



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**May 2018**

## 1.Economic Development & Planning:

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

**Delegations from the People's Republic of China recently visited Wexford County Council:** Two delegations from China recently visited Wexford County Council. The first Delegation from HUBEI Province was welcomed to Wexford on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

The objectives of this visit included:

- Meeting the key leaders and create network of contacts
- To understand and learn in particular about the Port environment in the region and to understand the increasing opportunities for investment and trade into the future
- To sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Wexford County Council and HUBEI Province, to build relationships and further explore the opportunities around formal twinning between Wexford, Ireland and HUBEI Province, China.

The official Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing ceremony and presentation with Wexford County Council and visiting HUBEI Delegation Members took place in the Council Chamber. The MOU commits to a two year relationship and exploration with a view to creating a formal twinning arrangement.

In the photograph below after the official signing of the MOU are Tony Larkin, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Wexford County Council, Councillor John Hegarty, Chairman of Wexford County Council, Mr. Wang Jianming, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of HUBEI Provincial People's Congress and H.E., Dr. YUE Xiaoyong, Chinese Ambassador to Ireland.



The second delegation visited on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018. This delegation was from Zhejiang Province representing the Yuyao Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Ningbo City.

The itinerary for this visit included a meet and greet with Cathaoirleach Councillor John Hegarty and Senior Management of Wexford County Council to hear about Wexford and the Southern Region.

The delegation from Zhejiang Province was particularly interested in pursuing Cultural and Economic Development links with Wexford.

In the photograph below Councillor John Hegarty, Chairman of Wexford County Council and members of Senior Management in Wexford County Council present the delegation with some local produce from Kearns Strawberries.



**Tourism - New Visit Wexford Website Launched:** [www.visitwexford.ie](http://www.visitwexford.ie) : The new Visit Wexford website has just been launched and features a whole new look and feel. The website was designed by Graphedia, a local web design company, in conjunction with Jean O'Connell Marketing, a local tourism marketing consultant. The new website replaces the old site which was first designed back in 2010 and was in need of a major refresh. The new site has been designed with mobile access in mind as 80% of web traffic now goes through a smartphone.

Coatek is a family run business which specialises in the supply and installation of Solar/Anti-Glare window film, Privacy, Energy Saving, Safety & UV Window Films and Privacy/Decorative films for both commercial and residential settings nationwide. They currently employ 10 full-time staff.

Judging took in April and Coatek will be competing against 30 other finalists from every local authority area for a share of the €40,000 prize fund. The Mansion House in Dublin is the venue for awards ceremony in May and categories this year include 'Best Export Business,' 'Best Start Up Business' and 'Innovation,' in addition to eight regional awards.

We wish Hugh and Coatek all the very best in the National Enterprise Awards

**Green Business Conference – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Wexford County Council:** This conference is designed to bring businesses in Wexford and the South East first-hand knowledge on a variety of Green topics. Greening your business can bring great results in terms of saving money by reducing your energy, water and waste costs.

The event is sponsored by the EPA and Wexford County Council and held in association with Econcertive, Wexford LEO, Kilkenny LEO, Wexford Chamber and Kilkenny Chamber.



**GREEN BUSINESS**  
**CONFERENCE 2018**  
in association with  
**GREENSAVE**  
Wexford County Council Offices  
Carricklawn, Wexford  
Thursday 10th May, 9am to 3pm  
Cost per delegate: €25 including VAT  
Includes Conference Admission, Tea, Coffee and Lunch

Guest Speaker  
**Anja Murray**  
Eco Eye

**Early registration is recommended as places are limited. To Register:**  
Contact Wexford Chamber by phone: 053 912 2228 or email: [kateoconnor@wexfordchamber.ie](mailto:kateoconnor@wexfordchamber.ie)  
**Book Online** at [www.wexfordchamber.ie/product/annual-green-conference-10th-may](http://www.wexfordchamber.ie/product/annual-green-conference-10th-may)

econcertive Environmental Business Support | epa | Kilkenny Chamber | Wexford Chamber | Wexford County Council | Wexford Enterprise Office | Wexford LEO | Wexford Chamber

**BUCANIER (Building Clusters and Networks in Innovation Enterprise and Research)**

April has seen the project move from launch to recruiting participants. Recruitment of participants has begun and will be an on-going task throughout the project until 3 months before delivery finishes. Participants will be recruited on a rolling basis not as tranches, although it is likely that the first recruiting effort will result in a first 'tranche' of participants.

