

# **Chief Executive's Report**

November 2018

## 1. Economic Development & Planning:

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT**

## Global Forum - Hubei Province, People's Republic of China

A delegation from Wexford County Council travelled to the Global Forum on Production Capacity & Business Cooperation in Wuhan city, Hubei, People's Republic of China recently. The Forum took place across 2 days featuring a Welcome Banquet hosted by the Governor of Hubei Province, an Opening Ceremony with speeches from across 5 neighbouring provinces and a Business Exhibition featuring themed talks including entrepreneurship, construction and climate change.

During the visit, the delegation made a short trip to Wuhan University, attended the opening ceremony of the Hubei Arts Festival and visited a newly opened 102KM greenway. The group also undertook a tour of Wuhan Citizens Home - a unique citizen focussed experience bringing the development ambitions of the city to life using scaled city models, video and imagery. Several thousand students and young people visit the Citizens Home each year, learning not only about where and how the city, home to the largest freshwater lake in China, has developed through the ages, but what a future Wuhan will look and feel like for all citizens.

The visit included an official meeting to progress the terms of an MoU signed between Wexford and Hubei in April 2018. The meeting was hosted by Mr Wang Jianming, who lead the Hubei delegation to Wexford in April 2018 and who signed the MoU with Wexford. A report on the visit will be issued to Council.







#### **New Ross Business Awards**

President Jonathan Keenan welcomed over 200 guests to the 11th Annual New Ross & District Business & Community Awards "Gala Evening" which was held at the Brandon House Hotel on Saturday 20th October 2018.

The 13 category winners were presented with glass cut trophies by Fred Curtis. Wexford County Council sponsor the event and presented two awards on the night - Best New StartUp award under Local Enterprise Office went to Hook Head Adventures and the Overall Business of the Year award was presented to Denise's Beauty Clinic.

The full list of winners can be found here: <a href="https://newrosschamber.ie/business-community-awards-2018/winners-announced/">https://newrosschamber.ie/business-community-awards-2018/winners-announced/</a>

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO) TEAM

#### National Women's Enterprise Day

The NWED event took place in Wells House & Gardens on the 18<sup>th</sup> October which an attendance of 58 business women. The theme of this year's event was "From Local to Global" and our key note speaker was Niamh Sherwin Barry, The Irish Fairy Door Company and panellists included Vanessa Tierney, Abodoo, Ciara Donlon, Theya Healthcare, Blaithin Ennis Jewellery Designer and Sabine

Rosler, Wells House. Participants benefited from these experienced business women shared details of their business journey focusing on scaling and developing their business into export markets. This was one of 16 events held nationally with an overall attendance 1,000+ participants.





#### New Business Advisor

Angela Lawless has joined the LEO team as Business Advisor. Angela has moved from Housing Officer in Enniscorthy.

## International Internet Day – 25th October Gorey

To mark Internet Day 2018, IE Domain Registry (IEDR) launched the 'Digital Town' initiative which highlighted the benefits and possibilities of the internet and celebrated the digital achievements of a local town. IEDR chose Gorey, Co Wexford as the 2018 Digital Town. IEDR celebrated Gorey's digital achievements and highlighted the importance and impact of the internet on society, on businesses and on communities, while demonstrating the benefits and potential of digital towns.

Gorey was chosen for its achievements in cultivating a truly digital environment in the town, and for its ongoing successes in fully embracing digital for its residents and for local business.



IEDR hosted the official launch in the IE Domain Registry Digital Dome on Internet Day at 10am, where entrepreneur and broadcaster Bobby Kerr acted as Master of Ceremonies. CEO David Curtin delivered a short address and revealed the results of a national consumer survey on the Digital trends in Ireland 2018. Following this, there was a discussion on 'The Digital Town' with a panel of local and national business experts:

- •Tony Hanway, Group CEO, Virgin Media Ireland
- •Jim Hughes, CEO, INNOVATE, President, Gorey Chamber of Commerce
- ·Louise O'Conor, Chief Digital Officer, Abodoo
- Annette Soraine, Board member, Fastrack to IT
- Oonagh McCutcheon, Customer Operations Manager, IE Domain Registry

From 11am-3pm, in the IE Domain Registry Digital Dome there was a team of leading digital experts providing free advice and digital demonstrations to business owners, community groups and citizens on all matters digital including skills, e-commerce, website development and mobile video.

#### New Tourism Officer

The Council's new Tourism Officer, Billy Byrne, will start in the Economic Development Unit on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Billy will be working with the various tourism stakeholders and Visit Wexford to promote County Wexford as a Tourism Destination both to the domestic and international markets.

#### BUCANIER (Building Clusters & Networks in Innovation Enterprise & Research)

#### Project Actions:

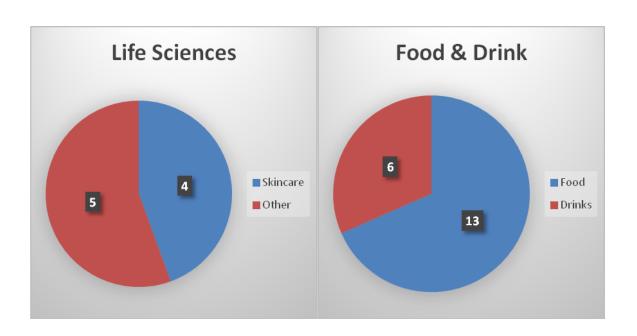
- WEFO Training event attended by Project Officers in Dublin on 26<sup>th</sup> of September
- Irish Project Officers visited Wales on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of September
- Information event to recruit participants held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October in Cork
- BUCANIER to had a stand at the Wexford Business Summit on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October
- Project Officers attended the National Bio-economy Day in Lisheen

