

Annual Report Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2017



**Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin**
Cavan
County Council



"Putting people first"



2017 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



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



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Our County

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

“An Cabhán” 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 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 as its 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 relaxed 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.



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Cathaoirleach's Address

Mar Cathaoirleach ar Comhairle Contae an Chabháin tá athas orm fáilte a chuir roimh tuarascáil na bliana 2017

As Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council I am delighted to welcome the publication of the 2017 Annual Report.



2017 was again a challenging year for the local authority, but one in which staff and management, with the support of the elected members, have managed to maintain core services while continuing to consolidate the local authority's role as a key driver of community and enterprise development.

When we look back on 2017 in years to come, this year will be remembered for the arrival of ex-Hurricane Ophelia in October. This was an extreme weather event without precedent in recent decades, and it is thanks in no small part to the resilience, dedication and expertise of our emergency services, outdoor staff, engineering staff, water services teams and many others that the disruption to daily life in County Cavan was kept to a minimum.

At the beginning of 2017, the question on everyone's lips was 'what will happen to the border after Brexit?' Unfortunately, this remains the case, and we are no nearer to a resolution of the Brexit impasse. I was happy to make the point to the visiting House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee during their visit to Cavan that a hard border must be avoided at all costs for the sake of both north and south of this island. This is a position that has been backed up by the rest of the EU member



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states, and we continue to hope that whatever form 'Brexit' takes, we can retain free movement of people and goods on this island.

2017 was the first full year in which the Local Economic and Community Plan has been in operation, and the benefits of having this strategic document in place; as well as the fruits of the labours of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC); are clear for all to see. Since the plan was approved by the elected members, over €6 million in funds has been leveraged from sources such as LEADER, PEACE IV, Clár, and Town and Village Renewal to fund local community and enterprise actions under this plan.

The great work that is being done throughout the county was recognised on a national stage in 2017 and it was a particular honour for me to represent the county at the Excellence in Local Government Awards in November, where Cavan picked up two awards, for Cavan County Museum's Commemoration Programme and for the Cavan-Monaghan Science Festival, which is a collaboration between both counties' library services.

I was also privileged to join Natasha and Ciarán Ó Draighneain as they received a special award for 'Erica's Fairy Forest' at the Pride of Place Awards.

I was delighted to represent my county overseas when attending the Cavan Association London Dinner in Camden in November. Organisations such as the Cavan Association London play an extremely important role in preserving links with the Irish Diaspora. This global community of Cavan people has an important role to play in life at home here, and as identified in the Cavan Diaspora Strategy it is vitally important that we enhance these relationships for the benefit of all concerned.



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Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a gabháil le mo chomhbhail tofa as dtacaíocht agus gcomhoibriú i rith na bliana. Nuair a glacann duine mar cathaoirleach chuireann son d'fhiachaibh air seasamh siar ó pholaíocht páirtí; Agus sin deanta aige, léirítear do go bhfuil gach duine den 18 mball ag oibrir go díograiseach ar son contae an Cabháin. Faoi dheireadh ba mhaith liom an deis seo a thapú le mo bhuíochas a chuir in iúl don phríomh-fheidhmeannach an tUsal Tommy Ryan dá fhoireann bainistíochta agus dá fhoireann oibre as a gcuid iarrachtaí ar son an comhairle i 2017.

I would like to thank my fellow elected members for their support and co-operation over the past twelve months. Taking on the role of Cathaoirleach forces you to take a step back from party politics, and in doing so, it is clear to see all 18 elected members work incredibly hard for the betterment of County Cavan. Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to thank our Chief Executive, Mr Tommy Ryan, his management team and staff for their efforts on behalf of the county during 2017.

Councillor Paddy McDonald, Cathaoirleach



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Chief Executive's Report

Is brea liom ár dtuarascáil bhliantúil a chuir in bhur laithir- Tuarascáil in a léirítear a bhfuil deanta agus a bhfuil bainte amach ag comhairle contae an Cabhán sa bliain 2017.

Tugann an tuarascáil bliantúil seo deis dúinn meabhrú ar an raon leathan de ghníomhaíochtaí agus de sheirbhísí a bhí ar suil ag ár n-eagraíocht le linn na bliana



I am pleased to introduce our annual report, which outlines the achievements and activities of Cavan County Council for the year 2017.

The annual report provides an opportunity to reflect on the wide range of activities and services carried out by our organisation during the year.

Since the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) launched in 2016, Cavan County Council has made significant investment in delivering the plan through developing strategic plans including a Tourism Development Plan, a Food Strategy, Diaspora Engagement Strategy, the Joint Policing Committee Strategy, the Cavan Age Friendly Strategy and Cavan Sports Partnership's five-year plan, 'Sport and activity for life, for all: 2017-2021'.

These strategic plans will help shape the economic and social development of the county in a structured and measurable way in the coming years and have the potential to leverage significant funding from national government funding programmes.

The goals of the LECP are also being advanced through the SICAP, LEADER and the PEACE IV Programmes under the auspices of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) alongside local partners such as Breifne Integrated.



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The overall aim is to enable the generation of business and jobs in the local economy, to engage with our citizens and improve their quality of life.

2017 marked a number of significant achievements

- The Taste of Cavan event saw over 130 stalls showcasing the best from food from Cavan and the surrounding region, and attracted 1000s of visitors.
- The Comhairle na nÓg Pop-up Gaeltacht won the All Ireland Community and Council Award under the category of Best Irish Language Initiative.
- In April 2017 the Town and Village Renewal Scheme was announced by Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht affairs.
- A number of towns and villages successfully secured funding under this scheme; Ballyjamesduff, Ballyconnell, Kingscourt, Mullagh and Belturbet were all awarded €100,000 each whilst Gowna, Dowra, Blacklion, Swanlinbar, Kilnaleck, and Arva all secured in excess of €30,000 with Butlersbridge also securing over €20,000.
- The Local Enterprise Office, Cavan was successful in having a finalist in the National Enterprise Awards in 2017 and a regional winner in the Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur competition 2017 who will progress to the national finals in March 2018.
- Over 2,500 participants attended events in Cavan Monaghan Science Festival. The Festival scooped the Award for Best Joint Local Authority initiative at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2017 and was also shortlisted as a finalist in the LAMA All-Ireland Community and Council Awards 2017.
- In November Cavan County Council was awarded Engineer CPD accredited employer status for a further three year period.
- Bob Gilbert won a national award in the Category of 'Volunteer of the Year' at the All Ireland Community and Council (LAMA) awards. The award recognised his work for the Cavan Older People's Council 2017.



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- Four groups from County Cavan were nominated to take part in the IPB (in association with Co-operation Ireland) Pride of Place Awards 2017. Erica's Fairy Forest in Cootehill was presented with a special award in the competition at the annual Pride of Place Awards Ceremony in Letterkenny on 2nd December 2017.
- Cavan County Council launched the Cavan Diaspora Engagement Strategy in May 2017 at an event in Dublin. This Diaspora Engagement Programme will create pathways for communication by strategically reaching out to members of the County's Diaspora.
- Cavan County Council made history in 2017 being the first Local Authority to hold a monthly meeting of the Council in Leinster House.

I would also like to note that significant progress was achieved in advancing the Capital Programme which included the following;

- **N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon, Section A**

The construction stage of this project commenced in May 2017 and is now well advanced and scheduled for completion by October 2018.

- **National Road Bridge Projects**

In 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. This programme of works was completed in 2017.

- **National Road Safety Schemes**

Preliminary Design was completed for N3 Virginia Main Street HD15 Scheme - Phase 2 through the Main Street.

- **Ballyconnell to Bellaheady Recreational Trail**

In partnership with Waterways Ireland, Cavan County Council has been approved over half a million euro in funding under the Outdoor and Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2017 for the first Greenway development in Cavan.



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Is mian liom buíochas a ghabháil len ár gcathaoirleach an comhairleoir Fergal Curtin agus leis an comhairleoir Paddy McDonald agus leis na ball tofa, na coistí, polasaithe straitéiseacha, leis na gníomhaíochtaí pairtnearaigh agus leis na heagraíochtaí deonacha agus pobail, as an obair agus an tacaíocht a chuireadar ar fáil i 2017

Ba mhaith liom go hairithe aitheantas a thabhairt don meid atá deanta acú le feabhas a chuir ar an gCabán ar son phobail uilig. Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a gabháil len ár bhfuirionn as an dúthracht bhuan, an dílseacht agus an curam a thug said don eagraíocht, agus athaintas a thabhairt dá sar iarrachtaí sa bhliain 2017

I wish to thank our Cathaoirligh, Councillor Fergal Curtin and Councillor Paddy McDonald and the Elected Members, Strategic Policy Committees, Partner Agencies, Voluntary and Community Organisations for their input and support in 2017 and to acknowledge their contribution in making Cavan a better place for all our citizens.

I would like to thank our staff for their continued hard work, dedication and commitment to the organisation and acknowledge their excellent contribution during 2017.

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive



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Municipal Districts and their Elected Representatives

Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District

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

Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District

- Madeleine Argue, Fine Gael
- Damian Brady, Sinn Féin
- Daniel Downey, Sinn Féin (co-opted 9 October 2017)
- John Paul Feeley, Fianna Fáil
- Eugene Greenan, Sinn Féin (resigned 30 June 2017)
- Peter McVitty, Fine Gael
- Sean Smith, Fianna Fáil

Ballyjamesduff Municipal District

- 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



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Meetings of Local Authority

Meeting	Number
Monthly, Reconvened and Special	12
Ballyjamesduff Municipal District Meetings	7
Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District Meetings	6
Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District Meetings	8
Annual General Meeting	1
Pre- Budget & Annual Budget Meetings	1
Corporate Policy Group Meetings	11
Housing, Community, Social & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee	4
Environment and Planning Strategic Policy Committee	4
Roads & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee	3
Economic Development	6
Joint Policing Committee	4
Audit Committee	4

Conferences, Seminars, Events Attended by Elected Members

Conference / Seminar / Event	Location	Purpose	Members Attended
Dundalk Chamber of Commerce	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	Tourism Conference	1
Celtic Conferences	The Clonakilty Hotel, Co. Cork	Invasive Exotic Species of Wildlife in Irish Rivers, Canals & Lakes	5
Parnell Summer School	Avondale, Co. Wicklow	Summer School	2
McGill Summer School	Glenties, Co. Donegal	Summer School	5



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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
Spring Training Seminar	Local Authority Members' Association (LAMA)	The City North Hotel, Gormanstown, Co. Meath	13
Autumn Training Seminar	Local Authority Members' Association	Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	12
Module 1 – National Planning Framework Ireland 2040	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Hotel Kilmore, Cavan; Dooley's Hotel, Waterford	7 4
Module 2 – Community Development Initiatives – Urban and Rural	Association of Irish Local Government	Castlecourt Hotel, Westport	12
Module 3 – Commercial Rates, Rating Law, Valuations & Revaluations	Association of Irish Local Government	Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran	11
Module 4 – Minding your Mental Health & Wellbeing	Association of Irish Local Government	Ard Ri House Hotel, Tuam; Clayton Silver Springs Hotel, Tivoli, Cork	5 2
Module 5 – National Public Library Strategy 2018-2022	Association of Irish Local Government	Landmark Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon; Springhill Court Hotel, Kilkenny	7 2
Module 6 – Local Authority Role in dealing with Severe Weather	Association of Irish Local Government	Shirley Arms Hotel, Carrickmacross; Amber Springs Hotel, Gorey	10 1
Annual Conference	Association of Irish Local Government	Tracey's West County Hotel, Ennis	13
Autumn Training Seminar	Association of Irish Local Government	Sligo Park Hotel	13



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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, Paddy McDonald, 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	Paddy O'Reilly
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, Daniel Downey, 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



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Payments to Members of Cavan County Council

Annual Expenses Allowance (travel, subsistence and miscellaneous expenses)	€ 89,478.55
Representational Payments	€284,236.03
Cathaoirleach / Leas Cathaoirleach Allowances (including Municipal Authorities)	€ 38,572.40
Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees	€ 24,000.00
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at Conferences, Seminars	€ 10,209.38
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at Training Events	€ 34,172.32
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at events abroad	€ 2,020.77

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 (replaced by Daniel Downey) Cllr Peter McVitty 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 Orla Sheridan, PPN Thomas Cooney, Agriculture Jimmy Jackson, Construction
Housing, Community, Social and Cultural	Roads and Infrastructure
Cllr Madeleine Argue, Chair – Replaced by Cllr Val Smith July 2017 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 - Replaced by Cllr. Paddy O'Reilly July 2017 Cllr Paddy McDonald Cllr Paddy Smith Cllr Sean Smith Cllr Philip Brady Jim Maguire Philip Smith (Agriculture) Gary Meehan Pauline Brady Flood



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Political Donations

The Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act, 1999 (as amended) requires that Elected Members of Local Authorities furnish donation statements to their Local Authority by 31st January each year giving details of donations received by them in the preceding twelve month period. No political donations were declared by the elected members for the period 1st January 2017 to the 31st December 2017 as per donations statements submitted by each elected member by the 31st of January 2018.

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



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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 is required to prepare an Annual Progress Report on the implementation of the Corporate Plan. This annual review was carried out and presented as part of the budget report submitted to the members at the time of the statutory budget meeting. The annual progress report included reports by the various



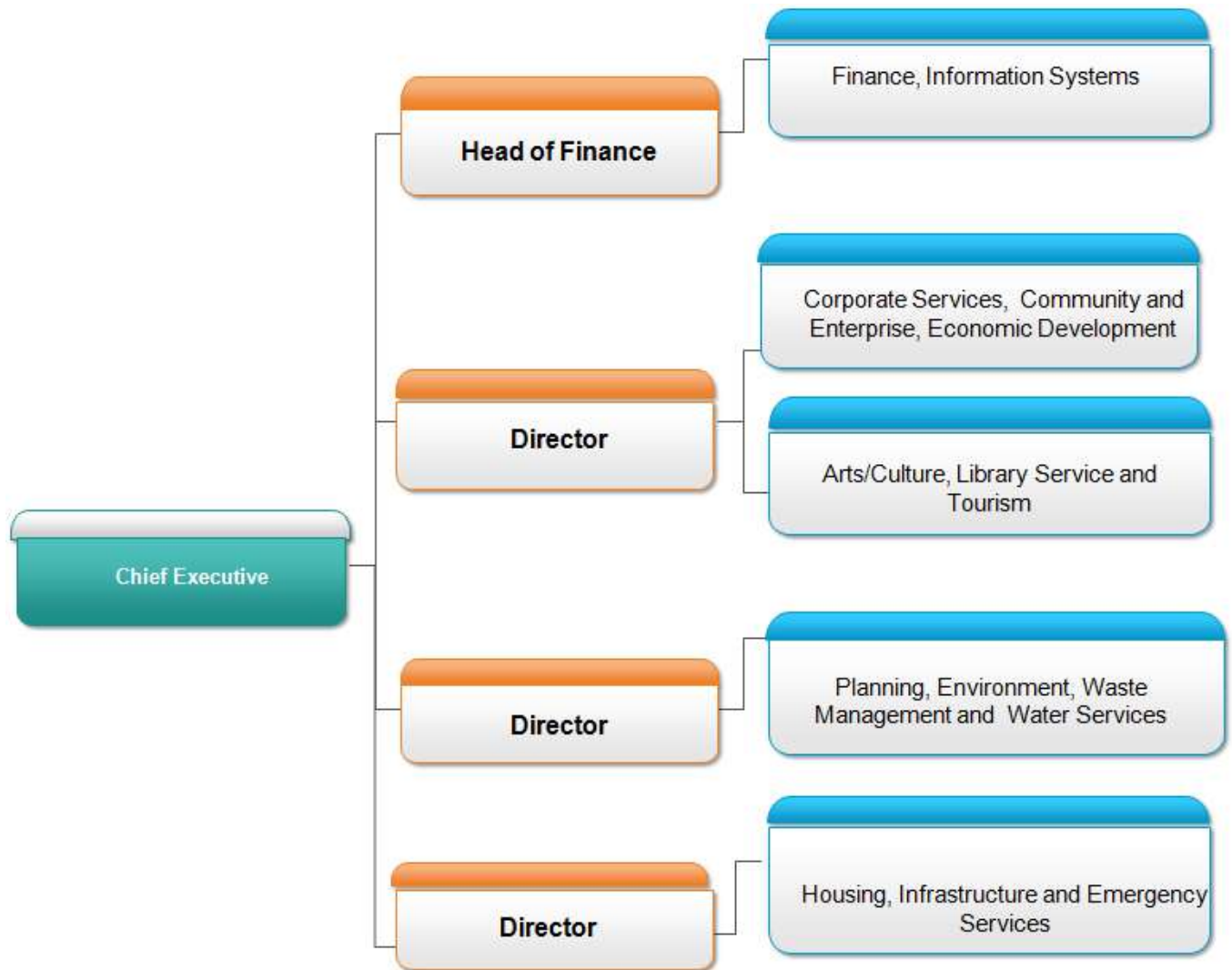
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departments and is supplemented by the Annual Service Delivery plan and the chief executives monthly reports. The report highlighted progress made during 2017 and also sets out progress made in relation to commitments set down by the Council's Corporate Plan for the period 2014 -2019.

Management Team





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Corporate Affairs, Human Resources, 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 412 staff was employed by the Council. The numbers of core staff in each of the categories:

Staffing	Number
Managerial	4
Clerical/Administrative	164
Professional/Technical	63
Outdoor	138
Contract Posts/Projects	29
Temporary/Seasonal	14
Total	412



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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%
2017	3.68%	0.23%

CORPORATE	2017
C1.Total Number of WTEs	
Wholetime equivalent staffing number at year end	389.70
C2. % of Working Days lost to Sickness (certified / uncertified)	
% of paid working days lost due to sickness absence through medically certified leave	3.35%
% of paid working days lost due to sickness absence through self - certified leave	0.23%



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Register of Electors

With responsibility for the compilation of the Draft and Live Register of Electors and also for the compilation of the Supplement to the Register. 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 as shown below.

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 as an elector, 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 in the County for the 2016/2017 Register of Electors was 54,433. (Cavan Monaghan 44,248 and Sligo Leitrim 10,185). The Constituency Commission Report of 2012 removed 36 electoral divisions, loosely alluded to in the report as "west" of County Cavan, from the Cavan-



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Monaghan constituency to the new constituency incorporating Sligo, Leitrim and part of Donegal. In relation to the Electoral Amendment (Dáil Constituencies) Act 2017 (No. 39 of 2017) which was signed into law by the President on 23 December 2017 the Counties of Cavan and Monaghan, with some population from the constituency of Meath East will form the Cavan-Monaghan constituency which will become a 5 seat constituency.

Local Electoral Area	Number of Electors
Bailieborough-Cootehill	19,477
Ballyjamesduff	19,433
Cavan-Belturbet	17,268
Total	56,178

Learning & Development

A comprehensive Training Programme continued to be delivered to enable staff carry out their role in a confident, competent manner and contribute effectively to the overall vision of the organisation and the accomplishment of its goals and objectives.

Staff training was delivered with specific emphasis on health & safety and mandatory organisational training needs.

Support continued to be provided to staff wishing to pursue further education study programmes. Congratulations to all who achieved qualifications.

In November 2017, Cavan County Council was awarded Engineers Ireland “CPD Accredited Employer” status for a further three year period.

Training continued to be delivered to all our Elected Members.

Performance Management and Development System (PMDS)

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



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The competency framework, now embedded in the organisation for both Senior and Middle Managers, is an integral part of our PMDS process.

Performance Management and Development System in Cavan County Council is driven by the Senior Management Team

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 2016	7
Number of applications received:	67
Number of applications granted:	58
Number of applications part granted:	1



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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 one protected disclosures in the 12 month period ending on 30th June 2017.

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. It is closely involved with the Cavan Children and Young People's Services Committee and the local Connecting for Life suicide prevention plan.

Local Community Development Committee

The LCDC co-ordinates various programmes and funding streams for the county including the SICAP Programme, LEADER and Peace IV. It is responsible for implementing the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan. The year 2017 was a productive one for Cavan LCDC with excellent engagement from members. Membership of the committee was reviewed during the year in line with Ministerial guidelines. During 2017 the LCDC met 10 times. An annual report was prepared on LCDC 2017 activity.



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The SICAP 2015-2017 programme drew to a close at the end of 2017 and a new contract was put in place with Breffni Integrated for the 2018-2022 programme following a tender process. The new programme has an enhanced focus on community development.

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

Three subgroups operate under the LCDC: the LCDC Equality Subgroup, the SICAP Monitoring Subgroup and the Healthy Cavan Subgroup. The Healthy Cavan subgroup was set up in 2017 to co-ordinate an application for Healthy Ireland funding and oversee the roll out of the Healthy Cavan initiative once funding was secured.



Healthy Cavan

An application for €100,000 for funding from the Healthy Ireland Initiative was approved by the Department of Health to tackle health and wellbeing issues at a local level. A Healthy Cavan Coordinator was appointed in December 2017. Eight actions under this initiative are being rolled out in partnership with the Health Service Executive, Cavan Sports Partnership, Cavan Monaghan Educational Training Board and Cavan Public Participation Network.

