727,031

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.



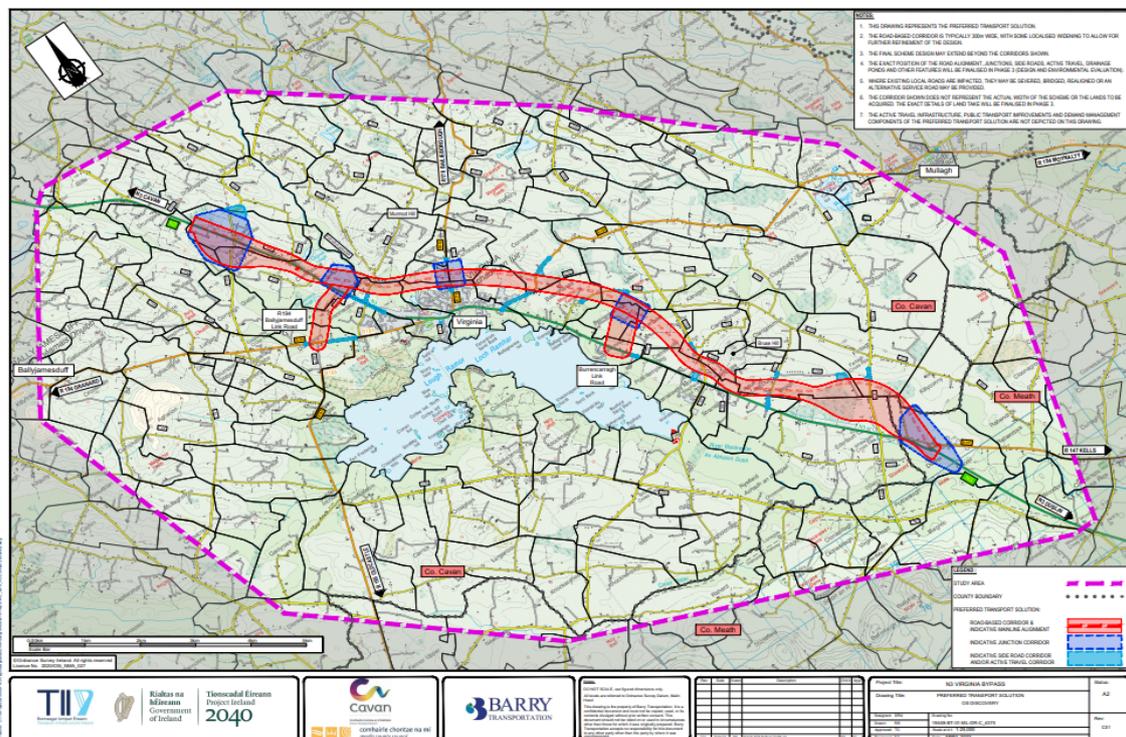
Major Schemes

N3 Virginia Bypass

Virginia is the last remaining town on the N3 National Route from Dublin to the NI Border which has not been bypassed.

Cavan County Council have appointed JB Barry Transportation as Technical Advisors to provide all engineering, environmental, economic and appraisal services required to deliver this project through the planning and design phases.

The N3 Virginia Bypass scheme is to be developed as a hybrid multi-modal transport solution which comprises road, Public Transport (bus) enhancements, demand management, active travel facilities and transport park and share hubs (mobility hubs). The active travel facilities, incorporating pedestrian and cycle facilities, will be provided along the length of the Scheme with connectivity, where feasible, to existing footways and walking routes along the scheme. The transport park and share hubs (mobility hubs) will provide for safe parking to safe bus stops and facilitate more carpooling for



longer onward journeys, with EV charging facilities. The scheme will improve safety on the N3, reducing congestion, noise and air pollution in Virginia and the settlements



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of Maghera and Whitegate, while providing a consistent route cross-section with an improved journey time and travel efficiency for national road traffic.

Virginia Bypass - Preferred Transport Solution

The Preferred Transport Solution containing Active Travel, Public Transport, Demand Management and new road infrastructure measures was advertised in the council offices (Cavan courthouse and BJD MD offices), online and in local papers from 16th May to 16th June 2023. Cavan County Council requested Transport Infrastructure Ireland approval to progress the scheme from Phase 2 (Option Selection) to Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation), this approval was obtained in June 2023. Phase 3 is ongoing.

There were numerous surveys and investigations conducted as part of the scheme in 2023, including Site Investigation, Topographical Survey, Archaeological Survey (pictured) and Biodiversity surveys. Various other Environmental Surveys will continue into 2024 and will be used to inform Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) of the scheme.



Minor Improvement Schemes

N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon, Section A

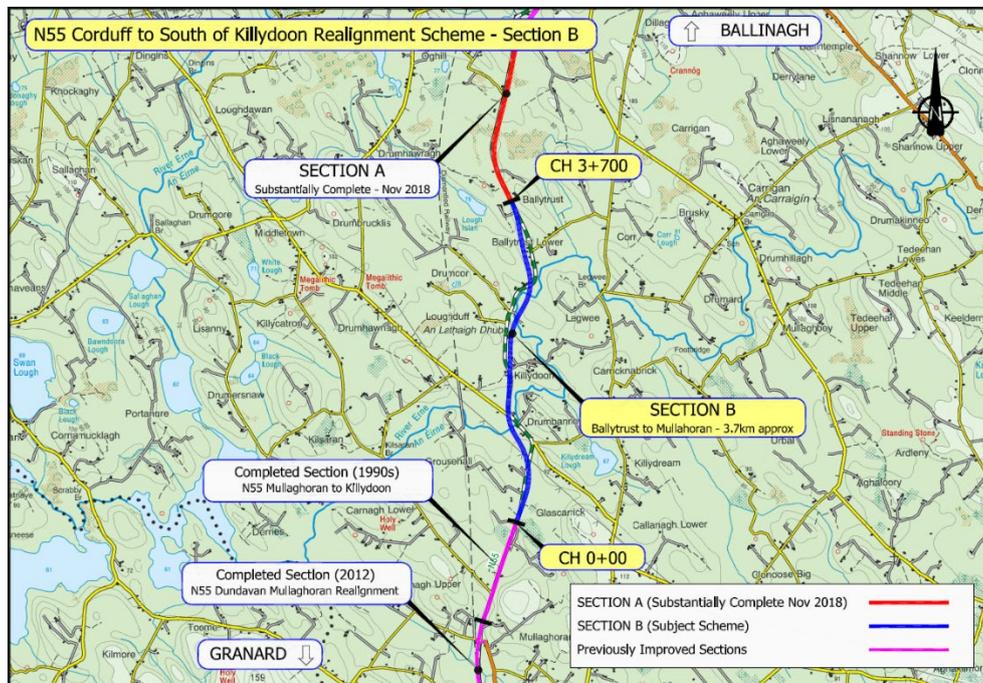
Section A, which involved a 3.2km realignment of the N55 at two distinct locations to the south of Ballinagh, reached substantial completion in late 2018. The Contract remains in the Handover Phase. CCC continued to liaise with the Consultant and Contractor during 2023 which saw a resolution on matters previously delaying the issuing of the Defects Certificate for the Scheme. Matters relating to defects and snagging items and contractual matters were resolved and the Defects Cert was



issued in November 2023 which allowed the release of retention monies owing to the Contractor.

N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon, Section B

Section B, between the townlands of Ballytrust and Mullahoran, involves a 3.7km realignment of the N55 immediately south of Section A. The Scheme has seen significant progression over the last 12 months.



Location Map of N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon Realignment, Section B

Having received TII approval to go to Tender for the Main Construction Contract during 2022, Cavan County Council (working with the Scheme's Technical Advisors, RPS) ran a Tender competition commencing in Q2 of 2022. Following a robust Tender assessment and evaluation process the successful tenderer was identified. A formal request for approval to award the contract was submitted to TII in October 2022 and the scheme received subsequent TII approval to progress



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from Phase 5 (Enabling and Procurement) to Phase 6 (Construction & Implementation).

The Main Construction Contract was awarded to the successful tender, Clare Civil Engineering Ltd., on 21st December 2022 and the Contractor commenced works on site on 30th January 2023. To the end of October 2023 overall progress of the construction works was estimated at 50% completion. 2023 saw considerable progress on the Schemes earthworks (75% complete) and construction is progressing well on all 3no. bridge structures over the river Erne, with 2 of the 3 bridges more than 75% complete.



Aerial view of Bridge 1 at Killydoon

N3 Dublin Road Roundabout Scheme

RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed to progress the N3 Dublin Road Roundabout Scheme through phases 1, 2 and 3 of the Project Management Guidelines. RPS Consulting Engineers are our Technical Advisors for the scheme and are currently working on phase 2, Option Selection.

N55 Ballinagh Relief Road

A funding allocation from TII was secured in 2022 to commence the planning of the N55 Ballinagh Traffic Relief Scheme. Following a tender competition, Roughan &



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O'Donovan Consulting Engineers were appointed as Technical Advisors to undertake the preparation of a Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) which is the first stage in the project lifecycle (PMG Phase 0). Their completed report was submitted to TII in late May 2023. Approval from TII was received in July 2023 to progress the Scheme to Phases 1-4 of the Project Management Guidelines, to commence the planning and design phases. Cavan County Council completed tender documents for the engagement of consultants to develop the Scheme through Phases 1-4 of the Project Management Guidelines in December 2024, with a view to having consultants appointed in Q2/2024, subject to TII approval.

National Road Safety Schemes

Virginia Main Street (Public Realm)

Part VIII Planning for the Virginia Traffic Calming and Pavement Scheme was approved by the Councillors in the Ballyjamesduff Municipal district in 2020. A tender for the construction of the project was awarded to Sammy Wilkins and Sons in June 2021 with works commencing on the undergrounding of services on the 28th June 2021. Footpath paving works commenced in May 2022 and works were substantially completed in March 2023.



Completed Works N3/Ballyjamesduff Road Junction June 2023

Virginia – Carrakeelty More Safety Scheme.

This safety scheme incorporates online improvement works, junction improvements and road widening, including the widening of Ballaghanea bridge. RPS consultants are currently progressing this scheme through Phases 3 to 7 of the Project Management Guidelines.

In view of its proximity to a Special Area of Conservation, the project was delayed in 2023 due to the possible requirement for a Natura Impact Statement which would require the project to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála for approval. A court judgement in late 2023 on the appropriateness of Natura Impact Statements (NIS) in certain circumstances clarified the position in relation to this requirement. Consequently, a revised Appropriate Assessment was carried out, concluding that an NIS was not now required for the scheme, allowing it to progress to design stage.



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Cavan Crystal – Kilmore Roundabout Safety & Pavement Scheme.

This scheme involves the installation of a new carriageway pavement, footpaths, raised Cycle Lanes, New Bus bays and safety improvement works that will benefit both pedestrians and motorists from the Cavan Crystal hotel to the Kilmore Hotel. Clandillon Civil Consulting have now been appointed to progress this scheme through Phase 3 (Public Consultation) – Phase 7 (Construction) of the Project Management Guidelines.

A public consultation evening was held in the Kilmore Hotel on the 29th June 2023. Discussions are ongoing with the relevant landowners along the route of the scheme, to agree the necessary lands to deliver the scheme. If successful with the necessary land take, and the scheme design is approved by TII, the scheme will then proceed to the planning stage where members of the public can make submissions, with the overall intention to commence works in 2024, subject to successful scheme progression through Planning and approval of funding from TII.

N55 Cashel Cross Safety Scheme

Cavan County Council appointed JB Barry consultants to design a safety scheme at this location which will involve the alteration of two local road junctions and the introduction of two right turning lanes. The scheme was tendered in late 2023 with works scheduled to commence in Q1/2024 subject to TII approval.

N3 Drumsillagh Annagh and Drumcrow Safety Scheme

Roadplan consulting engineers completed the design of a safety scheme at this location in 2022 which involved the introduction of right turning lanes at these 3 local road junctions. Cavan County Council secured funding from the TII in 2023 for the works which were completed in quarter 3 2023.

Lisduff N3

Funding for this safety scheme was received from TII and works involved the installation of a right turning lane at the Lisduff junction on the N3 in conjunction with a pavement overlay scheme. Works were completed in Q3/2023.



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N54 Cloverhill

Sight distance improvement works are currently being designed for this location and subject to successful land agreement, TII approval & funding; work may commence in Q2/2024.

National Road Pavement Overlays Schemes

There were 8 pavement overlay schemes that were progressed during 2023 on the National Primary and National Secondary Road network within County Cavan as follows;

Road Number	Scheme	Status
N3	Whitegate to Maghera Pavement Scheme	Construction completed
N3	Pollamore to Kilmore Roundabout Pavement Scheme	Design stage
N55	Moynehall to Pollamore Roundabout Scheme	Construction completed
N55	Cavan to Longford Border Pavement Scheme N55	Construction completed
N55	Killydoon to Ballytrust Pavement Scheme N55	Construction completed
N54	Butlersbridge to Border Phase 1 (Cloverhill to Fermanagh Border)	Construction completed
N54	Butlersbridge to Border Phase 2 (Cloverhill to Butlersbridge)	Design completed
N87	North of Bawnboy and Swanlinbar (North & South)	Design completed



Completed surfacing works on the N55 Cavan to Longford Border



NP/NS Retrofit Fencing 2023

TII allocated €20,000 for retrofitting of existing concrete/timber rail fencing along national routes with a revised fence type of a tensioned wire mesh restraining system. These systems are recommended for along clear zones on sections of the national road network where the 100 km/h speed limit applies. Cavan County Council identify several sites along the N3 to be completed. These sites were submitted to TII for funding and subsequently approved and works completed at a cost of €60,000.

Regional & Local Roads

2023 Road Works Programme

A grant of €17,510,350 was allocated to Cavan County Council during 2023 for the improvement and maintenance of Regional and Local roads in the county this includes the figure for Bridge Rehabilitation, Speed Limits in Housing Estates, Low-Cost Safety Schemes. Works generally consisted of drainage improvement, strengthening with granular and macadam materials and surface dressing. The 2023 RWP was delivered through the three Municipal Districts.



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Strategic Regional & Local Roads

East West Road (from Dundalk to Sligo):

A draft Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) for the scheme was completed in November 2022 and was formally submitted to the Department in early 2023. The council was notified in late December that the strategic assessment report (SAR) had been accepted and approved the progression of the project to Phase 2 – Options Selection. A tender will be run in 2024 for the appointment of consultants to progress the scheme through Phase 2 – Options Selection.

Specific Improvement Grant

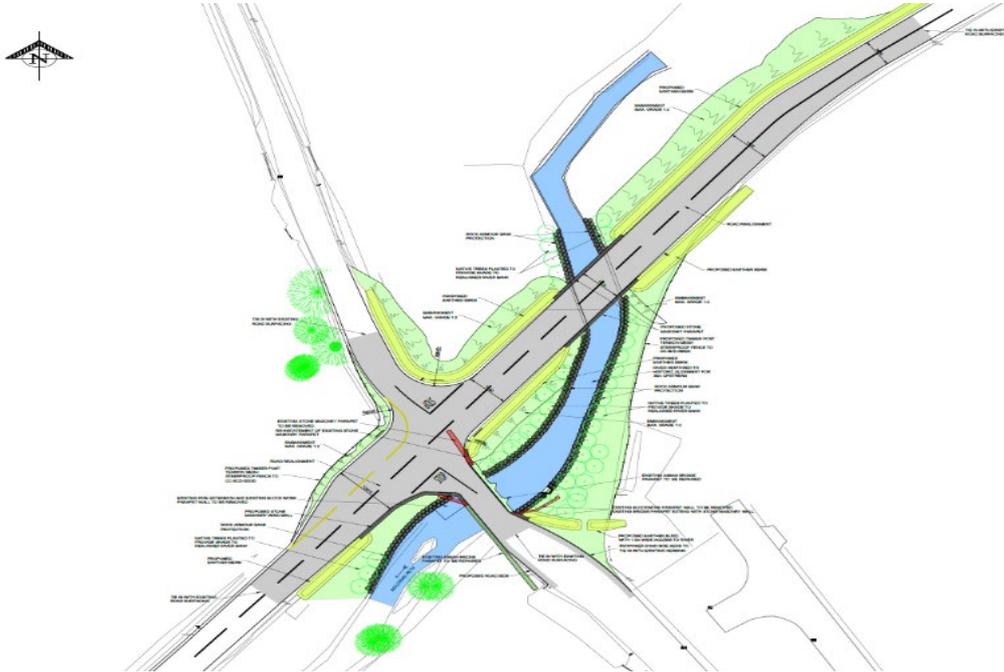
Assan Bridge Project

Malachy Walsh and Partners were appointed in 2021 as specialist bridge consultants for L3028 Assan Bridge project. Assan Bridge (opposite) is located 6km NNE of Ballyjamesduff on the L3028 at the crossroads with the L3005 (going south) and the L3545 (going north) has a Eirspan condition rating of 3. These roads link the N3 with the R165



at Grousehall and is used as a diversion route when the N3 is closed for emergencies.

Site Investigation was completed in October 2022 with the Part 8 planning application approved in March 2023. The Scheme was tendered in May 2023 however the record levels of rainfall in July led to unseasonable high-water levels which caused a delay to the commencement of the project and subsequently postponement of the construction phase until 2024. A new tender competition was undertaken at the end of 2023 for the scheme with the intention of starting construction works in Q2 2024.



Assan Bridge - Proposed Site Layout

Regional & Local Road Safety Schemes

Cavan County Council received €330,000 in Department of Transport Grant Allocations for 7 No. Low- Cost Safety Schemes in 2023. The schemes were as follows.

- R194 / L-7079 / L-6607, Four Half Moons Junction, Mounthugent, Co. Cavan
- R212 / L-2003 / L-1503, Treehoo Cross Junctions, Treehoo & Brockly, Co. Cavan
- L-1519, Swellan Lower, Co. Cavan.
- R191 / L-3504 / L-3505, Canningstown Road Junctions, Canningstown, Co. Cavan.
- R201 / L-1507 / L-5524, Money, Milltown, Co. Cavan
- L-2513, Gowna to Cavan Road, Lough Gowna & Aghaveans, Co. Cavan.
- R188, Cootehill to Tullyvin Road, Cabragh & Drumhirk, Cootehill, Co. Cavan



Before

After

Completed works at Treehoo Cross

Regional & Local Road Bridge Projects

Cavan County Council received €690,000 in Grant Allocations for Regional & Local Road Bridges in 2023 for 15 number DOT funded bridge remedial schemes. Rehabilitation works were completed on the following bridge structures: - L7024 Billis Bridge, L6549 Woteraghty Bridge, L1013 Mullaghboy Bridge, L6008 Coppanagh Mill Bridge, L7039 Palmira Bridge, L1033 Roscoo Bridge 1, L5034 Roscoo Bridge 2, L7575 Ballinamoney Bridge, L1513 Drumlark Bridge, R162 Drumbrackan Bridge, R165 Tirlahode Bridge, L6531 Cornafean Clapper Bridge and L3519 Tullybrick Bridge.

Bridge Restoration Works for Lisnasaran Bridge and Curraghmore Bridge did not proceed in 2023 due to a substantial increase in construction costs and will be included on the 2024 programme.





Mullaghboy Bridge
Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works

Cavan County Council received an allocation of €520,000 under the Climate Change Adaption and Resilience Works Fund for 2023 for 5 projects across the county.

Community Involvement Schemes

Cavan County Council received an allocation of €419,850 for Community Involvement Schemes with the applicants providing 10% of the overall cost of the works. There were 3 schemes completed in 2023.

Local Improvement Schemes

Cavan County Council applied for and secured two tranches of funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development for Local Improvement Schemes in 2023. With the high level of funding in tranche two we had the 5th highest allocation in the country outlining Cavan's commitment to the delivery of this scheme.

Allocation 1 – €336,913

Allocation 2 – €1,404,498

With the allocation received in 2023 Cavan County Council completed a total of 23 lanes, providing Drainage, Surfacing, and associated civil works. This funding provides vital investment in the rural communities of County Cavan.



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Above: Completed LIS Edenburt Virginia

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 during the year on each road type.

National Road Maintenance

During 2023 Cavan County Council received €751,704 in funding for maintenance of the national primary and secondary network in Cavan under the Winter Maintenance, Route Lighting, Ordinary Maintenance and Route Defects programmes.

Regional & Local Road Maintenance

In 2022 the DOT provided an allocation of €2.43m in the form of a Discretionary Grant and €2.38m in Surface Restoration Grants specifically for the maintenance of the Regional & Local Road network. Cavan County Council provided an additional €1.74m from its own resources for the same purpose. The principal maintenance operations included drainage and surface repair work.

Winter Maintenance

Cavan County Council treats a designated 530km of the Road network as part of its Winter Maintenance Service which accounts for 18% of the entire network. A Winter Service Response Plan and maps of the salting routes are posted on the Council's Website for public viewing. The National Road Network is prioritised as it carries the



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greatest volume of traffic and caters for higher speeds. Winter Maintenance is carried out as a pre-treatment on the basis of forecast conditions.

Public Lighting

Cavan County Council provides and maintains Public Lighting to a total of 29 towns and villages. Throughout the year the Council 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 and decreases carbon emissions.

76% of Cavan County Councils public lighting stock has been updated with LED fittings as of the end of 2023.

Active Travel

Background

As part of the National Development Plan the Government is firmly committed to encouraging the use of walking, cycling and other active travel methods and this has been reflected in the active travel budget.

Active Travel is generally defined as travelling with a purpose using your own energy such as walking or cycling to work, school or to the shops. The National Transport Authority (NTA) has been tasked with the implementation of the active travel programme and has developed a 5-year national walking and cycling infrastructure plan to underpin its delivery.

Active Travel Measures 2023

Cavan County Council received €3,500,000 from the NTA for Active Travel projects in 2023. There were 32 project schemes in total, some of the schemes have been completed or are well underway. A number of the schemes will be continued into 2024.

Projects Delivered

- Arva - Permeability Project
- Cavan Town - Swellan Footpath



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- Bailieborough - Permeability Link Drumbannon
- Ballyconnell - N87 Footpath
- Ballyconnell - Town Footpaths
- Killeshandra - Canon's Hill Footpath Scheme
- Kilnaleck - The Green, Footpath
- Kingscourt - Permeability Link Cabra View/St. Josephs
- Virginia – Ballyjamesduff Rd Footpath
- New Pedestrian Crossings in Virginia, Kilcogy, Arva
- Bailieborough - Kells Road Footpath
- Ballyhaise - Phase 1
- Shercock - Active Travel Project
- Virginia - Safe Routes to School - R1 - St Marys NS
- Virginia Deerpark Signalised Pedestrian Crossing
- Cootehill Town - Cavan Street/Road Active Travel Scheme



The Green Kilnaleck



Permeability Link Bailieborough



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Cavan Urban Greenway

The proposed Cavan Urban Greenway Phase 2 (www.cavanurbangreenway.ie) will be a walking and cycling trail which will connect the newly built greenway at Cavan General Hospital to Farnham Street in Cavan town centre and/or Railway Road / Farnham Road. The greenway will be a shared use surfaced path, provided for leisure and visitor use alike. It is expected to be approximately 3m to 4m wide and incorporate landscaping, signage, and associated amenities. The greenway will be developed in accordance with the Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways and will seek to integrate with and enhance the existing natural and built features of the area it passes through.

The consultant appointed to the project is currently working on Option Route Selection to identify the most appropriate and suitable desire line.

Cavan Town Area Based Transport Assessment

DBFL Consulting Engineers (DBFL) were commissioned by Cavan County Council (CCC) to undertake an Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) for the county town of Cavan. The ABTA is a key commitment contained in the adopted Cavan County Development Plan and Cavan Town Local Area Plan. This project will help inform and guide the continued growth of Cavan Town as a more compact, self-sustaining town as envisaged by national, regional, and local planning policy frameworks.

DBFL submitted several documents to the council in 2023 for review including a Baseline Conditions & Policy Context Report, Baseline Accessibility Report, Stage 2 Draft Context Report, Modelling Scoping document and Collision Data analysis report. In addition, traffic counts, parking counts, existing junction capacity and layouts were also completed by Idaso Traffic and Transport consultants in 2023. DBFL commenced work on a baseline traffic assessment for Cavan Town & Environs in quarter 4 last year and will then proceed to the transport modelling element of the Local Transport Plan in 2024

Safe Route to Schools

Active Travel has been supporting the Safe Routes to School programme in Cavan. Indicative plans are being worked on that will deliver safety improvements through upgraded and additional infrastructure outside schools.



