



Annual Report

Tuarascáil

Bhliantúil 2016

Cavan County Council
Comhairle Contae An Cabháin



Mission: “Putting Cavan First”



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Appendix 1

Review of the Corporate Plan

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



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

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

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

County Cavan has a population of 76,092. It is predominantly a rural county although in recent years there have been significant population increases in its main urban centres.

The County is characterised by drumlin countryside dotted with many lakes and small hills. The North West of the County is sparsely populated and mountainous with many areas of high scenic landscape. It is also home to a number of international tourism attractions including the Shannon Erne Waterway and the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark.

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



Cathaoirleach's Address

As Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council I am delighted to welcome the publication of the 2016 Annual Report.

2016 has been a challenging year for Cavan County Council as it comes to terms with the consequences arising from changed economic circumstances. While core services have been maintained there are also new areas where the Council is responding positively to and making a significant contribution.



2016 began with the prevailing weather conditions calling on the resilience of all public service providers. I want to put on record our deep appreciation and thanks to members of staff who worked tirelessly and the way they dealt with the severe flooding to ensure that our roads were kept open and essential services maintained.

The promotion of economic development is now more important than ever following the outcome of the Brexit vote. Cavan County Council is working with all the border counties and Council's in Northern Ireland to assess the impact of Brexit on these counties. The launch of the 6 year Local Economic and Community plan in September sets out for the economic and community development of the County with Cavan County Council having an important oversight role in driving the delivery of the plan and in providing leadership to agencies the business, voluntary and the wider community sectors.

One of the high points of the year was the Taste of Cavan. I want to congratulate all involved in bringing the food festival to Cavan. I want to thank all those who are working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that the Taste of Cavan is a success and that Cavan's reputation is enhanced as a result. This festival is considered to be one of the main platforms for promotion of local producers.

On a personal level I had the pleasure of attending the Cavan Association Dinner in London and other civic events while there to coincide with the visit. I had the privilege in travelling to Wurzburg in Germany in honour of St Killian from Mullagh. In my view it is very important for our County that links with our Diaspora are maintained and enhanced.

I also want to thank my fellow elected members for their support and co-operation over the past twelve months. Finally I wish to take this opportunity to thank our Chief Executive, Mr Tommy Ryan and the executive for their work during 2016.

Councillor Fergal Curtin, Cathaoirleach



Chief Executive's Address

I am pleased to introduce our Annual Report which outlines the achievements and activities of Cavan County Council for the year 2016.

2016 was both a successful and challenging year for Cavan County Council. The annual report provides an opportunity to reflect on the wide ranging activities and services carried out by our organisation during the year.



In the midst of the many challenges that we encountered, I am delighted to report that 2016 was still a year of high achievement for the Council.

Cavan County Council completed the development of the 6 year LECP plan during 2016. The plan was adopted by the elected Council in February and was launched in September. The plan sets out the agenda of the economic and community development of the County and has a democratic mandate of Cavan County Council. The promotion of economic development is now more important than ever following the outcome of the Brexit vote in June. With the development of a Food Strategy, a Digital Strategy, Tourism Strategy, Diaspora Strategy as well as Cultural, Heritage and Library plans will ensure that the roadmap is in place for the development of Cavan in the future.

2016 marked a number of significant achievements

- Taste of Cavan a major promotional even show cased our County as a food/quality produce destination which attracted over 30,000 visitors to our County.
- Our library service played a pivotal role in the 1916 Commemorations for our County in 2016. The 23rd April was the major day of commemoration and celebration. Townhall Street was the location for reimaging Cavan in 1916 in a commemorative Parade and formal ceremony took place at the courthouse and the celebrations finished with an evening of song and music at the market square.
- The National launch of the LEADER programme took place in the Virginia show centre in the 8th July 2016 and the launch of the programme for Cavan took place in September 2016. The new leader programme is themed as promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas. Cavan County Council received and indicative allocation of €8,522,285



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- The National Convention of Older people's Council was in November 2016 and hosted by Cavan Older People's Council and Cavan County Council which attracted 120 delegates representing Older People's Council's and age friendly programmes around the County.
- Two groups from County Cavan were presented with top awards in the competition at the annual Pride and Place ceremony on the 26th November; Positive age Cavan and Rathdrum Residents took runner up places in their respective categories.
- In July Minister Heather Humphries TD and First minister Aileen Foster jointly launched the battle of the Somme exhibition at the County Museum.
- Cavan Burren Park and Cavan Museum featured in John Creedon's 'Ireland's Epic East' primetime show on R.T.E.
- Cavan County Council secured allocation of €500,000 for the partial implementation of Phase 2 of the Cavan Town and environs walking and cycling strategy
- Road Safety Strategy was published in 2016.
- An application for the Cavan Peace IV Action Plan was submitted to the Special EU Programmes Body

I am pleased to note that in significant progress was achieved in advancing the Capital Programme which included the following:

- Replacement of 60% of the sewer network in Cavan Town including 5 Pumping Stations
- Construction of a new wastewater treatment facility to treat 38,000 PE , Cavan WWT Plant Upgrade
- Installation of 4000m of raw water rising main to supply raw water for treatment at Kingscourt
- Construction works on N3 Virginia Main St Phase 1 was substantially completed in 2016.

I wish to thank our Cathaoirleachs Cllr. Paddy Smith and Cllr. Fergal Curtin and Elected Members, Strategic Policy Committees, Partner Agencies, Voluntary and Community Organisations for their input and support in 2016 and to acknowledge their contribution in making Cavan a better place for all our citizens.

I would like to thank staff for their continued hard work, dedication and commitment to the organisation and acknowledge their excellent contribution during 2016.

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive



Electoral Areas and their Elected Representatives from June 2014

Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal Area

- Carmel Brady, Fine Gael
- Fergal Curtin, Fianna Fáil
- Clifford Kelly, Fianna Fáil
- Paddy McDonald, Sinn Féin
- Val Smith, Fine Gael
- Niamh Smyth, Fianna Fáil
- Sarah O' Reilly, Fianna Fáil (Co-opted following the election of Niamh Smyth to Dáil Eireann)

Cavan-Belturbet Municipal Area

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

Ballyjamesduff Municipal Area

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



Meetings of Local Authority

Meeting	Number
Monthly, Reconvened and Special	16
Ballyjamesduff Municipal District Meetings	5
Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District Meetings	6
Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District Meetings	7
Annual General Meeting	1
Pre- Budget & Annual Budget Meetings	2
Corporate Policy Group Meetings	12
Housing, Social & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee	4
Environment and Planning Strategic Policy Committee	4
Transportation & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee	3
Economic Development	5
Joint Policing Committee	2
Audit Committee	4

Conferences, Seminars, Events Attended by Elected Members

Conference / Seminar / Event	Location	Purpose	Members Attended
The Parnell Society Summer School 2016	Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow	Summer School	2
Celtic Conferences	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	“Housing Grants & Schemes”	4
Celtic Conferences	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	“A Practical Guide to Budget 2017”	2
Co-operation Ireland Seminar	Hillsgrove Hotel, Monaghan	“Revitalising small towns across the island if Ireland”	2



Foreign Travel by Elected Members

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

Training Availed of by Elected Members

Title of Training	Body that Provided Training	Location	Number who attended
Debate on latest planning policy, research & practice	Irish Planning Institute	Athlone, Co. Westmeath	1
LAMA Spring Training Seminar	Local Authority Members' Association	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo	12
LAMA Autumn Seminar	Local Authority Members' Association	Bantry, Co. Cork	11
Module 1 – Local Authority Safety Services	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan	5
Module 2 – Local Authority Cultural Services	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Station House Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	9
Module 3 – Local Authority Planning update	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Lakeside Manor Hotel, Virginia, Co. Cavan	14
Module 4 – Local Authority Housing & the National Action Plan for Housing	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Galway Bay Hotel, Galway	9
Module 5 – National & Local Authority Emergency Planning	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Radisson Hotel, Sligo	6
Module 6 – Regional Assemblies & their role with Local Authorities & the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	9



Annual Conference	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal	11
Autumn Seminar	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Amber Springs Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford	11

Public Authorities and Other Bodies Elected Members are represented on

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



Payments to Members of Cavan County Council

Annual Expenses Allowance (travel, subsistence and miscellaneous expenses)	€ 90,489.49
Representational Payments	€306,265.05
Cathaoirleachs' / Leas Cathaoirleachs' Allowances (including Municipal Authorities)	€45,000.00
Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees	€24,000.00
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at Conferences, Seminars in Ireland	€ 7,129.18
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at events abroad	€ 575.69
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at Training Events	€32,606.11

Cathaoirleach's Reception

Emma Feeney – Ringside Boxing Champion.

Strategic Policy Committees from June 2014 to June 2019

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



Corporate Plan

Mission Statement: “Putting Cavan First”

Our Values

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

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

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



Review of the Corporate Plan

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

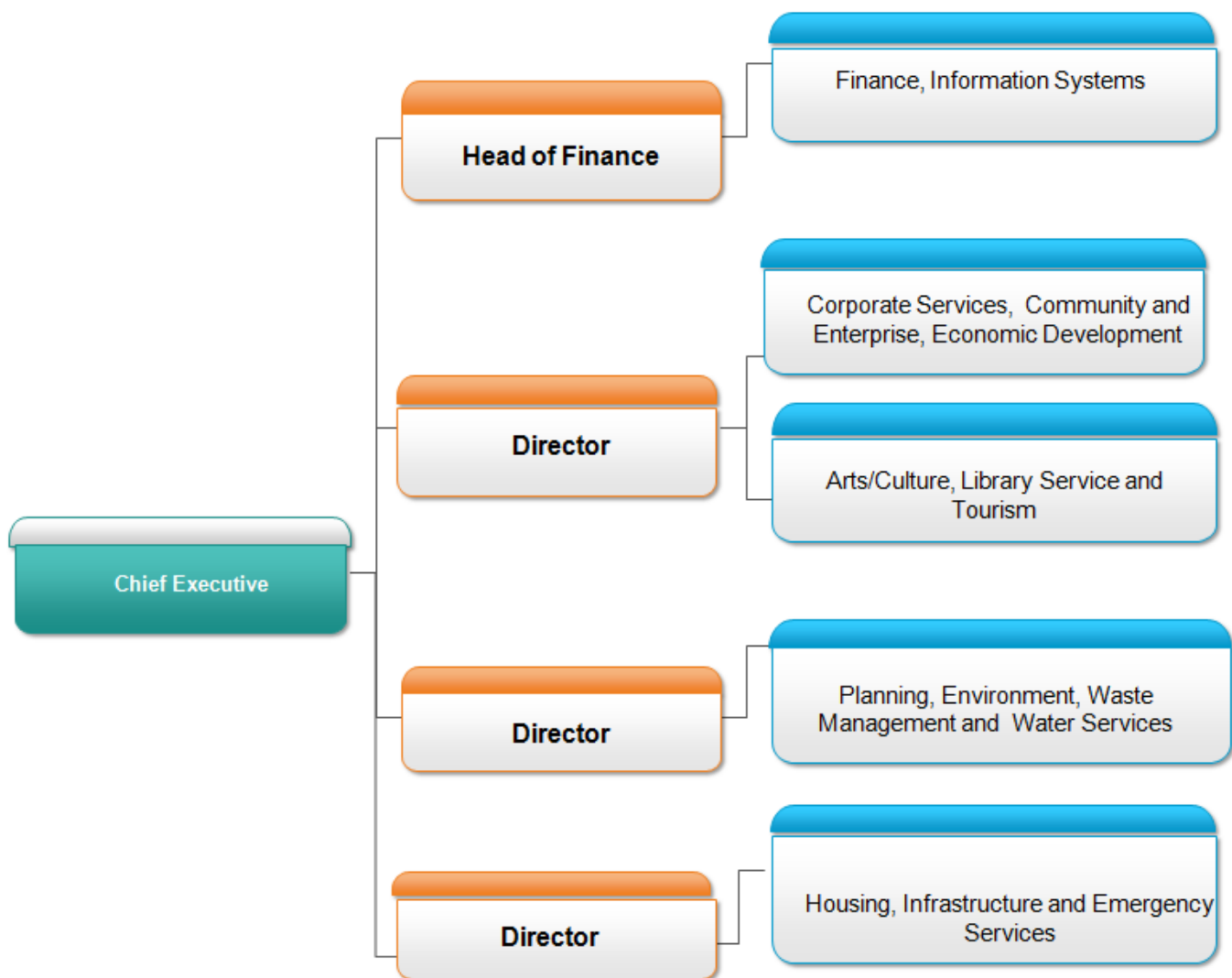
The Strategic Objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2015-2109 are as follows:



In accordance with section 134 (9) (a) of the local Government Act 2001 Cavan County Council prepared an annual progress report on the Corporate Plan. The report sets out in progress made in relation to commitments set down by the Council's Corporate Plan for the period 2014 - 2019. The report highlights progress made during 2016. This progress report is attached to Appendix 1.



Management Team





Corporate Affairs, Community and Enterprise, Cultural Affairs and Tourism

Corporate Affairs and Human Resources

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

At year end 398 staff were employed by the Council. The numbers of core staff in each of the categories:

Staffing	Number
Managerial	5
Clerical/Administrative	170
Professional/Technical	64
Outdoor	128
Contract Posts/Projects	20
Temporary/Seasonal	11
Total	398

Staff Welfare

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



Service Indicators

% of working days lost to sickness:

	Certified Sick Leave	Uncertified Sick
2010	4.19%	0.34%
2011	4.17%	0.25%
2012	3.14%	0.39%
2013	3.39%	0.18%
2014	3.01%	0.18%
2015	2.43%	0.19%
2016	3.44%	0.23%

CORPORATE	2016
C1.Total Number of WTEs	
Wholetime equivalent staffing number at year end	372.3
C2. % of Working Days lost to Sickness (certified / uncertified)	
% of paid working days lost due to sickness absence through medically certified leave	3.38%
% of paid working days lost due to sickness absence through self - certified leave	0.23%

Register of Electors

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

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

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



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

To be eligible for registration a person must be:

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

If a person changes residence, they may be included in the supplement to the Register at their new address. Provided they are not already registered as an elector at any other address or that they arrange for their name to be deleted from the Register at their other address. The total number of Electors for 2016/2017 was 54,378 (Cavan-Monaghan 44,122 and Sligo-Leitrim 10,256).

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

Local Electoral Area	Number of Electors
Bailieborough-Cootehill	19,538
Ballyjamesduff	19,259
Cavan-Belturbet	17,276
Total	56,073

Training & Development

During 2016, our commitment to training and development for all staff continued with the delivery of a broad scope of training opportunities to assist staff continue to develop and up skill, improve performance and contribute to the achievement of the overall mission and objectives of the organisation.



In 2016, the key training focus has continued to be on the delivery of relevant Health & Safety Training. Other key drivers of training initiatives continued to be information technology, professional and technical expertise, operational training, legislation, seminars, conferences, workshops and networking opportunities.

Support continues to be provided to staff wishing to pursue further education through our Further Education Support Scheme.

Training for all our Elected Members continued to be rolled out in 2016.

Performance Management and Development System (PMDS)

The PMDS process continues to be embedded throughout the organisation and the Full Performance Cycle is implemented annually. PMDS is driven by the Senior Management Team. The Human Resources Section co-ordinates the operation of PMDS in Cavan County Council.

PMDS supports the successful management of individual staff members and teams to achieve enhanced levels of performance and development. The Competency Development Framework for both Senior and Middle Managers is an integral of our PMDS system.

Freedom of Information (FOI)

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

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

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

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



Freedom of Information (FOI) Statistics:

Cases brought forward from 2015	1
Number of applications received:	79
Number of applications granted:	57
Number of applications part granted:	7
Number of applications refused:	5
Withdrawn/Dealt with outside FOI:	2
Number live at 31 st December, 2016	7

Protected Disclosures

The Protected Disclosures Act 2014 became operational on the 15th July 2014. In accordance with Section 22 of that Act, Cavan County Council has an obligation to report on the number of protected disclosures made to the Council in the preceding year.

In accordance with Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014, Cavan County Council reports that it received no protected disclosures in the 12 month period ending on 31st December 2016.

Community and Enterprise, Social Inclusion

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

Local Economic and Community Plan

The Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan was adopted by Cavan County Council in February 2016. It was developed following extensive consultation and research. The Cavan LECP was launched on in September 2016. Community & Enterprise staff also participated in the national launch of LECPs at the National Ploughing Championship in Tullamore in September 2016. A local LECP newsletter and brochure were developed during the year to communicate the content of the plan.



Pictured at the launch of Cavan LECP are Cllr John Paul Feeley (Chair of Economic SPC), Cllr Fergal Curtain (Cathaoirleach), Minister Heather Humphreys T.D. and Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive)

Local Community Development Committee

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

During 2016 the LCDC met nine times and operated effectively in managing various programmes including SICAP, LEADER and PEACE IV. The committee enjoyed good attendance and debate during the year. The representative for older people's interests was replaced by disability interests during the year as these positions are designed on a rotating basis. Similarly, Cavan Chamber of Commerce was replaced by Cootehill Chamber of Commerce.

The LCDC is responsible for the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan. A community implementation plan was prepared for 2016 and reviewed twice during the year. There was excellent progress with many of the community actions including the establishment of a Volunteer Information Centre, Drug and Alcohol Forum, setting up a Youth Network, a range of Irish language supports through Cavan Library Service, and developments in local transport services including two new Cavan town loop services.



An Equality Subgroup was established under the LCDC. This group commenced meeting in July and have been involved in information sharing and setting up relevant training.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

The Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme [SICAP] is managed by the LCDC and implemented locally by Breffni Integrated Ltd. SICAP is a national programme that helps unemployed people and other target groups to move closer to the labour market and promotes their inclusion in society. This programme has three goals focused on community development; education and training, and employment. SICAP had a successful year locally in 2016, meeting its end of year Key Performance Indicator [KPIs] targets. Under the programme, staff in Breffni Integrated work with individuals on a one-to-one basis to support their inclusion and progression and also with a range of local community groups.

The SICAP end of year progress report for 2016 showed excellent results for Cavan. Working through SICAP, staff at Breffni Integrated helped 153 people to set up their own businesses. They provided educational supports to 395 people and employment and enterprise training supports to 570 people. A total of 1,426 children and young people were engaged under the programme in 2016. Some 54 community organisations were supported in 2016.