Local Economic and Community Plan

The Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan was reviewed in 2017 with significant progress identified in most actions. A local LECP newsletter was published twice during 2017 to communicate about developments related to the



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plan's actions.

The community half of the plan contains 4 goals and 13 strategic objectives with actions led by a variety of lead agencies. The following were significant achievements from Community Plan activity under the LECP in 2017:

- SICAP Programme exceeded KPI targets for 2017
- Opening of Peace IV small grants
- Awarding of RAPID and Community Facilities grants to the value of €129k
- Launch of Bounceback Youth Service
- Comhairle Na nÓg Pop up Gaeltacht¹
- Launch of local Connecting for Life Strategy
- Launch of Cavan Sports Partnership strategy in November 2017
- Strengthening Families Programme delivered by Cavan Drug & Alcohol Forum
- Schools diversity awareness and Traveller youth engagement projects
- Two day Disability Network conference 'It's My Space Too!'
- Successful Music Generation application for a three year project
- National recognition for Cavan Older People's Council²
- A range of environmental initiatives including National Tree Week, Tidy Towns, National Spring Clean and Green Schools
- Completion of a Community & Sports Facilities Audit Report for County Cavan

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

The Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme [SICAP] is managed by the LCDC and implemented locally by Breffni Integrated CLG. 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. Under the programme, staff in Breffni Integrated worked with individuals on a one-to-one basis to support their inclusion and progression. They also worked with a range of local community groups. During 2017 the programme had three goals focused on community development; education and training, and employment.

¹ Comhairle na nÓg won the prestigious All Ireland Community & Council Award for 2017 for the Pop Up Gaeltacht in the category of Irish language supports.

² Bob Gilbert, Chair of Cavan Older People's Council won in the category 'Community Volunteer of the Year'



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SICAP had a successful year locally in 2017, exceeding its end of year Key Performance Indicator targets [KPIs]. SICAP staff worked with 856 disadvantaged individuals and 68 local community groups.

During 2017 Breffni Integrated participated in all LCDC meetings, both through their membership of the committee and through staff presentations on SICAP activity. Midyear and end of year reports presented to the LCDC generated much discussion. In July 2017 the SICAP Programme Manager delivered a presentation on SICAP supports to young people in Cavan.

SICAP Monitoring Group meetings were held twice during the year, coinciding with reporting periods.

Key achievements of the SICAP programme in 2017 were:

- Supported the successful establishment of 132 new business start-ups in County Cavan by people who were previously unemployed
- Educational supports provided to 364 people
- Employment and enterprise training supports provided to 547 people
- A total of 941 children and young people were engaged under the programme in 2017
- Participated on a research team on social enterprise to support the Department of Rural and Community Development
- Delivered workshops on mental health, self-care and suicide alertness to secondary school students and youth groups
- Intensive work with ex-offenders and recovering drug users including work experience placements, DSP 'Employability' Programme for people with disability.
- Ongoing work to support the development of Cavan Disability Network and the Cavan Congolese Multicultural Forum.



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Cavan LCDC tendered for a new SICAP Programme to run for the 2018-2022 period. Breffni Integrated CLG won the tender for this programme and the contract was awarded in December 2017.

LEADER Programme

The LCDC committee acts as the Local Action Group [LAG] for the LEADER Programme. The LAG met a total of 9 times over the course of the year.

During 2017, a total of 15 Projects were approved LEADER funding in the amount Of € 827,390. Expression of Interests are welcome as part of Rolling Calls and are open at all times for all themes except when part of a specific closed call.

Three closed calls were undertaken in 2017 covering three sub themes with an overall Budget available of € 1,000,000. This will be changed in 2018 as the requirement for Closed Call has been reduced to 1 in a 12 month period.

The operating rules for the LEADER Programme have been streamlined and made more users friendly and the message going forward is that LEADER is open and would welcome applications

The Three sub themes covered in 2017 by the closed call were as follows;

Theme	Sub-Theme	Strategic Action	Budget €
Economic Development, Enterprise Development & Job Creation	Rural Tourism	1.1.5 Support for sustainable tourism accommodation units & facilities - Renovation of existing or derelict buildings exclusively for B&Bs and Self-catering.	€300,000
Social Inclusion	Provision of Basic Services targeted at hard to reach communities	2.1.1 Construction and upgrading of new and existing community facilities	€600,000
Social Inclusion	Rural Youth	2.2.1 Purchase of equipment for sports, arts based, drama/music youth organisations.	€100,000



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CLÁR

CLÁR is a targeted investment Programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small Infrastructure projects in area that experience disadvantage. The aim of CLÁR is to support the sustainable development of identified area with the aim of attracting people to live and work there.

There was an allocation of €5million in total for 2017, of which, up to €4.25 million is available under 3 measures to be operated via Local Authorities for a range of School and Community projects.

Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures (€2m)

Measure 2: Play Areas (€0.75m)

Measure 3: Targeted Community Infrastructure Needs (€1.5m)

Cavan received a total of € 498,184 for 11 Projects in the county under Measure 1 and Measure 2

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 2017 included:

- Further development of the Age Friendly County Programme
- Supports for the Cavan Older People's Council
- Cavan Traveller Interagency Group
- Cavan Drug and Alcohol Forum
- Support for the Local Connecting for Life suicide prevention steering committee, led by the HSE
- Support for the Children and Young People's Services Committee, led by TUSLA
- Support the implementation of social inclusion actions under the LECP.



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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.



The Alliance launched its second Age Friendly Strategy in May 2017, following the successful implementation of the first county strategy between 2013 and 2016.

Notable age friendly achievements from 2017 included:

An Garda Síochána assisted in the training of an additional 23 Crime Prevention Ambassadors for County Cavan. They provided information for older people's groups and commenced work on updating their older people's register.

Cavan Chamber of Commerce nominated staff to participate in the Age Friendly Business 'train the trainer' programme.

Bank of Ireland ran the 'Cavan Enterprise Town' event in December 2017 in St Patrick's College. This event had a specific 'age friendly' focus with a number of talks selected by older people.

The Gaelic Athletic Association ran a large scale event in March 2017 where over 250 older adults were invited to hear guest speakers and given free entry to the Cavan-Kerry game.

CMETB trained a total of 872 people aged over 55s. A range of courses were provided to men's sheds such as boiler maintenance, small engine maintenance and basket weaving. ETB has also funded dancing and art classes for older people.

Locallink Cavan Monaghan introduced C1 and C2 services in late 2016. These services have more than 1,000 passengers every week. A total of 40,467 passengers used the service in 2017, 17,078 of which were Free Travel Pass Holders. Locallink Cavan Monaghan assisted 20 different once-off trips for elderly groups in Cavan in 2017

HSE work under the Age Friendly programme included reconfiguration of Lisdarn to



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transitional beds, additional long term care beds opened in Virginia, dementia specific day care in Cootehill, and funding supports to 35 agencies to support older people in the community. Information slots on age friendly services were broadcast on Northern Sound throughout the year.

Cavan County Council's age friendly work include supporting the Older People's Council, a smoke alarm scheme, Sports Partnership activity targeting older people, housing grants, road, footpath improvements and public lighting improvements, and cultural programming including for the Bealtaine festival in May

The Cavan Older People's Council had another very active year with members meeting on a monthly basis and involved in delivering many projects. The Older People's 'Drop In' Centre ran throughout 2017 in both Cavan town and Cootehill. OPC members took part in the Bank of Ireland Enterprise Town event in Cavan in December. The OPC were interviewed on Northern Sound in June 2017 and published their newsletter a number of times during the year.

Intergenerational work took place with Transition Year students in St Clare's School, Ballyjamesduff. In May Cavan Older People's Council were entertained with song and drama by the TY students of St Clare's. Intergenerational activities included drama, choral concerts, pageants commemorating the 1916 Rising, letter-writing to a younger past version or an older future one of oneself, and narratives using older photographs.

The OPC's Annual General Meeting was held in May in the Kilmore Hotel. A new Executive Committee was voted in on the day. Induction training was provided for new OPC members in June.

Bob Gilbert won a national award in the category of 'Volunteer of the Year' at the All Ireland Community and Council (LAMA) Awards 2018. The awards ceremony was in Croke Park in February 2018. The award recognised his work with the Cavan Older People's Council in 2017.



Members of Cavan Older People's Council elected at the AGM in May 2017.

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 2017 included the delivery of a Traveller Ethnicity Seminar in October which also covered the topic of Public Sector Duty. Emily Logan, Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, was the keynote speaker.

Cavan County Council supports a community development service provided by Cavan Traveller Movement [CTM]. During 2017 CTM delivered a Youth Engagement Project, a schools awareness programme and provides ongoing supports to the Traveller Men's Shed.



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Drug and Alcohol Forum

The Cavan Drug and Alcohol Forum met on a quarterly basis in 2017. This forum provides networking opportunities for relevant services and implements a work plan. Approximately 20 organisations are represented ranging from HSE services, public sector agencies, drug and alcohol services, youth, community and family support services. A key achievement from 2017 was the delivery of a Strengthening Families parenting programme with funding from the North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Forum and TUSLA.

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 four times over 2017. Key achievements included:

- The completion and launch of the County Cavan JPC Plan 2017 - 2022 in May 2017.
- An Garda Síochána held a number of open days in their stations. One was held in Bailieborough in December 2016 and another in Cavan in September 2017.
- Property Marking Machine was purchased in December 2017 and will be rolled out over 2018 for Community Alert Groups to use.
- The Department of Justice launched funding for Community CCTV schemes. A number of communities in County Cavan are interested in setting up CCTV schemes for their local areas. The JPC established a subgroup to support communities in September 2017. An information leaflet to support communities through the process was also produced.
- Muintir Na Tire rolled out the Crime Prevention Ambassadors Initiative over 2017 with 21 volunteers recruited from Cavan to participate in the programme.



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Pride of Place

Four groups from County Cavan were nominated to take part in the IPB (in association with cooperation Ireland) Pride of Place Awards 2017. Erica's Fairy Forest in Cootehill was presented with a special award in the competition at the annual Pride of Place Awards Ceremony in Letterkenny on 2nd December 2017. 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.



Natasha and Ciaran O Draighneain receiving their award at Pride of Place 2017

Cavan Diaspora Engagement Strategy 2017 – 2021

Cavan County Council launched the Cavan Diaspora Engagement Strategy in May 2017 at an event in Dublin.

The Cavan Diaspora Engagement Project offers a chance to step forward and extend the hand of friendship to the thousands of people who may wish to shape the future of Cavan, no matter where they live. This community is made up of people



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from every walk of life with a link to Cavan in some way, by ancestry, through business or community connections as well as friendship. Cavan County Council acknowledge the importance of sustaining this unique Diaspora, creating a platform that deliberately connects with and supports this diverse community of people. As well as reaching out to the Diaspora abroad, there is huge potential for local communities to reach out to their own Diasporas to build new relationships to benefit local development.

This Diaspora Engagement Programme will create pathways for communication by strategically reaching out to members of the County's Diaspora.

Cavan County Council received funding of €10,000 from the Department of the Taoiseach to undertake the Strategy.

Taste of Cavan 2017



The food world descended on Cavan Town on Friday and Saturday 11/12th August for the Taste of Cavan food festival at Cavan Equestrian Centre.

Thousands of people yet again thronged to the two-day celebration of Cavan food to see demonstrations from star chefs Neven Maguire, The Happy Pear, Catherine Fulvio, Richard Corrigan, Gearoid Lynch, Eddie Attwell, Shane Smith, Adrian Martin and many more in the Ulster Bank Chefs' Kitchen.

This year's event saw over 130 stalls showcasing the best food from Cavan and the surrounding region.

A major attraction at this year's event was the free kids' fun zone, which featured a wide variety of activities to keep the little ones, entertained, including magic shows,



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science demonstrations, giant bouncy castles, climbing walls, O'Egg Fun on the Farm and more.

The primary driver behind the event is the promotion of the agri-food sector locally, and organisers have revealed that seven exhibitors have entered into negotiations with major suppliers as a result of connections made at Taste of Cavan this year. Once again event sponsor SuperValu brought its Food Academy, which includes several Cavan success stories such as Drummully Boxy, Scott's Cider and Moran's Mega Jam.

Speaking following the event, John McDermott, Senior Manager with principal event sponsor Ulster Bank said the bank was proud of its relationship with Taste of Cavan due to its "hugely positive impact on the community".

Cavan County Council is the lead organisation involved in running Taste of Cavan, supported by partner organisations such as Fáilte Ireland, the IFA, the ICA, and Bord Bia.

Cavan Christmas Multi-Cultural Market

Cavan Multi-Cultural Committee in association with Cavan County Council and Cavan Chamber of Commerce hosted a Christmas Market in Cavan Town from Friday, 8 December until Sunday 10 December.

The market showcased what Cavan has to offer, with food and crafts representing the multicultural face of Cavan. With the revamped Market Square offering a bright new, open space in the town centre, the 2017 Christmas Market increased in size, with the number of cabins growing from eight to fourteen.

The multicultural Christmas Market also incorporated Christmas trees decorated according to the customs of some of the new communities living in Cavan.

The three-day market also featured lots of entertainment including Santa's Grotto, traditional music, Christmas Carols, music from the multi-cultural committee and cookery demonstrations. Twelve restaurants in town got involved and took part in a Taste Trail which was a great success and showcased the best of Cavan food.

The project was part-funded by Cavan County Council and is supported by the EU's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.



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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 €45,000 was allocated to 85 community groups in 2017.

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. 250 people attended the Awards Night to celebrate with the 29 nominees. A new Category of Arts/Culture/Heritage was included this year

In 2017, the recipients of the awards under the various categories were:

Youth:	Britany Arendse, Virginia College
Social Inclusion:	Philomena Clarke, Cootehill Cancer Care
Community:	Jim Denning, Maghera Development Association
Sports:	John Joe and Abby Brady, Cavan LGFA and Mullahoran Ladies GAA
Active Age:	Frances O Callaghan Positive Age
Arts/Culture/Heritage	Declan Smith, Laragh Variety Show

Britany Ardsende won the overall winner's prize winning €1000 for her School Virginia College.



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Accessibility

A new group was established in 2016 called “Cavan Disability Network” to act as an umbrella group and give a voice to the many disability groups and individuals across the county with an interest in this area. The Access Officer with Cavan County Council attends monthly meetings held by “Cavan Disability Network” to help support access and quality of life for people with disabilities. Any issues raised are taken onboard and dealt with, where possible. “Cavan Disability Network” held a two day conference entitled “It’s Our Space Too” in Castle Saunderson Complex at the end of June 2017 which was highly successful and very well attended.

We have reviewed a number of towns throughout the county with a view to making accessibility improvements in these areas.

The “Disabled Go” online access guide is ongoing. County Cavan is part of an online accessibility audit called “Disabled Go”, giving visitor’s detailed information on over 500 businesses and activities in the county. “Disabled Go” helps people make informed decisions about the levels of access likely to be encountered.

The rollout of the “Town Teams” initiative coupled with the “Town and Village Renewal” initiative commenced in early and mid 2017 respectively, both of which require an input from an accessibility point of view.

All of the work mentioned above is ongoing and will continue into 2018 alongside the processing of the Disability Access Certificates and dealing with accessibility queries from Cavan County Council Staff and members of the public.

Ballyconnell to Bellaheady Recreational Trail

In partnership with Waterways Ireland, Cavan County Council has been approved over half a million euro in funding under the Outdoor and Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2017 (Department of Rural and Community Development) for the first Greenway development in Cavan. The total cost of the project is €746,637 with the



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€150,000 match funding being equally provided by both partners.

The recreational trail extends 5.5km from Ballyconnell town to Bellaheady Bridge along the Woodford River on the Shannon-Erne Waterway and is part of a larger 54km Cavan and Leitrim Greenway development from Belturbet to Dromod.

This Greenway will be a major asset to the surrounding areas, connecting Bellaheady community to Ballyconnell town, bringing the old towpaths of the Woodford River back into use and it will link with the existing 6km Ballyconnell Canal Loop trail.

Angling Access along Prospect Shore at Brackley Lake

Cavan County Council has been approved in excess of €31,000 in funding under the National Strategy for Angling Development Fund 2017 (Inland Fisheries Ireland) for improving angling access at Brackley Lake. The total cost of the project is €51,444 with Cavan County Council providing the match funding through own labour and cash contribution.

Prospect Shore at Brackley Lake is renowned for being one of the top fishing locations in one of Europe's most prestigious coarse angling events, The Lakelands and Inland Waterways World Pairs Championship, consistently yielding some of the highest weights in the competition.

Providing an accessible footway to the shoreline will cement Prospect Shore's place on the World Pairs Angling Championship, enable pleasure anglers to enjoy this fishery throughout the season and will ensure the local economy continues to benefit from attracting anglers from Ireland, Europe and beyond to this outstanding natural fishery.



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Service Indicators	2016	2017
Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme	100%	100%
Number of organisations registered with the Public Participation Network (*Groups re-registered in 2016 – database updated)	192*	280
Number of organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	51	78

Cavan Public Participation Network

Cavan Public Participation Network (Cavan PPN) was established in July 2014 and now includes over 280 registered groups as part of its network. A committee of 24 community representatives from the Secretariat of the Cavan PPN with representation being fulfilled on 19 boards and committees. These representations come from three themed sectors of Environment, Social Inclusion and Community/Voluntary and three geographic sectors of Cavan-Belturbet, Ballyjamesduff and Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal Districts.

In 2017 Cavan PPN held 2 countywide gatherings for community groups, 12 thematic consultations for the public and 4 training sessions. These training sessions included Funding Awareness (82 reps participated), Committee Roles & Responsibilities (24 reps participated), Volunteer Management (54 reps participated) and Environmental Awareness (33 reps participants). Cavan PPN also partnered with agencies such as Breffní Integrated and Cavan County Council to assist in their community work to roll out an excellent Countywide Disability Conference in summer of 2017.

Cavan PPN assists in networking community news and events and in 2017 published 15 e-news bulletins, 4 newsletters and weekly social media updates of community events sent in by its registered members and partners.

With these regular updates, quarterly training sessions and active representation on a variety of bodies Cavan PPN is working to fulfil its three pillars of Communication-Representation-Education for community groups across County Cavan.



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December Training Session delivered by Voice Ireland helping community groups become more environmentally aware and friendly

Cavan Sports Partnership

In 2017 Cavan Sports Partnership was awarded funding of €196,505 from the Irish Sports Council for its operational and programme deliveries.

The sports partnership launched its new strategic plan 'Sport and activity for life, for all' 2017-2021.





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The sports partnership's mission; 'Sport and activity for life, for all'; achieving this through providing opportunities for individuals, sports clubs and communities to become more physically active.

In November 2017, Cavan Sports Partnership (CSP) accessed €79,213 additional funding towards a community sports hub, youth leadership training and a community coaching programme.

Key initiatives the Sports Partnership was involved with in 2017 include the following;

- Sports inclusion programme delivered over 30 participation programmes to people with a disability county wide.
- There was 38 'Active adults 50+' programmes delivered throughout the county
- The training and education programme delivered safeguarding 1,2 &3 courses along with disability awareness, games for all and first aid training to sports club coaches and volunteers throughout the county.
- Cavan's first sports networking event with National Governing Bodies of sport and local sports clubs was held in November.
- Cavan walking festival held another week long event in 2017 in partnership with Cavan Geopark, Heritage, Tourism and local walking clubs and community groups.
- CSP signed up to the Healthy Cavan Framework as part of the healthy Ireland national initiative and was awarded funding for the delivery of
 - Cavan fit towns – community based physical activity initiative in communities of Kilnaleck, West Cavan, Virginia, Cavan Town & Cootehill.
 - Cavan fit schools – a 'daily mile' initiative targeting primary school children throughout the county.
- CSP delivered the national initiatives; bikeweek.ie, 'Get Ireland Walking' and 'Xcessible youth' in partnership with local clubs, agencies and community groups.
- Community sports development officer continued working in primary and secondary schools producing two schools brochures offering a variety of



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coaching and training opportunities. As a result of this initiative a number of new sports have been introduced in schools throughout the county e.g. Tug of War, Spike ball, off road biking.

- Community Transformation 2017 took place in Kilnaleck, Virginia and Cootehill and CSP supported the Cavan operation transformation national leader throughout the RTE programme.
- Two workplace wellbeing initiatives with Cavan County Council staff took place.
- Dormant accounts funding was awarded for the following initiatives
 - Kilnaleck Community Sports Hub
 - Sports leader TY youth leadership programme in secondary schools
 - Community coaching programme in partnership with CMETB targeting unemployed persons.





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PEACE IV

Cavan County Council – Lead Partner secured €3,128,825.00 PEACE IV Funding. This project/initiative is supported by the EU's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.

The total of €3,128,825.00 has been allocated to Cavan Co Council for the 2016-2019 period to deliver their operations which will contain projects under the themes of:

- Children and Young People;
- Shared Spaces and Services; and
- Building Positive Relations

Cavan Co Councils PEACE IV Action Plan is a targeted and locally-based response to the needs that were identified in Cavan Co Councils PEACE IV public consultations.