Key project milestones for March 2018:

- Meetings with Kerry and Kildare LEO carried out, Kerry LEO in conjunction with Taste Kerry and WCC to hold a BUCANIER information session in Tralee on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May.
- Claim 2 audited and passed for payment to WCC
- 1<sup>st</sup> cohort of possible SME's to join BUCANIER will be attending an information/sign up session on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May in Kilkenny. 20 – 25 SME's due to attend.
- Application form for participants designed and final draft due to be signed off end of April.

Wexford County Council (Project Administrator) has direct responsibility within the project for the BUCANIER Website, social media (Facebook & Twitter), promotional material design and the recruitment of 20+ SME's to the project.

## PLANNING

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### **Planning Applications:**

No. of valid applications received up to 25/04/2018	462
No. of pre planning requests up to 25/04/2018	247

**Forward Planning: Review of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013 - 2019 and the Preparation of New County Development Plan:** Having completed the consultation process, the Forward Planning team are now working on the preparation of the pre-draft Wexford County Development Plan 2019-2025. As part of the retail strategy, Future Analytics have carried out Phone Surveys, Shopper Surveys, Pedestrian Counts, Health Checks and Stakeholder meetings in the four main towns.

**Review of the Wexford Town and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 (as extended):** Work has commenced on the review of the Wexford Town and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 and the preparation of a new plan for the area.

### **Conservation and Built Heritage:**

**Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2018:** 8 successful applicants have been approved for funding under the scheme as follows:

The Friary, Wexford Town	€9,500.00
Cornmill, Foulksmills	€9,500.00
Robinstown House, Robinstown Great, Clonroche	€6,000.00
Rosegarland House, Rosegarland, Wellingtonbridge	€6,000.00
Hyde Park, Inch, Gorey	€5,500.00
Porter's Lodge, Castleboro, Wexford	€4,500.00
9 Castle Street, Enniscorthy	€4,500.00
St. Peter & St. Pauls Church, Killinierin	€4,500.00

**Structures at Risk Fund 2018:** 3 successful applicants have been approved for funding under the scheme as follows:

Saunderscourt Gatelodges, Galbally East, Crossabeg	€15,000.00
St. Iberius Church, Main Street, Wexford	€15,000.00
Ballysampson House, Ballysampson, Tagoat	€15,000.00

### **Building Control:**

**Commencement Notices:** A total of 127 valid commencement notices have been submitted up to 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 on the BCMS.

Wexford	49	Gorey	31
Enniscorthy	31	New Ross	16



**Taking in Charge:** We have a number of estates that are currently at different stages of the Taking in Charge process. Seven estates are at the public consultation stage at present. These estates are:

- An Caislean, Bridgetown
- Ocean Point, Courtown
- Summer Cove, Rosslare
- Madeira Oaks, The Moyne
- Old Forest Bunclody
- Woodland, Ballymurn
- Seabury, Rosslare

Six estates will be referred to the Municipal District meetings for formal Taking in Charge in May 2018. These estates are:

Cul Caislean, Taghmon	The Paddocks, Rosbercon
Hollyfield, Lake, Bridgetown	Whitecross, Hilltown
The Laurels & Laurel Court, Clonard	Woodside, Courtown

Churchwood Estate, Kilrane was formally taken in charge at the Wexford Borough Municipal District meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.

## Works Completed:

**Anvil Court, Ballymurn:** Works have been completed. The estate is now ready to proceed to be taken in charge.

**Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites:** Activity on Derelict Sites/Dangerous Structures is as follows:

Notices Issued under Derelict Sites Act 1990	16
Notices issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964	2
Notices issued under Section 7 of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015	0

**Planning Enforcement:** The number of planning enforcement cases as at 25/04/2018 is as follows:

➤ Cases Opened	3
➤ Live Cases	342
➤ Cases Closed	43

5 planning enforcement cases were listed in the District Courts during April 2018

Gorey:	4 listed for hearing
Wexford:	1 listed for hearing

## **Wexford:**

**Enforcement case 0180/2015** – Case for mention relating to non-compliance with enforcement notice (cease the sale of non-bulky goods).