Notable achievements during 2016 included:

- Setting up the **Cavan Disability Network**. This network meets on a monthly basis and has nominated a representative to the Cavan Local Community Development Committee. First meeting was held in March 2016.
- A new **Social Enterprise Forum** for County Cavan was successfully established which will act as a voice for the sector and an influencer in local policy making for social enterprise and enterprise in general.
- A series of in school programmes, after school youth activities, and summer camps were provided to prevent early school leaving or ease the transition to further education and training.
- Breffni Integrated in partnership with the HSE delivered Safetalk suicide alertness workshops to individuals and community groups throughout the county.
- Breffni Integrated also delivered workshops on looking after your mental health, self-care and suicide alertness to secondary school students and youth groups, in association with community and voluntary organisations.



- **Beckscourt Centre**, Bailieborough, serves as a base and resource for the provision of a range of community supports and services. Services operating from the premises include intensive work with unemployed people in the area including personal development training, interview techniques, CV preparation, job seeking skills and support into employment and self-employment delivered by Breffni Integrated SICAP staff.
- Particular supports were provided on an outreach basis to local community groups in West Cavan, which is identified as a disadvantaged area. This support has mainly been focused on organisation development and included the establishment of two new community groups in Belturbet.
- Under the **Congolese Resettlement Programme**, Breffni Integrated continued to help this community with resettlement issues. The Congolese community group was assisted with a research and storytelling project in 2016, along with an exhibition at Cavan County Museum in September 2016.

LEADER Programme

The LCDC committee acts as the Local Action Group [LAG] for the LEADER Programme. During 2016, the Leader Local Development Strategy was submitted and approved by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

The national Launch of the LEADER Programme took place in Virginia Show Centre on 8 July 2016 and the launch of the programme in Cavan took place in September 2016 with 5 public information meetings organised by the Programme Implementer, Breffni Integrated. An expression of interest form was released and targeted calls were announced.



Pictured at the LEADER Launch in Cavan are Eoin Doyle (Director of Service) John Donohoe (Chief Officer) Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive) Elaine Halpin & Brendan O'Reilly (Breffni Integrated Ltd), Noelle Mooney (Breffni Integrated Ltd) Front row: Cllr Fergal Curtin (Cathaoirleach), Minister Heather Humphreys TD and Helen O'Reilly (Breffni Integrated Ltd.)

Social Inclusion Unit

The role of the Social Inclusion Unit is to improve services for marginalised customers and to work on an interagency basis to address poverty and exclusion in the county. Significant areas of social inclusion activity during 2016 included:

- Further development of the Age friendly County Programme
- Supports for the Cavan Older People's Council
- Cavan Traveller Interagency Group
- Support for HSE-led Local Suicide Prevention Group Steering Committee
- Cavan Drug and Alcohol Forum
- Children and Young People's Services Committee

Age Friendly Programme

The Age Friendly County Programme is steered by an Alliance of senior managers from the main public sector agencies, older people's representatives and other organisations. During 2016 the first County Age Friendly Strategy drew to completion and was reviewed. Notable



achievements from this first strategy included:

- Improved information and communication through an age friendly website, drop-in centre and newsletters
- Training for public sector staff in age friendly issues
- Involving older people in the arts through Bealtaine events, library programmes and other creative activity such as intergenerational workshops
- A range of information technology training for older people
- Age Friendly Business Initiative with 26 businesses taking part. Cavan Chamber of Commerce received national recognition for this scheme through the Age Friendly Awards in 2015.
- Support for the development of Men's Sheds in different locations around the county
- Development of Cavan town as an 'Age Friendly Town'

The Cavan Older People's Council had a very active year with many projects being delivered. These included a drop in centre for older people on Monday mornings in Cavan town. This ran over three blocks, covering topics such as drama, creative writing, music and information talks from the HSE, Deaf Hear, SAGE (Support & Advocacy Service for Older People), on energy saving, ancestry, and switching utility bills and many other topics.

Cavan Older People's Council was supported by Cavan County Council to host the National Convention of Older People's Councils in November. This national conference attracted over 120 delegates representing Older People Councils and Age friendly programmes around the country.



Some of the speakers at the National Convention of Older People's Councils held in November 2016, hosted by Cavan Older People's Council and Cavan County Council.

Left-right (back row) Ms Bairbre Nic Aongusa (Assistant Secretary, Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government), Carole Beattie (Cavan OPC), Daniel Downey (Cavan Public Participation Network), Ken MacPherson (Bus Eireann), Catherine McGuigan (Age Friendly Ireland), Eoin Doyle (Director of Service). Front row: Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive), Bob Gilbert (Cavan OPC), Cllr Fergal Curtin (Cathaoirleach).

Traveller Interagency Group

The Social Inclusion Unit co-ordinates the Cavan Traveller Interagency Group. This is a statutory group that provides an interagency response to social exclusion issues among the Traveller community. The group implements a work plan every year. Activity during 2016 included the delivery of a Traveller Youth Engagement Project for 20 young Traveller women. Cavan Traveller Movement provides a community development support service for the Traveller community in Cavan. A new community development worker was recruited in March 2016. The Cavan Traveller Men's Shed was very active during the year, engaging with up to 40 Traveller men in sporting and outdoor activity programmes. A Traveller Pride event was held in Bridge Street Resource Centre in June.

Drug and Alcohol Forum

The Cavan Drug and Alcohol Forum held its inaugural meeting in February 2016 and met quarterly during the year. This forum provides networking opportunities for relevant services and implements a work plan. Approx. 20 organisations represented ranging from HSE services,



public sector agencies, drug and alcohol services, youth, community and family support services. One of the Forum's first actions was to research and map all relevant services to support people with drug and alcohol issues. This information is now available online on the local authority's website. Funding was secured during the year from the Regional Drugs Task Force and TUSLA to deliver a Strengthening Families Parenting Programme. A steering committee was established in 2016 and preparatory work was completed to the programme for the Cavan Monaghan area in 2017.



Pictured at the launch of the Cavan Drug and Alcohol Forum: (Left-right) John Donohoe (Chief Officer, LCDC), Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive), Cllr Shane P. O'Reilly and Sinéad Tormey (Community & Enterprise).

County Cavan Joint Policing Committee

The function of the Joint Policing Committee [JPC] is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussion and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the Local Authority's administrative area. County Cavan Joint Policing Committee met twice in 2016. A networking event for Community Alert groups was hosted by Muintir na Tire in conjunction with Cavan JPC in September 2016 with approximately 60 people in attendance. A consultation process for the development of a new Joint Policing Committee Plan was carried out in November and December 2016.



Pride of Place

Two groups from County Cavan were presented with top awards in the competition at the annual Pride of Place Awards Ceremony on November 26th. Now in its 14th year, the all island Pride of Place Awards promotes and celebrates the best in community development and recognises the selfless efforts of people in making their neighbourhoods better places to live, work and socialise. Positive Age Cavan took runner up place in category six, which is for Age Friendly Community Initiatives; while Rathdrum Residents Association took runner up place in category nine, which is the Housing Estates category.

Taste of Cavan 2016

The Taste of Cavan cemented its place as one of the country's top food events in 2016 as record crowds of over 39,000 enjoyed two days of food and fun at Cavan Equestrian Centre. A world-class line-up of chefs saw cookery demonstrations from Neven Maguire, Rachel Allen, Richard Corrigan, Enda McEvoy, Gearóid Lynch, Brian McDermott, Anjula Devi, Eddie Attwell, Shane Smith, Adrian Martin and Máire Dufficy, while the expanded children's 'Fun Zone' featured lots of free family activities to keep the little ones entertained.

As well as boasting a record crowd, the fifth annual Taste of Cavan saw record numbers of food and drink stalls, with over 130 stands offering some of the best produce the region has to offer. The festival provides a wonderful platform for local food producers and an excellent window into the wealth of local food available here for visitors.

The festival was widely covered in local and national print and broadcast media, and through Taste of Cavan, the county was promoted on RTÉ, TV3, iRadio, Today FM, The Irish Independent, The Irish Times, The Sunday Independent, The Irish Examiner, The Journal and more. The festival's social media presence is also very strong, with Taste of Cavan's Facebook page having garnered over 7,500 fans in just over a year. In that time, Taste of Cavan received over one million impressions on Facebook, with 'likes' coming from as far afield as Australia, South Africa and the United States.

The Taste of Cavan website went live at the official festival launch in Neven Maguire's MacNear House in Blacklion in June, providing visitors with a wealth of information on the festival, its sponsors, and exhibitors.

New innovations this year included a "Home Chef of Cavan" cookery competition, a Junior Masterchef competition and a greatly expanded children's area.



Crowd shot at Taste of Cavan 2016

Community/Festival Grants Scheme

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

The generation of increased economic and social activity from community grant funded projects enhances greater self sustainability in the local area. Grant funding of €35,000 was allocated to 75 community groups in 2016.

Cathaoirleach's Awards

The Cathaoirleach's Awards gives due recognition to those in County Cavan who, through participating in unpaid Community & Voluntary activities, have had a significant impact on the quality of life of their communities. It is delivered by the Community and Enterprise Section in conjunction with the Cavan Public Participation Network. Over 300 people attended the Awards Night to celebrate with the 43 nominees. In 2016, the recipients of the awards under the various categories were:

Youth: Lorraine O'Neill, Cystic Fibrosis Cavan Branch
Social Inclusion: Helen O'Reilly, Kilnaleck Community Co-op
Community: Ciaran Weir, St Christopher's Hospice



Sports: Conor Deery, St Aidans comprehensive , Taekwando
 Active Age: Dessie Ronan, Cavan Branch Alzheimer’s Society
 Lorraine O’ Neill, Cystic Fibrosis Cavan Branch won the overall winner’s prize winning €1000.

Community Tourism Diaspora Project

The Community Tourism Diaspora Project is a partnership between Fáilte Ireland, Irish Public Bodies Insurance and Local Authorities and has been established as a follow on from the success of the Gathering for the benefit of local tourism.

A total of €32,750 was allocated to 28 Festivals in the County in 2016 and this initiative was a great boost for tourism in County Cavan.

Service Indicators

Service Indicators	2016
Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme	90.91%
Total Number of organisations included in the County Register for the local authority area.	183
Number of organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	49

Cavan Public Participation Network

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

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



Cavan Sports Partnership

In 2016 Cavan Sports Partnership was awarded funding of € 138,974 from the Irish Sports Council for its operational and programme deliveries.

The sports partnership's mission is 'Sport for life, Sport for all'; achieving this through providing opportunities for individuals, sports clubs and communities to become more physically active. In July 2016, Cavan Sports Partnership (CSP) accessed €25,000 funding through the dormant accounts fund for the employment of a community sports development officer with specific focus on schools, communities and sports clubs.

Key initiatives the Sports Partnership was involved with in 2016 include the following;

- CSP's sports inclusion programme had 632 people with a disability take part throughout its various county wide programmes.
- The first inclusive GAA Cul camp for children with a disability took place in Cavan in partnership with Cavan GAA.
- 183 people took part in disability inclusion training in schools, community and sports club settings.
- There was 33 'Active adults 50+' programmes delivered with 462 participants taking part throughout the county
- CSP engaged with a number of National Governing Bodies of sport in 2016; Volleyball Ireland, Triathlon Ireland, The National Trails office, IRFU, GAA and FAI.
- CSP delivered the national initiatives; bikeweek.ie, 'Get Ireland Walking' and 'Xcessible youth' in partnership with local clubs, agencies and community groups.
- Community based couch to 5km had 166 participants through four locations in the county.
- CSP delivered a workplace wellbeing initiative with Cavan County Council staff throughout 2016.
- In partnership with Triathlon Ireland a new 'Tri Heroes' programme was launched with primary and secondary schools in Cavan.



Participants at the 2016 inclusive GAA Cul camp.

PEACE IV:

An application for the Cavan Peace IV Action Plan was submitted to the Special EU Programmes Body and we are awaiting the outcome of this. It is anticipated the programme will commence in mid 2017.

Comhairle nÓg

Cavan County Council received €20,000 from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs administered by Pobal to support the activities of the Cavan Comhairle na nÓg.

A busy and successful year for Cavan Comhairle na nÓg members included the following highlights:

- Comhairle na nÓg residential Friday 11 March & Saturday 12 March. This was a bonding opportunity for all members and they planned their activities for the year ahead and fitted in a canoeing trip on the Glencar lake
- Making a video to replicate what life was like for young people in 1916 and to commemorate the young people of the 1916 Rising
- 2 Comhairle na nÓg members attended the Children's State Ceremonial Event, Wednesday 15 June in Aras an Uachtarain
- Created a video that was a cooking guide for those leaving home and heading to College
- Cavan Comhairle na nÓg members played a participative role in the organising of a Colour run to highlight/support Children's Mental Health on Sunday 16 October and over 700 participants took part in the event held in Virginia.



- Cavan Comhairle AGM was held on Thursday 17th Nov 2016 in the Castlesaunderson Scout Centre and all post national schools in Co Cavan had representation at this event, where 20 new members were elected onto the Comhairle group.
- Comhairle National show case on Thursday 24 November in Croke Park, where all the Comhairle's throughout Ireland come together to share their work over the past two years



Digital Hub:

In December 2016 Cavan Co Council secured €100,000 towards the development of a Digital Hub in Cavan. The funding, which has been provided under the REDZ Programme (Rural Economic Development Zones) will see the establishment of a new Digital Hub on the outskirts of Cavan Town.

The Local Economic and Community Plan recognised the potential of developing a Digital Hub in Cavan. This funding is an important step in a process which will show firsthand the benefits to be gained from local agencies working together to help realise the full potential of economic development, job creation and competitiveness in Cavan.

The development of a Digital Hub presents a great opportunity, not alone for those working within with the digital sector in Cavan, but also for those involved in the sector outside the County who may view this as an opportunity to return home and avail of the facilities which the Digital Hub will offer. The availability of access to 1 Gigabit broadband is a significant competitive advantage for Cavan and one which we intend to take full advantage of. Our close proximity to Dublin will also make this an attractive offering to both start up and existing businesses throughout the region. A number of companies have already expressed an interest



in locating their business in the Hub.

Work has also commenced on the preparation of a new Digital Strategy for the County. This will further compliment this initiative and will set out a clear road map for interagency cooperation for the development of training and skills in the IT sector in the County as well as encouraging and facilitating greater community engagement in the Digital Economy.

Town Teams

Under Action 8.1a of the Local Economic Community Plan, Cavan Co Council, as Lead Partner, has committed to establishing 'Town Teams' in a number of towns throughout the County. Through this initiative, key stakeholders have been identified and have begun to work collaboratively to develop a shared vision for the economic, spatial and social development of their communities. A number of Town Team meetings have been held in Cavan, Virginia and Cootehill during 2016. Detailed SWOT analysis have been prepared in respect of each of these towns. The Town Teams have begun to formulate their 'Town Plans' which will propose the development and implementation of a number of short medium and long term actions. The needs, aspirations, and vision of the local communities will be at the core of the Town Plans.

In August 2016 the Town and Village Renewal Scheme was announced by Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht affairs. The work which the Town Teams had done was invaluable in the preparation of the applications under the scheme and each of the three towns, Cavan Cootehill and Virginia were awarded funding of €85,000 towards the development of a number of Capital Projects. Funding (€31,250 each) was also secured for four villages in the County - Killeshandra, Ballyhaise, Ballinagh and Shercock. Works under the Town and Village renewal schemes will commence in early 2017.



Local Community representatives hard at work at the Town Teams meeting in June 2016



Castlesaunderson:

In 2016 Cavan Co Council was awarded €4,000 from the Heritage Council towards the preparation of a Conservation and Development Plan for Castlesaunderson. The plan once complete will provide a clear summary of the history and development of the site and provide a list of prioritised actions and costings to inform the future development of the Castle and its Demense.



The Conservation and Development Plan for Castlesaunderson and its demense when complete in early 2017 and will be a useful reference document in the preparation of funding applications in relation to Castlesaunderson.

Enterprise and Economic Development SPC

The Economic and Enterprise SPC met on 5 occasions during 2016. The following topics were discussed during the year:

- Local Economic and Community Plan
- Presentation from IDA and Enterprise Ireland
- Regional Skills Forum
- National Broadband Plan
- Local Enterprise Office updates



The members of the Enterprise and Economic Development SPC are set out below. Cllr Sarah O'Reilly replaced Deputy Niamh Smyth TD on the SPC in March 2016.

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

Nominating Pillar	Surname	Forename
Chair	Feeley	John Paul
CCC	Brady	Carmel
CCC	Greenan	Eugene
CCC	McVitty	Peter
CCC	O'Reilly	Sarah
Cavan PPN	Kirk	Chris
Agriculture	Rogers	Thomas
Construction	Allison	Gary
Business	McGoohan	Nikki



Pictured at the Official Launch and Opening of the first Local Enterprise Week event "Procuring & Tendering for New Business Opportunities" in the Errigal Hotel on March 7th 2016, left to right: Edward Donnelly, Cavan County Council; Marcella Rudden, LEO Cavan; Jim Fox, LEO Cavan; Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive, Cavan County Council; Grant Gilmore, InterTradelreland; Maria Gavin, Enterprise Ireland; Brendon Goodrich.



The Local Enterprise Office Cavan (LEO Cavan) engaged in a broad range of activities throughout 2016. LEO Cavan forms part of a strong collaborative framework within County Cavan delivering supports and services to new and existing small businesses. The demand for our services is steady and grows year on year as our local businesses look ahead to the future. The impact of the BREXIT vote in the UK understandably changes the economic landscape, particularly in the Border Region, and poses additional challenges to businesses in our county. As a LEO, we will provide a range of supports for our clients to inform and assist them in dealing with the potential barriers they will undoubtedly face, as the uncertainty becomes a reality. This will form part of our ongoing drive to support our clients to evaluate their competitiveness and business operations, as they look to market diversification and try to remain resilient, viable and sustainable.

