

Annual Report 2020



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH
CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

“

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.”



Nine Stones Viewing Point, Blackstairs Mts



Table of Contents

Foreword	02
About Our Council	03
Council Meetings 2020	06
Corporate Affairs	11
Human Resources	15
Planning & Development	16
Local Enterprise Office, Economic Development & Special Project Development	19
Environment & Climate Action	23
Water Services	28
Emergency Services & Building Control	30
Roads & Transportation	35
Housing Department	42
Community, Recreation, Amenity & Sports Partnership	44
Water Safety	50
Carlow Library Service	51
County Museum	58
Motor Taxation	62
Appendices	
Appendix 1 Statement of Financial Position	64
Appendix 2 Conferences / Training - Attended By Councillors In 2020	66
Appendix 3 Elected Members Attendance at Meetings held in 2020	70
Appendix 4 Local Elections Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure Act 1999	71
Appendix 5 Payments to Councillors in 2020	72
Appendix 6 Protected Disclosures 2020	73
Appendix 7 Human Rights	74
Appendix 8 Senior Management Team	75
Appendix 9 Local Operating Environment	76
Appendix 10 Organisational Structure	77



Foreword

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, from multinationals to entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises. Creating an environment for economic growth and driving quality of life for all is a priority for this Council.

We are pleased to introduce the Carlow County Council Annual Report 2020, 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.

2020 saw the sudden, very significant and immediate impact of the coronavirus pandemic across our citizens, businesses and all our operations. The Council moved very quickly to establish a well resourced community response team, based in the Council Chamber; operating seven days per week from 8am until 8pm to ensure that vulnerable members of the public could form relationships with community, voluntary and sporting groups to ensure essential grocery and medical supplies could be delivered. We wish to thank all the community, voluntary and sporting groups who participated. We also wish to thank all of the staff who participated and those who continued to provide essential services while their colleagues supported the community response teams.

The impact of the pandemic caused significant immediate changes to work practices for staff, elected members and customers in that working from home became the norm rather than the exception with many services migrated 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. We also wish in particular to thank the I.T. section

for their rising to the challenge of procuring and deploying significant new technology to the community responses team and to all the Council Staff and members to enable productive working from home.

The Council lost a dear friend during the pandemic when our colleague Ger O'Brien passed away unexpectedly in December 2020. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his family and friends.

Council meetings were initially required to be held in the George Bernard Shaw theatre and subsequently moved online through Microsoft Teams. We thank the management and staff of Visual and the theatre for their courtesy in hosting us.

The Council developed a business continuity plan for the covid response and is following this plan which is adapted and revised as updates are received from Government.

Our staff, with the support and leadership of the management team and elected members, continue to maintain and deliver quality services as referenced in our Corporate Plan, to all our customers.



Tom O' Neill
Cathaoirleach



Kathleen Holohan
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 kilometres. 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 2016 census was 56,932. The county town of Carlow is located in the north west of the County along the border with County Laois.

Carlow Town (including Graiguecullen) had a population of 24,274 recorded in the 2016 census making it the thirteenth largest urban centre in the state.

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

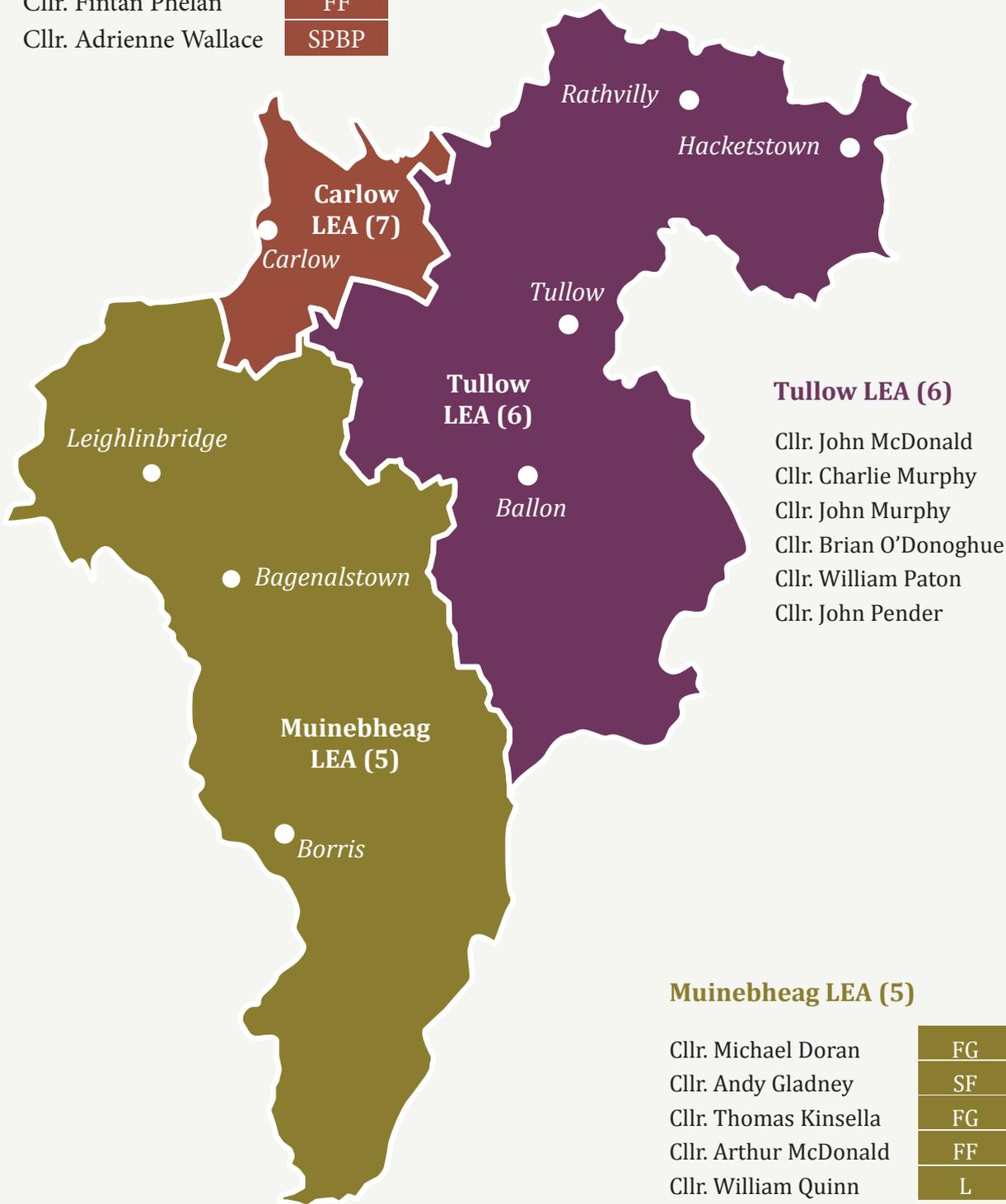
Along with the Corporate Policy Group, four Strategic Policy Committees developed and recommend policy to the Council. Committees are made up of elected members and representatives from designated external sectoral interests.



Delta Sensory Gardens, Carlow

Carlow LEA (7)

Cllr. Fergal Browne	FG
Cllr. John Cassin	No Party
Cllr. Andrea Dalton	FF
Cllr Ken Murnane	FF
Cllr. Tom O'Neill	FG
Cllr. Fintan Phelan	FF
Cllr. Adrienne Wallace	SPBP



Tullow LEA (6)

Cllr. John McDonald	FF
Cllr. Charlie Murphy	No Party
Cllr. John Murphy	FG
Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue	FG
Cllr. William Paton	L
Cllr. John Pender	FF

Muinebheag LEA (5)

Cllr. Michael Doran	FG
Cllr. Andy Gladney	SF
Cllr. Thomas Kinsella	FG
Cllr. Arthur McDonald	FF
Cllr. William Quinn	L



Council Meetings 2020

There were **67** meetings held in 2020 comprising of;



 11 Plenary Meetings	 1 Annual Meeting	 1 Special Council Meeting	 5 Audit Committee
 9 Municipal District of Carlow	 10 Municipal District of Tullow	 8 Municipal District of Muinebheag	
 6 Corporate Policy Meetings (CPG) Meetings	 10 Strategic Policy Group (SPC)	 2 Joint Policing Committee	 4 Local Traveller Accommodation Consultive Committee

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

Housing & Wellbeing SPC



Chaired by:

Cllr. Arthur McDonald

Council Members:

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

External Members:

Joe Butler, Eileen Brophy, Claire Howlin, John McHugh, George Stafford.

This SPC met once in 2020, the following is a summary of the issues discussed:

- ➔ Role of the SPC
- ➔ 2020 Programme of Works (Housing)
- ➔ Control of Horse Draft Bye Laws

Transportation & Infrastructure SPC



Chaired by:

Cllr. William Quinn

Council Members:

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

External Members:

John Brophy, Rowena Dooley, Damian Howard, Jackie Meally, John Tully

This SPC met three times in 2020, the following is a summary of the issues discussed:

- ➔ Role of the Committee
- ➔ 2020 Programme of Works (Transportation)
- ➔ Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

- ➔ Carlow PPN Update
- ➔ Implementation of Audit Recommendations Automated Public Conveniences (APCs)
- ➔ Carlow Southern Inner Relief Road - Update Strategic Analysis Report
- ➔ National Broadband Plan – Update
- ➔ Greenway Update
- ➔ Development and Implementation of Roadside Hedge Cutting Pilot Project
- ➔ EPA Water Quality Report 2019 Carlow Southern Inner Relief Road

Planning, Environment, Climate & Bio Diversity Action, Energy & Agriculture SPC



Chaired by:

Cllr. Tomas Kinsella

Council Members:

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

External Members:

Joe Campbell, George Collier, Liam Kelly, Brian O' Farrell

This SPC met four times in 2020, the following is a summary of the issues discussed:

- ➔ 2020 Programme of Works for (Planning & Environment)
- ➔ Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021
- ➔ Litter Management Plan Review
- ➔ Draft Litter Management Plan 2021-2023
- ➔ Sustainable Development Goal Update
- ➔ Climate Adaption Update
- ➔ Review of Burial Ground Byelaws



Culture, Libraries and Digital Development, Tourism, Enterprise and Economic Development SPC



Chaired by:

Cllr. John Murphy

Council Members:

Cllr. Andrea Dalton, Cllr. Michael Doran, Cllr. John McDonald, Cllr. Thomas O' Neill, John Pender

External Members:

Michael Browne, Eileen Doyle, Andrea McDonnell, Brian O' Farrell, Eileen O' Rourke

This SPC met twice in 2020, the following is a summary of the issues discussed:

- ➔ SPC Annual Work programme
- ➔ Broadband Update and Development of Carlow's Digital Strategy

- ➔ Local Enterprise Office Update – Business Support, Economic Development & Special Project
- ➔ Development including Town and Village Renewal
- ➔ Economic Development – InCarlow Economic Development & Business Support Strategy/Training & Capacity Development Analysis/Hacketstown – Village Led Design Statement
- ➔ Culture – National Public Libraries Strategy & Carlow County Council Library Service Progress Report
- ➔ Digital Development Strategy – Update on Carlow's Draft Digital Strategy and proposed actions

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 purpose of these committees is to provide a forum where a local authority and the senior Garda Officers responsible for policing that area can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters of policing for that area.

Chairperson	Cllr. Michael Doran
Council Members	Cllr. Fergal Browne, Cllr. John Cassin, Cllr. Andrea Dalton, Cllr. Arthur McDonald, Cllr. John McDonald, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. John Murphy, Cllr. Brian O' Donoghue, Cllr. Tom O' Neill, Cllr. William Paton, Cllr. John Pender, Cllr. Fintan Phelan.
Oireachtas Members	Malcom Noonan TD, Jennifer Murnane O Connor TD.
Executive Members	Kathleen Holohan, Chief Executive, Michael Rainey, Director of Services Planning, Economic
PPN Community Representatives	Michael Lyons, Conor McCarthy, Maureen, O' Carroll, Martin Tuite, Michael Nolan and Caroline Dargan.
Other Community Representatives	John Brophy, Chamber of Commerce, Anton Scheele, Carlow Women's Aid
An Garda Síochána	Superintendent Aidan Brennan, Carlow Chief Superintendent Pdraig Dunne, Kilkenny.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC consists of 19 members both statutory and non-statutory including 4 elected members. 12 LCDC meetings were held in 2020.