## **Gorey:**

**Enforcement case 0144/2016** – Case adjourned following compliance with enforcement notice (cease the change of use from residential green space to an area used for parking articulated trucks)

**Enforcement case 0159/2010** – Case adjourned following compliance with enforcement notice (monthly payments recommenced)

**Enforcement case 0043/2016** – Case adjourned until 10<sup>th</sup> May to allow defendants to obtain legal representation (ensure open space area is maintained as communal open space)

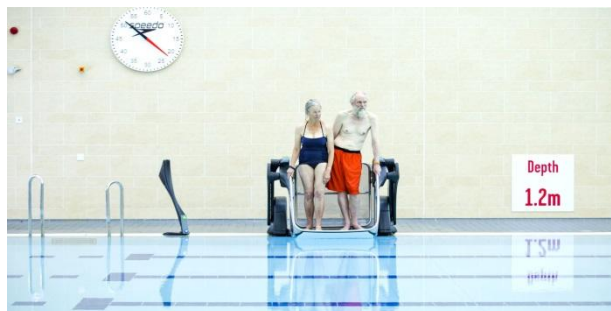
**Enforcement case 0070/2013** – Case adjourned pending decision on planning application submitted to comply with enforcement notice.

## **Access Section**

**Disability Access Certificates (DACs):** The number of DAC applications, validated for the period from 01/01/2018 up to and including 26/04/18, totals 35. This is an increase of 21 applications received for the same period of 2017.

### **Projects: The Poolpod lift at Ferrybank Swimming Pool**

It is expected that an official launch of the Poolpod will take place in the latter half of May 2018. This will support any proposed marketing strategy envisaged for Ferrybank Swimming Pool in raising awareness of the access for all pool facility.



**Changing Places Pilot at the Irish National Heritage Park:** It is expected that works will be completed on this pilot, initiated by the Access Section in conjunction with the Environment Department, by late May 2018. Once completed, the facility will be registered on the Changing Places website as a fully accessible green changing places facility, representing the only local authority provided facility and the only facility outside of the Dublin and Limerick regions.

## 2. Special Projects:

**Min Ryan Park, Wexford:** The Park obtained Part VIII Planning in April, 2016 based on a preliminary design by Wexford County Council. Detailed design and contract documents have been completed and the tender for construction was advertised on Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 2017. The tenders are currently being assessed and an appointment of a contractor is planned for the end of May, 2018.

**Wexford Quays – Economic and Spatial Strategy:** Architects Scott Tallon Walker have now submitted their stage 2B report on the Economic Development and Spatial Implementation Plan for the Wexford Quay front. This report has been reviewed by WCC and comments returned to STW. The final report is due by the end of June 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 a planning and foreshore application for the development. The planning application will be submitted in Q3, 2018 with a decision expected by Q1, 2019.

**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. An application for Part VIII approval has commenced and will issue for public comment in May 2018.

**Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy:** The launch of the Regeneration strategy took place in Templeshannon on 19/02/2018 and the plan is on public display. Requirements for land-take and planning for a pedestrian bridge and streetscape works commenced in April 2018.

**Enniscorthy Technology Park, Killagoley:** Reddy Architecture + Urbanism have developed the master plan and a Part VIII planning application was lodged on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018. A planning report will be submitted to the May Council meeting. Preparation of tender documents is currently in progress and notice for construction services will be published in etenders 1<sup>st</sup> week of May 2018. It is planned to have a contract for construction works awarded in July 2018.

**New Ross Business Park:** Pre-qualification of applicants is complete and the qualified applicants will be invited to tender in May 2018 for the finance and build of an advanced technology unit in Butlersland, New Ross.

**Gorey Market House:** A Part VIII planning application for re-development of the Market House into a multi-purpose performance / exhibition / retail space was advertised on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018. The period for public comments closed on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and a number of submissions have been received. The procurement documents for development proposals from parties interested in partnering with the Council on the project were published on eTenders on 4<sup>th</sup> April with a closing date for tender submissions of 18<sup>th</sup> May.



**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 prepared a brief for services for the design and tender of infrastructural work at Carrigfoyle as the initial stage of a project to develop an activity centre on the lands. Appointment of design services consultants will be completed by June 2018 with construction planned to commence in October 2018. It is envisaged that works will be completed by July 2019.

