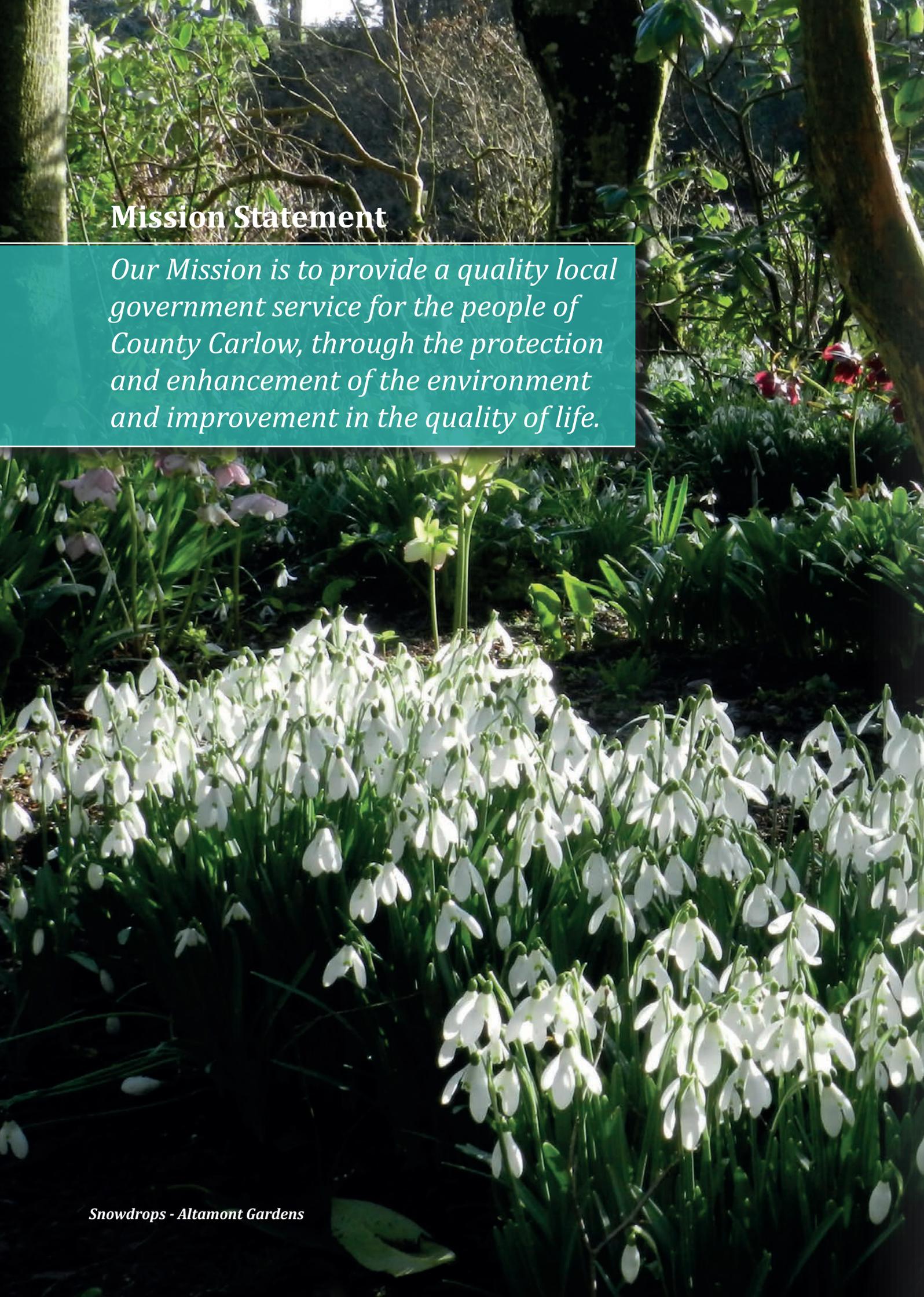




COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH
CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Annual Report 2022



Mission Statement

Our Mission is to provide a quality local government service for the people of County Carlow, through the protection and enhancement of the environment and improvement in the quality of life.

Table of Contents

Joint Foreword Note	2
About Our Council	3
Council Meetings 2022	6
Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs).....	7
Joint Policing Committee	9
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	10
Corporate Affairs.....	11
Health And Safety	16
Human Resources.....	16
Planning & Development.....	17
Local Enterprise Office, Economic Development & Special Project Development	20
Economic Development	22
Environment & Climate Action	24
Water Services.....	30
Emergency Services & Building Control	32
Roads, Transportation & Special Projects	38
Carlow County Civil Defence.....	44
Housing Department.....	46
Ukrainian Humanitarian Response.....	48
Community, Recreation and Amenity	49
Carlow Sports Partnership (GSP).....	53
Arts Service.....	55
Museum.....	58
Carlow County Library	61
Heritage Services	66
Motor Tax	68
Appendices	69
Appendix 1 Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) at 31st December 2022	70
Appendix 2 Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Account Statement) For year ended 31st December 2021.....	71
Appendix 3 Elected Members Attendance at Conferences / Training 2022	72
Appendix 4 Elected Members Attendance at Meetings held in 2022	74
Appendix 5 Payments to Elected Members in 2022.....	75
Appendix 6 Human Rights	76
Appendix 7 Senior Management Team.....	77
Appendix 8 Local Operating Environment	78
Appendix 9 Organisational Structure	79



Joint Foreword Note

Carlow is a progressive, vibrant County which is attractive, inclusive and accessible. Carlow County Council (CCC) is committed to providing the highest quality public services for local residents, visitors and for new and existing companies. Creating an environment for economic growth and excellent quality of life for all is a priority for this Council.

We are pleased to introduce the Carlow County Council Annual Report 2022, which outlines the work of the Council in delivering important public services during the year, all of which contribute to making County Carlow an attractive place in which to work, live, visit and do business. 2022 saw an easing of the coronavirus pandemic across world, which had a lesser effect of the delivery of Council Services, with most services returning to normal.

Council meetings have now moved to a hybrid model, while some meetings moved entirely online. We wish to thank staff, elected members and the public for their adaptability in moving to new ways of working and delivering to our customers and constituents. The Council has adapted the Council Chamber and its other main meeting rooms to provide the technology to facilitate hybrid meetings which it is expected will be the new model of working into the future.

2022 also saw the retirement of our Chief Executive, Kathleen Holohan and we thank Kathleen for her commitment to Carlow County Council and her contribution across the Local Government Sector during her long career. Michael Rainey has been appointed as interim Chief Executive, pending the filling of the post by the Public Appointments Service.

As we move from 2022 into 2023, we look forward to continuing to deliver the Council's Services, efficiently and effectively to all our customers. 2023 will also see an accelerated focus on climate change, active travel, heritage and biodiversity initiatives in addition to the Council's regular services and supports to individuals, businesses and communities.



Brian O'Donoghue
Cathaoirleach



Michael Rainey
Interim Chief Executive



About Our Council

The County of Carlow (Contae Cheatharlach) is located inland within the South East of Ireland in the province of Leinster covering an area of 896 square kilometers. The County is strategically located and has excellent access to transport infrastructure through its location on the M9 Dublin Waterford motorway, the Dublin Waterford main rail line and the N80 national road linking Rosslare Europort to the Midlands.

The population of County Carlow recorded in the 2022 census was 61,931. The county town of Carlow is located in the northwest of the County along the border with County Laois.

The Council is made up of 18 elected members within 3 municipal districts (Carlow, Tullow and Muinebheag). With the Cathaoirleach elected by the members annually.

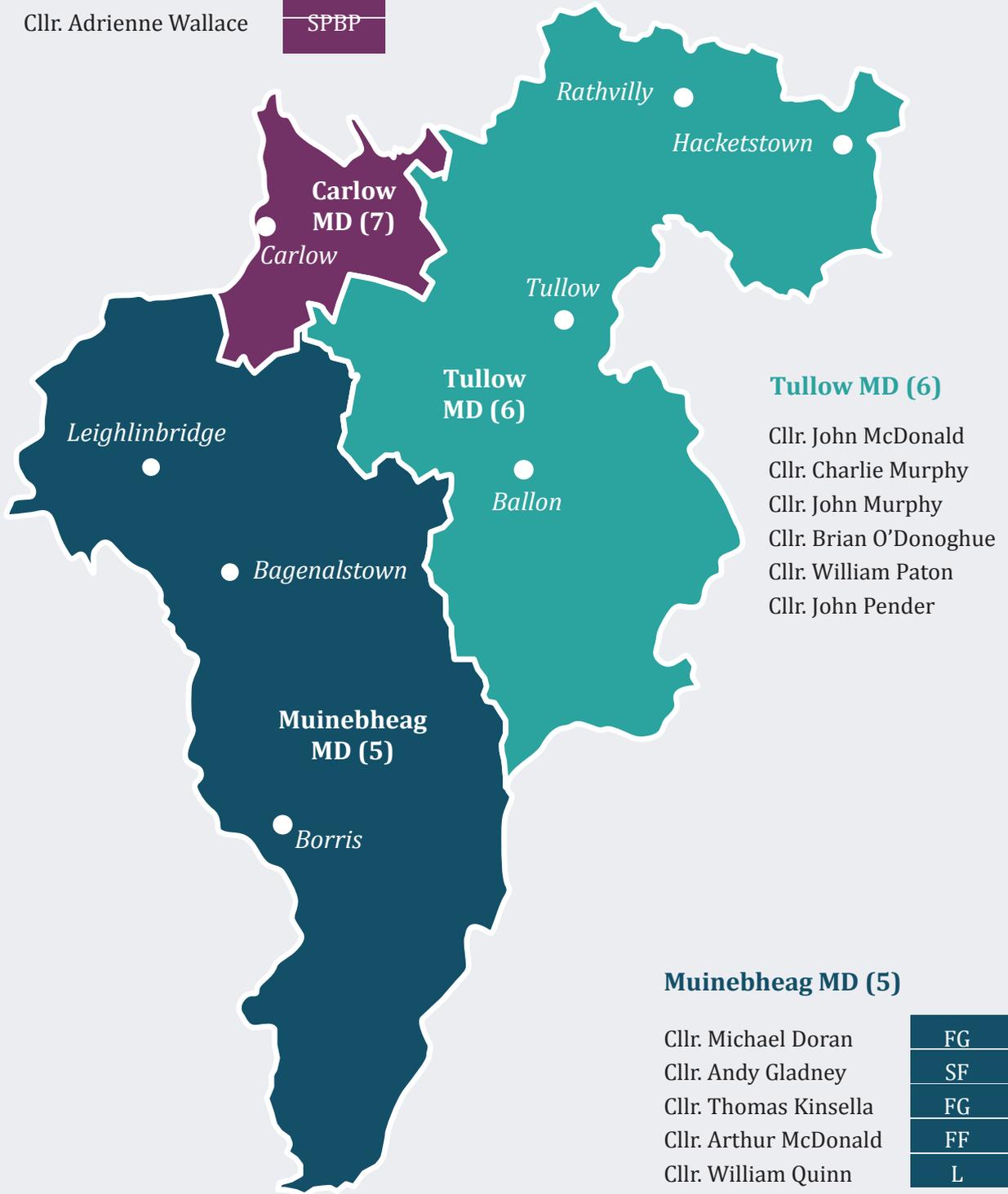
Along with the Corporate Policy Group, 4 Strategic Policy Committees develop and recommend policy to the Council. Committees are made up of elected members and representatives designated external sectoral interests.



Carlow MD (7)

Cllr. Fergal Browne
 Cllr. John Cassin
 Cllr. Andrea Dalton
 Cllr. Ken Murnane
 Cllr. Tom O'Neill
 Cllr. Fintan Phelan
 Cllr. Adrienne Wallace

FG
No Party
FF
FF
FG
FF
SPBP



Tullow MD (6)

Cllr. John McDonald
 Cllr. Charlie Murphy
 Cllr. John Murphy
 Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue
 Cllr. William Paton
 Cllr. John Pender

FF
No Party
FG
FG
L
FF

Muinebheag MD (5)

Cllr. Michael Doran
 Cllr. Andy Gladney
 Cllr. Thomas Kinsella
 Cllr. Arthur McDonald
 Cllr. William Quinn

FG
SF
FG
FF
L

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CARLOW



Cllr. Fergal Browne



Cllr. John Cassin



Cllr. Andrea Dalton



Cllr. Ken Murnane



Cllr. Tom O'Neill



Cllr. Fintan Phelan



Cllr. Adrienne Wallace



Cllr. John McDonald



Cllr. Charlie Murphy



Cllr. John Murphy

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TULLOW



Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue



Cllr. William Paton



Cllr. John Pender

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MUINEBHEAG



Cllr. Michael Doran



Cllr. Andy Gladney



Cllr. Thomas Kinsella



Cllr. Arthur McDonald



Cllr. William Quinn



Council Meetings 2022



13 Plenary Council



17 SPC Meetings



3 JPC



12 Carlow Municipal District



13 Municipal District of Tullow



10 Municipal District of Muinebheag



5 Traveller Accommodation Committee



11 Corporate Policy Group



11 LCDC/ LAG Meetings



Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

The purpose of Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) is to formulate, develop, monitor, and review policies which relate to the functions of Carlow County Council and to advise the Council accordingly.

CCC operates 4 SPC's, each served by a Director of Service. The Chairs of the SPC's are selected by the Council at the AGM.

Planning, Environment, Climate and Bio-Diversity Action, Energy and Agriculture Strategic Policy Committee



Chaired by:

Cllr. Thomas Kinsella

Council Members:

Cllr. Fergal Browne, Cllr. Charlie Murphy, Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue, Cllr. William Paton, Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Cllr. Adrienne Wallace.

External Members:

Liam Kelly, Brian O'Farrell, Liam O'Brien (PPN) Matthew English-Hayden (PPN) George Collier (Agriculture Farming IFA)

Housing, Community and Wellbeing Strategic Policy Committee



Chaired by:

Cllr. Arthur McDonald

Council Members:

Cllr. John Cassin, Cllr. Andrea Dalton, Cllr. Andy Gladney, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Tom O'Neill, Cllr. William Quinn.

External Members:

Joe Butler (PPN), Ahmed Adam (PPN Social Inclusion) Eileen Brophy Development/Construction/Chambers Ireland, John McHugh PPN Environment

The SPC met 4 times in 2022, the following is a summary of the issues discussed:

- Carlow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028
- Update on Biodiversity and Invasive Species Policy
- Policy for Columbarium Wall at St. Mary's Cemetery, Carlow
- Burial Ground Byelaws
- Green Procurement Policy
- Update on Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) report
- Decarbonisation Zones
- Powerstown Access for All Project

The SPC met 5 times in 2022, the following is a summary of the issues discussed:

- Local Economic & Community Plan 2022-2027
- Housing for All – Policy changes and delivery mechanisms
- Inspections of Private Rented Accommodation – Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019
- Presentation on Community Plot Policy
- Presentation on Affordable Housing
- Differential Rent and HAP Rent Calculations
- Changes to HAP Discretionary Levels
- Energy Efficiency Programme
- First Home Scheme



Culture, Libraries and Digital Development, Tourism, Enterprise and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee

Chaired by:

Cllr. Michael Doran

Council Members:

Cllr. Andrea Dalton, Cllr. John McDonald, Cllr. John Murphy, Cllr. Tom O'Neill, Cllr. John Pender.

External Members:

Brian O'Farrell, Business/Commercial/Chambers Ireland, Eileen O'Rourke, PPN Community/Voluntary, Jolly O'Rock, PPN Social Inclusion



Transportation & Infrastructural Strategic Policy Committee

Chaired by:

Cllr. William Paton

Council Members:

Cllr. Michael Doran, Cllr. Andy Gladney, Cllr. John McDonald, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue.