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SRTS Schools

- Cootehill - SRTS R2, St Michael's N.S
- Bawnboy - SRTS R2, St. Mogue's Secondary School,
- Bailieborough - Adelaide Road, Active Travel Scheme
- Ballyhaise - SRTS R2 St Mary's N.S.,
- Kingscourt - Junction Rocks Rd Active Travel Scheme
- St Aidan's Secondary School, Cootehill Town

Safe to Schools Programme – St. Marys National School Virginia

Safe to Schools Programme – St. Marys National School Virginia – Provision of new footpaths, pedestrian crossings, traffic calming measures and upgraded school drop off zone. The project was constructed during the 2023 summer school holiday period.



Greenways

Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) Greenway

Leitrim County Council are the lead authority for the development of the 56Km Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) Greenway project from Sligo to Blacklion. ARUP consulting engineers were appointed to the project by Leitrim County Council in September 2022. Initial public consultations took place in February 2023 with a second period of consultation taking place in May 2023.



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TII approval was received in July 2023 to progress the project from Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) to Phase 2 (Options Selection) of the TII Project Management Guidelines. ARUP consulting engineers subsequently commenced work on Phase 2 which will involve the examination of feasible options in terms of costs, benefits and effects on the environment to identify a preferred option.

ARUP consulting engineers identified several routes for the scheme and public consultation on these took place from Monday 23rd October to Friday 24th November 2023 with open days taking place in Sligo, Belcoo and Glenfarne on the 6th, 7th and 8th of November respectively. The consultants are currently reviewing the feedback from the public consultation.

Cavan Greenway

The proposed Cavan Railway Greenway will connect Cavan Town to the proposed Ulster Canal Greenway in Monaghan/Fermanagh and to the proposed Cavan Leitrim Greenway at Ballyconnell. Consultants were appointed to the project in 2021 which is currently at Phase 2. A review of the phase 2 deliverables commenced at the end of 2023 to take account of the National Cycle Network Plan and All-Island Strategic Rail Review.

Road Safety

A new national Road Safety Strategy from 2021-2030 Vision Zero was finalised by the Department of Transport and published in Dec 21. The publication of the strategy will require the development of a new Road Safety Action Plan by the council, guidelines were issued to all local authorities in April 22. The plan will be prepared by the Cavan Road Safety Working Together Group, which is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary group to ensure a co-ordinated, collaborative, and consistent approach to improving safety for all road users.

The Cavan Road Safety Working Together Group will include members from Cavan County Council, The Fire Service, The RSA, The TII, An Garda Síochána, The HSE, The Ambulance Service and The Cavan Monaghan Education & Training Board.



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Vision zero has set ambitious targets of a 50% reduction of road deaths by 2030. For the 2021–2030 strategy, seven Safe System priority intervention areas have been identified some of which we will have a key impact on deliverables:

- Safe roads and roadsides: To improve the protective quality of our roads and infrastructure.
- Safe speeds: To reduce speeds to safe, appropriate levels for the roads being used, and the road users using them.
- Safe road use: To improve road user standards and behaviours in line with traffic legislation, supported by enforcement.
- Safe and healthy modes of travel: To promote and protect road users engaging in public or active transport.

Kingscourt Town Centre Regeneration Scheme

The Integrated Design Team working on the Kingscourt Town Centre Regeneration Scheme completed Stage 1 of the scheme's development, Inception and Feasibility Options, in Q3 of 2022. Following on from this the team led by Tobin Consulting Engineers and consisting of Urban Design and Planning Lead - Cunnane Stratton Reynolds, architectural concept design lead - Niall Smith Architects and Ronan Meally - Mechanical and Electrical Engineering consultant commenced Stage 2 of the



scheme’s development which included the Statutory Planning Process, Detailed Design, and development of full suites of Tender documents.

The Part VIII Planning Permission process commenced with a notice published in the Anglo Celt newspaper on 15 December 2022. Permission for the scheme was granted at a meeting of the Bailieborough – Cootehill MD held on 6th March 2023.

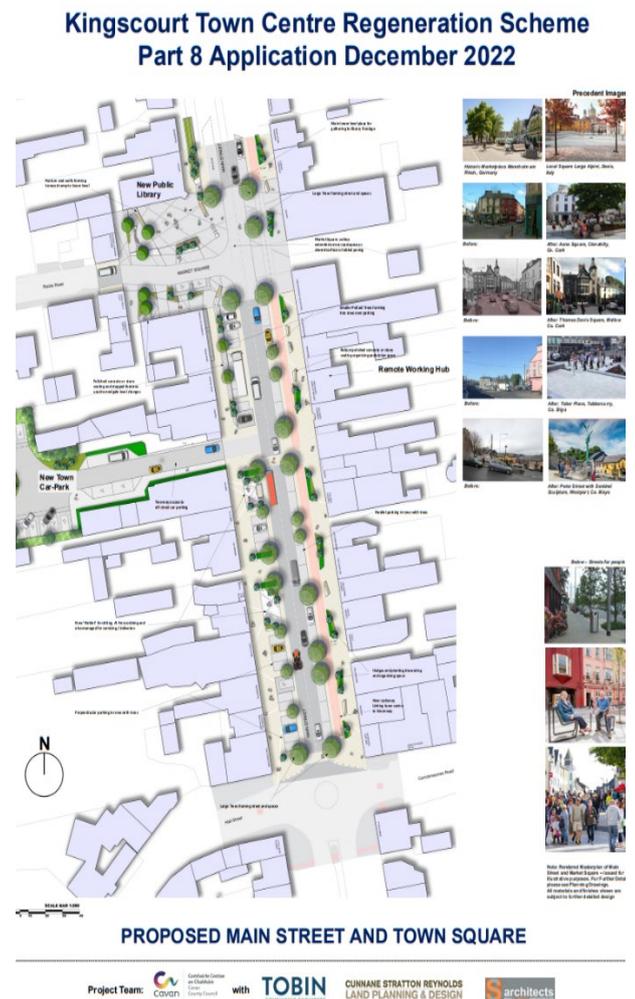
The design team has since been developing the drawings and specifications from the preliminary design into a detailed design of a standard that is now suitable for issue for construction. The Consultant has also prepared a set of complete tender and contract documents based on the detailed design drawings.

The next step in the development of this scheme involves Cavan County Council submitting a detailed application for construction stage funding to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF). This fund is financed under Project Ireland 2040 and administered by the Dept of Rural and Community Development.

The Fifth Call for Category 1 (construction stage) proposals for funding from the RRDF opened on November 10th, 2023.

Cavan Town Flood Relief Scheme

The Cavan Town Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) project consists of five stages with Stage 1: Identification and Development of a Preferred Scheme currently ongoing. Additional stages include Planning, Scheme Development and Detailed Design, Construction





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and ultimately finishing with Handover of the Works. The project timeline from Stages I to V is approximately 10 years. The scheme started in June 2022 with Stage 1 commencement. Stage 1 is now planned for completion by Quarter 3 of 2025. The Steering Group for the scheme constitutes Cavan County Council (CCC) as the Client, the Office of Public Works (OPW) as the funding authority and Ayesa (formerly ByrneLooby) as the schemes Engineering and Environmental consultants.

During 2023 a number of surveys were procured and completed including.

- Channel, topographic, threshold, utility, CCTV and drainage surveys within the scheme area. Murphy Geospatial Ltd (MGS) were appointed by CCC to carry out this work in Feb 2023 with the final Surveys Report being received in September 2023.
- Archaeology, Architecture & Cultural Heritage (completed by Tobar)
- Landscape and Visual (completed by TBS Landscape Architects)
- Bat Surveys – carried out by Ash Ecology.
- Tree Surveys – Veon.
- Otter Surveys – Woodrow/APEM
- Production of an invasive & alien species (IAS) management plan and treatment programme. Envirico has been appointed by CCC as the Survey & Treatment Contractor for Invasive Alien Species (IAS) up until commencement of Stage IV of the scheme. Two rounds of treatment have been completed this year. The first was carried out in May with a follow up treatment completed in early Oct 2023.

Two further Specialists Environmental Surveys are ongoing and will conclude next year:



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- Aquatic Ecology – Tobin Consulting Engineers appointed. Reports due Sept 2024
- Ornithological Surveys – Flynn Furney appointed. Surveys are ongoing until Sept 2024.



Strategic Policy Committees

One of the main objectives of Better Local Government was to enhance Local Democracy and 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.



Environment, Waste Management and Climate Change

Environmental Services

Cavan is a predominantly rural county with numerous rivers and lakes it is therefore no surprise that the issue of water quality demands significant 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 Environmental Services Division play a vital role in the source protection of our many drinking water supplies public, group and private across the County. The draft River Basin Management Plan was published in 2021 with the Minister inviting submissions, observations, and comments on the proposed plan by March 2022. Once the River Basin Management Plan is finalised, likely in 2024, this will be the cornerstone for the protection, improvement, and sustainable management of Ireland's water environment to 2027. The Environmental Services Division also deal with other environmental issues, including on site wastewater treatment inspections, noise and air pollution, air licences, planning applications and environment specific bye-laws. We monitor energy consumption and drive sustainable energy practices and reduced energy consumption within Cavan County Council. Climate change is now recognised as a global challenge with policy responses required in terms of both mitigating the causes of climate change and in adapting to the now inevitable consequences of our changing climate. Action at local level is vitally important to help reduce the risks and impacts of climate change across communities. Actions from the Cavan Climate Change Adaptation Strategy were undertaken in 2022 and this strategy will develop the process of adaptation planning in Cavan County Council. It is the first step in increasing knowledge and understanding of our changing climate, growing resilience, and enabling effective responses to the threats posed by climate change.

The Waste Management and Enforcement element is responsible for the prevention, management and control of waste under Irish and EU legislation. It also manages Environmental Awareness and Education, the Dog Warden Service, Veterinary Service and maintenance of vested burial grounds.



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NOAC indicators

E1: Households with access to a 3 bin service

- A. The number of households, which availed of a 3 bin service offered by a licensed operator at 31/12/2023. **6002**

- B. The % of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations > 500). **61%**

In order to compile this information, data will be obtained directly from the National Waste Collection Permit Office.

Review

The figures obtained from the National Waste Collection Permit Office but not published by NOAC yet indicate a figure of 61%. This is an improvement on the 54% figure of 2022.

E2: No. of environmental pollution complaints closed

The following indicators will be presented in the performance indicators report:

Results

A	Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2023:	410
A	Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023:	381
A	Total number of cases on hands at 31/12/2023:	81
	The opening number of cases carried forward from the year end 2022:	52



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Review

The number of pollution cases of all types that were not finalised at 31/12/2023 is 19% of the total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2023.

E3: % of LA area within the 5 levels of litter pollution

Litter pollution E3:

A1. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was unpolluted or litter free
A2. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was slightly polluted
A3. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was moderately polluted
A4. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was significantly polluted
A5. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was grossly polluted

The data is not available the data will be submitted by Tobin Consulting Engineers directly to the LGMA from the data for the 2023 National Litter Pollution Monitoring System Report that should be ready for publication in mid- 2024.

E4: % of schools that currently hold and have renewed their green flag status.

The following indicator will be presented in the performance indicators report:

A. The % of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2023

In order to compile this information, data will be obtained directly from An Taisce: The National Trust for Ireland.

Please note the following data is obtained from An Taisce:

No. of schools (primary, post-primary and special schools) in local authority at 31/12/2023	87
The no. of schools that have been awarded/ renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2023	25
% of schools that have been awarded green flag status	29
Those which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2023	1



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Those which renewed their Green Flag in 2023	16
Those which held a Green Flag from 2022 and therefore do not require renewal until 2024	8

Review

the percentage of schools that have been awarded green flag status has increased to 29% in 2023. The application and subsequent awarding of green school flags is very dependent on individual teachers and head teachers.

E5: Energy Efficiency

A. The cumulative % of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2023 relative to baseline year (2009)

Review

Figure obtained up to 31/12/22 is -30.5%. Data for 2023 for this indicator is not yet available from SEAI

E7: Climate Change

- Does the local Authority have a FTE climate action officer: Yes
- Does the local Authority have a FTE climate change coordinator: Yes
- Does the Local Authority have a climate action team? Yes

Review

The appointment of climate change roles has taken place in 2023.

River & Lake Monitoring

Nearly 400, river and lake samples were taken across County Cavan during 2023 by Environment Section field staff. These inspections were undertaken in accordance with the Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme. The results of analysis from these samples, combined with other biology, ecology & hydromorphology data available to the EPA, is used to classify the water quality of the rivers and lakes for the purposes of the Water Framework Directive. There are a



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number of different types of pressures on water quality including, urban waste water, agriculture and forestry. Pressures on water quality are diverse and most of the “at risk” waterbodies are subject to more than one pressure. 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 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.



Domestic Waste Water 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.

Environment staff have been trained and have undertaken inspections of wastewater treatment systems in accordance with the NIP. 33 full domestic wastewater assessments were carried out in 2023 in County Cavan.



Water Pollution

During 2023, staff from the Environment Section responded to nearly 60 water related complaints. The investigations relating to these complaints resulted in various forms of enforcement action being initiated. In some cases no further action was required upon investigation and the file was closed or referred to another Section of the Council for inspection. Where enforcement action was deemed necessary due to a discharge of polluting matter or a risk of pollution to waters taking place, the following actions may have been taken depending on the scenario encountered on site by the Inspector –

- Advisory letter
- Warning letter
- Section 12 Notice (Water Pollution Acts)
- Section 3 Notice (Water Pollution Acts)
- Cross Report to the Department of Agriculture

Discharge Licences

Inspectors from the Environment Section monitored 58 discharge licenced facilities during 2023. This involved 256 actions associated with managing these facilities. These licences provide control over effluent discharges to ground and surface waters, which includes rivers & lakes. These licences place responsibility and accountability on the discharger/licence holder. Cavan County Council is responsible for controlling the discharge of effluent to waters through licensing. The licences include appropriate pollution control conditions as well as emission limit values on the discharge.

The Environment Section is also involved in the process of licensing discharges to the sewer network. This falls under the remit of Irish Water and the relevant Environment Section Inspectors carry out this work in accordance with the service level agreement with Irish Water.



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Air Pollution Acts & Regulations (Solvents/Decopaints/PVE/Smoky Coal)

During 2023, there were 3 active Air Licences operating in the County, Inspectors attended the sites and the operators were in compliance with their licence requirements.

During 2023, staff from the Environment Section responded to nearly 30 air and noise related complaints.

The Solvents Regulations deal primarily with emissions from dry cleaning establishments across County Cavan. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids. They include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short and long-term adverse health effects. These regulations are in force to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the environment, especially through controlling, preventing and reducing emissions to air. This is because VOC releases can have negative impacts on human health and the environment. The operators have assessments carried out and if all is in order, they apply to Cavan County Council for Certification. The Certificates can be issued for up to 3 years if the operator is adhering to the regulations. Shorter time frames may be imposed if non compliances have to be resolved. There were 4 facilities with the required Certificates in place at the end of 2023.

The Decopaints Regulations, make it an offence to operate a vehicle refinishing or repair installation without a valid certificate of compliance. Motor factors and paints suppliers also need to comply with these regulations as it is an offence to place non-compliant vehicle refinishing products on the market. The procedure for Certification is similar to that of the Solvent Regulations. There were 10 facilities with the necessary Certificate in place at the end of 2023.

Petrol Vapour Emission Regulations (PVE's) are relevant if a company deals with



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liquid and gas fuels, such as petrol stations, then there is a need to obtain a petroleum vapour emissions (PVE) certificate from Cavan County Council. An assessor undertakes an assessment when fuel is being delivered. The findings of same are submitted to Cavan County Council. If all is in order a Certificate can be issued. 26 facilities had the necessary Certificate in place at the end of 2023.

Smoky Coal Regulations are also referred to as the Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012 (as amended). There is a ban on the burning of smoky coal and certain other fuels in County Cavan which came into effect on 31st October 2022.

During 2023, investigations were ongoing across County Cavan on fuel supplied for sale in the County. Varying levels of compliance were encountered. Adherence to these regulations will ultimately improve air quality and public health, as well as helping to protect those who are vulnerable to respiratory problems. Cavan County Council as the lead authority in collaboration with Monaghan County Council successfully applied for and received approval of a grant allocation from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications to undertake inspections of solid fuel suppliers and merchants during 2023 as well as undertake a sulphur content sampling and analysis regime.

Air monitoring station and data - An ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station was installed in 2020 located at the rear of Cavan Courthouse, Farnham Street, Cavan Town. Reports are produced and distributed of the results from this air quality monitoring station. The system measures and transmits the air monitoring data in real-time with graphical results presented on the EPA website at:

<https://www.epa.ie/air/quality/data/cn/pm/>, the air monitoring data captured by the monitoring station will be used to evaluate air quality.

Farm Inspections & the Nitrates Regulations

Agriculture plays an important part in the economic and sustainable growth of County Cavan. In order for this to continue, the agricultural community has to



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ensure that various obligations regarding the law and the environment are applied. Cavan is predominantly a rural County; therefore, one of the potential sources of pollution to our rivers and lakes can be poor agricultural practices. The Nitrates Regulations or GAP (Good Agricultural Practice) Regulations are enforced in County Cavan. These Regulations provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural. Inspectors from the Environment Section undertook 60 farm inspections in accordance with these Regulations during 2023.

Public Drinking Water

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. Environment Section staff undertake the public drinking water monitoring work on behalf of Irish Water under the existing service level agreement.

Cavan Monaghan Science Festival

2023 was the eighth year of the Cavan Monaghan Science Festival. Cavan and Monaghan County Councils again joined forces hosting a range of events during November 2023. Some events were held online/virtual and some in person. The objective was to stimulate and sustain the interest of all in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) by producing an exciting and educational festival. One of the festival's key successes was developing in-house, curriculum-linked, STEAM workshops, including a 'CSI Water' workshop which explored water sampling and pollution investigation techniques, developed by Cavan County Council's Environment section. Furthermore, the hosting of the family fun day in St Joseph's Hall in Ballyjamesduff with participants provided with events from the EPA, Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, Environment Section staff, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Cavan Civil Defence, Ballyjamesduff Fire Services, Loreto Cavan science students as well as various Science Shows was a roaring success.



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In the festival's inaugural year approximately 9000 participants attended events across the two counties. The festival attracted more than 18,000 attendees in 2023, from preschool children to adults. This rapid growth is a clear measure of the appetite for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths (STEAM) subjects across the two counties.

Climate Change

In February 2023, Cavan County Council received notification from the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communication requesting that a Local Authority Climate Action Plan be completed within 12 months. This request was made pursuant to the provision of the Climate Action and Low Carbon development Act 2015 to 2021, and Section 14B(2)(a) thereof.

Designing and implementing a climate action plan for Cavan County Council required a comprehensive approach that addressed various aspects of mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building. The following outline provides the structured framework under which the plan was completed.

1. **Assessment of Current Climate Risks and Vulnerabilities:** Completion of a thorough assessment was carried out to understand the current climate risks and vulnerabilities faced by County Cavan. This involved the analysis of historical climate data, identification of key climate hazards (such as flooding, extreme weather events, and temperature increases), and an assessment of their impacts on the County's infrastructure, communities, economy, and natural resources.
2. **Designation of a Decarbonisation Zone (DZ):** A decarbonising zone is a spatial area identified by the local authority, in which a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and action owners are identified to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emission and climate needs to contribute to national climate action targets. The DZ must at a minimum reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 7% per annum from 2021 to 2030 (a 51% reduction over the decade), in line with targets set out Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. The wider Cavan



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town area was chosen as Cavan's first decarbonisation zone. A number of bespoke objectives and actions were designed to ensure that this area meets with its emission reduction targets under the act.

3. **Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation:** Extensive stakeholder engagement was carried out across all sectors, including government agencies, local communities, businesses, non-profit organisations, and academic institutions. Stakeholder workshops, public consultations were utilised to gather input, identify priorities, and build consensus on climate action strategies and goals.
4. **Setting Strategic Climate Action Goals and Targets:** Data from the baseline and risk assessments in conjunction with the feedback from stakeholder engagement was utilised to establish clear and measurable goals and targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing climate resilience, and promoting sustainable development within the County. The goals that were developed were examined for alignment with national and international climate commitments, such as the Paris Agreement and Ireland's National Climate Action Plan.
5. **Development of Climate Objectives and Actions:** A suite of climate action objectives and actions were tailored to address the specific needs and challenges of the local authority and County Cavan. These includes:

A. Mitigation Measures:

- Implementation of energy efficiency programs to reduce carbon emissions from the local authority's own buildings, fleet and public lighting. Additional actions were designed as part of our coordination role to the wider community to assist with advocating for emissions reduction throughout the County.



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- Promotion of renewable energy deployment, such as solar, wind, and biomass, to transition to a low-carbon economy.
- Encouraging sustainable land use practices, including afforestation, reforestation, and peatland restoration, to sequester carbon and enhance ecosystem resilience.

B. Adaptation and Resilience Building:

- Development and implementation of flood risk management plans to protect vulnerable communities and critical infrastructure from flooding events.
- Enhancement of water resource management strategies to address droughts, water scarcity, and water quality issues in association with Uisce Eireann.
- Implementation of nature-based solutions, such as green infrastructure and ecosystem restoration, to enhance climate resilience and biodiversity.

C. Education and Outreach:

- Facilitation of public awareness campaigns to educate residents, businesses, and schools about climate change impacts and the importance of climate action.
- Facilitation of training and capacity-building programs to empower communities and local leaders to take proactive measures to address climate risks.

6. **Integration of Climate Action into Local Planning and Policy Frameworks:**

Integration of climate action considerations into County Cavan's planning and policy frameworks to mainstream climate resilience across sectors. This may involve:

- a. Updating development plans, zoning regulations, and policies to incorporate climate-smart design principles and climate adaptation measures.



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- b. Embedding climate change considerations into transportation planning, infrastructure development, and emergency management strategies.
 - c. Establishing partnerships with neighbouring counties, regional authorities, national agencies to coordinate climate action efforts and leverage resources.
7. **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting:** Establishment of a robust monitoring, evaluation, and reporting system to track progress towards climate action objectives and actions through the use of key performance indicators (KPIs) and metrics to measure the effectiveness of climate action initiatives and assess their impact on reducing emissions and building resilience.
8. **Funding and Resource Mobilisation:** Identification and mobilisation of financial resources to support the implementation of climate action initiatives within County Cavan through securing grants, exploring innovative financial mechanisms such as public private partnerships and establishing dedicate funding streams and budget allocations within the council's fiscal framework.

It is anticipated that by following this structured approach, Cavan County Council can develop and implement a robust climate action plan that addresses its unique climate challenges, engages stakeholders, mobilises resources, and builds resilience to climate change impacts throughout the local authority and its functional area.

Border Energy Unit

The Eastern & Midlands CARO is made up of a number of sub regions. The Border Region Sub Region authorities are Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, and Leitrim County Council. The Border Region Sub Region Authorities of Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council and Leitrim County Council have come together to work in partnership as a proposed Border Energy Unit.

The mission of the Border Energy Unit is for the local authorities to work collaboratively with the SEAI to delivery energy efficiency projects in the region. Cavan County



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Council acts as lead local authority for the Border Energy Unit with the aim to continuously improve energy efficiency and the decarbonisation of its assets and services. Cavan County Council aims to meet the prescribed objectives and targets for 2030.

Cavan County Council, in its capacity as lead local authority, entered into Service Level Agreements with each of the Unit Authorities viz Monaghan County Council and Leitrim County Council in 2022 and has also entered into an MoU (memorandum of Understanding) with the SEAI in 2022 both continued into 2023. The LAs and SEAI have agreed to collaborate on the delivery of a Pathfinder Programme for Border Sub Region in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

The shared objectives are to develop a scalable model for energy and emission management and retrofit investment in the Unit Authorities' building stock to achieve national policy targets.

As part of the Pathfinder Programme, the local authorities will manage the progression of the energy and decarbonisation agenda including:

- Implementing and Progressing energy efficiency and decarbonisation upgrades
- Maintaining and developing further a collaborative approach for energy efficiency across each Local Authority in the region
- Establishing and Embedding Energy Management in each Local Authority
- across the region
- Developing a programme of retrofit works comprising capital works and centrally Coordinated

For the Energy Unit and Retrofit Programme the Annual Commitment shall be funded on a 50/50 basis between the Unit Authority (coordinated by Cavan County Council under the SLAs) and SEAI.



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Climate, Biodiversity Action & Environment Strategic Policy Committee

Members of Strategic Policy Committee

Cllr. Philip Brady, Cathaoirleach,

Cllr. Madeline Argue,

Cllr. Winston Bennett,

Cllr. T.P. O'Reilly,

Cllr. Shane P O'Reilly,

Cllr: Craig Lovett.

Fintan McCabe, Environment/Conservation.

Barry Wilson, Community/Voluntary.

Joseph Brady, Agriculture/farming Sector.

Meetings Held

Two meetings were held during 2023. On the 26th June 2023 and 11th of December 2023 one of which was a joint meeting with the Roads SPC on 26th June 2023.