**Enniscorthy Tourism Project:** A project has commenced to create a vision and opportunity plan to develop Enniscorthy town as a tourism destination. Wexford County Council is procuring services to prepare a feasibility study to develop and implement a major plan to develop Enniscorthy as a long term, sustainable tourism destination. Documents for the procurement of services issued on eTenders in April and appointment is planned for mid June. An application for funding to Failte Ireland is planned for December 2018.

#### **Greenways:**

##### **Rosslare to Waterford City Greenway.**

Consultants, Roughan O'Donovan have commenced their contract to prepare baseline environmental studies and prepare and submit planning applications. The first stage deliverables – Feasibility, Route Selection and Economic Report are due in early May 2018.

**New Ross Red Bridge Greenway and Walking Trail:** The development of a greenway around New Ross, linking with Kilkenny County Council's planned greenway from Rosbercon to Waterford City, is currently at the planning stage. Part VIII planning applications are currently being prepared and a Part VIII notice commencing the public consultation process will issue in May 2018.

**Greenway Regional Strategy:** Wexford County Council, in its function as the lead authority for the regional greenway office is preparing a regional strategy for the development of an integrated network of greenways across the South East. It is planned that this network of Greenways would be developed as a major tourism resource that links with national greenways and opens up the South East region to the activity, leisure and recreational tourism market nationally. The brief for services has been completed. Agreement to proceed to procurement prior to the publication of the National Strategy for Greenways is currently under review.

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

#### **HOUSING**

**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:-

##### **Under Construction:**

- **2 Special Needs Houses in Oilgate** – Project on programme for completion in May 2018
- **8 houses in Cherry Orchard, Enniscorthy** – Under construction, on programme to complete in September, 2018.
- **2 houses in Cois Mara, Rosslare** – Under construction, houses wired and plastered. On programme to complete in April, 2018.
- **9 houses in Baile Eoghain, Gorey** – Under construction, on programme to complete in 2018.
- **1 house at Ross Road Enniscorthy** – Contracts signed, construction to begin, awaiting ESB to re-direct overhead powerline.
- **10 Houses in Creagh, Gorey** – Under construction, due to complete in March 2019.
- **10 Houses at Slippery Green, Wexford** – Under construction, commenced on site April 2018 due to complete in April 2019.

##### **Stage 4:**

- **10 Houses in Danescastle** – Tender report to DHPLG – April 2018.
- **1 TAP house in Castlemoyle** – Tender in May 2018.

##### **Stage 3:**

- **7 Houses in Coolcotts** – Stage 3 lodged 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 awaiting DHPLG approval.
- **1 House in Castlemoyle for Special Needs** – Stage 3 lodged 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 awaiting DHCLG approval.

##### **Stage 2:**

- **1 house at Ballynaboola** - Stage 2 approved. Costs have been reduced and a new planning permission was lodged. Stage 3 May 2018.
- **18 houses in Taghmon** – Consultants appointed. Stage 2 submitted to DHPLG on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 awaiting DHPLG approval.

##### **Stage 1:**

- **45 Housing Units at Whiterock Hill, Wexford** – Stage 2 lodged on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018 awaiting DHPLG approval.
- **14 Houses in Carricklawn** – Stage 1 in June 2017, on hold. Problems with title to be rectified by land owner before we finalise purchase. This will be a 2018

project to commence in 2019. Recommend to discontinue this project as no response from landowner.

- **7 Units at Belvedere Road, Wexford** – Stage 2 April 2018 and lodge Part VIII for apartments and car park April, 2018.
- **3 units in Ballyhine** – Stage 2 in Q2 2018. Awaiting approval by members to proceed.
- **6 units at The Ballagh** – Stage 2 lodged 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
- **11 units in Ballywish** – Stage 1 approval. On hold until additional land is purchased to achieve 220m sightlines as requested by Roads, project delayed as a result, approach to adjoining landowner made.
- **34 units at Kileens, Wexford** – Stage 1 approved on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2018, Stage 2 Q2 2018.
- **43 units at Rosetown, Rosslare** – Stage 1 approved on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2018 enabling works consultant tenders received. Enabling site works 2018, houses 2019.
- **17 units at Enniscorthy** – Stage 1 approved on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018.
- **12 units for Women's Refuge** – WCC to seek appointment of design team with the Office of Government Procurement.