#### Planned Project Milestones for November:

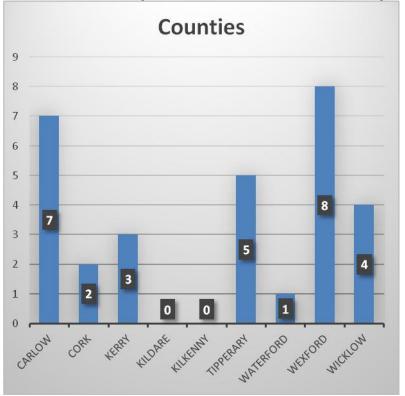
- BUCANIER Budget re-profile to be completed
- Members area of the website up and running with 1<sup>st</sup> of master class videos accessible to participants.
- BUCANIER participants workshop to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November in Kilkenny
- Food safety and Innovation workshop for BUCANIER participants to be held in New Ross on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of November
- BUCANIER to have a stand at the Cork and Kerry Food event in Cork on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of November
- BUCANIER participants invited to attend the Enterprise Ireland Innovation Gateways event in Cork on the 15<sup>th</sup> November
- BUCANIER participant workshop on Exporting to be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November in Carlow

**Profile of BUCANIER participants:** 





**BUCANIER Participants, October 2018 - 30 Participants** 



## **PLANNING**

## **Planning Applications:**

No. of valid applications received up to 14/09/2018 1190

No. of pre planning requests up to 21/09/2018 623

## Forward Planning:

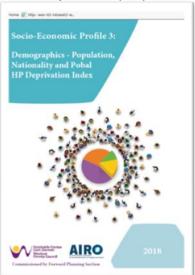
Socio-Economic Profiles - AIRO 2018

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2018, Cllr.John Hegarty, launched a series of Socio-Economic Profiles, prepared by All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2018. They are comprised of a series of reports based on six socio-economic themes:

- Employment, Industry and Occupation
- Commuting Flows
- Demographics Population, Nationality and Pobal HP Deprivation Index
- Education and Field of Study
- Health and Disability
- Housing

The reports are primarily based on Census 2016 information and provide very useful information and statistics on a range of topics including who we are (demographics), where we live and the type of housing we live in (housing), our education levels and what we work at and where we work (employment & commuting). The reports provide comparisons to other counties in the South-East, the Southern region and the State. The information is also displayed on maps to show the geographic spread of trends. The reports allow us to compare how things have changed since the first Socio-economic Report on the county was prepared by AIRO in 2015.





# Review of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013 - 2019 and the Preparation of New County Development Plan

Following the publication of the National Planning Framework (N.P.F.) each region is now required to develop and adopt a Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (R.S.E.S.) and all County Development Plans must be consistent with the R.S.E.S. when adopted. In order to allow each county to align the timeframe for their statutory plans with the relevant R.S.E.S., the Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2018 has been enacted and contains a provision that requires Planning Authorities to pause the statutory review process where it is in progress or to vary adopted plans immediately following adoption of the relevant R.S.E.S.

Taking the above into account, the statutory process for preparing the CDP (and consequently the Wexford Town, Enniscorthy Town and New Ross Town Local Area Plans) has paused pending the adoption of the R.S.E.S.

Notwithstanding the temporary suspension of the statutory process the Forward Planning team are continuing to work on the preparation of the plan and the associated strategies.

Work is well advanced on the Retail Strategy. As part of the Retail Strategy, Future Analytics have carried out retail floor space surveys, household surveys, shopper surveys, pedestrian counts, Health Checks and Stakeholder meetings in the four main towns.

Work is also well advanced on the Housing Strategy for the County. Other items completed include updated flood mapping of the County and screening for the purposes of Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Directives. Baseline reports are being prepared for both at present.

#### **Building Control:**

#### **Commencement Notices**

A total of 413 valid commencement notices have been submitted up to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 on the BCMS.

Wexford	135	Gorey	120
Enniscorthy	93	New Ross	65

#### Taking in Charge

We have a number of estates that are currently at different stages of the Taking in Charge process.

Five estates will be referred to the relevant Municipal District meetings for the final stage of the Taking in Charge process in November 2018. These estates are:

- Harbour View, Duncannon
- Cromwellsfort Grove
- Cromwellsfort Drive
- Cromwellsfort Heights
- > Fern Hill Close, Killinick

Ten estates are at the public consultation stage at present. These estates are:

- Curragh Wood, Kilanerin, Gorey
- > Sunset Avenue, Riverchapel, Gorev
- > Harbour Court, Courtown
- Hunters Green, Gorey
- > Glen Aoibhinn, Ardamine, Courtown
- > Oakhill, Ramstown Lower, Gorey
- Clonattin Village, Phase 2, Gorey
- Riverside, Blackwater Enniscorthy
- Castle Meadows, Murntown
- > Stonehaven, Belvedere Road

Rosehill Heights estate, Rosslare is proceeding to the public consultation stage on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The latest date for the receipt of written objections / representations is 4.00 pm on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

The following estates were formally taken in charge at the relevant Municipal District meetings in October.

- O'Rahilly View, Gusserane
- > Sallyville Close, Rosslare
- Millfield, Ballycanew

The total number of estates taken in charge this year to date is 28.

#### **Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites**

Activity on Derelict Sites/Dangerous Structures is as follows:

Notices Issued under Derelict Sites Act 1990	48
Notices issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964	6
Notices issued under Section 7 of the Urban Regeneration	3
and Housing Act 2015	

#### **Planning Enforcement:**

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 22/08/18 is as follows;

	Cases Opened	23
>	Live Cases	382
	Cases Closed	3

#### **District Court Cases**

6 planning enforcement cases were listed in the District Courts during October 2018 Gorey:

- Enforcement case 0159/2010 case relating to unpaid Planning contributions was struck out following the recommencement of payments.
- Enforcement case 0043/2016 Land at Branogue Park, Ardamine, was restored to use as public open space and the owners of the adjoining property gave an undertaking in Court not to occupy this land. Defendants were ordered to pay costs of €1,328.77 to Wexford County Council.

#### Wexford:

- Enforcement case 0001/2015 Defendant fined €3,500 and ordered to pay costs of €1,558 to Wexford County Council after pleading guilty, removing the unauthorised garage and container and ceasing an unauthorised business at Gibberwell, Duncormick.
- Enforcement case 0147/2016 case relating to a wall at st Peters Sq, Wexford, was struck out.
- Enforcement case 0061//2016 relating to a shed was adjourned to 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019 following the grant of planning permission and to allow for payment of €1,545 costs to Wexford County Council.
- Enforcement case 0012/2018 relating to an unauthorised quarry was adjourned to 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019.