Topics and issues discussed included

- National Waste Management Plan
- Presentation on LACAP to include: Climate Action Team
 - Cavan's New Climate Action Plan – an update
 - Summary of measures, themes and pre-draft consultation
 - Community Climate Action Plan Programme
- Aquatic Invasive Alien Species Impact on County Cavan Waters –
- Unauthorised Waste Activities
- Update on Climate Action Plan
- ByeLaws and Traffic Management Update



Energy Management

Across the entire organisation the Council's Energy Manager undertakes the following

- Update and 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 and maintain procedures to monitor energy consumption
- Providing guidance and advice on energy regulations and statutory requirements.
- Raising awareness to improve energy efficiency
- Encourage sustainable energy practices
- Support energy efficiency improvement projects
-

Cavan County Council's target is a 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030. Based on the PROVISIONAL Monitoring and Reporting submissions to SEAI for 2022, Cavan County Council has made a 29.5% improvement to energy efficiency since the baseline period of 2001-2005. The public sector report for 2023 has not been published to date and this is why the 2022 data is utilised as it is the most up to date verified data available.

The Energy Manager reports the annual energy consumption and related data to the SEAI in accordance with deadlines imposed each year.

All electricity consumed by Cavan County Council is procured in accordance with the National Procurement Service tender and this is administered by the Energy Manager. The current electricity contract for non-domestic buildings is with *Energia* who supply over 60 sites operated by Cavan County Council which include office buildings, libraries, waste management facilities, recreational facilities, fire stations,



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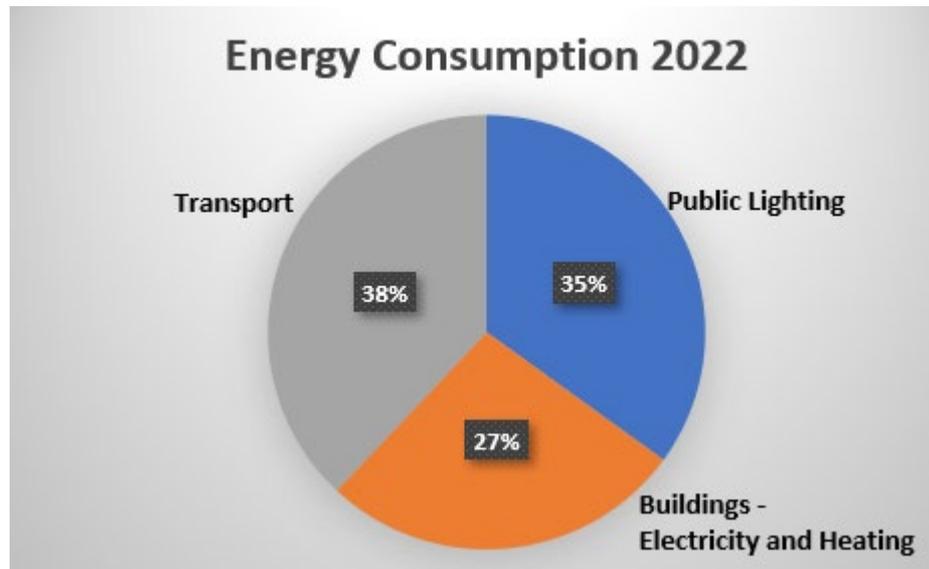
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museum, theatres, etc.

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. There are over 7000 public lights which have to be supplied with electricity (80% of energy cost) and have to be maintained (20% of energy cost). There is an existing public lighting maintenance contract in place with Airtricity Utility Solutions Ltd (AuS). Public lighting makes up 63.25% of electricity consumed by Cavan County Council in 2022. The improvement in energy efficiency which occurred during 2022 is most significantly attributed to the replacement of public lighting across the County with energy efficient LED lights.

Cavan County Councils energy consumption during 2022 which resulted in a spending of over **€1.8 million** (during 2021 it was just under €1.2 million) is detailed in the table below:

Energy Type	Energy Consumption 2021	Energy Consumption 2022
	kWh	kWh
Electricity	4,369,209	4,325,171
Thermal	678,122	514,243
Transport	2,874,907	3,016,130
Total Energy Consumed	7,922,238	7,855,543



As stated previously the public sector report for 2023 has not been published to date and this is why the 2022 data is utilised as it is the most up to date verified data available.

Some of the Significant Energy Actions during 2023 include

- Energy Monitoring and Reporting submitted in accordance with deadlines for 2022 energy consumed.
- Request for tender for Architect/Building M and E Services Led Design Team Consultancy Services for Local Authority Energy Pathfinder undertaken by Cavan County Council on behalf of the three-border unit local authorities (Cavan, Monaghan & Leitrim).
- Work has continued during 2023 towards appointing contractors to progress the deep energy retrofits to Cavan County Council's significant energy users (5 premises) in line with the SEAI Pathfinder support program.
- Project Managers Appointed – Rogerson Redden
- Asbestos Survey & Air Tightness Testing completed.
- Cavan managed the SEAI Pathfinder recoup for 2023 on behalf of Cavan, Monaghan & Leitrim



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- Cavan County Council Energy Engagement Strategy implemented.
 1. Monthly meter readings for headquarter buildings ongoing.
 2. Seasonal messages to staff regarding energy efficiency implemented.
 3. Energy actions circulated to all Heads of Section for inclusion in all Annual Service Delivery Plans/Business Plans. Establish and improve on procedure for monthly monitoring of energy usage
 4. Energy Team meetings held and associated actions ongoing.
 5. Ongoing monitoring of bills and ongoing requests for meter readings within CCC. Liaising with relevant staff re. payments/approval system ongoing.
- Energy upgrades by the Council's Housing Section on 53 houses within Cavan County Councils housing stock to a B2 energy rating.
- Ongoing allocation of sites in accordance with the National Procurement Service winning tenders as new sites come online.
- 77% of public lighting stock upgraded to energy efficient LED lights. The programmes replaces lights that are failing and new works with LED lighting. Significant work was also undertaken through active travel also.
- Input to Local Economic and Community Plan regarding energy activities, focus on linkages with SEC's.
- Liaise with Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and the Climate Action Officer/Team. Regional Climate Action Local Authority Group (Monaghan, Cavan & Leitrim) established with climate/energy activities progressing from same.
- Participation in the OPW Optimising Power at Work and the SEAI Reduce Your Use campaign has seen energy efficiency improvements by staff including a 35% improvement in energy efficiency in the Cavan Courthouse building which is one of our headquarter buildings during 2023.
- Staff awareness raising and engagement strategy project shortlisted in the All Ireland Community and Council Awards for the Local Authority Energy Decarbonisation Award.

Cavan County Council's Energy Team continue to support staff across all Sections towards the 2030 targets on behalf of the organisation and the Team also



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participated in Energy MAP training during 2023 to support these objectives.

Actions Planned for 2024

- Complete SEAI Energy Efficiency Performance Monitoring and Reporting for 2024 in accordance with new deadlines imposed. Increased reporting requirements and roll out of new reporting platform is taking place in 2024.
- Report on energy efficiency progress to Senior Management Team.
- Energy Policy update & ratification by SMT, undertaken in 2021. Update in 2024 with inclusion of LACAP elements and circulate to all staff. Display at Customer Service Desk once review completed.
- Liaise with OPW regarding Optimising Power at Work programme.
- Maintain the Energy Team.
- Support and input to the Climate Action Team.
- Ongoing Implementation of the energy engagement strategy.
- Raise staff awareness and improve energy efficiency using seasonal messages.
- Out of hours audits
- Review of monthly bills, compare and disseminate information
- Maintain procedure for monthly monitoring of energy usage
- Maintain procedure for frequent meter reads
- Maintain Energy Team Meetings & Actions.
- Annual Service Delivery Plans – include energy actions on each Sections Plans.
- Support the various building operators in undertaking expert energy audits e.g. Museum, fire services, MD's, etc..
- Support Community & Enterprise Section by providing information on all types of funding available for communities/groups/individuals.
- Liaise with SEAI and CARO to co-ordinate school events/workshops with primary & post primary schools in Cavan during Science Week.
- Public lighting upgrades – maintain progress of LED upgrades.



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- Continue to allocate new sites in accordance with National Procurement Service winning tenders
- Progress the energy efficiency projects identified in the energy audits undertaken in conjunction with regional local authority climate action sub-group.
- Investigate further regional opportunities for energy saving and energy efficiency projects in conjunction with neighbouring local authorities.

Staff awareness raising and engagement strategy project shortlisted in the All Ireland Community and Council Awards for the Local Authority Energy Decarbonisation Award.





Waste Management, Enforcement and Environmental Education and Awareness

Cavan County Council's Environmental Services is responsible for the prevention, management and control of waste under Irish and EU legislation. It also manages Environmental Awareness and Education, the Dog Warden Service, the Veterinary Service and maintenance of vested burial grounds.

Waste Management Facilities

Civic Amenity Centres

Cavan County Council are responsible for 3 No. Civic Amenity Centres (CACs) located at Corranure, Bailieborough and Ballyconnell. CACs are facilities where the public can dispose of their household waste and contain collection points for a wide range of materials including paper, cardboard, plastic, timber, garden waste, DIY waste, glass, and metal, waste electrical goods, batteries, textiles, waste oil and household hazardous waste for recycling.

Bring Centre Network

There are now 31 No. Recycling Bring Centre locations throughout the County. Bring Centres allows the public to deposit plastic bottles, glass jars and bottles, aluminium and tin cans and textiles for recycling. The Council have undertaken upgrade and improvement works at a number of locations in 2023 which include extensive upgrades at Crossdoney, Cornafean, Kilnaleck and Mullagh. All works were funded by and completed as part of our 2023 Anti-Dumping Initiative.

National Waste Enforcement Priorities for 2023

National Waste Priorities for 2023 included:



Cornafean Bring Bank after upgrade



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1. Tackling illegal waste activities and Multi Agency Sites of Concern
2. Construction & Demolition Waste
3. ELV and Metals
4. Household & Commercial Waste
5. Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities

Waste Complaints

Roadside litter, illegal dumping and abandoned vehicles are the most prevalent types of complaints. Throughout the year the Council participated in multiple awareness campaigns to highlight the detrimental impact these activities have on our communities and to encourage behavioural change including:

- The 2023 Gum Litter Taskforce awareness campaign which was launched in Cavan.
- Community Wardens provided information stands at Cavan Tidy Towns environmental awareness event held at the Green Lake, Cavan as part of the Cavan Calling Festival and the Arva Agricultural Show.
- Participated in social media campaign during Climate Action Week promoting a sustainable Halloween targeting our Green Schools Network.
- Provided litter picking materials to voluntary groups to assist their litter picking events as part of their Green Kilometre participation. To date 16 No. groups have notified the Council of their participation.
- Through our Anti-Dumping Initiatives we provided a series of Bulky Waste Drop Off days (1st – 22nd July 2023) in Corranure/Ballyconnell/Bailieborough and also ran an awareness campaign promoting our waste presentation Bye-laws.
- As part of the Council's upgrade of our website, we updated and improved content to improve customer service and provide a user-friendly experience in accessing information.



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County of Cavan (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-laws, 2019.

These Bye- Laws came into force on 13th December 2019 and place obligations on waste producers in households and commercial premises regarding storage, presentation, segregation of waste, contamination prevention and demonstration of proof that their waste is disposed of by an approved waste collector or brought by the waste producer to an authorised waste facility. These Bye-laws apply to all households, apartments and commercial premises. To manage waste correctly there must either be:

- Have a contract in place with an authorised door-to-door waste collector.
- Have a bin sharing agreement in place ensure that the account holder has provided you with proof of agreement.
- Demonstrate regular use of an authorised waste facility e.g. civic amenity site.



Find out more at www.mywaste.ie

Details of the Bye-laws and general household waste management obligations were advertised in the Anglo Celt as part of our Anti Dumping Initiative awareness campaign.

Anti-Dumping Initiative

As part of the 2023 Anti Dumping Initiative, Cavan County Council completed 5 No. projects which focused on prevention and abatement measures and increased education and awareness measures. The two larger projects focused on the upgrade of our Bring Centre Network and hosting a series of Bulky Waste and Waste Drop Off period of 2 weeks at the Corranure Civic Amenity Site, Ballyconnell and Bailieborough. We received unprecedented attendance over the 3 week period 1st – 22nd July, with the Bulky Waste Drop Off Days taking in over 80 tonnes of household waste.



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♻️ There will be a 50% price reduction on bulky goods disposed of from the 1-15 July at Corranure, Ballyconnell, and Bailieborough Civic Amenity Centres.

ITEM	New price (incl. 50% reduction)
Single mattress	€7.50
Double mattress	€10
Single bed (incl. mattress)	€10
Double bed (incl. mattress)	€15
Small wardrobe	€5
Large wardrobe	€7.50
Armchair	€5
Couch	€7.50
Three piece suite	€17.50
Carpet (small room)	€7.50
Carpet (large room)	€12.50
Bath	€4
Sink	€1.50
Toilet (incl. cistern)	€1.50
Electrical goods (domestic)	FREE

At Corranure, Ballyconnell, and Bailieborough Civic Amenity Centres
Normal Opening Hours: 8am-4.30pm, Monday to Friday | 8am - 12.30pm Saturdays
see: www.cavancoco.ie/recycling

Cavan Comhairle Contae an Chabháin Cavan County Council
Funded under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2013
Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland

👍 34 💬 6 🔄 39

👍 Like 💬 Comment

28 No. classrooms participating equating to 670 No. students/1,680 No. people getting involved. Provision of supplementary supplies to other local groups to support local and national awareness initiatives (Green Kilometre Scheme, National Spring Clean, etc.).

Solar Compacting Bins

Six new Solar Powered Compacting Bins were installed at strategic locations across the County which were funded by the Anti-Dumping Initiative. The compacter bins are equipped with built in software to alert staff when the bins are full to reduce littering around bins and optimise the management of litter bins in towns and villages. Two are located in Ballyjamesduff, two in Arvagh, and one each in Mullagh and Ballinagh.



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Smart solar powered compacting bins installed part of 2023 Anti-Dumping Initiative

Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Grants

Grant monies was paid to 10 No. Tidy Towns Groups and 3 No. primary school amounting to €11,212.21 for projects completed in 2023 this was part funded by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.

Promotion of the Green Schools Programme

The Green Schools Programme is an environmental education programme run by An Taisce in partnership with local authorities, designed to promote long term whole school action for the environment which is led by the students with involvement from the wider community. Cavan County Council continue to promote the programme each year and consult with all schools across the County on a regular basis and provide information, support and other resources to as many schools as possible. number of schools deferring their Green School applications to 2023. The following 17 No. Schools were awarded a Green Flag for the 2021/2023 period under the following themes:





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- Litter & Waste Flag: East Knockbride NS, St. Mogue's College, Bawnboy.
- Water Flag: St. Pat's College, Cavan, Cavan Youthreach, St. Clare's College, Ballyjamesduff, Drumcrave NS, Cavan.
- Travel Flag: Ballinamoney NS, Castlerahan NS, Killinkere NS, Scoil Naomh Bhríd, Redhills, St. Aidan's NS, Bawnboy, St. Clare's NS, Cavan.
- Biodiversity Flag: Laragh No. 2 NS, Scoil Bhríde, Killeshandra, Scoil Mhuire, Lacken, Scoil Mhuire, Swanlinbar, St. Anne's NS, Bailieborough.

The local authority provided financial assistance to An Taisce for the administration of the programme and arranged for the assessments to be carried out.

Irish Businesses Against Litter (IBAL) Anti-Litter League

Cavan Town moved up the rankings in the IBAL Anti-Litter League in 2023 finishing in 12th place out of 40 towns in the 1st round results and 29th place out of 40 towns in the 2nd round results and ranked as "Moderately Littered". This is testament to the collaborative approach by the Council and Cavan Tidy Towns.

National Litter Pollution Monitoring Surveys

The National Litter Pollution Monitoring System provides an accurate picture of litter pollution across the county and accurately measures changes over time. The System developed by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and Tobin Consulting Engineers requires local authorities to carry out annual surveys to determine the extent, composition and causes of litter pollution in the locations assessed.



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The data obtained enables us to provide more effective litter management planning and assess the effectiveness of the objectives set out in our Litter Management Plan 2021 – 2024 and ensure we allocate the appropriate resources to tackle the issues faced locally by litter pollution.



2 No. locations surveyed – Halton Amenity Park, Cootehill (L), Town Hall, Cavan (R)

National Spring Clean

Traditionally, the National Spring Clean Campaign runs throughout Ireland during the month of April and in recent years it has gone from strength to strength in County Cavan. In support of this campaign, Cavan County Council have encouraged Schools, Tidy Towns Committees, Local Community Groups and Resident Associations throughout the County to become involved in clean-up 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 large amounts of roadside litter was collected. In 2023, approximately 60 No. groups registered with An Taisce with over 1,344 people involved in clean ups between March and July. The Council provided supplementary litter picking equipment and signage to groups who needed additional supplies and disposed of all waste collected.



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National Tree Week

Planting more trees is the most efficient way of removing carbon from the atmosphere and combatting climate change.

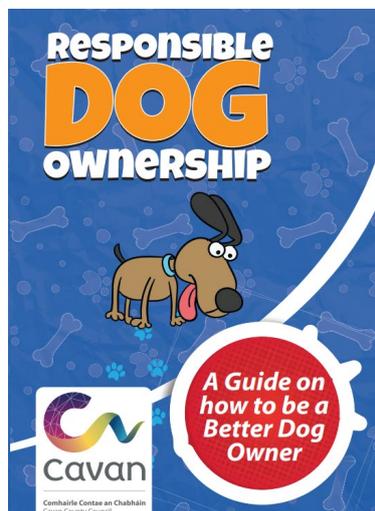
This annual campaign encourages people to plant more trees and get involved in local activities happening in their area. In 2023, 430 native trees were supplied free of charge to 18 No. community/voluntary groups, schools and individuals.



Tree Council
of Ireland

Dog Fouling Awareness Initiatives

Environmental Services places significant emphasis on developing measures to deter dog fouling and to make dog owners aware of their responsibilities. Over 100 No. bag dispenser units and/or combi bin and bag dispensers have been installed along known dog walking routes with new locations being added each year. We also fund the provision of bags for these dispensers and oversee a maintenance schedule for each Municipal District. Community Wardens also work closely with voluntary groups such as Tidy Towns to highlight the issues of dog fouling.



Responsible Dog Ownership leaflet



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Water Services

Cavan County Council Water Services Section continues to adapt to challenges of what is still a relatively new operating environment in collaboration with Uisce Éireann, (formerly Irish Water). Cavan County Council Water Services Department is to the forefront of shaping and delivering an operating framework to ensure that we as a County and Nation are best positioned to avail of the opportunities presented by the changing circumstances.

From 1st January 2014 delivery of water and wastewater services became the responsibility of Uisce Éireann. The year 2023 marked year 10 of a 12-year Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Uisce Éireann 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 Uisce Éireann is 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 16 Public Water Schemes in the County of which 7 are being supplied by Private Group Water Schemes. There are 26 public wastewater treatment plants in the County.



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Framework for Future Delivery of Water Services

In February 2022, the government published a **Water Sector Transformation Policy Paper, Uisce Éireann – Towards a National, Publicly Owned, Regulated, Water Services Utility**. The paper referenced the process facilitated by the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC), which has been ongoing with a view to assisting the parties to devise a mutually agreed operational framework to replace the Service Level Agreements. The government asked the parties to engage to agree a framework for a stable operating structure for the future delivery of water services.

Meetings were ongoing since July of 2021 between the representatives of the management side (CCMA, LGMA, DHLGH and Uisce Éireann) and the trade unions under the auspices of the Workplace Relations Commission and a final meeting was held on the 20th of June 2022.

The outcome of this engagement was the Framework for Future Delivery of Water Services, (published in June 2022), which outlined the future plan and timescale of the transition of the Water Services function from the Local Authorities to a Single Public Utility. It also addressed staff issues relating to the future delivery of water services.

It is intended that the transition to the fully integrated national water services authority will take place between the date of this Framework and 31st December 2026, with Uisce Éireann assuming direct management of all water services staff from January 2023.

To facilitate the transition to a national water services authority, this Framework provides for:



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1. The voluntary transfer, of existing local authority water services staff to Uisce Éireann as permanent employees at any stage over the transition period, in accordance with the terms set out in this document.
2. The identification of opportunities for water services staff not transferring to Uisce Éireann to avail of opportunities to re-deploy to other areas within local authorities.
3. The commencement of water services staff recruitment directly by Uisce Éireann to fill vacancies arising in water services.
4. A voluntary redundancy scheme to be introduced in accordance with the terms set out in this document; and
5. A new Uisce Éireann-local authority agreement, replacing the existing SLA arrangements, to ensure that Uisce Éireann has full accountability for the delivery of water services and direct management of the water services staff who choose to remain employed by their local authority under contract to Uisce Éireann for the transitional period to the end of 2026.

Implementation of this framework will require ongoing partnership and collaboration between the parties at local, regional, and national level, while maintaining the continued safe delivery of water services by Uisce Éireann and local authorities throughout the transition period.

The process leading to this SPU continued to move forward during 2022 and is expected to culminate in the transition of the management of the water services function to Uisce Éireann during 2023 with the expected milestone for the cessation of Local Authority involvement in this service by 31st December 2026.

The effective date for transfer of direct management of water services function to Uisce Éireann in Cavan County Council was September 6th, 2023. Uisce Éireann has now assumed the direct management of the water services function in respect of public water supplies.



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Performance Indicators

Sampling and testing of all Public Water supplies and effluent discharges from wastewater plants is overseen by the Council’s Environment Section using Uisce Éireann’s Laboratory Framework.

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

The following are the compliance figures for the Public Water Supply Schemes.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Compliance	99.3%	98.9%	98.9%	98.9%	99.4%	99.3%	99.7%	99.5%

Capital Works

Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) - Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)

Capital Upgrade Projects

Under the Uisce Éireann Capital Investment Plan 2020 – 2024 52 wastewater treatment plants identified across the country for upgrade due to failings on discharge limits and hydraulic capacity.

Cavan Sites currently included.

Bailieborough, Ballyjamesduff, Kingscourt, Cootehill, & Virginia WWTP’s Feasibility Study reports (Atkins) were completed for the above-named sites in Q4 2019 and were progressed to gate 2 works, (Planning, Design, EIA, EIS etc.), in Q1 2020.



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Ballyjamesduff Project Scope

Increase current capacity from 2200 PE to 6600 PE* - Upgrade treatment process to meet the UWWTR requirements.

**UÉ reviewed the initial 6600PE figure and implemented a downward revision of this target capacity figure to 4300PE for the 10-year horizon and 5200 PE for the 25-year horizon for the purposes of this upgrade*

Virginia Project Scope

Increase current capacity from 2000 PE to 6075 PE - Upgrade treatment process to meet the current WWDL requirements.

Current Status **Ballyjamesduff & Virginia WWTP's**

Ballyjamesduff WWTP

The planning application for the Ballyjamesduff WWTP upgrade Project was submitted and validated by our own Cavan County Council LA Planning Department. A notification of decision to grant was issued earlier in November 2022 with full planning permission granted for the Project in January 2023.

At present the guideline/estimated completion date for Ballyjamesduff WWTP is Q3 2026. VWI sought competitive tenders from respective Contractors for all aspects of the Ballyjamesduff Project commencing in late Q1 2023.

Virginia WWTP

The Planning Application submission milestone for the Virginia Project took place on the 5th of December 2022. A notification of decision to grant was issued earlier in October 2023 with full planning permission for the Project granted in November 2023.

At present the guideline/estimated completion date for Virginia WWTP as provided by UÉ is Q4 2026.



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Project Breifne - Cootehill, Bailieborough & Kingscourt WWTP's

Cavan County Council Local Authority Capital Office engaged in preliminary design works for Cootehill, Bailieborough and Kingscourt, with the finalised Project scopes for these WWTP having been agreed and reviewed in ongoing consultation with UÉ / Volia Water Ireland, (VWI, the contractor). Initial Data capture / gathering exercises took place at each of these three sites throughout 2022 and 2023 and the subsequent RFI's which resulted from this activity were progressed in consultation with UÉ's appointed technical assurance representatives. Work will continue on these projects.

At present the guideline/estimated Construction commencement date for the Cootehill, Bailieborough and Kingscourt Projects is Q3 2025 as advised by UÉ.

Other Capital projects which progressed in 2023 included:

IWSS Programme (Inlet Works, Storm, and Sludge Treatment)

Uisce Éireann as part of their IWSS works identified deficiencies in certain plants. Cavan Town Wastewater Treatment Plant had two fine screens and a grit removal system, which were not working. Workshops were held with Uisce Éireann, Cavan County Council and Contractors Conway Engineering (Limerick), to agree works etc. at Cavan WWTP among other plants. The following works were agreed,

1. Removal of existing defective screens.
2. Install new duty/standby screens.
3. Install new screens handling unit.
4. Install new grit removal system including new grit classifier, with additional pipe to prevent siphoning.
5. install new form 4 panel for these works, which would relay all information back to SCADA.
6. New wash water recovery system from the outlet of the clarifiers to the inlet works (including pumps).