The number of units with Capital Approval is 272. The following project for 12 units was submitted to DHPLG in March 2018:-

- Creagh, Gorey 12

### Pre-development Stage:

We are working on another **88** 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*)
- Rosbercon, New Ross 22
- Marconi Park, Enniscorthy 1
- 5 Francis Street 1

### Longer Term Projects

- Park, Wexford 10
- Clonard, Wexford 26
- Adamstown 16

## ENVIRONMENT

**Harbour Works:** Notification has recently been received from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for works at Harbours and Marina's for 2018. Funding of €228,750 (75%) of cost towards works including harbour development works and marine leisure schemes has been notified

**Waste Presentation Bye-laws:** The Environment Department will be presenting to the next SPC the new Draft Waste Presentation Bye-laws. 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 the waste was dealt with in accordance with the byelaws.

**Wind Farm Consultancy:** Tenders have been received for the next phase of noise monitoring for wind farms at Bolamore and Castledockrell. The contract has been signed with the successful tenderer and work has commenced on the monitoring programme

## **COMMUNITY**

**SICAP:** The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 – 2022 began on the 1<sup>st</sup> April in Co. Wexford. SICAP provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion at a local level through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. SICAP 2018 – 2022 is the successor programme to SICAP 2015 - 2017. SICAP is a social inclusion programme which assists both individuals and groups through a two-pronged approach; supporting communities and supporting individuals. The task of Programme Implementers (PIs) is to reflect the broad scope of the programme in their actions and use programme funding to strengthen communities and improve people's lives. SICAP aims to address high and persistent levels of deprivation through targeted and innovative, locally led approaches. It targets and supports those who are disadvantaged in Irish society and less likely to use mainstream services.

**Bunclody:** Bunclody Town Team were successful in the Town and Village Renewal Grant application and secured grant funding totalling €100,000 which will be used to set up a Food Hub and a walking trail, both of which will be located in the town. Consultants have been appointed to both the Food Hub and Walking Trails projects and much progress has been made on both projects.

**Age Friendly & Older People's Council:** The inaugural meeting of Wexford's Older People's Council Executive Committee took place on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Catherine McGuigan, National Age Friendly Ireland Programme Lead made a presentation on the National Age Friendly Programme. Mr. Kevin Molloy was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee with the Vice-Chairperson and representatives to sit on the Age Friendly Alliance to be elected at the next meeting of the Executive Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018. The Committee reviewed the Age Friendly Strategy 2017-2021 for the County as well as the corresponding Action Plan.

**Cultural Companions:** Plans are well underway on a joint initiative between the Arts Department and the Age Friendly Co-Ordinator to set up a cultural network for older people in Co. Wexford. This initiative is called "Cultural Companions" and essentially brings together older people who want to go to arts and cultural events but don't have anyone to go with. It provides the opportunity for older people to meet new people, get out more and enjoy all that Irish arts and culture has to offer

**Bridgetown Community Hub:** Following significant renovation works, Bridgetown Community Hub commenced the delivery of a range of community support to local residents during April. This initiative is being delivered in partnership with FDYS and plans to respond to the needs of local residents using a highly effective whole of

family approach model. The project proposes to establish a dynamic team of staff and volunteers to develop support services for local residents in an environment where they will feel supported, valued and welcome.

**Traveller Inter Agency:** Mr. Brian Harvey has been appointed to carry out a Traveller Needs Analysis on behalf of Wexford TIG. The Wexford Traveller Interagency Group is undertaking this needs analysis of Travellers living in County Wexford to establish their baseline needs. The WTIG members, agencies and local communities will play a crucial role in accessing information and building relationships with Traveller across the county. The Traveller community will also have a pivotal role at all stages of this piece of research, from design of any associated questionnaires to presentation of the findings. This work is being funded and supported by the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform and Wexford County Council.