External Members:

John Brophy, Business/Commercial/Chambers Ireland, Jackie Meally (PPN Community/Voluntary) Rowena Dooley, Development/Construction/Chambers Ireland, John Tully, PPN Environment/Conservation

The SPC met 5 times in 2022, the following is a summary of the issues discussed:

- Strategic Policy Work Programme – Economic Development 2022
- Update on St. Mullins Tourism & Heritage Strategy
- InCarlow – Economic Development & Business Support Strategy 2022-2027
- 2022/2023 Draft Work Plan Culture, Libraries and Digital Development, Tourism, Enterprise and Economic Development
- Craft & Social Enterprise Development Strategy
- Library Customer Satisfaction Survey
- The Local Authority Museums Network (LAMN) Strategy 2022-2026
- Local Economic & Community Plan update

The SPC met 4 times in 2022, the following is a summary of the issues discussed:

- Update from Carlow PPN
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infra
- Carlow Town Bus Service
- Columbarium Wall operational procedures
- Development of a Fire Safety Plan
- Draft policy on the standardization of private well construction
- Update on decorative paving policy and permeability policy
- Update on nature-based SUDs Project, Rathvilly
- Green Infrastructure Strategy
- National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) Speed Limits Manual Guidelines



Joint Policing Committee

The Garda Síochána Act 2005 (Section 36) provides for the establishment of a Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in each Local Authority. The overall aim of the JPC is to serve as a forum for consultation, discussion and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the County of Carlow.

Chairperson:

Cllr. Michael Doran

Council Members:

Cllr. Fergal Browne, Cllr. John Cassin, Cllr. Andrea Dalton, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Tom O'Neill, Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Cllr. John McDonald, Cllr. John Murphy, Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue, Cllr. William Paton, Cllr. John Pender, Cllr. Arthur McDonald

Oireachtas Members:

Malcolm Noonan TD, Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD

Executive Members:

Michael Rainey, Interim Chief Executive, Kieran Cullinane, Acting Director of Services Planning, Economic Development & Corporate

PPN Community Representatives:

Martin Tuite, Michael Nolan and Caroline Dargan

Garda Representatives:

Chief Superintendent Padraig Dunne, Kilkenny and Superintendent Aidan Brennan, Carlow

Other Community Representatives:

John Brophy, Chamber of Commerce, Anton Scheele, Carlow Women's Aid, Michael Lyons, Carlow Town Community First Responders PPN, William Roche, Develop Tullow Association



Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Carlow County Council Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was established in 2014 for the purposes of developing, coordinating, and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development in the County.

The LCDC consists of 19 members both statutory and non-statutory including 4 elected members.

Carlow LCDC held 11 meetings during 2022.

Statutory Interests	
Cllr. Andrea Dalton	Elected Member
Cllr. Thomas Kinsella	Elected Member
Cllr. Tom O'Neill	Elected Member
Cllr Willie Quinn	Elected Member
Michael Rainey	Interim Chief Executive, CCC
Kieran Comerford	Head of Enterprise, CCC
Noel Barry	Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Sarah Barron	Kilkenny/Carlow Education & Training Board Health Service Executive
Joan-Ita Murphy	Health Service Executive
Non-Statutory Interests	
Vacant	Bagenalstown Improvement Group (Community and Voluntary PPN Representative)
Padraig Dooley	Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society (Community and Voluntary PPN Representative)
Lynda Stacey	Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre (Social Inclusion PPN Representative)
John Murphy	BEAM, Bagenalstown (Social Inclusion PPN Representative)
Molly Aylesbury	Carlow Environmental Network (Environmental College PPN Representative)
Annette Fox	Carlow County Development Partnership CLG
Rowena Dooley	Carlow Chamber (Business Employer)
George Hatton	Agricultural/Farming
Vacant	Arts & Culture - Civic Society
Eileen O'Rourke	Carlow Tourism



Corporate Affairs



3

No. Subject Access Request

56

No. of Freedom of Information applications received



44,067

No. of Electors registered to vote



Corporate Affairs provides an effective and efficient support service to An Cathaoirleach, the Elected Members and Senior Management along with general services to members of the public. Monitoring and reviewing the Council's policies and procedures on an ongoing basis. It is also responsible for the provision and management of a wide range of services which include;

- Management of Council, Corporate Policy Group, Carlow MD and JPC Meetings, Attendance of Councillors at Conferences
- Payment of Councillors Allowances and Expenses, Civic Receptions, Linkage with National Bodies such as LAMA and ACCC, and Joint Policing Committees
- Preparation of Statutory Reports; Chief Executive Monthly Report, Annual Report, Service Delivery Plan, Corporate Plan
- Register of Electors & Local Elections
- Customer Service, Corporate Communications – Press Releases
- Co-Ordination of Customer Service Performance Indicators
- Coroners Court, Management of Council Property
- Corporate Governance, Ethics & Donation Register
- Freedom of Information, Ombudsman, Data Protection, Protected Disclosures, Archive Services
- Irish Language Scheme, Disability Plan
- Schools Business Programme Partnership
- Service Indicators co-ordination
- Major Emergency Management – Communications. Liaison with public, media and Councillors including during severe weather conditions



Sam Watson, Cathaoirleach Fintan Phelan, Michael Rainey and Marcus Lawler



Mayoral Awards

Civic Receptions

A Civic Reception was held on the 18th of May 2022 in recognition of Marcus Lawler and Sam Watson for their outstanding contribution to sporting in Carlow and to honour their achievements in qualifying for and competing in the Tokyo Olympics. The event took place in the Dolmen Hotel Carlow and was attended by Elected Members, officials, family members and friends.

Mayoral Reception

The Mayor of Carlow Municipal District, Ken Murnane and members of Carlow County Council hosted a Mayoral Reception, to honour local groups and individuals for their outstanding achievements and work within the community. This event took place on 8th of June 2022, in the Town Hall Carlow.

The following received Mayor awards:

- Randal Dempsey, Promotion of John Tyndall
- Fr. Conn O'Maoldhomhnaigh, Carlow College
- Justin Kelly, The Back Line

- Bride de Roiste, St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Ken Tucker, Carlow Tidy Towns
- Eugene Walsh, Community Volunteer

Light-up For Awareness

Corporate Affairs organised many awareness-raising 'light ups' for various charities and causes throughout 2022.

These included:

- YELLOW for Irish Cancer Society, Daffodil Day (25th March 2022)
- GREEN for Organ Donor Awareness Week, Kidney Association (27th April 2022)
- BLUE for Make a Wish (28th April 2022)



County Buildings Light-up for Organ Donation Week

- PURPLE Domestic Abuse (29th April 2022)
- BLUE for Neurofibromatosis Awareness (20th May 2022)

Register of Electors

The Council is responsible for the compilation of the Register of Electors for the County of Carlow. Under the new Electoral Reform Act 2022, a national program 'Modernisation of the Electoral Register' was carried out to reform the electoral registration process. It provides for rolling, or continuous registration, which will standardise and simplify the process.

To support greater participation, several additional features were also provided for, including the facilitation of anonymous registration for persons whose safety may be at risk if their names are published in the register; provisions to enable pre-registration for 16 and 17 year olds; arrangements for those with no fixed address; and bringing better and more flexible options for people who because of mental health difficulties are not able to attend polling stations to vote.

The total number of electors registered to vote in 2022 was **44,059** with a total of 16,416 in the Carlow Local Electorate area, 13,004 in Muinebheag and 14,639 in the Tullow area.

Presidential Electors	41,991
Dáil Electors	42,494
European Electors	42,970
Potential European Electors	64

Voters are urged to check the register at www.checktheregister.ie to ensure they are registered, and their details are correct.

Customer Services

The staff at the Customer Services desk in County Hall continue to provide front-line services to the public whether it be in person, by email or by phone.

Corporate Property

The Corporate Affairs Section is responsible for all Corporate Property (Except Social Housing and Roads) and the maintenance and upkeep of same. Property related supports and services were provided including, conveyancing of sales, purchases and leases of property to and from other parties, Section 183's, land-related queries, insurance, and facility management.

Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI)

Carlow County Council have been involved for several years now with the BITCI skills @ Work Programme in partnership with Tyndall College. This program encourages school completion and gives the student the opportunity to consider the many and varied career and study options open to them when they finish school. Students gain insights



BITCI Skills at Work Programme with Tyndall College Students & CCC

into the working role of CCC within their community, and they see first-hand potential career paths that can be open to them.

The students attended a number of talks online and in person on the services, roles and responsibilities of local government, 'a day in the life' talk where CCC staff gave an insight into various careers within local government, followed by a remote visit to the Chamber. The final phase of the programme involved Corporate Affairs delivering CV and interview preparation advice to the students followed by mock interviews and delivering feedback by Corporate Staff. The annual assessments of the scheme have been very positive over the last number of years.

Data Protection

Carlow County Council processes all personal information in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 and the Data Protection Acts, 1988 to 2018. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies from 25th May 2018. It has general application to the processing of personal data in the EU, setting out more extensive obligations on data controllers and processors, and providing strengthened protections and rights for data subjects. The Data Protection Officer (DPO) has actively engaged with sections in carrying out Data Privacy Impact Assessments and addressing any risks identified.

Records Management & Archives

Corporate Affairs is responsible for the implementation of the National Retention Policy for Local Authority Records, and for development of the County Archives Service. The Carlow County Council Archives Centre is located on O'Brien Road in Carlow Town and ensures that records are documented and archived correctly.

Council Meetings

Carlow County Council has **18** Elected Members which represent 3 municipal districts of Carlow, Tullow and Muinebheag. Corporate Affairs manages CCC Council Meetings, Carlow Municipal District Meetings, Corporate Policy Group meetings and Deputation.

Chief Executive Monthly Progress Report to Council

The Chief Executive prepares a monthly report (In accordance with Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014) of each directorate/section, detailing service delivery and important achievements across the organisation during the month. This report is an agenda item at every monthly Council meeting and questions are taken from members on any aspect of the report.

This report also serves as a mechanism through which members have oversight of the progress on the implementation of the Corporate Plan and Annual Budget.

The National Performance Indicators for 2022

The council's performance is measured by a series of Performance Indicators (44) set out nationally by the National Oversight and Audit Commission. Carlow was selected for a random evaluation process in which Corporate Affairs facilitated.

Privacy Statement

Carlow County Council is committed to protecting and respecting privacy. Carlow County Council's Privacy Statement lets you know how we look after your personal data. It also informs you as to our obligations and your rights under data protection law.

Official Language Act 2003

Carlow County Council continues to implement the Official Language Act 2003 and it is committed to delivering on all aspects of Carlow County Councils Irish Language Scheme. This included working with all departments to assist them in compliance with the legislation and promotion of the Irish language in all elements of service delivery and informing staff of the Councils obligations regarding Carlow County Councils Language Scheme.

Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014 gives legal rights to those seeking access to information held by public bodies covered by the Act.

The following is the breakdown of decisions made on these requests.

Applications Received	56
Journalists	22
Business/Interest Groups	8
Oireachtas/Public Members	2
Staff	1
Clients	20
Other	3
Requests Granted	20
Requests Refused	24
Requests Part-Granted	9
Requests Withdrawn	1
Carried Over 2023	23
Internal Reviews	3
Appeals to Information Commissioner	2

Ombudsman

The Office of the Ombudsman was established under the Ombudsman Act 1980, to examine complaints from members of the public who feel they have been unfairly treated in their dealings with state bodies including Local Authorities.

Carlow County Council received 5 complaints in 2022.

Ethics Register

The role of Ethics Registrar is set out in Part 15 of Local Government Act, 2001 and is managed by Corporate Affairs and Governance. Annual Declarations for 2022 from all relevant employees and elected members were received and made publicly available within the statutory period.

Local Elections Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure Act 1999

Pursuant to this requirement, Carlow County Council hereby confirms that there were no donations and expenditures for 2022. Copy of declarations submitted were published on the website along with all payments made to Councillors, including the representational payment, the allowance and travel and subsistence payments.

Protected Disclosures

Section 22 of the Protected disclosures Act 2014 requires the publication of an annual report relative to Protected Disclosures received. Pursuant to this requirement, Carlow County Council hereby confirms that there were no protected disclosures received in 2022.

Southeast First Citizens Forum

In March 2022 the Cathaoirlioh and Chief Executives of five local authorities of the South East (Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford) teamed together to address the structural challenges facing the South East. This regional collaboration initiative of the 5 local authorities is the first office of its kind in Ireland and is aimed at developing a prosperous future for everybody in the region.

The seven priorities identified were:

- South East Technological University
- South East Innovation Fun
- Investment in South East Ports
- 40 new IDA companies in South East and a new IDA property in each county by 2024
- A specific Enterprise Ireland Regional Director for the South East
- Upgrades of N24 and N80 road connections
- Provision of a 24/7 Cardiac Care Centre for the South East

The Forum conduct meetings with Oireachtas members once a month and in June 2022 CCC took the lead role in facilitating meetings. 4 meetings have been held since June 2022



Health And Safety

In 2022, Carlow County Council continued to implement its Occupational Health and Safety Management System and seek continuous improvement in Health and Safety.

A particular focus was put on the implementation of a health and safety document control app for the management of health and safety documents and forms such as SSWPs, Traffic Management Plans, Vehicle and Equipment checks implementing it initially in the Transportation Department with the objective being to extend it for use in other departments. The app is also being used to carry out safety inspections as

per the councils ongoing safety inspection programme. 72 no. health and safety inspections were carried out in 2022. There were no serious incidents reported with a significant decrease in IR1 reportable incidents. Continuous consultation and communication with staff during the year and proactive checking ensures safety, health and welfare best practice is adhered to.



Human Resources



386

Headcount as at
31/12/2022



Full Time
Employment

317.87

Including 45
retained fire fighters



37

No. of Interviews
Held



767.75

Training &
Development
Courses Held



59

No. of Posts
Advertised

The Human Resources Section (HR) is involved in the administration of statutory employment provisions, and the staffing policies, procedures and schemes adopted by Management.

The Section is also responsible for Recruitment, Training and Development, Time & Attendance Management, Superannuation, effective Employment

Engagement, Industrial Relations, Equality & Diversity, Work Life Balance, delivery of the Staff Wellbeing Service and provision of support to the organisation.



Planning & Development



457

No. of Planning Applications Received



367

Valid Applications



90

Invalid Applications



98

No. of Enforcement complaints



7

No. of Derelict Sites complaints



8

No. of Dangerous Structures complaints



2

No. Housing Developments TIC



18

No. of Enforcement Notices Served



29

No. of Derelict Site notices issued



13

No. of Potential Breach of the Short-Term Lettings Regulations

The overall objective of the Planning Department is to promote the development of the County in a manner which facilitates sustainable economic and social progress. The day-to-day operation of the department covers a number of functional areas namely development management, planning enforcement, compliance, taking in charge of residential developments, derelict sites, dangerous structures and forward planning.

Development Management

Carlow County Council received a total of 457 planning applications during 2022. The following is a breakdown of decisions made during 2022 by Carlow County Council:

Valid Applications	367
Invalid Applications	90
Applications Granted	334
Applications Refused	30
Pre-planning Consultations	76

Enforcement

The Planning Department in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) seeks to ensure that planning permissions are complied with. All written complaints of unauthorised development, where they appear to be well founded, are investigated. Following an investigation of a bone fide complaint the commencement of the enforcement steps are initiated by the issue of a Warning Letter followed by the issue of an Enforcement Notice should the matter not be satisfactorily resolved following the issue of a Warning Letter. In the event of non-compliance with the Enforcement Notice legal proceedings are initiated.

A total of **98** complaints were received during 2022.

Warning letters issued	60
Enforcement notices served	18
Legal proceedings initiated	1
Cases closed	101
Ongoing Court Proceedings	12

Taking of Estates in Charge

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requests to take estates in charge can be made by the Developer or the majority of the owners residing in the development. The Planning and Development Act 2010 allows the Local Authority to take part of an estate in charge. A total of **1** request to take developments in charge was received in 2022.

The following housing developments were taken in charge during 2022;
Millrace Green, Burrin Road, Carlow and Rivercourt – (Phase 4 & 5), O'Brien Road, Carlow

Derelict Sites

Derelict sites are dealt with in accordance with the Derelict Sites Act 1990. A total of **7** complaints were received during 2022.

Notices Issued	29
Notices/Letters complied with	13
Derelict Sites on register at 1st January 2022	26
Derelict Sites on Register at 31st December 2022	24
Derelict Sites with Levy Applied	7
Properties Acquired through a Compulsory Purchase Order	1

Dangerous Structures

Dangerous Structures are dealt with in accordance with the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1964. A total of 8 complaints were received in 2022.

Notices/Letters Issued	16
Notices complied with by the Owner/Occupier	6
Notices complied with by Carlow County Council completing works	0

Residential Zoned Land Tax

Action 15.2 of Housing for All specifically identifies the introduction of a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes, this tax is known as the Residential Zoned Land Tax and will replace the vacant site levy.