## **Access Section**

**Disability Access Certificates (DACs):** The number of DAC applications, validated for the period from 01/01/2018 up to and including 25/10/2018, totals 77.

# **Projects**Make Way Day - 26th September

Locally the event received very positive feedback both from members of the public and from the groups who participated in the event on the day.

The Disability Federation Ireland reported the following statisticts, outlining the huge success of the campaign.



- #MakeWayDay trended in Ireland, as the number one talked about topic on Social Media, for 4-5 hours and maintained its position in the top 5, throughout the day.
- #MakeWayDay was shared on social media not only in Ireland but also across parts of the UK, US, France and Africa.
- More recently, it was mentioned in an article published in the Times, UK
- Information about the day featured in the majority of local newspapers across the country and activists and campaign spokespeople were interviewed on radio stations throughout the country.
- The campaign featured on the RTE TV News at 9pm and featured on Morning Ireland, Radio 1.

#### Back In 5 - Campaign

(Irish Wheelchair Association Wexford Branch- IWA)

This event organised to raise awareness of the misuse of disabled parking spaces, was fully supported by the, Borough District of Wexford, the Access Section and An Garda Síochána. Many local Councillors along with two of Wexford Oireachtas Members also attended on the day in support of this campaign.

The campaign was designed to highlight the frustrations people with disabilities face every day when able-bodied people park their cars in wheelchair accessible spaces without a valid parking permit.

A number of regular parking spaces on Crescent Quay were taken over by parked empty wheelchairs with messages



pinned to the back of them such as "Be back in 5 minutes" or "just gone to the bank," These are throw away statements that people with disabilities encounter every day when people, that do not need to, use disabled spaces.

The campaign was highlighted on Wexford County Councils website and on the intranet. Details of the event were sent to the PPN Co-coordinator for distribution to the members. WCC photographic society's Facebook also posted details of the event.

## 2. Special Projects:

**Min Ryan Park, Wexford:** A sod-turning ceremony to mark construction commencement was held on September 8<sup>th</sup> 2018. The Contractor (Niall Barry and Co. Ltd) is now mobilised onsite and has commenced earthworks and drainage works. The park is expected to open to the public in September 2019.

**Wexford Quays – Economic and Spatial Strategy:** Architects Scott Tallon Walker have now submitted their final stage 2B report on the Economic Development and Spatial Implementation Plan for the Wexford Quay front. The report will be presented to the Members in December 2018.

**Trinity Wharf:** The Trinity Wharf site was acquired by Wexford Co. Council to attract investment and stimulate economic development in Wexford. Architects, Scott Tallon Walker have been appointed to prepare a master plan, environmental studies, preliminary designs and the related planning and foreshore applications for the development. A draft master plan was presented to the public for comment in September as part of an informal public information event and the master plan is now being completed. The environmental impact assessment is underway and is expected to be completed in November 2018. An application to An Bord Pleannala is due to be submitted in late November 2018.

An application for funding for the scheme was submitted under the URDF scheme in September 2018.

**Crescent Quay/Ballast Office:** A package of Improvement Works in the Crescent Quay Area is currently being formulated as the first phase of the overall plan for the Quay Front Area.

These works will enhance and upgrade the public realm around the Crescent / Waterfront areas and improve the pedestrian links from Main Street to the Quays and the waterfront. The Part VIII approval process commenced on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Submissions have now been received and a report is being prepared for presentation to the Members for the November Council meeting. Additionally, a tender for the works was published on eTenders on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October. This is necessary to allow the works to commence on site in January 2019.

**Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy:** The launch of the Regeneration strategy took place in Templeshannon in February. The identification of the land requirements for the car park works commenced in April 2018. A Part 8 planning application was lodged on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2018 for the proposed streetscape works on Templeshannon and The Shannon. Submissions have now been received and a report is being prepared for presentation to the Members at the December Council meeting.

The appointment of consultants to detailed design and tender documents will proceed for the street works and for the preliminary designs, environmental studies and planning documents for the pedestrian bridge

An application for funding for the scheme was submitted under the URDF scheme in September 2018.

**Enniscorthy Technology Park, Killagoley:** Following a public tender process, the contract for Phase 1 development works was awarded to Niall Barry and Co. Ltd. Works commenced on site on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Bulk earthworks are well underway for the main access road, with installation of the main site services having commenced also. Works are expected to complete in February 2019.

**Gorey Market House:** A Part 8 planning application for re-development of the Market House into a multi-purpose performance / exhibition / retail space was passed at the May Council Meeting 2018.

The invitation to tender for development proposals from parties interested in partnering with the Council on the project closed on 18/05/2018 and one tender submission was received which is being evaluated and assessed. Currently €2.0m of WCC resources is available to fund the project and the outstanding capital funding will have to be secured through WCC's RRDF application.

An application for funding for the scheme was submitted under the RRDF scheme in September 2018.

**Wexford Arts Centre:** Funding of €1m has been approved by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional and Rural Affairs and the Gaeltacht for an extension and renovation of the Wexford Arts Centre. Wexford County Council have committed to providing matching funding. Funding must be expended by March 2020.

**Carrigfoyle Activity Centre:** Wexford County Council has appointed Consulting Engineers to provide services for the design and tender of infrastructural work at Carrigfoyle for the initial stage of a project to develop an activity centre on the site. Construction is planned to commence in Q2-2019. It is envisaged that works will be completed by Q1-2020.

An application for funding for the scheme was submitted under the RRDF scheme in September 2018.

**Enniscorthy Tourism Project:** Wexford County Council has procured services to prepare a feasibility study to develop and implement a major plan for Enniscorthy as a long term, sustainable tourism destination. Meetings have taken place between WCC and Alan Sherwood & Associates, who have been appointed as the consultants for the plan and work has commenced.

#### **Greenways:**

#### Rosslare to Waterford City Greenway.

Wexford County Council has procured services to examine the feasibility of developing a greenway from Rosslare Harbour to Waterford City. The study will review route options for the greenway, including the use of the rail corridor from Rosslare Strand to Waterford, prepare baseline environmental studies and prepare and submit planning applications over the next 12 months. The project is running to schedule with the familiarisation report now complete and the initial environmental studies and investigative works substantially complete. Draft route selection reports and environmental screening documents are now complete. A presentation to the Members on the feasibility study will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> October on the on the route options examined for the Greenway and the findings of the feasibility study, including the preferred option identified.