## **SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

**Safeguarding Courses (Child Protection):** Safeguarding 1: 6 Courses have been completed: total attendance for 2018: 106 participants Safeguarding 2: 2 Courses has been completed: total attendance for 2018: 34 participants

**Active schools Week 23<sup>rd</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> April:** Sports active has been involved with a number of schools during this week in providing talks on Physical activity and healthy living to FCJ In Bunclody Leadership Programme in Collaiste Abain, Adamstown , Dance mats in Rathgarogue NS and St Mary's NS Enniscorthy. Swim for a Mile with Bunscoil Ri New Ross.

**Swim For a Mile:** We supported two events with the Swim Ireland National Swim for a mile campaign with 34 participants in Courtown and the Apex New Ross.

The Swim for a Mile relay with 54 Students from Bunscoil Ris who collectively swam over 4km in their swimming lessons at the Apex.

**Coaching Children Workshop:** The four workshops were completed in April with 20 participants from many sports taking part in this generic sports programme. Feedback was excellent a great learning environment to up skill coaches. We also ran the final workshop for the GAA Coaching team, again well received.

**Healthy Ireland funding: Men's Sheds Scooch Programme:** We have now extended this programme for the coming months with support from the HSE funding. We supported the Scooch Blitz hosted by Adamstown Men's shed, where 16 participants enjoyed a friendly morning playing this new game. Excellent engagement and plans for further competitions and programmes now going ahead.

**Get Active Fun Games for Preschool Children:** The training programme was held for 24 staff of 12 Childcare centres, supported by Wexford County Childcare Committee. Excellent skills developed with great feedback from the groups. This programme also enabled the centres to access resources and an equipment voucher for €200. This action was undertaken under the CYPSC healthy Ireland funding.

**Sports Wheelchairs:** The seven wheelchairs have now arrived and the programme will be launched on 14<sup>th</sup> May at 2 pm in the Street in County Hall.

## **LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES**

**LIBRARIES:** The **centenary of the death of John Redmond** was commemorated with a symposium held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April in Wexford Library. President Michael D. Higgins gave the opening address to a crowd of over 150 people. Speakers included Mr Dermot Meleady, with the topic 'From Parnellite to National Leader,' Mr Ronan McGreevy on 'John Redmond and World War One' and Dr Martin O'Donoghue on 'The legacy of John Redmond'

The **Talking History Wexford** project was also launched. Three Redmond sites have been given the gift of speech: the bust of Major Willie Redmond, located at Redmond Park; the Redmond family monument in Redmond Square; and the mausoleum in St John's Graveyard. Each has a story to tell. To hear that story, simply swipe your smart phone on the purple plaque and accept the link. Your phone will ring and you can accept a call from a member of the Redmond family. Broadcaster Anne Doyle, playwright Billy Roche and actor Gary Leydon voiced the narratives.

An **exhibition** describing the life and legacy of John E Redmond was on display in Wexford Library until the end of April 2018. The full event programme was supported by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

**Parenting Today**, a series of free talks to be held in all libraries in County Wexford, was launched by Cathaoirleach Cllr John Hegarty in Wexford Library on 24<sup>th</sup> April. Stella O'Malley, psychotherapist and bestselling author, gave the keynote lecture. Talks by qualified professionals will range from healthy meal planning to language development, from childcare to dyslexia and other learning needs. This series is provided with the support of the Wexford Children and Young People's Services Committee.

As part of the Creative Ireland & Wexford County Council '**Discover Norman Wexford**' project, historical re-enactment pieces have been provided to libraries across the County. These pieces, along with the Discover Norman Wexford resource book, provide fun activities for primary schools when visiting libraries around the county. They can also be borrowed by teachers for classroom based activities.

**ARTS: Creative Community programme** 20 artists were selected for a panel across visual arts, literature, music, dance and puppetry/circus skills. Twenty five applications were received from community groups with selection finalised in early May.

**Living Arts Exhibition** – opened in Wexford Arts Centre Sat 14th April. This exhibition is the outcome of 4 artists' residences in 4 primary schools in County Wexford - Scoil mhuire New Ross, St Senan's Enniscorthy, St Ibar's Castlebridge, St Mary's Ballygarret Gorey. In addition 2 pilot programme took place in secondary schools funded through Creative Ireland. These pilots were provided in Ramsgrange and Selskar College Wexford town.

**Music Generation** – the recently appointed Music Generation coordinator Katherine Atkinson met stakeholders and planned the roll out of programme for Sept 2018. The Music Generation Administer role has also been advertised.