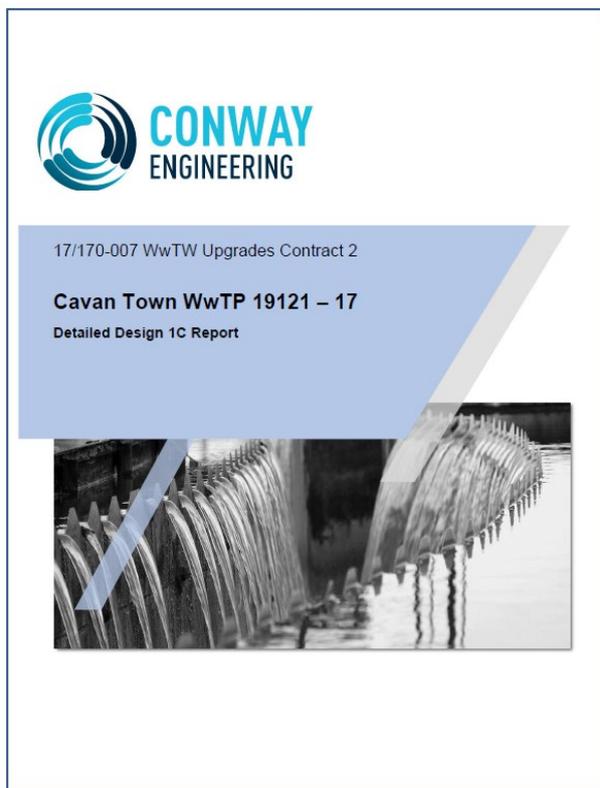
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7. Removal of cover over grit collection traps and installation of new walkway over 1st hopper.
8. Further works have been identified going forward when the covers were removed off the storm grit/FOG hoppers. These works are now ongoing.

See photos below of new Sludge Reed Drying Beds and Foundation to a New Storm Tank.



**New Screens Being
lifted into place.**



Two New Screens and Handling Unit



New Panel & Enclosure

Cathedral Road, Cavan, Water Mains Rehabilitation Project

Cathedral Road in Cavan Town was identified by Cavan County Council as an area requiring works. The existing mains along the old road was a 3-inch cast iron pipe, which due to encrustation was virtually closed for most of its diameter. The properties fed from this main had very low pressure and dirty orange water. (This colour resulted from residue from aged cast iron pipe). The direction of feed for this pipeline was from the Cockhill DMA, (District Metering Area), which has a Pressure Reducing Valve, (PRV), to prevent breakages/leaks and reduce excessive usage. This further compounded the problem of pressure for these properties along the Cathedral Road. The pressure at the top of Kenadee/"White City" was only 14psi and the flushing/scouring from the hydrant was inadequate, resulting in more deposition in pipelines.

It was also identified at the same time that the Cavan College of Further studies and Beech Hill estate were being fed from the Billis system resulting in pressures of approximately 100psi in these areas. These pressures were not needed and would cause issues in the long term. The College and Beech Hill were both on a 100mm upvc class C pipeline which ran parallel for the most part with the old 3" cast iron pipe.



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A plan was devised to connect to the Killynebber/Butlersbridge system at the junction of the "Manager's Road" and Cathedral Road. Bring a pipeline down to Beech Hill and connect the College and Beech hill with this new 125mm PE pipe. This would reduce the pressure to approximately 50psi.

A new section of 125mm PE pipe was drilled from the entrance road to Keadue/"White City" to just before the entrance to Esker lodge nursing home/O' Dwyers Accountants. 3 connection points would be required at

- 1) junction of the "Manager's Road" and Cathedral Road.
- 2) just below Esker lodge nursing home to existing connection.
- 3) at the entrance to Keadue/"White City".

Farrans/Conwells started the contract on the 18th of August 2023 and completed the project on the 15th of September 2023. Approximately 712 meters of old 3" cast iron pipe was decommissioned and approximately 280 meters of new 125mm PE pipe put in place to allow the project to be a success.

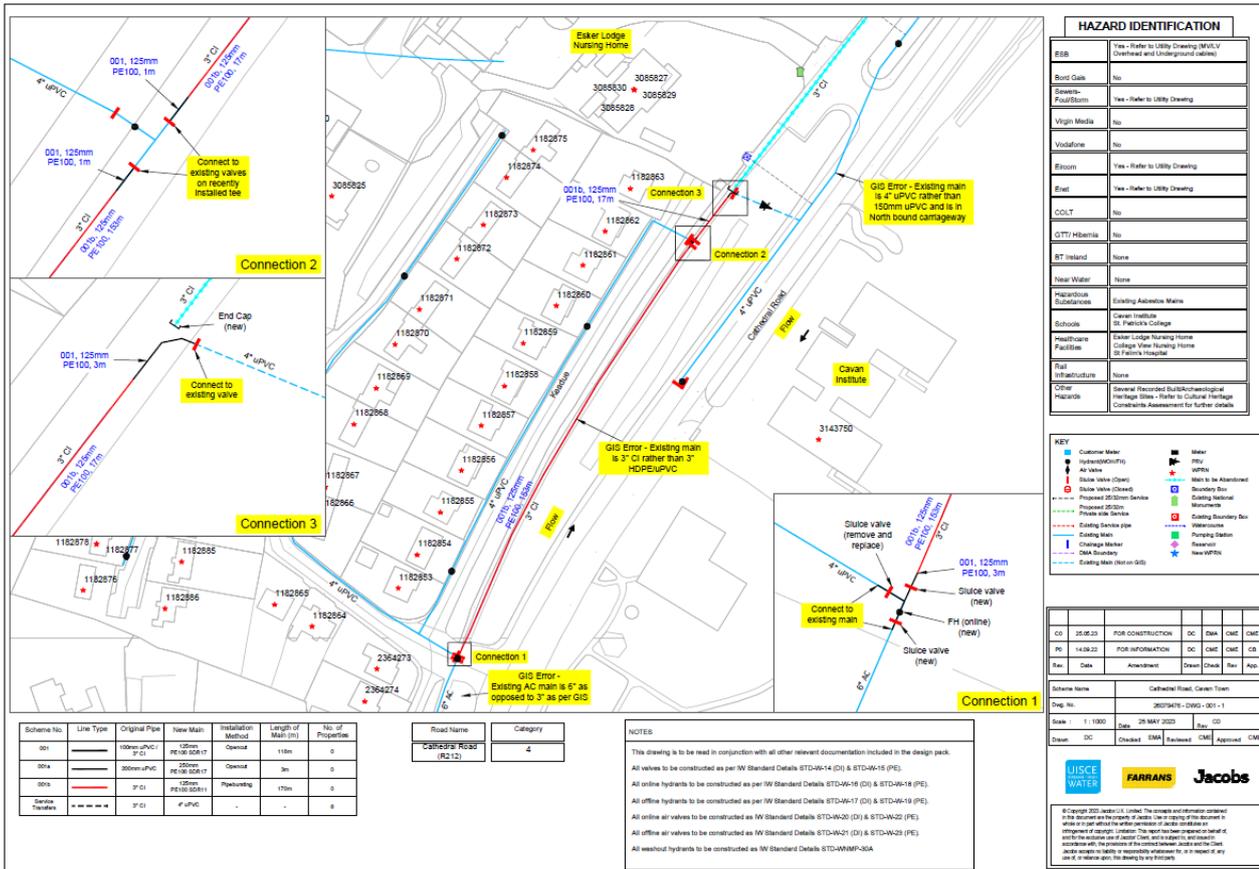
The water pressure at top of Keadue is now 28 psi and more than enough water to enable adequate flushing/scouring. Beech hill and Cavan College no longer have 100 psi pressures. Pressures at Beech hill would be approximately 50 psi. The project solved 4 different issues at the one time and proved to be a success.



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Cathedral Road - Existing Detailed Design



**Connection to Keadue below Esker Lodge
UPVC Class C feeding College**



Connection to 100mm

Cavan Rural Water Update

The **Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021** was launched on February 8th, 2019. Submissions were made under 7 different Measures. Submissions were made for funding towards 51 specific projects on behalf of 27 Schemes or scheme bundles. An Expert Panel was established to review all submissions. Notification of allocations were issued by the Department on 14th October 2019.

The final total allocation for Cavan in relation to the 2019-2021 programme was **€2,107,016.35**. These allocations are both scheme and project specific. Allocations were received for 23 of these projects, (covering 17 schemes or scheme bundles).



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All schemes allocated funding under **MARWP 2019-2021** are contacted every 6-8 weeks to ascertain an update on the various projects. A report is then prepared & returned to the Department. It is noted that many of the projects were at a standstill or slowed down significantly as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Seventeen schemes have completed projects under this programme and payments totalling **€1,615,445.07** have been issued.

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme – Measure 8 - Well Grants applications continue to be submitted and there has been an increase in the number of applications since the announcement of an updated well grant fund scheme. Well grants totalling €209,994 have been issued to applicants under MARWP 2019-2021, with €25,997.75 of that issued since January 2023. These amounts have been recouped in full, from the Department.

MARWP 2024-2026. It is expected that details of this scheme will be announced in Q2 2023, however at this juncture there is no indication that the programme will be significantly different from the current programme. It has been agreed that Council Staff, the Schemes and National Federation of Group Water Schemes, (NFGWS), will come together again once the new programme has been announced to ensure that Cavan's schemes make the strongest cases possible for the next allocation process.

An independent Expert Panel will provide a report on all applications received and based on this report, recommendations for funding to the Minister will be made.



Planning, Town Center First, Community Enterprise, Tourism and Economic Development

Planning

Introduction

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 encompasses the following areas:

- Forward Planning
- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund
- Development Management and other Statutory Functions
- Derelict sites & Dangerous Structures
- Taking in Charge of Housing Estates
- Unfinished Housing Estates
- Market Surveillance
- Development Contributions and Bonds
- Building Control
- Development Compliance/Enforcement:
- Heritage
- Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee
- Planning Performance Indicators



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Forward Planning:

In 2023, Forward planning section focused on the delivery of the objectives of the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028 incorporating a Local Area Plan for Cavan Town. Tenders were prepared for the following projects which are key objectives of the development plan – the Burrencarragh Masterplan, Landscape Character Assessment and Renewable Energy Strategy.

A Consultant was also engaged to report on the Monitoring of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that was carried out as part of the Development Plan process.

The Forward Planning Team worked alongside The Active Travel Team for the preparation of their (Area Based Transport Assessment) ABTA for Cavan Town.

Continuous monitoring of the development plan was carried out by the Forward Planning Section throughout 2023, including monitoring of approved development types, development locations and housing (urban, rural and brownfield sites).

This monitoring will feed into the 2-year Review of the Progress made in Achieving the Objectives of the Development Plan report. Work commenced on the preparation of this report in 2023 with the theming of the development objectives.

Residential Zoned Land Tax

The Forward Planning Team continued works arising from legislation introduced in 2022. The Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) was introduced by Section 80 of the Finance Act 2021 and is contained in Part 22A of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (TCA 1997). It is an annual tax which is calculated at 3% of the market value of land that is within its scope. The overall aim of the RZLT is to bring underutilised land forward for residential development. Mapping of the land which satisfies the relevant criteria is undertaken by the planning authority, while management of the RZLT, including liability, payment and enforcement, will be undertaken by the Revenue Commissioners.



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The role of the Planning Authorities in 2023 was to prepare maps that showed the residential and mixed-use land that the tax will relate to (i.e. zoned and serviced land for Residential lands and 'vacant and idle' lands for Mixed-Use/Town Centre zoned lands).

January 1st, 2023, was the closing date for submissions to be received on the draft map. Anyone not satisfied with this outcome could appeal the decision of the Planning Authority to An Bord Pleanála by 1st May 2023. The Supplemental Map showing changes or amendments to the Draft Map was placed on public display from 1st May 2023 to the 1st of June 2023. An appeal on the outcome of this could be made to An Bord Pleanála by 1st September 2023.

The Forward Planning Team ensured as per legislation that the Final Map 2023 was on display by 1st December 2023. Following this, work commenced on the preparation of the Annual Draft Map which would have to be placed on display in early 2024.

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

Abbeylands Phase 1

The Abbeylands Phase 1 Part VIII planning application was ratified by the Municipal District Councillors in April 2023. This transformative project involving the construction of a new multi-functional public plaza fringed by a new state-of-the-art business development hub office facility with community function and a new state-of-the-art community service building and associated works, is to act as a catalyst for activation of development to back-lands in the centre of the town establishing a new cultural and business quarter for all.



*Draft Drawings

The project is currently at Capital Works Management Framework stage ii) Detail Design. The Council have employed a multi-disciplinary integrated design team for the delivery of the project through to completion. Initial site investigation works are underway with a further series of enabling works contracts to commence in Q2/Q3 of this year. Subject to final Department Decision Gate approval, it is anticipated that the main contract works will go to tender in September, with contract award expected in December 2024/January 2025 and main construction works to commence in early Q1 2025. The project has a 2/2.5-year construction delivery timeline with completion anticipated in mid-2027.



*Draft Drawings

Development Management and other Statutory Functions:

The Planning section received 680 planning applications in 2023. The majority of applications related to developments such as industrial, rural enterprise, housing schemes, agricultural, commercial, single dwellings, extensions to existing dwellings, domestic garages and retention of existing works.

There were 17 decisions of the Planning Authority appealed to An Bord Pleanála with 10 (59%) of the determinations of An Bord Pleanála confirming the decision made by the Planning Authority.

There were also 9 applications for Extension of Duration during the year.

Cavan County Council went live on April 11th, 2023, with The Local Government Online Planning System. Since then, 341 applications have been received online to the end



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of December 2023. The Local Government Online Planning portal was designed to streamline the application for planning permission across all Local Authorities in Ireland. The online portal is easy-to-use and moves the process into an environmentally friendly one that is also user friendly. You can register your own account, submit documents online with your application, and submit further documentation at a later stage if necessary. You can view previously submitted applications on your dashboard, as well as the status of applications quickly and easily. Planning permission in Ireland is moving towards a paperless and environmentally friendly domain where applicants have 24/7 access to their planning applications. Planning submissions on electronic and hard copy applications can also be made on the Portal. See <https://planning.localgov.ie/> for more information and where you can set up your own account.

The e-Planning system is expected to bring increased efficiencies for the Planning Department, agents and general public. Hard copies of planning applications will continue to be accepted.

Derelict Sites & Dangerous Structures:

The application of the Derelict Sites Act is confined to ministerial prescribed urban areas. As of December 2023, there were 18 properties recorded on the Derelict Sites register in Cavan. The Council have recently conducted a county wide survey of our town and villages and recorded a significantly higher number of properties that fall within the definition of dereliction under the Act. The Council are in the process of following up with property owner(s) on this dereliction in each town and village and will be updating the register as individual property owners fail to address the dereliction. The Council have issued 19 section 8(2) notices to owners in 2023, with 2 having proceeded to section 8(7) notice and entry on to the register. Once placed on the register, the Council does intend to apply a levy on the owner(s) of such properties.



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On 31st December 2023 there were.

- Eighteen properties on the Derelict Sites Register with 5 properties entered onto the register during the calendar year.
- Two properties were removed from the register during the calendar year.
- Nineteen section 8 (2) warning letters issued, with 2 proceeding to Section 8(7) Notice

Taking in Charge of Housing Estates:

A Taking in Charge policy was written and adopted for Cavan in 2007 as directed by the Minister John Gormley. This policy was revised in 2016 and the revision adopted by the elected members. The revisions were for clarification and to create a more user-friendly document. This document was again revised in 2020 to reflect new legislation introduced in 2018.

There are currently 238 housing estates in the county. 71 estates have been taken in charge under section 180 of the planning and development act 2000 as amended. There are 43 valid applications currently awaiting processing. It is intended to take estates in charge on a continuous basis as resources allow, until all historical estates are Taken in Charge.

Unfinished Housing Estates:

In 2010 there were 156 estates in Cavan on the Departments Unfinished Estate Register. There are currently 2 estates remaining on the register and the proposal is to address these in 2024. This has exceeded the recommendation outlined in Managing and Resolving Unfinished Housing Developments, where it is proposed to annually reduce this by 25% min. 2016 saw the focus move toward bond drawdown and completion of smaller outstanding works in these estates by the council and this is still the focus going forward. The Team continues to monitor the status of all



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unfinished estates, and work with financial institutions and developers to resolve outstanding issues in these estates.

Market Surveillance:

Any person or company, manufacturing an item for sale on the European market, including the Irish market, must comply with the Construction Products Regulations (CPR) 2013. This means the product must be tested and certified as fit for its intended purpose. It is then issued with a CE number and the manufacturer must attach a Declaration of Performance (DOP) for the purpose of ensuring consistency across all member states.

Article 40 of the CPR requires each Member State, to designate a notifying authority, that shall be responsible for setting up and carrying out the necessary procedures for the assessment, and notification of the bodies, to be authorised to carry out third-party tasks in the process of Assessment and Verification of Constancy of Performance (AVCP) for the purposes of the CPR, and for the monitoring of those notified bodies.

In the case of Ireland, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government is the designated notifying authority under the CPR. The Irish National Accreditation Board undertakes accreditation and monitoring of all notified bodies in Ireland. The notified bodies are the testing houses which have been awarded notification status by the notifying authority.

The market surveillance authority for building products is the Building Control Authority for the county where the product was manufactured, as set out in S.I.225/2013.

Development Contributions and Bonds:

This 2017 Development Contribution scheme came into effect on applications granted on or after 1st January 2017. 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 including a newly introduced 10% reduction where development contributions are paid in full within 6 months of lodgement of commencement notices exemptions apply). A total of €1.044m



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(€986K net of Irish Water deductions) 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.

Additionally, on 25th April 2023, the Government approved additional measures under the Housing for All Action Plan to incentivise the activation of increased housing supply and help reduce housing construction costs, including the introduction of temporary time-limited arrangements for the waiving of local authority “Section 48” development contributions. This temporary waiver applies for 1 year to all permitted residential development –

- that commenced on site between 25 April 2023 (the date of the Government Decision approving the measure) and 24 April 2024, and
- is completed not later than 31 December 2025.

Cavan County Council has approved 40 applicants for the Temporary Waiver of Development Contributions at the end of 2023 in the amount of €330,130. It is envisaged, at the time of printing that this incentive will be extended.

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 title BCMS was changed in 2017 to BCMP (Building Control Management Project). The CCMA set up 3 regional authorities, as follows:



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Building Control Regions	Local Authorities
Greater Dublin Area /Eastern and Midland Region	Dublin City, Fingal, South Dublin, Dun-Laoghaire Rathdown, Meath, Louth, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly, Laois (12)
Northern and Western Region	Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, Mayo, Roscommon, Galway City, Galway County (9)
Southern Region	Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, Kerry, Cork City, Cork County, Waterford City and County (10)

Each region has one representative on the BCMP project board. The Northern and Western Region continues to be represented by Donegal County Council (Senior Executive Engineer over Building Control).

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. During 2023, Cavan County Councils Building Control Section processed 239 Notices and 77 Certificates of Compliance on Completion (CCC). This total is made up of:

- 0 invalidated Commencement Notices.
- 73 validated Commencement Notices with Documentation (long form).
- 42 validated Commencement Notices without Documentation (short form).
- 94 validated Commencement Notices (Opt Outs).
- 30 validated 7 Day Notices.



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Of the 77 CCC's processed, 0 were invalidated.

In addition, during 2023, the Building Control Department processed 97 Fire Safety Certificate applications and 63 Disability Access Certificate applications.

The Planning Department continues 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 opened 87 new cases which were subject to complaints for the 2023 calendar year. The Section closed 29 cases during the same period.

Of the closed files:

- 76% (or 22 cases) were resolved because these were 'statue barred', or were deemed to be 'Exempted development' and no Warning Letters were issued.
- A total of 7% of the files (or 2 cases) were closed as a result of negotiations with the Planning Authority.
- 17% (5 cases) were closed following the issue of Warning Letters or an Enforcement Notice.

There are 525 open cases being investigated and these include the preceding years.

Heritage

2023 saw another busy year for Cavan Heritage Office with a wide and varied programme of work promoting all aspects of Cavan's heritage. The Heritage Office continues to ensure that the unique and diverse heritage of County Cavan is conserved, sustained, and, above all cherished and celebrated by the people of the county. Cavan Heritage Office continued to provide a county-wide service, implementing European, National and Local heritage policies where applicable. In



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In addition to policy implementation, the Heritage Office promoted a range of projects and activities which enabled communities to actively engage and participate with our heritage. During 2023 the Heritage Office witnessed a continued interest in heritage as people throughout communities in County Cavan continue to embrace and actively engage with heritage.

The Heritage Office receives an annual funding allocation from the Heritage Council. This funding allows the Heritage Office to target specific projects which fulfil actions contained within the Cavan County Heritage Plan and which have a long-term lasting impact on the heritage of the county.

Cavan Golden Ways

Another very successful year for the Cavan Golden Ways and with the number of communities participating.

County Cavan has approximately 2,400 km of primary, secondary and tertiary roads. Rural roads and lanes are part of the fabric of the countryside. As well as transport links these roads and their surroundings are home to a wealth of physical heritage in terms of their natural and vernacular features, such as Hedgerows, Walls and Gates. There is also a vast cultural heritage associated with the communities that live and have lived along these roads, in terms of place names, fieldnames, local characters, stories and traditions, giving each road its unique character. The Cavan Golden Way is an initiative of the Heritage Office of Cavan County Council to support and promote communities who have identified sections of rural road.

In 2023 Cavan Heritage continued to work with Golden Way Communities on a project entitled 'Golden Communities along Cavan Golden Ways'. This project entailed visual artists and poets working with and responding to Golden Way Communities and their heritage along golden ways creatively.



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Jampa Ling GoldenWay, Bawnboy
Heritage Week



Jampa Ling Golden Way,

In addition, Cavan Heritage Office appointed an Ecologist to prepare Biodiversity Action Plans for 3 no. Golden Ways.

Historic Graveyards Network

The Historic Graveyard Network has grown in success since its inception in 2017. Expansion of the network has taken place with the number of Council-owned historic graveyards participating in the network increasing. The aim of the network is to improve access to these sites, help undertake essential repairs and provide directional and interpretive panels. Projects this year included the publication of guidelines for managing biodiversity in historic graveyards. A number of historic graveyards had Conservation Management Plans prepared for the sites and some availed of support towards minor repairs. An artistic film 'An Ancient Hush' was produced, responding to the Heritage of Historic Graveyards in County Cavan was undertaken during Cavan Calling



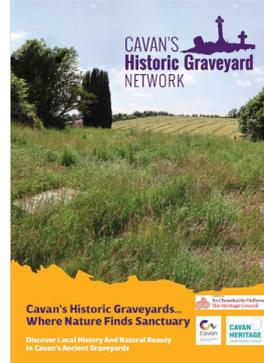
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Biodiversity Seminar



Biodiversity Guidelines for
Historic Graveyards

Community Monuments Fund

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage established the Community Monuments Fund in 2020. The Community Monuments Fund invests capital in our valuable archaeological monuments to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public. In 2023 Cavan County Council was awarded €186,043.60 for 4 no projects, Enagh Windmills, Enagh, Moneygashel Cashel, St Mogue's Church and Drumlane Abbey.



Enagh Windmill



St Mogue's Church

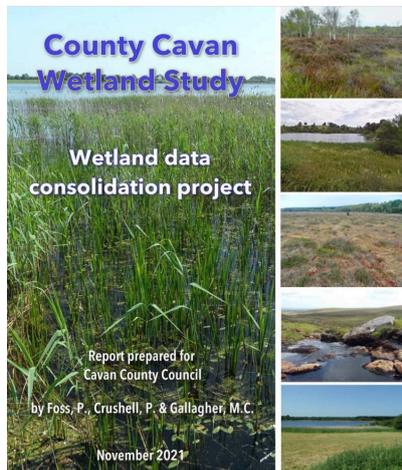


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National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding



In 2023 Cavan Heritage Office accessed funding (€80,600) the National Biodiversity Action Funding (Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage) to undertake Cavan Wetland Survey Phase III, Cavan Hedgerow Survey, Community Biodiversity Awareness Program, Bat Woodland Pilot Survey and a studies to investigate invasive species, Nuttall's Waterweed and Quagga Musscle.