All Local Authorities have been tasked with preparing maps which identify land which fall within the scope of the tax. The mapping was placed on public display in the Council Offices, Libraries and on line. Following consideration of submissions received a supplementary map will be published in May 2023 with publication of the Final Map to take place in December 2023. Once the mapping of the land which is in scope is undertaken, management of the Residential Zoned Land Tax, including liability, payment, and enforcement, will be undertaken by the Revenue Commissioners.

Short-Term Letting

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (No. 2) Regulations 2019 gave effect to legislation regarding Short-Term Lettings. The legislation came into effect on 1st July 2019. On 26th September 2019 the Carlow Local Electoral Area was designated as a Rent Pressure Zone and consequently, new regulations regarding Short Term Lettings were enforceable by Carlow County Council during 2022.

Properties identified as potentially in breach of the Short-Term Lettings Regulations	13
Investigations Completed	9
Warning Letters Issued	4

FORWARD PLANNING

Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028

The review of the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2022 commenced in 2020 and continued during 2022.

The Elected Members resolved to make the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 as recommended by the Chief Executive and as further modified by way of motions and resolutions at the Special Council Meeting on 23rd May 2022, and to proceed in accordance with Section 12(12) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to publish notice of the making of the Plan. The new Plan came into effect from Monday 4th July 2022.

Tullow and Muine Bheag/Royal Oak Local Area Plans 2017-2023

The existing Local Area Plans for Tullow and Muine Bheag/Royal Oak cover the period 2017-2023 and are due to expire in the first quarter of 2023. A Chief Executive's Report issued to the Elected Members pursuant to Section 19 and having considered same the Elected Members at the Council meeting held on 3rd February resolved to extend the life of the Tullow and Muinebheag/Royal Oak Local Area Plans by period of 1 year (i.e. to 2024) under Section 12 of Planning & Development Act 2010.

Carlow-Graigucullen Joint Urban Local Area Plan 2023-2029

The Planning Authority in conjunction with Laois County Council, commenced the review of the Draft Joint Urban Area Plan for the Carlow-Graigucullen Greater Urban Area in Q4 of 2022. The first round of public consultation has been completed and included the publication of a pre-draft Issues Paper. A Chief Executive's Report was prepared on the submissions received and issued to the Elected Members of both Local Authorities for consideration. The drafting of the Carlow-Graigucullen Joint Urban Local Area Plan is underway with publication of the Draft in Q2 of 2023.



Local Enterprise Office, Economic Development & Special Project Development



56

The no. of Jobs created with assistance from the LEO



361

The no. of participants who received mentoring during 2022



1,160

No. of participants for All Training/Development Programmes



12

No. of companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert



63

No. of start your Own business participants



€10,450.93

Total value of Streetscape Paint Schemes funded



45

The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2022

Enterprise Ireland - Service Level Agreement

The output for 2022 in respect of the Service Level Agreement with Enterprise Ireland in respect of the operation of the Local Enterprise Office was as follows:

Training Participants	1160
Training Programmes	54
Mentoring Participants	361
Lean for Micro Grants Approved	12
Trading Online Vouchers Approved	45

No. of Clients Approved Funding	Amt Approved
12 X Business Expansion Grants	€341,737.83
7 X Priming Grants	€142,021.72
5 X Feasibility Grants	€50,700.00
45 X TOV Vouchers	€97,409.64



Kathleen Holohan, Chief Executive at opening of Carlow Exchange



Cathaoirleach, Brian O'Donoghue and Mayor, Fintan Phelan, Carlow Exchange



Economic Development

Ireland South East

Ireland South East Office Carlow County Council provided funding to the Ireland South East Office for the co-ordination of a variety of actions in the area of economic development and business support. The Council published the South East Remote working study on behalf of the South East Local Authorities and engaged in the development of the New Regional Jobs Plan.

Carlow Tourism

CCC supported the Annual Plan for Carlow Tourism under their MOU with Carlow Tourism and strategic framework for the future support of the Tourism Sector in County Carlow

Community Enterprise Centre

CCC secured priming under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund in partnership with Carlow Community Enterprise Centre and commenced development of a series of enterprise spaces across County Carlow.

Economic Marketing

CCC commissioned a variety of publications in association with the Sunday Business Post, Sunday Independent, RTE, KCLR and the Nationalist during 2023 including support a Shop Local Campaign as part of County Carlow – A Festive Family Experience.

Employment Survey 2022

The 2022 employment survey of Measure 1 clients (Manufacturing & Internationally Traded Services) was published by the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment in January. The Local Enterprise Office now supports 219 client businesses who employ 1,101 people. These client businesses created 243 new jobs in 2022 with a net increase of 56 jobs. This is the 9th consecutive year the Local Enterprise Office has reported an increase in employment in client businesses.



Minister of State, Peter Burke TD; Kieran Comerford, Carlow County Council; Jennifer Harte, Gas Networks Ireland; Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Mayor, Carlow Municipal District; Melissa Doyle, Local Enterprise Office; Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue, Cathaoirleach, Carlow County Council; Ian Talbot, Chambers Ireland

Rural Regeneration & Development Fund: Vision Rathvilly

CCC in partnership with the Community was awarded €220,000 for a project called Vision Rathvilly' involves the pre-development of a village regeneration project in Rathvilly, involving a multi-purpose hub in a former school premises that will provide social, cultural, economic and community facilities.

Capital Projects – Special Project

Our Rural Future: The Economic Development section continued to engage with the funding opportunities under our Rural Future which in 2022 included:

- Town & Village Scheme
- Connected Hubs
- Town & Village Streetscape Scheme
- Town & Village Building Acquisition Measure
- Rural Regeneration & Development Fund.

Development & EU Funding:

The Council continued to lead the delivery of Craft Hub project under Creative Europe. CCC completed an EU Funding project called RU:RBAN Second Wave as part of Urbact which received an award at Chambers

Ireland – Excellence in Local Government Awards.

The Council was successful in two EU funding applications in 2022, Athena which is in the area of Digital Female Entrepreneurship under Erasmus Plus and InnoCom which is a project in respect of business engagement under Interreg Europe.

Christmas 2022 Programme

Carlow's Christmas Programme, County Carlow - A Festive Family Experience was delivered in partnership in 2022 includes a series of events under Lightfest which were attended by over 10,000 people.

Carlow Exchange Official Opening & Programme

During 2022 the official opening of the Carlow Exchange was held in Potato Market in Carlow. The Exchange is a semi-covered outdoor space of 332 square meters which has been designed to be a new, unique and innovative event space in the heart of Carlow Town. A series of public events were held in the space in Qtr. 4, 2022 which were attended by 12,000 people.





Environment & Climate Action



28

No. bring sites operated by CCC



2

Civic Amenity Sites at Powerstown and Kernanstown



2,635

Tonnes of waste collected in 2021



1,700

hours of waste and recycling services provided



31,505

No. of visitors to Powerstown, increase of 4,509 from 2019



Due to increase custom and volumes Powerstown has opened **5 days a week**



Approx

2,635

Tonnes of material was removed from the site



160

No. of Fines issued under the Litter Pollution Act



900

No. routine Waste Inspections



99

No. non routine waste inspections

Environment & Climate Action Department of Carlow County Council performs a wide range of functions that are growing annually as new legislation is introduced, new national priorities emerge and work practices within the organisation change.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of functions:

- Climate Adaptation & Mitigation
- Environmental Compliant Management
- Waste Management – Enforcement & Licensing
- Operation of Civic Amenity Sites and Bring Centres
- Litter Prevention & Control
- Environmental Education & Awareness
- Water Pollution/Water Framework Directive
- Air Pollution
- Farm Inspection and Nutrient Management
- Environmental Planning
- Noise Pollution
- Burial Grounds
- Rural Water/Small Private Supplies
- Energy Management & Targets
- Resource Efficiency Planning
- Veterinary
- Miscellaneous Environmental Legislation

Inspections 2021

Inspections	Planned	Completed
Routine Waste Inspections	787	996
Non-Routine Waste Inspections	90	60
Routine Litter Inspections	1024	1028
Route Water / Wastewater Inspections	516	446
Non-Route Water / Wastewater Inspections	16	44
Route Air / Noise Inspections	76	89
Non-Routine Air / Noise Inspections	5	20
Routine Producer Responsibility Inspections	75	139
Planning Inspections	518	218

Enforcement Actions	
Waste	
Waste 'warning letters'	69
Section 14 WMA (Direction)	1
Section 18 WMA (info)	0
Section 55 WMA (measures)	1
Section 56 WMA	0
Section 71 WMA (abdnd. cars)	45
Article 25 Notices under Packaging Regulation	0
Article 12 of the Commercial Food Waste Regulations 2009	0
Number of Fixed Payment Notices under the Waste Collection Permit Regulations	3
Number of Fines issued under the Litter Pollution Act	30
Number of recommendations to NWCPO to review waste collection permits	0
Other	19
Total Waste Enforcement Actions Initiated during reporting year	168
Water/Wastewater	
Water pollution 'warning letters'	6
Section 12 Notice WPA	1
Section 23 Notices WPA (req. info)	1
Section 110 Notices Public Health Act	0
Directions issued to private water supplies	16
Number of Boil Water Notices	0
Population affected by Boil Water Notices	0
Total Water/Wastewater Enforcement Actions Initiated during reporting year	24

Agriculture	
Agri pollution 'warning letters'	1
NONCs to DAFF	0
Section 26(8) GAP Regs	0
Section 12 Notice WPA	3
Section 23 Notices WPA	1
Total Agri Enforcement Actions Initiated during reporting year	5
Air (incl. Odour/Dust)	
Air 'warning letters'	9
Solvents 'warning letters'	18
Deco Paints 'warning letters'	11
Section 16 APA (info)	0
Section 26 APA (measures)	0
Enforcement actions under solid fuel regulations (S.I. 326 of 2012)	0
Fixed payment notices under solid fuel regulations (S.I. 326 of 2012)	0
Section 110 Notices Public Health Act	0
Total Air Enforcement Actions Initiated during reporting year	38
Noise	
Noise 'warning letters'	1
Section 107 EPA (notice)	0
Total Noise Enforcement Actions Initiated during reporting year	1
Producer Responsibility Initiatives	
PRI Fixed Payment Notices (Waste Management Act)	0
Total PRI Enforcement Actions Initiated during reporting year	0
Grand Total Enforcement Actions Initiated during reporting year	236

Bottle Banks

In 2022, Carlow County Council facilitated the recycling of 1,165 tonnes of Glass and 40 tonnes of Aluminum and tin cans at all of our 28 sites throughout Carlow. There was a decrease on the previous years' quantity by approximately 10% of materials recycled at the bottle bank network.

Powerstown Civic Amenity Site

During 2022 a total of 27,275 customers were served at Powerstown Civic Amenity Site. A new payment system and barrier was installed at the site in November 2022 which allows for tap and go payments into the recycling area.

A total of 2,248 tonnes of material were removed from the site:



Powerstown Civic Amenity Site



Carlow Anti-Cigarette Litter Campaign

- 1,220 tonnes of this material were used to produce energy from waste.
- 963 tonnes of material went for recycling / recovery.
- 65 tonnes of material were disposed to landfill.

In December 2022, CCC Council launched an innovative project to provide increased recycling opportunities for everyone in our community by introducing a universal access facility at Powerstown Civic Amenity Site.

The Anti-Cigarette Litter Campaign

Cigarette butts are litter and have been a consistent issue in Carlow Town for several years, accounting for over two-thirds of all litter – well above the national average. A major campaign was launched in 2022 on social media, billboards, bee visible signs, radio, newsprint, street campaign to name butt a few, excuse the pun, to raise awareness that cigarette butts are plastic and belong in a bin.

Cigarette ballot bins were erected adjacent to the bins around the fountain at Potato market – an area badly affected by cigarette litter.

Pilot Scheme with WEEE Ireland

CCC carried out a pilot electrical waste scheme in partnership with WEEE Ireland. The pilot was designed to work with smaller towns and villages in the County who do not qualify for the larger collection schemes carried out by WEEE Ireland. Smaller collection vehicles visited Borris, Bagenalstown, Rathvilly, Hacketstown, Carlow Town, Ballon and Tullow. The pilot resulted in the collection of over 42 tonnes of electrical recycling.

Ah Cáman – Get your old hurl back in the Game

Funded through the Local Authority Prevention Network, CCC partnered with GAA Carlow and the Library service to encourage our community to donate their old hurls to be repaired and remade into new hurls for use throughout the schools in Carlow Town and County. Over 100 hurls have been remodeled to date and are currently being distributed to primary schools throughout the County. The scheme will continue throughout 2023.

Pocket Forest & Partnership.

CCC worked with Pocket Forest Ireland to host a public webinar to empower our community to increase biodiversity in urban or grey areas. Pocket Forests are small densely planted urban forests created by communities to help reconnect people with nature and empower them to create thriving native ecosystems. Carlow Youth Training in Carlow Town teamed up with CCC and Pocket Forest Ireland to create a pocket forest at their training centre on the O'Brien Road, Carlow Town. The small area hosts 12 different species of native Irish trees and shrubs.

Cemeteries & Burial Grounds

A cemetery report was completed in 2022, the report will inform future management and development of cemeteries managed and operated by CCC by looking at capacity and assessing future needs in addition to compiling a programme of works for maintenance issues. Columbarium walls were constructed in St Mary's Cemetery and completed in November 2022.

Climate Change

CCC appointed a Climate Coordinator for CCC to deliver the Climate Action Plan for Carlow. A cross functional climate action team was established with representation from each functional area. Meetings are held monthly.

The following training has been carried out

with the Local Authority Services National Training Group.

- Building Capacity - Climate Action Training
- Empowering Change - Climate Action Training
- Green Public Procurement Strand 1 & 2

Rural Water Statistics

2022 Grants	
MARWP	Nil
GWS Operational	€328,000.00
Septic Tank	€8,500.00
Well Grants	€194,500.00
DLRG	Nil

Control of Dogs

The Control of Dogs Acts 1986 & 1992, Section 2, makes it an offence for a person to keep a dog unless he/she holds an individual or general licence covering any number of dogs at a specified premises, except those used wholly for official duties by the Gardaí, Defence Forces or the Custom & Excise Services. Carlow and Kilkenny County Councils operate a joint Dog Warden Service with two Dog Wardens one for Carlow and one for Kilkenny and a Dog Pound based in Paulstown.

Licences Issued	1,949
Income	€51,605.00



Columbarium Wall at St. Mary's Cemetery





Water Services



24

Wastewater treatment plants are run by CCC staff on behalf of Irish Water



490

Samples were taken with 3,015 individual parameters tested



5

EPA Audits were carried out at wastewater treatment plants



15,629m³

The daily average drinking water delivered by CCC



12

No. of water treatment plants operated by CCC on behalf of Irish Water

Since January 2014, Irish Water is the national water utility responsible for the delivery of water and wastewater services to homes and businesses in Ireland. Carlow County Council operating under a Service Level Agreement with Irish Water/ Uisce Eireann continues to provide water services in County Carlow.

12 water treatment plants are operated by Carlow County Council on behalf of Irish Water

Average Daily Drinking Water Delivered – 15,629m³. 3 No. EPA Audits on the Disinfection Programme

24 Wastewater treatment plants are operated by CCC on behalf of Irish Water

490 wastewater monitoring samples were taken in 2022 with 3,015 parameters tested.

5 EPA Audits carried out, Fenagh & Myshall, Tinryland, Ballinkillen & Kildavin.

Capital Works progressed during 2022 across multiple Water and Wastewater Capital projects.

Works in Rathvilly Water Treatment Plant commenced in June 2022. The works include the upgrade of existing plant including upgrade to sand filters, and the construction of new sludge handling units, new chemical dosing facilities and new used washwater equalisation tanks.

In Tullow, construction continued at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The upgrade works are nearing completion and entering the commissioning phase. The upgraded plant will have the capacity to treat 9,200PE. Plans for a pump station and sewerage network upgrade in the town were also progressed.

The Bagenalstown Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade detail design was finalised, planning permission was granted, and a contractor was appointed to complete the works. The scope of the upgrade works for the Carlow Town Wastewater Treatment Plant increased in 2022 to include a new pumping station and a new rising main. The detailed design was progressed.

Construction commenced in August 2022 to upgrade the Borris Wastewater Treatment Plant. Works include the installation of a new storm and sludge tank, and the upgrade of the existing inlet works.