**Public Art: Michael Warren Sculpture** - The refurbishment / new replica model of the Michael Warren Public Art sculpture in Ferry bank was installed on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

**Bullring Mall – New Artists/ Creatives/ Crafts spaces** -. 19 artists including an arts collective submitted applications to rent space in the new Bullring Mall. A selection panel met on 10<sup>th</sup> April - 8 artists and a collective were selected with 3 artists on a waiting list.

**‘Art ability’ Art & health programme review-** Art Ability programme is being reviewed during April. Consultation will take place with all stakeholders to evaluate and potentially expand the programme over the coming years .

**Carlow IT 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Fine arts exhibition** –in Public site in Fetti’s lane . Opened on Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> April was supported by Wexford Municipal District and the Arts Office as part of the regeneration of Fetti's lane.

## **FIRE SERVICE**

**News:** The first week of the month was noted for the crisis management of Storm Emma.

**Fire Operations:** In March it was extremely busy and there were 108 incidents including 26 chimney fires, 15 false alarms, 17 domestic fires, and 8 road traffic accidents.

<b>Incident type</b>	<b>Year to date</b>	<b>Mar ch</b>
Fires	83	36
Special Services	58	29
Chimney Fires	69	26
False Alarms	57	17

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

<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>Year to date</b>	<b>Mar ch</b>
Fire Safety Certificates	26	6
Planning Referrals	163	59

<b>Number of Inspections</b>	<b>Year to date</b>	<b>Mar ch</b>
FSA Inspections	49	16

## CIVIL DEFENCE

**Civic Duties :** We covered 2 community duties for April 2018

1. Scoil Mhuire Coolcotts, Blue 5k Fun Run, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018
2. Wexford Half Marathon, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018

### Training Courses

FAR Course for Wexford County Council Staff, County Hall.  
Training continues on a weekly basis in Gorey, New Ross and Wexford.  
Drone Ground School, two weekends in Ratra Dublin 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> April and 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> April, training another drone pilot for Wexford Civil Defence.  
Civil Defence Officer attended OHSAS 18001 training towards Health & Safety Audit.

**CDO Annual General Meeting:** Civil Defence Officer attended the Civil Defence Officers Annual General Meeting in Ballinsloe on 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**Team building – Sponsored walk:** 25 members of Wexford Civil Defence took part in a teambuilding walk over part of the Wicklow Way. The walk started in Marley Park and finished at Loug Tay just over 30km. Members used the event to raise funds for Make a Wish foundation, to date we have collected €2000.00.

## 4. Transportation, Water Services:

### COUNTY WEXFORD'S NATIONAL ROADS SCHEMES: N25 New Ross Bypass

#### Progress Update April 2018

The design and construction phase of the PPP Contract is approximately two-thirds through, and the scheme remains on programme to open in 2019.

On the Kilkenny side of the Barrow Bridge, the edge sections of the deck have now been constructed on the first two approach spans while post tensioning and pouring of span 3 is ongoing (see photos 2 & 5 below). On the Wexford side the first deck segment of the central spans has been launched from pier 4 following the full installation of the form traveller system. The central deck box for span 6 on the Stokestown side is progressing (see photo 4 below) and the other approach spans on the Wexford side will follow over the coming months.

The construction of mainline pavement foundations continues to progress at Stokestown, Landscape and Camlin, and pavement works will develop and expand significantly in the coming weeks. The next phase of the temporary traffic management on the N25 at Glenmore is anticipated to become operational after the May bank holiday weekend. The full circulatory roundabout will be operational for this phase which is anticipated to be in place until mid-June. The L-7513 Ballyverneen Road remains closed and the new realigned road is also anticipated to open in May. Also on the Kilkenny side, the Ballyverneen Overbridge and Glenmore Underbridge are well progressed (see photos 1 & 2) and the overbridge to carry the disused Waterford to New Ross rail line is also progressing.

The L-4021 Arnestown Road Overbridge and road realignment have now opened ahead of schedule and the associated road closure has ceased. Eight of nine road bridges on the Wexford side of the scheme are now complete or substantially complete and associated road realignments open to traffic. The final road bridge and road realignment on the Wexford side on the L-8144 Lacken South is due to fully open in June. It is anticipated that R733 Campile Road will require temporary traffic management for a few weeks later this summer for realignment and junction works and the completion of the road tie-in from Corcoran's Cross Roundabout to the existing N30 will also require temporary traffic management and/or diversion works on the national route for a period during the summer. Any necessary orders and public information campaigns will be implemented in advance of these works.