Children and Young People; Delivery methods:

Partner deliveries =

- Cavan/Monaghan ETB – FACE OFF Youth Project
- Cavan Co Council – Arts Office – Cavan youth Arts Lab Programme
- Cavan Co Council – Cavan County Museum – Youth Programme

Children and Young People Small Grants Programme



Shared spaces and Services;

- Cavan County Museum
- Town Hall Cavan
- Bailieborough Development Association – Bailieborough Court House



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Building Positive Relations; Delivery Methods:

Partner deliveries =

- Cavan/Monaghan ETB – Fostering Shared Communities
- Cavan Library Service – Decade of commemorations; Multi-Cultural Events; Voices of the Troubles and Cavan and the Revolutionary Period

Tender Deliveries:

- Cavan Traveller Movement - Building the Capacity of Minority Communities
- Cavan GAA Breffni Park – Building Greater Community Integration and Cohesion

Building Positive Relations Small Grants Programme

Comhairle Na nÓg

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund provides €20,000 annually to local authorities to run an effective Comhairle na nÓg. Local authorities also provide resources for Comhairle na nÓg. Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund is managed and supported by Foroige and administered by Pobal.

Comhairle na nÓg are child and youth councils in the 31 local authorities of the country, which give children and young people the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies.

Comhairle AGM took place on Monday 9th October 2017 in the Castlesaunderson Scouting Centre from 10am to 2.30pm. CCC CE – Tommy Ryan attended and addressed the 120+ young people in attendance. Cathaoirleach Paddy Mc Donald also addressed the young people. Cllr's Madeline Argue, John Paul Feely and Peter Mc Vitty were also in attendance. 25 new members were elected onto Comhairle na nOg for 2017/18.



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The area's identified for Comhairle na nOg to work on for 2017 were:

- Organise and host a Pop-up Irish speaking history event for Comhairle na nOg's from Ulster and Connaught; Longford were also invited
- Promotion of Comhairle na nOg
- Positive Mental Health

In light of the fact that Comhairle na nÓg is for young people under the age of 18 and who therefore have no other voting mechanism to have their voice heard, Comhairle na nÓg is designed to enable young people to have a voice on the services, policies and issues that affect them in their local area. Comhairle na nOg steering committee is chaired by the Cathaoirleach of Cavan Co Council and supported by other members from locally based voluntary and statutory agencies.

- Comhairle members participated and delivered a number of projects/actions throughout 2017 including a presentation to the elected representatives in the Chamber on 12 June 2017. The presentation was well received by the CCC councillors.
- Comhairle members also attended a 3 day team building and discussion residential at the Delphi centre in Co Mayo.
- Comhairle members attended the Dial na nOg event in Croke Park, this event is attended by members from all Comhairle na nOgs in Ireland.
- 4 Comhairle members are participating on a cross border Brexit group along with Comhairle members from Monaghan and Louth and our neighbouring Northern Counties.
- Comhairle na nOg organised a Pop-up Gaeltacht as part of Creative Ireland 2017 on the 27 & 28 June 2017 in Castlesaunderson. Cavan Comhairle na nOg hosted this event for all other Comhairle's from Ulster and Connaught (Longford was also invited). The event was a great success and finished in the Council chamber with an address from the Cathaoirleach Paddy mc Donald and CE CCC Tommy Ryan.



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SUCCESS!!

Cavan Comhairle na nOgs Pop-up Gaeltacht WINS the All Ireland Community & Council Awards. Category - Best Irish Language Initiative; This two day event took Irish out of the classroom and made it fun to speak, normalising the language and making it more accessible for everyone.



Town Teams

Under Action 8.1a of the Local Economic Community Plan, Cavan Co Council, as Lead Partner, committed to establishing 'Town Teams' in a number of towns throughout the County. Three Town Teams were established in 2017 in Cavan, Cootehill and Virginia. Each Town Team launched their 'Town Plan' which proposes the development and implementation of a number of short, medium and long-term actions. The needs, aspirations and vision of the local communities are at the core of the Town Plans.



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Town and Village Renewal Scheme

In April 2017 the Town and Village Renewal Scheme was announced by Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht affairs. A number of towns and villages successfully secured funding under this scheme; Ballyjamesduff, Ballyconnell, Kingscourt, Mullagh and Belturbet were all awarded €100,000 each whilst Gowna, Dowra, Blacklion, Swanlinbar, Kilnaleck, and Arva all secured in excess of €30,000 with Butlersbridge also securing in excess of €20,000. Works under the Town and Village renewal schemes will commence in early 2018.



Launch of Cootehill Town Team Plan in May 2017

Town & Village Revitalisation Plans

Cavan County Council appointed Gaffney & Cullivan Architects in association with Tyréns, urban renewal specialists, to prepare Town & Village Revitalisation Plans for twenty towns and villages in County Cavan. These plans involve two rounds of public consultations, with two being held in each Municipal District, the first of which took place this year with the second round commencing in the first quarter of 2018. The aim of the plans is to propose how improvements can enhance the towns and villages as attractive places in which to live and work; the towns and villages



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included are; Cavan, Virginia, Bailieborough, Ballyjamesduff, Cootehill, Kingscourt, Belturbet, Mullagh, Ballyconnell, Ballinagh, Ballyhaise, Shercock, Killeshandra, Arva, Kilnaleck, Swanlinbar, Butlersbridge, Blacklion, Gowna and Dowra. These plans are due to be completed in June 2018.



Public Consultation in respect of Town and Village Revitalisation Plans

Virginia Shop Front Paint Scheme

In 2017 as part of a new initiative, Fleetwood Paints, along with Cavan Co Council and Virginia Town Team launched a Shop Front Paint Scheme, providing grant aid for commercial premises in Virginia who wish to paint their shop fronts.

In 1971 Fleetwood opened their factory, and current home, in Virginia Co. Cavan and since then have gone from strength to strength. Having been approached by Virginia Town Team to support a 'Shop Front Paint Scheme,' Fleetwood Paints recognised the importance of supporting this local based initiative and agreed to sponsor the paint under the scheme. Cavan Co Council through the Town Team initiative has also come on board to offer grant assistance to cover the cost of works under the scheme.

Speaking at the launch of the scheme in Fleetwood Paint in Virginia in November 2017, both the Cathaoirleach of Cavan Co Council, Councillor Paddy Mc Donald and Stan Buckley Managing Director of Fleetwood Sherwin Williams said this scheme is



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a great example of local business, community development groups and the Local Authority coming together to bring about positive changes within communities. The scheme will be rolled out in early 2018 with most of the works to be complete by the summer by which time the town will be awash with colour.



Pictured at the launch of the Virginia Shop Front Scheme are Elected Members and staff from Cavan County Council along with representatives from Fleetwood Paints, Virginia.

Cavan Food Strategy

A new Food Strategy for Cavan was launched in June 2017. The five year strategy aims to promote a more coordinated and collaborative approach to the development of the 'Cavan Food Product'. The implementation of the actions set out in the strategy will help strengthen our current food initiatives, encourage new activity and support all those involved in the food sector in Cavan.

During the preparation of the strategy consultation was carried out with a broad range of stakeholders involved in the sector in the County. From this consultation the following key areas were identified for development:



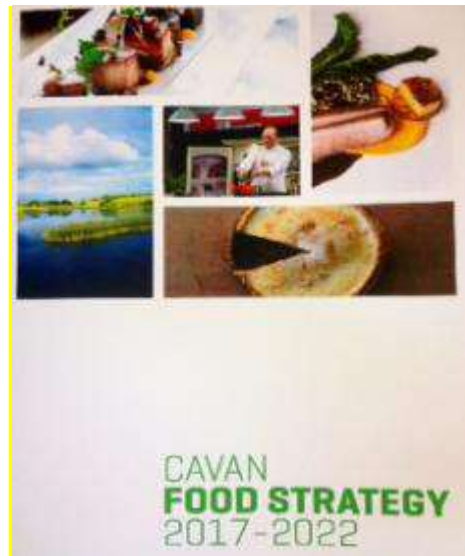
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- Communication
- Business Supports
- Food Tourism
- Routes to Market

A key stakeholder steering group will be established to oversee the implementation of the strategy and will act as a catalyst for its success.



The Bridge Street Resource and Community Centre

The Bridge Street Resource & Community Centre CLG is firmly established as a key resource of the Community and Enterprise section, under the management of Project Administrator Errol Stafford. The Centre plays an integral part in facilitating, supporting and promoting social inclusion, the community & voluntary sectors and family support services in Cavan town and the surrounding areas.

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

In addition to the established tenant groups based in the centre, being Breffni Community Employment, Cavan Traveller Movement, Tearmann Domestic Abuse Service and the Youth Advocate Programme, 2017 saw two further groups rent office space.

Rehab Care, who use the boardroom on 4 days per week for their New Directions Programme; and secondly, Foróige's Youth Education and Training Initiative (YETI) project for Cavan.



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Highlight's of some new groups/programmes/initiatives in the centre during 2017 included:

Cavan-Monaghan ETB's Peace IV Fostering Shared Communities project began an ongoing weekly conversational English class for migrants, called Fáilte Isteach.

- SHINE, the national organisation dedicated to upholding the rights and addressing the needs of all those affected by mental ill health, ran a programme of weekly workshops and mental health support groups.
- The Irish Deaf Society ran an Irish Sign Language course and examinations.
- A number of Digital Skills for Citizens computer courses for beginners were held throughout the year.
- The Cavan/Monaghan Drug and Alcohol Service's *Deis Nua* community employment scheme used the kitchen for a catering course during the summer. *Deis Nua* is a recovery and reintegration based scheme.
- The newly established Cavan Town Team holds their monthly meetings in the centre.
- TUSLA continue to utilise the centre for training and meetings, primarily for social work access visits.
- Cavan Lithuanian School were visited by a delegation from a school in Lithuania during late October and early November, and used the centre for various activities including a traditional Irish music session with the NYAH Comhaltas group, and an Irish language class. The Lithuanian school takes place in the centre every Saturday morning, with 57 children enrolled for the 2017-'18 school year.



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Pictured at LEO Cavan launch event of Local Enterprise Week 2017, *Brexit – A Way Forward For Your Business*:

L-R: Carol Lynch, Partner, BDO Customs and International Trade Services; Thomas hunter McGowan, Chief Executive, InterTradelreland; Eoin Doyle, Director of Services, Cavan County Council; Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive, Cavan County Council; Edgar Morgenroth, Associate Research Professor, Economic and Social Research institute; James Fox, Assistant Head of Enterprise, LEO Cavan; Paschal McGuire, Director North East and North West Regions Enterprise Ireland and Marcella Rudden, Head of Enterprise, LEO Cavan.



The Local Enterprise Office Cavan (LEO Cavan) engaged in a broad range of activities throughout 2017. 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



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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 2017, there have been some key outputs for LEO Cavan, illustrating the innovative and ambitious nature of our entrepreneurs in County Cavan. For example, 27 businesses were approved a total of €473,225 in financial assistance. In addition, 21 businesses were approved for Trading Online Voucher scheme funding in 2017 to develop their online trading presence and capacity. The number of gross jobs created in businesses supported by the LEO in 2017 was 206. Over the course of the year, 44 enterprise related training programmes and 15 network events/seminars were delivered by LEO Cavan and attended by over 1200 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 skills and potential. Also during 2017, 91 businesses availed of our mentoring programme across a wide range of business areas, including ecommerce and trading online. Demand and membership for our business networks remains strong and we look forward to continuing developing our business networks in 2018. In 2017 we continued to prioritise assisting existing businesses to expand and grow and face challenges, including BREXIT, as they look to compete domestically and internationally. Our training and mentoring programmes are a critically important intervention to those particular businesses.

The launch of the Co-Innovate Programme in 2017, a partnership led by InterTradelreland and involving the six LEOs in the Border Region, brings a timely opportunity for innovative SMEs to access research and development supports. 23 Cavan businesses commenced their engagement in the first strand of the Co-Innovate programme in 2017 and another 20 businesses are expected to commence at workshops to be delivered by LEO Cavan in 2018.



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Promoting and highlighting enterprise and entrepreneurship as widely as possible is supported by initiatives such as Local Enterprise Week which took place from March 6th to 10th, Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur, Student Enterprise Programme and the National Enterprise Awards. LEO Cavan was successful in having a finalist in the National Enterprise Awards in 2017 and a regional winner in Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur competition 2017, who progressed to the National Final in March 2018.

LEO Cavan is actively engaged in all National LEO programmes and initiatives including the Local Enterprise Village at the National Ploughing Championships, Showcase, National Women's Enterprise Day, Food Academy and the National Food Strategy.

Networking remains a core demand led business support that LEO Cavan have successfully provided over the past number of years. CBWC (Cavan Business Women's Club) and CNET (Cavan Employers HR and Skills Network), have continued to flourish and retain an engaging, interactive membership.

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 2018 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.



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Pictured at the National Enterprise Awards Final 2017 in Mansion House Dublin:
L-R: Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive Cavan County Council; Kieron Moran, Morans Mega Jam; Former Taoiseach Enda Kenny; Claire Moran, Morans MegaJam; Jim Fox, Local Enterprise Office Cavan.

Enterprise and Economic Development SPC

The Economic and Enterprise SPC met on 6 occasions during 2017. Some of the following topics were discussed during the year:

- Local Economic and Community Plan
- Cavan Economic Forum
- Regional Skills Forum
- Enterprise Ireland Regional Development Fund
- Tourism Project updates
- Local Enterprise Office updates

The members of the Enterprise and Economic Development SPC are set out below.

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

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



Cultural Affairs

Library Services

2017 was a pivotal year for Cavan County Library service as the new development plan ‘**Evolving Libraries**’, the template for service development 2017 -2021, was launched. The title of the plan is apt in that the role of the service is an evolving and ever changing one. Collaboration is the new norm and it is important to link and adhere to the objectives of the Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 -2021.



The Creative Ireland Programme was also launched this year as the successor to the 1916 commemorative programme and the library service is playing a major role in programme delivery for the county. One hundred and thirty members of the public attended a workshop in April to discuss Creative Ireland and this impressive attendance reflects the interest in the programme. The cultural team for the county



Creative Ireland Workshop April 2017

includes the County Librarian, Arts Officer, Museum Curator, Communications Officer, Heritage Officer, the manager of the Peace IV programme and the manager of Ramor Theatre. The team is led by Eoin Doyle, Director of Service. The Creative Cavan programme was

launched by Minister for Culture, Heather Humphreys in St. Kilian’s Heritage Centre, Mullagh in June. Highlights from the local programme included the Word Farming workshops which involved forty students from Loreto College examining the use of Anglo Saxon, Hiberno English, Greek and Latin, Irish and Scots vocabulary in everyday language. The group came together at





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the project end to deliver two performances. Cavan based poet Noel Monahan reflected on his poetry in Cootehill library in September and he delivered a paper on Cavan literary figures in November. Other notable events included Scealta Dar dTalun project in Ballyhaise and 'Ancient and Wild' in the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark in west Cavan.

One of the most innovative advancements in library service delivery occurred this year with the implementation of Sierra, the new Library Management System. It means that all Irish public libraries are working together to create one joint library catalogue using a shared computer system.

It also allows borrowers to obtain requested material from other libraries within the week. Cavan County Library service is conscious of collaboration with outside agencies and the **Spring Lecture**



Series included one on farm safety by Peter Gohery and Arthur Byrne from the ESB in Drumavaddy hall, the importance of making a will with solicitor Garrett Fortune and a lecture by Brendan Connolly from Teagasc on farming in harmony with biodiversity.

Spring Lecture Series – Farm Safety at Drumavaddy March 17

The annual Bishop Francis MacKiernan lecture took place in Cavan town library in February with Dr Thomas O Connor speaking on Irish clergy and the Spanish Inquisition in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries and Cumann Seanchais Bhréifne organised a one day conference in October on 'Towns in the Ulster Plantation'.

Cruinniú na Cásca, the new cultural festival for Easter Monday was celebrated in Cavan town library with the launch of the exhibition 'Safarnama' by Amna Kiran who was born in Pakistan and her work reflects the journey made from her native country to Cavan.



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During Age and Opportunity **Bealtaine Festival** in May one of Ireland's best known singers and entertainers Len Graham performed in Bailieborough and Cootehill libraries. Robert Grogan 'Strolled through Ulysses' in Cootehill library and Jonny Dillon, archivist with the National Folklore Collection in UCD spoke on folk traditions in Cavan.



'Strolling Through Ulysses' at Cootehill Library June 17



Children's Art Exhibition in Johnston Central Library Dec 17



Glor Bhréifne presentation of scholarships May 17

Cavan County Council in association with Glór Bhréifne gave five scholarships to the Gaeltacht for secondary school students. Both Bailieborough and Cootehill libraries worked with the Bailieborough Midsummer festival and Cootehill Arts Festival respectively in organising a number of events to coincide with the festivals.

The local network for the national '**Right to Read**' programme was established in June and an implementation plan was developed. A number of collaborative initiatives took place and important linkages were established by the network. The national '**Spring into Storytime**' initiative took place in April and children and parents participated in Cavan town, Bailieborough and Cootehill libraries. In June the popular Summer Stars Reading programme returned and in October authors and storytellers visited libraries across Cavan to celebrate.



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Class Visit Storytime at Bailieborough Library March 17

Summer Stars Reading Awards at Belturbet Library Oct 17

The **Taste of Cavan** food festival took place on August 11 and 12 and Cavan Library Service in conjunction with Cavan Genealogy took a stand at the event. It proved an excellent opportunity to discuss with visitors the various library services on offer and for Genealogy staff to provide information on genealogy, birth records, census material and parish registers.

Cavan Monaghan Science Festival 2017 in conjunction with Monaghan County Council ran from November 7 to 21. This was the second successful year for the programme and highlights in Cavan included talks and workshops on The Science of Mindfulness, Safety around Farm Machinery, The Science behind Alzheimer's and Dementia, The Mystery of Food Labelling, Science of Politics, and the Science of Sleep Apnea. The family day on November 18 proved extremely popular with Science of the Circus Family shows, The Big Bear Planetarium, and opportunities to learn about science, technology, engineering and maths in a new way.



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Cavan Monaghan Science Festival antics across Co. Cavan Nov 17

Culture Night in September is now an annual highlight and this year The Armagh Rhymers entertained the Cavan town library audience to a lively session of music and dance. Storyteller Eddie Lenihan also performed in the library in his own original and unique style. In Cootehill library Larry McCluskey delivered 'Lone Wolf', a one act play by local playwright John McManus.

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

The link up with Lithuanian Community in Cavan continues to pay dividends with weekly visits from the Lithuanian week end school taking place to Cavan town library. Lithuania achieved independence in 1918 and this event will be marked next year in the library with an exhibition by Cavan's Lithuanian community.

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.



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Armagh Rhymers in Cavan Library on Culture Night
Library June 17



Parent & Child Art Workshop in Arva
Library

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Cavan Library Staff Team pictured with Director of Service Eoin Doyle Dec 17

An Ghaeilge a Chur Chun Cinn

Tá an Ghaeilge mar dlúthchuid de roinnt d'imeachtaí an Chomhairle Contae, go mór-mhór sna seirbhísí cultúrtha. Tá sí fite fuaite tríd na nimeachtaí éagsúla cosúil le Bliain na Gaeilge, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Club Leabhar an Chabháin, Ciorcal Comhrá, Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta, Ceardlanna don Scrúdú Béil, Bealtaine, Oíche Chultúir agus Féile Leabhair na bPáistí agus clár scoileanna.

Cuireadh tús le Bliain na Gaeilge ag tús na bliana seo, 2018, agus dá bharr sin, tá an tOifigeach Gaeilge ag obair go dian leis an Roinn Pobail & Fiontar agus le Comhairle na nÓg chun clár iomlán a sheoladh don POP UP Gaeltacht i gCaisleán Sandarsan. Ar an 23 Meitheamh 2018 seolfar tráthnóna spraoi i nGaeilge i gCearnóg Bhaile an Chabháin mar chuid de Chlár Éire Ildánach agus Cruinniú na nÓg.

Oibríonn an Comhairle Contae le Glór Bhréifne, Ógras, Conradh na Gaeilge, Oifig Sheachtain an Gaeilge, An Oireachtas, Coláiste na bhFiann agus Gaelscoil Bhreifne le tamall anuas chun réimse leathan imeachtaí a chur ar fáil as Gaeilge.



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I mbliana, tugadh cuireadh do scoileanna náisiúnta ceolchoirm a chur ar siúil agus bhí oíche den scoth againn le dráma, ceol agus damhsa i Mí Márta.

Thar na blianta, bhíodh aoichainteoirí ó na ceithre hairde ag tabhairt léachtaí, ceardlanna nó díreach ag buaileadh isteach, daoine cosúil le Áogan Ó Fearghail, *iar-uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael*, *Mary Sullivan*, *bainisteoir ar Ghinealas an Chabháin*, Philip Clarke, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí an Chabháin, Treasa Ní Ailpín, údar is comhordaitheoir an Gaelbhratach agus Lynette Fay, craoltóir ar TG4. Tháinig na húdair, Anna Heussaff, Colette Nic Aodha, Éilis Ní Dhuibhne, Ré Ó Laighleis, Áine Ní Ghlinn, Proinsias Mac a Bhaird agus Andreas Ó Cathasaigh chun labhairt linn freisin. Cuirtear ceardlanna don scrúdú béil ar fáil do dhaltaí na hArdteiste timpeall an chontae. Tá éileamh mór ar an seirbhís seo toisc go bhfuil 40% de mharcanna ar fáil don teanga labhartha sa scrúdú Gaeilge. Coimeádtar an praghas íseal chun seans a thabhairt do gach dalta freastal ar an gcúrsa. Tá sé thar a bheith tábhachtach go bhfuil praghas an chúrsa íseal go leor ionas go mbeidh gach dalta ábalta freastal ar an gcúrsa. Níl uainn ach pá an mhúinteora a chlúdach.