Tullow Wastewater Treatment Plant



Rathvilly Wastewater Treatment Plant



Emergency Services & Building Control



176
Commencement
Notices

71
Building
Control
Inspections



40
Fire Safety
Certificates

25
Disability
Access
Certificates



CCC maintains Fire Brigades in four Fire Stations located in Carlow Town, Muine Bheag, Tullow and Hacketstown. A Fire Service Training Centre utilised by Fire Services from across Ireland is also based in Hacketstown Fire Station. The dedicated crews, together with modern vehicles and equipment, ensure delivery of a prompt, efficient and effective service responding to a total of 626 separate emergency incidents resulting in 753 mobilisations by Carlow Fire Brigades in 2022. This was a significant 26% increase in attendances at emergency incidents when compared to the total figure for 2021. There were no fire fatalities recorded in Co. Carlow in 2022. The operational response is supported by the Eastern Regional Control Centre located in Dublin Fire Brigade HQ in Townsend St, which receives calls from the public through the 999/112 service and mobilises the appropriate fire service resources in County Carlow.

CCC maintains Fire Brigades in four Fire Stations located in Carlow Town, Muine Bheag, Tullow and Hacketstown. A Fire Service Training Centre utilised by Fire Services from across Ireland is also based in Hacketstown Fire Station. The dedicated crews, together with modern vehicles and equipment, ensure delivery of a prompt, efficient and effective service responding to a total of 626 separate emergency incidents resulting in 753 mobilisations by Carlow Fire Brigades

in 2022. This was a significant 26% increase in attendances at emergency incidents when compared to the total figure for 2021. There were no fire fatalities recorded in Co. Carlow in 2022. The operational response is supported by the Eastern Regional Control Centre located in Dublin Fire Brigade HQ in Townsend St, which receives calls from the public through the 999/112 service and mobilises the appropriate fire service resources in County Carlow.

Services such as administration, fire prevention activities, Building Control, Major Emergency Management etc. are delivered from the Fire Service Headquarters at Green Lane, Carlow Town.

The Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2021 carried out by NOAC (National Oversight and Audit Commission) which was published in September 2022 highlighted the fact that Carlow Fire Authority had the 5th lowest cost per capita for the entire country at €36.82 per head of population. This compares favourably when compared against the national average of €44.65 per capita for the operation of Retained Fire Stations.

The NOAC report also highlighted that in 89% of mobilisations, a crew from Carlow Fire Service arrived at the scene of an emergency incident within 20 minutes from time of mobilisation.

Applications for Fire Safety Certificates were granted within the statutory period of 2 months in 60% of cases, ahead of the national average of 52%.

Safety, Health & Welfare

In November 2022, Carlow Fire Service's Safety Management System was certified to ISO45001 by the National Standards Authority of Ireland. This is confirmation of the safety management system in Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service complying with international best practice and also recognition of the work and dedication across all sections and levels of the service required to achieve this standard.

In order to achieve this award, a 2-day audit was completed by the National Standards Authority of Ireland of the Fire Services Occupational Health and Safety Management System. The awarding of ISO 45001 means that the organisation is internationally recognised in an elite category of businesses, one of a small number of fire services that have attained this standard in Ireland.

A range of specialist Training Courses were delivered to operational firefighters during 2022. Officer Training as well as training in the operation of pumps,



Breathing Apparatus, Confined Space Rescue, Emergency First Responder and Cardiac First Responder was delivered to all crews. Recruit Firefighters completed initial basic recruit training as well as training in the use of Breathing Apparatus and Compartment Fire Behaviour. New training courses were developed to reflect specific risks and hazards within the County. A team of Tullow Firefighters completed specialist Water Rescue Training in order to respond to flooding and other water-based incidents in the North of the County.

Firefighters completed a total of **1590 hours** core training in a range of **39** operational disciplines during 2022.

Operations

Crews from across County Carlow attended a total of 626 separate incidents during 2022 resulting in 753 mobilisations by Carlow Fire Brigades. This was a significant 26% increase in attendances at emergency incidents when compared to the total figure for 2021. There were no fire fatalities recorded in Co. Carlow in 2022.



Severe flooding which occurred on August 15th as well as a number of other severe weather events posed challenges for the Fire Service. False activations of monitored fire alarms in commercial and domestic premises continue to create issues for the fire service and initiatives are being developed to try to reduce them.

2 new recruit firefighters commenced operational duty with Bagenalstown Fire Brigade, 1 new recruit firefighter commenced operational duty with Carlow Town Fire Brigade. A new Assistant Chief Fire Officer joined Carlow County Fire Service during the year. There are currently 45 operational firefighters and 3 Senior Fire Officers employed in Carlow Fire Service.

Community Fire Safety & Fire Prevention

In addition to its operational activities, Carlow Fire Service was also very active in promoting fire safety and continues to inspect public-assembly buildings in an effort to meet the obligations under the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003.

Carlow Fire Service takes a proactive role in promoting Community Fire Safety in particular during Fire Safety Week which took place on October 17th – 23rd 2022. As part of Fire Safety Week, members of the public were invited into Stations to view our equipment and appliances, speak to Fire Prevention Officers and view fire safety demonstrations and displays. Daily Fire Safety messages were published on social media pages as well as radio interviews undertaken with KCLR and Beat FM.

The annual licensing and inspection of premises was completed in September with publicans, dance and restaurant license renewal applications before the Courts. In total 42 premises were inspected in the run up to the Court date in late September. A large body of work was undertaken to comply with the provisions of the Fire Services Act along with the administrative duties associated with issuing certificates, letters and conditions of license. A number of enforcements were carried out on public premises as well as warning letters issued to premises owners and occupiers following



Liam Carroll A/Chief Fire Officer, Station Officer Eddie Coleman Hacketstown Fire Station, Cllr Brian O Donoghue, Padraig O' Gorman DoS, Neal O' Grady Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer

inspections on foot of complaints by members of the public and issues that were highlighted post incident and other matters that they have been brought to the Fire Officers attention.

Building Control

The Building Control section actively manages the Building Control Management System and carries out routine inspections of construction projects to ensure compliance with all parts A to M of the Building Regulations during construction stage, validating and technically examining Disability Access Certificates as well as advising members of the public on the system. All Fire Safety Certificate and Disability Access Certificate Applications are now being made through the Building Control Management System. The Building Control Section worked closely with the National Market Surveillance Office which monitors the quality and standard of construction products offered for sale within County Carlow. A number of inspections of premises who offer construction products for sale within County Carlow received unannounced initial and follow up inspections.

Hacketstown Training & Development Centre

Hacketstown Training & Development Centre is now regarded as the leading facility in Ireland for the delivery of firefighting training for operational firefighters and fire officers. Breathing Apparatus and Compartment Fire Behaviour Training courses were hosted in the facility for firefighters from Carlow, Cork City, Cork County, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow Fire Services as well as the Irish Air Corps and Irish Defence Forces. The LASNTG (Local Authority Services National Training Group) host regular QQI accredited Training Courses in Firefighting Skills, Breathing Apparatus and Compartment Fire Behaviour in the Training Centre.

In total, Hacketstown Training Centre hosted training courses for a total of 221 days during 2022, the number of training courses hosted in Hacketstown will see an increase in 2023 once planned construction and improvement works are completed.



Rescue Organisation Ireland

Firefighters from Carlow County Fire Service continue to lead the way nationally and internationally in terms of its extrication and trauma teams. At the World Rescue Challenge which was hosted in Luxembourg in September, the team placed 3rd overall in the trauma element of the challenge and 4th in the technical rescue element. These

individual scores resulted in the Carlow team placing in 6th place overall which was an excellent result, the team competed against 72 of the leading Fire Services from around the globe.

Spirit of Carlow Award

The Carlow Chamber of Commerce honoured Carlow County Fire Service with the Spirit of Carlow Award at their annual Awards Ceremony held in the Visual Theatre on September 29th. The Spirit of Carlow Award gives recognition to those whose good deeds may have gone unnoticed. Judges were looking for those individuals and/or organisations who selflessly serve others and are an inspiration to all the citizens of County Carlow.

National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management National Resilience Fleet

Carlow Fire Service continues to support the work of the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management through the management of the Directorate's fleet of 11 Resilience and Training fire appliances. These 11 fire appliances are managed and maintained through Carlow Fire Service and are used by the National Directorate for the delivery of the Fire Service National Training Programme across Ireland for fire officers at all ranks from Recruit to Senior Fire Officer.





Roads, Transportation & Special Projects



1,329km

Road network within the County of Carlow



37

Funding recoupment claims in the amt of €11,207,175



75

Competitions (prepared, advertised, assessed & awarded)



82

Chief Executive/Director of Services Orders



20

Priority 1 Winter Services Treatments using 283 tonnes of salt



360

Road Opening Licences



73

Abnormal Load Applications processed



€466,733

Claimed for National Road Maint. Works



€1,461,176

Claimed for National Road Improvement Works



€3,670,116

Spent on Regional & Local Roads Strengthening



€1,009,968

Spent on Regional & Local Roads Resealing



€269,140

Spent on Regional & Local Road Bridge Maint. & Imp.



€1,838,555

Spent on Regional & Local Road Drainage, Road Safety & Imp. works



6,499

Public Lights in the County



2,670

LED Public Lights in the County



952

Public Light Repairs undertaken



€667,680

Public Lighting energy & Imp. costs

Roads, Transportation

Having a good road and rail network is integral to the economic prosperity of a county. It is essential to have good access to Dublin, the ports, and the large towns of the region. For local economic, social and recreational purposes it is also essential that the regional and local road asset base is maintained to the highest possible standards consistent with available funding.

The policy of the Council is to maintain, develop and improve existing roads and to construct new roads as financial resources permit. The administrative area of Carlow has a road network of 1,329 km (comprising of 24km of Motorway, 54 km of National Secondary, 186km of regional and 1,065km of Local roads.

Motorway Network

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) manages and provides funding for all motorway schemes.

National Secondary Road Network

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) provides funding for national roads. Initially, in 2022 Carlow received an allocation of €4,267,783 for maintenance and improvement works for bridges and carriageways, and to meet costs associated with supervision, public lighting and general maintenance of the national road network. The identified projects consist of;

Funding Category	Project	Allocation
Pavement Improvement Scheme Locations identified based on a comprehensive survey of the national road network. <i>NOTE – Projects assessed & designed in 2022, with works to commence on site in 2023.</i>	N80 Rathcroogue/Carlow	€1,930,000
	N80 Clonmackshane	€633,000
	N81 Bourgh/Co Bounds	€920,000
National Road Safety Improvement Scheme Allocation to progress Safety Improvement Scheme through the PMG Phases 1-7	N80 Leagh Bends Improvement Scheme	€370,000

Subsequently, CCC applied for and was awarded additional funding for maintenance and improvement schemes on the National Roads in the amount of €397,490.

Funding Category	Project	Allocation
Pavement Maintenance Scheme Larger than Defect projects, and smaller than Pavement Improvement projects, typically within the range €50-200k	N80 Whitemills	€66,000
	N81 McGraths Cross	€157,000
Defects Maintenance Scheme Additional funding for urgent remedial measures, typically within the range < €50k	Works to 13 locations on the National Road Network	€174,490

Regional & Local Road Network

The Department of Transport provides funding for maintenance and improvement works on Regional & Local roads. In 2022 Carlow received an allocation of **€8,010,618** for improvement works and general maintenance of the non-national road network. This programme targets much needed remedial measures on regional and local roads in the county under the following:

Funding Category	Status	Allocation
Restoration Improvement. This programme targets improvements to the structural integratory of Regional & Local Roads.	36 projects completed	€3,704,500
Restoration Maintenance. This programme targets improvements to the surfaces of Regional & Local Roads.	35 projects completed	€1,020,000
Discretionary Grant. This Grant contributes to meet costs associated with supervision, public lighting, winter & general maintenance signage installations, road markings, footpath improvements /repairs of the non-national road network	44 specific projects completed & general maintenance activities	€1,073,000
Bridge rehabilitation. This programme targets repairs to bridges on Regional & Local Roads throughout the county.	9 projects completed	€270,000
Specific Improvement Grant. The Specific Regional & Local Road Improvement Grant Scheme with a total estimated project cost of up to €5 million, aims to contribute to undertaking the necessary assessments to progress Junction Improvements on the R448, Kilkenny Road.	Detailed design nearing completion, expected to tender in Q1-2023	€250,000
Strategic Improvement Grant. The Strategic Regional & Local Road Improvement Grant Scheme with a total estimated project cost of over €5 million, aims to contribute to undertaking the necessary assessments to progress the Carlow Southern Relief Road.	Undertaking Preliminary Business Case	€100,000
Safety Improvement Works. This programme targets improvements to specifically identified safety issues of Regional & Local Roads.	12 projects completed	€220,000
Drainage Works. This programme targets improvements to surface water drainage of Regional & Local Roads.	19 projects completed	€267,468
Former National Road. This programme targets improvements to the structural integratory of Former National Roads in the county.	2 projects completed	€580,000
Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works. This Grant aims to undertake a targeted programme of improvement works to Regional & Local Roads	6 projects completed	€241,400
Community Involvement Scheme. This programme targets improvements to the structural integratory & surfaces of Local Tertiary Roads in the county in cooperation with the associated property owners.	9 projects completed	€220,550



The Ridge, Old Leighlin



Resurfacing works on N81 at McGraths Cross

Improvement Scheme

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, announced funding for Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) to undertake a programme of targeted improvements to the structural integratory and surfaces of private roadways in the county in cooperation with the associated property owners, for which Carlow received:

Announcement	Allocation	Status
LIS - Round 1 (April)	€351,880	18 projects completed
LIS - Round 2 (August)	€592,202	19 projects completed

Risk Remediation Works Programme

CCC met with representatives of Irish Public Bodies (IPB) insurance to discuss potential risk remediation work proposals designed to combat/reduce future potential public liability claims. Based on historical/current public liability claims data and considering the potential risk of such future claims, the Municipal District Engineers prepared a 2 programme to upgrade footway infrastructure. Subsequently, funding was received facilitating the remediation of high-risk areas throughout the county over a 2-year period (2022 & 2023) in the amount of circa €2million.

Active Travel

Active Travel is “travelling with a purpose using your own energy”. Generally, this

means walking or cycling as part of a purposeful journey and can also include the use of non-motorised scooters which are increasingly being used for urban transport, especially by school children. So, walking as part of a commute to work, cycling to the shop or scooting to school are all considered active travel, whereas walking or cycling for purely leisure purposes is not.

In December 2021 the National Transport Authority (NTA) invited applications from Carlow County Council (CCC) for schemes to be considered for funding under the Active Travel Programme.

In January the NTA allocated funds of €289 million to Ireland’s local authorities for spending on walking and cycling infrastructure in 2022. CCC received an allocation of approx. 2.5M for 24 projects.



Carlow Town Bus Park



Footpath works at Lodge Court, Borris



Scheme	Amount (€)
River Burren Walking & Cycle Track	200,000
Hanover to Tyndall Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme	180,000
Green Lane/Railway Road Junction Improvement Scheme	40,000
Tullow Road Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme, Carlow	200,000
Dublin Road Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme, Carlow	140,000
Staplestown Rd/Pollerton Rd Permeability Link, Carlow	48,000
River Barrow Walk Permeability Link, Carlow	80,000
Tullow Town Orbital Walking & Cycling Scheme	150,000
New Footpath Schemes - Borris	50,000
Carlow Graiguecullen Transport Study	200,000
Muinebheag Railway Crossings Study	52,000
Light Segregation Cycle Schemes	50,000
Junction Improvements/Pedestrian Crossing	120,000
Low-Cost Permeability Measures	80,000
Safe Routes to Schools Programme - Support Infrastructure	100,000
George Semple Bridge, Tinnahinch	20,000
Mountain View Link, Hacketstown	60,000
Rathoe Road, Tullow	100,000
Fenagh Road, Borris	60,000
Springfield Park to Green Road Walking & Cycle Track	20,000
Royal Oak Road, Bagenalstown	20,000
Church Street, Graiguecullen	100,000
Ashgrove, Carlow	150,000

Special Projects

Carlow Town Urban Regeneration Fund

In May 2020, the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government invited applications from Local Authorities for schemes for consideration under the Call 2 for the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund which forms part of the Programme for Government. CCC submitted an application for the Call 2 funding including several of the interventions proposed in 'Project Carlow 2040'. Project Carlow 2040 is a regeneration strategy adopted by Council to transform Carlow into a regional powerhouse with sustainable growth and a better quality of life for all.