Reflecting upon 2016, there have been some key outputs for LEO Cavan, illustrating the innovative and ambitious nature of our entrepreneurs in County Cavan. For example, seventeen businesses were approved a total of €322,500 in financial assistance. Thirty eight enterprise related training programmes were delivered with over nine hundred participants availing of knowledge based learning and information. This includes tailored networking workshops and seminars throughout the year aimed at increasing opportunities for businesses to network and communicate and develop their business potential. Eighty two businesses availed of our mentoring programme across a wide range of business areas, including ecommerce and trading online. A key focus for 2017 is to continue promoting and encouraging businesses to look at trading online and developing their digital route to new markets. Fourteen Trading On Line Vouchers were approved in 2016 and LEO Cavan will be collaborating with the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment to host a joint regional event in October 2017 aimed at bringing together industry leaders and businesses of all sizes who wish to hear about those that have embraced the digital trade.

The first nationally co-ordinated Local Enterprise Week took place from March 7th to March 13th 2016. Organised by the Local Enterprise Offices nationwide, the events were aimed at anyone thinking of starting a business, new start-ups and growing SMEs. LEO Cavan attracted 275 participants attending nine enterprise events and training programmes throughout the week.

Networking remains a core demand led business support that LEO Cavan have successfully provided over the past number of years. Cavan Business Women's Club continues to flourish and retains an engaging, interactive membership. In 2017, we will continue to promote female entrepreneurship and look forward to hosting a joint event with Enterprise Ireland and Network Ireland in June.



The recent commissioning by Cavan County Council of two key strategies, Digital and Food, will support and enhance our role within the business community to drive new business start-ups and grow and expand existing businesses in both these sectors.

Our commitment in 2017 is to provide the best service we can to our clients, utilising the resources, knowledge and expertise that we have, in pursuit of a thriving sustainable county economy.

Service Indicators

ENTERPRISE	
J1 No of Jobs Created	
The no of jobs created with assistance from the LEO during the year	93.5
J2 Trading Online Vouchers	
J2.The no of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in the year.	14
J3 No of mentoring recipients	
J3. the number of participants who received mentoring during the year	98
the number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in the year	11



Pictured at the “Get Connected” Event hosted by LEO Cavan and Cavan County Council, in June 2016, as part of a series of consultations with the IT Sector in the County.



Cultural Affairs

Library

Cavan Library service played a pivotal role in the 1916 commemorations for County Cavan in 2016. 1916 was the focus for the year and events connected to the Easter Rising formed an integral part of Johnston Central, Bailieborough, Belturbet and Cootehill branch library programmes.



23rd April 2016 Commemoration Day



The 23rd April was the major day of commemoration and celebration for the county and library staff played a key role in organising the day. Town Hall Street was the location for reimagining Cavan in 1916 from 12pm until 4pm and then a Commemorative parade took place in the town with four marching bands, the Reserve Defence Forces, GAA and sporting clubs and the new communities to Cavan. The formal ceremony took place at the Courthouse at 5.30 pm with an ecumenical ceremony, Reading of the Proclamation and wreath laying ceremony and the celebrations finished with an evening of music and song at the Market Square.

The 1916 commemorations started in February with Dermot McMonagle's lecture which covered events in the century leading up to the Rising including the advent of the Industrial Revolution in England. June and August saw two important 1916 events taking place in Johnston Central library. On June 8th and 9th Maurice O'Keeffe, Fr Liam Kelly, Dr Brendan Scott and Dr Micheline Sheehy-Skeffington, granddaughter of Francis Sheehy Skeffington delivered



lectures and a plaque was unveiled in honour of Francis at Bailieborough library. On August 4th Dr Myles Dungan and leading academics presented lectures on the events of 1916 and later that evening the Town Hall hosted 'The Count, the Countess and the Tommy, a show which commemorated 1916 and the songs and music of Count John McCormack.

The Cavan Ireland 2016 committee commissioned local artist Paul Galligan to produce a body of work commemorating the personnel and events of 1916. The exhibition was launched in April in Johnston library and was subsequently displayed in Bailieborough and Cootehill libraries and St Killian's Heritage Centre, Mullagh.



'Easter 1916' Paul Galligan Exhibition of Paintings

Detail: Painting of Agnes O'Farrelly

Bailieborough library hosted Dr Tom Feeney in March who spoke on Paddy Smith, the longest serving TD in the history of the Dail who was Minister of Agriculture from 1957 to 1964 and local historian Hugh O'Brien spoke in Cootehill Library on 'Aspects of the 1916 Rising'. The role of women in the 1916 Rising was highlighted by the travelling exhibition Mna 1916-Women 1916, curated by Sinead McCoolle which included material from the Military Archives and the National Library. This exhibition was launched by Minister Heather Humphreys in Johnston Library in July and also featured the 1916 quilt produced by the Cavan County Museum quilters group.



Unveiling of plaque in honour of Francis Sheehy Skeffington. Insert: Exhibition "Mna 1916-Women 1916"



Culture Night is an annual national event which takes place in September and Cavan's programme for 2016 was one of the most comprehensive ever. Johnston Library hosted the '30 years ,Artists, Places ' exhibition curated by Muireann Ni Chonail which comprised art commissioned and acquired by local authorities and includes works by Tony O'Malley , Robert Ballagh, and Sean McSweeney . Monaghan actor and director Larry McCluskey performed his show ' A While with Seamus Heaney' his personal homage to the great poet to a packed audience.



Culture Night 2016

Belturbet's Kingstone commissioned in 1722 which once was positioned in the Market House until its removal was reinstated in the Belturbet branch library in a fully restored condition as part of the National Heritage week programme

Cavan County Council 's library service has a strong commitment to the Irish language and has developed links with Glor Breifne and Cavan's Primary and Secondary schools. Weekly conversation classes are held and an Irish language reading group meet monthly in the library. Cavan Library service , Cavan Genealogy and the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies in Omagh linked up to provide 'Warp and Weft', a two day conference in Belturbet and Omagh on October 14 and 15 exploring diasporic links, ancestral entanglements ,revolution and war. The keynote speaker in Belturbet was Professor Timothy McMahon from Marquette University, Milwaukee who spoke on the Diaspora and the period leading up to 1916 and in the Mellon Centre Dr Patricia Craig discussed her book 'A Twisted Root .Ancestral Engagements in Ireland. The delegates also visited Kiltyclogher, the birthplace of Sean Mac Diarmada where Dr Gerard MacAtasney covered his life and the Hacklers Drama group presented 'Rising Voices' a 1916 drama piece.

The new free digital library service was launched in July and allows library members to access Ebooks, eAudio books, eMagazines, on line Language Courses, Online Newspapers on laptops and PCs and by downloading apps these services can be enjoyed on tablets and smart



phones.



Cavan and Monaghan County Councils procured funding for Science week, November 13 to 20 to jointly host a range of events to stimulate and sustain the interest of youth in science, technology, engineering, and math. Events were arranged for adults, children, and some of the Cavan highlights included coding workshops, robotics, CSI water presentations, boat building , energy workshops, and farm safety. Dr Dan Courtney and Ronan Mac an tSaoir on Wednesday 16 in Johnston library discussed climate change, best farm practise, nutrient management and water quality.



Cavan & Monaghan Science Week 2016



Summer Stars Reading Initiative and Summer Programme events for children.



The Summer Stars reading programme ran in Cavan libraries and proved a huge success. It added to the range of initiatives provided including story time sessions, children's activities, access to books, games, computers and the internet.

Craft Groups and Reading groups in Cavan libraries continue to prosper and there are active groups in Bailieborough, Belturbet, Cavan and Cootehill libraries. Club Leabhar an Chabhain meets monthly in Johnston Central library .



Cootehill Craft Group during Bealtaine Festival



New communities gather for 1916 Commemoration

The link up with Lithuanian Community in Cavan continues to pay dividends with weekly visits from the Lithuanian week end school taking place to Johnston Central library. During the 1916 commemoration in April it was gratifying to see the engagement from the new communities to Cavan.

The library newsletter 'The Bookmark' is in print and electronic format, continues to be widely used and keeps the public informed of all library events.



Breakdown of Numbers of Events in Categories

Lectures	23
Exhibitions	19
Literary Events/Author /Storyteller Visits / Staff Storytelling/Book displays	78
Adult Workshops/Adult Education	56
Children’s Music/Drama/Dance/Workshops/Classes	101
Colouring Competitions	4
Class Visits – Pre/Primary/Secondary/ Other Groups	560
Community Group Meetings / events	410
Reading Groups Library	33
Work Experience	9
As Gaeilge Events	55
Events organised by Cavan County Council and / or outside State Agencies	105
Outreach Visits	5
Total Events	1445

Performance Indicators 2016

Total Visitors	183,205
Total Members	9792
Number of Items Borrowed	125,766
Internet Sessions Used	24,485
AFS Programme F02 Cost of Library Service	€1,981,470

Cavan County Museum

2016 was an exceptionally busy year for Cavan County Museum with extensive developments as part of our commemoration programme. The three major events were the launch of the Mná na hÉireann Quilt, 1916 Rising Experience and Battle of the Somme Exhibitions.

The Mná na hÉireann Quilt was launched in March. This unique Quilt, produced by the members of Erne Quilters celebrated the role of women in the 1916 Rising and brought their contribution to life using the craft of quilting.



In April, we launched the '1916 Rising Experience'. This immersive experience features a replica GPO façade and a series of tunnelled-through contemporary building interiors that allow visitors to experience the claustrophobic fighting conditions endured by the rebels. At the opening Crosserlough Battalion Old IRA (1916 – 1921) made a presentation of their tricolour to the Museum.

In July, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys TD and First Minister Arlene Foster jointly launched 'The Battle of the Somme' Exhibition.

These new outdoor exhibitions sit alongside and complement the WWI Trench Experience. The Rising Experience is placed alongside the Peace Garden. Both exhibitions lead the visitor to a dedicated Reflective Space.

Our museum is bringing us a flavour of what it must have been like to live in Ireland 100 years ago. It presents us with the choices that people made due to economic, social, historical and personal reasons. The Reflection Space offers us an opportunity to take a breath and contemplate the loss that accompanies conflict.

Museum coverage on The John Creedon Television Programme and Vincent Woods, RTE Radio Programme was excellent in raising the profile of the Museum and in attracting large number of visitors over the summer months.

The Local Authority Museums Network (LAMN) represents the 12 Local Authority Museums across Ireland, which plays a vital role in the social, cultural and economic life of these regions. In November this Network produced a group exhibition entitled '1916 Across the Country' which was launched in the National Library, Dublin – Cavan County Museum played a pivotal role in coordinating and producing this exhibition.

During the year our Education Programme attracted a wide and diverse number of schools from all over Ireland. There are many aspects to the delivery of this programme – children receive workshops, hands on experience and they can physically interact with the outdoor experiences. Feedback from schools and growing participation – especially from Secondary Schools is very positive and encouraging.

As one of Cavan's designated 'Ancient East' sites the Museum continues to develop and become one of the main tourist attractions for County Cavan. We have established many worthwhile links with tour operators nationally and internationally. The Museum is fully



committed to raising the profile of the County through its wide range of events and working to give greater access to its unique historical collection, memorabilia and artefacts.

The Museum opened in 1996 and it is fitting that our 20th Anniversary was our best year to date in terms of general visitor numbers and participation in our Education Programme and events.

Arts, Education and Community

Working with communities is an important element of the arts office work. In addition to specific projects with schools and communities the arts offices provides 'soft' supports such as information sessions, artists talk and other support provisions.

Is Linn É

"Our spirits are lifting, our future is bright"

The arts office as part of the cultural team and to commemorate the 100 anniversary of the Easter Rising embarked on two arts and education projects. Is Linn É was a music project delivered in collaboration with the Heritage Office in four national schools in County Cavan. Selected classes in Milltown, Crubany, Cross and Arva National Schools enjoyed working with musicians Brian Dillon and Liam Daly. The children working with the musicians and with poetic insights from Noel Monahan, poet wrote a new piece of music entitled Is Linn É. It was performed for parents and teachers at a very special celebration at Townhall, Cavan on 21 June.

Reflecting

New art inspired by the 1916 Rising, war histories and legacies, was completed by art students at St Bricin's College, Belturbet working with animators Konik Studios. The temporary art piece was launched by Minister Heather Humphreys at the County Museum in the Reflective space.

The Lonely Whale by Windows Publications

Cavan County Council supported Windows Publications to produce a children's anthology of poetry by young entrants of the Annual Poetry Competition. The publication entitled The Lonely Whale was a refreshing look at the world through the eyes of the child. This delightful publication was launched at the Annual Windows Student Competition at the Cavan Crystal Hotel.

The Souvenir Shop

Rita Duffy, Ballyconnell based artist was one of the successful artists to receive a 2016 commission from the Arts Council to respond to the 1916 commemorations. The Souvenir



Shop examined the shifting meanings and commoditization of gestures and symbols associated with the revolution, examining how the images, objects and themes of the 1916 Easter Rising become 'souvenirs'. The artist worked with the ICA nationally and in particular in Cavan. The ICA made art and craft items with Rita Duffy and this work is part of the touring exhibition that has visited Paris, Dublin and Clonakilty to date.

Ireland's Minority: Is Anyone Listening?

"Irish Travellers are a minority group, living ordinary lives dealing with extraordinary challenges on a daily basis in the 21st century."

The arts office has worked with the Extern Traveller Project since 2010. In 2016 we commissioned Mike Stone, photographer to take a series of images of the traveller community in Ireland today. The resulting exhibition was launched by Missie Collins, traveller advocate with Ita Madden, Extern at the Johnston Central Library. This exhibition is touring.

Townhall, Cavan

The arts office mentored and supported the Creatives at Townhall, Cavan in a number of areas: programme support including Festival of the Dead, mentoring, professional expertise, advice on funding and partnerships including with national agencies.

Bursaries and Awards

1. 22 Arts Awards totalling €10,000 were granted in 2015. Successful organisation who received support to work in arts contexts included:
 - Cavan Drug and Alcohol Awareness
 - The Moogles Theatre
 - Jane Mc Cormick
 - Lit Lab
 - Sally O Dowd.
2. Jessie Keenan, dancer and Rikki van den Berg, visual artist were the successful recipients of the Tyrone Guthrie Bursary which enabled them both to spend two weeks at the artists centre developing new art work.
3. Amanda Jane Graham was awarded the Uillinn, Arts and Health Bursary to the West Cork Arts Centre where she spent four weeks working on a body of work. This is the first time Cavan have provided this opportunity for an artist to work in the busy arts centre that has speciality in the arts and health area.



Cois Tine

This is a pilot residential scheme offering a series of short-term residencies to musicians, sound and spoken word artists working within and across all genres. The artists will stay for short periods between three days and four weeks, to write and develop new and existing work, exhibitions and performances, to reach new audiences and make recordings. Among the musicians who spent time at Cois Tine in the first year were: Danny Diamond and Tom French; Gráinne Conaty, The Jobseekerz and Cian Rock.

Culture Night

- Culture Night, Cavan was attended by 2,210 people with 180 artists and groups participating at 25 venues hosting 30 venues. Among the highlights were:
- 30 Years, Artists, Places an exhibition celebrating 30 years of the role of the arts in local authorities curated by Muireann Ní Chonaill. The show was exhibited in two venues: Townhall, Cavan and the Johnston Central Library. 'Raymond' an award winning documentary by David Stephenson was included in the exhibition at the Townhall space. The subject of this film Raymond Ovens is a native of Ballyconnell, Co Cavan and this exquisitely shot and sensitive film added additional interest for some of the local audience. 329 young people and adult learners enjoyed artist talks delivered in conjunction with the exhibition by Rita Kelly, poet and Sally O Dowd artist. They include: The Royal School, St Felim's N.S., Breifne College, St Clare's N.S., Cavan No. 1 School, Gaelscoil Bhreifne, YouthReach, Loreto College, The Traveller Community and the National Learning Network
- Awhile with Seamus Heaney performed by Larry Mc Cluskey
- A Cultural Boat Trip to Lough Oughter Island with Cavan Canoe Centre with Shane Connaughton and Killeshandra Branch Comhaltas Musicians.
- The Henry Sisters at Ramor Theatre enjoyed a full house
- Cavan's own Áine Cahill captured audiences with her pure tones at Cavan County Museum.
- My Friend Art a project with participants from St Joseph's Nursing Home, Virginia Health Care Centre, Ballyjamesduff Community Creche and the Zimbabwean community hosted by the Show Centre Virginia.



Bullock Lane Residencies

Four artists were awarded the Bullock Lane Residency which was hosted at Townhall, Cavan in 2016. They were: Pawel and Kasia, Konik studios, Mateusz Lubecki and Johanna Nulty. Pawel and Kasia are Polish artists living and working in Cavan. They toured extensively with their animation Broken Tale inspired by Swedish Folklore, the making of which was supported by Cavan County Council. Their new work focuses on a new animation on the theme of Water. Johanna Nulty a native of Cavan completed her Degree in Fine Art in 2015. Her work is concerned with found objects and domestic household materials and converting them into sculptural abstract body forms.

Mullagh based artist Mateusz Lubecki graduated from IADT, Dun Laoghaire and has also been selected for a Royal Hibernian Academy Residency. His work is centred on memory and speaking about his own work Mateusz says *“I strive to evoke any kind of emotions associated with the viewer’s memories through the openness of finished paintings.”*

An exhibition of the work of Marilyn Gaffney, the 2015 Recipient of the residency was hosted at Townhall, Cavan with an essay by Rhonda Tidy.

The Arts Council

The Arts Council continues to fund Cavan County Council with annual funding of €45,400 and advice. A grant from the Department of Art, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs of €8,000 was received for Culture Night.

Tourism

2016 was positive year for tourism in County Cavan with 59% of the Tourism trade * reporting that 2016 was *‘better’* than 2015. 30% said it was *‘the same’* with only 7% saying it was *‘worse’*. The domestic (Irish) visitor is still the most important source market with the Great Britain the second most important and Northern Ireland in second and third place. Angling; Visiting Friends and Family, ‘General Holidaymakers’ and attending *‘Weddings’* are the most frequent reasons given for visiting County Cavan.

*Findings based on Cavan County Council Annual Trade Survey 2016

New County Tourism Strategy 2017 - 2021

Consultations began in 2016 around the development of a County Tourism Strategy 2017 – 2021. Two workshops with community and tourism trade were held in different locations in the County. Consultations were also held with councillors in Cavan County Council and with a variety of stakeholders and agencies such as Fáilte Ireland, Coillte, Inland Fisheries Ireland and



Waterways Ireland. The new strategy is due to be launched in spring 2017 and will guide tourism development and marketing of County Cavan for the forthcoming five years.