Statutory Interests	
Cllr. Andrea Dalton	Elected Member
Cllr. Thomas Kinsella	Elected Member
Cllr. Tom O'Neill	Elected Member
Cllr. Willie Quinn	Elected Member
Kathleen Holohan	Chief Executive, CCC
Kieran Comerford	Head of Economic Development & Enterprise, CCC
Noel Barry	Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Sarah Barron	Kilkenny/Carlow Education & Training Board
Joan-Ita Murphy	Health Service Executive
Statutory Interests	
Thomas Kelly	Drumpea Cemetery Committee (Community and Voluntary PPN Rep)
Mary Doyle	Hacketstown Community Group (Community and Voluntary PPN Rep)
Ann Shortall	Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre (Social Inclusion PPN Rep)
John Murphy	BEAM, Bagenalstown (Social Inclusion PPN Rep)
Eamonn Moore	An Táisce (Environmental College PPN Rep) Carlow County
Annette Fox	Development Partnership CLG.
John Brophy	Carlow Chamber (Business Employer)
John Nolan	Agricultural / Farming
Eilish Langton	Arts & Culture - Civic Society
Eileen O'Rourke	Carlow Tourism



Corporate Affairs

Statistics

 <p>5 No. Subject Access Request</p>	<p>90 No. of Freedom of Information applications received</p> 	
 <p>1,896 The no. of dog licences issued</p>	 <p>27 No. staff were trained as Covid-19 Compliance Officers</p>	 <p>44,440 No. of Electors registered to vote</p>

Corporate Affairs Section is responsible for the provision and management of a wide range of services which includes Council and Corporate Policy Group meetings, Register of Electors, Freedom of Information and a wide variety of ancillary services relating to the business of the Council.

- ➔ Management of Council and Corporate Policy Group 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.
- ➔ Register of Electors
- ➔ Local Elections
- ➔ Customer Service
- ➔ Corporate Communications – Press Releases
- ➔ Co-Ordination of Customer Service Performance Indicators
- ➔ Control of Dogs
- ➔ Coroners Court
- ➔ Management of Council Property
- ➔ Preparation of Annual Report and The Corporate Plan
- ➔ Ethics Register
- ➔ Freedom of Information
- ➔ Ombudsman
- ➔ Data Protection
- ➔ Public Relations
- ➔ Irish Language Scheme
- ➔ Disability Plan
- ➔ Schools Business Programme Partnership
- ➔ Service Indicators co-ordination.
- ➔ Promotion of new Council initiatives such as Fix My Street and MapAlerter
- ➔ Major Emergency Management – Communications. Liaison with public, media and Councillors including during severe weather conditions.



Property

The Corporate Affairs Section is responsible for all Corporate Property and the maintenance and upkeep of same. It is also responsible for leases of property to and from other parties.

Following the abolition of the Town Councils, the County Council is now also responsible for all former Carlow and Muinebheag Town Council properties and leases.

Business in the Community

The Council has been involved for several years now in an initiative with an organisation called the 'Schools to Business Partnership', whereby the Council has a link with Carlow Vocational School.

Under this initiative, the Council delivers a programme with transition year students who visit the Council and attend brief talks from different staff about their work for

the Council ('a day in the life'). The student also has a site visit, to locations such as the Fire Station, Library etc. The final phase of the programme involves the delivery of CV and interview preparation advice, followed by a Council team attending at the school, conducting mock interviews and delivering feedback. 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. Training continues to be rolled out to staff and various policy documents have been developed including department Privacy Statements, Data Protection Breach Management Policy, Clean Desk Policy. The DPO has been actively involved with Community groups CCTV.

Human Rights

Carlow County Council takes a leadership role in social inclusion, equality, human rights and universal accessibility.

Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Acts, 1997-2014 gives legal rights to those seeking access to information held by public bodies covered by the Act.

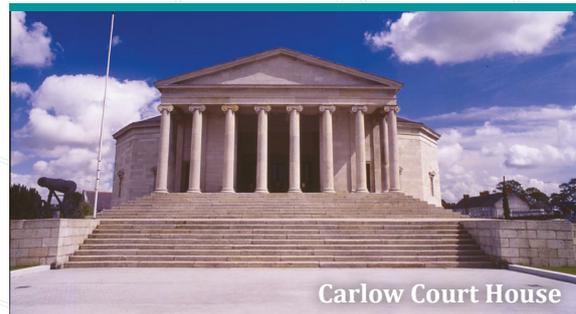
A request for information under the Freedom of Information Act must be made, in writing, and should indicate that the information is being sought under the Freedom of Information Act.

The number of FOI requests received was as follows;

Number of applications received	63
Number of requests granted	35
Number of requests refused	23
Live cases at 31st December 2020	20
Number of internal reviews	5
Number of Appeals to Information Commissioner	0

Ombudsman

The Office of the Ombudsman was established to examine complaints from members of the public who feel they have been unfairly treated in their dealings with bodies such as Government Departments, Local Authorities, Health Service Executive etc. Carlow County Council received 2 complaints in 2020.



Records Management and Archives

In 2020 Carlow County Council hired an Archivist and Record Manager, whom is responsible for the implementation of the National Retention Policy for Local Authority Records, and for development of the County Archives Service.

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 a licence for the dog or a general licence covering any number of dogs at specified premises, except those used wholly for official duties by the Gardai, Defence Forces or the Custom & Excise Services. Carlow County Council and

Carlow and Kilkenny County Councils operate a joint Dog Warden Service with two Dog Wardens based at Paulstown, one for Carlow and one for Kilkenny.

Licences Issued	1,896
Income	€53,477.84

Chief Executive Monthly Progress Report to Council

The Chief Executive prepares a report on the performance of each directorate/section during the month following the previous monthly report. 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. A copy of the Chief Executive's monthly report is also forwarded to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government each month.

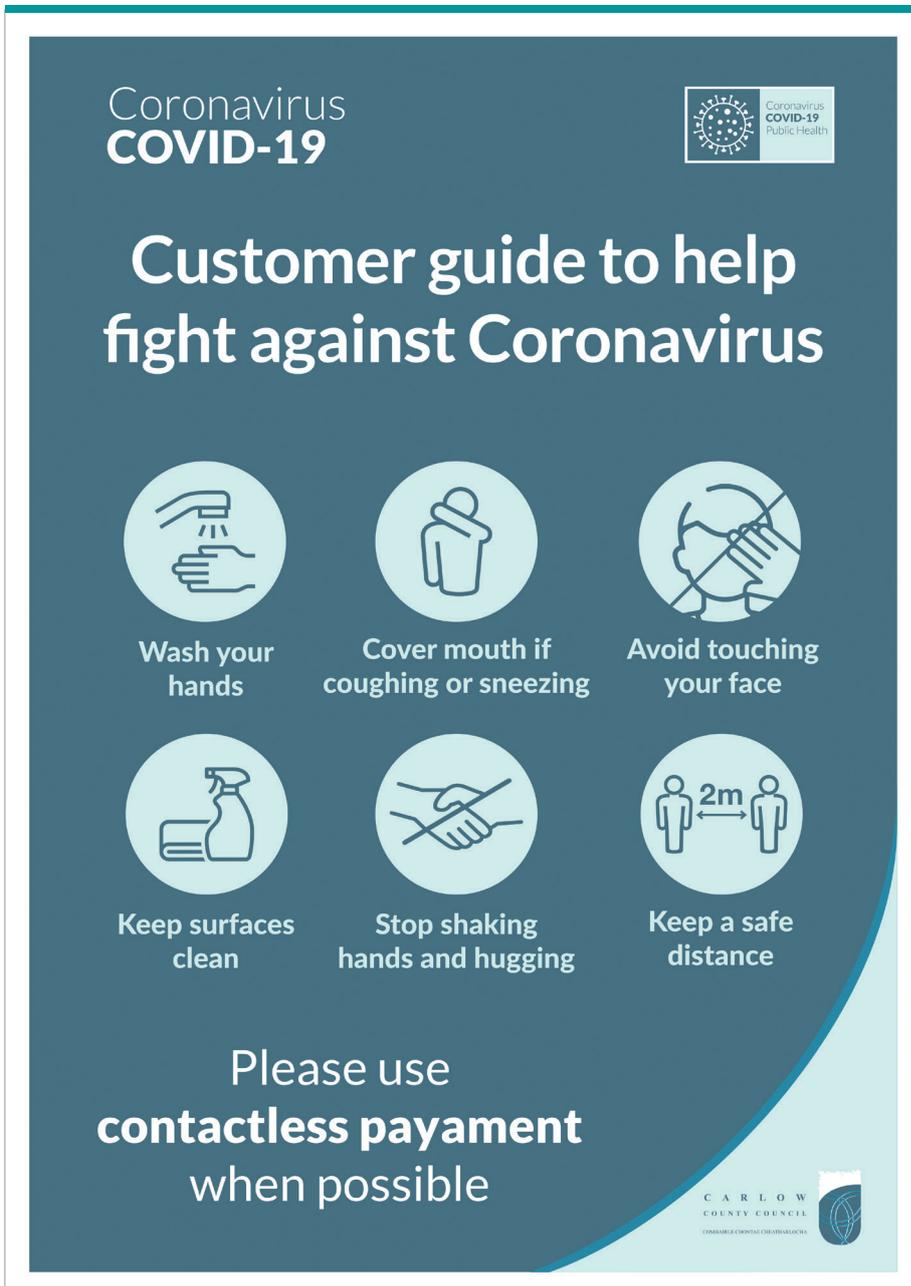
Health And Safety

It has been a challenging year in Health and Safety with the onset of the covid-19 pandemic. The focus primarily was and still is the safety of staff who continue to provide service to the public.

Initially, a risk assessment was carried out and control measures implemented throughout the council, with the assistance of safe operating guidance issued by the LGMA. A specific Covid-19 induction was

developed and rolled out to all staff to raise awareness around hygiene, social distancing and cleaning regimes.

During 2020, **10** number incidents were reported and processed.



Coronavirus
COVID-19

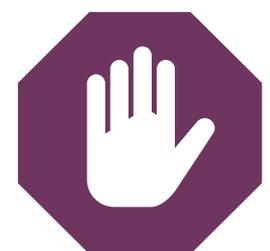
 Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health

Customer guide to help fight against Coronavirus

- 
Wash your hands
- 
Cover mouth if coughing or sneezing
- 
Avoid touching your face
- 
Keep surfaces clean
- 
Stop shaking hands and hugging
- 
Keep a safe distance

Please use **contactless payment** when possible

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
COMARLAIR ÉIREANNACH

During 2020,
10
number
incidents
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Human Resources



- Deployment of staff to all service areas
- Manpower Planning, Recruitment and Selection
- Training, Learning and Development
- Industrial Relations
- Staff Wellbeing and Employee Assistance Programme
- Equality & Diversity
- Work Life Balance
- Creating a Positive & Safe Working Environment
- Workplace Partnership
- Superannuation
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- Implementation of Core HR/Payroll/ Superannuation System
- Attendance Management
- HR Policy Development.



Planning & Development

Statistics

 481 No. of Planning Applications Received	 91 No. of Enforcement complaints received during 2020.	 4 Properties entered on the Vacant Site Levy Register.	 7 Total no. dangerous structures complaints received
 4 Housing developments were taken in charge during 2020	 37 Enforcement Notices Served	 40 No of Derelict Sites Notices Issued	 18 Total no. complaints received for 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 planning department covers a number of functional areas namely development management, planning enforcement, taking in charge of residential developments, derelict sites, dangerous structures and forward planning.

Development Management

Carlow County Council received a total of **481** planning applications during 2020. The following is a breakdown of decisions made during 2020 by Carlow County Council:

Number of valid applications received	381
Number of invalid applications received	100
Number of applications granted	305
Number of applications refused	16
Number of pre-planning consultations held	119

Enforcement

The planning department in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) seeks to ensure that planning permissions are complied with. The planning department investigates all written complaints of unauthorised development where they appear to be well founded.

A total of **91** complaints were received during 2020.

Action Taken	2020
Warning letters issued	37
Enforcement notices served	37
Legal proceedings initiated	4

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 3 requests to take developments in charge were received in 2020. The following housing developments were taken in charge during 2020:

- ➔ Maple Court, Mortarstown, Carlow
- ➔ The Fairways, Pollerton Little, Carlow
- ➔ 4 Houses at Kilree, Bagenalstown, Carlow
- ➔ Grinawn Court, Station Road, Bagenalstown, Carlow

DERELICT SITES

Derelict sites are dealt with in accordance with the Derelict Sites Act 1990. A total of 7 complaints were received during 2020.

Action Taken	2020
Number of Notices issued	40
Number of Notices /letters complied with	21
Number of Derelict Sites on Register at 1st January 2020	37
Number of Derelict Sites on Register at 31st December 2020	22
Number of Derelict Sites with Levy Applied	8
Number of properties compulsory acquired	0

Dangerous Structures

Dangerous Structures are dealt with in accordance with the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1964. A total of 7 complaints were received in 2020.

Action Taken	2020
Number of Notices/letters issued	15
Number of Notices complied with by the Owner/Occupier	7
Number of Notices complied with by Carlow County Council completing works	2

Vacant Site Levy

The Planning Department continued to progress during 2020 the establishment of a Vacant Site Register as provided for under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, as amended by the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018. The Vacant Sites Register is available to view online on the Council's website at www.carlow.ie. Entries are made on the Register following the completion of site assessments and the issuing of notices pursuant to the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, as amended by the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018. At 31st December, 2020 there were 4 properties entered on the Vacant Site Levy Register. No Vacant Site Levies were applied during 2020.

Short-Term Lettings

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 2020.

The Covid-19 Pandemic and travel restrictions during 2020 impacted the Short-Term Lettings market within the Rent Pressure Zone with previous activity becoming limited or ceasing to operate.