#### **New Ross to Waterford Greenway:**

The development of a greenway from Mountelliott in New Ross to Waterford City is currently at the planning stage. A Part 8 planning application was advertised for public consultation on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 and was approved at the Council meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2018.

A Section 85 agreement has been signed by Wexford County Council, Kilkenny County Council, and Waterford City and County Council, to enable Wexford County Council to act as the lead authority on behalf of the other Councils. An application for funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport is currently being prepared.

#### **Curracloe to Wexford Greenway**

Wexford County Council submitted its application for development of the Wexford to Curracloe greenway to An Bord Pleanala in May 2018. The proposed development consists of 10.7km of a shared cycling and walking greenway and a further 4.9 km of local looped trails.

Permission for the development was refused by the Board in a decision issued on 17/10/2018 citing, in particular, concerns in relation to the potential impact of the development on the Raven Point Nature Reserve Special Area of Conservation and Wexford Harbour and Slobs Special Protection Area.

The Council will review in detail the decision of An Bord Pleanala and examine if other options for delivering this facility can be developed.

# 3. Housing, Community, Libraries, Arts, Emergency Services & Community:

#### **Housing Supply**

A number of housing capital projects have been approved by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) and are progressing to construction stage:-

#### Construction Complete

- 2 Special Needs Houses in Oilgate Houses completed May 2018
- 8 houses in Cherry Orchard, Enniscorthy Houses completed September and occupied (see photo above).
- 2 houses in Cois Mara, Rosslare Houses completed July 2018 and occupied.
- 5 houses in Baile Eoghain, Gorey Five complete and occupied in October 2018.

#### **Under Construction**

- 4 houses in Baile Eoghain, Gorey Four on programme to complete in 2018.
- 1 house at Ross Road Enniscorthy Under construction since August 2018 (ESB delays).
- 10 Houses in Creagh, Gorey Under construction, due to complete in March 2019.
- 10 Houses in Danescastle Under construction, due to complete in July 2018.
- **10 Houses at Slippery Green, Wexford** Under construction, commenced on site April 2018 due to complete in April 2019.
- **7 Houses in Coolcotts** Under construction, to complete in Sept 2019.

#### Stage 4

- 1 TAP house in Castlemoyle Tender in September 2018, to commence Nov 2018.
- 1 House in Castlemoyle for Special Needs Stage 4 to DHPLG. To commence in November 2018.

#### Stage 3

- 1 house at Ballynaboola Stage 3 approved. Costs have been reduced and a new planning permission was lodged, boundary issues with owners, awaiting outcome.
- **18 houses in Taghmon** Stage 3 approved tender October 2018.
- 6 units at The Ballagh Stage 3 approved in August, 2018, tender October 2018.

#### Stage 2

- 44 Housing Units at Whiterock Hill, Wexford Stage 2 approved on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
  Stage 3 progressing Part VIII lodged September, 2018.
- **28 units at Rosbercon, New Ross** Stage 1 approved in October 2018, appointing consultants in Q4 2018.

#### Stage 1

- 3 units in Ballyhine Not approved by members, a new scheme will be proposed for this site. Stage 1 for 6 units will be commenced Q4 2018.
- 11 units in Ballywish Stage 1 approved, submit Stage 2 in Q4 2018.
- 34 units at Kileens, Wexford Stage 1 approved on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2018, Stage 2 Q4 2018.
- **43 units at Rosetown, Rosslare** Stage 1 approved on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2018 enabling works consultant investigations ongoing. Enabling site works 2018, houses to be tendered to consultants in Q1 2019.
- 17 units at Carley's Bridge, Enniscorthy Stage 1 approved on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 awaiting OPW agreement to proceed to Part VIII, seeking another entrance.
- 12 units for Women's Refuge Appointment of an integrated design team has been completed. Site investigations complete, Stage 2 November 2018.
- **12 units at Creagh, Gorey** Stage 1 approved on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. Awaiting confirmation of high voltage location on site, surveys tendered.

#### Pre-development Stage

We are working on another **86** units preparing feasibility studies prior to the Stage 1 application. These include the following larger projects:-

•	Daphne View, Enniscorthy	24
•	Castlemoyle, New Ross (Land Aggregation Scheme)	40 (phase 1)
•	Marconi Park, Enniscorthy (stage 1 Nov 2018)	1
•	5 Francis Street	1
•	Wexford Street, Gorey (stage 1 Dec 2018)	18
•	Bullawn Special Needs house (stage 1 Nov 2018)	1
•	Marley (stage 1 Dec 2018)	1

#### **Longer Term Projects**

•	Park, Wexford	10
•	Clonard, Wexford (tender to clear site received)	26
•	Adamstown (no services capacity presently)	16

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

1	Waste Presentation Byelaws
	The Environment Department presented the new Draft Waste Presentation
	Bye-laws to the Environment SPC earlier in the year. The date for
	submissions on the Bye-Laws has now finished and the bye-laws are being
	presented at the Council meeting of the 12th November for adoption.
	These Bye-laws will give additional powers to the Council in terms of
	tackling the illegal dumping problem, such as requiring the submission of
	documentary evidence to prove that that the waste was dealt with in
	accordance with the byelaws.
2	Environmental Education
	The Environment Department Annual Awards will take place in the
	Ferrycarrig Hotel at 7.00 p.m on the 12th November.
3	Storm Callum
	No damage of any significance was reported in respect of damage to any
	of the Council's coastal infrastructure, harbours, slipways, boardwalks apart for
	damage to a section of the new boardwalk at Carne

#### COMMUNITY

#### **Community Resilience Workshops**

It is proposed to hold four Community Resilience workshops during November with one in each Municipal District as follows:

Wexford 20th November @ 7.30pm New Ross 22nd November @ 7.30pm Enniscorthy 27th November @ 7.30pm Gorey 29th November @ 7.30pm

The focus of these workshops will be to get communities thinking about responding to major weather events or major emergencies where communities will be in a position to help themselves and in particular to assist those most vulnerable within the community. A Community Resilience

Committee has been established to co-ordinate this with representatives from agencies including the Fire Service, IFA, Garda Síochana, Civil Defence, HSE and PPN.