Caption: *Conor Harrington, Tourism Section, Cavan County Council and members of Templeport Development Association and members of the tourism trade at the Tourism Strategy workshop in the Slieve Russell Hotel in November 2016.*

Angling upgrades and developments

Angling remains one of the primary reasons given for overseas visits to County Cavan. Angling in Cavan was promoted at the Angling Ireland Expo in the National Show Centre in Swords in February and through features in Angling Times UK. A new Angling Guide for Cavan was produced in 2016. Funding was secured from Inland Fisheries Ireland for five angling project upgrades at the following locations: Holybank, Arvagh (€16,920); Putighan Lower, Belturbet (€9,112); Bunn Lake, Belturbet (€16,570); Nadrageel, Lacken Lake, Ballyjamesduff (€16,500); Lough Sheelin (€3618).



Caption; *This is Cavan! Angling promotional stand at the Angling Ireland Show at the National Show Centre in Swords in February 2016.*



Ireland's Ancient East

County Cavan is part of Fáilte Ireland's new proposition for the Eastern half of the country – Ireland's Ancient East. As part of this, in 2016, Cavan County Council reached an agreement with Fáilte Ireland to install 19 new 'Ireland's Ancient East' regional road signs, 7 national road signs and 2 new orientation signs for County Cavan. In addition, Cavan Burren Park featured in a national and international TV ad campaign for Ireland's Ancient East.



Caption: L-R: Michael Finnegan, Guide at Cavan Museum; Tony Dawson, Fáilte Ireland; Savina Donohoe, Curator, Cavan County Museum and Joanne Hayes, Tourism Officer at the new Ireland's Ancient East orientation panel at Cavan County Museum, Ballyjamesduff.

Funding for Castle Saunderson

Funding of €65,000 was successfully achieved from Fáilte Ireland (through Ireland's Ancient East) for developments at Castle Saunderson, including new trails around the Castle, a new entrance sign and new information panels along the path. Works on this project began in 2016.



Shannon - Erne Blueway

The new Shannon – Erne Blueway, as designated by Waterways Ireland was launched in Ballyconnell in March 2016.



Funding for Cavan Way

€45,000 in funding applied for in May 2015 for the Cavan Way was approved in September 2016 and works were completed by the end of the year.

Support for Festivals & Events

The tourism office provided support to the development and promotion of the following festivals - Cavan Walking Festival 2016; 2016 Commemorations; Taste of Cavan 2016; the inaugural Taste of Cavan Christmas Market 2016 and provided ongoing PR support to the efforts of the creative team at Townhall Cavan Arts Space.

Taste of Cavan Survey

A survey undertaken by tourism staff at the Taste of Cavan demonstrated that numbers of visitors from outside the county to the Taste of Cavan grew from 18% to 29% from 2015 to 2016. 20% of respondents to the show spent over €80. This demonstrates an increase in expenditure from 2015.

This is Cavan! Marketing and Promotion

Tourism in county Cavan was promoted throughout 2016 via a number of channels. The website www.thisiscavan.ie and associated social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter were used throughout the year to promote festivals, events, accommodation and things to do in Cavan. Fan numbers online grew by 30% in 2016. *This is Cavan!* brochures were produced in 2016, including Cavan Tourist Guide, Explore Cavan Map and new Blueway guides. Print advertising took place in Angling Times (UK), Spirit of Ireland (USA), Senior Times Magazine (Ire), The Celtic Media Group, on TV3, Ear to the Ground magazine, Ulster Tatler, Today FM, Anglo Celt, Northern Sound, Irish Independent, Travel Extra, Impartial Reporter, Fermanagh Herald and Heritage Week event guide. Merchandise produced included jackets, key rings, pencils and tote bags. In addition, publicity for Cavan and Cavan Burren Park was achieved as Cavan Burren Park featured in the new Ireland's Ancient East TV national ad campaign. Cavan Burren Park and Cavan County Museum featured in John Creedon's 'Ireland's *Epic East*' primetime show on RTE. Also 'Tracks and Trail's' completed filming in Cavan Burren Park in late August. This is Cavan! promoted the county at consumer and business shows such as the Angling Ireland Expo; Irish Tour Operator Association Workshops; Taste of Cavan and BBC Good Food Show in Belfast throughout 2016.



Infrastructure, Housing, Fire and Emergency Services

Roads Infrastructure Overview

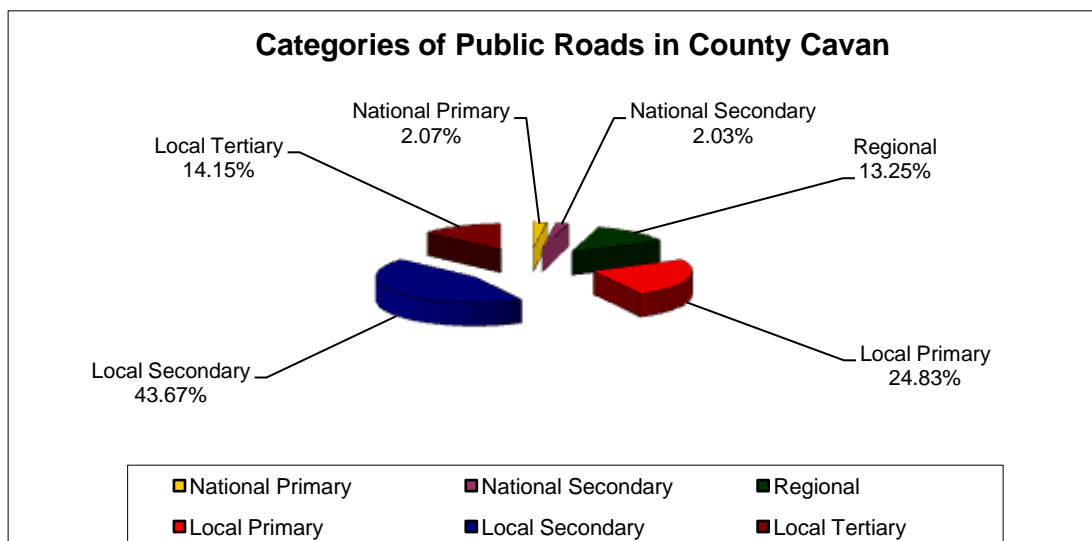
Cavan County Council is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of all National, Regional and Local roads within the County. In total, Cavan County Council is responsible for the maintenance of in excess of 3,000km (1,880 miles) of public road annually.

Cavan Road Network Classification

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

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

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





Funding

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

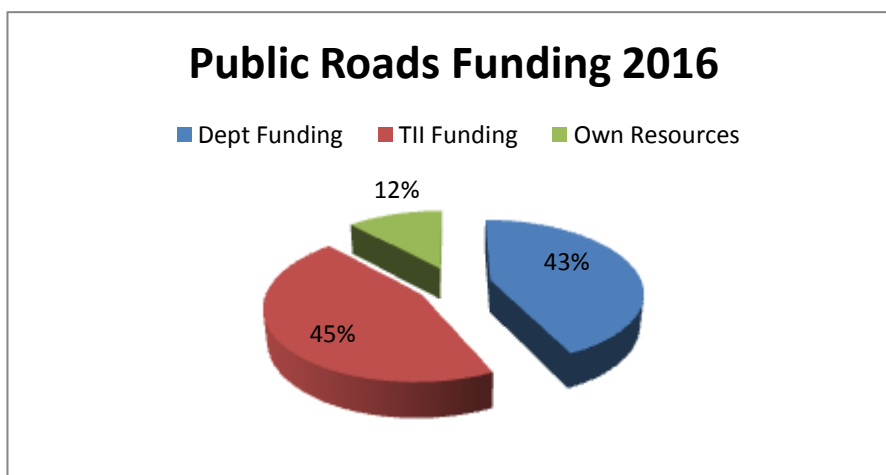
2016 Funding Allocations

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

Road Category	Funding Source	Initial Allocation
National Roads	Transport Infrastructure Ireland	€ 8,894,570
Non National Roads	Dept. of Transport, Tourism & Sport (DTTAS)	€ 8,450,211
Non National Roads	Cavan County Council	€ 2,326,379
		€ 19,671,160

Cavan County Council Contributions

At the start of 2016, Cavan County Council provided €2.32 million of its own resources towards the Maintenance and Improvement of the Non National Roads Network (Local and Regional Roads). This demonstrated the Council’s ongoing commitment to maintaining its roads network.





Additional Allocations

During 2016 Cavan County Council was able to avail of additional TII and DTTAS funding. This was primarily due to projects being ready in advance and an emphasis on maximising income into the county for the improvement of our roads infrastructure. As a result of the flooding event of December 2015 the DTTAS provided €2.9 million of Severe Weather Funding for the raising and repair of roads. Also an additional €300,000 (€100,000 per Municipal District) was provided by Cavan County Council for footpath repairs. The table below shows the additional allocations obtained.

Road Category	Funding Source	Initial Allocation	Additional Allocations	Total Funding
National Roads	Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)	€ 8,894,570	€ 753,100	€ 9,647,670
Non National Roads	Dept. of Transport, Tourism & Sport (DTTaS)	€ 8,450,211	€ 2,900,000	€ 11,350,211
Non National Roads	Cavan County Council	€ 2,326,379	€ 300,000	€ 2,626,379
		€ 19,671,160	€ 3,953,100	€ 23,624,260

National Roads

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



Major Schemes

N3 Butlersbridge Belturbet

Whilst this project was fully opened to the public in December 2013, works are on-going in relation to defects remediation. The arbitration process to deal with contractual disputes that arose on the main construction contract was completed in 2016. The result of this arbitration was in favour of Cavan County Council.



Extradosed Type Bridge over the River Erne

N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon

Phase A, which involves a 3km realignment of the N55 to the south of Ballinagh, progressed rapidly during 2016. Cavan County Council appointed Designers Roughan & O'Donovan Ltd. / AECOM Ltd JV to carry out the Detailed Design for Phases 1 and 2. The detailed design was completed and tenders for the construction phase issued in September 2016.

Following the approval of the Compulsory Purchase Order, the land acquisition element of the project has progressed. The construction stage of this project is due to commence in Quarter 1 2017.

N55 Dundavan - Mullaghoran

This scheme was substantially completed in 2013. During 2016 some works continued in relation to minor accommodation works for landowners and some additional road safety improvement works



National Road Safety Schemes

Construction works for the N3 Virginia Main Street Phase 1 – Signalisation of the N3/R178 Junction was substantially completed in 2016 and Preliminary Design was commenced for the next Phase 2 through the Main Street. In addition, the design and tender stages were completed for the N55 Corrakane HD15 Scheme.

National Road Bridge Projects

At the end of 2015, Cavan County Council received an allocation of €2,138,390 from the TII/NRA for repair and rehabilitation works on nine national road bridges in the County. These are Beaghy Bridge, Billis Bridge and Virginia Bridge on the N3 and Doon Bridge, Derryginny Bridge, Killycrin Bridge, Borim Bridge, Cladagh Bridge and Drumconra Bridge on the N87. The contract was awarded to John Craddock Ltd. Construction work commenced in early May and was substantially complete by the end of 2016.

National Road Pavement Overlays Schemes

RPS Consulting Engineers were appointed for the design of a 6.5km pavement overlay on the N3 Raheelagh to the Kilmore Roundabout scheme. Detailed design and the preparation of tender documents was completed and the tender process commenced. The construction stage of this project is planned to commence in Quarter 1 2017. In addition, approval was given by TII for the procurement of Consultants for three more schemes: the N3 Maghera to Virginia, the N3 Dublin Road Roundabout and the N87 Lisnamaine to Raghaghan.

Regional & Local Roads

2016 Road Works Programme

A grant of € 8,450,211 was allocated to Cavan County Council at the start of 2016 for the improvement and maintenance of Regional and Local roads in the county. Works generally consisted of drainage improvement, strengthening with granular and macadam materials and surface dressing. The 2016 RWP was delivered through the three Municipal Districts.



Regional & Local Road Safety Schemes

Cavan County Council received €195,000 in DTTAS Grant Allocations for 4 No. Low Cost Safety Schemes for 2016; the R188 Casteltara Cross, R198 Cavan Crossdoney Ricehill, R188 Rathkenny Bends, R162 Cabra Central School.

Regional & Local Road Bridge Projects

Cavan County Council received €218,000 in DTTAS Grant Allocations for the rehabilitation of 8 Regional and Local Road Bridges in 2016 at Grousehall, Killeeter, Sruhanagh, Corcashel, Drumgor, Castlepoles, Cormeen, and Knocknashammer. €200,000 of own resources was allocated to the design and the rehabilitation of 7 bridges at Corlat, Rosehill, Milltown Lough, Lackanmore, Corglass, Corravarry Bridge and Drumohan. During the latter part of the year Cavan County Council became aware of 2 structures that required urgent remedial works, namely Curraghanoe Bridge, Ballyhaise and Steepleton Lough Bridge, Shercock. The cost of rehabilitation of these 2 bridges was €110,000 in total and Cavan County Council has applied to DTTAS for emergency funding.



Lackenmore Bridge, Ballyjamesduff – post repair.

Community Involvement Schemes

Cavan County Council’s Roads and Transportation section continues to support Community Involvement in the improvement of Local Roads. In 2016, 4 Community Involvement Schemes were funded out of the Council’s Restoration Improvement Grant, with the applicants providing 20% of the cost of the works. These schemes were located at Coralee, Tonyfoyle, Lavey & Tierlahood

Road Maintenance

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

Road Category	Kms	Maintenance Costs 2016
National Primary		355,866
National Secondary	61	204,697
Regional	399	411,885
Local	2489	3,038,387
Total	3011	4,010,835

National Road Maintenance

During 2016 Cavan County Council has received €560,563 in funding for maintenance of the national primary and secondary network in Cavan under the Winter Maintenance, Route Lighting and Ordinary Maintenance programmes.



Regional & Local Road Maintenance

In 2016 the DTTAS provided an allocation of €1.94m in the form of a Discretionary Grant specifically for the maintenance of the Regional & Local Road network. Cavan County Council provided an additional €1.51m from its own resources for the same purpose. The principle maintenance operations included drainage and surface repair work.

Winter Maintenance

Cavan County Council treats a designated 530km of the Road network as part of its Winter Maintenance Service which accounts for 18% of the entire network. A Winter Service Response Plan and maps of the salting routes are posted on the Council's Website for public viewing. The National Road Network is prioritised as it carries the greatest volume of traffic and caters for higher speeds. Winter Maintenance is carried out as a pre-treatment on the basis of forecast conditions.

Public Lighting

Cavan County Council provides and maintains Public Lighting to a total of 29 towns and villages. Throughout the year the Council upgraded sections of the lighting infrastructure within each of the three Municipal Districts, including the use of LED technology which reduces the energy and maintenance costs and decreases carbon emissions. SSE Airtricity Utility Solutions Ltd is the Council's Maintenance Contractor for public lighting and Energia provide the supply of unmetered electricity.

Smarter Travel

Active Travel Towns 2014-2016 Cavan County Council secured an allocation of €500,000 for the partial implementation of Phase 2 of the Cavan Town and Environs Walking and Cycling Strategy. This allocation from the DTTAS has been provided for the provision and upgrade of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure in Cavan Town at St Clare's School, the R188 Cootehill Road, the L2012 and the L1523 Loreto Road. The planning and design work was completed for all elements of the project in 2016, construction was commenced and was substantially completed in 2016.



New layout at St. Clare's Junction, Cavan Town

Cavan Leitrim Railway Greenway

Cavan and Leitrim Local authorities are working in partnership on the development of this Greenway project. This 54km Greenway development plans to utilise the old railway that ran from Belturbet in County Cavan through Tomkin Road, Ballyconnell, Ballyheady, Templeport, Killyran, Garadice, Ballinamore, Lawderdale, Fenagh, Atoon, Rosharry, Mohill and Dereen to Dromod in County Leitrim. This Greenway Project is being developed in conjunction with the local community groups and development associations along the proposed route.

Cavan County Council as the lead authority, following a procurement process, appointed Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers to prepare a detailed Preliminary Design and to carry out AA Screening and EIA Screening for the project. This work was substantially completed in 2016 and Cavan County Council submitted a funding application to Fáilte Ireland for the scheme.

Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railway Greenway

Cavan County Council, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and with Leitrim County Council as Lead Authority, in conjunction with the Sligo Leitrim and Northern Counties Rail Trail Group, plan to develop a Greenway by converting the old railway line from Manorhamilton to Enniskillen via Blacklion into a sustainable Multi Use trail to accommodate walkers, cyclist, horse riders and mobility challenged. The preliminary design, environmental assessment and screening stages were substantially completed in 2016. The project partners, which includes Cavan County Council submitted a Stage 2 INTERREG VA Funding Application to the SEUPB for the scheme earlier this year but unfortunately this was not successful.



Road Safety

The Cavan Road Safety Working Together Group was established in July 2015. It is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary group of professionals from all the relevant public sector organisations that deal with the consequences of road traffic collisions on a daily basis. The Group has prepared a Road Safety Strategy which was published in 2016.

The mission of this Group is:

“Working together to implement a Road Safety Plan to make Cavan’s roads safer.”

The committee is comprised of the following members:

David Farrelly	Road Safety Officer, Cavan County Council
Gerry Corrigan	Road Safety Engineer, Cavan County Council
Brendan Jennings Council	Senior Engineer, Roads Department, Cavan County Council
John Wilson	Manager, Road Design Office, Cavan County Council
Martin Trainor Cavan County Council	Senior Asst. Chief Fire Officer, Fire Service,
Michael Mussi Council	Manager, Roads General Office, Cavan County Council
Damien McCormack* Infrastructure Ireland	Road Safety Engineer, North Region, Transport
Harry Cullen Ireland	Head of Road & Tunnel Safety, Transport Infrastructure
Seamus Boyle #	Inspector, An Garda Síochána
Emma Clerkin	Road Safety Promotion Officer, Road Safety Authority
Vincent Duffy Service	Operations Resource Manager, HSE, Ambulance
Ciaran Maguire	Senior Executive Officer, Health Service Executive

* Replaced by Alan Lyons in November, 2016 # Left Group, replacement awaited.



There continues to be an increased focus on safety for road users and pedestrians. Locations that have been identified as particular accident black spots are addressed through Low-Cost Safety Schemes.

Cavan County Council aims to reduce road collisions based on Education, Enforcement, Engineering and Evaluation. These are carried out in line with the National Road Safety Authority Strategy.