Action Taken	2020
Total number of properties identified as potentially in breach of the Short-Term Lettings Regulations	18
Number of investigations completed	18
Warning letters issued	3

Forward Planning

Carlow County Development Plan 2015 2021 Review:

The review of the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021 and the preparation of a new Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 commenced with the publication of an Issues Paper on 24th June 2020. Submissions were sought, and a Chief Executive’s report was prepared on the public consultation process. The Chief Executive’s Report was considered by the Elected Members on 30th November, 2020 and directions sought on the content of the new Plan.

The preparation of the new County Development Plan will be conducted over a two- year period with the draft Plan due for display in July 2021. The Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 is due for adoption in June 2022.

Graiguenamanagh – Tinnahinch Local Area Plan 2021-2027:

Carlow County Council in conjunction with Kilkenny County Council is preparing a Joint Local Area Plan in respect of the combined functional area of Tinnahinch (County Carlow) and Graiguenamanagh (County Kilkenny). The Draft Joint Local Area Plan was placed on public display for the period November 2020 until January 2021 following which a Chief Executive’s Report was prepared on the content of the submissions received. The concluding stages of the Local Area Plan will take place during 2021 and is likely to be adopted in June/July 2021.



Brownshill Portal Tomb



Local Enterprise Office, Economic Development & Special Project Development Statistics

Statistics

 <p>56</p> <p>The no. of Jobs created with assistance from the LEO</p>	 <p>256</p> <p>The no. of participants who received mentoring during 2020</p>	 <p>2,242</p> <p>No of participants for All Training/Development Programmes</p>
 <p>29</p> <p>No. of companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert *</p>	 <p>161</p> <p>The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2020</p>	 <p>77</p> <p>The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2020</p>
 <p>25</p> <p>No. Festivals & Events grants approved, due to Covid-19 7 of the 25 events went ahead</p>	 <p>8</p> <p>No. Paint Scheme Grants were provided by CCC to enterprises located within Tullow, Bagenalstown & Carlow Town.</p>	 <p>475</p> <p>Students from 10 No. schools participated in the Schools Entrepreneurship Programme.</p>

Local Enterprise Office, Economic Development & Special Project Development

The Local Enterprise Office in Carlow County Council has responsibility for the Business Support, Economic Development & Special Project Development functions of Carlow County Council.

Enterprise Ireland - Service Level Agreement

The output for 2020 in respect of the Service Level Agreement with Enterprise Ireland in respect of the operation of the Local Enterprise Office was as follows:

Progression Pathway:	Output 2020
Number of Clients transferred to E.I.	3

Number of Clients Approved Funding	Amt Approved
Feasibility: 4	€50,539.50
Priming: 5	€290,470.00
Business Expansion: 11	€267,354.00
TAME: 1	€1,750.00

Economic Development Strategy Development

The following strategies were developed and launched during 2020:

- Outdoor Recreation Strategy
- Project Carlow 2040
- Grange Village Led Design Statement
- inCarlow Food & Drink Strategy

The followings strategies were commenced in 2020 for completion 2021:

- Hacketstown Village Led Design Statement
- County Carlow – EU Project Framework
- InCarlow Economic Development & Business Support Strategy 2021-2027
- Carlow Town Bio-diversity Strategy in association with Carlow Town Development Forum.



Covid-19 Response: The economic development co-ordinated a variety of activities which included the development of a co-ordinated Covid-19 response for the business community. This includes a wide variety of projects and programmes in partnership with a variety of key stakeholders.

Carlow Tourism: Carlow County Council developed a MOU with Carlow Tourism and strategic framework for the future support of the Tourism Sector in County Carlow.

Community Enterprise Centre: Carlow County Council secured €97,000 funding in partnership with Carlow Community Enterprise Centre and commenced development of a strategic framework for expansion of the enterprise and incubation space footprint for County Carlow in 2021 and beyond.



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. Carlow County Council delivered two Regional Programmes as part of the LEO competitive fund in the area of scale up and high potential start up companies.

Economic Marketing: Carlow County Council commissioned a variety of publications in association with the Sunday Business Post, RTE Guide, KCLR and the Nationalist during 2020.

Christmas 2020 Programme: Carlow's Christmas Programme, County Carlow - A Festive Family Experience, was a completely online programme due to Covid-19 restrictions, but huge engagement was recorded throughout the campaign. Programmes included a Schools Competition, a Light Up Carlow Campaign, a Window Display Competition, a PR Campaign in partnership with KCLR, and a Be Local Online Campaign.

The following Facebook Metrics were recorded for the overall Christmas Programme:

- ➔ Likes 2,090 (+1,011)
- ➔ Reach 156,613
- ➔ Impressions 237,682
- ➔ Engagement 12,081

Special Project Development & Delivery

Urban Regeneration & Development Fund

Project Carlow 2040

Carlow County Council completed and launched the URDF funded Project Carlow 2040 Plan during 2020 and prepared a URDF application. Project Carlow 2040 is an ambitious Regeneration Strategy for Carlow Town. This Regeneration Strategy contains transformational and inspiring ideas for the economic, social and environmental benefit of Carlow.

Capital Projects – Special Project Development & Delivery

The following projects were delivered in 2020:

- ➔ Borris Viaduct

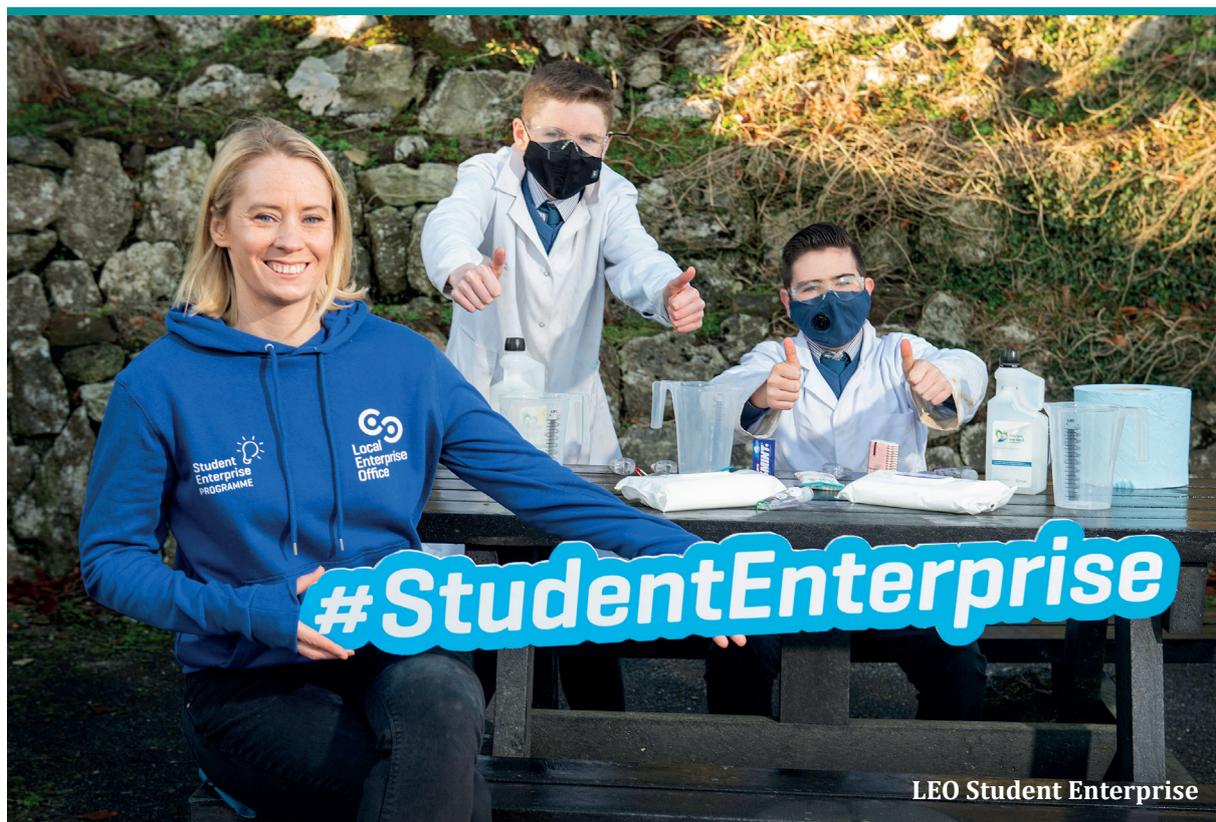
Pre-Development Projects

The following projects were developed during 2020 which will be delivered in 2021:

- ➔ The Carlow Exchange
- ➔ Carlow Town Destination Towns

The following projects were developed in 2020 which will be brought to planning stage in 2021:

- ➔ InCarlow International Business Campus



- Bagenalstown Innovation & Enterprise Centre
- River Barrow Water Activity Hub
- Former Bank Premises, Athy Road, Carlow

Financial support was provided under URDF for (1) feasibility report for the Tullow Road Project (2) development to part 8 of the Library Culture Hub Project.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme

€320,000 of additional funding was secured in 2020 for the Town & Village Accelerated Scheme. Carlow County Council prepared 10 submissions under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme for development in early 2021. 22 active projects continued to be delivered during 2020.

EU Projects – Craft Hub

Carlow County Council was selected to lead a new EU Project called “Craft Hub” which was commence in Q4 2020 Carlow County

Council brought together a partnership of organisations and institutions from 8 EU countries to develop and create the “Craft Hub” proposal. The project budget is €1.5m and will be launched in early 2021.

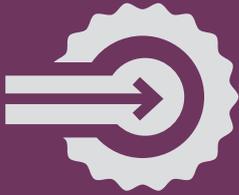
Communications & PR

The following is a summary of the media achievements of Carlow County Council during 2020:

Media Type	Volume	Media Cost	Media Reach
Online	1,244	€3.5M	92.17M
Broadcast	622	€508K	51.91M
Print	2,854	€7.8M	34.46M
Total	4,720	€11.8M	178.54M

Environment & Climate Action

Statistics



27

No. bring sites operated by CCC



2

Civic Amenity Sites at Powerstown and Kernanstown.



1,350

Tonnes of waste collected in 2020



42%

The increase on the tonnage collected in 2019



31,193

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
3,000

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

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



Inspection Type	No. of Planned Inspections in 2020	No. of Completed Inspections at the end 2020
Routine Waste Inspections	572	900
Non-Routine Waste Inspections	169	99
Routine Litter Patrols/Investigations	1020	1008
Routine Water/Wastewater Inspections	526	437
Non-Routine Water/Wastewater e Inspections	14	33
Routine Air/Noise Inspections	53	51
Non-Routine Air/Noise Inspections	10	7
Routine producer Responsibility Inspections	45	77
Planning inspections	423	173

Enforcement Actions Initiated during 2020	No.
Waste	
Waste 'warning letters'	60
Section 14 WMA (Direction)	1
Section 18 WMA (info)	1
Section 55 WMA (measures)	7
Section 71 WMA (abandoned cars)	45
Number of Fines issued under the Litter Pollution Act	159
Total Waste Enforcement Actions Initiated during reporting year	273
Water/Wastewater	
Water pollution 'warning letters'	11
Section 12 Notice WPA	4
Directions issued to private water supplies	10
Number of Boil Water Notices	10
Population affected by Boil Water Notices	0
Total Water/Wastewater Enforcement Actions Initiated during reporting year	25
Agriculture	
Section 12 Notice WPA	4
Total Agri Enforcement Actions Initiated during reporting year	4
Air (incl. Odour/Dust)	
Air 'warning letters'	22
Total Air Enforcement Actions Initiated during reporting year	22
Grand Total Enforcement Actions Initiated during reporting year	324

Powerstown

In March 2020 Carlow beekeepers installed the first beehives in Powerstown. The apiary continues to expand. In May and June 2020 Birdwatch Carlow surveyed the site identifying over 30 different species of birds present on site. Staff participated in the filming of a hugely successful promotional video for the site in September showing the available services and facilities on site.

Water usage from the mains supply decreased by 62% and electricity supply reduced by 8.9% in 2020. A new tank was installed to divert and treat surface water which with a combination of measures implemented led to a reduction in leachate volumes by 52% from 2019 to 2020.

Anti-Dumping Initiative

Carlow County received €83,363 under the National anti-dumping initiative which is run jointly by the Department of Communication Climate Action and Environment and the Waste Enforcement Lead Authority (WERLA). The fund was used for several measures including covert surveillance, large-scale clean-up operations and Amnesty events. The waste amnesty events included a bulky waste amnesty (69.5 tonnes collected) and a mattress amnesty (602 mattresses). Over 1400 customers

visited Powerstown Civic Amenity site for these events, many for the first time.

Green Schools



While Covid 19 restrictions played havoc with the role out of the Green Schools programme over 15 Green Schools assessments were carried out in 2020. The Environment Department continues to support the Green School programme through the provision of workshops, funding through LA21 and Green School assessments. Environment Department continued to work with education centres such as IT Carlow and the Green Campus and commenced a pilot programme with Carlow Youth Reach. Projects carried out with Carlow Regional Youth Services were successful in their endeavour to win the Eco Unesco young environmentalist award for water.





Bikes for Africa

In August 2020 the Bikes to Africa project was launched in partnership with the Rotary club. 48 bikes have been sent for refurbishment to date, approx. 80 more awaiting collection.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Implementation of the 110 actions in Carlow County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy continued throughout 2020 in challenging times and the one year report was prepared and presented to the Elected Members, Management Team and to the proposed Planning, Environment, Climate Action, Energy & Agriculture Strategic Policy Committee.