#### Town and Village Renewal Programme

The Community Development Section will be scheduling four workshops, one in each Municipal District to prepare Community Groups for the 2019 Town and Village Renewal Programme.

#### SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

#### **European Week of Sport**

European week of Sport took place from the 24th - 30th of September and was a week-long celebration of sport and physical activity. National Fitness Day took place during this week on Thursday 27th of September. To celebrate this week, Sports Active Wexford organised a week full of different activities free of charge for staff members to try in County Hall and at outside venues. The activities included Circuits class, Walking, Yoga, Zumba, Kinetic fitness and Jump fitness.

#### Male Refugee Swimming Lessons

Sports Active Wexford has received funding from the Communities Integration Fund 2018 through the Department of Justice and Equality. Funding will be spent providing swimming lessons for male refugees based in Enniscorthy. The group will begin the swimming lessons on Friday 19th of October in the Waterfront Swimming Pool in Enniscorthy and will continue for 10 weeks. Sports Active Wexford has worked in collaboration with Waterford Wexford Education and Training Board to set up these classes.

#### Sports Leadership Programme.

Sports Active is running four programmes at present with the following schools, Kennedy College, Our lady Of Lourdes, Adamstown, and Selskar College. With 109 TY and 5th Year students taking part in two leadership programmes.

#### Physical Activity Programme (CAHMS)

South Wexford Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service' who were awarded a Special Commendation at the Irish Healthcare Awards night, in the category of 'Outpatient Initiative of the Year' This Programme was run in partnership with Wexford Gymnastics and Gymnastics Ireland.

#### **Healthy Ireland Fund 2018**

Sports Active have been awarded the following programmes under this fund.

#### CYPSC:-

- Physical Literacy Programme for Pre Schools
- Physical Activity Programme for Children and Adolescents Mental Health programme.

#### LCDC:-

- Swimming for School Programme
- Men's Shed Programme

## LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

#### **ARTS**

Per Cent for Art - M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme Total value of this Per Cent for art commission is €65,000 to be divided across 3 separate commissions valued at €20,000 each. There was huge interest in this scheme and the arts department received 57 submissions from a variety of artists both nationally and internationally. These applications have been shortlisted to 10 submissions by a selection panel and the final selections will be made in January 2019.

**Festival Opera Exhibitions: Brian Maguire Exhibition** A solo exhibition by Brian Maguire titled 'War Changes Its Address: The Aleppo Paintings' will feature a series of paintings documenting the destruction of Aleppo giving an insight into the physical consequences of war. The exhibition will be displayed on the Street of county hall from 29<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Creative Hub at Bullring Mall**. Mary Ruth Walsh has curated 'Vital Material' an exhibition of work from the 25 resident artists which are displayed on the walls of the Creative Hub.

**New Arts Festival Fund** Upcoming festivals funded through this new arts festival fund initiated by the arts office in 2018:

<u>Malartú Banquet of Poetry and Song</u> - 27<sup>th</sup> Oct in Foulksmills this one day festival will tell stories of the locality and the world through songs, poetry and music.

Reading between the Lines – 1<sup>st</sup> October in Gorey Library collaboration between the Gorey writers group and Crow a music group open to the general public.

<u>Eugene O'Neill International Festival of Theatre</u> -11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October in St. Michael's Theatre New Ross a 4 day display of film and drama highlighting the historic legacy of playwright Eugene O'Neill

#### LIBRARIES WORK MATTERS

On Tuesday 2 October at 4 pm, the new Gorey Library **Work Matters Space** was officially launched by Cllr. Pip Breen. Members of the public and local business community were invited to see the Work Matters Space which is a free wifi enabled work space for business people and jobseekers to hot-desk, research, meet and network. A full programme of business related events is also being delivered.

#### PARENTING PROGRAMME

More than 30 events are being delivered in libraries in all Municipal Districts on topics relating to parenting and young children in 2018. This programme is a partnership between the library service and the Children and Young People's Services Committee. Events are being delivered by recognised local and national experts and have attracted large crowds. Planning is already underway based on feedback for 2019 programme.

#### LIBRARIAN'S SEMINAR

The City and County Librarian's Section of the Library Association of Ireland held its annual Autumn Seminar in Clayton Whites Hotel on 4<sup>th</sup> October. The Seminar was opened by Chief Executive Tom Enright and addressed by Cllr. Robbie Ireton deputising for Cllr. Keith Doyle, Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council.

#### LIBRARIES LEAD WITH DIGITAL

Wexford County Council Public Libraries Service is one of four library authorities chosen to partner with Google and Public Libraries 2020 in the delivery of the *Libraries Lead with Digital* programme. This programme is developing resources to be used in libraries in the areas of digital skills, online safety and computer science. The initial research from Wexford Public Library Service was presented by Senior Executive Librarian, Nicola McGrath at the European Parliament in Brussels in October.

#### WexSci

Wexford Science Festival WexSci will take place from 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November with events taking place countywide. Part-funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) the Festival is led by Wexford County Council in partnership with I.T Carlow, WIT, Waterford Wexford ETB, EPA, and BIM. The many festival events will feature some of the best national and international scientists and researchers discussing a broad range of subjects, from humanology to climate change and

meteorology, from code breaking to astronomy, from the transforming qualities of milk to neuroscience. There are opportunities all week for the public to experience STEM in a hands-on way, to learn how to be a laboratory technician, engineer, sports scientist, marine biologist, agronomist, immunologist, environmentalist, computer scientist, energy conservator and much more.

The highlight of the week is the STEM Showcase, an open day for all, adults, family groups, young people, on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November in County Hall from 10.45am to 4pm.

## FIRE SERVICE

#### News

The ICT systems used by the Fire Services are in the process of full and complete upgrade. The Diamond Fire Administration System will be web based henceforth and training/rollout is expected on 5<sup>th</sup> November. The Gartan Payroll System is currently undergoing system review with rollout expected by year end.

It was agreed with the Waterford Institute of Technology to proceed with the first round of validation for a Masters in Building Control Studies. The degree programme in Fire Engineering has 20 students in its first year and is proceeding smoothly.