Tá Club na nÓg faoi chúram Ógras ag dul ó neart go neart le beagnach 40 paistí ag freastal air go rialta. Labhraítear Gaeilge leo ag na cruinnithe agus bíonn deiseanna acu bualadh le daoine óga ó chontaetha eile ó am go chéile. Is seirbhís é chun forbairt a dhéanamh ar líofacht na teanga nach raibh ar fáil roimhe seo. De réir thorthaí taighde má théann tú i dtaití ar dhá theanga is tú óg, beidh sé níos éasca teangacha eile a fhoghlaim ina dhiaidh sin.

Tá Club Leabhar an Chabháin ar oscailt don phobal ó 2007. Bíonn cruinniú ar siúil gach mí agus thar na blianta tháinig údair agus scríbhneoirí ar cuairt chugainn. Tá baill den Chlub líofa sa Ghaeilge agus tugann na cruinnithe seans dóibh teacht le chéile agus litríocht na Gaeilge a phlé trí mheán na Gaeilge. Tagann an Ciorcal Comhrá le chéile i Leabharlann Cheannais Mhic Sheáin gach seachtain i rith na scoilbliana. Is foghlaimoirí fásta iad, a bhfuil suim acu sa Ghaeilge.

Baineann na seirbhísí seo úsáid as an stoc mór leabhar agus na dlúthdhioscaí atá ar fáil sa leabharlann.



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Tá Rannóg na Gaeilge ar suíomh na leabharlainne www.cavanlibrary.ie chun tacaíocht a thabhairt do dhaoine a bhfuil suim acu sa Ghaeilge agus chun imeachtaí as Gaeilge a chur chun cinn.

Cuireann Comhairle Contae an Chabháin agus Glór Bhréifne ocht scoláireacht Gaeltachta ar fáil do dhaltaí sna meánscoileanna. Is deis iontach é do dhaoine freastal ar Choláiste Gaelach ar leath den gnáthphraghas .

Tá an Comhairle Contae ag déanamh léirmheasa ar an straitéis atá ag an gComhairle chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn, ní amháin i mBliain na Gaeilge ach ag pleanáil do na blianta atá le teacht fosta.

Promotion of the Irish Language

The Irish Language has been an integral part of many of the Council's event programmes and is particularly to the fore in the provision of cultural services, interwoven into all the major events such as Bliain na Gaeilge, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Club Leabhar, Comhrá, Gaeltacht Scholarships, Oral Irish workshops, Bealtaine, Culture Night and Children's Books Festival, schools programmes.

2018 is designated as Bliain na Gaeilge and the Council's Irish officer is working with Comhairle na nÓg to deliver a programme of events for a POP UP Gaeltacht in Castle Saunderson. The culmination will be an afternoon of entertainment in the Cavan Town Square on the 23rd June as Gaeilge as part of the Creative Ireland Programme. The Council works in partnership with Glór Bhréifne, Ógras, Conradh na Gaeilge, Oifig Sheachtain na Gaeilge, Oireachtas, Coláiste na bhFiann and Gaelscoil Bhréifne to provide a wide range of Irish language events annually. This year local national schools were invited to showcase their commitment to the language in a wonderful evening of drama, song and dance in March.

Guest speakers regularly deliver talks as Gaeilge or bilingual on chosen topics, and in recent years , Aogán Ó Fearghail, GAA President, Mary Sullivan , Cavan Genealogy, Philip Clarke, Cavan Comhaltas, Treasa Ní Ailpín, (author, co-ordinator of the National Gaelbhhratach project, Naíonraí (preschools through Irish) and



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Lynette Fay, TG4 broadcaster as well as authors Anna Heussaff, Colette Nic Aodha, Eilis Ní Dhuibhne, Ré Ó Laighleis, Áine Ní Ghlinn, Prionsias Mhic a Bhaired and Aindreas Ó Cathasaigh have all delivered presentations.

Oral Irish workshops are provided for Leaving Certificate students in libraries throughout the county, facilitated by a qualified teacher. This service is in high demand owing to Curriculum change resulting in 40% marks is allocated for Oral examination. This is a social inclusion service, given at a nominal cost (to cover the cost of the teacher for the day) and ensures that no student is excluded owing to cost of service.

Club na nÓg under the umbrella of Ógras has proved a resounding success with almost 40 National School children attending regularly. Irish is spoken throughout the meeting. They also have opportunities to meet other clubs throughout the year. This service helps children develop a fluency of the language which was not available heretofore. It is a proven fact that children exposed to more than one language from an early age can pick up other languages more easily.

Club Leabhar has run since 2007. This is a monthly meeting and over the years we have had numerous author visits. Members of this club require a good standard of Irish to participate.

Ciorcal Comhrá has run in Johnston Central Library since 2007. This group have national school Irish and meet weekly. This service is supported by the Library's collection of Irish language CDs and books.

Rannóg na Gaeilge is a portion of Cavan Library Service website www.cavanlibrary.ie dedicated to the Irish Language. This was developed to assist people learning the Irish language and to promote Irish events taking place in Cavan Library service.

Five Scholarships to the Gaeltacht have been awarded by Cavan County Council to



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secondary school pupils in County Cavan. A further two scholarships are funded by Glór Bhréifne. These scholarships are worth 50% of the total cost of attending the Gaeltacht.

The Council is currently reviewing its strategy with a view to further promotion of the Irish language not only in this Bliain na Gaeilge but in years to come.

2017 Breakdown Events & Performance Indicators

Arts / Poetry / Drama/Exhibition Events	64
Art Exhibitions	19
Literary Events/Author /Storyteller Visits / Staff Storytelling	43
Adult Workshops/ Creative Classes / General & History Lectures	455
Children's Music/Drama/Dance/Workshops/Classes/ Book Club	64
Supporting Community Groups / Meetings / Outreach	72
Class Visits – Pre/Primary/Secondary/ Other Groups	423
Community Group Meetings / events	410
Adult Education/ Supporting Employment	156
Reading Groups Library	30
Seachtain na Gaeilge & As Gaeilge Events	52
Cavan County Council / Community & Enterprise	49
Work Experience	15
Bealtaine Festival and events for Older People	11
Cavan Monaghan Science Festival	123
Total Number of Events 2017	1986



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2017 Total Visitors	179,053
2017 Number of Items Borrowed	96,923
2017 Internet Sessions Used	36,028
2017 Library Budget	€1,968,481

Arts

Cavan County Council arts office provides support to artists and organisations to support their work in the arts. This direct support is in the form of arts awards and bursaries.

Arts Awards and Bursaries 2017

	Received	Awarded	Total Value
Professional Artists	19	5	€10,000
Arts Awards under Arts Act	30	26	€12,000

- Uillinn Arts and Health Bursary awarded to Kim Doherty
- Moth Young Artists and Writers Award to Maria Farrington and Inigo Purcell
- The Tyrone Guthrie Bursary to Maurice Fitzpatrick, writer and Orlagh Galligan Ward, visual artist.

Bullock Lane Artists Residencies

The Bullock Lane residencies support artists to research and create work. In 2017 they took place at Townhall, Cavan. The recipients were Jolene Mok, Konik Artists, Elena Duff and Amanda Jane Graham. The residencies ranged from 5 weeks to 12 weeks in duration. Mateusz Lubecki, 2016 recipient concluded his residency in 2017 with an exhibition at Townhall, Cavan.



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Brendan Mc Cann and Derbhle Crotty at launch of Erna Valley, poem by Brendan Mc Cann

Capital

In 2017 a grant of €750,000 was received from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht by the partner application from Cavan Arts and Culture Centre Limited and Cavan County Council to refurbish Townhall, Cavan. Cavan County Council will match this funding. A further grant of €247,000 was secured from SEUPB through the Peace IV Programme, Cavan County Council. The total refurbishment budget for Townhall Cavan will be €1,750,000 approximately and the work is scheduled to be complete summer 2019.

Partnerships and Funding in the Arts 2017

- Grant of €49,200 was received from the Arts Council in 2017 to support Cavan County Council arts office.
- Grant of €8,000 was received for Culture Night from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- Grant of €163,000 was received from SEUPB through the Peace IV Programme Cavan to deliver the Cavan Peace IV Youth Arts Lab for children and young people. This project will take place in County Cavan and in cross border settings between 2017 and 2019. It aims to provide cultural experience and create cultural memory for children and young people to enhance their self confidence and awareness within our diverse community.



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Drumlane Abbey Ancient and Wild image from Rosarie Mc Hugh

Developmental Work in the Arts 2017

- **Cois Tine Pilot** Initiative 2016/17 as part of Public Art supported 47 artists in a series of residencies of varying lengths. The residency is aimed at developing artists and audiences. Artists included musicians, storytellers and spoken word artists and a series of videos from the residency are available on www.cavanarts.ie.
- **Soften the Border** by Rita Duffy working with the I.C.A., the craft group in Blacklion and Belcoo and members of the Traveller Community took place on the bridge between Blacklion and Belcoo and brought an arts focus to the current topics of borders and Brexit.
- **Irish Writers Commission** included a series of workshops on Blog Writing, Editing, Writing for Radio and One to One Clinics for writers. A showcasing event took place at the Irish Writers Centre and included extracts by 23 writers and a guest performance by The Strypes. The writers Pat Mc Cabe, Philip Doherty, Michael Harding and Heather Brett, Windows Publications were among the contributors. In 2017 Windows Publications celebrated 25 Years in the 'business of encouraging' young and aspiring writers with a special awards ceremony at the Cavan Crystal Hotel attended by an audience



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of four hundred and eighty young people received certificates for their creative endeavours.

- **Remember the Brave** a special event commemorating the 100 anniversary of the death of the poet Francis Ledwith took place at the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Felim with the Lassus Choral Foundation. The evening included classical and new music by Paul Flynn, Cavan composer and new poetry from Noel Monahan responding to the work of Francis Ledwith. This special commemoration was directed by Dr Ite O Donovan.

Culture Night 22 September

The total audience attending Culture Night events was **2,742** and artists and groups involved included **241** individuals in **11** communities in the county with **30** separate events. This was an audience increase of 530 from 2016.



Kim Mc Cafferty commission Busyness photo by Sarah Hardy Strategic Work in the Arts 2017

Inclusivity and Ambition

Ongoing work on the arts strategy entitled Inclusivity and Ambition took place in 2017 including presentations on the research and findings to the Members of the Special Policy Committee on Housing and Cultural Affairs, the Members of Cavan County Council and the Arts Council Executive.



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Creative Ireland and the Arts 2017

The arts office as part of the Creative Ireland Team worked on a number of projects and on the strategic plan for cultural development for County Cavan.

The Determinator

A new play by John Mc Manus was commissioned and written for Aaron Monaghan, Cavan actor. The play was performed by the actor at a rehearsed reading at Townhall, Cavan in June.

Scéalta dar dTalún

A project by lead artist Jackie O Neill inspired by stories from the land in Ballyhaise and in particular by the histories and memories of local people and staff at the Agricultural College was delivered as a joint initiative by the arts and heritage offices. Jackie O Neill working with Lisa O Neill, singer/songwriter, Joe Doherty, wood artist and Ann Smith, storyteller created original art work inspired by her research, the work included new works on linen and paper, works in wood and a new song. Three artists provided workshops in the local National School and a piece of work was made by the artist based on the children's ideas. The project concluded with an extensive exhibition of art by Jackie O Neill and Joe Doherty on the Lady's Walk and in the Big House as part of Heritage Week.

Ancient and Wild

The Creative Ireland Project a joint initiative by arts, heritage and the Geopark involved 13 artists responding to the unique history, heritage and landscape of County Cavan and in particular the Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark. The participating artists took part in three research days with presentations by specialists in arts, architecture, geology and local heritage. The artists were invited to exhibition a piece of art inspired by the project. This exhibition was opened by Minister Heather Humphreys at Johnston Central Library.



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On Broken Wings by Dermot Healy was adapted by the Hacklers Drama Group and performed in Cavan, Leitrim and Sligo. The imaginative interpretation of the play was directed by Damien O'Brien with choreography and mask work by Mary Farrelly and Helen Foy.

Museum

With a 40% increase in overseas visitors and a major national award to its name, 2017 was another remarkable year for Cavan County Museum.



Photo: Cavan Institute Arts, Craft and Design Students – Exhibition Launch

As well as boasting a wonderful array of historic artefacts and spectacular immersive exhibitions such as the WWI Trench and the 1916 Rising Experience, Cavan County Museum is also renowned for its events. In this regard 2017 was no exception with six art exhibitions hosted in the Eden Gallery as well as dozens of lectures, musical performances and workshops. All of this activity has helped to cement the Museum's role as a key visitor attraction in County Cavan.



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Minister Heather Humphrey's and children from St. Bricin's College, Belturbet

In July the Museum was awarded Maintenance of its Full Accreditation under the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme for Ireland. The Government's Creative Ireland Programme aims to place culture and creativity at the heart of all sectors of Irish life.

Cavan County Museum is enthusiastically engaging with this programme.

In 2017 the Creative Ireland Programme enabled the Museum to deliver a number of historical re-enactments and workshops with handling collections funded by the programme.

In October of this year, the museum welcomed renowned travel writer Pól Ó Conghaile, Travel Editor of the Irish Independent and regular contributor to National Geographic. Pól was particularly taken with the First World War Trench Experience, describing it as "Brilliant for all ages". A video Paul posted on the Irish Independent's Facebook page has garnered 380,000 views so far as is still going strong.

The Museum staff have a deep knowledge and understanding of Cavan's border location and has undertaken a number of educational programmes aimed at young people. In particular the Peace IV funded cross border 'Connecting People, Places and Heritage' Project, which re-launched in December and explores the shared and diverse cultural heritage of Cavan and the Border Region.



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Children from St. Felim's N.S. Ballinagh

Cavan County Museum rounded off the year with a prestigious Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government award for its commemoration education programme. By exploring the issue of commemoration the Museum's education programme serves to promote parity of esteem between the various traditions on this island. A measure of how well the education programme has achieved this aim is the number of cross community school and adult groups that have participated in the programme. As a result, they have encountered commemorations that are from outside their own community.



Chambers Award for best Commemoration Education Programme



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2017 also saw the successful application under the Peace IV Programme to develop a significant additional 165 square meter multipurpose 'Shared Space' at the rear of the Museum which will no doubt feed into the ongoing development and growth of the Museum.

Ramor Theatre

Ramor Theatre opened to the public in September 1999 and since then it has been the central hub of the cultural and artistic life in County Cavan being the only professional performance space in the county. The theatre's aim is to encourage, nurture and develop an interest and participation in the arts in the county. This is done by presenting a varied programme of performances by professional artists in all the art-forms together with encouraging and facilitating professional theatre companies, youth arts, community based amateur groups and individual artists to develop projects and showcase them in the venue.

The Ramor Theatre is home to Livin Dred Theatre Company which over the past thirteen years has worked in partnership with the venue to incubate, develop and produce top quality professional theatre which has then gone to tour both nationally and internationally to both audience and critical acclaim.





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The venue also houses, Ramor Young Players, a youth drama group which has up to thirty members which works with young people to develop their skills in different art-forms culminating in a production annually. Ramor Theatre is actively involved in community based and amateur drama, through hosting professionally run workshops, technical expertise and production advice to local groups. It is the base for Ramor Players, a community group with participants from all over the county. It presents a number of shows each year directed by a professional director. The Theatre is run by the Local Authority with significant financial support from the Arts Council.

Ramor Theatre has always been and remains committed to artform development. In the past it has been instrumental in the development of organisations like Livin Dred Theatre Company, NOMAD Theatre Network. In 2017 we have worked with Padraic McIntyre (Writer and Director), Seamus O'Rourke (Writer and Performer), John McKenna (Writer) Mick Mulcahey (Writer) and Alan Bradley (Filmmaker).

Livin Dred Theatre Company, has been based at The Ramor Theatre since it was founded in 2004. The venue offers support in providing office space, rehearsal space, marketing and PR support and technical rehearsal time and space for productions. It offers financial support through guarantees and money for public rehearsed readings. Ramor Theatre was the instigator and founding member of NOMAD Theatre Network. This network has since gone on to support numerous artists and companies, including Livin Dred, Decadent Theatre, Monkeyshine and Loco and Reckless Productions. We are currently working with emerging Filmmaker Alan Bradley on his new 'Virginia Show' documentary.

It is The Ramor's ambition to increase our artform development over the next twelve months in more diverse areas of the arts, including theatre, music and literature. Along with bringing audiences in, it is our ambition to take these artforms outside the venue building itself to enrich public engagement. This would include bringing it to



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schools, nursing homes, special needs centres. This would therefore include, youth, older people and people with disabilities using artists such as Philip Doherty, Seamus O'Rourke, John McManus (Theatre) Saramai Leech (Music) and Peter Fallon, Noel Monaghan (Poetry). Public engagement with our local community is hugely important to us at The Ramor Theatre. We are constantly engaging with the general public in order to attract them to shows we are presenting as well as encouraging them to participate in arts activities.

We are constantly reaching out to through community organisations to attract as diverse a demographic from our locale as possible. This is also done by having a wide and varied programme of events to suit all tastes and needs.

We through Ramor Young Players facilitate and support Youth Drama with the employment of theatre professionals to lead workshops and direct a production annually. We work closely with Ramor Players, a community drama group, to produce a number of shows annually. This give local amateur actors a chance to work with a professional director in a professional setting, raising the bar both audience and participants alike. This year seen a production of 'Doubt' by John Patrick Shanley directed by Padraic McIntyre.

This year also saw us work with John McKenna and Mick Mulcahey giving rehearsed readings of their plays 'A Select Few' and 'Symphony to the Sea' with full professional casts. This lets the writers have the opportunity to work with professional actors on a new piece but also lets the audience see new work in development. Ramor Theatre aims to pursue its public engagement policy more vigorously in 2018 to take art forms outside the venue, linking in with schools, nursing homes, special needs centres. This would to engage with people whose ability to access the venue itself may be limited.

The majority of The Ramor Theatre ticket sales continue to come from our seasonal events brochure, which is distributed three times a year. Our mailing list for these brochures continues to grow and currently stands at 2400. This events brochure is



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also sent by email to 600 further customers.

We continue to review our mailing lists for mail outs, emails lists and text messaging services. 100% of customers details are now been captured at the point of booking through our Ticket solve system. This information is analysed and broken into different databases which are then targeted for the relevant art forms.

The Ramor Theatre continues to use local outlets for posters and banners. We also have a good relationship with our local newspaper The Anglo Celt which regularly carries features on upcoming events. There is also a Cavan County Council page within that paper and the theatre advertises on this page weekly at a reduced cost. Specific marketing plans are devised for each season and each event, based on liaising with visiting artists or company. We would then plan the type of PR necessary for each event – from press releases in local print and radio, interviews, direct mail-shots, posters, road-signs, facebook, twitter and our own website. Our website has grown in popularity in recent times and feedback indicates it is appealing and easy to use for customers with 60% of total sales now online.

The Ramor has been supporting artists in various ways down through the years and feel this is vital to the development of the theatre heading into the future. It has been home to Livin Dred Theatre Company, since it was founded in 2004. The venue offers support in providing office space, rehearsal space, marketing and PR support and technical rehearsal time and space for productions. It offers financial support through guarantees and money for public rehearsed readings. This year it has employed a theatre director in residence, Padraic McIntyre on a one year full time contract due to end in October, 2018.

This year through a Creative Ireland grant of €7000 and support from the theatre of €1000 Alan Bradley a local filmmaker was selected to develop and create a new short documentary based around Virginia Show.



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The theatre has worked with a number of professional actors since January 2017 in presenting rehearsed readings of new work. These artists included Karen Ardiff, John Olohan, Marie McDermottroe, Malcom Adams, David Herlihy, Carrie Crowley, Clare Monnelly, Cillian O’Gairbhe and Charlie Bonner. These actors were all paid a rate €150 per day. There are plans to further develop with other existing and emerging writers.

We have also worked with writer/performer Seamus O’Rourke in providing rehearsal space for development of his new play ‘The Cavan Curse’. This worked extremely well for the artist with the play now touring successfully nationwide. This is a model we are currently exploring with other artists from our county like John McManus and Philip Doherty.

Ramor Theatre continues to deliver the artistic objectives of the venue through planning and delivering a full programme of events across all art forms throughout the year. This programme will engage both audiences and artists.

The Ramor attends to strategic planning through plans and reviews throughout the year. Programming is usually planned between six and nine months in advance with programme been announced quarterly. These programmes and other artistic objectives are regularly reviewed in house with staff and through feedback from audiences and artists. We also conduct an Annual Service Plan Review with Cavan County Council and Arts Council Strategic Review with The Arts Council.