Sustainable Development Goals

Carlow County Council continue their roll as SDG Champion for the local Authority Sector. This role has been extended until the end of Q1 2021 when we will then become SGD Ambassadors. We continue to work closely with our National, Regional and Local partners and stakeholders to promote the SDG framework and assist them in the endeavour to achieve the targets contained within goals set out by the UN. Carlow County Council are championing 6 of the goals which include, No Poverty, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production and Climate Action.

Rural Water

The Rural Water Programme for County Carlow is administered by the Environment Department and provides grants for 4 Group Water Schemes (GWSs), Ballinabranna, Glynn/St Mullins, Ballyloughan & Ballyellen and private individuals.

2020 Grants	
MARWP	€45,000
GWS Operational	€250,000
Septic Tank	€4,500
Well Grants	€116,000
DLRG	Nil

MARWP – Multi-annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021 (Capital Costs)
DLRG – Domestic Lead Remediation Grant

Four new circulars were released in 2020 for Septic Tank Grants L1, L2 & L3/20 and Well Grants L4/20 which provide between 85% and 100% grants.

Energy

Carlow County Councils continued to collaborate with the 3 Counties Energy Agency in 2020 to deliver on energy saving targets and to promote energy awareness through various programmes. The Better Energy Communities Programme in 2020 continued to support communities and households through grant funding available through the SEAI. Carlow County Council received support for the LED lighting programme.

Water Services

Statistics



24

Wastewater treatment plants are run by Carlow County Council staff on behalf of Irish Water



11

Wastewater treatment Plants operate to the strict requirements of EPA Discharge



13

Smaller treatment plants operate to the requirements of their respective Certificates of Authorisation.



529

Samples were taken with 6,495 individual parameters tested.



15

Reportable incidents in 2020, six of which were related to power outages due to adverse weather.



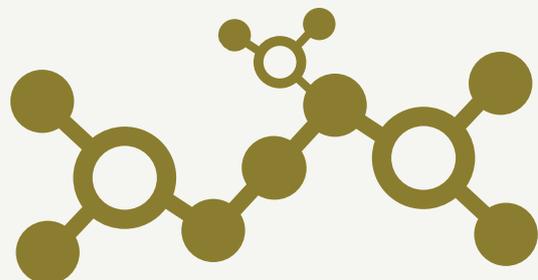
4

EPA audits were carried out at wastewater treatment plants



13,690m³

The daily average drinking water delivered by Carlow County Council



12

No. water treatment plants operated by Carlow County Council on behalf of Irish Water

Since January 2014, Irish Water, the national water utility is responsible for the delivery of water and wastewater services. Carlow County Council and Irish Water agree to work under the terms of a 12 year Service Level Agreement (SLA) to provide efficient and quality water services to satisfy the needs of the customers in compliance with the statutory and regulatory requirements. In 2020, there were 76 specific objectives and performance targets measured, which include issues relating to drinking water quality, wastewater discharge quality, customer services and budget control.

Capital Works

Capital Works projects progressed during 2020 include developing of plans to upgrade Rathvilly Water Treatment Plant Filters. Works completed through the Water Networks Programme were delivered in conjunction with the Regional Contractor. The works included the replacement of watermains in parts of Graiguecullen. Replacement water mains, improvement works and decommissioning of old services were completed in Tullow, Tinnahinch and Leighlinbridge.

In Tullow, plans have been advancing for the upgrade of the Waste Water Treatment Plant to increase capacity to cater for recent and future growth in Tullow. Construction is scheduled for 2021.

Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade projects are also underway for Bagenalstown and Carlow Town, both are in the detailed design phase.





Emergency Services & Building Control

Statistics

 <p>4</p> <p>No. Fire Stations located within the County of Carlow</p>	 <p>466</p> <p>Incidents in 2020 compared to 536 incidents in 2019.</p>	 <p>Road Traffic Collisions down by 1/3 in 2020 compared to 2019</p>
 <p>4th lowest</p> <p>Cost per capita for the entire country at €32.97 per head of population while the national average is €60.79 per capita.</p>	 <p>93%</p> <p>Of mobilisations, arrived at the scene of an emergency incident within 20 minutes.</p>	 <p>77%</p> <p>Of Fire Safety Certificates granted within 2 months in Carlow ahead of the National Average of 52%</p>
 <p>??</p> <p>No of retained fire fighters no. of staff</p>	 <p>Senior Fire Prevention Officer.</p>	 <p>152</p> <p>No. of Commencement Notices Issued</p>
 <p>112</p> <p>No of Bldg. Control Inspections</p>	 <p>51</p> <p>No. of Fire Safety Certificates issued</p>	 <p>34</p> <p>No. of Disability Access Certificates issued</p>

Carlow County Council 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 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.

Safety, Health & Welfare

In December 2020, 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 by the National Standards Authority of Ireland of the Fire Services Occupational Health and Safety Management System took place on the 7th & 8th December. The Fire Service received "best in class" for our work





in the management of maintenance, training and inspections using a new web-based management tool which was implemented in the service during 2020.

The migration to 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.

Capital Funding Announcement

Carlow Fire Service was allocated funding of €500,000 for the refurbishment and upgrade of Muine Bheag Fire Station in the 2021–2022 in the 2021-2022 financial year.

In addition, Carlow Fire Service has also been allocated funding for the purchase of 1 new Class B Fire Engine in the 2021–2023 allocation of funding.

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 5th – 12th 2020.

The annual licensing and inspection of premises was completed in September with publicans, dance and restaurant license

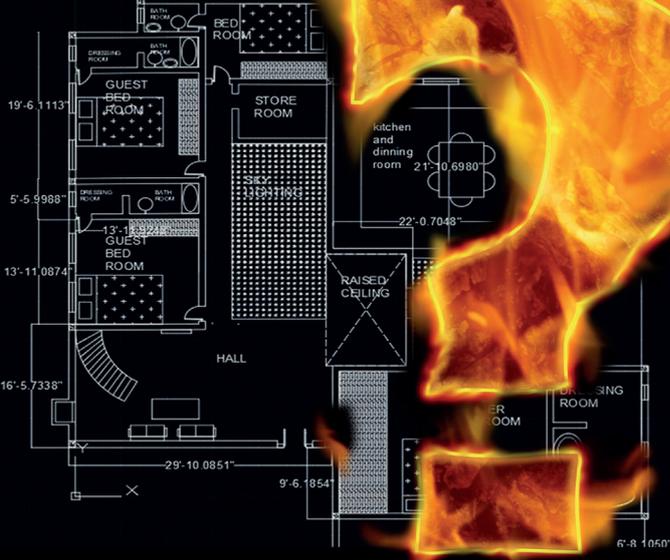


Fires on Mount Leinster April 2020



Do You Know Your Way Out?





“Having a Home Escape Plan Could Save **Your** Life”

If your house is on fire, wake everyone and get them out by the quickest way, assisting or collecting the very young or vulnerable.

Once outside, **NEVER** re-enter the house. Get out, call the fire service out and stay out

Make an escape plan with your family and practice regularly together. It should have two escape routes.



CARLOW
COUNTY COUNCIL

#WayOutWednesday #SmokeAlarmsSaveLives




@CarlowFRS
#20FSW

renewal applications before the Courts. In total 46 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.

Building Control

The Building Control section actively manages the Building Control Management System and carries out routine inspections of construction projects to ensure compliance 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.

Major Emergency Management

A full review of Carlow County Council’s Major Emergency Plan was completed

in May. The Major Emergency Plan was prepared in accordance with the requirements of “A Framework for Major Emergency Management” (2006) and sets out the arrangements, which will be activated by an authorised officer to facilitate the Carlow County Council response to a major emergency or a severe weather event.

In addition to the review of the Major Emergency Plan, a new Flood Response Plan and Severe Weather plan for Carlow County Council was prepared and promulgated amongst Carlow County Council staff as well as the Health Service Executive and An Garda Síochana.

Hacketstown Training & Development Centre

Despite the COVID 19 pandemic having a significant effect on Fire Service Training Programmes throughout the country, during 2020 Hacketstown Training Centre facilitated Breathing Apparatus and Compartment

Fire Behaviour Training courses for Laois, Kilkenny, Wexford, Wicklow, Waterford, Tipperary, Limerick, Cork County, Kerry and Meath Fire Services as well as the Irish Air Corps and Irish Defence Forces.

In total, Hacketstown Training Centre hosted training and development courses for a total of 115 days during 2020, the amount of training courses hosted in Hacketstown will increase considerably in 2021 as Fire Authorities attempt to make up training time lost in 2020 as a result of the pandemic.

NDFEM 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 9 Resilience and Training fire appliances. These 9 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

Statistics

 <p>1,329km</p> <p>Of roads network to be maintained within the County of Carlow</p>	 <p>30</p> <p>No. Funding Recoupment Claims in the amount of €11,177,620)</p>	 <p>133</p> <p>No. Competitions (Prepared Contract Documents, Assessed Submissions & Recommended Awards)</p>	
 <p>60</p> <p>No. Priority 1 routes treated using c. 470 tonnes of salt, cost funded by the TII</p>	 <p>32</p> <p>No. Priority 2 routes treated using c. 590 tonnes of salt costing circa €127,200 from Discretionary Grant</p>	 <p>270</p> <p>No. of Road Opening Licences Processed</p>	 <p>69</p> <p>No. of Abnormal Load Permits Processed</p>
 <p>€4,096,882</p> <p>Spent on regional & local road strengthening, totalling 47.4km</p>	 <p>€942,230</p> <p>Spent on regional & local road resealing, totalling 42.9km</p>	 <p>€727,345</p> <p>Totalling 40.6km of Local Road</p>	
 <p>1,354</p> <p>Repairs carried out</p>	 <p>203</p> <p>Lights replaced with energy efficient LED lights in 2020</p>	 <p>2,387</p> <p>Total number of LED public lights in the County</p>	 <p>€486,000</p> <p>The cost of our annual energy bill</p>

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:

Motorway	24 km
National Secondary	54 km
Regional	186 km
Local	1,065 km

Motorway

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

National Secondary Roads

TII provides funding for all national roads. Initially, in 2020 an allocation of €2,082,783 was received for improvement works for bridges and carriageways and to meet costs associated with supervision, public lighting and general maintenance of the national road network.

Subsequently, Carlow County Council applied for and was awarded additional funding in the amount of €1,100,000, totalling €3,182,783. These projects are summarised as follows:

Pavement Improvement Scheme Based on a comprehensive survey of the national road network.	N81 @ Ballymogue	€ 460,577
	N81 @ Tullow Main Street	€ 803,655
	Grant Total	€1,264,232
Capital Maintenance Scheme Larger than Maintenance Projects and smaller than Pavement Improvement Projects, typically within the range €50-200k.	N81 @ Ballyolliver	€ 72,000
	N81 @ Aghade	€ 171,000
	N80 @ Bagenal Arms X	€ 198,000
	Grant Total	€ 441,000
HD28 Surfacing Programme Retexturing/resurfacing works at various locations on the N80 & N81.	N81 @ Tullowphelim to Coppengh N81 @ Templeowen	
	Grant Total	€ 544,000
N80 & N81 Vehicle Restraint Systems Grant Remedial repairs/replacement of existing Vehicle Restraint Barriers located adjacent to the completed projects)	N80 Whitemills / Carrigduff – Multiple locations on the N80/N81	
	Grant Total	€485,000

<p>National Road Fencing Retrofit Programme</p>	<p>Junction of N80/N81 Closh Cross</p> <p>Grant Total €25,000</p>
<p>Leinster Bridges Maintenance Contract</p> <p>In 2018, TII initiated a Leinster Area Bridge maintenance project to undertake on-going assessments & maintenance works to bridges on National Roads in participating Counties.</p>	<p>TII Fund Kildare Road Design office to manage this project for the region of which Carlow is included.</p>
<p>Defects Maintenance Scheme</p> <p>Additional funding for urgent remedial measures (i.e. damaged road & footpath surfaces, drainage issues, roadside boundary improvements etc) at specific locations along the National Secondary road network</p>	<p>Grant Total € 143,000</p>
<p>National Road “Safety Improvement Scheme”</p> <p>Granted approval of €100,000 to progress the scheme through 7 Phases of the TII’s Project</p>	<p>Grant Total € 100,000</p>



Regional & Local Roads Grants

The Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport provides funding for regional and local roads. In 2020 an allocation of **€6,851,468** was received for improvement works and general maintenance of the non-national road network.

Restoration Improvement	€ 3,218,000
Restoration Maintenance	€ 571,500
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	€ 353,500
Discretionary Grant	€ 1,085,000
Bridge rehabilitation	€ 208,000
Strategic Improvement Grant	€ 100,000
Safety Improvement Works	€ 175,000
PSCI: Survey Support	€ 10,000
Training Grant	€ 21,500
Drainage Works	€ 267,468
Former National Roads (Trial)	€ 500,000
Community Involvement Scheme	€ 334,500
Grant Total	€ 6,851,468

Restoration Improvement & Restoration Maintenance Projects

This programme targets improvements to the structural integratory & surfaces of regional and local roads in the county. Carlow County Council received an allocation of €4,143,000, an increase of €677,500 on the previous year, enabling structural and resurfacing works to be undertaken throughout the county.