Placing Heritage at the Heart of Communities

This project was funded by the Heritage Council as part of an awareness raising campaign to promote the heritage of County Cavan. One such project was 'Where We Belong – Series 3'. The Heritage Office commissioned a podcast series with 5 episodes focusing on local heritage heroes throughout the county, e.g. Cavan ICA, Cavan GAA, Barney Cully of Cully's Bakery, Ballyjamesduff Frolics and Virginia and District Historical Society. The project was very successful and streaming globally meant that both locals and those far away could spend some quality time with Cavan through the world of sound.

<https://open.spotify.com/show/6qMnW0meuwXlIsJbfcKMAU>

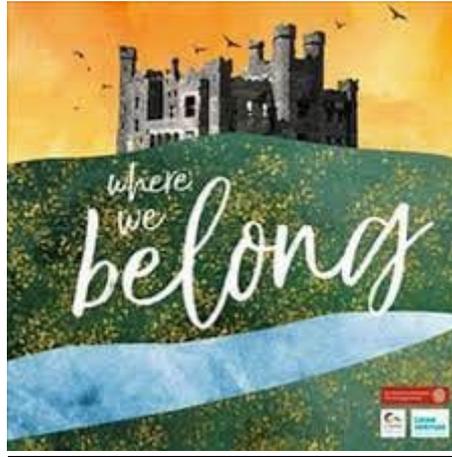
<https://f.io/V0MrnSmy>



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Heritage Week 2023

Heritage Week 2023 was successful with many groups throughout the county embracing their local heritage. 2023 saw a mix of online projects and heritage events.



Built Heritage 2023

The Heritage Office continues to promote the conservation and management of our built heritage in County Cavan. In addition to reviewing and updating the record of protected structures and associated works, the heritage office provides advice and informs policy to the planning department. The general public are also assisted in



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management of Built Heritage. The Heritage Office of Cavan County Council successfully drew down €96,000 for Built Heritage Conservation projects and €117,500 under Historic Structures Fund.



Quivvy Church Belturbet - HSF



Griffith Lodge, Artonagh – BHIS

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee:

The Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC met on five occasions in 2023. The SPC members are listed below.

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC	Nominating Pillar
Cllr John Paul Feeley	Chair
Cllr Peter McVitty	Cavan County Council
Cllr Sarah O'Reilly	Cavan County Council
Cllr Aidan Fitzpatrick	Cavan County Council
Cllr Winston Bennett	Cavan County Council
Cllr Carmel Brady	Cavan County Council
Stanley Nwaneri	Community / Voluntary
Brendan Jennings	Cavan County Council
John Donohoe	Cavan County Council
Nicholas O'Kane	Cavan County Council
Conor Craven	Cavan County Council



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Planning Performance Indicators:

P1: New Buildings Inspected	
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority	230
Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2023 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2023	65 (28%)
P2: No./% of Planning decisions confirmed by <i>An Bord Pleanála</i>	
Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal in 2023	17
% of the determinations at A which confirmed decision made by the LA	10 (59%)
P3: % of Planning Enforcement cases closed as resolved	
Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority investigated	87
Total number of cases that were closed during 2023	29
% of cases at B dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000 or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	22 (76%)
% of cases at B resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	2 (7%)
% of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	5 (17%)
Total number of planning cases being investigated at 31/12/2023	525
P4: Cost per Capita of the Planning Service	
The 2023 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2022 Census	Cost per capita €21.87



Town Centre First

The Town Centre First Policy which was launched in 2022, provides a co-ordinated, whole of government policy framework to proactively address the decline in our towns as well as support measures to regenerate and revitalise our towns through a plan led approach. In 2023 a Town Regeneration Officer (TRO) was appointed to develop a new Town Centre First (TCF) plan for Bailieborough, which had been identified as the pilot town under this new initiative. Throughout 2023, the TRO worked in collaboration with the local community and business stakeholders, with in excess of 350 participants and submissions inputting into the development of a bespoke TCF Plan. The completed TCF Plan includes a range of specific interventions that will address identified weaknesses in Bailieborough, including vacancy and dereliction, decline in public realm and poor connectivity, while capitalising on opportunities presented by the unique culture and heritage of the town, digitalisation, and climate action.



Bailieborough's Town Centre First Plan which was completed in 2023 and sets out a range of projects targeted at redeveloping and rejuvenating the town.



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A new Town Team has been established in Bailieborough who will work alongside the TRO in progressing the projects in the TCF plan. The Town Team is made up of local residents, businesspeople, community representatives and other local stakeholders. The Town Team members have an in depth knowledge of the town and they will collaborate as a group and with the wider community to implement projects and initiatives that will help to rejuvenate the town.

In May 2023, Cavan Local Enterprise Office in conjunction with the Town Centre First initiative held an information evening to provide information on the range of services and supports provided by Cavan Local Enterprise Office. The session was very well attended and was of particular interest and benefit to business owners in Bailieborough and surrounds.

Bailieborough Tidy Towns group, using Municipal District funding prepared a new Tidy Town Plan for Bailieborough. The aim of the initiative is to aid Bailieborough plan and manage current and future projects within the remit of the National Tidy Towns Competition.



In November 2023, as part of a further Town Centre First Initiative, members of Bailieborough Tidy Towns Committee along with Transition Year Students from Bailieborough Community School planted over 1000 flower bulbs within and around the town, hoping to bring a splash of colour to the town.



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The tidy towns committee members and students were ably assisted by Cllr Sarah O'Reilly, Cllr Paddy McDonald, and Caroline Brady, Town Regeneration Officer, Cavan County Council, pictured above.

During 2023 the roll out of the streetscape enhancement scheme saw a large number of properties on the Main Street being painted. A new mural was funded through Creative Cavan and commissioned by Bailieborough Creative Hub for a town centre building, the internal space of which has been cleverly repurposed from a disused garage into a modern coffee dock.



A number of Digital initiatives were undertaken in the town in conjunction with DCU, In December 2023, DCU working in collaboration with Bailieborough Community School held a very successful VR Day giving students the opportunity to try out the latest technology. Four businesses in the town are working with DCU Digital Marketing Post Graduate students to develop websites for their businesses so they can have a greater online presence. It is hoped to expand this initiative in the town once the pilot scheme is complete.



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Staff and Students from DCU Business School alongside Joanne McGovern, TY Coordinator Bailieborough Community school, Caroline Brady Town Regeneration Officer and Daniel Peeters, Digital Lead, Cavan County Council

Throughout the year the TRO worked collaboratively with a range of internal stakeholders in Cavan Co Council (including Active Travel, Vacant Homes, Derelict Sites, Broadband, Climate Action, Heritage, and Tourism Officers) external stakeholders including Government Departments and external agencies e.g. OPW as well as will local community and business stakeholders to advance a number of actions across Bailieborough's Town Centre First Plan.

Community, Enterprise and Tourism

The Department of Community, Enterprise and Tourism is responsible for the Local Community Development Committee, Implementation and development of the Community element of the Local, Economic and Community Plan, LEADER, Town and Village Revitalisation, CLÁR and Oris Projects, Community Recognition Fund, Rural Regeneration and Development Funding Programmes, Social Inclusion,



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Cavan Drug and Alcohol Forum, Age Friendly County Programme, Peace IV Programme, Comhairle na nÓg (Junior Council), Community and Voluntary Grants, Community Activities Fund, Cavan Sports Partnership, Cavan Food Strategy 2017-2022, Healthy Cavan, Slainte Healthy Communities Programme and the Tourism Office. 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. It is closely involved with the Cavan Children and Young People's Services Committee and the Local Connecting for Life Suicide Prevention plan.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Cavan Local Community Development Committee was established under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 for the purposes of developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

The functions of the Local Community Development Committee are set out under Section 128A of Local Government Reform Act 2014. They are as follows:

- Prepare and adopt the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).
- Implement or arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the LECP.
- Coordinate the management and oversee the implementation of the programmes that have been approved either by the local authority or by agreement between the LCDC and other public bodies.
- Ensure effectiveness, coordination, consistency and the avoidance of duplication between publicly funded local and community development programmes.
- Optimise resources for the benefit of local communities and improve the efficiency with which publicly funded local and community development resources are used.



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2023 was another busy and productive year for Cavan LCDC and its subgroups. The Ukrainian crisis is ongoing and has had implications for delivery of the SICAP programme particularly as Cavan is host to a large number of displaced people who are being sent to the county with little or no advanced notice. The Ukrainian Community Response Forum chaired by the Director of Services met every 3 weeks throughout 2023. This interagency forum's purpose is to co-ordinate services and to assist displaced Ukrainians who come to the county, meetings are well attended, and member agencies are collaborating and sharing their expertise to assist each other in delivery of a coordinated response.

Rising energy costs and other increases in the cost of living have meant that 2023 has been a difficult year for many citizens and community groups in the county meaning that they require extra supports.

The LCDC managed, implemented and collaborated in relation to a number of public funded programmes under its remit including the Community Enhancement Programme. The committee functioned in an effective and professional way throughout the year with members demonstrating an understanding of their role and a commitment to the tasks in hand.

Cavan LCDC's focus for 2023 was primarily on the preparation of the new LECP as well as the delivery of LEADER and SICAP, in particular ensuring targets were met and spend was progressing.

An annual report on 2023 LCDC activity was prepared and submitted to the Department in accordance with Section 128(b) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Cavan LCDC held 7 meetings in 2023. There were several changes in membership of the LCDC during 2023 and meetings were held in a blended format with some members attending in person and some online. There continued to be excellent engagement at LCDC meetings by both statutory and non-statutory members.



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LCDC members were provided with various presentations from members and external bodies to increase familiarity with sectors of work and improve opportunities for networking and service enhancement. Presentations included:

- Healthy Ireland Fund 2023-2025 Local Strategy and 2023 Action Plan – Presentation by Mr Steven Ormsby, Healthy Cavan Co-ordinator, Cavan County Council.
- LECP Update – Presentation by Chief Officer Mr John Donohoe.
- Update on Healthy Cavan Funding and Proposed Activity for 2023 - Presentation by Mr Steven Ormsby, Healthy Cavan Co-ordinator, Cavan County Council.
- LECP Update – Presentation by Mr Liam Mannix, Mr Daniel Stairs & Mr Niall Conway, Consultants with KPMG Future Analytics.
- ‘Development of the County’s Climate Action Plan’ – Presentation by Ms Brona Keating, Climate Action Co-ordinator, Cavan County Council.
- ‘Feasibility Study for the Management of Aquatic Invasive Alien Species in County Cavan’ – Presentation by Ms Joanne Hayes, Tourism Officer, Cavan County Council
- LECP Update – Presentation by Mr Liam Mannix from KPMG Future Analytics.

SICAP

The Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is a key intervention for harder to reach groups. Delivery is being overseen and managed by Cavan LCDC. SICAP aims to address poverty, long term unemployment and social exclusion through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. The Department of Rural and Community Development extended SICAP funding agreements for a period of 12 months up to 31st December 2023. In Cavan the SICAP Programme implementor is Cavan County Local Development (LDC).

Each year the SICAP Annual plan sets out actions aimed at helping local community groups to build capacity, promote engagement, building stronger communities, and promote participation and collaboration. The LDC also supports individuals through provision of personal development and well-being supports, providing lifelong



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learning opportunities, supports for those seeking employment as well as and self-employment opportunities.

The total budget for SICAP in Cavan in 2023 was €1,241,461. This included additional funding of €334,415 for Ukrainian Supports being provided under the SICAP programme. The programme is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021 -2027.” The Programme Implementer, Cavan County Local Development Company achieved both its two key performance indicators (KPI’s) for 2023 and ensured that the programme and services were delivered within the financial parameters approved by the LCDC.

Actions were successfully implemented helping Local Community Groups with capacity building, promoting engagement, building stronger communities and promoting participation and collaboration. The SICAP programme also supported individuals, in personal development and well-being, provided lifelong learning opportunities, supports for those seeking employment as well as and self-employment opportunities.

There are 2 goals under the Programme;

Goal 1: Supporting Communities - To support communities and target groups to engage with relevant stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues, developing the capacity of Local Community Groups, and creating more sustainable communities.

Goal 2: Supporting Individuals - To support disadvantaged individuals to improve the quality of their lives through the provision of lifelong learning and labour market supports. Target groups to be supported under SICAP 2018 - 2023 are as follows; Disadvantaged Children and Families, People living in Disadvantaged Communities, Disadvantaged Young People (aged 15 – 24), People with Disabilities, Disadvantaged Women, Roma, Emerging Needs Group*, Travellers, Lone Parents, The Disengaged from the Labour Market (Economically Inactive), Low Income Workers/ Households, The Unemployed, New Communities *Cavan LCDC agreed



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on the inclusion of 'People experiencing Domestic Violence' under the Emerging needs group for 2023.

Cavan County Local Development Company reached KPI targets for 2023 as detailed in the following table:

	Annual Target 2023	Actuals Target achieved	Percentage achievement
Number of local community groups assisted under SICAP (KPI 1)	36	44	122%
Total number of disadvantaged individuals (15 years old & upwards) engaged under SICAP on a one-to-one basis (KPI 2)	405	524	129%
Achievement of % KPI from Disadvantaged areas	18%		40%

Healthy Cavan

Healthy Ireland Fund

Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) Round 4 is underway and runs from 2023-2025. The approach is evidence based and outcome led. A HI Local Strategy (HIFLS) 2023-2025 is in place, to prioritise project outcomes based on local data/need in collaboration with local stakeholders.



Two focussed outcome indicators for Cavan were agreed by local stakeholders:

- 1) Increase in % of adults & Children meeting Physical Activity Guidelines.
- 2) Decrease in prevalence of age standardised heavy episodic drinking.

All initiatives/actions over the course of Round 4 will be directed towards these outcomes.



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Healthy Ireland Round 4 – Healthy Cavan funded initiatives in 2023.

- **Ukrainian Physical Health Initiatives** - Funding of €4,300 was provided to CCLD. Initiatives delivered included: Summer Tennis Camp; Summer Multi-sports activity camps; Swimming lessons and Forest Cycling activities at Killykeen.

Cavan Sports Partnership led Physical Activity - Funding of €15,050 was provided to CSP. The funding helped to support a wide range of initiatives which included: GAA All-stars programme; Mother & Toddler Aerobics; Summer Inclusion programme (schools with Autism units); Salary contribution to new County badminton coach; Cycling programmes; Zumba for Women; Learn to swim sessions for Teenagers; Migrants and Swimming Women programme.

- **Provision of Activator Poles for hire to community from our Public Libraries** – Funding of €4,000 was provided to Cavan County Library Service. These Poles are now available to hire from a number of public libraries and the service will work closely with CSP officers to organise demonstrations and walking sessions.
- **Planet Youth Project Support in Secondary Schools** – Funding of €7,200 was provided to CMETB. This funding supported the provision of facilitators to undertake sport/physical activity sessions in local secondary schools.
- **Teach Oscail Physical Activity initiatives** - Funding of €5,796.93 was provided to Teach Oscail. There were a number of initiatives included addressing increased physical activity and alcohol awareness including; Parent & Toddler Zumba workshops; Games/physical activity packs provided to 100 local families to take home and enjoy with children. Bike Safely programme delivered for disadvantaged young adults and supported a youth resilience programme during the summer months, based on healthy attitudes towards masculinity.



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- **Cavan Youthreach Walking initiative** - Funding of €1,735.53 was provided to Cavan Youthreach. This funding provided Pedometers and bespoke T-Shirts for young people taking part in the 'Million steps for Yanna' initiative which was a collaborative walking programme with the local Gardaí Community Engagement Unit. Ran over 6 weeks culminating in final 5k walk and celebration event in Nov 2023.
- **Annalee Athletics Club** – Funding of €1,400 was provided to support the 2023 Run with Catherina held in May 2023.
- **2023 Cavan Kayakarun** – Funding of €1,000 was provided towards a bespoke Cycling Jersey for all Kayakarun competitors. This jersey carried an important road safety message on the back.
- **MQI Camdas** – Funding of €2,500 was provided for the development of social and therapeutic garden facilities where participants recovering from addiction can tend to hens and grow produce.
- **Monaghan Cavan Youth Substance Support (MaCYSS)** – Key implementing partner around the Alcohol outcome. Funding of implementing partner around the Alcohol outcome. Funding of €35,000 was provided to Alcohol Forum (MaCYSS) towards initiatives that tackle alcohol addiction and increase awareness of harms. Initiatives to date include: Large scale Alcohol Awareness campaign on I-Radio in Nov/Dec 2023. 4 key calendar events/information sessions held in St Aiden's (Parents/student open evening); Breffni College Open Day; CMETB Student open evening; CMETB Educators open event. Planning has taken place to work with Northeastern Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force to deliver sessions for the Planet Youth Programme and young person support programme in 2024.
- **Department of Health/Healthy Ireland Period Dignity Pilot 2023** - In 2023, as part of the Healthy Ireland/Department of Health's Period Dignity Pilot Project, **€10k** funding was utilised by Cavan County Council to provide a **weekly delivery of free products (12 weeks)** to 16 publicly accessible buildings **up to 31st December 2023** - a total of **11,936** free period products.



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TOWN	PREMISES/FACILITY
Killeshandra	FOCUS - FRC
Cavan Town	Teach Oscail FRC
Cavan Town	Courthouse Public Toilet
Virginia	Courthouse Public Toilet
Cootehill	Hub - Ulster Bank Building
Cavan Town	Tullacmongan FRC
Bailieborough	Bexcourt Community Centre
Belturbet	Youth Hub
Arva	Library
Bailieborough	Library
Ballyconnell	Library
Ballyjamesduff	Library
Belturbet	Library
Cavan	Library
Cootehill	Library
Virginia	Library

- These services help support women, including teenagers, travelling communities, ethnic minorities, women living in poverty, victims of Domestic Abuse, women with disabilities or with long term medical condition.

Social Inclusion

The role of the social inclusion section is to improve services for marginalised citizens and to work on an interagency basis to address poverty and exclusion in the county.

Significant areas of social inclusion activity during 2023 included:

- Further development of the Cavan Age Friendly Programme
- Supports for Cavan Older People's Council



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- Co-ordination of and support for Cavan Traveller Interagency Group and Cavan Drug & Alcohol Forum.
- Support for the Local Connecting for Life suicide prevention steering committee, led by the HSE.
- Support for the Children and Young People's Services Committee, led by TUSLA.
- Collaboration with Cavan Disability Network and Cavan County Childcare Committee.
- The Planet Youth project is continuing. Planet Youth is a primary prevention program for young people's health and wellbeing that focuses on reducing risk factors and enhancing protective factors in young people's lives.
- The mechanism by which it achieves these objectives are by improving the social environment and ensuring that young people have access to adequate resources and community-based supports to lead fulfilling lives. The program aims to use evidence-based practice and create partnerships within local communities to achieve its objectives. The program has a specific focus on reducing substance use (alcohol, tobacco and other drugs) in young people through primary prevention. Primary prevention is concerned with reducing the risk of a health event ever occurring. The Social Inclusion Officer is a member of the Planet Youth Implementation Team for Cavan/Monaghan. A second Planet Youth survey was rolled out in Post Primary Schools and Youthreach centres in September and October 2023 with preliminary results due back from Iceland in early 2024.

Age Friendly Programme

The foundation of the programme's structure is the local Age Friendly Alliance and local Older People's Council, working collaboratively with the support of a national shared service office. The local Age Friendly Programme Manager is the principal contact point for all Age Friendly activity in the county and facilitates linkages both internally within the local authority, and with all external stakeholders, especially Alliance members.



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To further enhance internal working relationships within the local authority, an Interdepartmental Team has been established, with representation from each department in the local authority. This supports the principle of embedding Age Friendly objectives into all service areas of local authority work.

Since its establishment, the Cavan Age Friendly programme has made significant progress in improving key areas of infrastructure, services, and communication for older people in Cavan. Consultation with older people in development of age friendly strategies ensure that actions undertaken are aimed at addressing issues affecting older people. Cavan Age Friendly have to date implemented two Age Friendly Strategies, the first from 2013 to 2016 and the second from 2017 to 2019. In July 2022 Cavan Age Friendly Programme launched its 3rd Age Friendly Strategy 2022-2024.

The Age Friendly Alliance and the Interdepartmental Team meet quarterly and the Older People's Council Executive Committee who are elected from among the wider Older People's Council meet bi-monthly. In October 2023 a Roadshow and AGM were held in the Lavey Inn. Weekly drop-in information sessions are organised throughout the year these are held in the Events Space in Johnston Central Library on Monday mornings - topics covered are varied and include Crime Prevention, Healthy Eating, Road Safety, Citizens Information, Creativity Workshops, Use of Smartphones, Healthy Living, Gardening Talk and Local History.

Funding of €12,250 was secured from Creative Ireland in 2023 under Creative Ireland's 'Creativity in Older Age Fund' for a Drama Project for Older People in the County entitled 'Ages and Stages'. Participants worked with a Drama Facilitator to write a play which was performed on 14th & 15th November 2023 in the Townhall, Cavan. At the end of 2023 Creative Ireland awarded additional funding of €20,000 for the project for Q1 of 2024. Performances will be held in 3 residential nursing homes in the County and in communities during March and April. Funding was also received from Creative Ireland for a project in 2023 entitled 'Step into My Parlour' with Michelle Burke which was jointly organised and facilitated by Cavan and



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Monaghan County Councils. Six nursing homes in County Cavan took part in this project which ran from August 2023 to December 2023.

Cavan Age Friendly partnered with An Garda Síochána on age friendly projects for isolated and vulnerable older people in the county in 2023. Wellbeing events organised by An Garda Síochána, the HSE and Cavan & Monaghan Age Friendly Programmes which took place in May 2023 during National Community Engagement week in the Lavey Inn and in Monaghan won the Age Friendly Ireland National Age Friendly Recognition award for Safety and Security in November 2023.

Cavan Age Friendly worked with Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board on a series of 6-week Smartphone and Tablet training courses which are specifically designed for Older People. Two of these took place in 2023 with a third planned for early 2024.

Cavan Age Friendly Programme supported the Arts Office in the delivery of Phase III of the Lost Landmarks Initiative, funded by Cavan Arts, Age Friendly Cavan and Creative Ireland.



Cast and Production Crew for 'Ages and Stages' pictured with Project Facilitator/Director Maura



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Williamson after their show on 15th November 2023 in Townhall, Cavan

Photo Sheila Rooney

Traveller Interagency Group

Community, Enterprise and Tourism co-ordinates the Cavan Traveller Interagency Group (TIG). This is a statutory group that provides an interagency response to social exclusion issues among the Traveller community.

Cavan County Council supports a community development service provided by Cavan Traveller Movement [CTM]. Some of the key areas of work during 2023 included:

- The Cavan Traveller Interagency Group chaired by Chrissie O'Sullivan from Cavan Traveller Movement met regularly during 2023. The three subgroups (Education, Employment & Health) also met throughout the year.
- Cavan County Council provide a funding contribution to Cavan Traveller Movement for delivery of a community development programme for Travellers in County Cavan.
- Cavan County Council funded Virginia College's and Bailieborough Community School's participation on the Irish Traveller Movements Yellow Flag Initiative. This is a practical programme that supports primary and secondary schools to become more inclusive of all cultures and ethnicities, celebrate diversity and challenge racism and discrimination.
- The County Cavan Traveller Group Strategy 2023-2025 was launched by Roderic O'Gorman T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth on 6th April 2023.



Cathaoirleach Cllr Paul Feeley, Chrissie O’Sullivan, Chairperson Cavan Traveller Interagency Group, Roderic O’Gorman T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive, Cavan County Council at the launch of the County Cavan Traveller Interagency Group Strategy 2023-2025.

Photo Adrian Donohoe

Drug and Alcohol Forum

The Cavan Drug and Alcohol was established in 2016 as an action under the Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan in response to a documented concern about substance misuse in the county. Since then, the multi-agency group has been meeting regularly and is committed to tackling the issue of drug and alcohol misuse at a local level. The Cavan Drug and Alcohol Forum provides networking opportunities for relevant services and implements a work plan. Approximately 25 organisations are represented ranging from HSE services, public sector agencies, drug and alcohol services, youth, community and family support services.



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During 2023, quarterly meetings of the Drug and Alcohol Forum took place. The Cavan Drug & Alcohol Forum amalgamated with Monaghan Drug & Alcohol Forum in September 2023 for a pilot period of one year, meetings still take place quarterly but rotate between Cavan and Monaghan. During 2024 the Action Plan prepared by Cavan Drug & Alcohol Forum in July 2022 will be reviewed and extended for a further period.