Our finances are all controlled by Accounts Dept. of Cavan County Council through their Agresso MS4 Milestone 4 computerised system with a yearly audit carried out by the internal Council auditor. This is all constantly monitored throughout the year with budget updates.

Ramor Theatre’s main source of finance over and above grant support from the Arts Council comes from Cavan County Council together with box office receipts.



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Due to the recent development of a Procurement Section within Cavan County Council there is now rigorous procedures for the buying of goods and services. The Ramor Theatre has signed up to this and is now actively involved in pursuing these procedures.

We constantly monitor our achievements and strive to improve our performance by reviewing box office performance, analysing feedback from audiences, artists and companies. This is usually done through team meetings.

The Theatre Manager at Ramor Theatre, Mary Hanley retired from her post in April 2017. Nuala McCabe the theatre administrator was appointed Acting Theatre Manager with support from Padraic McIntyre, Theatre Director in Residence. Padraic McIntyre was subsequently appointed as Theatre Manager following an application and interview process.

Professional Theatre

Fifteen performances hosted which included Bachelors Walk Productions, **The Big Fella**, Loco and Reckless Productions of **I Hear You and Rejoice** with Mickel Murfi, Hotbuckle Productions with **Wuthering Heights**, Wild Productions of **Mary And Me** and a production of **Down and Out in Paris and London** performed by Phelim Drew. There was a total audience of 2159 and while some shows proved challenging in getting audiences in the door, were very well received by audiences that attended.





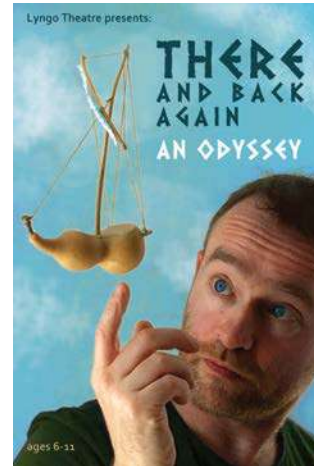
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Children's Theatre

Five performances hosted which included Riverbank Productions, Lyngo Theatre and Theatre Lovett. A strategic plan was devised to develop a children's audience at the theatre. This was done through engagement with National School's in the county and direct marketing campaigns aimed at families.



The overall response to both of these approaches was positive. Our assessment found that some of the shows worked much better than others with higher production values etc. and our audience feedback backed this up

Music

The music programme included;

- **Jack L** in January,
- **Mick Flannery** in June
- **The Lost Brothers** in September

With strong advertising campaigns in both local and social media all these events proved very popular with patrons and the singer/songwriter programme is something we are keen to make a more regular feature at the Ramor in 2018 with its appeal to younger audience members. We also supported emerging artist **Katie Gallagher** who played here in June 2017.



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New Writing Programme

Ramor Playwriting Group was started by Theatre Director in Residence Padraic McIntyre. This started out as ten week playwriting course which was facilitated by Padraic McIntyre and had 25 participants. It ran on a Monday and Tuesday night for two hours each week with 12/13 participants attending on each night. Weekend workshops were also included with guest tutors including Jimmy Murphy, Deirdre Kinlihan and Billy Roche. This course culminated in a showcase of monologues, duologues and scenes, written by the participants under the title; **'People, Place and Story'** which was read to a public audience by local and professional actors in the theatre in April 2017.

Community Arts Programme

Our Community Arts Programme continues to be a huge part of the programme here at The Ramor Theatre. We had 29 performances in 2017 with the majority of them coming from local amateur drama groups in the area but also some from a music background. We have worked with 10 organisations in all, many of which have strong links and relationships with the theatre going back over the years. The theatre offers these groups and organisations technical expertise for their productions as well as PR, Marketing and Advertising to help them sell their shows. We as a venue also feel this is hugely beneficial to us as it attracts an audience usually from rural areas that may otherwise not engage with the venue. Our in house drama group Ramor Players continues to grow in stature with the continued involvement of professional personnel thus raising the standard of amateur theatre in our region.



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Other community arts groups we have engaged with in 2017 are Ramor Young Players, Glenaduff Productions, Sillan Players, Castleblaney Players, Millrace Drama Group and Revenant Theatre Company.



Film

Twenty-One Screenings including Irish, International, Foreign Language and Documentary films. The Ramor continues to work hard to build a film audience which at times can prove difficult. There is a core audience of around 30 people for film who attend on a regular basis regardless of the film. There are others who then attend sporadically depending on the title. This year we did a number of questionnaires on film with our audience and it is hoped to put these findings into operation over the next twelve months when programming film. Ramor Theatre was host to the launch of IFI Local Films for Local People in May 2017

This was the launch of their nationwide screenings of films about each county. It was launched by Minister Heather Humphreys and included the film Cavan on Camera.





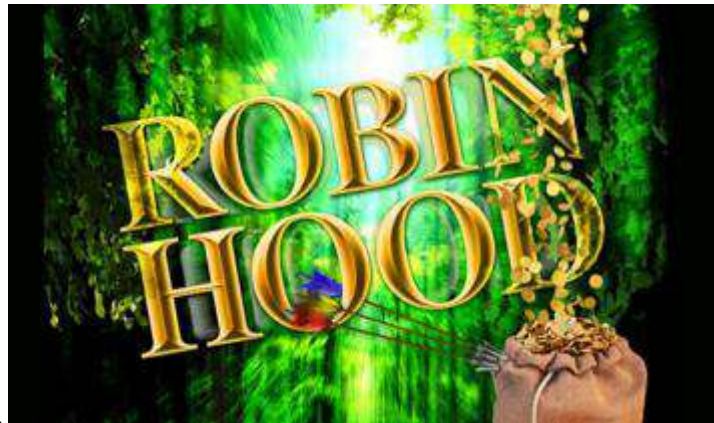
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Youth Drama

Youth Drama continues to be a very important aspect of what we do here at The Ramor Theatre. Ramor Young Players runs from September to February each year. It has a group of 30 young people aged between 11 and 18, led by artists Mary Farrelly, Patrick Farrelly and Trina McCann. This group engages in workshops, every Monday evening for 2 hours with more intensive rehearsals at Halloween and Christmas breaks culminating in a production in January. We feel this is working extremely well with participants getting skills in Acting, Movement, Voice, Dance and Script Analysis



Theatre Director in Residence

In October, 2016 Cavan County Council appointed a Theatre Director in Residence for a one year contract at The Ramor Theatre. The Director in Residence, Padraic McIntyre was instrumental in establishing Ramor Playwriting Group (See Above). He also engaged in working with Local Amateur and Community based drama and theatre groups, leading workshops, offering professional and technical advice. He also directed a production of Doubt by John Patrick Shanley at The Ramor Theatre.

With the retirement of Theatre Manager, Mary Hanley the Director in Residence has taken a more hands on approach within the venue itself, working closely with the Acting Theatre Manager, on programming, budgets, marketing, representing the



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theatre on Creative Ireland Committee and liaising with both Cavan County Council and The Arts Council.

Livin Dred Theatre Company

Livin Dred Theatre Company, continues to be the resident professional theatre company based at The Ramor Theatre. This relationship has continued between venue and company since Livin Dred was founded in 2004. The venue offers support in providing office space, rehearsal space, marketing and PR support, technical rehearsal time and space at the time of production through support in kind. It offers financial support through guarantees to the company.

The company recently performed Bailiegangaire and The Kings of the Kilburn High Road in 2017.

Artist Support Programme

Alan Bradley: As part of Cavan County Councils programme for Creative Ireland, The Ramor Theatre has engaged with artist Alan Bradley in commissioning him to make a half hour documentary about Virginia, it's characters and the surrounding hinterland. The documentary will centre around The Virginia Show and characters who have been involved in it over the past 76 years. It is hoped to premier this documentary film at The Theatre in early 2018.





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The Cavan Curse: Local writer and performer Seamus O'Rourke of Big Gureilla Productions worked with The Ramor Theatre in developing his new play 'The Cavan Curse'. The venue offered support to the artist by supplying a rehearsal space for the month of February before a showing of the work at the theatre to an invited audience before a full production of the play went on an extensive national tour.

Symphony to the Sea: The Ramor Theatre in association with Livin Dred Theatre Company worked on and held a rehearsed public reading of 'Symphony to the Sea' by Mick Mulcahey with actors David Herlihy, Carrie Crowley, Charlie Bonner and Clare Monnelly. This project involved working with actors and writer over a couple of days on the script before a reading for the general public and invited guests at The Ramor Theatre.

Exhibition – 93 Years of Inspiration

Although, The Ramor Theatre does not programme Visual Art due to its very limited exhibition space in the theatre's coffee bar, from time we accommodate local artists with exhibitions. 93 Years of Inspiration is a case in point where local artist Elizabeth McKenna who is 93 will exhibit some of her work at The Venue, opening on Culture Night 2017 by Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council, Paddy McDonald.

Commercial Theatre

Some of our programmes are events which are regarded as commercial theatre. These include popular music events like Robert Mizzelle and ABBA Tribute Shows. These are booked on a hire or box office split and bring in additional income to the venue as well as connecting to our audience.





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Tourism

New County Tourism Strategy 2017 – 2021

The Tourism Office officially launched its Tourism Development Plan 2017 – 2022, a road map for nurturing and growing tourism enterprise in the county.

The plan was launched at the award-winning Cavan County Museum in Ballyjamesduff by Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council, Councillor Paddy McDonald, with a keynote speech by Irish Independent Travel Editor and National Geographic contributor, Pól Ó Conghaile.

Developed by CHL consultants in collaboration with Cavan Tourism Development Office and with the input of the tourism trade in the county, this comprehensive document charts a course for the positioning of Cavan as a tourism destination, the development of tourism infrastructure, collaboration between industry and the local authority, and the promotion and marketing of County Cavan. Speaking at the launch, Mr Ó Conghaile said that Cavan was on the cusp of a number of popular tourism trends such as walking, waterways and local heritage, further noting that the local experience, humour and warmth was a huge asset to the county.



Launch of Cavan Tourism Strategy 2017 -2021 at Cavan County Museum October 2017

Angling Developments

Angling continues to perform strongly in overseas tourism market for Cavan with



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30% of visitors coming to the county visiting to undertake angling activities. Cavan County Council promoted angling at the Irish Angling show in Dublin in February. Angling was also promoted in Angling Times UK and through various other publications over the course of the year.



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

As part of a regional initiative aiming to grow angling tourism Cavan and Leitrim tourist offices jointly organised Angling Tourism Workshops with the support of Inland Fisheries Ireland and in conjunction with Waterways Ireland. These workshops were undertaken under the Shannon Erne Future Economy Project. This is a partnership project between four local authorities, (Leitrim, Roscommon, Longford and Cavan).

They explored the potential for growing angling tourism in the region. The event highlighted the unique needs of angling tourists such as access to drying rooms, bait storage and irregular meal times. Waterways Ireland outlined the importance of service providers working together to offer complete packages for visitors such as transport, accommodation, equipment hire and local knowledge on locations for angling. Inland Fisheries spoke about the potential for a long tourism season for those marketing to angling tourists.



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Caption: Angling Tourism Workshops – Slieve Russell Hotel

Funding was secured from Inland Fisheries Ireland for Brackley Lake, Co. Cavan with works to improve access to angling along Prospect Shore under the National Strategy for Angling Development Fund.

Fáilte Ireland - Irelands Ancient East Tourism Proposition

County Cavan continued to promote Ireland's Ancient East tourism proposition with attendance at workshops and ongoing consultation and promotion with trade in relation to same. Tourism Office also attended the Storytelling Interpretation workshop for the proposition in late 2017. The tourism officer also completed the Fáilte Ireland Tourism Management Programme over the course of 2017. The Ireland's Ancient East brand continued to be featured in print and social media as well as any additional interpretation installed.

Cavan included in new Fáilte Ireland Tourism Proposition 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands'

Cavan County Council welcomed the launch of the new Fáilte Ireland 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands' tourism proposition for the midlands, and looks forward to increased investment in the county and midlands region from the national tourism body in the coming years. Following consultation between Cavan County Council and Fáilte Ireland, it has been agreed that the east of the county will remain as part of the successful 'Ireland's Ancient East' brand, whilst west of Cavan Town will join



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the new 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands' brand with its focus on being 'active in nature'.

The River Shannon is central focus of this new brand and with Cavan home to the Shannon Pot, the source of the River Shannon, the county will aim to feature prominently in Fáilte Ireland's promotion of this region.

Outdoor Recreation Measure III - Ballyconnell – Bellaheady Recreational Trail

The project will involve developing a walking and cycling trail from Ballyconnell to Bellaheady Bridge along the Woodford River on the Shannon-erne Waterway and associated accommodation works with trailheads at Ballyconnell on Waterways Ireland property. The project, when complete, will provide a 5.5km recreational trail suitable for walking and cycling from Ballyconnell to Bellaheady Bridge along the Woodford River. It is a significant capital project which will cost approximately €750,000; with the Department of Community and Rural Development providing 80% of the funding, while Waterways Ireland and Cavan County Council provide the match funding. The funding provided is under the Department of Community and Rural Development's 2017 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. The project is a joint initiative between Cavan County Council and Waterways Ireland.

Outdoor Recreation Measure II Applications

Funding confirmed under Measure 2 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme of €80,000 for the repair and upgrade of access route to Castle Saunderson Demense. Funding confirmed under Measure 2 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme of €94,000 upgrade and improvement of established trail at Castle Lake Looped Walks, Baileborough.

Support for Festivals & Events

The tourism office provided support to the development and promotion of the following festivals - Cavan Walking Festival 2017; Taste of Cavan 2017; Science Week 2017, Heritgae Week 2017, Taste of Cavan Christmas Market 2017 and Irish Seniors Bridge Congress



Infrastructure, Housing, Fire, and Emergency Services

Roads & Transportation

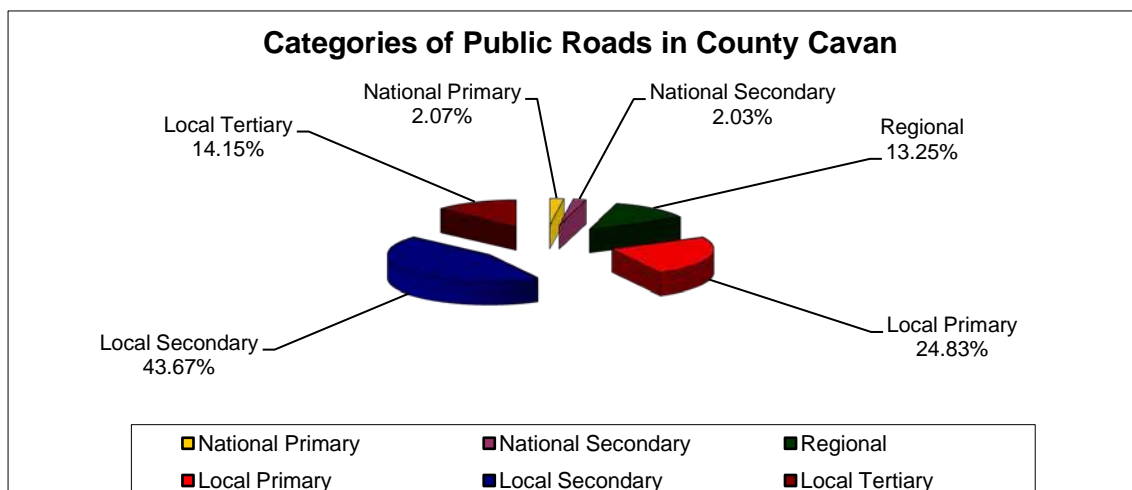
Cavan County Council is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of all National, Regional and Local roads within the County. In total, Cavan County Council is responsible for the maintenance of in excess of 3,000km (1,880 miles) of public road annually.

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 meters) 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.





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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.

2017 Funding Allocations

The table below shows the funding allocated by each funding source at the start of 2017.

Road Category	Funding Source	Initial Allocation
National Roads	Transport Infrastructure Ireland	€ 6,850,892
Non National Roads	Dept. of Transport, Tourism & Sport (DTTAS)	€ 9,117,182
Non National Roads	Cavan County Council	€ 2,326,379
		€ 18,294,453

Cavan County Council Contributions

At the start of 2017, 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.



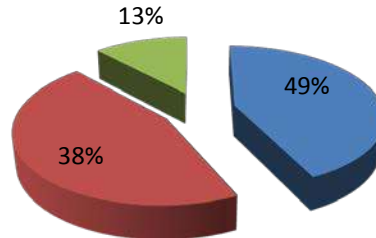
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Public Roads Funding 2017

■ Dept Funding ■ TII Funding ■ Own Resources



Additional Allocations

During 2017 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. Also an additional €150,000 (€50,000 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)	€ 6,850,892	€ 1,513,136	€ 8,364,028
Non National Roads	Dept. of Transport, Tourism & Sport (DTTaS)	€ 9,117,182	0	€ 9,117,182
Non National Roads	Cavan County Council	€ 2,326,379	€150,000	€ 2,476,379
Private Lanes	Dept Rural Community & Development	€0	€295,000	€295,000
		€ 18,294,453	€ 1,958,136	€ 20,252,589



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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 Final Account Conciliation process to deal with contractual disputes that arose on the main construction contract was completed in 2016. The result of this Final Account Conciliation was in favour of Cavan County Council.



Extradosed Type Bridge over the River Erne



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Minor Improvement Schemes

N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon, Section A

Section A, which involves a 3km realignment of the N55 at two distinct locations 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 is at an advanced stage. The construction stage of this project commenced in May 2017 and is now well advanced and scheduled for completion by October 2018.



Aerial picture of excavation works on Phase 1 at Garrymore

N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon, Section B

Section B, between the townlands of Ballytrust and Mullahoran, involves a 3.7km realignment of the N55 immediately south of Section A. The Planning and Design of this Section has progressed well during the second half of 2017. RPS Consulting Engineers are currently finalising the design in preparation for lodging of a Compulsory Purchase Order application to An Bord Pleanála, pending TII approval.



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N3 Virginia to Maghera

Tobin Consulting Engineers have been appointed to progress the N3 Virginia to Maghera Road Improvement Scheme through Phases 1 & 2 of the Project Management Guidelines. The primary aim of this project is to address the significant safety issues on this section of road.

N3 Dublin Road Roundabout Scheme

Cavan County Council is in the process of appointing Consultants to progress this Scheme through Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the Project Management Guidelines.

National Road Safety Schemes

Preliminary Design was completed for N3 Virginia Main Street HD15 Scheme - Phase 2 through the Main Street. A number of Public Consultations were held and the Scheme is being amended to take account of concerns and issues raised.

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 on 17th February 2017. This project is currently in final account and close out stage.

National Road Pavement Overlays Schemes

The N3 Raheelagh to Kilmore Roundabout pavement Overlay Scheme (6.5km) and N87 Lisnamine to Rahaghan Pavement Overlay Scheme are substantially complete with snagging works on going. Total Scheme costs (to-date) for both schemes are €1.45m and €0.35m respectively. The N55 Corrakane Scheme was completed during the summer at a cost of €0.137m approx.



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Photo showing Chip laying crew on the N87 Lisnamaine to Rahaghan Pavement Overlay Scheme

The TII have identified the following six pavement overlay schemes to be progressed to construction stage in 2018:

- N3 Cornaslieve to North of Virginia
- N55, Moynehall to North of Ballinagh Pavement Overlay
- N87, Snugborough to Ballyconnell pavement Overlay Scheme,
- N87, Swanlinbar Pavement Overlay Scheme
(South of Swanlinbar town)
- N87, Gortullaghan Pavement overlay Scheme
- N87, Killyneary Pavement Overlay Scheme



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Regional & Local Roads

2017 Road Works Programme

A grant of €9,117,182 was allocated to Cavan County Council at the start of 2017 for the improvement and maintenance of Regional and Local roads in the county, including Bridge Rehabilitation and Speed Limits in Housing Estates. Works generally consisted of drainage improvement, strengthening with granular and macadam materials and surface dressing. The 2017 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 2017 including Drung Village, Cabra Castle to Dun Na Ri Forest Park in Kingscourt, Shercock and Ballyjamesduff Town Centre.



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Regional & Local Road Bridge Projects

Cavan County Council received €280,500 in DTTAS Grant Allocations for the rehabilitation of 12 Regional and Local Road Bridges in 2017 at Drummanduff, Monnery, Cullies, Keadew, Bawnboy, Killycreeny, Killymacaran, Ballynallon, Glencorran, Lisreagh, Clonagonnell and Aghaveans. An additional €231,000 of own resources was allocated to the design and the rehabilitation of 9 bridges at Corfad, Cliffin, Breffni Park Bridge, Annagharnet, Knockakista, Drumliff, Drumnaveagh, Coolnacarrick and Farnham. During the latter part of the year Cavan County Council became aware of 1 structure that required urgent remedial works, namely Drumagolan Bridge, Lisgreay and also the bridge at Monnery, Crossdoney mentioned above had to be replaced owing to its condition. The cost of rehabilitation and replacement of these 2 bridges was €75,000 in total and Cavan County Council has applied to DTTAS for emergency funding.



Drumagolan Bridge Before and After



Keadew Bridge - Before and After

Community Involvement Schemes

Cavan County Council's Roads and Transportation section continues to support Community Involvement in the improvement of Local Roads. In 2017, 9 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 Trinity , Moher, Crubany, Drumrath, Cormashesk, Croaghan, Carrickacronin, Greaghamala and Keelagh.