<p>Bridge Rehabilitation Scheme</p> <p>This programme targets repairs to bridges on regional and local roads in the county. In 2020 Carlow Co. Co. received an allocation of, an increase of €48,000 enabling repairs to 11 bridges located throughout the county.</p>	<p>Grant Total</p> <p>€208,000</p>
<p>Community Involvement Scheme</p> <p>This programme targets improvements to the structural integratory & surfaces of local tertiary roads in the county, based on applications submitted by the local community. DTTAS allocated €334,500, enabling remedial works to be undertaken to 12 local tertiary roads.</p>	<p>Grant Total</p> <p>€334,500</p>
<p>Drainage Works</p> <p>Allocation received of €267,468. This allocation facilitated the completion of 18 drainage improvement projects throughout the county.</p>	<p>Grant Total</p> <p>€267,468</p>

<p>Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes</p> <p>Allocation of €175,000 to carry out minor improvement works at 6 locations where there is an established accident history.</p>	<p>Grant Total</p> <p>€175,000</p>
<p>Local Improvement Scheme</p> <p>The Minister for Rural and Community Development, announced funding for Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) from which Carlow received €250,000 enabling the completion of 15 schemes.</p>	<p>Grant Total</p> <p>€250,000</p>
<p>Former National Roads (N9)</p> <p>Following persistent submissions to DTTAS, Carlow was 1 of 5 counties included in a national trial to receive funding under this category in 2020 to begin remediation of former national roads.</p>	<p>Grant Total</p> <p>€500,000</p>
<p>Risk Remediation Works Programme</p>	<p>Grant Total</p> <p>€181,000</p>
<p>July Jobs Stimulus Plan</p>	<p>Active Travel Stimulus Package €528,000</p> <p>Climate Change Adaptation €165,000</p> <p>COVID-19 Measures €260,000</p> <p>Grant Total</p> <p>€953,000</p>



Clearing Debris to undertake structural assessment of Brook Lodge Bridge

Civil Defence

Statistics

 <p>In 2020 Carlow Civil Defence were called to help with Covid-19 operations.</p>	 <p>Part time Civil Defence Office was appointment to help with the new duties and call outs</p>	 <p>Assistance with 104 Patient Appointment Transfers to Various Hospitals in the South East and Dublin.</p>
 <p>Preparation of Covid-19 Test Kits for Covid-19 test Centre.</p>		 <p>January - Call out for drone use to incident, Carlow, River Barrow area.</p>
 <p>March - Call to search on river Barrow for missing Male.</p>	 <p>Dec - Call out by Gardai for assistance to remove body from River Barrow.</p>	 <p>Covid operations consisted of looking after the Health and Welfare.</p>

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.

Nationally, since January 2013, The Civil Defence Board has been dissolved and Civil Defence is now the direct responsibility of the Department of Defence, Civil Defence Branch, through the Local Authorities.

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 62 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, 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.

Civil Defence set up a Multi Agency Day and Night Searches exercise on different sections of the River Barrow which included Gardai and Fire Service to test various skills which include River search techniques in hours of darkness, Lighting equipment, Access points to River edge, Control of Boating, Communications, and Body Recovery.



Housing Department

Statistics

 <p>1951 Housing units in stock as at 31st December, 2020.</p>	 <p>50 New builds across the county completed by CCC</p>	 <p>3 Acquisitions</p>	 <p>60 New builds by AHB located in Carlow and Tullow</p>
 <p>479 RAS properties in place at 31/12/2020</p>	 <p>758 No. of HAO properties</p>	 <p>22 Housing loan applications were received in 2020</p>	 <p>7 Provisional Housing Loan Approvals were issued in 2020</p>
 <p>7 Final Approvals were issued in 2020</p>	 <p>12 Loans were paid out in 2020</p>	 <p>7 No. of housing adaptations were carried out with a total investment of €251,881</p>	 <p>284 No. of housing grants allocated with a funding of €1,597,585</p>
 <p>€2,392,500 Amount spend on maintenance in 2020</p>	 <p>133 Allocations were carried out in 2020, which included 26 tenancies of new housing units.</p>	 <p>150 Reports were received in relation to Anti Social Behaviour.</p>	 <p>€6,500,000 Rent collected during 2020 with a 96% collection rate</p>

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 rented 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



Borris Village

Community, Recreation, Amenity & Sports Partnership

Statistics

 <p>806 No. of COVID-19 Community Call Calls received</p>	 <p>27 Approved LEADER Expression of Interest value of €1,117,366</p>	 <p>25 LEADER project approved to the value of €2,292,326</p>	 <p>50 Tutors trained to deliver the HSE 'Healthy Food Made Easy' programme</p>
 <p>216 Grants with a value of €96,115 was awarded by Elected Members to residents' associations, community groups from their Discretionary Funds.</p>	 <p>€563,572 budget approved for Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) in 2020</p>	 <p>80 No. care packs and 80 overnight were distributed for vulnerable people self-isolating/ cocooning in Carlow</p>	
 <p>6 week KCLR Health & Wellbeing Campaign was delivered in partnership with Healthy Kilkenny.</p>	 <p>9,000 Nature on Your Doorstep circulated by Carlow Sports Partnership encouraging the public to be active outdoors</p>	 <p>Healthy Carlow was awarded €62,000 from the Department of Health under a Community Mental Health Fund for small grants and projects.</p>	
 <p>8 projects were awarded funding from a total budget of €30,000</p>	 <p>Carlow Regional Youth Services - Follaine Counselling Services was awarded €32,000 and delivered 175 hours of counselling services in 2020</p>	 <p>Development and establishment of Healthy Carlow Facebook Page.</p>	

Carlow County Council continued to build on the strong working relationship it enjoys with all communities throughout County Carlow during 2020.

<p>Environmental / Amenity Grant Scheme 2020</p> <p>Grass cutting, hedge and tree trimming, planting of new native trees and shrubs. Enhancement of common green areas for all estate members. Pollinator Friendly Planters and Window Boxes. Provide seating and benches in picnic area. Signage, repair and replace paths and developing Pollinator Friendly beds.</p>	<p>140 Grants Awarded to Community Groups/Residents Associations and schools throughout the County.</p> <p>Grant Totalling €33,270</p>
<p>Community Development Grant Scheme 2020</p> <p>Carry out a service or activity that contributes to the quality of life in their local community. The aim of the scheme is to support community and voluntary groups in County.</p>	<p>Grants Totalling € 17,800</p>
<p>2019/20 Community Environment Action Fund (formerly Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund)</p> <p>Projects that contribute to increase environmental awareness at local level or which promote building greener, more sustainable communities.</p>	<p>26 Grants awarded Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and match funding from Carlow County Council.</p> <p>Grant Total € 19,550</p>

The Plots Community Garden & Allotment Project

This continues to be a very successful working partnership with the communities of St. Mary's Park and Rathnapish and Carlow County Council.

Carlow Traveller Interagency Group

Carlow Traveller Interagency Group (TIG) monitors the implementation of the actions contained in the Interagency Traveller Strategy. Work continued remotely during 2020. Three meetings were held in 2020. The Thematic Working Groups meet bi-monthly.

Famine Walk

The 7th Carlow Famine Walk took place in 2020. Climate Change was the theme of the 2020 Famine Walk which began in IT

Carlow and concluded in the nearby Famine graveyard. Approximately 70 young people attended from schools including Gaelscoil Eoghain Uí Thuairsc and Tyndall College. along with their teachers, lecturers, staff from Carlow County Council and members of the public. Each year an oak tree is planted as part of the ceremony of remembrance and solidarity and this year the tree was supplied by two Transition Year students who had set up a company to grow and sell trees as part of their course.

Celebration of Community Spirit

The Community Section organized a Celebration of Community Spirit event to acknowledge the loss of family friends and freedom and the strength of community spirit that has been demonstrated in our County in 2020 this year of the pandemic.

Close to 300 groups from across the County were presented with a candle and invited to come together in their open space/green area to light a candle on December 21st - Winter Solstice.

Tullow Road Community Hub Project

The Community Section leads on this project. The Tullow Road Community Hub was approved to proceed to detailed design phase. The tender was awarded in December and a Working Group established.

Healthy Carlow

The Community Section of Carlow County Council administers the funding and supports Healthy Carlow. The LCDC Sub-Group includes representatives from the LCDC, Health Services Executive, Carlow Regional Youth Services, Carlow County Development Partnership, County Carlow Sports Partnership, St. Catherine's Community Services Centre, Carlow Public Participation Network, Carlow Library Services, Carlow Children & Young People Services Committee and Carlow County Council.

Healthy Carlow received €113,000 from Strand 3 Healthy Ireland in 2020. There were 9 meetings of Healthy Carlow in 2020. Although actions and projects were impacted by the global pandemic an extensive programme was delivered.

Community Resilience Fund to Local Authority

The Department of Health, through the support of Sláintecare, has approved an allocation of funding for specific actions for each Local Authority under the Community Resilience Fund (CRF). This funding is to support the delivery of initiatives under a number of the themes of the Government's National "Keep Well" campaign. Carlow was allocated € 67,225 under this fund.

Community Enhancement Programme

Carlow LCDC received €56,628 initially in June. Then a further €117,494 (30%

community groups/organisations and 70% for social inclusion projects) under the July Stimulus Package, was made available to the LCDC which brought the total to €174,122

In total €83,130.30, was approved for 53 community organisations/groups for the 3 Municipal areas and €98,991.70 was approved for social inclusion projects which was spread across the 3 Municipal areas.

COVID-19 Emergency Fund

- ➔ Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, the Carlow 2020 Covid-19 Emergency Fund of €61,358 provided grants to groups that are participating in the Local Authority led Community Call effort in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ➔ These grants provide capital and revenue funding to groups that are directly involved in the Community Call response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ➔ 58 applicants across the county received funding.

Comhairle na nÓg

- ➔ Due to COVID-19 the young people moved their weekly meetings online and continued to work on their projects, focusing in particular on mental health, and to have training.

The Advisory Group met four times during 2020 and received funding of €20,000.00.

Carlow is represented on the National Executive which engages with appropriate Ministers, policy makers, Oireachtas Committees and other decision makers working on Climate Conscious Transport Solutions during 2020.

Carlow PPN

There was a total of 435 groups in Carlow PPN at end of 2020.

- ➔ Environmental College: 12
- ➔ Social Inclusion College: 47
- ➔ Community & Voluntary College: 376

Carlow Sports Partnership (CSP) Statistics

Statistics

 <p>2,465</p> <p>people participated in 70 locally delivered CSP participation initiatives</p>	 <p>51</p> <p>females took part in 3 targeted Women in Sport programmes</p>	 <p>700</p> <p>people and 6 clubs took part in 6 Operation Transformation Nationwide Walks and Programmes</p>	
 <p>44</p> <p>Clubs/Groups were provided with funding supports by CSP</p>	 <p>150</p> <p>booklets printed to support Older Adults to exercise within Covid19 restrictions.</p>	<p>241 people with a disability took part in 15 CSP initiatives.</p>  <p>37 people were trained across Cara's Disability Awareness, Autism in Sports & Disability Inclusion Training.</p>	 <p>157</p> <p>people participated in 13 training courses representing 115 local clubs</p>
 <p>107</p> <p>Sports Leaders and Volunteers completed 9 Safeguarding Courses</p>	 <p>€405,046</p> <p>grants secured from Sport Ireland; Carlow County Council; HSE; Healthy Carlow and Government Departments to increase participation in physical activities.</p>	 <p>8,194</p> <p>visits to the Carlow Sports Partnership website www.carlowsports.ie in 2020</p>	
 <p>7,203</p> <p>social media followers across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram</p>	 <p>32</p> <p>weekly e-bulletins were published and distributed to a weekly distribution list of 1000+</p>	 <p>3</p> <p>booklets were published and printed as a supplement in the Nationalist newspaper with a weekly distribution list of 9000+.</p>	 <p>9</p> <p>National campaigns supported by CSP</p>

Carlow Sports Partnership

Carlow Sports Partnership (CSP) plays a critical role in sustaining voluntary commitment across the county by providing a range of training programmes, resources and supports for volunteers, their clubs and communities. By collaborating closely with National Governing Bodies of Sport and organisations within and outside the sporting sector, CSP will continue to play a key role in the activation of community led volunteering. It is vital that we acknowledge the contribution of our sports volunteers, continue to support their growth and provide every opportunity to sustain their ongoing involvement.

During Ireland's COVID 19 response, Carlow Sports Partnership been rolling out a broad range of local and national initiatives targeting cohorts of the population who we know are the least likely to be active during this crisis. As such, Carlow Sports Partnership have developed new initiatives specifically designed and tailored for older adults, people with a disability, women and girls and people from socio economic disadvantage whilst also designing

innovative and engaging initiatives for families, children, and teenagers.

List of Target Groups 2020

The Local Sports Partnership network has placed itself at the forefront of this journey towards lifelong and inclusive sport for all and continues to be a lead advocate for those currently underrepresented in sport. The 2020 Local Sports Partnerships Annual Report highlights the variety of initiatives offered by Carlow Sports Partnerships across the County and demonstrates that there are participation opportunities available for everyone.