#### **Fire Operations**

In September it was a busy month period with 73 incidents as detailed below. By the end of the month there were 232 incidents in excess of the same time last year.

Incident Type	Calls Sept	Calls to date 2018	Calls to this period 2017
Chimney fire	8	102	98
Domestic fire	6	65	42
Road Traffic Accident	7	84	80
Industrial fire	1	8	6
Commercial fire	0	3	5
Assembly fire	2	3	4
Agricultural fire	0	4	7
Motor Vehicles	8	48	36
Forest/bog/grass etc	12	190	111
Rubbish	6	49	39
Non-fire rescues	0	23	24
False alarms – good intent	18	214	143
Malicious false alarms	0	3	0
Miscellaneous	5	59	28
Total	73	855	623

#### Fire Safety

The number of applications for fire safety certificates, planning referrals and Fire Services Acts inspections for the months of September were as follows:-

Applications Received	Year to date	September	
Fire Safety Certificates	91	3	
Planning Referrals	593	30	

Number Inspections	of	Year to date	September
FSA Inspections		240	20

## 4. Transportation, Water Services:

#### **COUNTY WEXFORD'S NATIONAL ROADS SCHEMES:**

#### 1. N25 New Ross Bypass

#### **Progress Update October 2018**

The overall design and construction phase of the PPP Contract is over three quarters complete, and the scheme is scheduled to open in 2019.

The construction of the cantilevered decks and pylon towers at piers 3 and 4 of the River Barrow bridge continue to progress and the construction of the cantilevered deck at pier 5 has also commenced with three segments poured to date. On the Co. Wexford side of river, the construction of the deck wing sections at span 6 has commenced while the construction of the deck central box is progressing on span 7. Temporary falsework has been erected on span 8 to support the construction of the bridge deck for this span.

Pavement works are substantially progressed throughout the site and the construction of the central median barrier for the dual carriageway has commenced. It is anticipated that all three roundabout junctions (N25 Glenmore, N25 Ballymacar & N30 Corcoran's Cross) will be fully open to traffic and incorporated into the existing road network before the end of 2019. The section of bypass from N30 junction at Corcoran's Cross, through the N25 junction at Ballymacar to the R733 junction at Camlin will also be very substantially progressed before the end of the year. Final works for landscaping, drainage, fencing, barriers, signage, accommodation works are ongoing.

The 60km/h road works speed limits at N25 Glenmore and N25 Ballymacar are in operation until January 2019 to facilitate finishing works. A full closure of the N30 at Corcoran's Cross is scheduled over an extended weekend starting on November 24<sup>th</sup> to also facilitate finishing works. The N30 will be diverted via the R735 (Adamstown) and N25, and local access diversions will also operate. All nine of the road bridges on the Wexford side of the scheme are substantially complete and all associated local road realignments are either fully open or open under temporary traffic management. Final snagging inspections and safety audit procedures for these roads are ongoing.

The two road bridges on the Kilkenny side are almost complete and the associated local road realignments will open in November. The construction of the deck for the railway overbridge on the Kilkenny side is also progressing well. The Pink Rock Road is scheduled to re-open before Christmas following a long-term closure.

The preparation of the detailed design for the selected project art piece under the Per Cent for Art programme continues to progress. Upon opening of the bypass a significant amount of road signage on the existing road network will need to be changed, and preparations for the implementation of these changes is nearing completion.

Monitoring, maintenance and emergency regimes continue to be operated as necessary on public roads at interfaces with the site to ensure that all operations continue to operate safely and with minimum disruption to local communities and residents. Winter maintenance protocols for public roads within the site have been re-activated for the coming season.

The tenth quarterly project newsletter was published in October. The project continues to attract very significant public interest and the project website <a href="www.n25newross.ie">www.n25newross.ie</a> continues to provide progress updates as well as information on traffic management and road works. Wexford County Council continues to release periodic project videos to keep the public updated on progress. The 24 telephone hotline continues to operate to deal with any queries or complaints from the public. The number is 1800 815672, and this number has been posted on both the newsletter and website. The Project Liaison Office will continue to liaise and consult with all landowners and other interested parties for the duration of the project.



1. Glenmore Roundabout open under temporary traffic management in background, railway overbridge under construction in foreground.



2. Barrow Bridge –Approach from direction of Glenmore Roundabout.



3. Barrow Bridge – View over deck at Pink Rock looking over to Pier 4. Eastern approach spans on Wexford side under construction in the distance.



4. Barrow Bridge – Concrete Pour to cantilever deck segment at Pier 3.



5. Cut 3 at Stokestown & Landscape - Earthworks complete and pavement works in progress.



6. R733 Junction – Formation of slip roads in progress, Construction of roundabout at Stokestown Road (centre right).



7.N25 Ballymacar Roundabout – Final surfacing works and tie-ins to existing road to be completed.



8. Pavement works nearing completion at Lacken

#### 4. M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme update

#### **Program to Date**

As of October 2018, the program is on target and the M11, N30 and N80 link to be opened to traffic in July 2019 with minor works taking place up to the contract end date of November 2019.

#### **Construction to Date**

The following table indicates site work progression to date.

		Reported in Dec	Progress Reported in Aug 2018	Progress Reported in Sept 2018	Progress Reported in Oct 2018
Site Clearance	96%	98%	98%	99%	99%
Fencing	85%	86%	89%	89%	91%
Drainage & Service				81%	86%
Ducts	7%	30%	65%		
Earthworks	23%	75%	90%	98%	98%
Structures - Main					
Bridges		56%	91%	93%	94%
Structures – Culverts	29%	96%	98%	99%	99%
Structures - Access					
Structures	12%	84%	94%	94%	96%
Kerbs Footways &					
Paved Areas			49%	53%	57%
Safety Barrier			8%	8%	19%
Pavement			36%	52%	58%

#### Newsletter

The newsletter for Q3 2018 has been issued and uploaded on to the M11 website. The M11 website WWW.m11gtoe.ie is updated on a monthly basis providing information road closures and traffic management.

#### Advance Notification of Major Road Works

Major road works are due to commence on the tie in locations on the M11 Frankfurt Interchange, N30 Templescoby, N11 Scurlocksbush and N11/ N80 Clavass. Any traffic delays associated with these works will be kept to a minimum and the public will be notified in advance of the works so that they can plan their journeys accordingly.