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.



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Road Category	Kms	Maintenance Costs 2017 (€)
National Primary	62	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 2017 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. Additional maintenance funding has been provided by TII for specific maintenance works.

Regional & Local Road Maintenance

In 2017 the DTTAS provided an allocation of €2.61m in the form of a Discretionary Grant specifically for the maintenance of the Regional & Local Road network. Cavan County Council provided an additional €1.61m 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.



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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 2017.



New layout at Cootehill Road, Cavan Town



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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, Adoon, 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 and this work was substantially completed in 2016 and Cavan County Council submitted a funding application to Fáilte Ireland for the scheme.

Cavan County Council in partnership with Waterways Ireland recently was awarded funding under Measure 3 of the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme 2017.

The development of a 5.5km recreational cycling and walking trail from the town of Ballyconnell, County Cavan to Bellaheady Bridge, primarily along the Shannon-Erne Waterway on the banks of the Woodford River is due to commence construction in early 2018 and scheduled to be completed by end September 2018.

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.



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Road Safety

The Cavan Road Safety Action Plan 2017-2020 was launched in May, 2017. The plan was prepared by the Cavan Road Safety Working Together Group which is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary group established in 2015 to ensure a co-ordinated, collaborative and consistent approach to improving safety for all road users.

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

The objectives of the Action Plan are:-

- To make the road network in Cavan safe for all road users.
- To apply the principles of the National Road Safety Strategy 2013-2020, in particular to focus on the four main elements of road safety, namely Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Evaluation.
- To promote a collective sense of responsibility towards road safety.
- To address the key behaviours which have been identified within the National Road Safety Strategy as requiring to be changed.
- To address any particular behaviours applicable to Co. Cavan and to develop strategies to address these behaviours.
- To continue and strengthen cross border linkages and cooperation, particularly in the area of education and enforcement.

The Plan will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis and the hope and expectation is that the Cavan Road Safety Action Plan 2017-2020 will significantly contribute towards improving road safety in Co. Cavan.



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Strategic Policy Committees

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

Strategic Policy Committee for Roads and Transportation;

Cllr	Paddy	Reilly	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 will take place during 2017 and the following topics were discussed and progressed:

2017 Roadworks Programme, Greenways, Road Safety Strategy, Severe Weather Planning, Parking Bye-Laws, Speed Limit Bye-Laws, Bus Stops, TII Funding

Implementation of Regulatory Responsibilities

During 2017 the existing 2006 Speed Limit Byelaws for the County were reviewed. The new Bye-Laws were proposed and a public consultation process was completed. The proposed Bye-Laws were presented to the elected members at each of the Municipal Districts.



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Cavan County Fire Service

Cavan County Council employed 85 retained Firefighters in 10 fire stations located around the County at the end of 2017. During 2017 three firefighters retired from the Fire Service and one new firefighter was recruited and completed initial training. The Council is striving towards bringing the full compliment to 93. Following the advertisement of vacant positions in 6 of the stations, checks were undertaken in respect to compliance with the availability and distance criteria for Retained Fire Service personnel. Recruit selection testing was conducted in Cavan Fire Station during September with a total of thirty-two participants taking part during the two days. The participants that satisfied the selection testing criteria were called to an interview and panels established for firefighter vacancies in the following 6 stations: Cavan, Kingscourt, Bailieborough, Killeshandra, Ballyjamesduff and Dowra. An initial training programme for the new Recruits was scheduled and agreed with a 3 week Recruits Course planned for February 2018 and a 2 week initial Breathing Apparatus training course due to start in May 2018. All vacancies for Junior Officers and Drivers during the year were advertised and filled following interviews.



Recruit selection testing – equipment carry assessment



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Fire Service Call Outs

Type of Call / Number Callouts	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Chimney fires in Houses	51	49	64	40	45	47	32
Other Domestic Bldg Fires	25	37	36	40	60	33	41
Other fires	43	24	37	35	28	47	45
Bog/Forest Fires	63	16	38	12	17	17	39
Motor Vehicle Fires	28	18	23	25	28	19	20
Road Traffic Accidents	62	57	55	82	73	69	58
Flooding	22	15	8	15	16	4	14
Chemical Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Services	199	191	194	147	218	244	338
False Alarm (Good Intent)	33	33	20	19	18	51	36
False Alarm (Malicious)	3	16	4	1	3	2	2
Total Calls	529	456	479	416	506	533	625

The Fire Service had 707 responses to 625 incidents in 2017, which is the highest since 2008. The average time taken to mobilise the fire brigades in the County for 2017 was 6.03 minutes to fires and 5.11 minutes to other type incidents.

€171,532.98 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



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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.



Road Safety Message being delivered by crew from Ballyconnell Fire Brigade during their St. Patrick's day Parade

A new Gartan payroll system was installed and went live on the 1st January 2016. The fire service undertook work to set up and pilot a new Gartan billing module in 2017 and intend to go live on the 1st February 2018.

Capital Programme

Approval was received for a new Fire Appliance for Cavan County in the Capital Programme in 2017, the Department in conjunction with the Office of Government Procurement are working on a direct draw down contract as part of a wider Framework Agreement for new fire appliances. It is expected that Cavan County Fire Service will enter into an agreement with the successful Tenderer to build the new fire appliance during 2018.



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At the outset of 2017 the Department gave approval to seek tenders for Virginia new Fire Station. Consultants were appointed, planning granted and tenders received for Mechanical and Electrical Consultants for providing M+E services for the new station.

Following the Tender process the DOHPLG (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government) issued approval to appoint a contractor for Virginia New Fire Station. Unfortunately the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) withdrew their tender and excused themselves from the tender process.

Following the withdrawal of the Most Economically Advantageous Tender from the tender report of April 2017 compiled by Malachi Cullen, Consulting Engineers Ltd., the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government issued approval via letter dated 12th December 2017 to appoint Tenderer number 2, according to the MEAT Tender Report. During correspondence to appoint Tenderer number 2, they also withdrew their Tender.

Based upon this correspondence and discussions with Malachi Cullen, Consulting Engineers Ltd, the decision was taken to re-tender as soon as possible in the New Year, with a view to obtaining approval to appoint the successful tender to undertake the works as soon as possible thereafter.

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.

A new 4 bay pre-fabricated shed / shelter was built within the existing drill yard area behind Cavan Fire Station HQ for the purpose of housing a number of special operational appliances kept at Cavan Fire Station. This was required in order to help prevent excessive weathering and corrosion of these vehicles and to allow them to be maintained in an operationally ready condition.



New 4 bay Fire Appliance shed construction during 2017 in Drill yard of Cavan Fire Station Telent (formally Arqiva) were awarded the contract by Limerick City & County Council for the new National Fire Alerting Communications System. This involved the replacement of the current station end alerting equipment to a national common standard. This project was capially funded by the DOHPLG under the fire services capital budget and the upgrading of all 10 stations in Cavan County was completed during 2017.

A tender for the purchase of 24 gas tight suits for the protection of firefighters dealing with incidents involving hazardous materials was concluded and capital funding approval granted by the Department.

Major Emergency Planning

The first Cavan County Council Major Emergency Plan under the 2006 Framework for Emergency Planning was issued in September 2008 and the latest Plan was revised and issued at the start of 2016. The plan will be revised again in 2019.

The Courthouse in Cavan is the Local Co-Ordination Centre in the event of a Major Emergency in the County and is used for regional working group and steering group



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meetings during the year. Regional training for the role of On Site Coordinator and Information Management Officer took place in Navan with members of staff from Cavan County Council attending each course. Members of staff also attended a Northern Ireland Western Area Emergency Planning Exercise in the Town hall in Enniskillen on the 17th February.

Members of Cavan County Council Crisis Management Team met prior to Storm Ophelia and also participated in telephone conferences with members of the principle response agencies in the North East Region and the North West Region.

Work to convert a second-hand Iveco vehicle for use as an onsite co-ordination unit for major incidents was carried out during the year. The funding for this work was provided through grant aid from the Department.

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. During 2017 there was on-going correspondence and feedback between Cavan County Fire Service and the NDFEM in respect of the on-going implementation of National policy and other fire service issues arising.



Training



Firefighters participating in an exercise during one of the six training courses undertaken in September 2017 on dealing with incidents involving Hazardous Materials

In 2017 dedicated training courses were provided in a wide range of potential activities that fire service personnel may encounter during the course of their employment, these included : Incidents involving Hazardous Materials, Compartment Fire Behaviour, Advance Driver Training in preparation for assessment by RSA Testers for compliance with the Emergency Services Driving Standards, Breathing Apparatus Refresher and Initial Wearers, Breathing Apparatus Maintenance, Chainsaw Operator Refresher, Manual Handling, Working at Heights and Standard Operational Guidance (SOG).

In addition, 3 Junior Officer and 1 Senior Officer attended a Cross Border Workshop in Enniskillen. 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. Part of



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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

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. A total of 159 inspections were carried out on 135 premises during the year.

In response to the Grenfell Tower tragedy in London, the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) initiated a national co-ordinated response. Cavan Fire Authority carried out a survey of multi- storey buildings in the County to identify buildings of more than six storeys, or more than 18m in height, fitted with external cladding or rain screen systems, with or without insulation. We continue to liaise with the NDFEM to give regular status reports.

A continuing programme of community fire safety is carried out each year throughout the County. The fire service endeavours to visit third class in every primary school in the County each year to deliver the primary schools programme. Almost eighty schools were visited and safety packs given out to every student in the class. The smoke alarm programme is another initiative specifically targeted towards identifying vulnerable persons in our community. Free smoke alarms were issued to almost two hundred vulnerable persons. A number of community fire safety talks were delivered by the local firefighters of each station to groups across the County. This year in particular we increased our efforts in the use of social media as a way to reach a greater audience with our fire safety messages.



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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 75 Fire Safety Certificate Applications were received in 2017 with fees totalling €72,131.56.

Health and Safety

The fire service drafted an occupational health and safety programme for 2017 and also signed off on several Policies. Safety inspection audits were carried out by Fire Officers in each of the fire stations.

A survey of employee noise and vibration exposure levels at all ten fire stations across the County was conducted to assess the measured noise and vibration levels in accordance with the Safety Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007. Specialist Inspectors from Zurich Insurance carried out an examination of all lifting equipment and equipment containing pressurised vessels in the ten stations in accordance with the requirements of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007.

The process of reviewing the competency and safety standards of the contractors and service providers to the Fire Service is ongoing. The County Council has an occupational Health Scheme and the Firefighters undergo medical examination under the National Firefighters Agreement.

All vehicles are independently checked and tested to ensure that they are roadworthy. The Department approved the filling of a second Mechanic position to comply with H&S, lone working and the increased workload from the large fleet of fire and civil defence vehicles that has to be maintained in accordance with RSA requirements etc.

The Health and Safety Officer from Galway County Council carried out part two of a gap analysis for Cavan County Fire Service. Health and Safety is a priority focus for the fire service and a major ongoing annual expense.



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New kerbing and Tarmac was laid to the front parking areas at Killeshandra Fire Station in order to address the poor state of the surface

The storm drainage to the front areas at Ballyconnell Fire station has been upgraded to resolve a flooding issue and re-surfacing work was completed to the front parking areas in order to address the poor state of the previous surface throughout this area.

Retirement of Fire Service Personnel

In December the Chief Fire Officer, Noel Burke, retired after more than 18 years dedicated service in the position of CFO.

During this time his staff and co-workers within Cavan County Council and Fire Service Section had the privilege of experiencing the commitment, drive and enthusiasm Noel invested into transforming Cavan County Fire Service into a very effective, well trained and well equipped modern Fire Service. Noel continuously set and achieved higher standards for Cavan County Fire Service and has laid down the blueprint and ethos to facilitate this continued upward trend.

Jim Lyng, Station Officer, Cavan Fire Brigade retired at the end of December after almost 28 years of service and commitment to the Fire Service. Johnny McMullen, Firefighter, Cootehill Brigade retired after 21 years service and Firefighter Billy McLoughlin, Virginia Brigade also retired after over 12 years of service.

We thank Noel, Jim, Johnny and Billy for everything they did for Cavan County Fire Service and wish him well in the future.



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Noel Burke on his retirement with his wife Bridie, Chief Executive, Cathaoirleach, Fire Service staff and Civil Defence Volunteers

Civil Defence

Civil Defence had 153 no duties in 2017 which included the provision of transport for the Public Health Nurses and meals on wheels during severe weather in West Cavan, the National League and Championship matches in Breffni Park, various community events and using our drones, (SUAs), assisting with missing person searches in Meath - (3), Leitrim and Kildare and several days assisting on the search for missing Coastguard Helicopter 116.

Other duties included the Cootehill Arts Festival, the Cavan Walking Festival, the Run with Catherina, and the Cycle against Suicide.



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Cavan Civil defence receiving an award for the help provided to Cycle against Suicide Civil Defence held 13 no. first aid classes in 11 Centres around the County each week during the year as well as 1no. A.F.S. Class & 1 no. Rescue class each week (except for the summer) and 1 boat class every second week.





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Cavan Civil Defence carrying off a player in the Cavan V Tyrone match in Breffni Park

Cavan took part in the Regional Exercise held in Navan on 4th April with a team of 12 Volunteers, during the day many skills were tested and the volunteers who took part found it very interesting and informative.



Cavan Team at Regional exercise in Navan 08/04/2017

Cavan Civil Defence received grant aid approval of €20,000 from the Civil Defence Branch of the Department of Defence towards the cost of the purchase of a VW transporter 4X4 crew cab for use as a control vehicle for the drones unit.

Cavan Civil Defence Volunteers who were active during 2016 were presented with a 1916 commemorative medals and each training centre was visited and the medals



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presented to each volunteer by the Civil defence Officer.

6 volunteers also received 30 years service Medals at a ceremony in Croke Park in May.



Presenting 1916 Commemorative Medals to Milltown Class

In December the Civil Defence Officer, Noel Burke, retired having served 18 years in the post. During his time as CDO Noel brought many improvements to Cavan CD and has set a high standard for the organisation at local level.

We thank Noel for everything he did for Cavan CD and wish him well in the future.

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.



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Noel Burke on his retirement with the Civil Defence Volunteers



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Housing Construction

The 2017 Capital Allocation for Housing Construction was €

Allocated as follows:

(i) Housing Construction/Acquisition Programme	€4,475,383.85
(ii) Voluntary CALF Schemes	€ 430,904.00
(iii) Energy Retrofit Programme	€ 79,337.00
(iv) Voids Programme	€ 249,918.00
(v) DPG's/Extensions	€ 362,960.00
Total	€5,598,502.85

Social Housing

The following works were carried out in 2017 under the SHIP Programme

- Construction of 4 no. units at Butlersbridge, Co Cavan with a budget of €623,236.00(to be completed March 2018)
- Construction of 8 no Units at Woodlands, Ballyhaise, Co Cavan with a budget of €1,839,544.83.(to be completed November 2018)
- Construction of 8 no Units at Rosehill, Mullagh, Co Cavan with a budget of €1,355,752.95.(To Commence February 2018)
- Construction of 2 units at Clones Road, Butlersbridge, Co Cavan with a budget of €319,589.00
- 17 units were purchased at various locations in the County

Energy Retrofit Programme

In 2017 energy upgrade works were completed on 51 no. units at various locations throughout the county. The scheme included for the following works;

- Attic and Wall Insulation
- Draught Proofing
- BER Certification

Voids

Works have been completed on 25 units under the 2017 Voids Programme.



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Voluntary Housing

Under the Voluntary Housing Capital Assistance Leading Funding scheme €430,904 was allocated for the provision of 11 Units in Drumalee Cavan (scheme to be finalised 2018), 24 Creighan Drive, Ballinagh, Co Cavan and 12 Oak Manor, Drumgolden Wood Cavan.

DPG's/Extensions

8 No Extensions were completed under the 2017 Programme for DPG's and Extensions to Council Houses.

17 No Adaptations to Council Houses was completed.

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
- Manages Housing provided by Approved Housing Bodies (AHB's) and by the Council through short or long term leasing
- Administers the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP).



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	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of House Lettings	160	162	93	117
Number of Extensions Completed	0	1	2	8
Number completed under Scheme of Improvements	0	0	1	0
Number of Sales completed	4	0	3	8
Number of Applications to purchase dwellings under Tenant Purchase Scheme	1	0	54	13

Student Grants Scheme

The final number of Renewal Students Grants or Maintenance Grants awarded by the Council last academic year 2017/2018 was zero. All new applications are now handled by Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI).

Strategic Policy Committees

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

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

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

- Presentation on HAP (Housing Assistance Payment)
- 2014 -2018 Traveller Accommodation Programme and Targets
- Capital Allocations for 2017 – Circular 6/2017 /Traveller Accommodation determination of Capital
- Allocations for 2017
- Estate Enhancement



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Membership of the committee:

Elected Members: Councillor (Cllr) Daniel Downey, 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, Seamus McLoughlin, A/Senior Engineer, Orla Brady, A/Senior Executive Officer, Siobhan Donnelly, Social Worker and Emer Coveney, Community and Enterprise.

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018

Cavan County Council provided social housing for 8 traveller families in 2017 with an additional family accommodated through HAP scheme.

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.

An allocation of **€1,499,567**

Grant	Number	Amount
Housing Adaptation Grant for people with a Disability	47	€771,632
Housing Aid for Older People Scheme	80	€491,852
Mobility Aids Grant Scheme	41	€236,083
Total	168	€1,499,567



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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.

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 on the 1st December 2016. See details of the number of tenancies set up below:

2017	
Number of HAP Tenancies set up	143
Number of active HAP Tenancies at 31 st December 2017	131

HAP Tenancies set-up per Municipal District

Bailieborough-Cootehill	24
Ballyjamesduff	26
Cavan-Belturbet	91
Inter- Authority	2
Total	143

There were 76 HAP properties inspected during 2017.

Leasing and Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

There are 60 active lease agreements in place with private landlords and Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) for 2017. There are 562 RAS tenancies in the County.



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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 public spaces and by becoming involved with their residents association.

There are now 71 estate groups, active and in receipt of estate enhancement funding from the housing department, 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 Monday 4th December 2017, at the Council Chamber in Cavan. Chairman, Councillor Paddy McDonald, made presentations to prize winners, under various categories.

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



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Cavan County Council Estate Awards Winners 2017

Shane Donnelly Perpetual Shield: Winner: The Fairgreen, Kilnaleck



Cavan and Belturbet Municipal District

Best Estate Category A

1st Prize: Sean Lee Drive, Belturbet

2nd Prize: Lakeview The Fairgreen, Cavan Town

Best Estate Category B

1st Prize: Doon Beg, Ballyconnell

2nd Prize: The Steeples, Cavan Town

Most Improved Estate: Breffni Terrace, Cavan Town

Best Estate Special Feature: Kilnavara Heights, Cavan Town, 'Bat House'

Best Individual House and Garden: Michael and Pauline McDonagh, Doon Beg, Ballyconnell



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Bailieborough & Cootehill Municipal District

Best Estate Category A

1st Prize: Lisanisky, Kingscourt

2nd Prize: Drumnaveil, Bailieborough

Best Estate Category B

1st Prize: Bothar an Portaigh, Ballyhaise

2nd Prize: Woodlands, Ballyhaise

Most Improved Estate: Cluain Dara, Kingscourt

Best Estate Special Feature: Griffith Park, Cootehill, 'Flower Beds'

Best Individual Garden: Tom Whelehan, Twin Oaks, Bailieborough

Ballyjamesduff Municipal District

Best Estate Category A

1st Prize: Kilmore, Ballyjamesduff

2nd Prize: Ardkill Place, Ballinagh

Best Estate Category B

1st Prize: The Fairgreen, Kilnaleck

2nd Prize: Marian Row, Ballinagh

Most Improved Estate: Winner: Rahardrum, Virginia

Best Estate Special Feature: Fairgreen, Kilnaleck: 'The Fisherman'

Best Individual Garden: No. 7 Rosehill, Mullagh

Special Awards

Litter Free Status

The Steeples (Cavan Town), Corstruce (Ballinagh), Highfield Road (Cavan Town), Cloneary (Templeport), Bothar an Portaigh (Ballyhaise), Kilnavara Heights (Cavan Town).

Best Upcycling Initiative: Corstruce Ballinagh, 'Tyre Planters'

Best Youth Group: Lakeview The Fairgreen, Cavan Town



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Planning/Economic Development, Water Services, Waste and Environment

Planning

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
- Market Surveillance
- 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. Work was ongoing in 2017 preparing for the commencement of the review of these plans. 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 with the procurement of consultants to carry out Revitalisation Plans for 20 towns and villages in the County.



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During 2017 the forward planning team commenced works on the requirements as set out by the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, which seeks to incentivise the development or use of vacant land and properties. A Variation of the Development Plans will be necessary to meet the requirements of this Act.

Work continued on 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 Cavan County Council in order to facilitate additional enterprise development within the County.

Development Management and other Statutory Functions

The section received 548 planning applications in 2017, a slight decrease on the number received in 2016. The majority of applications related to developments such as industrial, rural enterprise, housing schemes, agricultural, commercial, single dwellings, extensions to existing dwellings, domestic garages and retention of existing works.