Despite the COVID 19 Pandemic, every day, in communities across the country, Carlow Sports Partnership continues to support people to get active and removing barriers to physical activity and involvement in sport. In response to the COVID 19 pandemic, Carlow Sports Partnership have mobilised by continuing to work from home and volunteering essential resources to Local Authorities across Ireland to support "The Community Call" campaign.





Water Safety

Statistics

 <p>Lifeguarding service competed 2 rescues</p>	 <p>During the summer of 2020 first aid was given 10 times</p>	 <p>Advice Given to cir 4,000 members of the public on risk management interventions and prevented accidental drowning's</p>	 <p>Protected over 6000 bathers</p>
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Funding was provided by Carlow County Council during the year to ensure the provision of the Water Safety program, including the employment of two teams of lifeguards daily at areas located on the River Barrow at Bagenalstown and Clashganna Borris. 2020 also seen a large increase in the volume of open water swimmers and open water swimming clubs' training on the river barrow in Bagenalstown.

Efforts to minimize the risk of accidental drowning are by necessity, a team effort. During the year unusual climatic conditions occasionally transformed tranquil rivers in the county into torrents, representing a threat to life and property. It is during such events that the coordinated efforts of the Councils area offices, technical and outdoor

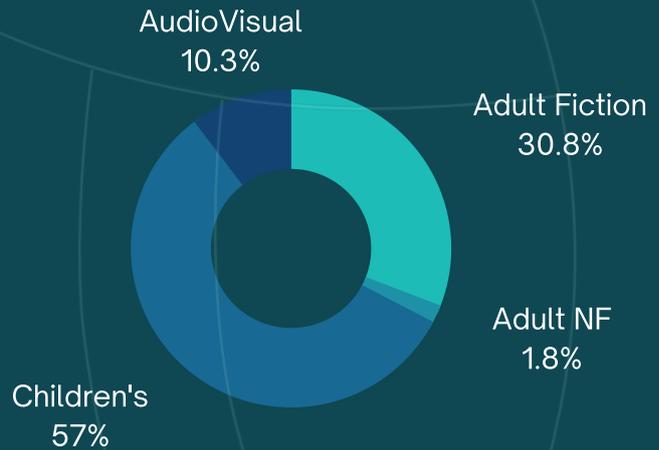
staff and an appropriately equipped and trained Civil Defence unit are most effective.

The Garda Authorities operate the Riverwatch Scheme to control the risk of anti-social behaviour on or adjacent to the River Barrow in the county and the Councils lifeguarding service cooperates closely with the Gardaí in this regard.

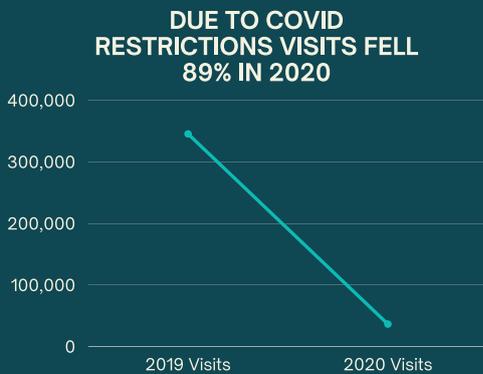


Carlow Library Service

2020 STATISTICAL OVERVIEW



2020 BORROWING



IN 2020 FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS ROSE 9%, TWITTER VIEWS ROSE 27%

ESERVICES PERFORMANCE



EBOOKS



EMAGS



ECLASSES

Carlow Library Service

 <p>€100,00 Funding Small Scale Capital Works from the Department of Rural and County Development.</p>	 <p>€30,000 Dormant Accounts Funding approved for a range of supports including, TTRS (Touch-Type, Read, Spell), Irish Sign Language Classes</p>	 <p>€23,000 Sensory Funding for the provision of sensory services</p>	 <p>Local primary schools involved with our Library Ninja Challenge reaching 1,118 children</p>
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Reading & Literacy:

Spring into Storytime

Library staff engaged with parents and families through online Storytime sessions throughout the month of April. These were very popular, receiving 2407 Facebook and 511 YouTube views.

Summer Stars

Summer Stars ran throughout July and August and staff facilitated lots of online interaction with summer readers during this time. Two Carlow library members, sisters Wren and Dubhlacha Stynes, were highly commended in the inaugural National Short Story Competition.

Children's Book Festival

During October, library staff promoted the #BooksMakeThingsBetter Campaign, posting daily book recommendations for children. The Library also commissioned videos from Storygate.net (a Storytelling & Puppetry Company) with a great level of public engagement, especially during the mid-term break

Local primary schools were invited to take part in the Library Ninja Challenge. This initiative aims to get children reading and talking about books and the library, and each participating school was provided with books, promotional materials and their very own life-sized Ninja.



Community & Culture:

Decade of Centenaries

The focus for 2020 was on Kevin Barry and the Oral Tradition involved four events which were all pre-recorded and LIVE screened during the first week in November. Copies of the booklet have been sent to all schools in the county and made available to the public. Kevin Barry and the Oral Tradition has been watched 551 times since it was released, and

An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

KEVIN BARRY
& THE ORAL TRADITION
NOVEMBER 5TH AT 8PM

OTHER EVENTS:

KEVIN BARRY: A CONVERSATION
WITH EUNAN O'HALPIN
NOVEMBER 2ND AT 8PM

AN IRISH HERO FOR CHILDREN WITH
CARMEL Uí CHEALLAIGH
NOVEMBER 3RD AT 12PM

A MEMOIR OF KEVIN BARRY WITH SÍOFRA
O'DONOVAN AND MICHAEL MORIARTY
NOVEMBER 4TH AT 8PM

Carlow County Council
Decade of Centenaries Programme 2020
Kevin Barry 100 Years

ALL EVENTS WILL BE BROADCAST VIA YOUTUBE CHANNEL - CARLOWCOUNTYLIBRARY
AND ON CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE SOCIAL MEDIA
DUE TO CURRENT COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

FURTHER INFORMATION AT WWW.CARLOWLIBRARIES.IE



all four videos received a total of 1,378 online views by year end.

Local Studies, Archive and Genealogy Service

The total number of enquiries including genealogy for the year was 330.

Carloviana 2021

The Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society published their annual journal, Carloviana, in December 2020.

Genealogy

Genealogical research was as popular as ever in 2020, with the pandemic requiring us to adapt our services to meet public demand. While we could not meet our clients in person, we have been able to have online meetings face to face/phone calls and email inquiries with the diaspora and locals.

Programming

Events in early 2020 included Saturday Storytime in Partnership with Carlow Volunteer Centre, Irish Sign Language, class visits and Local Studies information sessions. An Art Exhibition "Shape Your Mind" by local Artist Elwira Bernaciak was held in February. The first national Library Open Day was held on 29th February.

With the closure of library buildings, staff continued to work behind the scenes and adapt to the delivery of online programming and new initiatives as part of the government Keep Well campaign. Highlights included: Age Friendly Packs, Heritage Week, #InThisTogether, the #KeepWell Campaigns

Learning & Information

Healthy Ireland

The Healthy Ireland at Your Library 2020 programme provided 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.

Covid Response:

County Council Libraries around the country closed their doors to the public on Public Health advice on March 12th but work continued throughout the year.

KCLR Radio Bookclub

Carlow Library Service and KCLR broadcast the radio book club during May, June and July, running every Tuesday on the Sue Nunn Show.

The Talking Newspaper

A podcast entitled The Talking Newspaper has now gone live on all major podcasting platforms including iTunes and Spotify. It is expected that the podcast will have a local and international audience and will also be of benefit to individuals with a visual impairment.



COVID Time Capsule

The COVID diary continued during June. An initiative aimed at collecting the thoughts, feelings and experiences of children, young people and adults across County Carlow to record a snapshot of the living history of the current period. The diaries will be housed in the County Archive for 25 years.

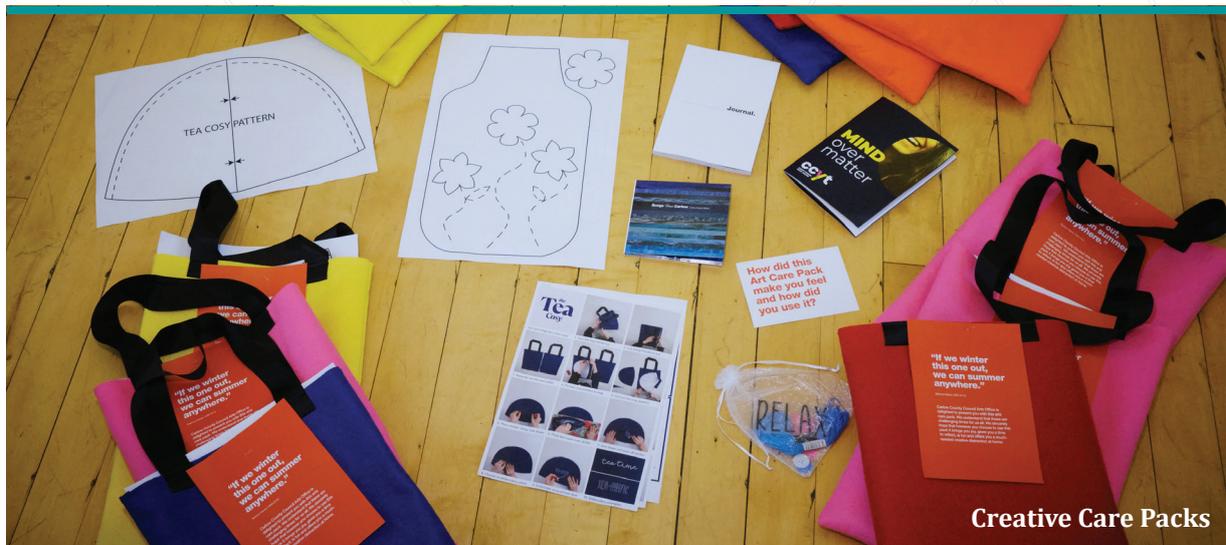
Bag of Books

The Bag of Books initiative operated from April to August in conjunction with the Community Response Forum and Carlow Volunteer Centre.

Call and Collect

Library members can request books, CD's and DVD's by phone or email and then collect them at a pre-arranged time and date whilst adhering to the health and safety protocols in place.





Creative Care Packs

Statistics

- ➔ **1st Online Carlow Arts Festival was held on 6th June** received a national and international audience.
- ➔ Over 50,000 minutes of digital festival videos were watched, with a social reach of over **2 million** across the projects.
- ➔ 170 no. of young people engaging online for Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of creativity for children.
- ➔ 6,359 people visited The VISUAL centre during the 6 months it was open in 2020. 215 children participated in **Music Generation** via Zoom

Arts Office

We continued to nurture the arts across our communities and provided many supports to our artists, who have been hardest hit by COVID-19. Artists in 2020 were unable to make a living or plan, our venues closed, and our festivals, events and workshops went online. In 2020, the Arts Office found new creative ways within the changing public health regulations for the public to engage and participate in the arts.

Funding

In 2020, the overall revenue funding for the Arts Service Programme from the local authority was **€895,696**. The Arts Council

of Ireland revenue budget allocation to the Arts Service Programme was **€79,200** including **€6,250** towards Culture Night. In addition to this allocation the Arts Office led an application under the Invitation to Collaborate Scheme for Local Authorities with other key partners and were successful in securing a further **€73,500**. This fund is for a collaborative project over 2020/21 aimed at supporting, mentoring and providing showcase opportunities for performing artists.

The Arts Council of Ireland total investment into County Carlow for arts development was **€679,077**. The breadth and reach of that investment is shown through the following breakdown:

Carlow County Council Arts Programme	€ 79,200
VISUAL - Annual Funding	€115,000
Carlow Artist Bursaries	€109,858
Strategic Funding - Carlow Arts Festival	€165,019
United Fall – Emma Martin Dance (Rathoe)	€165,000
Take A Part Carlow	€ 35,000
Borris House Festival – Literature Development	€ 10,000

Artists Supports

In 2020, Arts Act Grants provided support to 7 Carlow artists and 16 community groups to the amount of €14,500 and €24,720, respectively.

Also awarded in 2020 was the ArtLinks bursaries in partnership with Local Authority Arts Offices in Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford providing professional development opportunities and supports for established and emerging artists. €17,750 was awarded to 13 Carlow artists as part of this funding stream.

Creative Ireland

In 2020, Carlow Arts Office coordinated the Creative Ireland Programme securing a total investment into County Carlow of **€203,848**, financing the following projects:

County Carlow Programme	€96,775
Cruinniú na nÓg	€17,073
Older Persons Projects/ Stimulus Package	€50,000
Contribution to Creative Europe Project 'Craft Hub'	€40,000

Key initiatives in the 2020 Creative Ireland Carlow Programme:

Creative Ireland Carlow Open Call funded 11 projects supporting local bog preservation, public art, socially inclusive art classes, community film productions and storytelling initiatives.