The Drug & Alcohol Forum Prevention & Education subgroup organised a Teacher Training Seminar which was held in the Hotel Kilmore on the 8th December 2023. The Seminar was free, and invitations were extended to Principals, Vice Principals, Guidance Counsellors and School Completion Staff from all post primary schools and Youthreach centres in both Cavan and Monaghan. Speakers included A Garda Síochána, Professor Mary Cannon from the Royal College of Surgeons who presented on the 'Planet Youth' data, Paula Leonard from Alcohol Forum Ireland who spoke on MACYSS (Monaghan and Cavan Youth Substance Support) and Susan Donegan from Youthrive. (Mental Health Service for Young People). The seminar enabled attendees to connect with like-minded educators, share best practices, and build a network of support within the education community, fostering a collaborative approach to creating safer school environments. It is hoped that a similar event will be ran in Monaghan in 2024.

County Cavan Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

The function of the Joint Policing Committee is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussion and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the Local Authority's administrative area. County Cavan Joint Policing Committee met four times over 2023 including a public meeting in February 2023. The Property Marking Initiative continues to be rolled out within the County in collaboration with An Garda Síochána's Community Engagement Unit events took place in conjunction with various community groups.



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LEADER Programme

The Local Community Development Committee acts as the Local Action Group [LAG] for the LEADER Programme 2014-2022. The LAG met a total of 5 times over the course of the year with meetings held in person with the option to connect remotely for those who could not attend the venue.

As of 31st December 2023 the 2014-2022 Programme had commitments amounting to a total of € 9,4,54,293.42 for projects across the three themes of the programme. The Transitional Programme, with an additional €20 million nationally, extended the timeframe of the programme from 2020 to 2022. The key focus of the Transitional Programme is on building capacity within communities which have not received LEADER funding to date.

The new leader Programme was announced in 2023 and funding of €6.4 million was allocated to Cavan for the programme from 2023-2027. Cavan LAG submitted an expression of Interest in December 2022 which was successful, and a Local Development Strategy was submitted in July 2023 to the Department. This was approved in December 2023 and the new Leader Programme will be rolled out in 2024.

Examples of projects completed in 2023 which benefitted from funding across the programme are detailed below:

1.Cavan Equestrian Centre

Construction of 2 new sand arenas for show jumping and exhibition events.

The additional outdoor all-weather arenas have positioned Cavan Equestrian centre as the industry leader, with modern, outdoor facilities to complement their already excellent indoor facilities.

The knock-on economic impact of this project on the local economy cannot be underestimated as when large equestrian events are taking place in the centre, all tourism accommodation within a 40-kilometre radius is booked out. This would set to increase numbers visiting and the number of events in the calendar year.



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Additional outdoor all-weather arenas at Cavan Equestrian Centre



Cavan Equestrian Centre



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2. Mullagh Amenity Access Area

The project contributed to the environment and climate change cross cutting objectives through the provision of:

Biodiversity hedge and indigenous trees and pollinator friendly planting

Provision of an outdoor classroom and equipment to facilitate future biodiversity and environmental education.

Swale/Rainwater Garden and permeable asphalt and paving for onsite water management and SuDs drainage.



Mullagh



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Mullagh Access Amenity Site

CLÁR

CLÁR is a targeted investment Programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructure projects in area that experience disadvantage.

Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety measures

Measure 2: Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities

Measure 3: Community Wellbeing Supports:

(a) Community Gardens and Allotments

(b) - Mobility and Cancer Care Transport

In 2023 Cavan County Council submitted 15 projects to the Department for approval and subsequently received an allocation of €587,073.00 in respect of 14 Projects under Measure 1. These schemes are ongoing and due for completion in April 2025.

Below are photos of Kilnaleck Playground and Swanlinbar 3G Pitches projects completed under Clár 2022.



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Kilnaleck Playground – upgrade works to playground



Swanlinbar -upgrade works to a 3G pitch



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Comhairle na nÓg

- The Comhairle AGM 2023 took place on 23rd of November in person in the Cavan Crystal Hotel. 10 of the 11 post primary schools in Co Cavan participated.
- Youth Work Ireland delivered Cavan Comhairle na nOg on behalf of Cavan Co Council.
- Cavan Comhairle na nOgs working Topic for 2024 is Substance abuse.

PEACEPLUS PROGRAMME (2021-2027)

Co-designed local Community PEACE Action Plans

PEACEPLUS is a new funding programme designed to support peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, building upon the work of the previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. The design reflects the importance of peace-building activity, but also the importance of actions that will contribute positively to the economy, building prosperity and adjusting to the new environment and challenges we face.

Each Local Community Peace Partnership will develop a priority action plan for their individual area, which combined will form an overall PEACE Plus Action Plan for each of the 17 local authority areas in the region. Actions within the localised plans will span the range of social, environmental, and economic interventions included within the PEACEPLUS Programme.

The Local Authority PEACEPLUS Co-designed action plans will be centred around three core themes:

- **Community regeneration and transformation.**
- **Thriving and peaceful communities;** and
- **Celebrating culture, diversity, and inclusion.**



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This **objective** will enable and empower local community partnerships to self-determine and deliver priority projects on a cross community/border basis; which will result in improved local services and facilities; and make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation across the region.

The Cavan **PEACEPLUS** plan was developed after extensive consultation using the co-design process to address needs within the Cavan County Council area and in particular how PEACEPLUS can address a lack of historic investment due to conflict and enhance peace and reconciliation in the county.

All project proposals for the PEACEPLUS action plan have been approved by the PEACEPLUS partnership and the LCDC.

The action plan was submitted to SEUPB on 29th September 2023.

The total cost of the PEACEPLUS action plan is €4,334,408.00.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme

The Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme (SHCP) is two years in existence in Cavan. The Programme's Local Development Officer targets five different communities within Cavan. These areas are Cavan, Belturbet, Bailieborough, Ballyjamesduff and Cootehill. The role of the Local Development Officer is to support and work with the local communities alongside the many community and statutory groups in the designated areas and work with strategic partners to ensure that the communities are sustainable places to live, where everyone has access to the things they need, to enjoy good health. The Local Authority role is to help address the wider determinants of health which are the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes i.e., the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age. As part of this, increasing awareness of the determinants of health across the Local Government sector across areas of influence within local government e.g., elected members, engineers, planners etc. is important. The role also is an enabling one - working with other stakeholders at a local level to tackle health inequalities and tackle such issues on an intersectoral basis through collaboration with initiatives with



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shared objectives such as Age Friendly, Local Sports Partnerships, and Community Groups. This activity offers a solid platform to align health outcomes on a county-wide basis through contributing initiatives and new ways of working to the wellbeing element within the Local Economic & Community Plans which are currently being progressed in the Local Authority.

Seed Funding 2023

The sum of €75,000 “**Seed Money**” was made available in 2023 to support the delivery of the Programme. The Local Development Officer engaged with the communities within the Programme Area and, where appropriate, local NGO’s and other groups who are active within the communities in working to address the wider determinants of health, to identify how the Seed Money may best be used in relation to the delivery of the Programme.

The following projects are currently being rolled out by the Local Development Officer in conjunction with communities and local organisations:

Planet Youth Increased Leisure Time Initiative: A new Pilot Scheme to be rolled out in the Sláintecare Healthy Communities targeted communities (Cavan town, Bailieborough, Belturbet, Ballyjamesduff and Cootehill. Provide increased leisure time opportunities for young people in their local communities in safe, healthy spaces - €25,000. (ongoing, 3-year pilot scheme).

- Kilnavara Playground: Upgrade existing playground in Kilnavara and make safe for children to use - €15,000. Completed
- Kingspan Breffni Sensory Room Equipment: To provide Sensory room equipment in the newly erected sensory room to cater for the additional needs of families who attend events in Kingspan Breffni - €5,000 (completed)
- Handball Wall at Tullacmongan Family Resource Centre: Erect a handball wall beside the Tullacmongan Resource Centre for use for the children living in the estates surrounding the centre - €10,000.
- Sensory Zone Belturbet Library Cavan Library - €5,000.



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- Fairview Community Garden: Gallows Hill, Cavan Works to be carried out to include ESB connection, ground works for security lighting and security camera. (in progress)



Tullacmongan Playground Upgrade



The new sensory room at Kingspan Breffni Park, Cavan.



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Pride of Place Competition 2023

This competition celebrates communities as hundreds of unsung heroes from across the Island of Ireland. Pride of Place Awards night for 2023 took place on Friday 10th November in the Armagh City Hotel.

Five groups entered the competition details as follows:

Category

- **Communities Welcoming New Communities** – Trivia House Swanlinbar,
- **Community Wellbeing Initiative** – Cuan Cancer Support Cavan
- **Community Tourism Initiative** - Geopark Business Sustainability Training Programme (Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark)
- **Climate Action & Biodiversity** – Shercock Tidy Towns
- **Community Age Friendly Initiative** - Cavan musical Forget-me-not Café (Alzheimer's Society Ireland Cavan Branch)
- There were three runners up prizes on the night: Alzheimer's Society Ireland Cavan Branch, Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark, and Swanlinbar Development Association.



The Alzheimers Society of Ireland Cavan Branch receiving their 2023 Pride of Place Runner Up prize.

Community Grants Scheme

The Community Grants Schemes aim to encourage organisations and groups to implement projects in their local community which will help to improve the quality of life for the local citizens and enhance the sense of community in the county. The purpose of the scheme is to provide low level support to projects which may not have received funding from other sources.

Grant funding of €360,000 was allocated to 60 community groups in 2023 under the Municipal Discretionary Fund.

Community Recognition Fund 2023

On 24th January 2023, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys and Minister of State Joe O'Brien, announced details of a



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€50 million **Community Recognition Fund**. The allocation for Co. Cavan was €1,191,206.00.

This scheme was designed to specifically support communities across the country that have welcomed and are hosting families and citizens from Ukraine and other countries.

13 projects received funding allocation and projects have commenced. All projects must be completed by November 2024.

Community Support Fund 2023

Cavan County Council where awarded funding of €285,126.00 for the Community Support Fund under the Community Enhancement Programme.

The Community Support Fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas.

With their non-pay running costs such as energy costs (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges) or other non-pay operating costs for e.g. rental/lease costs, insurance bills.

Under the scheme groups are also able to use the funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment for e.g. such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.

Large Capital Projects:

Design of Cavan Regional Sports Campus LSSIF

This project is to develop a regionally significant sports facility on lands situated to the Southwest of Cavan Town, in the vicinity of Kingspan Breffni and the Royal School. The project received €1,047,001 in funding from Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

An Architect led multi-disciplinary Team is appointed and will be responsible for the architectural assessment of the buildings, preliminary design, detailed design, the



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planning process, and the production of tender documents for construction stage. Planning design has been completed and was submitted to ABP on the 11th of March 2024, with a decision date estimated for September 2nd.

- **Bailieboro Courthouse RRDF**

This project consists of the re development of the former Courthouse and Bridewell as an economic, community and cultural hub to include museum with a strong Plantation theme, and cultural and exhibition spaces. This will involve the final phase of the regeneration of a substantial derelict building in the town core. The project received €1,831,789.32 in funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Rural Regeneration Fund. The Contractor was appointed, and construction works continues. Estimated completion date October 2024.

- **Ballyconnell Market House RRDF**

This project entails the renovation and redevelopment of the former Market House in Ballyconnell as a Community, Remote Working and Tourism hub. The overall renovation of the Market House will act as a catalyst for the economic and community regeneration of the greater Ballyconnell and West Cavan border region. The project received €1,200,742 in funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Rural Regeneration Fund. A Contractor was appointed, and construction works continue. Estimated completion date July 2024.

- **Belturbet Railway Complex Masterplan RRDF**

Development of a regeneration masterplan for development of services and redevelopment of the town core of Belturbet, with a particular focus on maximising some of the natural tourism assets of Belturbet such as the Shannon Erne Waterway and Marina, and the ultimate extension of the navigation to include the Ulster Canal to Clones via Castlesaunderson. The



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project received €210,960 in funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Rural Regeneration Fund. Design Team was appointed and has commenced the study. Final Masterplan document to be completed by end March 2024.

- **Ballyjamesduff Community and Enterprise Hub RRDF**

This project involves the redevelopment and refurbishment of the iconic former Percy French Hotel and site, located in the centre of Ballyjamesduff. The redeveloped town centre building will be transformed into a Community and Enterprise hub, including remote working hub, office space, community room / conference room and café. The project received €7,651,195.20 in funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Rural Regeneration Fund. An Architect led Design Team for proposed Construction Works Stages has been appointed. A consultant has also been appointed to carry out an independent assessment of the building functioning strategy and needs analysis. Estimated competition date September 2025.

NOAC Service Indicators	2022	2023
Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Óg scheme	100%	72%
Number of organisations registered with the Public Participation Network	309	356

Cavan Public Participation Network (Cavan PPN)

Cavan Public Participation Network was established in July 2014 and now includes 437 registered groups as part of its network. There is a committee of 12 community representatives who form the Secretariat of the Cavan PPN, with 37 representations being fulfilled on 17 boards and committees. These representations come from the



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three themed sectors of Environment, Social Inclusion and Community/Voluntary and three geographic sectors of Cavan-Belturbet, Ballyjamesduff and Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal Districts.

Cavan Sports Partnership (CSP)

In 2023, Cavan Sports Partnership organised and delivered a wide range of training courses, workshops and targeted physical activity programmes for all ages, abilities and sporting types, with over 10,200 actively engaged across the year.

Cavan Sports Partnership allocated a total of €35,440 to 124 local clubs/groups, which from the 98 who received funding in 2022.

Funding and Grants

Fund/Source	Amount	Further info
Dormant Accounts	€103,900	To continue activity hubs, Women in Sport, Training and Volunteer supports, Disability Capital Prog
Sport Ireland CORE	€283,817	Staff, Communications and Programme Funding
HSE	€10,000	Funding to run programmes for older people and PWD
Income	€30,000	Money generated from participant income

Cavan Sports Partnership were delighted to launch the installation of the Pop-Up Pool in Cootehill in partnership with Swim Ireland. The Pop-up pool holds 45,000 litres of water and is 12m by 3.4m by 12. Meter deep steel structure. Since opening the Pop-up pool has benefitted a wide range of groups including school children, older people, children with additional needs and ethnic minority groups, with over 320 people weekly on average using the pool.



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Photo taken at the launch of the Pop-Up Pool in Cootehill.

A new Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiative was launched in Bailieborough, (UAOI) is a project funded through Sport Ireland and Dormant Accounts. It involves a collection of sports clubs, schools, community organisations, agencies and NGBs working together to create greater opportunities for people living in urban areas to participate in physical activity through adventure sports. Since its launch, the initiative has delivered a range of events in the area, including Forest Camps, Well Woman Walks, Orienteering and Fishing.



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Photo taken at the colour run event that was arranged as part of the Urban Outdoor Initiative in Bailieborough.

For Bike Week, 11 cycling events held all over Cavan, we had over 240 people on their bikes plus 200 primary school children with our community coaches.

Bike Week promotes cycling for everyone, supports a dynamic cycling culture in the county and aims to increase the number of people cycling across Ireland.

Some events held in Cavan included: Active Adults 50+ Leisure Cycling, Family Cycles, Teen Cycles, Bike Fests, Midweek Meander, Pedal Push Parade with Active Travel unit which even got a photo in national paper, plus the launch of our new Cycling Hub at Cavan Leisure Centre.



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Launch photo of the Cycle Hub at Drumalee during Bike Week 2023

A successful multi-sport programme was delivered in primary schools which provided children the opportunity to try 6 sports including Athletics, Basketball, Cycling and Volleyball. The project engaged 61 schools over 2 terms and provided 5,802 children the chance to try some new sports.

In secondary schools a number of initiatives took place including Tug of War, which had 4 schools and 180 pupils participating while a new cricket 2 day Connects programme was delivered in St Clares Ballyjamesduff with 60 people taking part in it.

The Sports Inclusion programme provided 16 programmes for people with a disability, with activities for all ages, including Tennis, and Soccer, with 401 participants. In addition, 7 inclusive summer camps took place through CSP Grant scheme which provided children the opportunity to participate in Basketball, Taekwondo, Rugby and outdoor activities.

The Active Adults 50+ programme delivered 33 activity programme including Indoor Bowls, Pickleball, Outdoor Activator, Lawn Bowls for Women and Leisure Cycling, with 734 people taking part.

During the year Cavan Sports Partnership supported both Women in Sport Week



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and Her Outdoors week. For these initiatives a wide range of activities were provided including pilates, outdoor circuits, zumba, stand Up Paddle Boarding, angling, kayaking and intro to Open Water Swimming Programme for Women.

Mullagh Activity Hub is an area-based Community Sports Hub where the aim is to maximise participation, improve access to and usage of existing facilities. It comprises of a number of sports clubs, community groups and organisations working together to improve physical activity and sport in their local community. In 2023 the hub engaged 367 participants through a wide variety of programmes.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2023 was launched by the Department of Rural & Community Development on 21st July, providing funding for projects that supports our rural towns and villages to be more attractive and sustainable. The focus of the 2023 scheme is to renovate derelict and vacant buildings in our town centres and give them a new purpose. 5 applications were submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development for the following towns and villages throughout the County including Cavan Town, Ballyconnell, Ballyhaise Cootehill, and Shercock under the 2023 scheme.



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*Projects completed in
Redhills funded under the
Town & Village Renewal
Scheme 2021*

Funding was provided
under the Building
Acquisition Measure for

the purchase of two properties – the former Dinkins Bakery, Belturbet and the property to rear of Market House, Ballyconnell.

Ballyconnell Town was successful under the Streetscape Enhancement Measure announced by the Department of Rural & Community Development in 2022 supporting the upgrade and enhancement of street facades and shopfronts.



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This scheme has proved very successful with 24 freshly painted properties and brightly coloured shop fronts completed, improving the visual appearance, and increasing the pride and confidence in Ballyconnell.

Town Teams

Under Action 8.1a of the Local Economic Community Plan, Cavan Co Council, as Lead Partner, committed to establishing 'Town Teams' in a number of towns throughout the County. Town Teams are now in place in Cavan, Cootehill, Virginia and Bailieborough and all are progressing a number of actions. The needs, aspirations and vision of the local communities is at the core of the Town Plans.

Town & Village Revitalisation Plans

Cavan County Council commissioned Gaffney & Cullivan Architects in association with Tyréns, urban renewal specialists, to complete Town & Village Revitalisation Plans for twenty towns and villages in County Cavan. The plans will act as a catalyst to bring improvements to the towns of County Cavan and will provide a template for the revitalisation and development of each town. The towns and villages included are Cavan, Virginia, Bailieborough, Ballyjamesduff, Cootehill, Kingscourt, Belturbet, Mullagh, Ballyconnell, Ballinagh, Ballyhaise, Shercock, Killeshandra, Arva, Kilnaleck, Swanlinbar, Butlersbridge, Blacklion, Gowna and Dowra.

Significant progress was made on the implementation of improvements contained in these plans throughout 2023.



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Food Strategy Food Strategy

The Cavan Food Strategy, which is currently under review, creates a 'roadmap' for the future growth of the Cavan food sector. It aims to support the ongoing emergence of a strong culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among food companies in County Cavan and to further support and nurture this important sector of the Cavan economy.

The actions within the strategy are implemented by the Food Strategy Co-ordinator, in collaboration with the internal and external working groups. Following on from the Food Strategy 2017 – 2022, a new Action Plan is being developed and will be launched in 2024. There were numerous meetings and consultations throughout 2023, in order to identify and further develop new priorities and objectives for the next three years.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Rural Innovation and Development Fund (RIDF) Agri-Food Tourism measures awarded funding to part finance initiatives in 2023 supported by Cavan County Council including:

- A Street Food Festival was held in Cavan Town, as part of the Cavan Calling in July 2023 celebrating Cavan produce, highlighting the quality food and drink industry in the County.
- The Cootehill Christmas Markets were held in November 2023 showcasing the wonderful Cavan produce.
- A Digital Marketing Campaign which enabled 'Created in Cavan' to promote local food services, food producers, food events and food tourism experiences.
- A Videography project which produced video profiles for five local producers from the Cavan Food Network.





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The Created in Cavan Recipe Book was launched in June 2023. Funding was secured under the 2022 Rural Innovation Development Fund from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Proceeds of the book go towards Cavan Autism Parents Support CLG, Breffni Special Olympics Club and Cuan Cancer Support Centre.

Funding was also secured under the 2022 Rural Innovation Development Fund for a National School Food Programme. The programme was delivered from March to June 2023 and received very positive feedback from all schools that participated. The programme was designed to help children understand where their food comes from, local produce, nutrition and food preparation. It also created an awareness of the Cavan Food Network and the 'Created in Cavan' branding.

The 'Created in Cavan' Schools Young Cook of the Year 2023 competition was held in conjunction with Cavan Institute and CMETB in January 2023. Five schools competed with TY students from each school cooking dishes using local produce from the Created in Cavan Network. The Regional Finals then took place in March 2023 with schools competing from Cavan, Monaghan and The Boyne Valley Flavour's Region.

A number of events were held in conjunction with the Cottage Market Cavan - Seasonal and Christmas markets in Cavan town, Feast of Cavan Folk in Ballyconnell and an evening event showcasing Cavan's' Food Culture for Culture Night. These were all very successful events with great feedback from all involved.





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The Blas na hÉireann awards took place in Dingle on Friday 29th September. Cavan producers performed very well at these national food awards with all five finalists winning awards.



Brian and Barney Cully from Cully's Craft Bakery with their five awards won at the Blas na hÉireann Food Awards 2023.

Photo by Adrian Donohoe

Tourism Strategy

Cavan Tourism continues to implement the County Tourism Strategy which aims to increase things to do in the county, length of stay and visitor spend. Tourism in Cavan supports 3200 jobs and generates €95M for the local economy. There are 3295 tourism beds in County Cavan.

Funding / Product Development

Cavan County Council was successful in obtaining €49,500 in ORIS funding to deliver a study on the feasibility of developing the recreational capacity of Swollen Lake.

Cavan County Council, in partnership with Leitrim County Council, was successful in obtaining €23,000 in ORIS funding to deliver a cross county feasibility study into the sustainable development of a canoe trail on Lough McNeen.

Cavan County Council was successful in obtaining €187,127 in funding under Measure 1 (projects up to €30,000) of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2023. The following projects received funding:



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- Dun an Ri Forest Park entrance enhancement works €30,000.
- Killeshandra Town Lake (the Strand) amenity upgrade works €23,818.
- Bike Repair Station Network for County Cavan €28,350
- Cavan Burren Park upgrade works €30,000.
- Maintenance upgrade works at strategic Geopark sites €25,843.
- Accessible angling jetty at Lough Sillan €26,048
- Installation of boardwalk and signage on Lough and Leagh €23,068

A tourism signage audit of County Cavan was completed in 2023.

A new masterplan for Dun an Ri Forest Park was launched in March 2023. The Masterplan was funded by the LEADER cooperation project (in partnership with Monaghan County Council) and provides a 10-year roadmap for the development of the forest park.



Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council Clifford Kelly and Minister Heather Humphreys with staff from Cavan County Council, LEADER, Monaghan County Council and the Paul Hogarth Company at the launch of the Masterplan for Dún an Rí Forest Park in March 2023.



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Route appraisal studies were conducted and finalised at Corraquil and Killeshandra (greenway).

Runda Hospitality & Tourism Consultants are appointed in 2023 to deliver a tourism study on the towns of Ballyconnell, Belturbet and Ballinamore (in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland and Leitrim County Council).

Crover Shore, Lough Sheelin, Mountnugent

A landscape architect consultant, Park Hood, delivered a detailed three-phase concept plan for Crover Shore (Kit's Pier) at Lough Sheelin, Mountnugent. Cavan County Council have submitted a funding application under Measure 2 of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme to deliver phase 1 of the plan.

Guides and Merchandise

Cavan Tourism continued to produce and distribute a range of maps and guides. These include a new Walking Guide; Angling Guide; visitor map; Guide to County Cavan and a new 'Three Days in Cavan' guide. In addition, merchandise such as tote bags, jackets, badges, mugs, keyrings, pens and pencils were produced.



Merchandise produced by This is Cavan!

Advertising

County Cavan featured in the following publications in 2023: Irish Public Sector Magazine, Spirit of Ireland magazine, Hotpress Travel Feature, Belfast Telegraph, The Irish Post, Irish News and on Northern Sound and LMFM. A full-page ad and



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editorial promoting County Cavan was published in the Celtic Media 'Your Ireland' tourism supplement.

An Irish language travel programme on TG4, Téacs Taistil, set in County Cavan, aired in May.

This is Cavan! was a sponsor and stakeholder in Cavan Tourism & Business Awards 2024.

This is Cavan supported the following events in the county:

- Cavan Arts Festival
- Cavan Calling
- Killeshandra Camino Calling
- Cootehill Fishing Festival
- The County Fleadh Cheoil
- Gerry Whelan Festival
- Cavan Summer Markets
- Cavan Christmas Markets

Tourism Trade

A draft Destination and Experience Development Plan for the Upper Shannon, Shannon – Erne and Border area was produced by Failte Ireland and the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands team in 2023. Several consultation events took place throughout County Cavan in 2023.