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



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



Strategic Policy Committees

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

Strategic Policy Committee for Roads;

Cllr	Clifford	Kelly	Chairman Roads SPC
Cllr	Paddy	McDonald	Member of Cavan County Council
Cllr	Paddy	Smith	Member of Cavan County Council
Cllr	Sean	Smith	Member of Cavan County Council
Cllr	Philip	Brady	Member of Cavan County Council
Ms	Patricia	O'Reilly	Community Representative
Mr	Philip	Smith	Agriculture Representative
Mr	Gary	Meehan	Business Representative
Ms	Pauline	Brady	Business Representative

3 Meetings took place during 2016 and the following topics were discussed and progressed: 2016 Roadworks Programme, Greenways, Road Safety Strategy, Severe Weather Planning, Parking Bye-Laws, Speed Limit Bye-Laws, and Bus Stops.

Implementation of Regulatory Responsibilities

During 2016 the existing Parking Bye-Laws for the major towns in the county were reviewed. New Bye-Laws were proposed and a public consultation process was completed. The 2016 Parking Bye-Laws were adopted by all Municipal Districts and will provide for the consistent regulation of parking throughout the towns within County Cavan where parking restrictions are in place. The new Bye-Laws were implemented from 1st November 2016 in the following towns; Cavan, Cootehill, Bailieboro, Kingscourt, Virginia, Belturbet and Ballyconnell.



Service Indicators Roads

R1 & R2

1	% of total road kilometres that have ever received a PSCI condition rating	<u>Road Class</u>	<u>% Surveyed to date</u>
		R	98%
		LP	97%
		LS	97%
		LT	81%
2	% of total road kilometres that received at PSCI condition rating between 1/1/16 and 31/12/16	<u>Road Class</u>	<u>% Surveyed to date</u>
		R	82%
		LP	16%
		LS	84%
		LT	60%
3	At 31/12/2016 the number of road kilometres having a PSCI rating of (a) 1-4, (b) 5-6, (c)7-8 and (d) 9-10 expressed as a % of total road kilometres in the local authority area	1-4	7.83%
		5-6	38.95%
		7-8	19.63%
		9-10	6.74%
4	Kilometres of road strengthened during 2016 using Road Improvement (RI) grants	53.3 km	
5	Kilometres of road resealed during 2016 using Road Maintenance (RM) grants	75.9 Km	



Housing

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

The 2016 Capital Allocation for Housing Construction was €

Allocated as follows:

(i) Housing Construction/Acquisition Programme	€3,099,657
(ii) Voluntary CALF Schemes	€ 631,200
(iii) Energy Retrofit Programme	€ 327,346
(iv) Voids Programme	€ 365,307
(v) DPG's/Extensions	<u>€ 315,571</u>

Total **€4,739,081**

SOCIAL HOUSING:

The following works were carried out in 2016 under the SHIP Programme;

- Extensive Refurbishment of 2 No units in Butlersbridge in 2016.
- 30 units were purchased at various locations throughout the County
- €3.5 million was secured to provide 20 new social housing units in Butlersbridge, Ballyhaise and Mullagh.

ENERGY RETROFIT PROGRAMME

In 2016 energy upgrade works were completed on 490 no. units at various locations throughout the county. This concluded Phase 1 of the Energy Retrofit Scheme. The scheme included for the following works;

- Attic and Wall Insulation
- Draught Proofing
- BER Certification

VOIDS

Works have been completed on 38 units under the 2016 Voids Programme.

VOLUNTARY HOUSING:

Under the Voluntary Housing Capital Assistance Leasing Funding Scheme €631,200 was allocated for the provision of 16 units in Cluain Dara, Kingscourt. Negotiations are ongoing with the relevant Voluntary Bodies and DEHLG.



DPG's/ Extensions

7 No extensions were completed under the 2016 Programme for DPG's and Extensions to Council Houses.

13 No Adaptations to Council Houses was completed and 1 No Improvement Works in lieu was completed.

Refurbishment of Butlersbridge Houses



Student Grants Scheme

The final number of Renewal Students Grants awarded by the Council last academic year 2016/2017 was 3. The number of applications received from Renewal Students for the current academic year was 4. Of these:

Awarded a Grant	Refused	Cancelled/Withdrawn	Ongoing/Further Documentation Required
3	0	1	0

A Special Rate of Maintenance Grant is available to students who have a low household income and who meet a range of conditions. By end of December a total of zero Top Up Grants were awarded for the current academic year 2016/2017.



Housing

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

- Provides Housing for those with a long term housing need
- Manages and maintains Housing provided by the Council and encourages tenant involvement
- Helps persons to secure their own housing through the provision of loans
- Provides housing for Travellers
- Processes applications for Grants for Housing Aid for Older People and those with a Disability
- Administers the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP).

	2014	2015	2016
Number of House Lettings	160	162	93
Number of Extensions Completed	0	1	2
Number completed under Scheme of Improvements	0	0	1
Number of Sales completed	4	0	3
Number of Applications to purchase dwellings under Tenant Purchase Scheme	1	0	54

Strategic Policy Committee Housing, Social and Cultural

Cllr Madeleine Argue, **Chair**
 Cllr Noel Connell
 Cllr Clifford Kelly
 Cllr Patrick O'Reilly
 Cllr Shane P O'Reilly
 Thomas Maughan (PPN)
 Madeleine Ui Mhealoid (PPN)
 Larry McCluskey (PPN)

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

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Under Section 21 and 22 of the 1998 Act, Cavan County Council established the Cavan Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee to facilitate consultation between the Housing Authorities and Travellers and to advise on all aspects of accommodation for



Travellers. Three meetings of the committee were held and the following topics were discussed;

- Involvement of Voluntary Housing Agencies
- Procedures for appointment of replacement Traveller Representative
- 2014 -2018 Traveller Accommodation Programme and Targets
- Incremental Purchase Scheme
- Community Fire Safety
- Communications
- Illegal Dumping

Membership of the committee:

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

Traveller Representatives: Teresa Mongan, Thomas Maughan, Winnie McDonagh.

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

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018

The target for accommodation in 2016, set out in the 2014-2018 Traveller Accommodation Programme, was 9 and accommodation was provided for 9 families as per target.

Housing Grants

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

Expenditure was **€1,400,321**

Grant	Number	Amount
Housing Adaptation Grant for people with a Disability	49	€638,740
Housing Aid for Older People Scheme	45	€230,943
Mobility Aids Grant Scheme	94	€530,638



Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

HAP is a new form of social housing support provided by Local Authorities. The introduction of HAP means that local authorities can now provide housing assistance for households who qualify for social housing support, to live in the private rented sector. Under HAP, local authorities make payments, subject to rent limits and certain conditions, on behalf of the HAP recipient directly to the landlord in respect of rent. The HAP recipient then pays a rent contribution to the local authority. The rent contribution is a differential rent – that is, a rent set by the local authority based on income and the ability to pay.

To qualify for HAP, a household must be qualified for social housing support by their local authority, which means the household must qualify to go on the local authority housing waiting list. HAP is also replacing Rent Supplement. Current long term Rent Supplement recipients who qualify for social housing support will be transferred from Rent Supplement to HAP. The Department of Social Protection and the Local Authority will be work together to transfer all households who long term rent supplement recipients who are qualified for social housing support.

HAP was introduced to all Local Authorities on a phased basis from the 1st October 2014 to the 1st March 2017. HAP commenced in Cavan County Council on the 1st December 2016. From this date HAP is available as a form of Social Housing Support to those eligible in the Local Authority Area. Existing long term Rent Supplement transfers to HAP will commence in 2017

Housing Estate Management

The Housing Department works in partnership with its tenants, through its Housing Liaison Officer (HLO). Residents of local authority estates are encouraged to take an active part in community life, by working with neighbours to take care of the public spaces where they live and by joining their residents association.

There are now 82 formally registered active estate groups in social housing areas across county Cavan. They work in partnership with the council, in order to care for and maintain public spaces and they work as volunteers to improve the appearance of their locality.

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

An Estate Awards Night for residents groups was held on Tuesday 29th November 2016, at the Council Chamber in Cavan. Chairman, Councillor Fergal Curtin, made presentations to prize



winners, under various categories.

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



Cavan County Council Estate Awards Winners 2016

Shane Donnelly Perpetual Shield

Kilnavara Heights, Cavan Town

Best Youth Group

Seangharrai Drive, Ballinagh

Best Upcycling Initiative

The Fairgreen, Kilnaleck – ‘Flower Boat’

Litter Free Estates

Cavan Town - Kilnavara Heights, The Steeples, Highfield Road & Sean Bhothar

Templeport – Cloneary



Cavan and Belturbet Municipal District Awards

Best Estate – Category A

1st Prize – Kilnavara Heights, Cavan Town

2nd Prize – Sean Bhothar, Cavan Town

Best Estate – Category B

1st Prize – Cloneary, Templeport

2nd Prize – The Steeples, Cavan Town

Best Estate Special Feature

Willow Ridge, Cavan Town – ‘Tree Lined Avenue’

Most Improved Estate

Lakeview The Fairgreen, Cavan Town

Best Individual Garden

Michael and Pauline McDonagh, Doon Beg, Ballyconnell

Bailieborough - Cootehill Municipal District Awards

Best Estate – Category A

1st Prize – Lodge View, Cootehill

2nd Prize – Lisanisky, Kingscourt

Best Estate – Category B

1st Prize – Woodlands, Ballyhaise

2nd Prize – Bothar an Phortaigh, Ballyhaise

Best Estate Special Feature

Twin Oaks, Bailieborough – ‘Tree Planters’

Most Improved Estate

Mount Saint Joseph’s, Kingscourt

Best Individual Garden

Mae & Kieran Donnellan, Mount Saint Joseph’s, Kingscourt

Ballyjamesduff Municipal District Awards

Best Estate – Category A

1st Prize – Kilmore, Ballyjamesduff

2nd Prize – Forest Park, Virginia

Best Estate – Category B

1st Prize – The Fairgreen, Kilnaleck

2nd Prize – Marian Row, Ballinagh



Best Estate Special Feature

Corstruce, Ballinagh – ‘Flower Planters’

Most Improved Estate

Winner – Ramonan, Ballyjamesduff

Best Individual Garden

Mary Smith, Ardkill Place, Ballinagh



Service Indicators

H1	Social Housing Stock Combined total number of dwellings provided (i.e. Through direct provision & acquisition, RAS, HAP, leasing etc)	2653 units
H2	Housing Vacancies % of dwellings that were vacant 31/12/2016	4.43
H3	Average Letting Time Average Cost	57.38 weeks €10,221 per unit
H4	Housing Maintenance Cost Average Maintenance Cost for Direct Provision Housing	€1,034.87
H5	No of Private Sector Inspections	656
H6	Long Term Homeless Adults	2



Cavan County Fire Service

Cavan County Council employed 87 retained Firefighters in 10 fire stations located around the County at the end of 2016. During 2016 four Firefighters retired from the Fire Service and four new personnel were recruited. The Council is striving towards bringing the full compliment to 93. Firefighter vacancies in 6 stations Cavan, Kingscourt, Bailieborough, Killeshandra, Ballyjamesduff and Dowra were advertised during the year and applications received. New panels will be formed and the vacancies filled in 2017. All new Recruits from the previous panels have completed their 3 week Recruits Course and the last three are awaiting their Breathing Apparatus training in January 2017. All vacancies for Junior Officers and Drivers during the year were advertised and filled following interviews held on the 29th June. The last member of the Shercock Hose & Ladder Unit retired in December 2016 and saw the closure of the last Hose & Ladder Unit in the county.

Fire Service Call Outs

Type of Call / Number Callouts	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Chimney fires in Houses	51	49	64	40	45	47
Other Domestic Bldg Fires	25	37	36	40	60	33
Other fires	43	24	37	35	28	47
Bog/Forest Fires	63	16	38	12	17	17
Motor Vehicle Fires	28	18	23	25	28	19
Road Traffic Accidents	62	57	55	82	73	69
Flooding	22	15	8	15	16	4
Chemical Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Services	199	191	194	147	218	244
False Alarm (Good Intent)	33	33	20	19	18	51
False Alarm (Malicious)	3	16	4	1	3	2
Total Calls	529	456	479	416	506	533



Hydraulic Platform at it first big fire

The Fire Service had 598 responses to 533 incidents in 2016, which is the highest since 2011. The average time taken to mobilise the fire brigades in the County for 2016 was 5.77 minutes to fires and 5.97 minutes to other type incidents. €161,117.27 was collected in service charges for the year.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was agreed between the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) and Cavan County Council Fire Service (CCCFS) and went live on the 4th April 2016. Both partners to this MoU commit themselves to work together in a spirit of mutual co-operation to establish operational protocols which will ensure that fire personnel can carry out their responsibilities at Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) in an effective and efficient manner. It sets out the principles of effective liaison, collaboration, communication and mutual cooperation between the parties on both sides of the Border.

A new Gartan payroll system was installed and went live on the 1st January 2016. The fire service intends piloting a new billing module in 2017.

Capital Programme

The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government made no allocation of new Fire Appliances for County Cavan in the 2016 Capital Programme but did approve the purchase of a new jeep, a secondhand Class B Fire Appliance, a secondhand (32m) Hydraulic Platform and twenty thermal imaging cameras. €103,024 was recouped from the department for this equipment.



On the 1st November the Department gave approval to seek tenders for Virginia new Fire Station subject to a maximum all-in contribution from the Department of €971,761. Consultants have been appointed, planning granted and tenders received for Mechanical and Electrical Consultants for providing M+E services for the new station.

Discussions have also taken place with the Department regarding Ballyjamesduff Fire Station and it is listed on the 5 year Capital Programme. A site is available to accommodate a new station in Ballyjamesduff.

Major Emergency Planning

The Courthouse in Cavan is the Local Coordination Centre in the event of a Major emergency in the County. The centre was used for regional working group and steering group meetings during the year.

The first Cavan County Council Major Emergency Plan under the 2006 Framework for Emergency Planning was issued in September 2008. The Plan was revised and issued again in December 2012. The latest Plan was revised and issued at the start of 2016.

Personnel from Cavan County Council attended a regional tabletop exercise held at City North Hotel on the 31st May. Representatives from the four local authorities in the North East region along with An Garda Síochána and the HSE took part in the event.

National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management.

On the 7th February 2013 the National Directorate published the “Keeping Communities Safe” policy document. This document outlines the Directorate’s mandate to develop consistent, quality and value for money fire services and was to deliver a number of key actions set out in the National Development Framework 2010-2015 but is on hold until Union agreement is reached.

Training

In 2016 training courses were provided in Compartment Fire Behaviour, Advance Driving, Cardiac First Responder, Breathing Apparatus Refresher and Initial Wearers, Recruit (3 weeks), Chainsaw Operator, Pump Operator, Standard Operational Guidance (SOG) Series 1 refresher training and Ladder Maintenance. Part of the SOG training included a briefing session on the sections of the ancillary safety statement as per obligations under Section 20(3) (a) of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005. Each brigade also trains for three nights every



month for 2.25 hours duration. Junior and Senior officers attend National Directorate training courses as appropriate. The introduction of SOGs has put a greater demand on the Fire Service to provide resources for equipment, further training and familiarisation for Firefighters.

Training on the council's policy on the Management of Violence and Aggression was provided to a total of 21 personnel from the fire service.



Pump Operator Course 1

Fire Prevention

Public houses, Hotels, restaurants, community halls, clubs and petrol stations are inspected each year in response to legislative requirements and the processing of applications for liquor licences, dance licences, club licences, dangerous substance licences and Gaming and Lottery Licences. 152 inspections were carried out on 143 premises during the year.

A review of fire safety in Traveller accommodation was initiated by the department as a result of the tragedy which occurred on the 10th October 2015 in Carrickmines, Dublin. A report on fire safety in Traveller Accommodation in County Cavan was completed and sent to the NDFEM who issued a National report in October 2016.

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



Under the Building Control Regulations Fire Safety Certificates are required prior to the construction, extension or material alteration of most buildings excluding dwelling houses and agricultural buildings. A total of 70 Fire Safety Certificate Applications were received in 2016 with fees of €77,664.90. The new Performance Indicator P5 shows that 58 Fire Safety Certificates were granted during 2016 and it took an average of 7.92 weeks to process each application.

Health and Safety

The fire service drafted an occupational health and safety programme for 2016 and also signed off on several Policies. Safety inspections were carried out by the council safety officer in seven of the fire stations. The reports from the inspections have been made available to fire service management for action. The Safety Officer from Galway County Council carried out part of an audit of the fire service safety management system in November which is to be used as a baseline for progressing towards OHSAS 18001.

Cavan County Fire Service has completed a pilot with Killeshandra Fire Brigade using a trailer bowser for the treatment of oil spills on roads. This is a safer system of work. The fire service has developed a SOG for oils spills and has started issuing bowsers to all stations.

Civil Defence

Civil Defence had 133 no duties in 2016 which included the provision of transport for the Public Health Nurse and the Public during the severe weather/Flooding, the National League and Championship matches in Breffini Park, various community events and the rescue of a male stranded in his boat on the river Erne. Civil Defence held 13 no. first aid classes in 11 Centres around the County each week during the year as well as 1 no. AFS Class, 1 no. Rescue class each week (except for the summer) and 1 boat class every second week.



Civil Defence Swift Water

A County Exercise was held at Brackley Lake on 12th June with 65 volunteers attending. The disciplines covered included communications, casualty care, boats, welfare and setting up a command point.



Civil Defence Briefing at start of exercise

Cavan Civil Defence received grant aid approval of €48,000 from the Civil Defence Branch of the Department of Defence towards the cost of the purchase of an ambulance and a 4x4 passenger jeep.

Cavan Civil Defence received a Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA) type Typhoon H craft earlier this year which proved to be a very good Drone and was used in a number of searches during the year. On the 27th November Cavan Civil Defence received another SU the DJI Inspire 1 Professional which will be their main craft.



Cavan Civil Defence had an Audit of its boat operations carried out by Marman and Associates on behalf of the Civil Defence Branch of the Department of Defence on the 3rd September 2016.