In June 2022 the Council received departmental approval of the Preliminary Business Case that it had submitted as the next stage of approval through the Public Spending Code for the project. This approval increased the total estimated cost of the project to €22,780,036 and Confirmation of next step to prepare the Design, Planning and Procurement Strategy for submission for Departmental Appraisal, which was submitted in October. In December the Council received URDF letter of Approval confirming Council proposal to deliver the project as two separate subprojects and to progress the required detailed design works, planning consents and any necessary lands acquisitions. CCC is now finalising the project design team e-tender for issuing in early 2023.

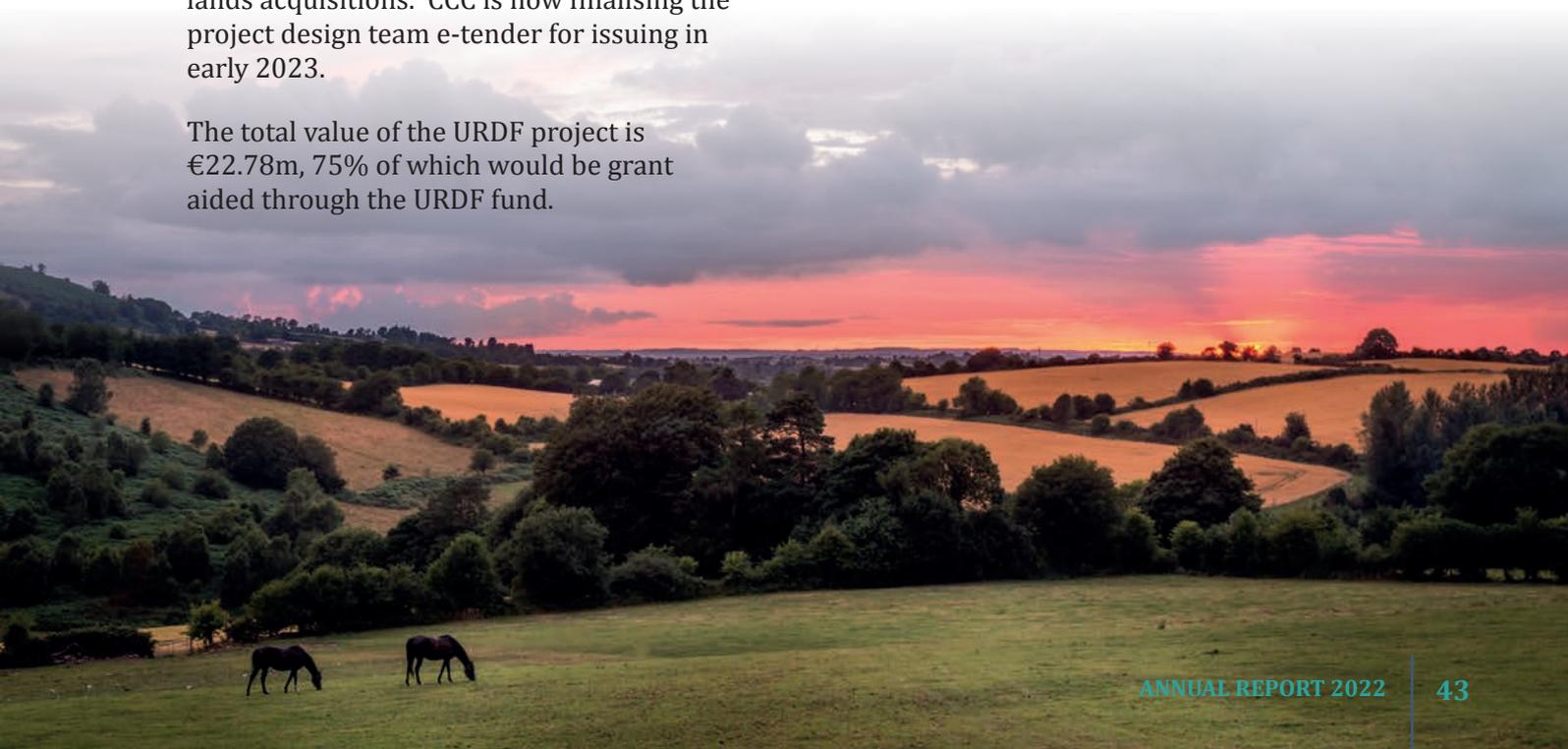
The total value of the URDF project is €22.78m, 75% of which would be grant aided through the URDF fund.

The Projects

The schemes approved are:

- Railway Link and Public Realm Improvement through Carlow College to Town Centre €2.9m
- Public Realm Improvement to Tullow S.t and Dublin St. €2m
- Public Realm Improvement to Potato Market €8.5m
- Public realm improvement and new linkage from Potato Market to Barrack St via Carlow SC €3.3m
- Barrack St including Shamrock Square and Thompson's Corner/Bus Park €4.1m
- Public Realm Improvement to Kennedy Avenue €1.9m

The Vision is for Carlow Town to be a high-functioning, inclusive, compact, and accessible town underpinned by a robust and diverse local economy. The aim is to create a vibrant Town Centre providing for a network of linked open spaces, recreational uses and other social infrastructure elements that provides a good quality of life for all.





Carlow County Civil Defence

Carlow County Council is the Civil Defence Authority for the administrative area of County Carlow. The 2003 Civil Defence Act sets out a number of roles for Civil Defence. Among these roles are providing a backup service to the Primary Emergency Services; Community Service; Training in Casualty; Radio Communications; Rescue; Welfare; Fire Fighting and Boating Skills (search and recovery). Civil Defence also provides service to the Local Authority, Health Service Executive, and the Gardai in the event of severe weather conditions such as flooding and snow. Civil Defence also provide in emergency situations Radiation Monitoring.

The members of Carlow Civil Defence are all volunteers except for the Civil Defence Officer who is employed as CDO on a part-time basis by Carlow County Council. At present we have over 54 volunteer members ranging from locations such as Carlow town, Muinebheag, Borris and Rathanna. Weekly training on subjects such as First Aid to CPR level, First Aid Responder, Emergency First Responders, Emergency Medical Technician, Fire Fighting skills, Swiftwater Rescue techniques, Technical Rescue, Search Skills, Welfare etc., are taught and practised. On our training schedule at weekends the subjects taught are exercised and the skills resulting from this are pitched against other counties in competition at various venues.

Civil Defence Boat units provide back-up assistance to the (PRAs) Fire service and Gardai in River Search and Recovery (RSR) situations. Volunteers are trained in Boating skills, River and land search and recovery techniques for back up situations to Gardai. Water awareness and Swift Water Flood Response courses are run throughout the year.



Date	Activity	Venue
07/01/2022	Preparation and delivery of Test Kits to Carlow Covid Test Centre.	Carlow Test Centre, Carlow Town
14/01/2022	Preparation and delivery of Test Kits to Carlow Covid Test Centre.	Carlow Test Centre. St. Dynphys Hospital, Carlow Town.
11/02/2022	Appointment Transfers to Waterford University hospital and return.	Carlow to University Hospital in Waterford.
18/02/2022	4WD assistance during Storm Eunice to various call outs.	Civil Defence HQ Bagenalstown and various locations around Co. Carlow.
19/02/2022	Columbian Way Launch and Walk from Mt. Leinster to Myshall	Road Traffic Management and First Aid assistance.
17/03/2022	Stewarding at Various St. Patricks Day Parades.	Bagenalstown St. Patricks Day Parade. Carlow Family fun Day.
18/02/2022	Preparation of Rest Centre for Ukrainians.	Ballon Rest Centre
06/04/2022	Set up Rest Centre in Ballon	Ballon Community Hall
03/06/2022	Providing Transport for Ukrainians to Various Locations for Accommodation.	Various B&B accommodation.
05/06/2022	Safety Operation for Carlow Regata on river Barrow.	River Barrow, Carlow Town
29/11/2022	Presentation of Covid Medals by Minister Coveney in Croke Park, Dublin for work during Covid 19 pandemic.	Croke Park, Dublin.
12/12/2022	Presentation of Covid Medals and First Aid Certificates at Bagenalstown Municipal District Meeting.	Council Chamber at McGrath Hall, Civic Offices, Bagenalstown.





Housing Department



1,953

Total housing stock



320

Total RAS



620

Total HAP



85

Long Term Lease Properties



13

Repair and Lease Scheme



309

Homeless Presentation



91

Total Placed in Emergency Acc.



236

Houses Allocated (incl. 16 Traveller & 31 Disability Allocations)



81

New Build Units



35

Re-Lets



31.48 weeks

Average Re-Let Time



160

Anti-Social Behaviour Complaints



2,605

Number of Maintenance Requests



€6.4 million

Rents Collected

€24.49 million

Total Capital Spend



23

Mortgages Approved in Principle



245

Grants Approved under Housing Aid for Older People



90

Grants Approved under Mobility Aids Grant Scheme



92

Housing Adaption Grants Approved

It is the policy of the Housing Section of Carlow County Council: -

- To enable every household to have available an affordable dwelling of good quality, suited to its needs, in a good environment and as far as possible at a tenure of their choice.
- To promote home ownership and a thriving more diverse and well managed rented sector, both public and private.
- To maintain the living and construction standards of all properties to a high standard.
- To liaise with our tenants and social partners to ensure that present and future needs are tackled.

Carlow County Council's activities as a Housing Authority can be summarised under the following headings:

- The provision, management and maintenance of Social Housing
- The review and update of social housing demand

- The provision of self-help grants to enable tenants carry out improvements to their homes
- The promotion of home ownership by promotion of Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan
- The improvement of accommodation, for both the elderly and disabled persons, by way of grant assistance under Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability, Mobility Aids Grants and Housing Aid for Older People Grants
- Working with Approved Housing Bodies and Voluntary Bodies to assist in addressing the housing needs in Carlow
- Operation of Rental Accommodation Scheme/Leasing schemes and the Housing Assistance Payment for social housing provision
- Operation of the Mortgage to Rent Scheme
- Implementation of Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Implementation of Energy Upgrade Programme
- Housing Inspections Programme





Ukrainian Humanitarian Response

Community Response Forum

On the 24th February 2022, there was a military assault on Ukraine by the Russian Federation causing a humanitarian crisis of scale. A whole of government approach was taken during 2022 in relation to the management of this crisis. As part of the national response, Carlow County Council, at the request of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, established the Community Response Forum to provide a coordinated response to support refugees arriving into the County Carlow from Ukraine.

The Community Response Forum is chaired by the Chief Executive of Carlow County Council and the membership is multi-agency in nature, bringing together representatives from both statutory and voluntary agencies operating in communities across the county. The Community Response Forum held 13 meetings during 2022. A sub-group of the Community Response Forum was also established and held meetings on a weekly basis.

Rest Centre

A Rest Centre to provide temporary accommodation facilities to Ukrainian Beneficiaries arriving in Ireland was set up by Carlow County Council in April 2022 in Ballon, County Carlow. During 2022, 384 Ukrainian Beneficiaries were accommodated through Ballon Rest Centre.

Irish Red Cross Pledges

Following an appeal by the Irish Red Cross members of the public pledged shared or vacant properties to accommodate Ukrainian persons fleeing war in Ukraine. This pledged accommodation was forwarded to the local authorities during 2022 for allocation. A total of 25 properties were deemed by Carlow County Council to be viable and were allocated during 2022.

Offer A Home Scheme

The Offer A Home Scheme was launched on 24th November, 2022 and is part of a new government initiative, led by local authorities, to make use of unoccupied houses, apartments or holiday homes to house Ukrainian people and families. A total of 5 properties were allocated under the Offer A Home Scheme during 2022. This Scheme will continue into 2023.

Community Car Initiative

The Community Car Initiative was introduced in December 2022 and aims to put in place a community car in County Carlow which will be made available through Carlow County Development Partnership within the terms of a Service Level Agreement with Carlow County Council. The purpose of this programme is to support the accommodation of Ukrainian Refugees in areas more removed from urban centres, and in places where rural transport links are not fully connected. The community car will be used to support Ukrainian Beneficiaries allocated accommodation under the 'Irish Red Cross pledge process' and the 'Offer A Home' scheme. This scheme will come into operation in early 2023.

Healthy Ireland Fund

The Department of Health under the Healthy Ireland brand provided funding of €19,050 for the purpose of promoting health and wellbeing of Ukrainian refugees who have sought protection in Ireland, as part of the international humanitarian crisis arising from the war in Ukraine. This fund which commenced in November 2022 is being delivered through agencies represented on the Community Response Forum. The projects include Spring Socials, Woodland Walks, Orienteering for Families and Children, Foraging Walks, Forest Bathing and Knit & Chat. This initiative will continue into 2023.



Community, Recreation and Amenity



146

Grants Awarded (Env/Amenity Grant Scheme 2022-Totalling €65,000)



Pride of Place Applications

82



219 Grants Awarded (CCC Discretionary Funds)

€107,420.18



€1,480,598.10

Leader Project



€636,836

SICAP Budget for 2022



65 Community Groups received grants from the Dept of Rural & Community Developments Community Activities Fund

€268,411

Carlow County Council continued to build on the strong working relationship it enjoys with all communities throughout County Carlow during 2022. The following grants were awarded to Community Groups and Residents' Associations within 2022.

Environmental / Amenity Grant Scheme 2022 145 Grants Issued. Funding available to support Resident Ass, Community Gardens and Allotment Schemes wishing to undertake Environmental type community initiatives which contribute towards the betterment of their local Environment.	€65,000.00
Discretionary Funding 2022 219 Grants Issued. Supporting community groups in delivering and promoting projects in their areas.	€107,420.18
Transitional LEADER Programme 2022-2023 17 Projects Approved. Rural Tourism, Festivals, Rural Enterprise, Rural Towns, Social Inclusion and Environmental	€1,480,598.10

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)	
2022 is the 5th year of the SICAP Programme covering the period of 2018–2022 with an extension to 31st December 2023.	€636,836.00
Additional funding provided for Ukraine Emergency Response	€69,619.00
LEADER Programme 2023-2027	
The Expression of Interest for the new LEADER Programme 2023-2027 by Carlow LCDC was submitted on 16th December after approval of the LCDC (13th Dec) with Carlow County Development Partnership CLG as Implementing Partner	
Community Activities Fund 2022	
65 Grants Issued. It provides funding to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their running costs such as utility or insurance bills, as well as with improvements to their facilities.	€268,411.00

Carlow's Pride of Place

Carlow's Pride of Place competition was launched on Thursday, 7th April 2022. As part of this launch a workshop was held with guest speakers Gary Graham, creator of Bloom/Supergarden TV show and Dr. Christy Boylan, Senior Judge for the Supervalu National Tidy Towns. Gary Graham and Eleanor Deegan of Hortitude Ltd were unveiled as the judges for Pride of Place 2022. The Pride of Place awards night was held on Wednesday 30th November 2022 in which CCC presented over 60 prizes to community groups throughout the County.

Age Friendly Carlow

In 2022 the membership of the Carlow Age Friendly Alliance was reviewed, and three Alliance meetings took place. An invitation to tender was prepared for a new three-year strategic plan and several regional and local initiatives were supported including: a communications plan; a directory of services for older people and the delivery of a regional Creative Ireland engagement programme 'A river runs through it'.

Carlow Volunteer Centre

The Board of Directors met 8 times during 2022 to support staff with the operation and management of the Centre. During 2022 CCC also signed a service level agreement with Volunteering Ireland. The contribution for this programme is €5,000 per annum from the County Council.

The Plots Community Allotment Project

During 2022 the Community Department supported the Plots Management Committee in securing permission for an additional eight plots and to erect a poly-tunnel within the present boundary fenced area. This will facilitate an increase in the number of people using the Plots. The current waiting list stands at twelve people.

Comhairle na nÓg

During 2022 the Carlow Comhairle group completed a wide-ranging survey on their chosen topic of 'Discrimination' with 365 young people participating. Other highlights included a presentation to CCC advising of the purpose of the group and initiatives they have planned. The group also facilitated, with the support of Carlow Regional Youth Services, their own AGM in November with 83 young people from 12 Schools / Learning Centres. The Community Department facilitated three meetings of the interagency group that supports and guides Carlow Comhairle na nÓg. Carlow Regional Youth Services deliver the programme under a service level agreement with CCC.