A tourism business trade survey took place in in December 2023. In summary the trade reported a very positive and successful summer and are generally optimistic and confident about the future.

A trade group comprising of council officials and members of the angling and tourism trade met throughout 2023 to discuss the issue of invasive species on Lough Oughter. The group have obtained funding to complete a study on 'the Management



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of Aquatic Invasive Alien Species in County Cavan'. A presentation on the issue was made to the LCDC in September 2023.

Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark



Shannon Pot/Cavan Burren Park Discovery Centre

The Geopark continues to work in partnership with Fáilte Ireland under their Platforms for Growth: A Programme for Tourism Investment (2019-2022) for Platform 1: Immersive Heritage and Cultural Attractions in developing and delivering a world class visitor experience in West Cavan in the northern region of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands (IHH) at Shannon Pot Discovery Centre and Cavan Burren Park. The project received Part VII planning with tenders for construction issued in September 2023. Tender returns were returned in November 2023 and appointment process is underway. The project will encompass new discovery centre at Shannon Pot and ancillary trail/interpretation as well as new innovative trail development at Cavan Burren Park. Branding design and Interpretative Design for the centre fit out and associated trails is currently at stage 2. The project will go to construction in Spring 2024. Market testing for the attraction concept will go to both international and domestic market in early Spring of 2024.



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Artist impression of trails at Cavan Burren Park and discover centre at Shannon Pot

In 2023 the Geopark underwent its UNESCO accreditation evaluation. This mission undertaken by UNESCO inspectors was to examine existing boundary, rebrand and recommendations from previous inspection in 2021. The two appointed assessors Ms Helga Chulepin and Ms Joana Rodrigues travelled to Cuilcagh Lakelands to undertake accreditation audit. The Geopark team developed a robust itinerary taking them to over 20 Geopark sites, interacting with local communities, stakeholders and businesses. The evaluation report was submitted to Global Geopark Network Council meeting in September 2023 with a recommendation for a green card.



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Unesco Accreditation Inspection – July 2023

Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark is jointly managed by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Cavan County Council under a Memorandum of Understanding. The Geopark Committee is made up of elected representatives and senior management from Cavan County Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council who meet on a quarterly basis with AGM held annually in June.



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Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark Committee – AGM June 2023

Geopark Rebrand Implementation

The Geopark underwent implementation of complete rebrand in 2023. All existing interpretative signage and information paints needed to be replaced. The Geopark also implemented the installation of new Gateway entrance signage. This will increase visibility of the landscape proposition for visitors and locals alike and enhance destination development objectives.

The Geopark coordinates the management and maintenance of all sites through a dedicated cross departmental team. Significant upgrades were undertaken to a number of key sites in the Geopark in 2023 including works at Cavan Way, Rann Point, Ballyconnell Canal, Sean Eamon Ruarai Trail, Shannon Pot and Garvagh Lough.

Sustainability of all outdoor recreational and infrastructural developments is core to ensure the preservation of the unique landscape features. Significant resources are directed from the Geopark to ensure site protection, accessibility, and conservation. The Geopark are members of Leave No Trace Ireland and Visitor Safety Group Ireland. The Geopark also coordinate a number of key stakeholder



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Groups including Cuilcagh Mountain Access Forum and Cuilcagh Mountain Environmental Forum.



Re-brand of signage and installation of Geopark Gateway Signage



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Geopark Engagement

The Geopark continues to offer a diverse programme of events and educational outreach across Geopark sites. These events are delivered by accredited network of existing Geopark Guides and ambassadors. Significant events for 2023 included the Geopark Family Fun Day as part of the Cavan Calling festival. Events were held also held as part of Heritage Week and Science week 2023. The Geopark ran over 60 events in 2023 and these events along with participation at shows and festivals resulted in engagement with over 19,000 people. In addition to this, over 30 schools were engaged in the Geopark's outreach programme.

Social Media platforms continues to grow with an active Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and You Tube account for the Geopark @cuilcaghlakelands #cuilcaghlakelands
Facebook: 26k followers, Instagram: 2685 followers, Twitter: 2614 followers

Performance metrics for 2023:

- Impressions reached 5.5m. A 36% increase on the year before.
- Engagements reached 121k. A 6.2% increase on the year before.
- Link clicks onto our website reached 28k from our social media channels. An increase of 40%.
- Geopark audience grew by 7.5% over the last year across all channels to 31,291.

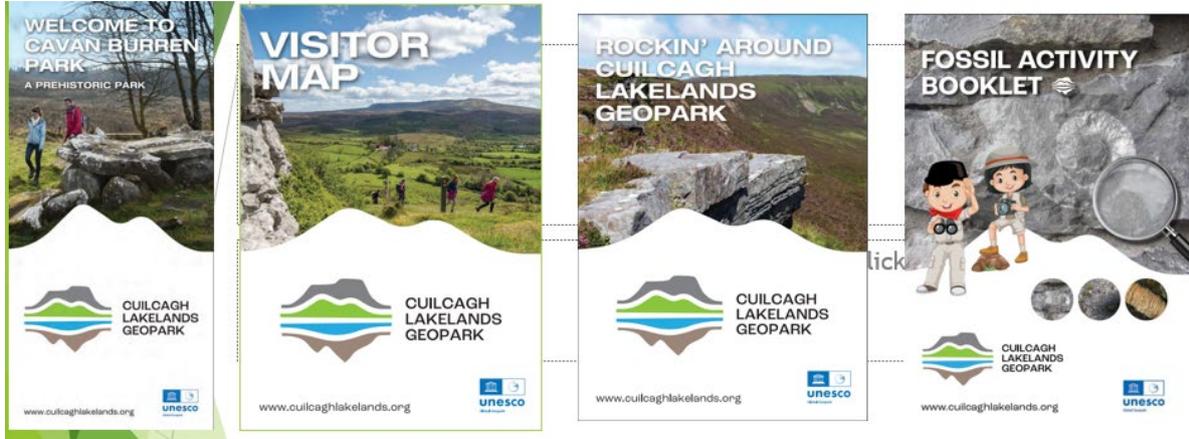
The Geopark's Print collateral continues to evolve with new educational leaflets produced this year in addition to additional international language provision through the translation of Geopark print material to Spanish, German and French. Under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme Measure 1 funding the Geopark was able to procure a new suite of photography, deliver additional print collateral and procure two new promotional gazebos for community/tourism events.



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Conservation

In June 2023 National Parks and Wildlife Service acquired almost one thousand hectares of upland habitat at Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark

Tánaiste Micheál Martin announced the agreement by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to purchase this upland habitat. The site, near Cuilcagh Mountain, will be managed to help the State meet its nature and biodiversity action plans, and significantly benefit the work of the Geopark. This will be further enhanced through the development of the Geopark's plans for biodiversity conservation, climate action and regenerative tourism.



Cuilcagh Mountain – NPWS Land Acquisition Announcement June 2023



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Data Logging

Data Loggers are located at 35 Geopark sites in both Cavan and Fermanagh. During 2023 647,000 people were recorded as utilising these Geopark sites which include amongst others Killykeen Forest Park, Cavan Burren Park, Castlesaunderson, Shannon Pot and Belturbet Marina.

Funding Allocations

Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark was awarded funding and is currently delivering projects funded as follow;

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund 2023

- Lough MacNea Cross County/Border Canoe Trail - €50,000 approved under Outdoor Recreational Infrastructural Scheme (Development Measure) for feasibility study for Canoe Trail

Partnership between Leitrim County Council/Cavan County Council/Geopark
- Cavan Burren Park Accessible Trail Upgrades €30,000
- Geopark Maintenance Allocation - Upgrade works at strategic Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark sites

Shared Island Local Authority Funding

Under the Shared Island Local Authority Funding, Cavan County Council in partnership with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council through the Geopark have delivered through stakeholder and community consultation a Cross Border Masterplan for Cuilcagh which aims to realise the conservation, tourism, recreational and natural value of the Shared Landscape of Cuilcagh. Investment in infrastructure, engagements with communities and green linkages have been identified as the key priorities.

Work continues on the Our Shared Heritage, Where We Belong (Castle Saunderson/Castle Caldwell) study to development conservation management plans and enabling works programmes for both sites.



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Geopark Sustainable Business Network

The Geopark continues to work in partnership with 20 local businesses who participated in the programme certification through the Business programme. The Business Sustainability Training Programme is a framework that allows businesses located within Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark to come together to build a sustainable tourism offering, achieve cost savings through reductions in waste, water and energy consumption and benefit from becoming a member of the Geopark Business Network.

The Sustainability Training Programme is aimed at businesses operating in the Geopark who wish to educate and engender a sense of community ownership of our surroundings. These principles are integral to the concept of regenerative tourism.

The Geopark recently received runner up in the Community Tourism Initiative category at the recent Pride of Place Awards in Armagh. The awards honour remarkable contributions made by individuals and groups dedicated to improving local neighbourhoods and creating better places to live, work and enjoy.

This achievement was in recognition of the continued development and success of the Sustainable Business Network. The programme trains businesses in the tourism and hospitality sector in sustainable practices such as waste management, developing sustainable tourism experiences and energy efficiency. Upon completion of the training programme, businesses are then invited to join the Business Network. Meeting quarterly, the group gather for discussion and collaboration and receive continued support from the Geopark. The Sustainable Business Network is currently delivering training for a new cohort of 12 businesses who will be fully accredited in June 2024.



Cuiclagh Lakelands Geopark, Pride of Place Awards, November 2023

**LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

Cootehill Enterprise Park

Cavan County Council, under the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund, were successful in completing the first phase of development of industrial lands, owned by Cavan County Council, in Cornacarrow, Cootehill. A new access road and services was completed and the first company, PQE Engineering Ltd, have completed their premises and will commence operations in 2024





Cootehill Enterprise Park

Expressions of interest have been received for a further four serviced sites from existing local industrial manufacturing companies with expansion plans spanning from 2024 to 2027. This will form part of the second development phase of the lands, requiring the construction of additional access roads and services, in order to maximise the potential of the park to facilitate four new business expansions over the next three years, and unlock a further two serviced sites for future development.

Cavan Digital Hub

Cavan Digital Hub marked its four -year anniversary in June 2023 with over 100 skilled digital and technology roles now being supported out of the facility. Approximately 78 workers are based in the facility with a further 26 remote roles employed by its clients across the globe.

Spanning five floors, with a total floor space of 13,000 sq. ft., Cavan Digital Hub provides a range of hot desks, dedicated desks, private offices, and meeting rooms, as part of an overall work solution for





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digitally focused companies. The project was developed by Cavan County Council, funded by the Regional Enterprise Development Fund under the Upper Shannon Erne Future Economy Project in partnership with Leitrim and Longford County Councils, and the Town & Village Renewal Scheme and Cavan County Council. It continues to foster and support the digital sector in the county.



Clients based out of the facility include digital start-ups, established small-to-medium technology businesses and larger firms embracing a hybrid and regional working ethos and seeking a local base in Cavan. Many of the start-up businesses and established SME's are also clients of the Local Enterprise Office Cavan. The firms specialise in all areas of the digital spectrum including artificial intelligence, software development, digital services and web solutions. IDA-backed US analytics and communications firm, PublicRelay, one of the initial client members, expanded its footprint from 2 to 24 staff, growing to occupy the Hubs spacious top floor suite.





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Cavan Digital Hub is also an active participant of the ConnectedHubs initiative, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, and welcomes approximately 20 digital nomads per month seeking hot-desk facilities, many of which are aspiring digital entrepreneurs taking their first steps.

The Cavan Calling Your Business Event on Thursday, 27 July heard of inspiring success from County Cavan Enterprises. The event was organised by Local Enterprise Office, Cavan and took place at Cavan Digital Hub.



Pictured are (from left) James Boyle, IDA Ireland; Fabien Bonnet, Deputy Mayor, Jaunay-Marigny; Cllr Patricia Walsh; Brendan Jennings, Director of Service, Cavan County Council; Cllr Áine Smith, Chair, Cavan Belturbet MD; Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council, Cllr Philip Brady; Jonathan McMillan, Enterprise Ireland; Cllr John Paul Feeley; Deputy Brendan Smith.

Advance Planning, IDA Park Killygarry

Cavan Digital Hub (DAC) Ltd, Cavan County Council and IDA Ireland have come together, in a unique collaborative effort, to provide a pathway to attract and retain investment in the IDA Park, Killygarry through the development of an Advanced Technology Building Solution (ATBS). The planning application was successful and paves the way for future partnership opportunities in the future. Cavan County Council partners with a number of agencies, including the IDA, with the aim of creating opportunities for employment, expansion of existing business and making County Cavan an attractive place for inward investment. The Cavan Advanced Building Solution will have a gross floor area of 35,000 square feet. Work on the construction of this new building will commence during 2024.



In 2023, Cavan County Council proactively developed plans in relation to lands that it owns at the IDA Business Park in Killygarry. It is expected that further work will be undertaken in 2024 to enable the construction of new enterprise space and associated developments on these lands which will lead to further job creation.

Food Enterprise Centre

Cavan County Enterprise Fund working in partnership with Cavan County Council have secured planning permission to erect a fully serviced Food Enterprise Centre at Killgarry Park. This centre will incorporate administration areas and warehouse storage, access via newly proposed service road, newly proposed parking, signage, landscaping, boundary treatments, bicycle shelter, connection to public sewer, surface water, watermain and utility services and all ancillary works.



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LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)

Local Enterprise Office Cavan (LEO Cavan)

plays an important role in facilitating and promoting sustainable economic growth and enterprise. We aim to promote entrepreneurship,

foster business start-ups and develop existing micro and small businesses to drive job creation and to provide accessible high-quality supports for new business ideas. We act as a catalyst and advocate for the establishment of a best practice enterprise culture among start-ups and small business, promoting enterprise and self-employment as a viable career option among the wider population, across all sectors of industry. We ensure that the promotion and provision of our services and supports are accessible to all citizens within the community, providing equality of opportunity to all and most importantly, we put the customer at the centre of our work and align our performance to meet our commitment under the LEO Customer Service Charter.



As part of Cavan County Council, we play a significant role in the economic activities of the Local Economic & Community Development Plan, the County Development Plan, and the Economic, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee. Our involvement is important in respect of the local authority's ambitions to provide suitable economic infrastructure and an appropriate enterprise focused environment for businesses to start and scale in the County.

2023 presented a new set of challenges for businesses. While still trying to recover from the COVID19 pandemic they were faced with the war in Ukraine, conflict in the Middle East, coupled with high energy costs and rising inflation.

Our role as the first point of contact for new entrepreneurs, and a supportive, knowledgeable contact for established entrepreneurs, comes with a responsibility to deliver the right supports and provide the right guidance and direction, to ensure entrepreneurs with the greatest potential are encouraged and nurtured to start and scale successful, sustainable, and viable businesses, driving job creation and growth



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in our counties and regions.

The challenges of encouraging and nurturing quality start-ups remain a key priority for us, particularly in certain sectors such as information technology, which are not as strong as other more traditional industry sectors in County Cavan. As a LEO, we will strive to promote entrepreneurship through many platforms and collaborations, strengthening our involvement in Cavan Digital Hub, as a key incubator for digitally focussed start-ups. Adopting a streamlined and joined up approach to informing, encouraging, and creating green start ups and maximising opportunities for existing businesses in this sector, will be required on a regional basis, as well as on a county level. This will be explored through the Regional Enterprise Plan Committees which provides much opportunity for strategic project development to address regional and county imbalances.

Building resilience and future proofing a business must feature in our armoury as a vital thought process for business owners and future entrepreneurs. Delivery of relevant management capability development programmes for existing business owners and Start Your Own Business Programmes are critical to preparing entrepreneurs that can succeed and compete in the domestic and international marketplace of the future.

Networks and clustering are recognised as a positive enabler of helping SMEs to take advantage of the opportunities it provides in terms of collaboration, best practice learning and collective business advancement. A key focus for us going forward will be to try and encourage building clusters of businesses that can work together to seek out business opportunities, increase their knowledge and take advantage of new emerging areas of business growth globally.



National Women's Enterprise Day 2023:

We will continue to prioritise assisting existing businesses to expand and grow as they look to compete domestically and internationally. Our training and mentoring programmes on offer will be a critically important intervention to those particular businesses over the coming year. Promoting and highlighting enterprise and entrepreneurship as widely as possible is supported by national LEO initiatives such as Local Enterprise Week, The National Enterprise Awards and The Student Enterprise Awards Programme.

The LEO's requirement to localise and adapt their offering to meet local needs, reflects the different geographic and socio-economic profiles of our counties and regions. LEO Cavan will strive to deliver the most appropriate supports to meet the needs of the business community in County Cavan, whilst forging strong collaborative partnerships and stakeholder engagement to strengthen the economic potential of our county and its attractiveness as a location to start up and grow a business.

LEO Cavan plays an important role in promoting sustainable economic growth, enterprise, and tourism. We aim to promote entrepreneurship, foster business start-ups, and develop existing micro and small businesses to drive job creation and provide accessible high-quality supports for new business ideas. We act as a



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catalyst and advocate for the establishment of a best practice enterprise culture among start-ups and small business, promoting enterprise and self-employment as a viable career option among the wider population, across all sectors of industry.

We work collaboratively with key enterprise and strategic stakeholders including business and community groups, to promote a strong enterprise focused environment contributing to the county achieving its economic potential. LEO Cavan engages proactively on the Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee and collaborates with key stakeholders such as Enterprise Ireland, IDA, CMETB, Fáilte Ireland and LEOs in our Region, to identify possible leveraging of funds under upcoming Competitive Calls to further enhance the region as a location for business investment and growth.

At a cross border and European level, the LEO is fully engaged in a number of activities aimed at stimulating and supporting enterprise and economic activity. LEO Cavan successfully partners and collaborates with other LEOs and Local Authorities in the region in the delivery and roll out of initiatives and programmes aimed at providing value added supports and services to its client base.

Throughout 2023 LEO Cavan continued to promote the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) to facilitate linkages and potential business partnership and trading opportunities across the EU.

LEO Cavan continues to promote the development of Cavan Digital Hub and the roll-out of its objectives. Cavan Digital Hub was established to encourage employment opportunities in the digital sector, where individuals and companies with a digital focus can network and grow within a community of support & creativity. The objectives are to promote the digital economy in Cavan and its environs, to offer flexible work solutions to companies, to provide incubation space for digital start-ups to scale & grow, to facilitate co-working, peer to peer networking and collaboration.



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LEO Cavan contributes to the Council's corporate plan objectives to maximise investment and improve the county's infrastructure to stimulate development opportunities for job creation and enhanced quality of life. The LEO collaborates with colleagues and stakeholders (on the development of enterprise incubation space and planning for future enterprise and industrial developments that will encourage and support enterprise start-ups and expansion in the County. Developing initiatives such as Cavan Digital Hub is an example of LEO Cavan's contribution on the objective to promote the development of stronger towns and villages to enable them act as key drivers of economic, social and community development across the county. The continued phased development of Cootehill Enterprise Park as a viable location for local business expansion, coupled with future enterprise park developments in Virginia and other key strategic county locations, addresses the infrastructural gap and provides a critical pathway for our business community to grow and scale.

Innovation, efficiency, value for money and a high standard of customer service remain a key priority for LEO Cavan. LEO staff are fully committed to the Local Enterprise Office Customer Service Charter which ensures quality service delivery at all times to the customer.

All LEO operations are governed by the LEO Procedures Manual in partnership with Enterprise Ireland to ensure consistent best practice in the delivery of LEO supports. LEO Cavan works with Internal Audit, Health and Safety and Procurement sections to ensure compliance at the highest operational level with all requisite procedures, processes, and legislation, as determined by the Council's Corporate Plan.

The LEO strategy for communication ensures an inclusive, open, and accessible platform for communicating the services and activities of the LEO locally, regionally, and nationally thus promoting the County as a location for new business and economic activity.



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LEO Cavan's core objectives in 2023 were to prepare businesses for the low carbon economy, digitisation, export readiness, LEAN practices, and clustering for growth, in an effort to reset businesses' mindset to look forward with ambition and optimism.

Key Strategic LEO Enterprise Activities 2023

- The ninth Local Enterprise Week took place from 6th to 10th March 2023. This National Initiative saw a hybrid approach with a variety of online and in person events being held across the LEO Network. LEO Cavan hosted an event "Preparing your Business for a Leaner Greener Future". The event was attended by over 30 business people in the County who learned how embracing LEAN and Green Programmes could benefit their business.
- During Local Enterprise Week events hosted by LEO Cavan had over 160 people in attendance.
- In 2023, LEO Cavan approved €166,733 in Measure 1 financial assistance to eight businesses.
- Under the LEO Trading Online Voucher Scheme, LEO Cavan approved a total of 29 vouchers, valued at €60,354.
- Over the course of 2023, 74 enterprise related training programmes and network events/seminars were delivered (both virtually and in person) by LEO Cavan and attended by 1,113 participants availing of knowledge-based learning and information.
- In 2023, 108 business owner / managers received one-to-one mentoring.
- Enterprise Information Roadshows were held in Cootehill, Bailieborough and an enterprise event was also held in the Cavan as part of the Cavan Calling Programme of events in July.
- 12 businesses were approved for the LEAN for Business Programme and a further 16 businesses were approved for the Green for Business Programmes in 2023.
- The winner of the County Cavan Enterprise Award 2023, Nualach Automation Ltd from Virginia went on to represent County Cavan at the National Enterprise Awards Final in the Mansion House, Dublin in June. They



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achieved further success at these awards as the regional winner in the North East Region.



Pictured from left to right at the National Enterprise Awards in the Mansion House, Dublin on June 1st 2023: Cllr John Paul Feeley, Cathaoirleach Cavan County Council; John Magee, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office Mayo; Evan Roarke & Kealan O'Connell, Nuálach Automation Ltd; Simon COvney T.D., Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment; Conor Craven, Acting Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office Cavan.

Finance, Information Technology and Emergency 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 Authority's operations, both of a revenue and capital nature, across all Service Divisions.

The primary objectives are to:



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- 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 had 145 loans, which resulted in mortgage payments of €427,121 during 2023. During 2023, Cavan County Council have continued to proactively engage with customers who have found themselves in unsustainable arrears positions.

Provision of Payroll Function

This service involves the processing and payment of wages and salaries for all staff including deduction of P.A.Y.E., P.R.S.I., other statutory and non-statutory deductions and completion of all relevant returns. There are approximately 500 employees on Cavan County Council's payroll. In addition to this, the Payroll function processes payments for the Council's Pensioners and Elected Members. Total payroll costs were €32.8m in 2023.

Rates

A total of 2,496 Rate Demands were issued for the year 2023 which resulted in a total levy of €18,154,641. The effective valuation in Co. Cavan in 2023 was €83,251,144 and the multiplier set by the elected members for 2023 was 0.2211. An amount of €15,889,331 was receipted in respect of commercial rates for the year ending 31st December 2023. The overall collection percentage for commercial rates was 87% for year ending 31st December 2023.



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The Small Business Rates Incentive Scheme was introduced during 2022. The Scheme is a credit of 5% of the annual rates liability for all businesses who pay their annual rates liability by 31st October each year or have complied with an agreement to discharge their rates liability in full by 31st December 2023. The discount is applied to the rate account at the end of the financial year which will result in a credit on the customer account. There is no application process for this incentive.

The objectives of the Scheme are:

- To reduce the operational overheads of businesses in County Cavan.
- To provide a cash flow advantage to businesses that pay the annual Commercial Rates Liability early.
- To provide a targeted support for the SME sector in relation to Commercial Rates.
- To demonstrate the Council's commitment to the economic development and regeneration of County Cavan.

The incentive applied to businesses in County Cavan who have an annual Commercial Rates Liability of less than or equal to €10,000 per rated property for 2023. An amount of €125,517 was paid out under the Scheme in respect of 1,180 rated properties.

In relation to write offs for vacant properties, the proportion of write off for vacant properties was reduced from 100% to 90% where the property was vacant for more than 12 months at 31/12/2023.

In the area of Non-Principal Private Residence (NPPR) Charges an amount of €280,322 net of central Bureau charges was collected for year ending 31st December 2023.



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Procurement

Our Mission Statement

“To ensure that Cavan County Council’s Procurement function is discharged with probity, transparency, and accountability, adheres to EU/National Law and National guidelines, and operates in the most efficient and effective way to support value for money purchasing while achieving the required standards to deliver quality services to the citizens of County Cavan”.

Procurement

Cavan County Council’s current Corporate Procurement Plan 2023 – 2025 (Version 2) was launched in April 2023. This new plan is a framework document that sets out how Cavan County Council will conduct its procurement function for the next three years (2023 – 2025) and puts in place the principles and proper foundation on which the Council’s procurement function will operate while also remaining intrinsically linked to the principles and strategic objectives of the organisation’s Corporate Plan.