There were 14 decisions of the Planning Authority appealed to An Bord Pleanala. 11 (79%) of the determinations of An Bord Pleanala confirmed the decision made by the Planning Authority.

There was also a slight decrease in the number of applications for Extension of Duration for planning applications in 2017. There were 18 EOD applications received in 2017. This reflects the decrease in planning applications in the 2011/2012 period.

Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures

The 2017 register has identified 40 derelict Sites at the end of December 2017.



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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 236 housing estates in the county. 36 of these estates have been taken in charge. 189 are constructed in excess of 12 years. 5 estates have had their public lighting upgraded to LED. 37 applications for taking in charge have been received and 15 of these are processed and ready to TIC. It is intended to take estates in charge on a continuous basis as resources allow, until all historical estates are catered for.

Unfinished Housing Estates

There were 13 estates in Cavan remaining on the Departments unfinished estate register in December 2017 after all resolution plans were completed. This was down from 22 in 2016 and 33 in 2015 and represented a decrease of 59% in 2017 and 33% in 2016. 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 4 additional unfinished estates were prepared for implementation in 2018. 2016 saw the focus move toward bond drawdown and completion of smaller outstanding works in these estates by the council and this is still the focus going forward. The Team continues to monitor the status of all unfinished estates, and work with financial institutions and developers to resolve outstanding issues in these estates.

Market Surveillance

Any person or company, manufacturing an item for sale on the European market, including the Irish market, must comply with the Construction products regulations 2013. This means the product must be tested and certified as fit for its intended



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purpose. It is then issued with a CE number and the manufacturer must attach a declaration of performance (DOP) for the purpose of ensuring consistency across all member states.

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

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

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

Development Contributions

This 2017 Development Contribution scheme came into effect on applications granted on or after 1st January 2017. This contribution is attached to applications granted in the County and in accordance with the adopted scheme. A number of exemptions and reductions are also available including a newly introduced 10% reduction where development contributions are paid in full within 6 months of lodgement of commencement notices exemptions apply). A total of €1,348,931 (€1,109,639 net of Irish Water deductions) was collected in development contributions.

The Development Contribution Team continue to pursue outstanding development contributions by issuing invoices as commencement notices are lodged and following up on existing accounts to ensure payments are being made.



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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). The CCMA set up 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 continues to be 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. During 2017, Cavan county Councils Building Control Section processed 232 Notices and 50 Certificates of Compliance on Completion.



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This total is made up of:

- 26 invalidated Commencement Notices,
- 100 validated Commencement Notices (long form),
- 38 validated Commencement Notices (short form),
- 59 validated Commencement Notices (Opt Outs),
- 9 validated 7 Day Notices,

Of the 50 CCC's processed a total of 13 were invalidated.

The Planning Department 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 114 new cases which were subject to complaints for the 2017 calendar year. The Section closed 43 cases during the same period. Of the closed files:

- 40% (or 17 cases) were resolved because these were 'statue barred', or were deemed to be 'Exempted development' and no Warning Letter was issued;
- A total of 16% of the files (or 7 cases) were closed as a result of negotiations with the Planning Authority.
- 44% (or 19 cases) were closed following the issue of Warning Letters or an Enforcement Notice.

There are 157 open cases being investigated and these include the preceding years.

Heritage

The Heritage Office continued to advance new projects in 2017. 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 initiated and local, national and European heritage policy is implemented. In



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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:



Crossdoney Bridge, Crossdoney.

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 2017.

Historic Graveyard Network

The Historic Graveyard Network was successfully initiated in 2017, with 8 Council owned Historic Graveyards participating. The aim of the network is to improve access to these sites, help undertake essentials repairs and provide directional and interruptive panels. It is anticipated that this network will be expanded in 2018 to include more council owned historic graveyards.



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Ecclesiastical Way

A feasibility study was carried out in 2017 to examine the potential of a tourist and recreational trail through Cavan's wetlands. Further studies will take place in 2018.

Heritage Week 2017

The Heritage Office promoted a series of events to mark Heritage Week, 2017, the theme of which was "It's in our Nature", and embraced all aspects of Heritage though the county.



Heritage Week 2017

Built Heritage 2017

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



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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. The Heritage Office of Cavan County Council successfully drew down €59,000 under Structures at Risk Fund with an additional Storm Ophelia Fund Grant of €7,633.18 towards structural damage to Abbeylands Tower and €97,620 under Built Heritage Investment Scheme. Projects included in SRF were:

- Castle Saunderson, Wall Garden
- Former See House, Kilmore Upper
- Royal School, Cavan
- Abbeylands, Tower

And under BHIS:

- Killeshandra Church of Ireland
- The Parochial House, Cootehill
- Corravahan House, Drung
- The Former See House, Kilmore Upper
- Eilish Clarke, Main Street, Mullagh
- Cavan Parish Church
- Drung Parish Church
- St Michaels Church, Potahee, Ballinagh
- St Brigids Church, East Knockbride
- Kildallon Chruch of Ireland, Kildallon
- Kill Graveyard, Kill, Cootehill
- Ballyjamesduff Courthouse, Ballyjamesduff
- Danesfort House, Kilmore Upper
- Loreto College, Drumkeen, Cavan



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Loreto College, Drumkeen, 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
- Creative Ireland, 2017-2022 committee



Creative Ireland Heritage Office Projects, 2017



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Planning and Environment Strategic Policy Committee

The Strategic Policy Committee members are listed below. The Planning and Environment SPC met on 4 occasions during 2017 and the meetings included planning presentations on:

- National Planning Framework
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies
- Taking in-Charge of Housing Developments (unfinished estates)

Environment and Planning SPC	Nominating Pillar
Damian Brady	Chair
Winston Bennett	Cavan County Council
Fergal Curtin	Cavan County Council
Val Smith	Cavan County Council
Madeline Argue	Cavan County Council
Fintan McCabe	Environmental
Barry Kavanagh	CPPn
Thomas Cooney	Agriculture
Andrew O Gorman	Construction

Planning Performance Indicators

P1: New Buildings Inspected	
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority	282
Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2017 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2017	73 (26%)
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 2017.	14
% of the determinations at A which confirmed decision made by the LA	11 (79%)



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P3: % of Planning Enforcement cases closed as resolved	
Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority investigated	114
Total number of cases that were closed during 2017.	43
% 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	17 (40%)
% of the cases at B resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	7 (16%)
% of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	19 cases (44%)
Total number of planning cases being investigated at 31/12/2017	173 cases
P4: Cost per Capita of the Planning Service	
The 2017 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2017 Census	Cost per capita €16.59
P5: Applications for Fire Safety Certificates	
A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt:	8.00 %
B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant:	86.67 %
The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were not withdrawn by the applicant:	75
The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application:	6
The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period:	65



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Water Services

The transition to Irish Water has continued in 2017. 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 4 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.



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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.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Compliance	98.4%	98.8 %	99.1 %	98.4 %	98.5 %	99.1%	99.4 %	99.3%	98.9%

Unaccounted for Water (UFW) is currently under 35%

Major Capital Works Projects

Gate 1 Projects

- Cavan WWT networks Contract D
- Ballinagh / Ballyhaise / Butlersbridge
- 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
 - Investigative works have been completed on both sites to determine whether the existing surface / spring raw water sources can be replaced with



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sealed bore wells which will allow for an increase in production and better water quality.

- Progress to date 94% Complete
- Total Cost €440,000
- Consultants report should be completed by 1 March 2018.
- 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
Construction Complete	1 March 2018

Gate 3 projects

(Contract B)

347 Sewer's, CCTV 13.6Km. Possible rehabilitation of 3.5Km including relining / open cut repair & replacement.

McBreen Environmental has been awarded the contract and has started pre rehabilitation surveys on the sewer network in Cavan Town

Timeframe	2017	Qt2 Tender period
	2017	Qt3 Contractor appointed and CCTV commenced

Contract split into 3 batches

Batch 1 CCTV 3450m completed December 2017

Batch 2 CCTV 4500m Programmed for completion Jan 2018

Batch 3 CCTV 4500m Programmed for completion Feb 2018



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Batch 1 repairs Programmed for completion June 2018

Batch 2 repairs Programmed for completion July 2018

Batch 3 repairs Programmed for completion August 2018

- **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

Rural Water Programme 2017

- Water Conservation/Upgrades: We received our Interim allocation in July 2017 of **€236,663.00** for upgrade works. On the 28th July we held our County Monitoring Committee meeting and allocated grant aid to the 6 qualifying schemes. Subsequent to that in September we received an additional **€53,337.00** with a decision pending as to how to allocate those funds.
- Actions to resolve the ongoing TTHM issue include contacting the 5 affected schemes with a view to taking on Client's Representative to properly monitor the existing treatment process and come up with possible solutions to the problem. We have a budget of **€125,000.00** towards these costs. In April 2017 consultants were taken on to prepare reports on possible remedial works for



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the 5 affected schemes with full Departmental funding agreed. To date 3 of the reports have been received with the remaining 2 due within the next 2 weeks.

- We have **€120,000.00** ring fenced for a pilot project to deal with Algal bloom problem for Clifferna GWS. In March we received a report from TJ O'Connors Consulting Engineers on the proposed treatment process which raises a number of questions regarding its suitability. They have requested further information from one of the companies who provide this treatment – reply awaited. We are awaiting updated report from TJ O'Connors on the proposed treatment process.
- Grant aid of **€81,000.00** is ring fenced with the Department for 2017 to bring work on Stradone Group Sewerage Scheme to its conclusion in 2017. Meetings were held with the scheme in April 2017 and actions agreed to bring the scheme to completion. Wayleaves and land purchase Managers Orders have been signed off in May 2017 plus the ESB connection and payment for the pumping station was resolved in July 2017. In September 2017 work recommenced on the completion of the sewer network and pumping station.
- It is proposed to carry out a number of audits on Group Schemes in 2017 commencing with Annagh GWS and possibly Clifferna GWS.
- Contact was made with all of the group schemes on our monitoring programme seeking a greater spread of premises for sampling purposes as set out in the recommendations from an EPA audit at the end of 2016. To date I have replies from 12 of the schemes countywide. We may be able to update our monitoring programme accordingly resulting from this.
- An overall survey of the existing resources available in Cavan for the delivery of our responsibilities under the Rural Water Programme was submitted to



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the LGMA in March 2017. This forms part of an overall review of the delivery of the service countrywide and will form the basis for a Business Case presentation presently being prepared by the National Rural Water Review Group for the delivery of the Rural Water Programme into the future.

Environment, and Waste Management

The Environment and Waste Management Section is the section responsible for all matters related to environment within 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 significant attention. Water quality can be impacted by industrial and commercial discharges, farming practices, discharges from urban wastewater treatment plants and wastewater treatment systems serving one-off housing. The Environment and Waste section play a vital role in the source protection of our many drinking water supplies public, group and private across the County. The section also deals with other environmental issues, including on site wastewater treatment inspections, noise and air pollution, planning applications and environment specific 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



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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



Fig: Tullydermot falls

Water Framework Directive

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 a River Basin Management Plan which is the government's approach to improve and protect water quality across the country.

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.



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River Basin Management Plan

The draft River Basin Management Plan was published in February 2017. Submissions, observations and comments on the proposed plan were invited during a six month public consultation process. This second cycle of the River Basin Management Plan took a very different approach to the first cycle Plans. There was a single river basin district approach taken in preparing the plan and much improved evidence and scientific base to underpin decision making. Implementation structures have been strengthened to ensure more effective and co-ordinated delivery of measures.

During 2017, the characterisation of the River Basin District was ongoing with all relevant stakeholders inputting to the process and coming together to make decisions including the Local Authorities, Irish Water, Inland Fisheries Ireland, relevant Governmental Departments, OPW, NPWS, etc.

The River Basin Management Plan will set target dates for achieving all our water quality goals. In order to meet these targets, a range of actions are necessary to target the main sources of pollution known as pressures. The final Plan was not published by the end of 2017 but it is intended to be finalised during Q1/Q2 2018.

Local Authority Water & Community Office - LAWCO

The Waters and Communities Office was set up in February 2016 to promote better management of our streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwater for the benefit of present and future generations. The Waters and Communities Office operate as a shared service on behalf of all Local Authorities, with two key objectives:

- To coordinate the water quality work of Local Authorities through agreed regional structures, thereby providing a collaborative approach to river catchment management.



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- To engage local communities and promote public participation in the management of our water environment.

LAWCO was ultimately established to promote public awareness, participation and knowledge sharing in the development of the River Basin Management Plan and the implementation of the Programme of Measures when they are finalised. LAWCO will coordinate the implementation of the Plan and Programme of Measures by Local Authorities, public authorities, sectoral interests and community groups.

River & Lake Monitoring

Nearly 400, river and lake samples were taken across County Cavan during 2017 by Environment Section field staff. These inspections were undertaken in accordance with the Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme. The results of analysis from these samples, combined with other biology, ecology & hydromorphology data available to the EPA, is used to classify the water quality of the rivers and lakes for the purposes of the Water Framework Directive. Using the data captured from this sampling programme, Environment Section staff from Cavan County Council can determine where best to undertake investigations on the ground to reduce the pressures on water quality. There are a number of different types of pressures on water quality including, urban waste water, agriculture and forestry. Pressures on water quality are diverse and most of the “at risk” waterbodies are subject to more than one pressure. Much of the work we do to improve water quality is not readily apparent. It can take a long time for the water quality in lakes in particular to show improvement. However, given the systems 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.

Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems

The Water Services (Amendment) Act was enacted in 2012, to protect ground and surface water quality (particularly drinking water sources) from the risks posed by malfunctioning domestic water treatment systems. All owners of premises connected



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to a domestic wastewater treatment system were required to register their systems by February 2013. A National Inspection Plan (NIP) set out the inspection requirements on a National basis and prioritises the inspection selection on the basis of pollution risk.

Environment staff have been trained and have undertaken inspections of wastewater treatment systems in accordance with the NIP. 39 inspections were carried out in 2017 in County Cavan. 20 were non compliant due to the system causing a risk to the environment or to public health. Of the 20 that were found to be non compliant during the initial assessment, only 6 remained non compliant at the end of 2017. 2 grant applications were made to Cavan County Council and processed during 2017.

Water Pollution

During 2017, staff from the Environment Section responded to over 100 water related complaints. The investigations relating to these complaints resulted in various forms of enforcement action being initiated. In some cases no further action was required upon investigation and the file was closed or referred to another Section of the Council for inspection. Where enforcement action was deemed necessary due to a discharge of polluting matter or a risk of pollution to waters taking place, the following actions may have been taken depending on the scenario encountered on site by the Inspector –

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

Discharge Licences

Inspectors from the Environment Section monitored 56 discharge licenced facilities during 2017. This involved over 128 investigations. These licences provide control over effluent discharges to ground and surface waters, which includes rivers & lakes.



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These licences place responsibility and accountability on the discharger/licence holder. Cavan County Council is responsible for controlling the discharge of effluent to waters through licensing. The licences include appropriate pollution control conditions as well as emission limit values on the discharge.

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

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

During 2017, there was one active Air Licence operating in the County, Inspectors attended the site and the operator was in compliance with their licence requirements.

The Solvents Regulations deal primarily with emissions from dry cleaning establishments across County Cavan. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids. They include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short and long-term adverse health effects. These regulations are in force to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the environment, especially through controlling, preventing and reducing emissions to air. This is because VOC releases can have negative impacts on human health and the environment. The operators have assessments carried out and if all is in order, they apply to Cavan County Council for Certification. The Certificates can be issued for up to 3 years if the operator is adhering to the regulations. Shorter time frames may be imposed if non compliances have to be resolved. 3 Inspections were undertaken during 2017 and there are 5 facilities with the required Certificates in place at the end of 2017.

The Decopaints Regulations make it an offence to operate a vehicle refinishing or repair installation without a valid certificate of compliance. Motor factors and paints suppliers also need to comply with these regulations as it is an offence to place non-



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compliant vehicle refinishing products on the market. The procedure for Certification is similar to that of the Solvent Regulations. There were 13 facilities with the necessary Certificate in place at the end of 2017. 6 inspections were undertaken during 2017. It is difficult to enforce these regulations as some installations operate only in the evenings/weekends out of domestic garages/outbuildings. The Inspectors in Cavan County Council investigate all reports of rogue operators received.

Petrol Vapour Emission Regulations (PVE's) are relevant if a company deals with liquid and gas fuels, such as petrol stations, then there is a need to obtain a petroleum vapour emissions (PVE) certificate from Cavan County Council. An Assessor undertakes an assessment when petrol is being delivered. The findings of same are submitted to the Cavan County Council. If all is in order a Certificate can be issued. 11 inspections of these facilities were undertaken during 2017 and 31 facilities had the necessary Certificate in place by the end of 2017.

Smoky Coal Regulations are also referred to as the Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012 (as amended). During 2017, there was a ban on the burning of smoky coal and certain other fuels in all Low Smoke Zones (LSZ's), this did not include County Cavan. During 2018 there will be an introduction of a nationwide low smoke zone for all of the Republic of Ireland. Cavan County Council may undertake inspections of premises used for the sale and distribution of solid fuel. During 2017, Cavan County Council advised 75 operators who may be impacted on, of their requirements in order to comply with the Regulations.

Farm Inspections & the Nitrates Regulations

Agriculture plays an important part in the economic and sustainable growth of County Cavan. In order for this to continue, the agricultural community has to ensure that various obligations regarding the law and the environment are applied. Cavan is predominantly a rural County; therefore, one of the potential sources of



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pollution to our rivers and lakes can be poor agricultural practices. The Nitrates Regulations or GAP (Good Agricultural Practice) Regulations are enforced in County Cavan. During 2017, a review of these Regulations took place and the new version (Nitrates Action Plan 4) will be available in 2018. These Regulations provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources and include measures such as

- Periods when land application of fertiliser is prohibited
- Limits on the land application of fertilisers
- Storage requirements for livestock manure
- Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.

Inspectors from the Environment Section undertook 30 farm inspections in accordance with these Regulations during 2017.

Public Drinking Water

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. Environment Section staff undertake this work on behalf of Irish Water and the existing service level agreement.

Public Engagement

The section staff meets with members of the public on a day to day basis. They use these opportunities to educate the public in relation to, improving water quality, maintaining good water quality by protecting our rivers, lakes as well as our drinking water supply sources. On a more formal basis we carry out school visits to spread this message to the younger members of our community by giving presentations on water quality in the school as well as across the County. 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 participated in a dedicated citizen engagement strategy as part of the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Wastewaters during 2017.

Cavan Monaghan Science Festival

Over 2500 participants attended science events in County Cavan during Science Week in November 2017. Cavan and Monaghan County Councils again joined forces hosting a range of events. The objective was to stimulate and sustain the interest of all in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) by producing an exciting and educational festival. Environmental staff from the council worked with national school children rolling out a CSI Water workshop. This workshop demonstrates how Environment Section Inspectors carry out enforcement work, laboratory work, sampling and biological monitoring. 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.



Fig: Environment section staff demonstrating science workshop



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Working across the organisation

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 District Offices, Community & Enterprise, Water Services/Irish Water, Waste Management and Roads in relation to water quality, protection and restoration.

Certification, Enforcement and Licensing activities	
Number of Section 4 Discharge Licenses	55
Number of Air Pollution Licenses	1
Number of Solvent Regulation Registered Sites	5
Number of Decorative Paints Registered Sites	13
Number of Petroleum Vapour Regulations Registrations	31
Number of Farm Inspections	30
Number of complaints received (water/air/noise excluding waste)	101
Number of cross reports to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	2
Number of Section 12 Notices served in accordance with the Water Pollution Acts	13
Number of legal actions initiated	2
Number of Domestic Waste Water Treatment System inspections	39



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 Monitoring and Reporting undertaken by the Energy Manager to SEAI for 2017, Cavan County Council has made a 43.9% (unverified) improvement to the energy efficiency since the baseline period of 2001-2005.

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

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

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. Some of the buildings and sites operated are listed below:



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1. Cavan Courthouse
2. Johnston Library Building
3. Corranure Landfill Cavan
4. All Fire Stations
5. All Libraries
6. Various buildings & depots utilised by Area Offices/Municipal Districts
7. Museum

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).

The most significant user of energy within Cavan County Council is the provision of public lighting (>60% of energy consumed).

Cavan County Councils energy consumption during 2017 which resulted in a spending of just over €1 million is detailed in the table below:

Energy Type		Energy Consumption (Total Final Consumption - As Reported)
		kWh
Electricity		6,398,773
Thermal		1,040,767
Transport		2,501,325
Total Energy Consumed		9,940,865 kWh
Total Energy Generated (Landfill Gas)		862,649 kWh



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Actions Undertaken during 2017

- Some of Cavan County Council's Housing Stock upgraded by the Council's Housing Section.
- 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 buildings frequently visited by the public. Commencement of DEC process for this statutory requirement in accordance with National Procurement Procedures as well as National Energy Performance requirements.
- Ongoing allocation of electrical supply 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
- Approx. 115 No. LED replacements undertaken by Cavan County Council.