Carlow Traveller Interagency Group

CCC facilitated 4 meetings of CTIG in 2022 and the focus of the meetings was to finalise the action plan arising from the strategic document. The action plan was progressed



Winners of the Tidy Towns and Villages categories



Carlow Comhairle na nÓg 2022

through thematic groups based on the needs and of travellers. CCC secured €17,400 from the Department of Justice & Equality to part fund the salary costs associated with the Community Development worker engaged by St. Catherine’s Community Services Centre to support the development of the Carlow Traveller Forum. Funding in the amount of €5,000 was also secured from the Dormant Accounts Fund to provide training for Council staff on traveller cultural awareness and sustainable tenancy.

Healthy Carlow

The main focus of work for 2022 of the Healthy Carlow sub-committee was the review of activities and initiatives delivered under ‘Round 3’ of the funding and the preparation of a new three-year strategy. This strategy covers the time period of 2023 – 2025. CCC has secured €75,000 for 2023 and guaranteed €40,000 minimum amount for the subsequent two years. The Healthy Carlow Committee also hosted Minister of State for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy Minister Frank

Feighan TD on the 4th of May and a number of Healthy Carlow initiatives were showcased including: the Carlow Social Prescribing and the Coronas Film project with Carlow Young Peoples Services Committee and Visual.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, Carlow received funding for the following projects in 2022:

Location	Amount
Oak Park Forest Park Phase 2 Upgrade paths, replace fencing and additional picnic seats	180,000
Bagenalstown Northern Environs Walk Development of walking route	199,900
Borris Viaduct Extension of Borris Viaduct Walkway	230,400
Bagenalstown Outdoor Hub Toilets, changing rooms, Lifeguard and First Aid Station	49,500
Kilbranish Forest Upgrade Upgrade Kilbranish Loop	27,000
John’s Hill Drainage upgrades, route furniture, mapboard and signage	27,000
Kilbranish South Upgrade Re-routing of walk at Kilbranish	27,000

CLÁR

Under the CLÁR scheme 2022, Carlow received funding for the following projects;

Location	Amount
Scoil Moling Glynn	€44,998
Killoughternane Hall	€27,036
Drumpeha Community Car Park	€14,949

Capital Play and Recreation Grant Scheme 2022

A capital grant was awarded to CCC in the sum of €18,000 for works to Borris Playground.a

Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Scheme

CCC was successful in being granted €250,000 under the Shared Island Local Development Funding Scheme in 2022. The funding is to provide an All-Ireland feasibility study to scope the development and economic return of a fully connected Columban Way walking route, traversing North and South.

Carlow County Council are the lead Council with Ards and North Down Borough Council as the main partner along with 9 other Local Authorities (6 from the South and 3 from the North).

The concept route is based on a spiritual route from Mount Leinster, the birthplace of Columbanus, via County Fermanagh to Bangor, County Down where Columbanus later set sail for Europe.

Tenders were sought in December 2022 for the Feasibility Study and the contract will be awarded in early 2023.

Carlow Public Participation

Network (PPN)

Carlow PPN received total annual funding of €110,700, comprised of €35,000 from Carlow County Council and €75,700 from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

A total of 333 active member groups were registered with Carlow PPN at end of 2022.

Colleges	No. of Members
Environmental College	12
Social Inclusion College	34
Community & Voluntary College	287

Carlow PPN has community representation on 32 seats representing a variety of boards and committees including:

- the 4 Strategic Policy Committees (SPC)
- The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
- Carlow Tourism Board
- The South East Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force
- The Joint Policing Committee
- The Carlow Development Forum
- The Child & Young Peoples Services Committee



Bio-diversity garden, Hacketstown



Carlow Sports Partnership (CSP)



4,232

55 Participants in CSP programmes & initiatives



53,478

Digital views were reached on 51 weekly e-bulletins



9,354

Views were reached on www.carlowsports.ie



9,202

Post reach across 3 social media platforms



2

Booklets & 7 Press Releases were published and printed



12

National campaigns were promoted and supported by CSP



€133,354.87

Funding distributed to 79 clubs & community groups

€200,000

Funding secured via the Dormant Accounts Fund



Carlow Sports Partnership undertook in 2022, a wide range of actions with the aim of increasing sport and physical activity participation levels in local communities.



Sports partnership Learning to Cycle and outdoor pursuits.





Arts Service



248

Carlow artists & groups were supported through arts grants and bursaries



50

Speakers who took part in 15 sessions of the Places Matter Conference hosted in the VISUAL Carlow



€75,000

Invitation to Collaborate Award (Arts Council Funding)



1

Artist awarded a Public Art Commission



22,325

In attendance over 140 events at Carlow Arts Festival



6,602

Post reach across 3 social media platforms



2

Concerts provided by Festival in a Van to residents of emergency accommodation services for Ukrainians



214

Carlow Live and Local funded €143,000 by the Dept of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht Sport & Media and employing

‘The Arts are vital for everyone’s wellbeing and engagement’

Carlow Arts Service continued to work closely with communities across the county to nurture creativity and artistic practice. Initiatives under the Creativity in Older Age Scheme continued in 2022. Carlow Arts Service was successful in securing €100,000

further funding for 2 projects. Borris Lace Exchange – Borris Lace design collaboration developed by Carlow Arts Service in partnership with Craft Hub EU. The Long and Short of It – drama, storytelling and animation project devised by Carlow Arts Festival.

Through the Carlow Arts Services the following programmes were led, supported and nurtured in 2022:

Music Generation Carlow - In February the young musicians of MGC took to VISUAL's stage for their first live performance in 2 years to an audience of over 170 people as part of Atlantic Arc. The weekend long event allowed them to learn from and perform alongside Donal Lunny and other professional musicians.

Carlow Youth Theatre CCYT - managed by Carlow Arts Service is led by experienced theatre facilitators and engages with schools, TY coordinators, Carlow Youth Reach, Carlow Regional Youth Services and Bishops House, Tullow. There are 15 young people aged 11-13 years and 24 young people aged 14-18 years participating in youth theatre workshops.

Invitation to Collaborate - Arts Council Invitation to Collaboration funding application "Gnáthóga Nádúrtha" (Natural Habitats) was awarded €75,000. This project is a collaborative initiative between Carlow, Kildare and Meath County Councils collaborating with environmental activists, artists and community mapping experts. The focus is on Climate Action and place-based practice in rich natural heritage sites in the three counties which includes Drummin raised bog Carlow, Rathangan Bog Kildare and Girley Bog Meath.



Places Matter Conference - Carlow Arts Service worked with the Arts Council of Ireland and Local Government committee members in the planning stages of the third Places Matter Conference. The conference took place on March 24th and 25th and sold out at VISUAL. The thought provoking and inspiring conference was incredibly well received with Carlow initiatives and artists taking a spotlight in the programme such as Take A Part Carlow, Clifton Redmond and Colm Broderick.

Public Art Commissions - Following a meeting of the PAWG in March, a new artist brief for the Carlow Town Public Art Commission funded through the Fáilte Ireland Developed & Emerging Destination Towns Capital Investment Programme (2019) was approved. The new commission will be sited in Carlow Town Park.

Carlow Live and Local 3 Carlow Arts Office led and managed Carlow Live & Local 3, a 4- day live music festival which took place in June funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. The local festival injected €143,000 into Carlow, creating an employment opportunity for 214 individuals (165 artists, 44 technical staff members, and 5 creative crew members). The festival welcomed and audience of over 1,700 music lovers over the course of the 4 days.

Carlow Arts Festival made a welcome return to the grounds of Carlow College and across Carlow town. The festival hosted over 140 events to an audience of over 22,000 people over the course of the 4-day line-up.

Cruinniú na nÓg In June Carlow welcomed the fifth annual celebration of children's creativity, Cruinniú na nÓg. Managed by Carlow Arts Office this year we secured €30,000, an increase on 2021, and saw 616 Participants, 5 schools, 9 Partners and 16 Artists engage in the Programme! In collaboration with VISUAL and Carlow Arts

Festival a 6-week Carnival of Joy Workshop Programme was developed and brought to 123 pupils in 5 Carlow schools in the lead up to the special day.

Culture Night

Culture Night Carlow returned in September 2022 with a programme of 18 events at 15 venues across the county, engaging 12 local artists and 7 arts/performing groups with audience figures totaling over 820.

Take A Part Carlow worked collaboratively with community representatives, artists, and stakeholder partners to deliver high quality socially engaged art projects on the Tullow Road such as: The Outlandish Theatre Platform production of “RUBBISH” a film project, “This Place Matters” a poem by Clifton Redmond specially commissioned by Take A Part Carlow. Winning the National IPB Pride of Place Awards Creative Place category. Street Art Project in Dereen Heights. Chalk Portrait Painting for Cruinniú na nÓg in Carrigbrook. Participation in the BOOST Erasmus+ project.

Creative Places Bagenalstown was one of 5 areas to be included in the expansion of the Arts Council of Ireland Creative Places pilot programme. €450,000 was vested across three years to develop and sustain new arts initiatives for all age groups. In year 2 the programme continues to develop in collaboration with project partners in the area such as Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre, BEAM, Carlow Regional Youth Services and CCDP.



Carlow Arts Festival



Museum



13,000

No. of visitors due to covid restrictions



4

Museum Board Number of Meetings



Museum Standards Programme of Ireland (MSPI) Status

Application for Full Accreditation in September 2022

The Board of Carlow County Museum

The Board of Carlow County Museum held four meetings throughout the year. At the 14th Annual General Meeting of the Board held on December 14th, 2022, Mr. Pádraig Dooley was elected Chairperson for 2022 replacing Cllr. Ken Murnane.

10 Years Opened on College Street

April 11th marked ten years since Carlow County Museum was officially opened on College Street in 2012. This is the very street that the Museum opened forty-eight years ago by the Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society (CHAS). It is twenty years since Carlow County Council took over the operations of the Museum in 2022. In the past ten years the Museum has attracted nearly 170,000 visitors.

Local Authority Museums' Network (LAMN) Strategy Launch & Website

On Wednesday March 30th, at the Customs House Malcolm Noonan TD, Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform, launched *Reimagining the Past for the Future*, the new Local Authority Museums' Network (LAMN) Strategy 2022–2026. To celebrate

International Museums Day 2022 the new LAMN website, www.lamn.ie, went live. The development of the website was coordinated by Carlow County Museum. The website has been grant aided under the Regional Museum Exhibitions Scheme by the Department of Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media.

Heritage Council Stewardship Grant

Carlow County Museum was the recipient of a Heritage Council grant under their Heritage Stewardship Fund 2022. The grant was towards the conservation and relocation of the 18th century plaque in the Methodist Church, Carlow Town, to the Museum for display. The plaque marks the last visit to Carlow Town by John Wesley in 1789. John is one of the founders of Methodism and he visited the area on several occasions. The project was undertaken in partnership with the Methodist Church Carlow and Kilkenny Circuit Church Council.

Without specialised intervention the plaque would continue to deteriorate. Gebel and Helling Conservation Ltd, Tipperary and Cork, were commissioned to consolidate the plaque, remove it from the church basement,

mount it on a new backing and mount it on display in Carlow County Museum. On Monday August 15th, for Heritage Week 2022, the Museum in partnership with Methodist Church Carlow Kilkenny Circuit presented a lecture on the history of Methodism in Carlow.

Tess Arbez, Carlow's Winter Olympian

On Wednesday 27th July, Carlow County Museum, on behalf of our parent body CCC coordinated the Welcome Home for Ms Tess Arbez, Ireland and Carlow's Two Time Winter Olympian. She was officially welcomed home to County Carlow by Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, at a civic welcome in the Town Hall in Carlow Town which was the location of an important public meeting in 1925 in support of establishing the sugar factory in Carlow Town. Tess's grandfather, father of her mother Marguerite, is Francis Neerman, born in Carlow Town in 1944, and he is the son of Auguste and Alida Neerman

from Ghent in Belgium. Auguste worked for the Belgium company Lippens who built the Carlow Sugar Factory in 1926. Tess is County Carlow's first Winter Olympian and our first female Olympian.

St Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg

On Friday August 26th, Carlow County Museum, on behalf of our parent body Carlow County Council, coordinated the visit to County Carlow by Her Excellency, Florence Enschedé, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to Ireland. Ambassador Enschedé was in the county to retrace the medieval connection between Carlow and Luxembourg through St. Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg and the First Apostle of the Netherlands, a project that is coordinated by the Museum.

On Monday November 7th, the third St Willibrord Biennial Lecture took place in St Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin. This year's speaker was Luxembourg Dr Michel



Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Cathaoirleach Brian O'Donoghue, Ambassador Enschedé and Chief Executive Kathleen Holohan



Marguerite Arbez, Cathaoirleach, Brian O'Donoghue and Tess Arbez, Ireland and Carlow's two-time Winter Olympian

Summer of Heidelberg University, Germany, who spoke on 'From Rath Melsigi To Rome: St Willibrord's Career In Its European Context'.

In December, Cllr Brian O'Donoghue, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, and Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator, visited Luxembourg and viewed the exhibition in Echternach. In Luxembourg City, Cllr O'Donoghue and Dermot met with His Excellency Stephen Dawson, Irish Ambassador to Luxembourg and Deputy Head of Mission Ms Liz O'Malley.

Heritage Council Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI)

In September the Museum submitted its application to the Heritage Council for assessment for Full Accreditation under the Museums Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI). In May 2020, the Museum was awarded Interim Accreditation under the programme. Approved by the Members of Carlow County Council and the Board of Carlow County Museum the Museum produced a series of plans, policies and strategies. On Wednesday December 7th, the Museum underwent the onsite assessment with museum consultants. The outcome of the process will be known in 2023.

Book: A History of the GAA in 100 Objects

Merrion Press published A History of the GAA in 100 Objects by Siobhan Doyle, and it was short listed for the Irish Sports Book of the Year in the Irish Book of the Year Awards. There are two items from County Carlow featured and both are on display in Carlow County Museum. The Haughney Cup and the unofficial Carlow v Kerry match programme from the 1944 All Ireland Football Semi-Final. The photograph of the beautiful Haughney Cup, taken by the Museum staff, adorns the front cover of the book.

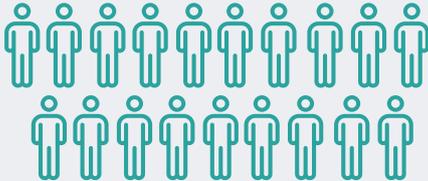




Carlow County Library

3,434

New Members



85,544

Physical Visits to Library Branches



85,544

Website Visits to www.carlowlibraries.ie



Twitter

@carlowlibraries received 700,000 views during 2021 and had 3,088 followers at year end



383

Events held with 3 branches



Reading & Literacy:

Towards a Literacy Friendly County Carlow

The Towards a Literacy Friendly County Carlow research report, an all-society initiative supporting the Government's 10-year Adult Literacy for Life Strategy was launched in August. The Carlow County Council Right to Read Network are committed to developing greater awareness of unmet literacy needs among businesses, services and people living in County Carlow and developed a Resource Pack and series of videos to accompany the report. A follow-up Literacy Ambassador programme was piloted successfully.

Story Streets

The Story Streets Family Learning programme continued in 2022. Set in three disadvantaged communities in Carlow, this was a collaboration between the library service and local Family Resource Centres. 21 families participated in the initiative which aims to encourage families to read together, be comfortable using their public library and improve levels of literacy awareness.

Sensory Sessions & Literacy Supports

A series of interactive sensory sessions for local special schools and special needs

units. This programme provides the opportunity for participants to socialise and experience fun and educational activities in an environment other than their home or school. Social story booklets were provided and incorporated into aspects of the sessions by the facilitator. In addition, Dormant Accounts funding supported the extension of Lexia and TTRS licences, the introduction of LOTE for Kids, facilitation of a Ukrainian family learning programme, installation of a sensory wall and purchase of other sensory equipment and C-Pens.

Other Literacy Programmes

A Carlow Reads Storytime Event was held to celebrate Ireland Reads Day in February. A selection of 3 books with accompanying activity poster and materials were delivered to 51 Early Learning Centres and creches in County Carlow. Centres were invited to read the books with the children and pledge to 'squeeze in a read' on the day.