The Plan Strongly promotes the use of Sustainable Public Procurement practices through the appropriate and suitable use of Social Considerations and Green Public Procurement measures.

In 2023, a number of significant changes to National Procurement Policies and Procedures were implemented, these included:-

- New National Thresholds and Requirements under Circular 05/2023,
- A new etender Platform was launched,
- New eForms were introduced,
- Amendments made to the CWMF Suite of Tender and Contract Documents
- New OGP Guidelines for Goods and Services (Version 3) was issued
- New EU Thresholds (with effect from 01/01/2024) were introduced.

During 2023, substantial challenges also remained in respect of supply difficulties and delays, price inflation, increase in fuel and energy costs etc. Throughout the year the



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Procurement Officer and Members of the Central Tendering Administration Unit (**CTA Unit**) continued to champion procurement protocols and procedures and provided management and staff with the relevant procurement advice and support as and when required.

Procurement guidance and training was provided to council staff through various support tools, updated Procurement Procedure Manual and the provision of 5 new Procurement Training/Information Tutorial videos. In addition to this the Procurement Officer delivered inhouse procurement training to over 34 staff members across various Sections and Departments such as Agresso, Arts, Community and Enterprise, Corporate, Finance, Fire Services, Housing, Housing Construction, Internal Audit, Library Services, Museum, Roads General, Theatre, The Local Enterprise Office and Water Services. The Procurement Steering Group also continued to hold their quarterly meetings online throughout the year.

The Procurement Officer continued to manage Cavan County Council's new electronic Quarterly Public Procurement Monitoring Report App, which is used to provide the Chief Executive (CE) with a quarterly report on the procurement compliance of all Departments within the organisation.

Procurement assistance was provided to all Departments and Sections throughout the Organisation. In 2023 - **217** Procurement Competitions were advertised by the CTA Unit. This was a **13%** increase on the previous year. **119** of these were through the etenders (old and new) portal (**57** Quotation Competitions, and **62** Tender Competitions) and a further **98** Tender Competitions through the supplygov system.

Continued compliance with The Public Spending Code

In 2023 the Procurement Officer also coordinated, compiled and submitted the Cavan County Council's Quality Assurance report for 2022 to the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) as required under the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery, and Reforms **Public Spending Code**.



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The report noted that the checklists completed by Cavan County Council showed a high level of compliance with the Public Spending Code and the in-depth checks carried out on a selection of projects / programmes revealed no major issues which would cast doubt on the Council's compliance with the Code.

Cavan County Council's report coordinated by the Procurement Officer contained: -

- An inventory list for 2022 (totalling **€862,239,054.89**) identified **141** Projects / Programmes (**38** Current Expenditure and **103** Capital Expenditure), whose expenditure / estimated lifetime cost exceeded €0.5m.
 - Out of the **141** Projects/programmes: -
 - **43** projects / programmes were being considered in 2022.
 - **89** projects / programmes incurred expenditure in 2022.
 - **9** projects / programmes ended in 2022.
- A summary of all procurements above €10m, (**1 new project in 2022**)
- A completed set of checklists (7 in total) for the whole organisation based on **18 samples** taken across the organisation, representing **9%** of the total value of relevant expenditure in the 2022 inventory list.
- A summary of the Internal Auditors in-depth checks representing: -
 - **4%** of the total value of all Current (revenue) Expenditure projects / programmes identified in the Inventory list for 2022 and
 - **6%** of the total value of all Capital Expenditure projects / programmes identified in the Inventory list for 2022. (The Average % over the 3-year period (2020-2022) of Capital Projects /Programmes selected for In-Depth Check(s) (based on value) was **5%**).



Internal Audit

Internal Audit provides an independent appraisal function charged with conducting reviews on the policies, plans, procedures and performances of the organisation. The 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 Council's Corporate Plan.

The core control areas examined include:

- Accounting and management systems
- Compliance with internal controls
- Adequacy and integrity of the 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 professional Internal Audit function in accordance with the Internal Audit Charter. All Council's activities and services fall within the remit of Internal Audit function. The Internal Auditor reports directly to the Chief Executive and the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis.

Value for Money

Local Authorities including Cavan County Council operate in an environment that requires accountability and transparency of all management decisions taken. The Council must ensure that all services operate in an economical, efficient and effective manner with an increased emphasis placed on achieving Value for Money and maximising performance levels throughout the organisation.



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Annual Audit Plan 2023

The Annual Audit Plan for 2023 as approved by the Executive of the Council sets out specific audit reviews to be undertaken based on the availability of staff resources and the potential risks identified by the Directors of Service, the Audit Committee the Local Government Auditor and risk areas highlighted by the LGIAN.

As the priorities of the Local Authority evolve Internal Audit's work practices and audit techniques ensure it operates in the most professional and effective manner possible to provide maximum audit coverage and assurance to Senior Management and the Audit Committee.

Internal Audit Work - 2023

During 2023 the audit work programme incorporated control inspections in the Motor Tax Office, the Customer Service Desk and Cavan Town Hall.

Specific audits reviews covered the Council's Street Cleaning Operations for the Year Ended 2021, the Debt Collection Procedures / Revenue Arrears due to Cavan County Council (2020 – 2021), Wage Payroll Control Procedures Post Covid 19, Cavan County Museum Control Procedures for 2021 and 2022, the Operations of Ramor Theatre, Virginia & Cavan Townhall Theatre for 2022, the Council's Central Credit Register Procedures, the Operations of the Animal Pound and Dog Warden Services for 2022, the Governance Control Procedures of Cavan Sports Partnership in 2022, the Roads Winter Maintenance Programme 2022, the Annual Review of SICAP- the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme for 2022 as managed by the Programme Implementor on behalf of the LCDC.

As part of the Annual Public Spending Code In-depth Review Process one revenue programme and two capital projects were assessed. These included 1) the Proposed Abbeylands's Capital Project with an estimate lifetime cost of €25 million. 2) the Proposed Roads Capital Project on the R188 Safety Improvement Measures at Rathkenny with an estimate lifetime cost of €20 million, 3) the Current Expenditure



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Programme D06 - Community and Enterprise Function with annual expenditure totalling €3 million.

Internal Audit also undertook the necessary Article 48 Leader Funding Checking Procedures on behalf of the Council covering 2 project applications valued at €71,226.01 and 19 expenditure claims amounting to €964,920.27.

Various audit requests from the Local Government Auditors were processed with the effectiveness of Internal Audit considered as a key factor in the Local Government Auditor’s assessment of the controlled environment of the Local Authority.

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 Audit 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 Cavan County Council.

The current Audit Committee was established by resolution upon nomination by the Corporate Policy Group of the Local Authority and following consultation with the Chief Executive. Their term of office is concurrent with that of the elected Council which commenced on 1st June 2019 and will terminate on 31st May 2024.

The (AC) Audit Committee members are as follows:

<i>New AC June 2019 – May 2024</i>
• Sonia McEntee (Chairperson)
• Con Dolan
• Sean Corcoran
• Cllr Madeleine Argue
• Cllr Clifford Kelly



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The Audit Committee met on four occasions in 2023. They have a crucial role in the governance framework of Cavan County Council, particularly in the context of scarce resources, risk management, and public sector accountability.

During the year the committee met with the Acting Chief Executive Mr Eoin Doyle and various line managers to discuss a broad range of issues. Areas of priority included the Annual Budgets and Financial Statements, the Internal Audit Charters, the Annual Internal Audit Work Programme and the Council's Annual Performance Indicators.

Internal Audit Overview

Internal Audit is proactively working with management to provide assurance that the existing internal controls and processes are sufficient to optimise the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan. This annual report highlights some of main activities performed by Internal Audit in 2023 that were key to identifying and addressing any significant risks facing the Council.

As always Internal Audit is committed to responding to the changing demands of Cavan Local Authority and will endeavour to optimise its governance contribution to the organisation in accordance with the Strategic Internal Audit Plan.

Based on the audit reviews undertaken reasonable assurance was provided to all relevant stakeholders that the operations and governance structures of the organisation incorporate best management practices, value for money principles, accountability and transparency that ensures maximum efficiencies are achieved.



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Motor Taxation

Cavan County Council's Motor Tax Section is responsible for:

- Issue of Vehicle Licence
- 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

There was little change in the number of public attending the Motor Tax Office in 2023 to conduct their business. This was reflected in the revenue intake of €3,022,634 reporting a small decrease of €26,320 on 2022 figure (€3,048,954).

Breakdown of income and transactions:

Category	Total Transactions	Total Income
Vehicle Licences	13,600	€2,690,478
Trade Licences	69	€24,357
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,726	€19,022
Arrears	3,253	€288,777
Total	18,648	€3,022,634

Motor Tax Online:

In addition, 71,129 transactions were processed online. The Motor Tax Online Service is available to owners of private cars, motorcycles, agricultural tractors, exempt vehicles, motor caravans and commercial vehicles for renewal. Customers are encouraged to avail of the online service by logging onto www.motortax.ie.



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Service Indicators

M.1 Number & Percentage of Motor Tax Transactions	2023
Number which are dealt with over the counter	14,375
Number which are dealt with by post	3,640
% which are dealt with over the counter	79.79%
% which are dealt with by post	20.21%
M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications	
Number which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	3486
Number which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of application	92
Number which are dealt with on the 4th or 5th day from receipt of the application	14
Number which are dealt with in over 5 days from receipt of the application	48
% which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	95.77%
% which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of the application	2.53%
% which are dealt with on the 4th or 5th day from receipt of the application	0.38%
% which are dealt with in over 5 days from receipt of the application	1.32%
M.4 Public opening hours	
Average number of opening hours per week	27.5



Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

The ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Section reports to the Head of Finance & IT and is responsible for managing the organisations ICT infrastructure, websites, software applications, GIS systems, cyber security and digital transformation initiatives. This includes local (LAN) and wide area (WAN) networks, combined of wired and wireless links which enable voice and data communications for the organisation.

During 2023 the IT Dept worked on a number of key infrastructure, systems, digital and security projects. We also continued to provide user support to our workforce in the new hybrid working environment. Our support desk processed an average of 400 calls per month during the year, an increase of over 50 requests per month.

Geographic Information Systems.

The Council's Geographic Information System (GIS) continued to enhance our range of geospatial data and to support the business areas with the provision of mapping related technologies:

- Roll out of PACE software.
- Initiation of CadCorp upgrade.
- Map creation support to various sections including Roads, Planning, Environment and Geopark.
- Grow mapping portal on Council website.

Network Infrastructure.

The Council's network infrastructure is vital to service delivery and the IT Dept work to ensuring the availability and security of ICT systems and services. Projects in this area included:

- New Uisce Eireann WiFi solution implemented to support UE staff.
- New hybrid meeting technology installed in Council Chamber.
- Azure files implemented to support cloud file storage.
- Magnet House, Virginia Civic Centre & Cavan Town Centre all added to Council network.



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Digital Transformation

The Digital Transformation function focuses on delivering the National Broadband Plan in Cavan, progressing the actions in the Digital Strategy and increasing mobility and digital awareness of council staff. Providing better services to the public and involving citizens in digital transformation is also a priority.

- Set up Local Creative Youth Project Collaboration
- Access EDIH funding through FactoryXchange
- Launched VEX Robotics initiative.
- Implemented new online system for Pre-Planning and Compliance submissions.
- Implemented ePlanning for online planning permission applications.
- Launch of Digital Suite in Town Hall.

ICT Security.

ICT security ensures the safety and security of our data and systems and is one of the most critically important functions of the IT Department. IT security includes the technologies, processes, and practices designed to protect networks, devices, programmes, and data from attack, damage, or unauthorised access.

- Migration of all users to InTune & Defender.
- Incident Response Plan testing.
- Onboarding of logs to SOC-SIEM.

Operations.

The operational area of the IT Dept is responsible for the day-to-day technical support to all staff users and elected members of Cavan County Council.

- Procurement and implementation of online Consultation Portal.
- Implementation of MyCoCo for online payments of rents & rates.
- New online forms for Pre-Planning and Planning Compliance to streamline both processes.
- New staff Intranet, employee directory & leave calendar rolled out.
- 4776 support tickets completed.



Emergency Services

Cavan County Fire Service

Cavan County Council employed 91 retained Firefighters in 10 fire stations located around the County at the end of 2023. During 2023, five Firefighters retired from the Fire Service.

Service Indicators

F1: Cost per Capita of the Fire Service

Cost per Capita of the Fire Service €63.28

F2: Service Mobilisation

	Fire	Non-Fire
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades	6:27	6:23

F3: Percentage Attendance Times at Scenes

	Fire		Non-Fire	
	%	No.	%	No.
First attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	20.31	39	25.71	86
First attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	59.38	114	50.00	190
First attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	20.31	39	27.37	104



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Fire Service Call Outs

Type of Call / Number Callouts	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Chimney fires in Houses	45	47	32	35	36	37	29	16	31
Other Domestic Building Fires	60	33	41	44	30	34	30	23	25
Other fires	28	47	45	47	39	36	32	38	34
Bog/Forest Fires	17	17	39	18	9	34	6	11	11
Motor Vehicle Fires	28	19	20	21	16	10	24	20	19
Road Traffic Accidents	73	69	58	67	72	52	61	70	118
Flooding	16	4	14	11	28	28	9	18	8
Chemical Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	4
Special Services (Other)	218	244	338	377	261	335	213	240	279
False Alarm (Good Intent)	18	51	36	50	57	57	68	108	109
False Alarm (Malicious)	3	2	2	2	6	3	5	3	4
Total Calls	416	506	533	594	554	626	482	549	642



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The Fire Service had 720 responses to 642 incidents in 2023, which is a 16.9% increase compared to the responses in 2022



Firefighters from Belturbet bring a house fire under control.

WRC Agreement

Following the intervention of the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC), an agreement was reached between both Union and Management in 2023. This agreement involves a restructuring of pay for firefighters and changes to their Terms of Employment to facilitated structured time off and greater promotion of Community Fire Safety. To facilitate these changes, Cavan County Fire Service will increase the

number of firefighters by 30%. The recruitment process for these additional firefighters began in December 2023.



Example of recruitment advertisement from December 2023

Capital Programme

On 26th January 2023, the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management approved €200,000 as grant assistance for the purchase of a new Water Tanker with integrated spray.

On the 18th October 2023, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, announced funding of €20.8 million for the provision of 40 new 'Class B' fire appliances, which will be allocated across the country's 27 Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services. Cavan County Fire Service was allocated two of these appliances as part of the Fire Appliance Procurement Programme 2023 – 2025.

The Construction of a new Fire station at Ballyjamesduff was identified in the 2016 – 2020 Fire Service Capital Programme as one of 16 new priority projects. This commitment was reaffirmed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in the Fire Services Capital Programme 2021 – 2025 announced on 29th



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December 2020. On 18th February 2021, the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage granted approval to accept the tender of Sandar Construction Ltd., for construction of the new fire station. Contracts for the New Fire Station in Ballyjamesduff were signed on 14th June 2021 and the Contractor moved onto site on 22nd June 2021. The new fire station in Ballyjamesduff Fire Station was handed over to Cavan County Fire Service on 16th December 2022 and the station became operational on 7th February 2023.

An application for capital funding for upgrade works at Kingscourt Fire Station was submitted to the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management in October 2022. Approval in principle was received in 2023 subject to modifications to the proposed design to allow for greater diversity within the staffing structure.

Major Emergency Planning

The first Cavan County Council Major Emergency Plan under the 2006 Framework for Emergency Planning was issued in September 2008 and the latest Plan was revised and issued at the start of 2016. The appendices to the plan were revised during 2019 to reflect staff changes.

The Courthouse in Cavan is the Local Co-Ordination Centre in the event of a Major Emergency in the County.

During 2023, regular meetings of both the Regional Steering and Regional Working groups were conducted. Regional training for the roles of Information Management Officer and On-Site Co-Ordinator took place during 2023. Members of staff from Cavan County Council continue to attend these courses.

The Cross Border Emergency Management Group developed a comprehensive Operational Plan for 2022 – 2025, the vision of which is to enhance cross border co-operation and resilience in emergency management and civil protection consistent with the principles underpinned in the framework documents of both jurisdictions, the



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Northern Ireland Civil Contingencies Framework and the Major Emergency Management Framework. Cross Border Working Group meetings continued in 2023.

Training

In 2023 dedicated training courses were provided in a wide range of potential activities that fire service personnel may encounter during the course of their employment, these included: Breathing Apparatus Refresher and Initial Wearers, Compartment Fire Behaviour, Signing, Lighting & Guarding, Emergency Traffic Management, Advance Driver Training in preparation for assessment by RSA Testers for compliance with the Emergency Services Driving Standards, Chainsaw Operator Refresher, Hydraulic Platform, Emergency Fire Responder, Health & Safety, National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management Courses for both Junior & Senior Fire Officers.



Members of Cavan Town Fire Brigade conducting a training exercise.



Fire Prevention

Public houses, Hotels, restaurants, community halls, clubs and petrol stations are inspected each year in response to legislative requirements and the processing of applications for liquor licences, dance licences, club licences, dangerous substance licences and Gaming and Lottery Licences.

Cavan County Fire Service's community fire safety, primary schools and smoke alarm programmes were recommenced in 2023.

Under the Building Control Regulations Fire Safety Certificates are required prior to the construction, extension or material alteration of most buildings excluding dwelling houses and agricultural buildings. A total of 97 Fire Safety Certificate Applications were received in 2023 with fees totalling €182,809.00.



Delivering Community Fire Safety in Ballyconnell.



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Health and Safety

The revised Fire Service Safety Manual was approved by the Senior Management Team in January 2023.

The County Council has an Occupational Health Scheme and the Firefighters undergo medical examination under the National Firefighters Agreement. All vehicles are independently checked and tested to ensure that they are roadworthy.



Crews from around the county cleared over 100 fallen trees during Storm Debi in November 2023

Retirement of Fire Service Personnel

The following personnel left Cavan County Fire Service during 2022:

- Christopher Reilly, Sub-Station Officer, Killeshandra Fire Brigade, retired in May 2023, after almost thirteen years of service.



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- Paul Higgins, Firefighter, Killeshandra Fire Service, retired in August 2023 after over twenty four years of service.
- Gerard O'Reilly, Driver/ Mechanic, Ballyjamesduff Fire Brigade, retired in August 2023, having given more than thirty two years of service.
- Bernard Cosgrove, Sub-Station Officer, Ballyjamesduff Fire Brigade, retired in October 2023, after over thirty three years of service.
- Olga Brady, Firefighter, Virginia Fire Service, retired in November 2023, having given more than eight years of service

We thank Christopher, Paul, Gerard, Bernard and Olga for everything they did for Cavan County Fire Service and their one hundred and ten years of commitment to the people of County Cavan.

Civil Defence

Introduction

2023 was the first year in some time where normal, (non-Covid 19), duties have been restored and Cavan County Civil Defence started to rebuild their volunteer base with new members. There are currently have 120 active volunteers at end of 2023 having taken on and fully trained 10 new volunteers during the year and continuing to re-certify those who had lapsed during the pause to training during Covid.

Duties

Cavan County Civil Defence volunteers completed 211 taskings during 2023, in both January and March there were short periods of severe weather and Cavan County Civil Defence assisted the HSE staff, both District Nurses and Hospital Staff with transport. They also assisted the Blood Transfusion on numerous dates throughout the year and assisted the Garda with several searches.

Most of the duties were providing ambulance cover for various community events and football matches and on a few occasions with boat cover at charity swims.

One duty in March consisted of an emergency call in Dowra where a man collapsed



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at the local mart and one of our volunteers responded with an AED and responder kit and working with two other gentlemen they had the patient fully conscious and talking by the time the ambulance reached the scene, four shocks had been delivered to the patient during treatment.



Cavan County Civil Defence Volunteers at a charity road race in Cootehill

Training

Cavan County Civil Defence held a very successful exercise for all volunteers in Virginia in May, during the first half of the day there was a scenario-based competition and in the afternoon, there was a series of workshops highlighting the variety of skills covered by Civil Defence volunteers including Swiftwater Rescue, Open Country Search and Rescue and the use of the Search Dogs, the use of thermal imaging equipment and remote controlled life buoys. The day concluded with a meal in the Lakeside Manor and the presentation of Long Service Medals to Volunteers. This event provided a culmination to the training year, only boat training continued for the Summer months, normal classes resume in October.

Cavan County Civil Defence provided several First Aid and First Response courses for both Council Staff and Community Groups and Secondary Schools throughout the year.



Civil Defence Volunteers at the County Exercise in Virginia in May 2023

New Headquarters and Training Centre

In November 2023, Cavan County Civil Defence took control of their new Headquarters and Training Centre at Pullamore Business Park and classes and all operations were delivered from there from December 2023. The building has proved very popular with all volunteers as the facilities it offers as best in practice.

Tánaiste and Minister of Defence Micheál Martin visited the new Headquarters and Training Centre in May 2023 and thanked Cavan County Council Elected Members and Executive for their support for the project.

Cavan County Council use the Training Room in the building and the Civil Defence Officer, Assistant Civil Defence Officer and many Volunteers have worked hard vehicles and equipment from the Rathcorrick Store to the new building.

The support of Noel O'Reilly (CFO), Margaret McNally (A/HoF) and Tommy Ryan (former CE) must be acknowledged, without their support and guidance this project would never have been realised.



Tánaiste and Minister of Defence Micheál Martin visited the new Headquarters and Training Centre in May 2023

Vehicles

The Department of Defence supplied Cavan County Civil Defence with a grant of €30,000.00 from the Dormant Account Funds and they purchased a 2019 Toyota Hi-Lux Jeep.

National Conference

In November 2023, Cavan County Civil Defence hosted the National Civil Defence Officers Conference in the Farnham Estate Hotel. The event covered two days and was attended by over 300 Civil Defence Officers, Assistant Civil Defence Officers and Volunteers together with the Principal Officer and her Staff from the Civil Defence Branch, the Director of Civil Defence and the Secretary General from the Department of Defence. Cavan County Council Cathaoirleach Phillip Brady opened the Conference, and there was also an opening address from the A/CE Eoin Doyle and the Minister of State with responsibility for EU Affairs and Defence Peter Burke.



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Conclusion

Cavan County Civil Defence continue to assist the People of the County and the Principal Response Agencies and the Volunteers continue to give freely of their time and expertise to deliver whatever assistance is required.

We have no words to express our gratitude to all our wonderful volunteers without whom we could not continue this service.



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STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Cavan County Council - AFS2023 Un-audited (16.04.2024)

SUMMARY OF REVENUE EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ACCOUNT 2023

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Expenditure (A)	94,085	87,100
Receipts		
State Grants	47,533	39,915
Good & Services	18,632	18,398
Commercial Rates	17,695	18,336
Other Local Authorities	182	289
Local Government Fund	10,043	10,163
Total Income (B)	94,085	87,100
(Deficit)/Surplus (B-A=C)	0	0
Opening Revenue		
Balance as at 1st January (D)	1,744	1,743
Closing Revenue		
Closing Balance as at 31st December (C+D+E)	1,744	1,744

Revenue Expenditure 2023

	€'000	% of total Expenditure
Housing and Building	12,410	13.19%
Road, Transport and Safety	29,687	31.55%
Water Supply and Sewerage	14,411	15.32%
Development Incentives and Control	9,379	9.97%
Environmental Services	9,640	10.25%
Recreation and Amenity	7,903	8.40%
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	822	0.87%
Miscellaneous	5,894	6.26%
Transfer to Capital	3,939	4.19%
Total	94,085	100.00%



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Revenue Income 2023

	€'000	% of total Income
Housing and Building	13,679	14.54%
Road, Transport and Safety	21,503	22.85%
Water Supply and Sewerage	14,246	15.14%
Development Incentives and Control	4,631	4.92%
Environmental Services	2,498	2.65%
Recreation and Amenity	2,400	2.55%
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	699	0.74%
Miscellaneous	6,692	7.11%
Rates	17,695	18.81%
Local Government Fund	10,043	10.67%
Total	94,085	100.00%

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ACCOUNT 2023

	2023 Expenditure €'000	2023 Income €'000
Programme Group		
Housing and Building	23,512	19,598
Road, Transport and Safety	30,233	27,369
Water Supply and Sewerage	1,361	1,246
Development Incentives and Control	2,593	5,481
Environmental Services	1,369	84
Recreation and Amenity	6,723	3,469
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	0	0
Miscellaneous	407	875
Total	66,197	58,122

	2023 €'000
Opening Balance (Debit)/Credit as at 1st January	25,525
Expenditure	66,197
Income	58,122
Transfers to Revenue	1,685
Net Transfers from Revenue Account	5,260
Closing Balance (Debit)/Credit as at 31st December	21,025

Cavan County Council - AFS2022 Un-audited (27.04.2023)



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