Actions Planned for 2018

- Maintain procedure for monthly monitoring of energy usage
- Maintain procedure for frequent meter reads
- Participate in SEAI Engaging People 2018 Accelerator Awareness Programme
- Register with OPW for the Optimising Power at Work Programme
- 300 No. LED replacements to be undertaken by Cavan County Council.
- Audits of Top 3 Usage Sites
- Complete SEAI Monitoring and Reporting in accordance with deadlines imposed.
- Continue to allocate new sites in accordance with National Procurement



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Service winning tenders.

- In accordance with the requirements of European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012, complete the Display Energy Certificate's (DEC) process.
- Support Community & Enterprise Section including the newly established Sustainable Energy Committee.
- 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 2019.
- Arrange to have the Energy policy on display.
- Review of M&E plant/equipment settings
- Tie energy management in with key contractors & suppliers.
- Generate quarterly energy updates to be circulated to Sections for inclusion at Team Meetings.
- Liaise with SEAI to co-ordinate school events/workshops with primary & post primary schools in Cavan during Science Festival Nov 2018.

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



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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.

Recycling Centres & 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 jars and aluminium food and drink cans.

The County is well served with a full range of recycling infrastructure. With 3 fully operational Recycling Centres located at Corranure, Bailieborough and Ballyconnell and 30 Bring Sites, we continue to provide householders with a local and convenient way to recycle all their household recyclables.

Recycling Map





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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). Routine Inspections can be planned in advance as is the purpose of the Annual Inspection Plan
- Non-Routine Inspections which 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 and illegal dump sites and inspections relating to general unauthorised waste activities (illegal burning and illegal movement of wastes for example). There were 89 waste complaints received in 2017

Priorities for Enforcement

The priorities listed in the Inspection Plan for 2017 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:



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- Illegal Dumping including Construction & Demolition Wastes
- Household Waste Management Compliance including Brown Bin
- End of Life Vehicles
- Tyres (*PRI*) Producer Responsibility Initiative

Historic Landfills

Under the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008, we are required to carry out a risk assessment of all former town landfills within its functional area. The main purpose of the regulations involves the undertaking of risk assessments at these sites to determine if they still present an environmental threat and the carrying out of remediation works where necessary. In 2017, the former town dump at Swanlinbar underwent assessment and will be subject to licensing by the Environmental Protection Agency.

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 1st July 2015. On 1st July 2016, these food waste regulations also applied to agglomerations with a population > 500 people.

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

- Advertisement and interviews were conducted on local radio and with features



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in the Anglo Celt Council page and regular posts via the Council's social media

- Presentations were made to schools, community groups and local events and Tidy Tows Committees
- Information leaflets were also placed in public offices.
- Food Waste Prevention displays at the Taste of Cavan, Virginia Agricultural Show and Kingscourt Christmas Craft Fair.

End-of-Life Vehicle facilities

The main regulations dealing with end-of-life vehicles are the Waste Management (End-of- Life Vehicles) Regulations, 2006 (SI Number 282 of 2006).

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

The new higher standards applied from 1st January 2007 and required that in order for facilities to be recognised as "Authorised Treatment Facilities" they must be operated under a valid waste facility permit in the first instance and secondly the facility should meet the standards as set out in the Second Schedule of the Waste Management (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2006.

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

Litter Management and Enforcement

We are required to implement a litter management plan in respect of our functional area. The current Litter Management Plan which runs to 2019 indicates the key



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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 education function in the areas of litter management, control and prevention. A total of 402 on the spot litter fines were issued for offences committed under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended in 2017. 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.

	2016	2017
Total Number of Full Time Wardens	3	3
Total number of part-time litter wardens	4	4
Total number of litter wardens (both full and part-time)	7	7
Number of on-the spot fines	102	402
Number of Complaints Received	528	558

Environmental Awareness and Education

National Spring Clean runs throughout the month of April and brings together communities throughout the Country to tackle the problem of litter in local areas. We launched our 2017 Spring Clean Campaign on Monday 13th March 2017 at the Courthouse, Cavan. Killian Clarke, Captain of Cavan Senior Football launched the campaign in the presence of the Elected Members of Cavan County Council, CEO Tommy Ryan and staff from Waste Management.



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Spring Clean launch 2017

In support of this campaign we encouraged schools, Tidy Towns Committees, community and voluntary groups and resident associations throughout the County to become involved in cleanup projects in their area.

Bags, gloves, litter pickers and hi-vis vest were among the items provided to groups to assist in their clean ups. Groups from all over the County participated in the campaign with 72 groups registering their clean ups with An Taisce which saw an estimated 2,450 people get involved. It is estimated that just under 65 tonnes of materials was collected and disposed of by the Local Authority.

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

European Recycling Platform (ERP) Open Days

In April and May 2017 we facilitated 4 free ERP Open days in Kingscourt, Cootehill, Cavan Town and Ballyjamesduff where electrical goods and waste batteries were collected from the above locations.



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Stop Food Waste Challenge

In September 2017, we hosted the Stop Food Waste Challenge in Cavan Town and Bailieborough. 32 participants took part in the Challenge between both locations and staff from the Waste Management Section also attended.



As part of our local campaign, a launch day was held in at O’Gorman’s Supervalu, Kingscourt in June 2017. Cathaoirleach Fergal Curtin was present on the day along with Elected Members from the Cootehill – Bailieborough Municipal District and members of staff from Waste Management.



Gum Litter Taskforce with Elected Members and staff from Waste Management



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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 publically acknowledge the involvement of community groups etc through the provision of signage in each area. Seventy two groups are registered as part of the scheme with over 144 km of roads form part of this scheme.



The County Cavan Litter League

During 2017, we worked with local communities to improve the cleanliness and appearance of our towns, villages and countryside. We use similar inspections and scoring criteria employed by Irish Business against Litter for Cavan Town. The County Litter League is based on regular inspections of 27 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 few 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. All 27 towns and villages obtained a Litter Free Status for 2017.



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Tidy Towns Committees

We have strong linkages with the 22 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 held information seminars for Tidy Towns Committees in March and October 2017 which were well attended. A Biodiversity Nature Walk led by Billy Flynn, Ecologist and Tidy Towns Adjudicator was also held in August 2017.

Anti Dumping Initiative 2017

In March 2017, Mr. Denis Naughten, Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment launched the above initiative to address illegal dumping across the country. The aim of the initiative was to tackle illegal dumping and provide local authorities with support to monitor and ensure the surveillance of dumping blackspots and develop an integrated approach to deal with this issue.

In November 2017, we received funding of €68,975 in respect of works carried out at eight dumping blackspots across the three Municipal Districts. These sites came to our attention during previous investigations carried out by waste enforcement staff and consisted of seven rural areas and one built up urban area.



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Works included the removal of all waste and the installation signage and CCTV equipment to monitor future activity. Regular litter patrols were also carried out by waste management staff post works.

The extensive clean up of all eight sites was completed by 1st November 2017 with 89 tonnes of waste removed. The volume of waste accumulated at each site had significantly increased since our initial inspections in early 2017.

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. The Green Schools Awards ceremony took place in May 2017 in the Citynorth Hotel, Gormanstown, Co. Meath with fifteen schools from County Cavan receiving a Green Flag under the following themes:

Energy

Crossreagh National School, Mullagh
Laragh National School No. 2
Loreto College, Cavan
Scoil Mhuire National School, Swanlinbar
Scoil Naomh Brid National School, Redhills
St. Patrick's National School, Kilnaleck

Water

Scoil Bhríde, Killeshandra
Scoil Mhuire, Lacken
St. Clare's National School, Cavan

Travel

Holy Family School, Cootehill
Knocktemple National School, Virginia
Scoil Bhríde, Mountnugent
Scoil Naisiunta Naomh Feilim, Bailieborough
St. Patrick's National School



Biodiversity

Mullahoran National School

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 & privately operated civic amenity sites, arranging visits by schools at Group Water Scheme Water Treatment Plants, 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 & parents in the local newspaper.

The Green Schools programme throughout County Cavan uncovers & highlights so many enthusiastic, hard working, ingenious and environmentally conscious students, teachers & parents working tirelessly throughout our schools promoting the Green Schools themes.



Green Schools committee with teachers Ms O’Gorman and Mrs Buckley on their visit to Mount Lucas Wind Farm.



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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 27 applications were received in 2017 under the Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund. 21 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 2,500 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. 8,000 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 70 audits/hygiene inspections were carried out in 2017 along with over 1,100 pre and post slaughter, animal/meat examinations, during the slaughter of 5,717 sheep, 38,237 pigs, 2,412 cattle, and over 10,000 turkeys & 9,000 ducks at local authority regulated slaughter houses.

Throughout the year, random samples of meat are submitted to The Dept of



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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 29 such samples were submitted for analysis.

Environment and Planning Strategic Planning Committee

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

- Presentation on Areas of Natural Constraint
- Discharge Licences
- Progress report on Tidy Towns
- A presentation on Casual Trading
- Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund
- Report on Springclean 2017
- Civic amenity Sites
- National Planning Framework
- Update on Council's Litter Management Plan 2016-2019
- Prioritise areas for investigation under the River Basin Management Plan
- NWRA – Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy – consultation issues paper
- National Anti-Dumping Progress Report
- Reusable Cup Initiative
- Update on Taking in Charge Policy.

Membership of Environment & Planning Strategic Policy Committee

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Damien Brady

Cllr. Madeline Argue

Cllr. Fergal Curtin

Cllr. Winston Bennett

Cllr. Val Smith

Fintan McCabe, Environmental Pillar

Orla Sheridan, Public Participation Network

Jimmie Jackson, Construction Pillar

Thomas Cooney, Agricultural Pillar



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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 organization
- There was a major upgrade to the Agresso Financial Management System which went live in June 2017, this required a separate project team to review all processes and procedures and to carry out extensive training and support to all staff.

Loans

The Council has around 200 loan accounts, which generated mortgage repayments of circa €466,399 (incorporating mortgage protection insurance) during 2017.

Throughout 2017 Cavan County Council has continued to proactively engage with customers who have found themselves in unsustainable arrears positions. The Council has empowered customers to address their arrears by way of the Mortgage



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Arrears Resolution Process (MARP Process) and the Mortgage to Rent Scheme. During 2017 the Finance Department processed one Mortgage to Rent Scheme application.

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) and Firefighters: (Quarterly) Payments totalling €21,709,118.50 were processed by payroll section during 2017.

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 circa €813,000.00 (net of LGCSB collection costs) was collected in NPPR charges and late penalties during 2017. In addition an amount of circa €43,740 was received from customers during 2017 that have entered payment plans with Cavan County Council.



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Rates

A total of 2,544 Rate Demands were issued for the year 2017 which resulted in a total levy of €13,227,592. The Annual Rate on Valuation adopted by the Council for the year was €57.70. The percentage collected for 2017 was 79% as per Appendix 7 of the Annual Financial Statement.

Revaluation Project

Mr. John O'Sullivan, Commissioner of Valuation, made a Valuation Order on 6th October 2017 under section 19 of the Valuation Act 2001 as amended by section 7 of the Valuation (Amendment) Act 2015 for the rating authority area of Cavan County Council. This order signals the formal commencement of the revaluation of all commercial and industrial properties for rating purposes in the rating authority area. The revaluation of Cavan is part of a national programme to modernise the rateable valuation of all commercial and industrial property in Ireland. The revaluation will take account of rental values in the rating authority area and will result in a more equitable distribution of commercial rates among ratepayers. A Valuation Manager will assess the value of each property and set a valuation in line with rental values in the rating authority area at the valuation date of 15th September 2017. It is envisaged that the new valuations will be published in September 2019 and come into effect for rating purposes from 2020 onwards.

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 Council's Corporate Plan for 2015-2019.



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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. 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 training in regard to the new general data protection regulations, risk management procedures, the finances of local authorities, performance management and grievance and disciplinary training within the organisation.

Annual Audit Plan 2017

The Annual Audit Plan is the detailed work programme prepared for each year and concentrates mainly on operational, financial and regulatory risk of the organisation. The plan for 2017 set out specific audit reviews to be undertaken on the basis of



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availability of staff resources and potential risks identified by the Directors of Service, the Audit Committee and the Local Government Auditor.

Internal Audit Work 2017

Audit work undertaken during 2017 incorporated control inspections in the Motor Tax Office, the Ramor Theatre, the County Museum, Landfill Sites, Cashier Offices, the Civil Defence and Cavan Town Car Parking Charges. Specific audits reviews were undertaken on various functions of the local authority throughout the year.

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.



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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.

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 2017. The main items on the agendas included the Annual Budgets and Financial Statements, Review of the Internal Audit & Audit Charters, Strategic & Annual Internal Audit Plans, Audit Committee Priorities 2017, NOAC Query on the effectiveness of the Audit Committee, Community & Enterprise Peace Funding, Protocols for Processing Protected Disclosures, Cavan Regional Health Sport & Leisure Company, Corporate Services Risk Register, VFM Report No 30 - Corporate Estate Management, Operations of the Housing Dept, Governance & Control Procedures of the Local Enterprise Office, Remedial works undertaken at the Kingscourt and Cootehill Historic Landfill sites, Procurement Regulations and External Audits Reports. The committee also met with the Local Government Auditor in regard to the Annual Auditor's Report and issued an annual audit committee report to the Elected Council.



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Procurement

Our Mission Statement

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

1. Agresso Milestone 4 and new Procurement Checks and Controls

In 2017 our Agresso financial system was upgraded to Agresso Milestone 4 (MS 4). The new system introduced a procurement compliance checking role independent of the purchasing departments. The following procurement checks along with other administrative controls were introduced in 2017 to help strengthen procurement compliance amongst staff.

Purchase Orders can only be raised when staff provide either **(A)** a procurement reference (ProcRefs) for all tendered works, supply and services or **(B)** upload a Quotation Document (Quotation Verbal –QV / Quotation Written – QW) where quotations was a suitable method of procurement.

Staff must also identify the Procurement Type used e.g. **Col = Collaboration, LAQ= La Quotes, Loc = Local, NAT = National, or QUO – Quotations**

Low Value Purchase (LVP) Cards Where possible and under strict supervision by Line Managers, **Low Value Purchase (LVP) Cards** should be used for individual / one off purchases valued below €1,000 ex vat., provided Procurement rules are still adhered to and complied with. Monthly uploads of LVP Card Data to agresso will require the ProcRefs to be inserted if the purchase is under a tendered Contract/Framework/DPS.



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A Chief Executive Order (CEO) is now required for all Tendered works, supply and services whatever the value, Quotations with a value > €10,000 ex vat and all Non Procurement related PO's with a value > €10,000 ex vat.

Approval Limits - New delegation orders have been agreed that will provide better awareness of Approval Limits, with regards Purchase Order limits and Signing Contracts.

Purchase Order Requisitioner/Approver - There is now a clear separation of duties between PO requisitioner and approver. Grades 3 and 4 (or an approved grade) no longer can approve orders. They can only raise PO's for the higher grades who will be the approvers.

IT Products Selected for direct Procurement Checking - All PO's for IT related spend will go to the IT section for checking. This will help ensure the proper product is being used and that the proper supplier (contract/framework) is being used for ICT supplies and Services.

Centralise Ordering - Ordering for some specific goods must now be directed through the proper channels e.g. Stationery/Paper/Cleaning Products/PPE etc

2. Continued Support for SME's in 2017

Meet the Buyers event

Cavan County Council, along with all border local authorities and councils in Northern Ireland attended a meet the Buyers event, held on 21st June 2017 in Cookstown, Co. Tyrone. The event enabled public bodies to provide Procurement advice to support cross border suppliers.

Over 500 suppliers attended.



3. Continued compliance with The Public Spending Code

Cavan County Council submitted its Quality Assurance report for 2016 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 2016 (totalling **€200,450,808**) of all current and capital Projects / Programmes whose expenditure / lifetime cost in 2016 exceeded €0.5m.
 - **61** Projects/programmes were identified.
 - **18** projects / programmes were being considered in 2016
 - **40** projects / programmes incurred expenditure in 2016
 - **3** projects / programmes ended in 2016
- A summary of all procurements above €10m,
- A completed set of checklists (7 in total) for the whole organisation based on **19 samples** taken across the organisation, representing **27%** of the total relevant expenditure in the 2016 inventory list.

A summary of the Internal Auditors in dept checks representing **2%** of the total value of all Current (revenue) projects / programmes identified in the Inventory list for **2016** and **14%** of the total value of all Capital projects / programmes identified in the Inventory list for **2016**.



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Motor Taxation

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

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

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 €5,533,504 in 2017, down from €6,028,916 in 2016; this represents a decrease of €495,412 in revenue over 2016. 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	27069	5,099,003
Trade Licences	69	24090
Miscellaneous Receipts	2398	18580
Arrears	4871	391831
Total	34407	5,533,504

Motor Tax Online:

In addition 65,473 transactions were processed online and revenue collected amounted to €10,923,434. 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



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Service Indicators

M.1 Number & Percentage of Motor Tax Transactions	2017
Number which are dealt with over the counter	28198
Number which are dealt with by post	4627
% which are dealt with over the counter	85.90%
% which are dealt with by post	14.10%
M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications	
Number which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	3898
Number which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of application	624
Number which are dealt with on the 4th or 5th day from receipt of the application	18
Number which are dealt with in over 5 days from receipt of the application	87
% which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	84.24%
% which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of the application	13.49%
% which are dealt with on the 4th or 5th day from receipt of the application	0.39%
% which are dealt with in over 5 days from receipt of the application	1.88%
M.4 Public opening hours	
Average number of opening hours per week	32.5



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Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

We are engaging in a significant digital transformation that will enable us to optimise operations, empower employees and create a better experience for the citizens and the Diaspora of Cavan.



Image caption: Digital transformation

We provide ICT services for a range of external services such as economic development, planning and tourism, to internal ones such as human resources and corporate affairs.

We work in a range of locations. Our headquarters is in Cavan Town, but we have offices throughout the county plus fire stations, depots, leisure facilities, enterprise offices and tourism attractions to manage.

We established a digital transformation team to highlight and prioritise projects that can offer maximum impact and updated our digital strategy to accomplish our new vision.

During the past year, we focused on the following projects:

Customer Relation Management (CRM)

A truly connected government is citizen-centric and builds connections between citizens, employees, governments and services. We aim to ensure a rapid, relevant and consistent response to all queries from the public.



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Enterprise Content Management (ECM)

A new document management solution within Office 365 helps to ensure there is one source for all documents. We focus on good records and document management as this plays an important role in GDPR compliance. It avoids unnecessary duplication and it's a better use of resources and a hugely efficient way of working.

Government Cloud

By connecting to the Government Cloud (OGCIO), personnel at various locations can share files and participate in virtual meetings. We are at the forefront of testing and piloting several solutions to increase data security, business continuity and flexibility in our service delivery. Document sharing solutions do away with the need for unnecessary travel, saving time and money, while reducing the health and safety implications of having people on the road.

Paperless meetings

A more cost-effective and efficient way to manage and conduct meetings is through a meeting portal application. Administrators upload all the required information and documents quickly and easily through a central portal, which allows all the team members to access the meeting documents they require through their devices.

Digital Strategy

We are in the process of creating a Digital Strategy for the County. Through public consultations, we received feedback which is now the framework for the Digital Strategy. This strategy is being finalised and will be released shortly.

Rural Broadband

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.

For these projects to work, good change management practice is vital and Cavan County Council's IT department is fully committed to create a more flexible work environment that is easy to work in. It's important to communicate well and show people the benefits of the new tools and solutions.



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Summary of Expenditure and Income Revenue Account 2017		
	2017	2016
	€000	€000
Expenditure (A)	61,599	62,066
Receipts		
State Grants	21,900	23,415
Good & Services	16,801	15,953
Commercial Rates	13,193	13,269
Other Local Authorities	224	219
Pension Levy	0	752
Local Government Fund	9,481	8,458
Total Income (B)	61,599	62,066
(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 2017		
	€M	%
Housing and Building	8.46	13.73
Road Transport and Safety	18.84	30.58
Water Supply and Sewerage	7.28	11.82
Development Incentives and Control	6.24	10.13
Environment Protection	7.17	11.64
Recreation and Amenity	4.41	7.16
Health Welfare, Education and Agriculture	0.63	1.02
Miscellaneous	5.29	8.59
Transfer to Capital	3.28	5.32
Total	61.60	100



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Expenditure and Income on Capital Account 2017		
	Expenditure	Income
	2017	2017
	€000	€000
Programme Group		
Housing and Building	6,911	6,824
Road Transport and Safety	6,321	7,404
Water Supply and Sewerage	1,267	1,116
Development Incentives and Control	-115	1,109
Environment Protection	65	85
Recreation and Amenity	1,301	572
Health Welfare, Education and Agriculture	0	0
Miscellaneous	711	149
Total	16,461	17,259
Revenue Income 2017		
	€M	%
Housing and Building	9.99	16.22
Road Transport and Safety	12.14	19.71
Water Supply and Sewerage	7.46	12.11
Development Incentives and Control	2.77	4.50
Environment Protection	2.57	4.17
Recreation and Amenity	0.85	1.38
Health Welfare, Education and Agriculture	0.48	0.78
Miscellaneous	2.67	4.33
Rates	13.19	21.41
Local Government Fund	9.48	15.39
Pension Levy	0	0.00
Total	61.60	100