#### Applications submitted to WCC from the PPP:

Road Closure Applications

The following road closures have been/ are to be enacted:

Road	Closure Date	Duration (months)	Opening Date
N30-S7, L6122, Templescoby Road	08/10/18	6 weeks	16/11/18
L2008, Old Dublin Road, Clavass	tbc	tbc	tbc

#### **Recent Site Protests**

A number of high profile protests have taken place on the M11 project resulting in blockades being erected within the site. After intense discussions involving all parties a positive outcome was achieved and a system was put in place to defuse any future issues that may arise.

#### 2018 Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Allocation:

Transport Infrastructure Ireland has provided funding for the following schemes.

#### **N25 New Ross By-Pass Residual Network**

#### **N25 Oaklands Roundabout**

Works were completed in June.

#### N30/ R700 Roundabout

Works commenced in July. This scheme is due to be completed in February 2019.

#### **N11 Kyle Upper Pavement Scheme**

This scheme was completed in June.

#### N11 Kileen to Newtown - Phase 1

This scheme will run from Ferrycarrig Bridge to just south of Kyle Crossroads. Works commenced on September 12<sup>th</sup>. and are due to be completed in December weather permitting.

#### 2018 HD28 Pavement Works

This scheme involves pavement improvement works immediately north of Camolin Village on the N11. Drainage works commenced in October. Pavement works will be completed by November 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **N30 Enniscorthy Southern Approach**

Works are due to be completed by the end of December weather permitting.

#### N11 Killeen to Newtown - Phase 2

Site investigation works are ongoing on this scheme at present.

The timeline for construction works are dependent on the outcome of the site investigation works. This scheme should be tendered in the first half of 2019.

#### **N30 Mountelliot**

Works are progressing on tender documents. This scheme should be tendered in November/December 2018. This scheme should be constructed in April/May 2019.

#### **Public Lighting LED Upgrade**

The 2018 programme involved the upgrade of 2,450 lights to Led in Wexford Town. This was completed in September. This scheme will result in over 60% energy and maintenance savings annually.

#### **Winter Maintenance**

The 2018/2019 winter maintenance programme commenced on Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. October. There have no call outs up to October 25th.

#### REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

#### **Improvement Works**

Work ongoing at Mountelliott Roundabout (New Ross District).

#### **Strengthening**

Strengthening programme recommenced on September 26 in Enniscorthy District.

Roads strengthened in last month: Ballinvarry; Coolnaboy to Oilgate; and Graigue Beg (all in Enniscorthy District). Clologue; and Balldarragh Lane (both in Gorey District).

Preparing roads for Community Involvement Schemes in all Districts.

Preparing roads for Local Improvement Schemes in all Districts.

#### **Surface Dressing**

Surface dressing programme was completed on September 25 in Wexford District.

#### **General Maintenance**

Drainage, patching and road surface repair works ongoing in all Districts.

#### A. Irish Water - Asset Management

## **Irish Water Capital Schemes**

#### IW Asset Management: Enniscorthy Sewerage Scheme

The WWTP is to be extended to cater for a PE of 26,000, an increase of 10,000 PE from the existing 16,000 PE. The DBO contract was signed on the 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. Ward & Burke are the contractors and have commenced on site. J.B. Barry are the Consulting Engineers. Works are progressing ahead of programme as the inlet works and treatment process are currently taking flows.

#### **Enniscorthy Network Upgrade**

Surveying works have commenced in the Enniscorthy area to enable a hydraulic model of the sewer network to be completed. Once the model is complete, design works on areas requiring rehabilitation / upgrade will commence.

#### IW Asset Management: Enniscorthy and Sow Regional Water S.S.

IW Asset Strategy has approved the following elements of work on this Scheme: New intake and pumping station at Clonhasten.

Site Investigation Contract has been awarded and will be started in November, 2018. Currently in negotiations with one land owner for permanent acquisitions and wayleaves required to complete the project. Planning permission is planned to be submitted by Irish Water Consultant, Nicholas O'Dwyer before the end of December, 2018.

#### IW Asset Management: Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme

Site Investigations have been completed along the proposed outfall route. Foreshore application was lodged. The land acquisition by CPO has also commenced for the selected WWTP site and Pumping Station site.

#### **IW Asset Management: Gorey Sewerage Scheme**

The DBO contract with AECOM/SIAC Construction to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant in Courtown was completed in 2016. The plant is now operated by the contractor. (Aecom is now Murphy Process Engineering).

The 75% OPW-funded flood relief works minor scheme for Gorey Town is underway.

#### IW Asset Management: Gorey Regional Water Supply - South Wellfield

The Gorey RWSS will be upgraded and a new 8 Ml/day WTP and 7,500m<sup>3</sup> reservoir provided at Ballyminaun. Planning permission was granted by WCC to upgrade the borehole sites and build a new water treatment plant at Ballyminaun. The hydrogeological investigations show that remedial works will be required to most of the boreholes and the contract documents are being revised accordingly. Negotiations for wayleaves ongoing with landowners. The CPO is completed as objections were withdrawn before scheduled oral hearing. Tender documents have been issued with a tender return date of November, 14<sup>th</sup> 2018.

#### IW Asset Management: Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)

Aecom has been appointed to design a waste water treatment scheme for the villages of Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon. These designs are currently underway. A Scheme for Kilmore Quay is also currently being designed. These have progressed from the Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS) to identify areas of the highest priority requiring treatment. Detailed design works are underway. Land owner engagement has started and site investigation works are now complete. The treatment standard for the schemes has been increased to both primary and secondary treatment.

The CPO for Duncannon, Arthurstown and Ballyhack has been advertised. This project is now out to tender and we expect planning to be lodged before Christmas 2018.

#### IW Asset Management: Wexford Town Watermain Rehab and Gas Network

Design works are currently underway for the remaining water main and gas mains, as well as design to eliminate back yard services around Wexford. A new hydraulic model for Wexford town is being updated to allow for the design works to progress. Landowner engagement has started. Tender documentation is progressing and will be issued shortly.