- ➔ Carlow Arts Office led Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of creativity for children on 13th June with over 170 children and young people engaging online with a range of free activities across 8 different art forms including dance, visual arts, literature, theatre, song and STEAM all brought to life with the help of 8 artists/ creators/ educators. Carlow Arts Office produced a film with young people of Carlow that received national coverage and was broadcast on RTE TV Home School Hub programmes.

- ➔ “From Carlow Streams Singalong Sessions” with KCLR and the Nationalist in partnership with singer Fiach Moriarty and Dave Barron, presented songs from Carlow each week on the Johnny Barry Show reaching over 8,000 people who were cocooning.
- ➔ Creative Care Packs filled with music, sewing activities, journals and mindfulness prompts were delivered to 500 community members including Carlow’s family resource centres, services for older people, people with disabilities and youth services as part of the Community Resilience Programme.

Through the Carlow Arts Service the following programmes were led, supported, and nurtured in 2020:

- ➔ **Carlow Writer in Residence** led by the Arts Office in partnership with Carlow College, Carlow Library Services and the Arts Council of Ireland, moved online and continued to bring a professional, engaging and for many participants life changing experience to local writing enthusiasts regardless of any writing background or experience. 2020’s professional writers were, Jessica Traynor, Fiach Moriarty, Enda Wyley and Christodoulos Makris who workshopped groups and mentored individually over 50 local emerging writers.
 - ➔ **Take A Part Carlow** continued to meet virtually in 2020 with the Arts Action Group of the Tullow Road area and delivered: “Let Loose Dance Project” online dance tutorials for young people. ‘Hunt the Last Wolf of Carlow’ theatrical props and costumes workshops. Launch of the TAPC info booklet ‘We Make Art on the Tullow Road’. #Love To Draw Art project in conjunction with Voluntary Arts Ireland. Take A Part Carlow ‘Scallion Ater’ planting and folklore project.
- Cruinniú na nÓg 2020 events including online song workshops and the Let Loose Dance Project Facebook live events. Take A Part Carlow’s writer in residence

programme worked with artist Colm Keegan online with young people in partnership with Carlow Regional Youth Services.

- ➔ **Music Generation** continued to provide online music lessons through Zoom to 215 children and young people in Carlow as well as develop hub activity and county ensembles across Trad, Brass, Vocal, Rock and Classical groups.
- ➔ Carlow Youth Theatre managed by Carlow Arts Office provided 15 young people aged 11-13 and 24 aged 14-18 weekly zoom theatre workshops and maintained these participation levels throughout 2020.
- ➔ Carlow Arts Festival on 6th June celebrated their first ever online festival entitled "Slices". The festival received a national and international audience. Over 50,000 minutes of digital festival videos were watched, with a social reach of over 2 million across the projects. In 2020, Carlow Arts Office in association with
- ➔ Carlow Arts Festival designed a Wedge Fund towards artistic development and supported 28 artists, 6 projects and 1 commission.
- ➔ Culture Night premiered a 30-minute on screen programme of newly commissioned works which brought together some of Ireland's leading artists with members of Carlow's community. Culture Night Carlow was presented on RTE Nationwide TV.
- ➔ VISUAL while closed for seven months in 2020 responded constructively to the challenges that the year presented. Three seasons of arts programming went ahead, and the galleries opened when possible, providing a safe and positive experience for all who could visit. An extensive online programme of activities was developed and delivered to local, national and international audiences, with schools as far as Scotland engaging with online workshops. 6,359 people visited the centre during the months that it was open.



Carlow County Museum

Statistics



**MSPI Status,
Awarded Interim
Accreditation in
May 2020**



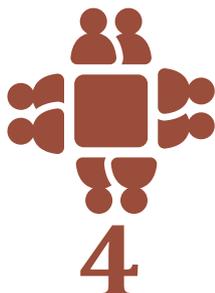
3,986

No. of Visitors*



3

**No. Archaeological Designation
Reports to the National Museum
of Ireland (NMI)**



4

**No. board meeting
and 1 agm**



3

**Full time staff based in the
Museum and 1 shared position
with the County Library Service.**

Museum Board

In December 2019, Mr. Padraig Dooley was elected the Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum for 2020. He succeeded Cllr. Fergal Browne.

Covid-19

The Museum, in accordance with the Government Covid-19 restrictions and guidelines remained closed to the public from close of business on Thursday March 12th.

Heritage Council's Heritage Week Award

Carlow County Museum, Myshall Muintir na Tíre and the Myshall Community Centre event "St Columbanus and the making of Europe" event wins Heritage Council's Heritage Week 2019 "Le Cheile san Eorap Award". I



(L to R) Mr. Patsy McLean and Mr. Damian Howard, Myshall, Mr. Michael Parsons, Chairperson of the Heritage Council, Cllr. John Pender, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council; Ms. Ann Cassin, RTE, Dr Alexander O'Hara, Mr. Pdraig Dooley, Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum and Mr. Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator.

Museum Standards Programme of Ireland (MSPI) Award

On Monday May 18th, International Museums Day, Carlow County Museum received confirmation that it has been awarded Interim Accreditation under the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) which is coordinated by the Heritage Council. This award recognises Carlow Co. Museum's achievement of those standards through accreditation across such areas as its governance, caring for its collection, its education programming and its visitor care. The County Museum is the first museum in the county to both participate in the MSPI programme and to be accredited.

In her awarding letter, Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive of the Heritage Council, wrote

“This represents a great achievement for Carlow County Museum and Carlow County Council. The Heritage Council acknowledges the hard work and perseverance of all involved in working to achieve Interim Accreditation.” The assessment of the Museum was undertaken by Helen Lanigan Wood, retired Curator of Fermanagh County Museum, and Dr Hugh Maguire, former Director of the Hunt Museum Limerick, and they stated in their report that the “Museum has benefitted from a considered, and measured, development over many years.

The Museum project complements the Council's ongoing, and significant, commitment to a range of well-regarded cultural and heritage projects across the county, many of national significance.”



Cllr Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Fergal Browne, Mayor, Kathleen Holohan, CE, and Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator, welcomed Minister Noonan to the Museum.

John Tyndall 200, I Know why the Sky is Blue. Do You?

On Sunday August 2nd the 200th anniversary of the birth of County Carlow's great

19th century scientist, inventor, educator and mountaineer, John Tyndall, was celebrated with an online collaboration between Carlow County Museum and Tyndall National Institute, Cork.

Crinniú na nÓg took place on Saturday June 13th, coordinated for County Carlow by the Arts Office. With the suggestion from the Museum, the day was themed around the

200th anniversary of the birth of Carlow's great 19th century scientist, John Tyndall, under the banner of "why the sky is blue", a

discovery associated with John. On Tuesday 10th of November, the Nuacht on TG4 broadcast their John Tyndall interview from Carlow

County Museum as part of Science Week 2020. They interviewed John McDarby, Staff Officer, and included footage from Leighlinbridge, Ballinabranna and the Tyndall display in the Museum.

Visit by Minister Malcom Noonan, TD

On Tuesday August 11th, the Museum welcomed Malcom Noonan, TD, Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform, along with Michael MacDonagh, Chief Archaeologist, and Chris Corlett, Archaeologist, National Monuments Service.



ARTiculation National Final

On Thursday November 5th, the deferred ARTiculation National Final 2020 was held online, coordinated by Tipperary County Museum. There were four counties participating, Carlow, Kerry, Tipperary and Waterford. Amy McLoughlin, St. Leo's College, having won the Carlow final in February, represented the county with her take on the Basílica de la Sagrada Familia, the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Barcelona, designed by Antoni Gaudi.

Kevin Barry Commemorations

Kevin Barry, Tombeagh, County Carlow, was executed one hundred years ago at 8am on the 1st of November 1920 in Mountjoy Gaol, Dublin, for his role in the Irish War

of Independence. Kevin was just 18 years old when he was executed and the first execution since the 1916 Rising. Both led to his death receiving near worldwide coverage. His nephew, Kevin Barry, along with his wife Evelyn, their daughter Niamh and Ian Dowling, of Irish Pickers television show fame and whom he can call Kevin a cousin, visited Carlow County Museum and in a private ceremony laid a wreath to mark the anniversary of Kevin's execution. This was coordinated by the County Council's Centenaries Committee.

Motor Taxation

Carlow County Council's Motor Tax Office delivers a high standard of service to members of the public. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Office was closed to the Public for 4 months during 2020. The collection of Vehicle Licence Fees remains its primary function.

The Motor Taxation Online service is available 24/7 - 365 days per year at www.motortax.ie

	No. Transactions	Amt
Motor Tax Office (19%)	16,000	€3m
Online www.mototax.ie (81%)	69,000	€10.3m



Appendices





Appendix 1

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) at 31st December 2020

	€	€
	2020	2019
Fixed Assets	1,084,591,548	1,074,075,352
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	6,179,669	6,554,848
Long Term Debtors	50,401,448	47,925,605
Current Assets		
Stocks	-	-
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	9,421,742	10,525,556
Short Term Deposits	49,197,612	42,797,639
Cash at Bank	444,460	447,233
Cash on Hand	108,722	55,790
Total Current Assets	59,172,536	53,826,218
Current Liabilities		
Bank Overdraft		
Creditors & Accruals	16,470,714	14,691,708
Finance Leases	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	16,470,714	14,691,708
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	42,701,822	39,134,510
Creditors		
Loans Payable	37,281,890	39,208,465
Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable Deposits	2,478,388	2,187,306
Other	11,240,357	8,123,800
Total Creditors	51,000,635	49,519,571
Net Assets	1,132,873,852	1,118,170,744
Financed by		
Capitalisation Account	1,084,591,548	1,074,075,352
Income WIP	3,884,576	4,421,848
General Revenue Reserve	772,516	744,828
Other Balances	43,625,212	38,928,716
Total Reserves	1,132,873,852	1,118,170,744

Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Account Statement)

For year ended 31st December 2020

Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure 2020	Income 2020	Net Expenditure 2020	Net Expenditure 2019
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	13,449,436	15,039,230	(1,589,794)	(2,410,782)
Roads Transportation & Safety	12,351,634	8,003,547	4,348,087	4,208,006
Water & Sewerage	4,323,015	4,225,743	97,272	163,585
Development Incentives & Controls	13,326,830	10,236,873	3,089,957	3,137,430
Environmental Protection	6,704,426	1,446,194	5,258,232	5,104,287
Recreation & Amenity	3,631,394	154,563	3,476,831	3,466,501
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	291,117	61,485	229,632	287,861
Miscellaneous	11,531,014	10,748,795	782,219	3,104,196
Total Expenditure/Income	65,608,866	49,916,430	15,692,436	17,061,084
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Property Tax.			15,692,436	17,061,084
Rates			15,310,025	14,625,602
Local Property Tax			6,338,220	6,138,657
Pension Related Deduction			-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers			5,955,809	3,703,175
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(5,928,121)	(3,646,286)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			27,688	56,889
General Reserve @ 1st January			744,828	687,939
General Reserve @ 31st December			772,516	744,828



Appendix 2

Conferences / Training - Attended By Councillors In 2020

Date	Name of Training Conference / Seminar	Venue	Councillor in Attendance	Travel/ Sub/ Expense	Conference Fee
6th Feb 2020	Cathaoirleach attendance – National Heritage Awards 2019	Dawson Street Dublin	Cllr. John Pender	€114.00	Nil
15th February 2020	AILG – Elected Members Module 2 “The Development Plan Making Process”	Dooley’s Hotel, Waterford City	Cllr. Andy Gladney	€73.37	€55
15th February 2020	AILG Elected Members Module 2 “The Development Plan Making Process”	Dooley’s Hotel, Waterford City	Cllr. Arthur McDonald	€80.68	€55
15th February 2020	AILG Elected Members Module 2 “The Development Plan Making Process”	Dooley’s Hotel, Waterford City	Cllr. Ken Murnane	€94.11	€55
15th February 2020	AILG Elected Members Module 2 “The Development Plan Making Process”	Dooley’s Hotel, Waterford City	Cllr. John Pender	€97.70	€55
15th February 2020	AILG – Elected Members Module 2 “The Development Plan Making Process”	Dooley’s Hotel, Waterford City	Cllr. William Quinn	€68.14	€55
15th February 2020	Cathaoirleach Attendance – National LAMA Awards	Croke Park, Dublin	Cllr. John Pender.	€232.10	Nil
21st February 2020	Cathaoirleach Attendance	Institute of Technology, Waterford	Cllr. John Pender	€102.18	Nil
21st – 23rd February 2020	CELTIC CONFERENCE – “Health & Safety in the Workplace”	O’ Donovans Hotel, Clonakilkty, Co. Cork	Cllr. William Quinn	€504.51	€100

Date	Name of Training Conference / Seminar	Venue	Councillor in Attendance	Travel/ Sub/ Expense	Conference Fee
4th & 5th March 2020	AILG – Elected Member Annual Conference “Solving Global Challenges through local leadership”	Longford Arms Hotel & Spa, Longford	Cllr. Fergal Browne	€377.78	€140
4th & 5th March 2020	AILG – Elected Member Annual Conference “Solving Global Challenges through local leadership”	Longford Arms Hotel & Spa, Longford	Cllr. Andrew Gladney	€401.09	€140
4th & 5th March 2020	AILG – Elected Member Annual Conference “Solving Global Challenges through local leadership”	Longford Arms Hotel & Spa, Longford	Cllr. Thomas Kinsella	€385.11	€140
4th & 5th March 2020	AILG – Elected Member Training Annual Conference “Climate Action – Solving Global challenges through local leadership”	Longford Arms Hotel & Spa Main Street, Longford	Cllr Arthur McDonald	€402.39	€140
4th & 5th March 2020	AILG – Elected Member Annual “Climate Action – Solving Global Challenges through Local Leadership”	Longford Hotel & Spa, Longford	Cllr. John McDonald	€335.00	€140