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



Civil Defence at St Patrick's Day Parade 1986



Civil Defence at St Patrick's Day 2016



Service Indicators

<u>FIRE SERVICE</u>		
<u>F1. Cost per capita of the Fire Service</u>		
AFS Programme E expenditure divided by the census 2016 population served by the Fire Serviced		€57.28
AFS programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service & E12 Fire Prevention		€4,352,690
<u>F2. Service Mobilisation</u>		
Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part time Stations in respect of fire		5.77 mins
Average time in (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part time stations in respect of other accidents		5.97mins
<u>F3. Percentage Attendance Times at Scenes</u>		
% of cases in respect of fire in which attendance at scene is within :		
10 minutes		32.20%
10-20 minutes		55.93%
after 20 minutes		11.86%
% of non fire cases in which first attendance at scene is within :		
10 minutes		27.05%
10-20 minutes		49.11%
after 20 minutes		23.84%
Total number of call outs in respect of fires during the year		177
No of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is :		
10 minutes		57.00
10-20 minutes		99.00
after 20 minutes		21.00
Total number of call outs in respect of all other emergency incidents during the year		281.00
No of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the Scene is within :		
10 minutes		76.00
10-20 minutes		138.00
after 20 minutes		67.00



Planning/Economic Development, Water Services, Waste and Environment

Introduction

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

- Forward Planning
- Development Management and other Statutory Functions
- Derelict sites & Dangerous Structures
- Taking in Charge of Housing Estates
- Unfinished Estates
- Development Contributions and Bonds
- Building Control
- Development Compliance/Enforcement:
- Heritage
- Planning and Environment SPC
- Performance Indicators

Forward Planning

Both the Cavan County Development Plan 2014 -2020 and the Cavan Town & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 came into effect in June 2014. The Progress Reports on achievement of the Objectives set out in both plans were prepared and adopted in 2016.

During 2016 the forward planning team procured the services of consultants to carry out a comprehensive Economic Study of County Cavan. This document will identify the types of enterprise activity in the county and illustrate the economic context of the county. The study will review the floorspace and lands zoned for economic development and supply recommendations for the Local Authority in order to facilitate additional enterprise development within the County.

Retail specialists carried out a comprehensive Retail Strategy for County Cavan which was identified as an objective in the County Development Plan to be carried out during the lifetime of the plan. The County Retail Strategy did not include Health Checks for the small towns and villages of the county and work on same commenced subsequently.



A new Development Contribution Scheme for the county was prepared by Forward Planning Section and adopted by Elected Members during 2016 (came into effect 1/1/17). This scheme sets out how contributions will be attached to certain developments upon grant of permissions.

Ongoing implementation and monitoring work of the objectives of the Cavan County Development Plan and Cavan Town and Environs Development Plan was undertaken. This included collation of information on the number and trends of rural housing and urban housing within the county. The forward planning team also collaborated with Community and Enterprise Section in its implementation of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

Development Management and other Statutory Functions

The section received 610 planning applications in 2016, an increase of 17% on the number received in 2015. The majority of applications related to developments such as industrial, rural enterprise, housing schemes, agricultural, commercial, single dwellings, extensions to existing dwellings, domestic garages and retention of existing works.

There was a decrease in the number of applications for Extension of Duration of Time for planning applications in 2016. There were 21 EOT applications received in 2016. This reflects the decrease in planning applications in the 2010/2011 period.

Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures

The 2016 register has identified 40 derelict Sites at the end of December 2016.

Taking In Charge

A taking in charge policy was written and adopted for Cavan in 2007 as directed by the minister John Gormley. This policy was revised in 2016 and the revision adopted by the elected members. The revisions were for clarification and to create a more user friendly document. This document now clearly outlines the difference in completing an estate to a standard and having an estate taken in charge.

There are currently 233 housing estates in the county. 12 of these estates have been taken in charge. 157 are constructed in excess of 12 years. 94 estates have their public lighting taken in charge. 106 have water service elements taken in charge. 58 applications for taking in charge have been received and 39 of these are being processed. Procedures set up in 2016 should reduce the delays and improve the efficiency of the taking in charge process going forward.



Unfinished Housing Estates

There were 22 estates in Cavan remaining on the Departments unfinished estate register in December 2016. This was down from 33 in 2015 and represented a decrease of 33%. This exceeded the recommendation outlined in Managing and Resolving Unfinished Housing Developments, where it is proposed to annually reduce this by 25% min. Site Resolution Plans for 6 additional unfinished estates were prepared for implementation in 2017. 2016 saw the focus move toward bond drawdown and completion of smaller outstanding works in these estates by the council. The Team continues to monitor the status of all unfinished estates, and work with financial institutions and developers to resolve outstanding issues in these estates.

Development Contributions

This 2013 Development Contribution scheme was operational in 2016 and this contribution is attached to applications granted in the County and in accordance with the adopted scheme. A number of exemptions and reductions are also available. After refunds a total of €1,864,278.89 (€1,611,699 net of Irish Water deductions) was collected in development contributions, an increase of 86% on amount collected in 2015.

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

Building Control

May 2014 saw the introduction of the Building Control Management System or BCMS. This is an online system for registering and managing all building applications. The title BCMS was changed in 2017 to BCMP (Building control management Project). At the most recent BCMP Board meeting the matter of regional meetings for BCA was brought up. The decision from the CCMA following that meeting was that regions would be set up to reflect the counties in the 3 regional authorities, as follows:



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

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

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

The Planning Section, Building Compliance, Enforcement and Building Control Section continue to regularly monitor and inspect developments to ensure that buildings are constructed in accordance with the relevant Planning Conditions and Building Regulations.

Development Compliance/Enforcement

The Enforcement Section opened 115 new cases which were subject to complaints for the 2016 calendar year. The Section closed 72 cases during the same period. Of the closed files:

- 19.44% were resolved because these were ‘statue barred’, or were deemed to be ‘Exempted development’ and no Warning Letter was issued;
- A total of 14% of the files were closed as a result of negotiations with the Planning Authority.
- 37 % of the closed files followed on from issue of Warning Letter or an Enforcement Notice.

There are 102 open cases being investigated and these include the preceding years



Heritage



Pleasure House, Killykeen

The Heritage Office continues to grow from strength to strength advancing with new projects in 2016. Cavan Heritage Office continues to promote the conservation and management of Heritage throughout the County of Cavan. In this regard the office ensures that heritage policy is devised and local, national and European heritage policy is implemented. In addition, the Heritage Office ensures that heritage is made accessible to communities through its range of activities, projects, education and awareness. The Heritage Office received approximately €30,000 from the Heritage Council to implement Heritage Plan Projects as detailed below:

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

Following on from a study carried out in 2015 by Woodrow Sustainable Solutions Ltd., to establish options for an informal walking trail to the summit of Cuilcagh Mountain on the Cavan side, funding was secured in 2016 to carry out a study on low level maintenance proposal to prevent erosion and habitat deterioration on the preferred informal walking trail on the mountain. This study considered the protection of sensitive habitats on Cuilcagh, carrying capacity of the mountain, addition of infrastructure, health and safety for walkers, long term maintenance of routes and establishing links on the Fermanagh side of Cuilcagh.



Cuilcagh Mountain

Cavan Golden Way

Another very successful year for Cavan Golden Way and with the number of communities participating in the Golden Way growing. Mentors were appointed to work with participating groups and these successfully developed Heritage inventories and identified areas along the Golden Ways, where aspects of heritage could be improved and developed. The number of groups achieving golden way status increased in 2016.



Golden Way 2016

Easter 1916 Exhibition “Changed Utterly”

The heritage office worked with Cavan County Museum in devising this exhibition which is now permanently housed on the grounds of the Museum in Ballyjamesduff. The exhibition centred around a replica GPO with a walk through tenement house, a photographer’s studio and a shop. The exhibition guides the visitor through the recreated 1916 scene. This was a very fitting project in 2016 as it marked the Centenary of 1916.



Hacklers Drama Group at Easter 1916 Exhibition

Built Heritage 2016

The Heritage Office continues to promote the conservation and management of our built heritage in County Cavan. In addition to reviewing and updating the record of protected structures and associated works, the heritage office provides advice and informs policy to the planning department. The general public are also assisted in management of Built Heritage. In 2016, the Heritage Office of Cavan County Council successfully drew down €51,200 under Structures at Risk Fund and €69,000 under Built Heritage Investment Scheme. Projects included in SRF were:

- Town Hall, Cavan
- Former See House, Kilmore Upper
- Crossdoney Station House, Crossdoney.

And under BHIS:

- Killeshandra Church of Ireland
- The Parochial House, Cootehill
- Corravahan House, Drung
- The Former See House, Kilmore Upper
- The Former AIB, Cootehill
- Belturbet Parish Church
- 27 Farnham Street, Cavan
- Cavan Parish Church
- St Aidan's Church, Bultersbridge



Corravahan House Drung



Heritage Week 2016

Heritage week in Cavan continues to grow successfully with the wider community embracing the weeklong celebration of our built, natural and cultural heritage. In 2016, approximately 40 events were organised throughout the county with as many as 2000 participating. Events ranged from laid back lectures to archaeological dig for children in Cavan Burren to a moth hunt in west Cavan.

The Heritage Office sits on numerous internal committees which actively promote Heritage in County Cavan:

- Cavan Walking Festival - specific heritage walks to promote heritage awareness among walkers.
- Geopark Development Committee
- 2016 Committee – Celebrating 100 since 1916, specifically work with Cavan County Museum and Cavan Library.
- Is Linn É : 2016 – Cavan Heritage and Cavan Arts Office
- Culture Night 2016 – National night of Culture, Cavan Arts and Heritage Office



Heritage Week 2016

Planning and Environment Strategic Policy Committee

The Strategic Policy Committee members are listed below. The Planning and Environment SPC met on 4 occasions during 2016. Two of the meeting included planning presentations on:

- Development Contribution Scheme
- Policy for Taking in-Charge of Housing Developments (unfinished estates)



Environment and Planning SPC
Damian Brady
Winston Bennett
Fergal Curtin
Val Smith
Madeline Argue
Fintan McCabe
Orlaith Sheridan
Thomas Cooney
Jimmy Jackson

Planning Performance Indicators

P1: New Buildings Inspected	
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority	136
Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2016 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2016	35 (25.74%)
P2: No./% of Planning decisions confirmed by <i>An Bord Pleanála</i>	
Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal in 2016.	7
% of the determinations at A which confirmed decision made by the LA	3 (42.86%)
P3: % of Planning Enforcement cases closed as resolved	
Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority investigated	115
Total number of cases that were closed during 2016.	72
% of the cases at B dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000 or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	25 (34.72%).
% of the cases at B resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	10 (13.89%)
% of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	37 cases (51.39%)
Total number of planning cases being investigated at 31/12/2016	102 cases
P4: Cost per Capita of the Planning Service	
The 2016 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	Cost per capita €15.25
P5: Applications for Fire Safety Certificates	
The number of fire safety certificates issued in respect of applications received in 2016	58 certs
The average number of weeks taken to deal with applications for fire safety certificates received in the year.	7.92 weeks



Water Services

The transition to Irish Water has continued apace in 2016. Cavan County Council Water Services Section continues to adapt to challenges of our new operating environment. Cavan County Council Water Services Department is to the forefront of shaping and delivering an operating framework to ensure that we as a County and Nation are best positioned to avail of the opportunities presented by the changing circumstances.

From 1st January 2014 delivery of water and wastewater services became the responsibility of Irish Water. We are in year 3 of a 12 year Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water for the delivery of the services.

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

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

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

Performance Indicators

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

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

The following are the compliance figures for the Public Schemes.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Compliance	97.8%	98.4%	98.8%	99.1%	98.4%	98.5%	99.1%	99.4%	99.3%

Unaccounted for Water (UFW) is currently under 35%



Major Capital Works Projects

Gate 1 Projects

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

Gate 2 Projects

- Upgrade of the Belturbet and Swanlinbar Water treatment facilities
 - Belturbet, new raw water source and plant upgrade
 - Swanlinbar, new raw water source

New raw water source and Water treatment plant upgrades. Consultant appointed and currently investigating potential new water sources and upgrades to the water treatment plant.

Drilling locations have been identified and tenders issued to Drilling contractors.

Tenders have been received and exploratory works commenced in November 2016

Progress to date	34% Complete
Total Cost	€440,000

Consultants report should be completed by 1 March 2017.

- Upgrade of the Kingscourt Water treatment facility to produce 1000m³/day.

10001740 Kingscourt WT Plant upgrade retender

Tender date	1 November 2015
Contract signing	1 June 2016
Construction start	1 August 2016

Gate 3 projects

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

- 10001032 Cavan WWT Network upgrade

Programme completion	31 April 2016
Progress to date	100% complete
Contractor	P&S Civil Works
Total Cost	€ 9,494,486.94



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

- 10001741 Cavan WWT Plant Upgrade

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

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

- 10001045 Kingscourt WT Rising mains

Progress to date	100% complete
Contractor	P&S Ltd
Site returned to LA	2016
Total Cost	€ 1,985,655.31

- **Kingscourt WT Plant upgrade**

Veolia Water has been awarded the contract and took over operations of the existing plant on the 12th August 2016

Construction started 10 November 2016

Progress to date	(design)	31% complete
Total Cost		€ 2,400,000

Group Water Schemes

Cavan County Council is responsible for administration of grants for Group Water and Sewerage Schemes under the Rural Water Programme in Cavan. In Cavan over €91 million has been expended under the programme up to the end of 2016 since administration was devolved to Local Authorities in 1997. The strides in recent years in the Rural Water Programme continued to grow apace with an initial allocated budget of €300,000.00. The spirit of partnership between the various stakeholders in Rural Water which had been fostered under the stewardship of Cavan County Council continued to reap dividends.



Water Conservation/Upgrades

The Rural Water Programme in Cavan continued to upgrade the network in order to meet the stringent drinking water parameters set under the EU drinking regulations in 2016. The overall spend on this measure was **€315,550.36**. The Group Water Schemes funded in this category were Erne Valley, Glangevlin, Dernakesh, Barraghy/Farmoyle, Drumkeery, Gowlan, Kilsherdany and Dhuish. Funding of **€2,500.00** was provided for a Water Scheme Schools Publicity Campaign.

The works involved a mixture of bulk meter replacements allied to upgrade of telemetry systems plus reservoir refurbishments to assist in Water Conservation measures. Towards the end of November Cavan County Council received an extra allocation of **€64,666.36** under this measure and the funding was fully utilised for the schemes that required it.

Group Sewerage Schemes

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

Capital Replacement Works

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

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

Source Protection Funding

A total of 12 group water schemes were identified in County Cavan as being eligible for grant aid towards completion of the first phase of their source protection planning process. To date the Council had approved 10 schemes which had successfully completed the studies required under the programme. The remaining two schemes completed their studies and received grant aid of €5,100.00.



Revised Subsidy Arrangements

There are now two types of subsidy set out as follows. Subsidy A relates to the general operational and management costs incurred in the operation of a group scheme. Subsidy B relates to the Operation and Maintenance costs associated with the “bona fide”

Design/Build/Operate contracts for schemes that have their own treatment plants. There are amendments to the processing of advance payments set out in the explanatory memorandum distributed to the group schemes.

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

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

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



Environment and Waste Management

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

Environment

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

Natural Waters

It is said that Cavan has a lake for every day of the year and because of its unique geology Cavan is where two of Irelands biggest rivers the Shannon and the Erne rise. Our natural waters are an essential part of the attractiveness of the county for residents and visitors alike. By maintaining good quality waters we reduce the cost of treating drinking waters and we also make our county more attractive both for the people of Cavan and visitors. A safe and secure water supply is one of the Key drivers of economic activity in County Cavan. The agriculture, food and beverage industries rely on having a clean water supply

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

In July 2014, The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government issued the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2014, which gave effect to a new, three tier, governance framework and placed new obligations on local authorities to co-ordinate the catchment management and public participation elements of the Water Framework Directive. Every water body has been given a quality status. We are obliged to protect all waters that are either good or high status and those waters that are below good status must be improved.



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

Much of the work we do to improve water quality is not readily apparent. There are a number of different types of pressures on water quality including, urban waste water, agriculture and forestry. Significant pressures are diverse and most of the “at risk” waterbodies are subject to more than one pressure. It can take a long time for the water quality in lakes in particular to show improvement. However, given the systems we have in place, we expect to be able to show steady continuous improvement in the coming years until we achieve good status for all our waters.

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

Domestic WasteWater Treatment Systems

The Water Services (Amendment) Act was enacted in 2012, to protect ground and surface water quality (particularly drinking water sources) from the risks posed by malfunctioning domestic water treatment systems. All owners of premises connected to a domestic wastewater treatment system were required to register their systems by February 2013. A National Inspection Plan (NIP) set out the inspection requirements on a National basis and prioritises the inspection selection on the basis of pollution Risk. Environment staff have been trained and have undertaken inspections of wastewater treatment systems. 41 inspections were carried out in 2016. The vast majority of these took place in areas identified as high risk.

Public Engagement

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

Cavan Monaghan Science Festival

Over 2500 participants attended science events in County Cavan during Science Week 13th – 20th November 2016. Cavan and Monaghan County Councils joined forces during Science



Week from 13th-20th November 2016 hosting a range of events during the inaugural Cavan Monaghan Science Festival 2016. Our mission was to stimulate and sustain the interest of all in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) by producing an exciting and educational festival. Over 2500 children participated in County Cavan events, ranging from robotics to water testing, boat building to the science of the circus. Technical staff from Cavan County Council gave a very informative talk on their education and careers in relation to STEAM for secondary school students and third level students in Cavan Institute. Environmental staff from the council worked with national school children rolling out a CSI Water workshop

This workshop demonstrates how Environment Section staff undertakes enforcement work, laboratory work, sampling and biological monitoring. Participants get an opportunity to see the equipment used by Environmental Officers as well as examining samples of the aquatic life in local streams. This workshop also highlighted many of the environmental pressures evident in County Cavan. The workshop was shortlisted as a finalist in the National Community & Council Awards 2017

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

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



Certification, Enforcement and Licensing activities	
Number of Section 4 Discharge Licenses	56
Number of Air Pollution Licenses	1
Number of Solvent Regulation Registered Sites	2
Number of Decorative Paints Registered Sites	14
Number of Petroleum Vapour Regulations Registrations	26
Number of Farm Inspections	38
Number of complaints received(environment excluding waste)	94
Number of cross reports to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	3
Number of Section 12 Notices served in accordance with the Water Pollution Acts	22
Number of legal actions initiated	1
Number of Domestic WasteWater Treatment System inspections (also including compliance Inspections from 2014)	41

Energy Management

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

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

Cavan County Council's target is a 33% improvement in energy efficiency by 2020. Based on the SEAI scorecard issued during 2016, Cavan County Council has made a 28.2% saving by 2015. This figure is based on the data that the Energy Manager reported to the SEAI on annual energy consumption and related data.