Over 68 events and activities took place across the branch network supporting national initiatives including Spring into Storytime, Summer Stars, Children's Book Festival and Family Time in the Library.

COMMUNITY & CULTURE

Local History, Genealogy & Archives

The public library service is a curator of memory and is responsible for creating, storing and making accessible local cultural and historical records. During 2022, there were 635 enquiries to our Local History/

Genealogy Department via email, telephone and in person visits. These queries are very diverse and range from family research, group visits from overseas researchers, academic research, school and third level inductions and general interest enquiries.



Carlow Little Theatre's performance at the Dec meeting of Carlow County Council

The recipient of the inaugural Carlow County Council Library Service Local History Projects Bursary was Hacketstown A History written by James P. Shannon. The book was launched by the County Librarian, John Shortall in October and covers life in Hacketstown throughout the ages from the Neolithic period to the present day covering every topic from archaeology, the Normans, the Famine, revolutionary struggles and land wars to sport and religion.

Carlow County Library continued to acquire material of local interest to add to the ever-expanding collection. Work commenced during the summer on moving material from the County Archive to Carlow County Council's Records Centre. This will continue on a planned and phased basis.

Decade of Centenaries

The 2022 Decade of Centenaries Programme was wide and varied and included the following initiatives: Publication of "Lives Cut Short", a book written by Christopher Power, which marked every Carlow casualty of the Irish Independence struggle. Publication of "Tom Kehoe: The Man from Two Counties",

also by Christopher Power, chronicling the life of one of Carlow's most famous revolutionaries. Publication of "Carlow and the Oral Tradition", by Dave Barron, and a night of song and poetry to launch same.

Community Grants were allocated to Clonegal Players, Myshall Community Centre Committee and Dave Barron for approved events. The presentation of commemorative medals to 6 of Carlow's centenarians also took place during the year. The production of a 16-page supplement, circulated in The Nationalist, commemorating 100 years of An Garda Síochána in Co. Carlow. Images from Carlow's history were recreated in jigsaw form, for distribution to schools in the county.

Carlow Little Theatre produced and performed, before the December meeting of Carlow County Council, a series of acts inspired by the events of the Decade of Centenaries period. A publication called "Writer's Respond", in which playwrights, poets and writers reflect on the theme of Civil War, was produced, to be launched in May 2023 marking the end of the centenary period.

EVENTS & PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS 2022

Culture Night

Culture Night returned with success in 2022 with in-person events again possible. The library service welcomed performances from KCETB Adult Learners Creative Writing Group, Carlow College of Music and Carlow Storytellers on Friday 23rd September. The latter's performance also included stories from some of the African diaspora now living in Carlow as well as songs from recently arrived Ukrainian citizens displaced by the ongoing war.

Exhibitions

Exhibitions in the Shaw Room in 2022 included Art from both Rathgall Painters Guild and Made in Carlow, an exhibition of recycled and upcycled materials by Carlow Men's Shed for European Sustainable Development Week and Pottery &

Photography by Lá Nua Community Drugs Rehabilitation Scheme. Poster exhibitions took place in March, May and December in collaboration with Develop Tullow Association (DTA) who organised the competitions while the library exhibited the works by local primary school students.

Irish Language

Irish language events included taster Irish classes with Gaelchultúr in association with Glór Ceatharlach in September as well as Scéalaíochta do pháistí óga (Storytime) which was held in the library in October as part of Carlow's Autumn Bilingual Festival Féile an Fhómhair.

Storytimes

Storytimes for children took place throughout the year either on Saturdays with



Little Creators in the Library – 24 Autumn events for children took place across all 4 libraries.

Pen Pal Project 4 online workshops focused on letter-writing. The programme engaged 64 young people, second year students in Tullow Community School along with members of Šiauliai City Municipality Public Library (Lithuania), a sister library to Carlow County Library Service through the NAPLE Sister Libraries programme.



Exploring Carlow's Musical Heritage – 3 workshops in collaboration with Music Generation Carlow introducing traditional musical instruments such as the fiddle and concertina. The programme also included a children's singing workshop.

Cruinniú na nÓg - 3 simultaneous performances in 3 library branches by young traditional music ensembles, Reelig, Reel-Nua and ReelÓg from Music Generation Carlow. 74 attendees enjoyed the performances which were funded by Music Generation Carlow themselves through the Carlow County Arts Office. A further 21 attendees enjoyed Carlow College of Music's free lunchtime concert featuring James from the Celtic Tenors and 35 children attended two Music Makers workshops which were tailored towards pre-school children wishing to learn about musical instruments for the first time.

Wibbly Wobbly Wendy or Wednesdays with library staff in Carlow Central Library. Over 500 children attended across 13 different sessions. Weekly baby/toddler Storytimes were run by library staff in Tullow Library with the aim of introducing babies and young children to the love of books and reading as well as socialising with others in a library setting.

Learning Made Fun

Digital learning for kids 8-10 years was a 4-week workshop run by library staff in Tullow Library. Children learned how to use the library service's online resource World Book with tablets provided in the library.

Creative Ireland at the Library

Lunchtime in the library – a series of adult author talks which took place during November in Carlow Central Library. 121 adults attended over the course of 6 talks with established and emerging Irish authors.

Learning & Information

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

(a nationwide initiative) provides a range of resources, services and support to users and communities throughout Carlow, establishing libraries as a valuable source within the community for health information. In 2022, Carlow Library collaborated on 3 Workshops under the H.I.A.Y.L. initiative with Mental Health Ireland and Carlow Mental Health facilitated by Gina Delaney which helped participants to build their knowledge of some of the key components of self-care and build confidence to put them into action.

Library Projects

Presentation Building Redevelopment

The Department of Rural and Community Development advised of formal approval for the Stage 3 Application under the Four Stage Capital Management Process, for the extension and refurbishment of the Carlow Central Library at the Presentation Building, Tullow Street, Co. Carlow in mid-August.

My Open Library Borris

The Meeting Room adjacent to the library has undergone extensive refurbishment, all refurbishment works were completed in compliance with recommendations of the Conservation Architects report. A public information screen has also been installed, along with the procurement of an interactive touch table/screen. The My Open Library system is ready to commence operation pending integration of systems. This project has been funded to the amount of €97,388 (75%) by the Department of Rural and Community Development with matched funding of €32,462 (25%) from Carlow County Council.

My Open Library Tullow

In-house design of a new library entrance was completed. Tenders for necessary building works, RFID Kiosk and installation of an Open Library system were awarded using the Quick Quotes e-platform. In addition, a display screen and Hublets were purchased. This project is being funded to the amount of €93,600 (90%) by the Department of Rural and Community Development with matched funding of €10,400 (10%) from Carlow County Council.

Library Management System

The new national Library Management System, Spydus went LIVE on March 29th. Coordinated centrally by the Libraries Development Unit, LGMA following a national tender, Dublin City Council lead the implementation liaising with Carlow County Council Library Service and IT Department over the last few months. The introduction of Spydus means a new and improved online system for Carlow library members. Members can manage their library accounts online, browse a catalogue of 12 million items, and reserve items to borrow.

New Initiatives

The inaugural Cathaoirleach Bursary scheme for postgraduate students' resident in Carlow was developed and managed by members of Carlow County Library Service on behalf of Cathaoirleach Cllr Fintan Phelan.

Carlow library staff successfully coordinated and managed a Carlow Youth Needs Assessment consultation sessions and survey. The Cathaoirleach presented the final report to the elected members at the June Council meeting.



Heritage Services



2

Carlow Heritage Forum Meetings Held



7

Community Heritage Funding Applications Supported



8

Public Consultations Events Organised



28

Public Heritage Outreach Events Organised

€249,500

Events held with 3 Heritage Funding Leveraged & Administered



Carlow Heritage Forum

The Inaugural meeting of the Carlow Heritage Forum took place in May 2022 in the Visual Centre, Carlow with Cllr. John Murphy as Chair of the Heritage Forum. The forum is made up a mixture of elected representatives, representatives of non-government organisations, heritage groups and County Council representatives of Departments that deal directly or indirectly with the three strands of heritage- built, natural and cultural. The non-statutory Forum and works with the Heritage Officer in bringing the Carlow Heritage Plan to fruition and ensures the implementation of the plan for the benefits of the people of Carlow.

Funding was secured from the Heritage Council for facilitated online workshops as part of the pre-draft consultation stage of the Carlow Heritage Plan in November/ December 2022. This was supplemented with a series of four in-person consultation events in the four County libraries.

Historic Structures Fund 2022

Three Protected Structures in County Carlow received funding for necessary conservation works from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The structures were the gatehouse of Borris House, Borris for restoration of the door and stone surface cleaning of associated

structure; completion of lime rendering and installation of windows at Currane Tower, Borris and conservation of sash windows at Millford House, Millford.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2022

Four protected structures in County Carlow received funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and ensures private investment in the structures. The structures were a cottage in the Architectural Conservation Area of Borris for chimney restoration; re-slating of an outbuilding at Aghade Farm, Tullow; windows restoration at the Step House, Borris and completion of windows restoration at Dunleckney Glebe House, Bagenalstown.

Community Monuments Fund 2022

Two archaeological monuments with County Carlow benefitted from funding from the Community Monuments Fund in 2022. The fund enable private owners of monuments, community groups and local authorities to prepare plans, implement work or interpret for the conservation and interpretation of archaeological monuments. Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society received funding for a second phase of a geophysical survey within the adjoining lands of the National Monument at Ballymoon Castle and Carlow County Council received funding for a Conservation Report for medieval church of St. Michaels, Tinnahinch, Carlow.

Biodiversity Week 2022

Biodiversity Week is a national celebration of biodiversity in Ireland offering communities an opportunity to discuss and engage with aspects of biodiversity was marked by three events organised by the Carlow Heritage Office.

Carlow Heritage Office Projects

Funding was secured for a Pilot Survey of Vernacular Structures within three historic settlement clusters in the Blackstairs Mountains. The project was designed as an



Cathaoirleach Fintan Phelan, Minister Patrick O'Donovan, Deputy Malcolm Noonan and Mayor Ken Murnane at the accessibility works at Brownshill Dolmen

educational awareness exercise, to assist communities avail of funding for vernacular structures within County Carlow. The Heritage Offices of Carlow, Kildare and Laois secured funding for the production of two research-based video telling the heritage story of the significance of the Gordon Bennet Race.

Heritage Week 2022

Heritage Week is the national celebration of heritage in Ireland. The Heritage Office working with community groups and various Departments in the County Council produced a varied programme of 25 events around the County. The events ranged from lectures, workshops, demonstrations and guided walks for all age groups.

Climate Change and Built Heritage and Archaeology

Creative Ireland funding was granted to the Heritage Office for the production of a photogrammetric survey of a Scabby House, a unique vernacular structure in the Blackstairs Mountains. The survey forms part of a methodology to identify the effect of Climate Change in support of the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built Heritage and Archaeology.



Motor tax

Carlow County Council's Motor Tax Department delivers a high standard of service.

The public office is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 12.30pm and the online service is available 24/7 - 365 days per year at www.motortax.ie and accounts for circa 80% of all transactions.

In 2022 18,300 transactions were processed in the Motor Tax public office to a value of € 3.09 million. In addition, 70,200 transactions were processed online to a value of €9.76 million. Total 88,500 transactions to a value of € 12.85 million.



Appendices



Appendix 1

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) at 31st December 2022

	€	€
	2022	2021
Fixed Assets	1,102,143,351	1,097,110,439
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	9,447,814	5,565,043
Long Term Debtors	57,293,979	53,270,532
Current Assets		
Stocks	-	-
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	7,528,765	9,722,488
Short Term Deposits	54,600,188	56,060,447
Cash at Bank	3,565,354	109,992
Cash on Hand	133,474	97,733
Total Current Assets	65,827,781	65,990,660
Current Liabilities		
Bank Overdraft		
Creditors & Accruals	16,349,341	17,586,073
Finance Leases	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	16,349,341	17,586,073
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	49,478,440	48,404,587
Creditors		
Loans Payable	34,330,967	36,471,257
Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable Deposits	3,439,533	3,453,281
Other	18,443,720	15,621,593
Total Creditors	56,214,220	55,546,131
Net Assets	1,162,149,364	1,148,804,470
Financed by		
Capitalisation Account	1,102,143,351	1,097,110,439
Income WIP	5,570,745	2,918,935
General Revenue Reserve	860,054	818,701
Other Balances	53,575,214	47,956,395
Total Reserves	1,162,149,364	1,148,804,470

Appendix 2

Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Account Statement) For year ended 31st December 2021

The income and expenditure account statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus (deficit) for the year.

Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure 2022	Income 2022	Net Expenditure 2022	Net Expenditure 2021
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	17,172,398	20,022,245	(2,849,847)	(2,062,047)
Roads Transportation & Safety	13,536,540	9,066,565	4,469,975	4,674,114
Water & Sewerage	4,437,931	4,196,342	241,589	237,822
Development Incentives & Controls	6,188,598	2,359,099	3,829,499	3,589,155
Environmental Protection	7,461,705	1,786,531	5,675,174	5,502,941
Recreation & Amenity	4,322,178	169,391	4,152,787	3,573,871
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	262,682	63,493	199,189	256,982
Miscellaneous	4,770,804	5,111,315	(340,511)	1,653,511
Total Expenditure/Income	58,152,836	42,774,981	15,377,855	17,426,349
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Property Tax.			15,377,855	17,426,349
Rates			15,061,941	15,104,128
Local Property Tax			6,341,370	6,340,624
Pension Related Deduction			-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers			6,025,456	4,018,403
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(5,984,105)	(3,972,218)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			41,351	46,185
General Reserve @ 1st January			818,701	772,516
General Reserve @ 31st December			860,052	818,701

Appendix 3

Conferences/Seminars/Training Attended by Councillors in 2022

Date	Training / Conferences/ Seminars	Venue	Councillor in Attendance	Travel/ Sub/ Expense	Conference Fee
17th February 2022	AILG Module 1, "Elected Members Personal Safety and Risk Assessment"	Mullingar Park Hotel, Westmeath	Cllr. Andrew Gladney, Cllr. Arthur McDonald	478.99	140.00
19th February 2022		Silver Springs Hotel, Clayton, Co. Cork	Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. John Pender, Cllr. William Quinn	874.07	210.00
19th February 2022	Celtic Conference, Social Media Use in Political Campaigns	O' Donovans Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	Cllr. Tom O' Neill and Cllr. F. Browne	968.26	200.00
4th - 6th March 2022	Celtic Conference, "Tourism, Digital and Marketing"	Carlingford, Co. Louth	Cllr. William Quinn	492.87	100.00
23rd / 24th March 2022	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) Annual Spring Conference "Rural Development"	Innishowen, Buncrana, Co. Donegal	Cllr. Andrew Gladney, Cllr. Arthur McDonald, Cllr. John Pender, Cllr. William Quinn	2,766.06	620.00
11th / 12th April 2022	Local Authority Management Association (LAMA)	Hotel Kilkenny	Cllr. Andrew Gladney, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. J Pender	282.44	480.00
27th / 28th April 2022	Suck Valley Way Conference - "Rural Regeneration Post Pandemic, The Challenges and Opportunities to unlocking our potential"	Abbey Hotel, Roscommon F42 F992	Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. John McDonald	637.19	260.00
12th May 2022	AILG Module 2, "Climate Action and the Role of Local Government"	Treacys Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare	Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. John McDonald, Cllr. John Pender, Cllr. William Quinn	1,540.20	280.00
14th May 2022		Hillview Hotel, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan	Cllr. Andrew Gladney, Cllr. Arthur McDonald	814.35	140.00
16th June 2022	AILG Module 3, "Finalising Your Development Plan – Key Steps and requirements from the Development Plan Guidelines"	Hodson Bay Hotel, Roscommon	Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. John McDonald	666.27	140.00
18th June 2022		Avalon House, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny	Cllr. Arthur McDonald, Cllr. John Pender	99.57	140.00