Date	Name of Training Conference / Seminar	Venue	Councillor in Attendance	Travel/ Sub/ Expense	Conference Fee
4th & 5th March 2020	AILG – Elected Member Annual “Climate Action – Solving Global Challenges through Local Leadership”	Longford Hotel & Spa, Longford	Cllr Ken Murnane	€386.73	€140
4th and 5th March 2020	AILG – Elected Member Annual “Climate Action – Solving Global Challenges through Local Leadership”	Longford Hotel & Spa, Longford	Cllr. Brian O’ Donoghue	€249.31	€140
4th & 5th March 2020	AILG – Elected Member Training Annual Conference “Climate Action -Solving Global Challenges through local leadership”	Longford Hotel & Spa, Longford	Cllr. Tom O’ Neill	€358.50	€140
4th & 5th March 2020	AILG – Elected Member Training Annual Conference “Climate Action – Solving Global Challenges through local leadership”	Longford Hotel & Spa, Longford	Cllr. John Pender	€381.36	€140
4th & 5th March 2020	AILG – Elected Member Training Annual Conference “Climate Action – Solving Global Challenges”	Longford Hotel & Spa, Longford	Cllr. William Quinn	€279.21	€140

Date	Name of Training Conference / Seminar	Venue	Councillor in Attendance	Travel/ Sub/ Expense	Conference Fee
10th March 2020	Cathaoirleach Attendance – Signing of Graiguenamanagh Flood Relief Scheme	Civic Offices, Kilkenny	Cllr. John Pender	€60.20	Nil
6th August 2020	AILG Module 3 Elected Member briefing “The Moorhead Report”	Horse & Jockey Hotel, Horse & Jockey, Thurles, Co Tipperary	Cllr. Ken Murnane	€94.24	€55.00
12th August 2020	AILG Module 3 Elected Member briefing “The Moorhead Report”	Rochestown Park, Co Cork	Cllr. John Pender	€450.38	€55

Appendix 3

Elected Members Attendance at Meetings held in 2020

Councillor Name	No. of Meetings Attended
Fergal Browne	27
John Cassin	29
Andrea Dalton	43
Michael Doran	27
Andrew Gladney	17
Thomas Kinsella	40
Arthur McDonald	30
John McDonald	27
Ken Murnane	29
Charlie Murphy	25
John Murphy	33
Brian O' Donoghue	22
Tom O' Neill	46
William Paton	26
John Pender	28
Fintan Phelan	27
William Quinn	43
Adrienne Wallace	29

Appendix 4

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 2020.

Candidates	Donations	Expenditure
Cllr Fergal Browne	0.00	0.00
Cllr John Cassin	0.00	0.00
Cllr Andrea Dalton	0.00	0.00
Cllr Michael Doran	0.00	0.00
Cllr Andrew Gladney	0.00	0.00
Cllr Tomas Kinsella	0.00	0.00
Cllr Arthur McDonald	0.00	0.00
Cllr John McDonald	0.00	0.00
Cllr Ken Murnane	0.00	0.00
Cllr Charlie Murphy	0.00	0.00
Cllr John Murphy	0.00	0.00
Cllr Brian O'Donoghue	0.00	0.00
Cllr Tom O'Neill	0.00	0.00
Cllr William Paton	0.00	0.00
Cllr John Pender	0.00	0.00
Cllr Fintan Phelan	0.00	0.00
Cllr William Quinn	0.00	0.00
Cllr Adrienne Wallace	0.00	0.00
Cllr Adrienne Wallace	0.00	0.00



Appendix 5

Payments to Councillors in 2020

Councillor Payments Under Section 142 of the Local Government Act 2001	Amounts €
Expenses Paid to Members in respect of attendance at meetings of the County Council and its committees	81,955.82
Representational Payments	312,877
Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons Allowance	24,000.00
Cathaoirleach Allowance Jan – June 2020 Cathaoirleach Allowance July – Dec 2020	10,119.12
Leas Cathaoirleach Mayor's Allowance Jan – June 2020 Leas Cathaoirleach Allowance July – Dec 2020	9,812.48
	2,023.82
	1,962.50

Councillor Expenses and Representation at Conferences in 2020			
Expense Type	Home	Abroad	Total
Travel & Subsistence	€5,528.09	€0.00	€5,528.09
Fees	€470.00	€0.00	€470.00

Appendix 6

Protected Disclosures 2020

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 2020.

Appendix 7

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 2020-2022.

Appendix 8

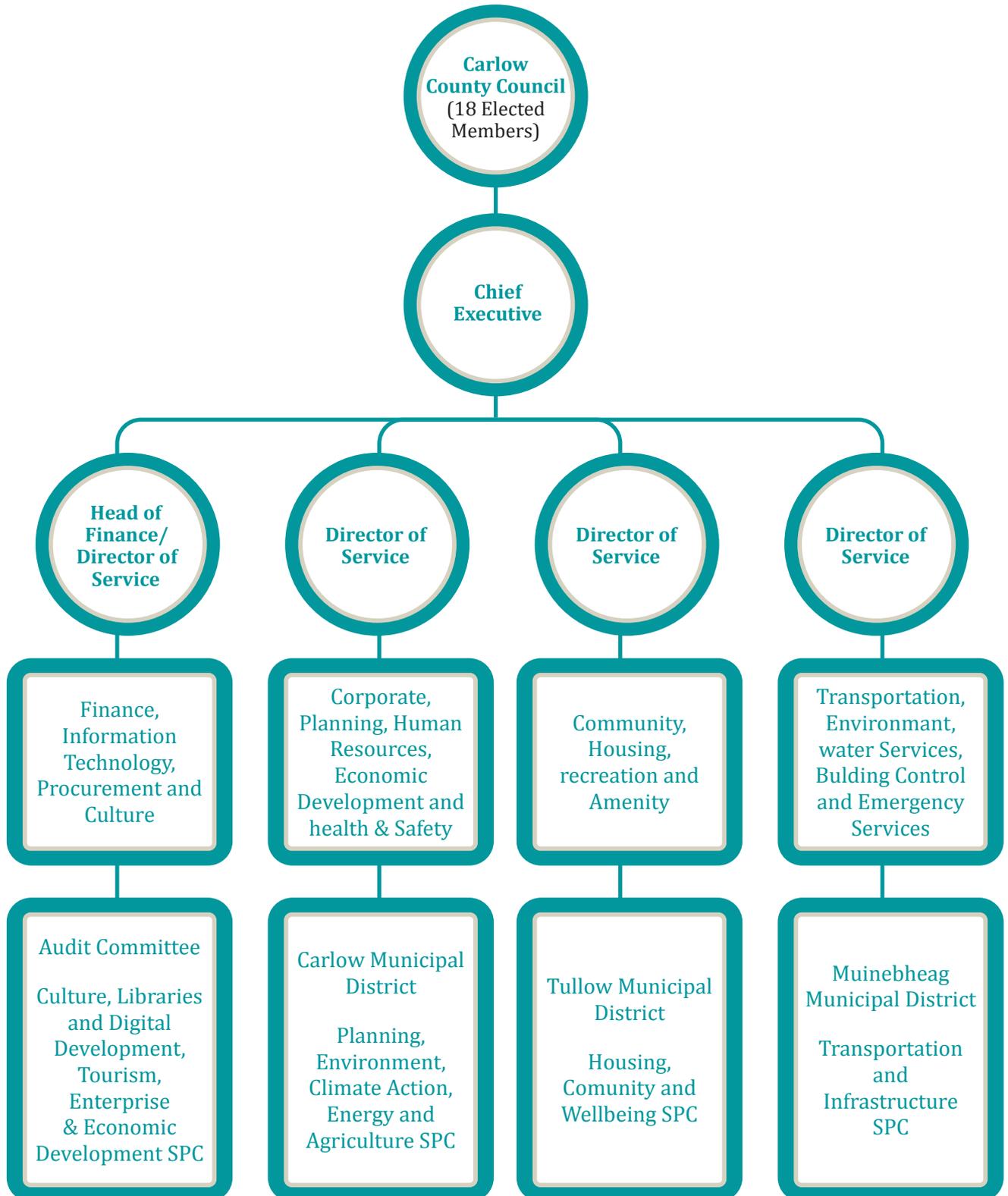
Senior Management Team

Kathleen Holohan	Chief Executive.
Pat Delaney	Head of Finance: Finance, Information Systems, Arts and Culture.
Michael Brennan	Director of Services: Community, Housing, Recreation & Amenity.
Michael Rainey	Director of Services: Corporate/HR, Planning, Health & Safety, Economic Development /LEO.
Padraig O’Gorman	Director of Services: Transportation, Environment & Water Services, Building Control & Emergency Services.



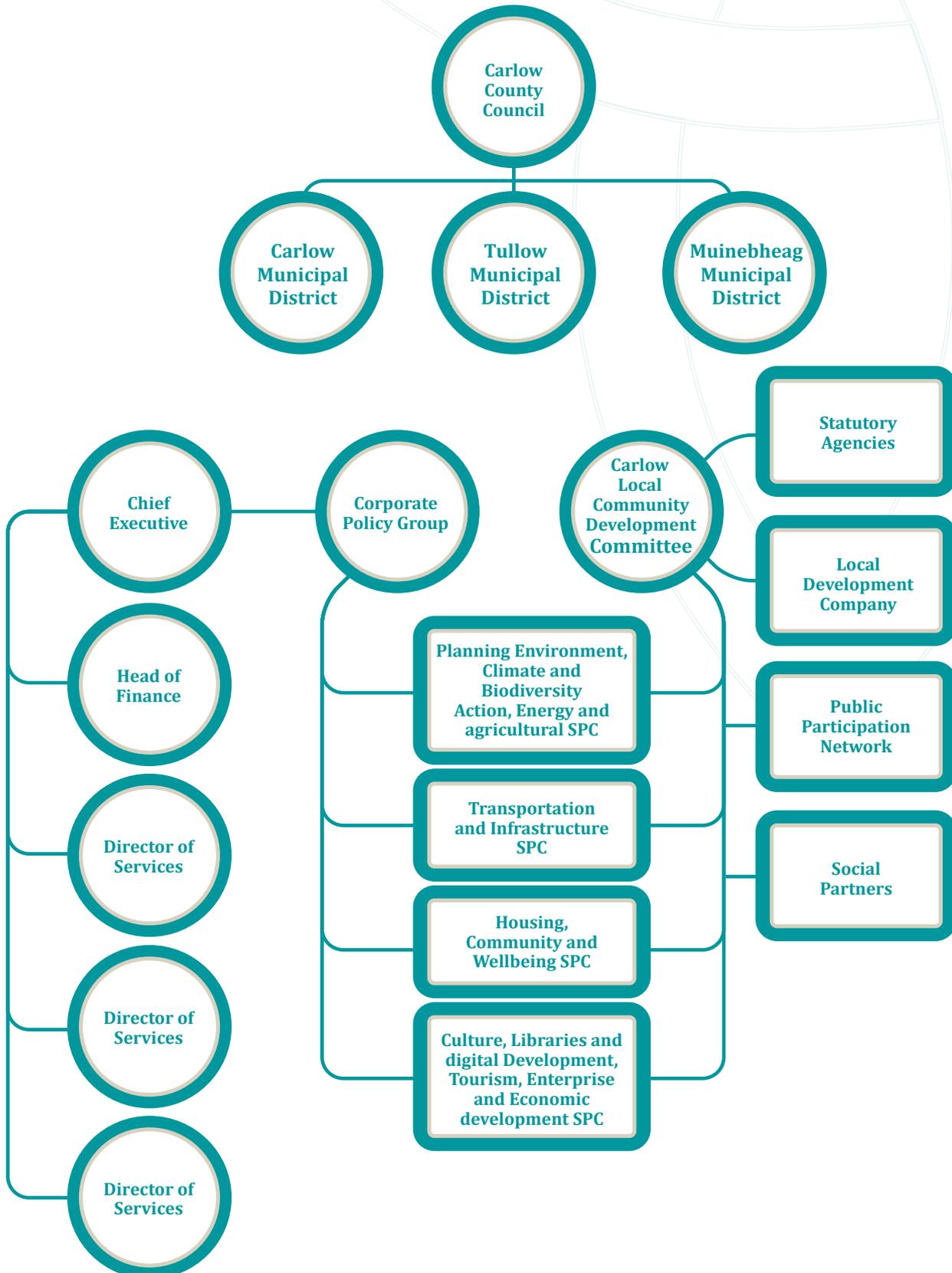
Appendix 9

Local Operating Environment



Appendix 10

Organisational Structure





COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

County Offices

Athy Road

Carlow

t: (059) 917 0030 | f: (059) 914 1503

e: www.carlow.ie