All electricity consumed by Cavan County Council is procured in accordance with the National Procurement Service tender and this is administered by the Energy Manager. The current contract is with Airtricity who are now supplying nearly 60 sites operated by Cavan County Council.



The Public Lighting electricity supply contract is also administered via the Office of Government Procurement with Energia supplying the electricity to the public lights under Cavan County Council’s control. There are approximately 7000 public lights which have to be supplied with electricity (80% of energy cost) and have to be maintained (20% of energy cost).

There is an existing public lighting maintenance contract in place with Airtricity Utility Solutions Ltd (AuS).

Cavan County Council operate nearly 60 individual sites supplied with electricity which include Office Buildings, Libraries, Laboratory, Waste Management facilities, Recreational facilities, Museum, Theatre, etc. The most significant user of energy within Cavan County Council is the provision of public lighting (>60% of energy consumed).

Some of the buildings and sites operated are listed below:

1. Cavan Courthouse
2. Johnston Library Building
3. Bailieborough Civic Amenity Site
4. Ballyconnell Civic Amenity Site
5. Corranure Landfill Cavan
6. All Fire Stations
7. All Libraries
8. Various buildings & depots utilised by Area Offices/Municipal Districts
9. The Pound (large animal & dog)
10. Museum

Cavan County Councils energy consumption during 2016 which resulted in a spending of just over €1million is detailed in the table below:

Energy Type	Energy Consumption
	kWh
Electricity	14,343,753
Thermal	592,606
Transport	2,297,176
Total Energy Consumed	17,233,535



Actions Undertaken during 2016

- Some of Cavan County Council's Housing Stock upgraded by the Council's Housing Section.
- Re-enactment of the Energy Policy
- In accordance with the requirements of European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012, Cavan County Council are required to have a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) for any building in excess of 500 m² which is frequently visited by the public. Completion of DEC process for this statutory requirement in accordance with National Procurement Procedures as well as National Energy Performance requirements.
- Ongoing allocation of sites in accordance with the National Procurement Service winning tenders as new sites come online.
- Compilation of data regarding energy consumption by Cavan County Council for monitoring and reporting in accordance with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland Monitoring and Reporting Tool.
- Establish and improve on procedure for monthly monitoring of energy usage
- Maintain and improve on procedure for frequent meter reads
- Public Lighting Policy was recommended by Planning SPC and adopted at a full council meeting and is posted on Cavan County Council's website.
- The main Public Lighting project last year was the inventory survey of existing stock and the UMR reconciliation, as required to be completed by all LAs.
- Approx. 50 No. LED replacements undertaken by Cavan County Council - mostly housing estates and some upgrade along the roads.

Actions Planned for 2017 - 2018

- Maintain procedure for monthly monitoring of energy usage
- Maintain procedure for frequent meter reads
- Audits of Top 5 Usage Sites
- Complete SEAI Monitoring and Reporting in accordance with deadlines imposed.
- Continue to allocate new sites in accordance with National Procurement Service winning tenders.
- In accordance with the requirements of European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012, commence tender process and arrange for completion of the assessments to generate Display Energy Certificate's (DEC) for all Cavan County Council buildings in excess of 500 m² which are frequently visited by the



public.

- Support Community & Enterprise Section by providing information for a leaflet to be provided for the public regarding all types of funding available for communities/groups/individuals.
- Establish an Energy Awareness Programme
- Liaise with all Sections in the Council to raise awareness via Team Meetings
- Integrate energy management and personal responsibility for same as part of induction procedures.
- Raise awareness to all sections of the Council and staff as individuals on SEAI funding that is available. Highlight having projects application ready for submission when same are advertised. Likely to be during Q1 2018.
- Arrange to have the Energy policy on display.
- Review of M&E plant/equipment settings
- Tie energy management in with key contractors & suppliers.
- Arrange plant tour at landfill on energy facility and link to CPD & IEI.
- Generate quarterly energy updates to be circulated to Sections for inclusion at Team Meetings.
- Commence linking energy management and responsibilities as part of core responsibilities for individual staff like H&S.
- Link with IT Section and arrange for roll out of briefing staff on good IT power habits
 - Switching monitors off at teatime, lunchtime and power everything off at night time.
 - Charging mobile phones through PC better than charging from wall socket
 - Weekly energy tips on intranet applicable to work and home
- Liaise with SEAI to co-ordinate school events/workshops with primary & post primary schools in Cavan during Science Festival 12-19 Nov 2017.
- Liaise with SEAI/OPW to potentially host a general energy awareness at home and in work event/exhibition during Science Festival 12-19 Nov 2017 –link with fuel poor homes/C&E Section/Housing Section.



Waste Management

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

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

Waste Management Policy and Planning

Cavan is part of the Connaught Ulster Waste Management Planning Region. The Connaught Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority is responsible for coordinating waste enforcement actions in the region.

Waste Infrastructure

Landfills

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

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

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

Recycling Centres and Bring Centres

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



recycling infrastructure. With 3 fully operational Recycling Centres and 30 Bring Sites, we continue to provide householders with a local and convenient way to recycle all their household recyclables.



Recycling Map

Waste Regulations and Enforcement

All local authorities are required to prepare annual environmental inspection plans in accordance with a European Parliament and Council recommendation which provided for minimum criteria for environmental inspections in EU member states. We are required to report on inspection and enforcement activities and carry out regular reviews of their respective plans so as to ensure that the plans are being implemented effectively.

Inspections carried out by the Waste Management Section can be divided into two categories:

- Routine Inspections (which include businesses/facilities permitted by Cavan County Council) and Non-Routine Inspections. These can be planned in advance as is the purpose of the Annual Inspection Plan.
- Non-Routine Inspections typically involve those inspections associated with the investigation of Waste Complaints.

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



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

2014	2015	2016
122	155	116

Priorities for Enforcement

The priorities listed in the Inspection Plan 2016 took regard for the requirements of relevant Government Circulars and Ministerial Policy Directions in relation to waste management and enforcement and also took into account National, Regional and Local requirements.

The priorities included;

- Implementation and Enforcement of Food Waste Regulations
- Implementation of the new Pay by Weight related legislation
- Implementation of the Tyres and Waste tyres Regulations
- Enforcement Illegal dumping and fly-tipping sites.
- Fuel laundering waste dumping

Food Waste Regulations

The European Union (Household Food Waste and Bio-waste) Regulations, 2013 (SI Number 71 of 2013) are designed to promote the segregation and recovery of household food waste and divert biodegradable waste from landfills. Waste collectors must provide a separate collection service for household food waste. Householders that produce food waste must segregate such waste and keep it separate from other non-biodegradable waste and make it available for separate collection. These regulations became effective in Cavan Town in 2014 and in Bailieborough, Ballyjamesduff, Cootehill, Kingscourt and Virginia since the 1st July 2015. On the 1st of July 2016, these food waste regulations also applied to agglomerations with a population > 500 people.



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

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

Litter Management and Enforcement

We are required to implement a litter management plan in respect of our functional area. In October, a new Litter Management Plan was adopted by the elected members of Cavan County Council. The new plan covers a three year period 2016-2019 and identifies the key objectives which are used by the Local Authority to prevent and control litter in County Cavan. These objectives are twin track concentrating both on the raising of public awareness and on enforcement.

We provide an enforcement and educational function in the areas of litter management, control and prevention. A total of 102 on-the-spot fines were issued for offences committed under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended in 2016. The penalty for an on-the-spot fine is €150. A larger fine may be issued if court proceedings are initiated. The maximum fine in this case is €4,000.

	2015	2016
Total Number of Full Time Wardens	2	3
Total number of part-time litter wardens	4	4
Total number of litter wardens (both full and part-time)	6	7
Number of on-the spot fines	151	102
Number of Complaints Received	532	528



Environmental Awareness and Education

National Spring Clean runs throughout Ireland in April. In support of this campaign, we encouraged School's, Tidy Towns Committees, Local Community Groups and Resident Associations throughout the County to become involved in cleanup projects in their area. Bags, gloves, litter pickers and high-vis vests were among the items provided to groups to assist in their clean ups. Groups from all over the county participated in the campaign and 2,500 bags of roadside litter were collected.

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

In February 2016, Cavan County Council hosted a free Household Hazardous Waste one day collection for members of the public at Corranure Civic Amenity Site. More than ten tonnes of hazardous household waste was received from householders and removed by a designated specialist waste contractor.

The Local Authority also facilitated Farm Plastic Bring Centres for farmers at a number of Council yards and local marts during May and June in conjunction with Irish Farm Film Producers Group.

Gum Litter Campaign

A national campaign aimed at highlighting the need to dispose of chewing gum into the bin and to inform the public about the problems caused by gum litter. As part of our local campaign a launch day was held at the Tesco Store in Bailieborough in June. Cathaoirleach Cllr. Fergal Curtin was present on the day along with the Elected Members of Bailieborough Cootehill Municipal District and members of staff from Waste Management.

The Adopt a Road Litter Programme

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

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



County Cavan Litter League

We worked with local communities to improve the cleanliness and appearance of our towns, villages and countryside. The Council uses similar inspections and scoring criteria employed by Irish Business Against Litter for Cavan Town, the County Cavan Litter League is based on regular inspections of 26 towns and villages within the County. All selected towns and villages are surveyed by Litter Enforcement staff.

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

Tidy Towns Committees

We have strong linkages with 20 Tidy Towns Committees across the County. They play a key role in litter prevention and assisting the Local Authority in implementing its current Litter Management Plan. All of the Tidy Towns Committees play a major part in enhancing and maintaining their local green spaces and natural environs and protecting natural amenities and keeping them free from litter. We provide ongoing assistance and support to Tidy Towns throughout the year.

Green-Schools Programme

The Local Authority is delighted to work in partnership with Green Schools, An Taisce and all of the schools throughout County Cavan to promote the Green Schools programme. In May, Green Schools Awards ceremony in the Helix, Dublin, County Cavan schools received:

- 9 = their second green flag for the energy theme
- 2 = their third green flag for the water theme,
- 4 = their fourth green flag for the travel theme
- 2 = their fifth green flag for the bio-diversity theme and
- 1 = their sixth green flag for global citizenship theme.

This is a testament to the work of the Council as well as the students, staff and parents in each and every school who have dedicated so much time and effort to their individual Green Schools programme especially at the moment when everyone is under so much pressure to achieve so much with a lot less time and resources available to them.



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

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

Energy

1. Ballyconnell Central National School,
2. Corlurgan National School,
3. Milltown National School,
4. Royal School, Cavan
5. Scoil Naomh Padraig, Killinagh, Blacklion,
6. St. Anne's National School, Bailieborough,
7. St. Clare's National School, Ballyjamesduff,
8. St. Clare's College, Ballyjamesduff,
9. St. Brigid's National School, Tunnyduff,

Water

1. St. Felim's National School, Leiter, Bailieborough,
2. Ballinamoney National School, Balieborough

Travel

1. St. Mary's National School, Arvagh
2. St. Michael's National School, Cootehill
3. Carraigbruisse National School, Maghera
4. Convent of Mercy National School, Belturbet

Biodiversity

1. Belturbet Boys National School,
2. Billis National School, New Inns



Global Citizenship Litter & Waste

St. Killian's National School Mullagh are to be commended for being the first school in County Cavan to have been awarded their sixth green flag by An Taisce under the Green Schools Programme.

Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund

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

A total of 30 applications were received in 2016 under the Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund. 18 Projects were subsequently awarded funding by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

Projects include local community based initiatives (tidy towns), bio-diversity and wildlife, environmental workshops, rejuvenation of river and green areas. A number of school environmental initiatives for up to 3,000 pupils in national and secondary schools were supported under the Fund.

Dog Warden Service

The Implementation of the Control of Dogs Act 1986 as amended requires the Local Authority to employ a full time Dog Warden. The Dog Warden provides an effective and efficient service, dealing with the control and management of stray dogs, unwanted dogs and anti-social behaviour by dogs and issuing of dog licences. 6,967 dog licences were issued.

Veterinary Services

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

In the region of 75 audits/hygiene inspections were carried out in 2016 along with over 870 pre and post slaughter, animal/meat examinations, during the slaughter of 5,871 sheep, 38,237 pigs, 2,428 cattle, and over 10,000 turkeys at local authority regulated slaughter houses. Throughout the year, random samples of meat are submitted to The Dept of Agriculture and



Foods Central Meat lab in Kildare for testing for residues of antibiotics and other chemicals residues. During the course of the year a total of 24 such samples were submitted for analysis.

Also two new premises were registered by the Veterinary section under the Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010 during 2016.

Environment and Planning Strategic Planning Committee

Four meetings were held and the following topics and issues were discussed:

- A presentation on Irish Water;
- Policy for taking in charge of unfinished housing estates;
- New Litter Management Plan 2016-2019;
- Adopt a Road –Anti-Litter Scheme;
- Report on Dog Breeding Establishments;
- Rural Water Programme;
- Update on Pay By Weight Household Waste Regulations
- Planning & Development Contribution Scheme
- Irish Business Against Litter 2016
- Draft Policy on New Public Lighting
- A Presentation on the Connaught Ulster Waste Enforcement Lead Authority.

Membership of Environment & Planning Strategic Policy Committee

Cathairleach Cllr. Damien Brady

Cllr. Madeline Argue

Cllr. Fergal Curtin

Cllr. Winston Bennett

Cllr. Val Smith

Fintan McCabe Environmental Pillar

Bernard Engle Public Participation Network

Jimmie Jackson Construction Pillar

Thomas Cooney Agricultural Pillar



Service Indicators

<u>WASTE</u>	2016 Return
E1. No/% of households accessing 3-bin service collection	
E1. No/% of households accessing 3-bin service collection	1471
% of households accessing 3-bin service collection	5.49%
E2. % of Environmental Pollution complaints closed	
Total number of pollution complaint cases	722
The number of pollution cases closed from 1/12/2016 to 31/12/2016	695
Number of pollution cases that arose in 2016 not finalised	134
E3. % of LA area within the 5 Levels of litter pollution;	
unpolluted or litter free	1%
slightly polluted with litter	88%
moderately polluted with litter	10%
significantly polluted with litter	1%
grossly polluted with litter	0%



Finance

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

The primary objectives are to:

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

Loans

The Council has circa 200 loan accounts, which generated mortgage repayments of €415,226 during 2016.

Throughout 2016 Cavan County Council has proactively engaged with customers who have found themselves in unsustainable arrears positions. The Council has empowered customers to address their arrears by way of the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP Process) and the Mortgage to Rent Scheme. During 2016 the Finance Department processed two Mortgage to Rent Schemes applications.

Provision of Payroll Function

This service involves the processing and payment of wages and salaries for all staff including deduction of P.A.Y.E. and P.R.S.I. and other statutory and non-statutory deductions and completion of all relevant returns. In December 2014 MyPay assumed responsibility for processing all payroll payments on behalf of Cavan County Council. There are approximately



510 (excluding elected members and pensioners) employees on Cavan County Council's payroll, spread across the following pay groups:

Wages: (fortnightly)

Salaries/Pensioners: (fortnightly)

Firefighters: (Quarterly)

Payments totalling €21,116,412.60 were processed by payroll section during 2016.

Non Principal Private Residence (NPPR) Charge

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

The administration and collection of the charges is operated nationally, on a shared services basis, by the Local Government Computer Services Board (LGCSB). The LGCSB have developed a website (www.nppr.ie) which includes information on the charge as well as a system for registration of properties and payment of the NPPR charge online. An amount of €1,027,391.00 (net of LGCSB collection costs) was collected in NPPR charges and late penalties during 2016. In addition an amount of circa €40,000 was received from customers during 2016 that have entered payment plans with Cavan County Council.

Rates

The making of the County Rate for year ending 31/12/2016 was on 22/01/2016. A total of 2,500 Rate Demands were issued for the year 2016 which resulted in a total levy of €13,302,201. The Annual Rate on Valuation fixed by the Council for the year was €56.85. In accordance with Section 29 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 an additional levy in sum of €14.37 was fixed in relation to the former Cavan Town Council rating area.

The percentage collected for 2016 was 83% as per Appendix 7 of the Annual Financial Statements.



Service Indicators

<u>FINANCE</u>		
M1: 5 Year Summary of Revenue Account Balance		
Cumulative balance at 31/12/2016 in the Revenue account from the income & expenditure of the AFS		€1,742,974
Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2016 as a % of total income from the AFS Statement		2.81%
Revenue Expenditure per capita in 2016		€755.85
the 2016 total income figure from the Income and expenditure Account statement of the AFS		€62,066,304
the 2016 Total expenditure figure from the income and expenditure account statement of the AFS		€57,577,709
M2. 5 year summary of % collection levels on major revenue sources		
Collection levels of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016		83%
Collection levels of Rent and Annuities from the AFS for 2016		84%
Collection level of Housing Loans from the AFS Statement 2016		77%

Internal Audit

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

The core areas covered by Internal Audit assessments are:

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



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

Value for Money

Local Authorities including Cavan County Council operate in an environment that requires accountability and transparency of all management decisions taken. The Council must also ensure that its services are operated in an economical, efficient and effective manner with an increased emphasis placed on achieving Value for Money and maximising performance levels through the organisation.

Internal Audit Training & Seminars

Various courses & seminars were attended by the Internal Auditor. These included social housing services in Ireland, the freedom of information act 2014, data protection regulations, procurement & e-tenders procedures, operations of the Local Government Services Dept, adoption of the IIA international internal audit standards, audit practice management training, software packages, organisational change within Cavan County Council, dealing with violence and aggression in the workplace, housing loans Agresso training and IPA presentation skills.

3 Year Strategic Internal Audit Plan

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

To ensure maximum audit coverage is achieved a systematic and structured approach was applied. Particular attention was given to the principles of good corporate governance, organisational changes under the Local Government Reform Act 2014, prioritisation of audit work identified in the annual risk register and regulatory audit requests by Government Depts., NOAC (National Oversight Audit Commission) and the Irish Sports Council. This plan aims to embrace the operations and objectives of the organisation as set out in our Corporate Plan. The 3 year plan was approved by both the Senior Management Team and the Audit Committee and as needed is adapted to meet future developments and cultural changes within the Council.