#### IW Asset Management: Water Conservation Stage 3

Works to the Gorey section are complete. Bridgetown is now complete. IW are funding this project for €2m for 9KM of pipeline rehabilitation.

#### **Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew**

The crew has spent the past 10 weeks upgrading the Kiltealy water main in order to remove the boil water notice currently in place.

The crew will next complete the outstanding section of water main in Redshire Road, Murrintown between November & December.

#### Ferns Upgrade - Capital Investment Plan

IW Asset Strategy has approved the following for a feasibility study on this Scheme.

Atkins have been appointed to carry out preliminary design works for an upgrade to Ferns waste water treatment system.

The feasibility study report on options to upgrade the plant has been completed and is currently under review.

## **B. IRISH WATER MINOR SCHEMES & SPECIAL SCHEMES**

#### IW Asset Management: Murntown P.S. (Wastewater to Wexford WWTW)

Storm Tank and Pump Sump works completed

#### **Trinity Street Waste Water Pumping Station**

- Remedial works to fuel storage tank and generator
- 2 number Storm pumps removed for repairs

#### **Rosslare Strand**

- Upgrading IP radio in Rosslare Strand WWTP
- Currently reviewing best option for replace of IP radios on Area Pumping Station and integration of stations not already covered

#### **New Ross Area Planned Works**

- Clonroche WWTP Replacement of gearbox due in November
- Rathroe Meadows Ramsgrange Panel and kiosk upgrades
- Carrig on Bannow Proposing to supply spare gearbox and motor

#### **Wexford Area Planned Works**

- Kilmore PS Replacement foul pump
- Distillery Road PS Replacement foul pump

#### IW Asset Management: Newtown WTW (pumps, blowers etc.)

Works complete at Edenvale and Newtown with the exception of minor snagging.

## IW Asset Management: Kilmallock & Taylorstown WTW (new pumps, automated treatment, replacement of chlorine gas etc)

Project is at substantial completion and now in the defects period. Works additional to the main contract including pfolyelectrolyte commissioning at Taylorstown is due to be carried out before the end of October. PH correction to be commissioned at Kilmallock is being discussed between Irish Water and the contractor, and remains outstanding.

IW Asset Management: Coagulation automation at Creagh, Vinegar Hill and Newtown WTW Commissioning at Vinegar Hill and Creagh complete and gathering raw water data. Newtown WTW in automatic mode with manual override since May 17th.

#### IW Asset Management: Disinfection and pH Control Programme

Disinfection works at Chestnut Grove, Hollyfort, Ballinellard, Clonroche and Coolgreaney commissioned.

Mechanical and electrical works complete at Bree borehole and is being commissioned week commencing October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Works nearly complete at Vinegar Hill. Mechanical works almost complete at Newtown and Kilagoley.

Works partially complete at Kilmuckridge, Edermine and Ballindaggin boreholes. Bolabeg, Raheen and Telalrought boreholes added to IW Disinfection Programme.

#### **Water Network Program**

Coffey Water (CNL) have been appointed as regional contractor for the Water Network Programme for the South East. CNL have work orders for public side lead replacement works in Enniscorthy and Backyard Service replacement in Wexford, Gorey and Taghmon. This work will be ongoing throughout the year and new work orders issued for other identified works.

First fix leak repairs are ongoing on a daily basis around the county. Irish Water are in the process of organising an information meeting for Enniscorthy given the large volume of works to be done there.

#### **Capital Maintenance Budget**

Combined budget for 2017/2018 is 1,879,966. Current approved spend is 1,870,183. Total commitments to date are €1,409,350. Additional budget may be sought if required.

#### C. RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

#### The Bing Group Sewerage Scheme

Assistant Engineer commenced in Rural Water on the 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2018. An assessment will be carried out on the Bing Group Sewerage Scheme to ascertain whether funding will be made available.

Crosstown Group Sewerage Scheme / Orchard Lane Group Sewerage Scheme Takeover Process ongoing.

#### WATER CONSERVATION

#### **Leak Detection and Repair:**

34nr leaks were detected and repaired in September 2018.

- Irish Water first fix programme has commenced in Co. Wexford.
- Water Network Programme
  - Wexford Lead replacement works completed on Distillery Road.
  - Enniscorthy Lead replacement works to commence in Nov '18. Backyard service replacement detailed design has commenced. Coffeys will hold an information evening to explain upcoming works to public in November.
  - New Ross Lead Replacement works to commence in Nov '18. Backyard service replacement detailed design has commenced.
- Irish Water Leak Management System (LMS) will go live in November.

## **Pressure Management:**

- Water Network Program works to replace existing PRV's will commence in November '18 in Enniscorthy and Gorey.
- PSV to be installed at Wexford Creamery, Nov '18.

## SCADA-Telemetry:

Disinfection Programme and Telemetry programme work ongoing.

#### **Global Information System:**

 Corrections to System are continuously being surveyed and digitised on the Arc GIS system.

#### 5. Finance:

#### **Annual Financial Statement 2017 – Audit of Accounts**

The audit of the 2017 Accounts being undertaken by the Local Government Audit Service is nearing completion and the statutory Audit Report for 2017 is included on the agenda for both the CPG and Council to consider. A copy of the audited financial statement for 2017 is also being circulated which includes the Audit Opinion.

#### Budget 2019

- Local Property Tax: local variation decision (10<sup>th</sup> September 2018) Base Rate plus 10% approved for 2019
- The CPG/Cross Party Budget Strategy Meeting is scheduled for 1st October
- Draft Budgetary Plans/GMA were approved without change at each of the four Municipal District in October
- Statutory Budget Meeting is scheduled for Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 10am.

#### **Audit Committee**

The next meeting of the Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

#### **Borrowing Programme 2018**

Ministerial Sanction has been received for the Public Lighting (€5m) and Housing Loan Programme (€5.5m). Sanction for the Economic and Community Development element (€40m) has been the subject of additional correspondence with the DHPLG and formal ministerial approval is still awaited.

#### Cash Flow/Overdraft

The Council continues to operate in overdraft, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €13m will expire on 31st December, 2018. Approval of the council is now sought to extend the overdraft facility for the 2019 financial year and this is included on the agenda for formal approval of the council at the November meeting.

Tom Enright, Chief Executive.