Date	Training / Conferences / Seminars	Venue	Councillor in Attendance	Travel/ Sub/ Expense	Conference Fee
22nd July 2022	AILG Module 4," Local Authority Audit Committee and the Governance and Oversight Role of Elected Member".	Allingham Arms Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal	, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Arthur McDonald, Cllr. John Pender	1,481.02	210.00
14/15th September 2022	AILG - Autumn Training Conference - "Celebrating Local Government"	Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath	Cllr. Thomas Kinsella, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Arthur McDonald, Cllr. John Pender, Cllr. William Quinn	1,793.84	775.00
17th September 2022	National First Responders Conference	Mullingar Park Hotel, Westmeath	Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. William Paton	566.34	61.50
01/09/2022	National Biodiversity Conference 2022, " How Local Authorities can address the Biodiversity Emergency"	The Strand Hotel, Limerick	Cllr. William Paton	223.60	0.00
7th - 9th October 2022	Celtic Conference, "Irish State Retirement Pensions and Benefits	O' Donovans Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	Cllr. John Pender	774.46	100.00
22nd October 2022	AILG Module 5, " Disability and Inclusion"	Brehon Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry	Cllr. Andrew Gladney, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Arthur McDonald, Cllr. John Pender	2,030.39	280.00
27th October 2022		Radisson Hotel Sligo	Cllr. William Quinn	386.85	70.00
9th November 2022	Local Authority Management Association (LAMA) "Cost of Living Crisis and Sustainable and Renewable energy"	Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan	Cllr. Andrew Gladney, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Arthur McDonald, Cllr. John Pender, Cllr. William Quinn	3,631.83	960.00
11th - 13th November 2022	Celtic Conference, "Role of the Local Authority, addressing the needs of Older persons"	Carlingford, Co. Louth	Cllr. Andrew Gladney, Cllr. Arthur McDonald	995.93	200.00
17th November 2022	AILG Module 6, " Data Protection, What Councillors Need to know"	Tower Hotel, Waterford	Cllr. Ken Murnane	146.28	70.00
25th November 2022		Newgrange Hotel, Navan, Co. Meath	Cll. Andrew Gladney, Cllr. Arthur McDonald, Cllr. John Pender, Cllr. William Quinn	1,337.45	280.00

Date	Educational Training	Educational Facility	Councillors in Attendance	Educational Fee
2021-2022	MA in European Law and Policy.	Dublin City University	Cllr. Fintan Phealn	1,500.00

Appendix 4

Elected Members Attendance at Meetings held in 2022

Councillor Name	Total Meetings Held	No. of Meetings	%
Fergal Browne	40	37	92.50
John Cassin	32	30	93.75
Andrea Dalton	52	51	98.08
Michael Doran	39	39	100.00
Andrew Gladney	37	30	81.08
Thomas Kinsella	43	40	93.02
Arthur McDonald	41	41	100.00
John McDonald	36	35	97.22
Ken Murnane	36	35	97.22
Charlie Murphy	28	24	85.71
John Murphy	38	37	97.37
Brian O' Donoghue	40	37	92.50
Tom O' Neill	52	48	92.31
William Paton	40	37	92.50
John Pender	32	31	96.88
Fintan Phelan	37	35	94.59
William Quinn	42	37	88.10
Adrienne Wallace	32	32	100.00



Appendix 5 Payments to Elected Members in 2022 (Section 142 of the Local Government Act 2001)

Councillors Name	Representational Payment	Annual Expense Allowance	MD Allowance	Stationery	Mobile	Educational Fees	SPC Allowance	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas Cathaoirleach Allowance	Travel & Subsistence Home	Travel & Subsistence Abroad	Total Payment
Fergal Browne	€21,664.97	€4,345.15	€ 509.79	€1,523.54	€198.84	€-	€-	€ 6,117.46	€-	€517.05	€-	€34,876.80
John Cassin	€21,664.97	€4,345.15	€ 509.79	€1,499.00	€201.25	€ 699.00	€-	€-	€-	€-	€-	€28,919.16
Andrea Dalton	€21,664.97	€4,345.15	€ 509.79	€-	€-	€-	€-	€-	€-	€-	€-	€26,519.91
Michael Doran	€21,664.97	€ 4,345.15	€ 509.79	€186.00	€110.34	€-	€-	€-	€-	€-	€-	€26,816.25
Andrew Gladney	€21,664.97	€ 4,434.67	€ 509.79	€1,568.30	€-	€-	€2,806.44	€-	€-	€1,154.90	€-	€ 32,139.07
Thomas Kinsella	€21,664.97	€ 4,940.71	€ 509.79	€1,260.56	€355.15	€-	€6,000.00	€ 4,867.92	€-	€-	€-	€ 39,599.10
Arthur McDonald	€21,664.97	€ 4,261.77	€ 509.79	€1,409.11	€118.38	€-	€6,000.00	€ 3,058.74	€-	€2,075.98	€-	€ 39,098.74
John McDonald	€ 21,664.97	€ 4,345.15	€ 509.79	€1,137.00	€-	€-	€-	€-	€ 1,947.16	€352.85	€-	€ 29,956.92
Ken Murnane	€21,664.97	€ 4,345.15	€ 509.79	€1,499.02	€142.06	€-	€-	€ 5,841.50	€-	€854.49	€-	€ 34,856.98
Charlie Murphy	€21,664.97	€ 4,846.63	€ 509.79	€1,500.00	€-	€-	€-	€-	€-	€-	€-	€ 28,521.39
John Murphy	€21,664.97	€ 4,814.59	€ 509.79	€1,058.87	€-	€-	€6,000.00	€-	€ 2,039.16	€-	€-	€ 36,087.38
Brian O' Donoghue	€21,664.97	€ 4,761.07	€ 509.79	€1,360.92	€-	€-	€-	€-	€-	€-	€-	€ 28,296.75
Tom O' Neill	€21,664.97	€ 4,282.03	€ 509.79	€1,410.00	€128.71	€-	€-	€10,195.78	€-	€485.32	€-	€ 38,676.60
William Paton	€21,664.97	€ 4,282.03	€ 509.79	€1,197.59	€142.06	€ 1,500.00	€-	€-	€-	€-	€-	€ 29,296.44
John Pender	€21,664.97	€ 4,325.25	€ 509.79	€1,521.25	€201.26	€-	€-	€-	€-	€2,489.93	€-	€ 30,712.45
Fintan Phelan	€21,664.97	€ 4,345.15	€ 509.79	€1,434.74	€-	€-	€-	€ 9,735.82	€-	€-	€551.99	€ 38,242.46
William Quinn	€21,664.97	€ 5,828.14	€ 509.79	€1,331.20	€108.24	€-	€3,193.56	€-	€-	€1,392.14	€-	€ 34,028.04
Adrienne Wallace	€21,664.97	€ 4,282.03	€ 509.79	€1,459.58	€142.06	€-	€-	€-	€-	€-	€-	€ 28,058.43

Appendix 6

Human Rights

In preparing the Plan the Council has been cognisant of cross cutting issues such as Social Inclusion, Equality, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Objectives, and Sustainable Development together with Quality Service and Community Leadership. The Council is also cognisant of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights duty as set out in Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014. This duty obliges the Council to have regard to the need to;

- A. Eliminate discrimination.
- B. Promote Equality of Opportunity and treatment of its staff and the persons to whom it provides services and
- C. Protect the Human Rights of its members, staff and the persons to whom it provides services Carlow County Council is committed in this Plan to supporting the Transforming Lives Programme in relation to people with disabilities to support participation in cultural, recreation, leisure and sporting activities and in fulfilling its role in ensuring that housing for people with disabilities is an integral part of mainstream housing efforts.

The Council's role in relation to migrants and new communities is reflected in the Corporate Plan and Carlow's Migrant Integration Strategy 2020.-



*Bagenalstown
Court House*

Appendix 7

Senior Management Team



Michael Rainey
Interim Chief Executive



Kathleen Holohan
*Chief Executive
(Retired October 2022)*



Pat Delaney
*Head of Finance: Finance,
Information Systems, Arts
and Culture*



Michael Brennan
*Director of Services:
Community, Housing,
Recreation & Amenity*



Kieran Cullinane
*A/Director of Services:
Corporate/HR, Planning,
Health & Safety, Economic
Development/LEO*



Fiona O'Neill
*A/Director of Services, Ukrainian
Humanitarian Response*

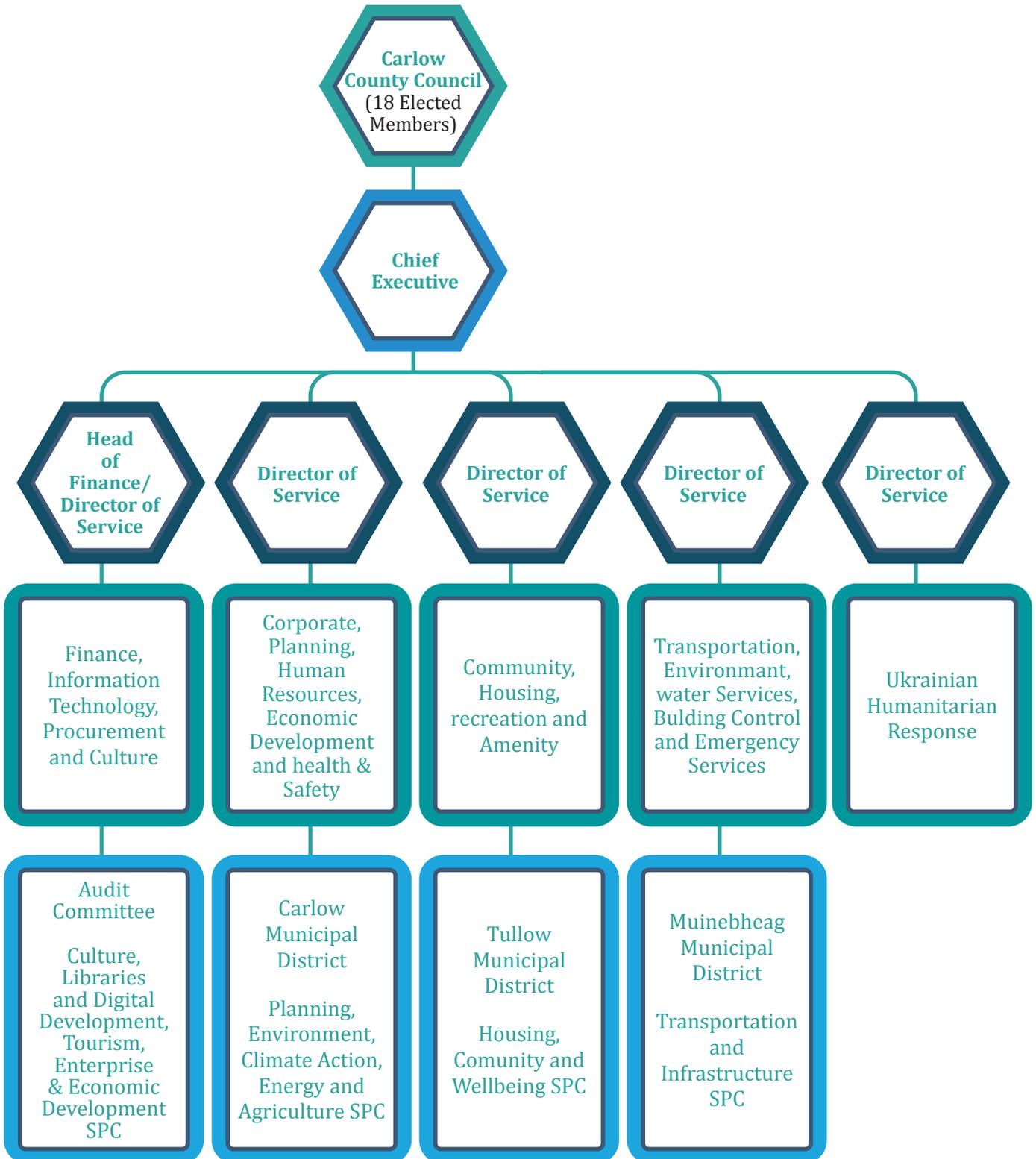


Padraig O'Gorman
*Director of Services: Transportation,
Environment & Water Services, Building
Control & Emergency Services*



Appendix 8

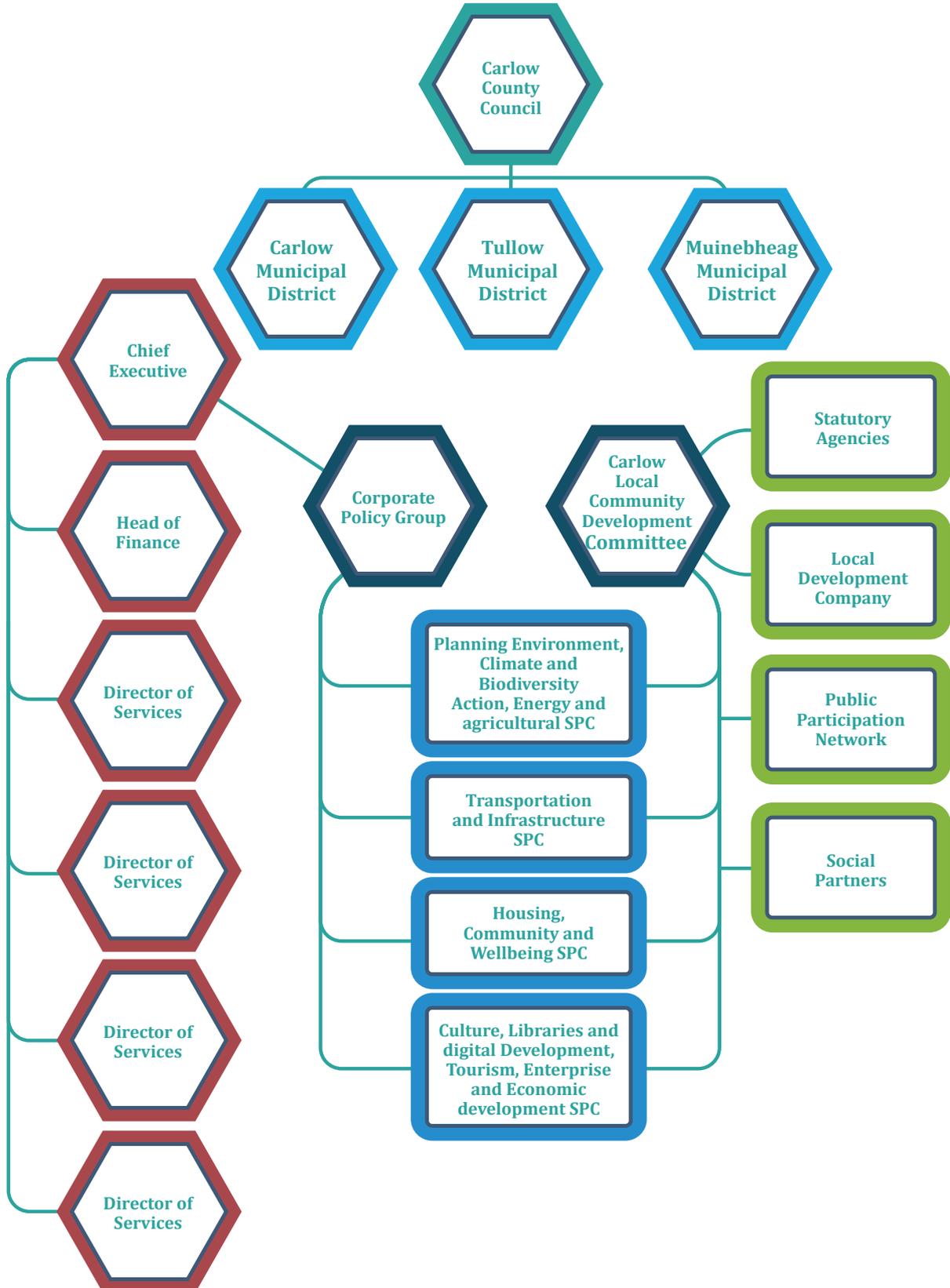
Local Operating Environment





Appendix 9

Organisational Structure





COMHAIRLE CONTAE
C HEATHARLACH
CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

County Hall
Athy Road, Carlow, R93 E7R7

Town Hall,
Centaur Street, Carlow R93 TK85

Assembly Rooms,
40 Dublin Street, Carlow R93 X3T5

Tullow Civic Offices,
Inner Relief Road, Tullow, Co. Carlow, R93 WP86

Bagenalstown Civic Offices,
Daniel McGrath Memorial Hall, Railway Road, Bagenalstown,
Co. Carlow, R21 WR66

059 9170300
info@carlowcoco.ie

www.carlowcoco.ie

f t @Carlow_Co_Co