Annual Audit Plan 2016

The Annual Audit Plan is the detailed work programme prepared for each year of the Strategic Audit Plan Cycle and concentrates mainly on operational, financial and regulatory risk.



The plan for 2016 set out specific audit reviews to be undertaken on the basis of availability of staff resources and potential risks identified by the Directors of Service, the Audit Committee and the Local Government Auditor.

Internal Audit Work 2016

Audit work undertaken during 2016 incorporated control inspections in the Motor Tax Office, the Ramor Theatre, the County Museum, Landfill Sites, Cashier Offices, the Civil Defence, Cavan Town Car Parking Charges and NOAC's Annual Performance Indicators Report. Specific audit areas included the Operations of the Council's NPPR System (Non Private Residence Charges), Management of Council's Vested Interest in Cavan Regional Health Sport & Leisure Company Ltd, Governance & Control Procedures of Cavan Sports Partnership, Operations of the Local Enterprise Office- LEO Cavan, Management of the Kingscourt & Cootehill Landfill Remediation Projects and Public Spending Code In-depth Reviews.

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

Audit Overview

Internal Audits acknowledges that Cavan County Council has effectively managed many difficult challenges in recent years that ensured quality services were maintained regardless of ongoing budget and staff constraints. In doing so accountability and transparency of its operations was of extreme importance. Internal Audit continues to monitor the implementation and compliance of all relevant policies; procedures and controls of Cavan County Council to ensure efficiencies, value for money and improved effectiveness in the provision of all services are maintained.

Audit Committee

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

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

- To review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it.



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

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

As recommended this committee consists of three (3) external members and two (2) serving Councillors and operate under a charter adopted on 3rd March 2015.

The committee members are as follows:

<i>Term June 2014 - May 2019</i>
• Con Dolan (Chairperson)
• Jim Lalor
• PJ Dunne
• Cllr Madeleine Argue
• Cllr Clifford Kelly

The Audit Committee held quarterly meetings between Jan and Dec 2016 with regular consultations with the Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Finance and the Internal Auditor. The main items on the agenda included the Annual Budgets and Financial Statements, Operational Risk Registers, Services of LEO, Cavan Sports Partnership, Library Services, Protected Disclosers, Annual Performance Indicators, Internal Audit Reports, and External Audits Reports.

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



Procurement

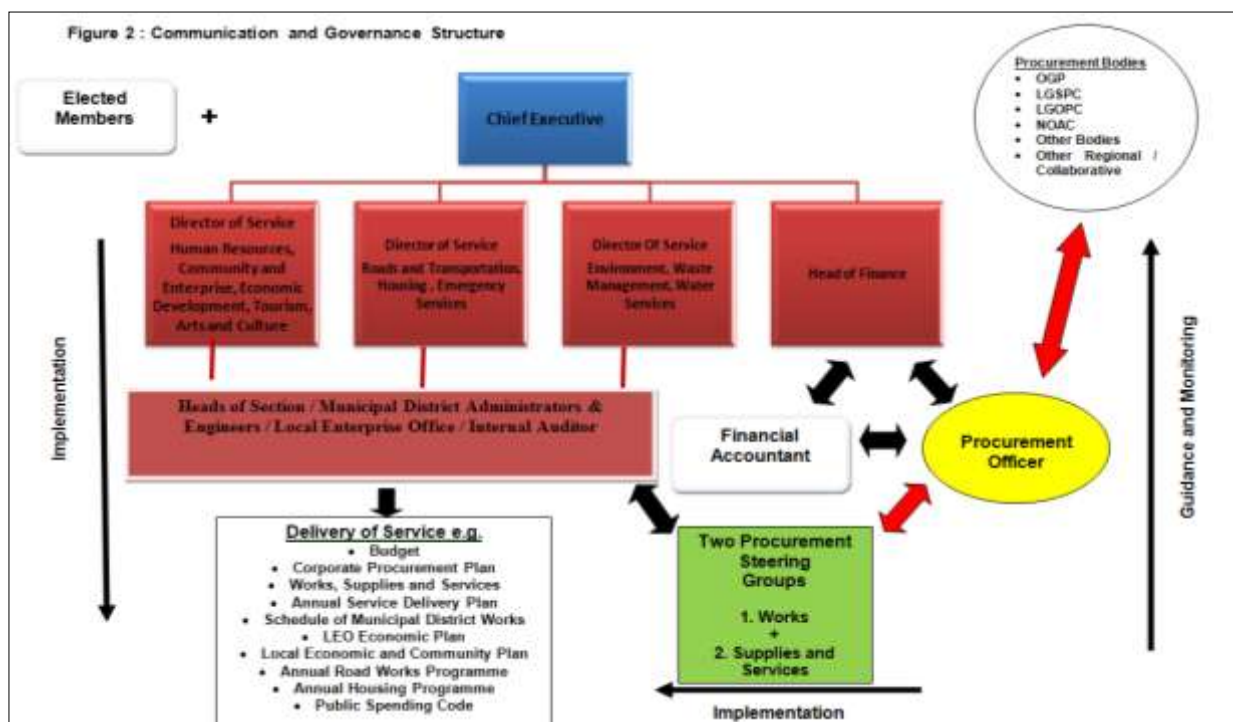
Our Mission Statement

“To ensure that Cavan County Council’s Procurement function is discharged with probity, transparency and accountability, adheres to EU/National Law and National guidelines, and operates in the most efficient and effective way to support value for money purchasing while achieving the required standards to deliver quality services to the citizens of County Cavan”.

In 2016 the following measures and protocols were put in place by Management and the Council's Procurement Officer to ensure better procurement awareness and compliance by all Council Staff.

Corporate Procurement Plan (2016 – 2019)

A new 3 year Corporate Procurement Plan was implemented in March 2016 emphasising the Council's Procurement Policy and introducing a clear line of procurement communication between Management, the Procurement Officer, and Staff.



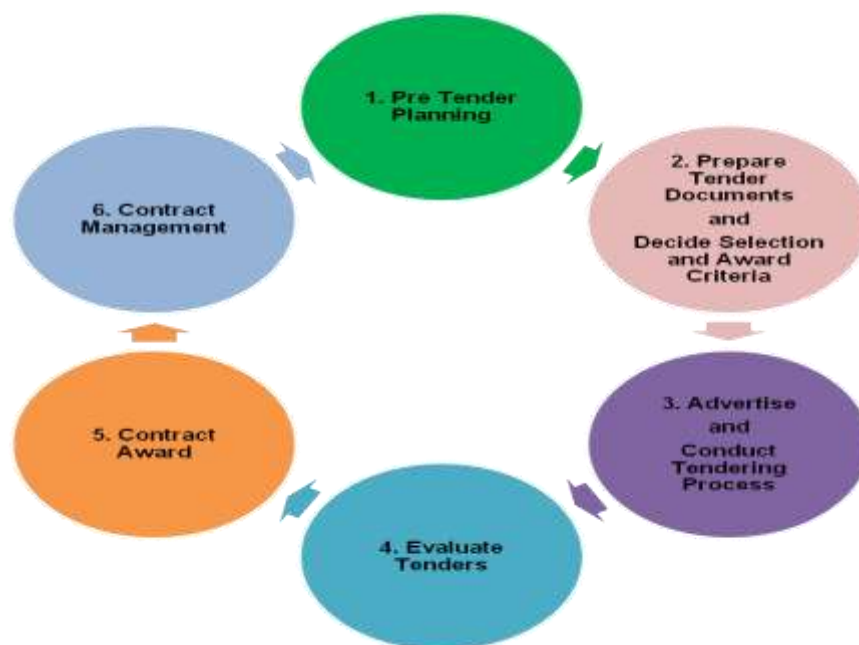
The Plan puts an emphasis on strategic elements such as Policy and Governance; Procurement ethics, Budgeting and Planning, Supply Sourcing; Operations and Contract Management, and Requisition to Pay. It introduced strong objectives and new measurable actions under specific



Goals and Targets that are reported on through key Performance Indicators (KPI's) and presented to Management for consideration.

Procurement Procedure Manual.

The Corporate Procurement Plan is further supported by a new user friendly Procurement Procedure Manual. This Procurement Procedure Manual was implemented in October 2016 and provides a step by step approach by highlighting the procedures and protocols to be followed under each of the stages of the following Procurement Cycle stages.



Other Measures introduced to Strengthen the Procurement Function

The following innovative measures were introduced to strengthen the Procurement Function within the organisation

A new Staff Procurement information Web Site

This web site assists Council Staff in all areas of public procurement and builds on the good work currently in place.

The site provides staff with:-

- A one stop shop for all procurement related matters
- Awareness of procurement methods and upcoming opportunities
- Procurement Guidance, Department Circulars, Emu Directives, Procedures and Protocols
- User-friendly Links to relevant procurement websites
- Easy access to -
 - National, Regional and Local Contracts.



- Construction Works and Consultancy Service Website
- SupplyGov (formally La Quotes) Website, Frameworks and Guidance
- La Bitumen Website, Framework and Guidance
- A Procurement Calculator - that will give guidance to proper procurement methods
- A forum for Q & A
- A suggestion box on ways of reducing costs through procurement
- **Two Procurement Steering Groups (PSG)**

Two groups were established in 2016. One for Supplies and Services and one for Works. Nominated staff from relevant sections represents their section on one or both groups. The main purpose of the Groups is to ensure the procurement message reaches all areas of the organisation.
- **Staff Procurement Training,**

27 Staff members received Procurement Training in 2016 (04th May 2016 and 21st June 2016).
- **Conflict of interest and confidentiality agreement annual declaration form –**

Council indoor Staff (grade 5 and Higher) and those involved in the tendering process (end - users, procurement, technical, financial etc) are required to sign a Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality agreement each year
- **Letters/Memos of assurance of compliance with the Public Spending Code -**

The Head of each Section / Department are required to sign on an annual basis, Letters/Memos of assurance of compliance with the Public Spending Code. This provides a basic level of comfort to the Chief Executive and Head of Finance with regard to each sections compliance with the Code.
- **Spend Extracts for National Reports.**

All of the council's local agresso product codes were mapped to national product codes. This facilitates better spend data being collected by The Office of Government Procurement.



Continued Support for SME's in 2016

- **Enterprise Week**

The Procurement Officer gave a talk to SME's on Procurement, Future Opportunities, Current Processes and best Practice, at the launch of the Enterprise Week on 7th March 2016.

Other Speakers included :-

- 1) **Chief Executive Cavan County Council** -Tommy Ryan – Official Launch
- 2) **Enterprise Ireland** – Maria Gavin – How to succeed through Meet the Buyer events, other EI supports & programmes
- 3) **InterTradeIreland** – Grant Gilmore – ITI supports for SMEs to help improve their tendering success
- 4) **Goodrich Consulting** – Brendon Goodrich – top tips for SMEs on preparing & winning tenders

Continued compliance with The Public Spending Code

Cavan County Council submitted its Quality Assurance report for 2015 to the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) as required under the Department of Public Expenditure and Reforms **Public Spending Code**.

The report noted that the checklists completed by Cavan County Council showed a high level of compliance with the Public Spending Code and the in-depth checks carried out on a selection of programmes revealed no major issues which would cast doubt on the Councils compliance with the Code.

Cavan County Councils report coordinated by the Procurement Officer contained:-

- An inventory list for 2015 (totalling **€206,336,982**) of all current and capital Projects / Programmes whose expenditure / lifetime cost in 2015 exceeded €0.5m.
 - **58** Projects/programmes were identified.
 - **14** projects / programmes were being considered in 2015
 - **33** projects / programmes incurred expenditure in 2015
 - **11** projects / programmes ended in 2015



- A summary of all procurements above €10m,
- A completed set of checklists (7 in total) for the whole organisation based on **16 samples** taken across the organisation, representing **49%** of the total relevant expenditure in the 2015 inventory list.
- A summary of the Internal Auditors in dept checks representing **5.7%** of the Council's overall inventory.

Revised and renewed the Procurement Risk Register

The Procurement element within the Councils Risk register was expanded upon to identify risk, current controls and required actions under the following risk headings - Procurement Compliance,

- Public Spending Code,
- Value for money,
- Ethics in Procurement,
- Contractual Risks,
- Safety Aspects of Procurement

Agresso Milestone 4 – Procurement Checks

Cavan County Council's financial system is currently being upgraded to Agresso Milestone 4 (MS4). New Procurement Checks will be implemented in 2017 which will further strengthen the County Council's commitment to achieving Procurement best practice and compliance with all public procurement requirements.

Motor Tax

Cavan County Council's Motor Tax Section is responsible for:

- Issue of vehicle licence
- Issue of duplicate Registration Books, Receipts and Trade Plates for motor traders
- Processing change of ownerships and refunds
- Issuing S103's and CT53's Certificates

The continuing decline in the numbers of the public attending the Motor Tax Office to conduct their business was reflected in revenue receipted during the year for motor tax and other transactions. The total receipts amounted to €6,029,327 in 2016, down from €7,279,723 in 2015; this represents a decrease of €1,250,396 in revenue over 2015. The main reason for this is the continued growth in the use of the Motor Tax Online service.



Breakdown of income and transactions:

	Total Transactions	Total Income
Vehicle Licences	28588	5,538,561
Trade Licences	68	24,004
Miscellaneous Receipts	2365	17,548
Arrears	5402	449,214
Total	36423	€6,029,327

Motor Tax Online:

In addition 61,640 transactions were processed online and revenue collected amounted to €10,680,064. The Motor tax online service is available to owners of private cars, motor cycles, agricultural tractors, exempt vehicles and motor caravans and commercial vehicles for renewal and first time taxations. Customers are encouraged to avail of the online service by logging onto www.motortax.ie

Service Indicators

Number & Percentage of Motor Tax Transactions	2016
Number which are dealt with over the counter	29807
Number which are dealt with by post	5002
% which are dealt with over the counter	85.63%
% which are dealt with by post	14.37%
% of Motor Tax transactions online	64.91%
Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications	
Number which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	4,505
Number which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of application	417
Number which are dealt with on the 4th or 5th day from receipt of the application	8
Number which are dealt with in over 5 days from receipt of the application	72
% which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	90.06%
% which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of the application	8.34%
% which are dealt with on the 4th or 5th day from receipt of the application	0.16%
% which are dealt with in over 5 days from receipt of the application	1.44%
Public opening hours	
Average number of opening hours per week	32.5



Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

The ICT department provides operational and strategic ICT services for Cavan County Council and therein the wider Cavan community. The department is responsible for the ICT infrastructure and also for planning the future ICT requirements of the organisation.

In an operations capacity, the department has responsibility for multiple ICT systems spread across the County in a large Local Area (LAN) and Wide Area (WAN) network infrastructure. Over the last year, we have continuously upgraded the network infrastructure to use more cost effective fibre connections and remove our reliance on legacy connections.

Further in operations, we have evaluated multiple cloud options which allow us to host and manage ICT systems in a mobile platform and therein allow our staff to work through mobile without a reliance on paper solutions.

The ICT department is responsible for the operation and management of multiple websites and mobile apps for Cavan County Council. These websites had over 938,000 page views in 2016 and include the following sites:

- <http://www.cavancoco.ie>
- <http://www.thisiscavan.ie>
- <http://www.tasteofcavan.ie>
- <http://www.cavanarts.ie>

During 2016, we focused on the creation of a Digital Strategy for the County. Through public consultations, we received public feedback which is now the framework for the Digital Strategy. This strategy is being finalised and will be released shortly.

Under the National Broadband Plan (NBP), we put Cavan County Council forward as a lead Local Authority in facilitating the NBP roll-out, which was highlighted by Minister Heather Humphreys TD.

There are multiple ICT applications and services which we control and manage on a daily basis, these include:

- iDocs: Document Management System
- Agresso FMS (Financial Management System)



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

Service Indicators

Information Technology	2016
C3. LA Website and Social Media Use	
Total page views of the LA website in 2016	938,948
Total number of social media users at 31/12 following the LA on social media	69,125
C4. Overall cost of ICT provision per WTE	
All ICT expenditure in the period 1/1/ 31/12 divided by the WTE no	€2,444.69
Total revenue expenditure on Account Elements	€910,159



Summary of Expenditure and Income Revenue Account 2016

	2016 €000	2015 €000
Expenditure (A)	62,066	58,173
Receipts		
State Grants	23,415	19,323
Good & Services	15,953	15,677
Commercial Rates	13,269	13,537
Other Local Authorities	219	189
Pension Levy	752	989
Local Government Fund	8,458	8,458
Total Income (B)	62,066	58,173
Deficit) / Surplus (B-A=C)	0	0
Opening Revenue		
Balance 1st January (D)	1,743	1,743
Closing Revenue		
Balance at 31st December (C+D+E)	1,743	1,743
Revenue Expenditure 2016		
	€M	%
Housing and Building	7.54	12.15
Road Transport and Safety	20.80	33.51
Water Supply and Sewerage	6.95	11.20
Development Incentives and Control	5.33	8.59
Environment Protection	6.95	11.20
Recreation and Amenity	4.14	6.67
Health Welfare, Education and Agriculture	0.63	1.01
Miscellaneous	5.24	8.44
Transfer to Capital	4.49	7.23
Total	62.07	100



Summary of Expenditure and Income on Capital Account 2016

	Expenditure 2016 €000	Income 2016 €000
Programme Group		
Housing and Building	8,608	4,299
Road Transport and Safety	6,205	6,040
Water Supply and Sewerage	765	891
Development Incentives and Control	362	1,991
Environment Protection	82	324
Recreation and Amenity	515	631
Health Welfare, Education and Agriculture	0	0
Miscellaneous	423	102
Total	16,960	14,278
Revenue Income 2016		
	€M	%
Housing and Building	8.77	14.13
Road Transport and Safety	14.74	23.75
Water Supply and Sewerage	7.03	11.33
Development Incentives and Control	2.44	3.93
Environment Protection	2.13	3.43
Recreation and Amenity	0.89	1.43
Health Welfare, Education and Agriculture	0.49	0.79
Miscellaneous	3.1	4.99
Rates	13.27	21.38
Local Government Fund	8.46	13.63
Pension Levy	0.75	1.21
Total	62.07	100



APPENDICES