The current temporary diversion and statutory 60km/h speed limit will continue to operate on the N25 Wexford Road at Ballymacar until October. At that stage the roundabout will be fully complete and opened to the current traffic network (i.e. both Bypass arms will remain closed). Accommodation works for landowners continue to be developed throughout the site.

Monitoring, maintenance and emergency regimes continue to be operated as necessary on public roads at interfaces with the site to ensure that road surfaces, temporary management systems etc. continue to operate as required.

The ninth quarterly project newsletter will be published in June, and the project website [www.n25newross.ie](http://www.n25newross.ie) continues to provide progress updates as well as information on traffic management and road works, and also provides contact details for the project. A further project video will be released by Wexford County Council in the coming weeks. Further information videos will be released periodically in 2018. 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. Temporary traffic management through Glenmore Roundabout. Works continuing on opposite side of roundabout in preparation for next phase in May. Construction of new Ballyverneen Road Overbridge and realignment visible to right of photo.**



**2. Barrow Bridge at Pink Rock – Full deck (including wing sections) formed on spans 1 and 2 to the left foreground. Wing traveller progressed towards the end of span 2.**





**3. Barrow Bridge – View of western approach spans up to pier 3 to the left. Pier 4 traveller and span 6 under construction to the east of river on right.**



**4. Barrow Bridge – View from Wexford side, span 6 under construction in foreground (note temporary pier at midspan). Pier 4 and temporary pier in background.**





**5. Barrow Bridge – Steel fixing and post tensioning ducts at span 3.**



**6. R733 Junction – pavement works and junction formation**





**7. L-8046 Creakan Road Underbridge (with farm underpass in front), L8048 Creakan Upper Road Realignment to the right. CBGM (pavement base) mixing plant at centre foreground.**



**8. L-4021 Arnestown Road Overbridge and Road Realignment. Temporary road closure diversion to the left (permanent road network since re-opened). Accommodation works for new residential entrance to left.**





**9. N25 Ballymacar Roundabout – drainage works progressing at roundabout. N25 diversion continuing to operate effectively.**

	<b><i>Total No of Landowners</i></b>	<b><i>Settled to date</i></b>
<b><i>M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy</i></b>	<b><i>201</i></b>	<b><i>197</i></b>

#### **1. M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme update**

##### **Program**

As of April 2018 the program is on target and the M11, N30 and N80 will 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.

	<b>Progress Reported in Dec 2016</b>	<b>Progress Reported in Dec 2017</b>	<b>Progress Reported in Feb2018</b>	<b>Progress Reported in March 2018</b>	<b>Progress Reported in April 2018</b>
<b>Site Clearance</b>	96%	98%	98%	98%	98%
<b>Fencing</b>	85%	86%	86%	86%	86%
<b>Drainage &amp; Service Ducts</b>	7%	30%	35%	38%	39%
<b>Earthworks</b>	23%	75%	76%	80%	81%
<b>Structures – Main Bridges</b>		56%	60%	62%	76%
<b>Structures – Culverts</b>	29%	96%	98%	98%	98%
<b>Structures – Access Structures</b>	12%	84%	86%	87%	87%
<b>Accommodation Works</b>	6%	8%	8%	8%	8%
<b>Kerbs Footways &amp; Paved Areas</b>			4%	4%	4%
<b>Safety Barrier</b>			3%	3%	3%
<b>Pavement</b>					7%

## **EARTHWORKS**

Bulk Cut to Fill was approx. 986,821m<sup>3</sup> to the end of the year for 2016 (6-month Work Period).

Bulk Cut to fill as reported to the end of December 2017 was 1,700,000m<sup>3</sup>

Bulk Cut to Fill for to date for 2018 was 154,838m<sup>3</sup> (total).

## **Blasting**

The following program indicates the remaining duration for blasting for the project:

Area	Name	No of Blast remaining	Est. Completion date
M11, Cut 1	Frankfurt Junction	1	April*

\* It was previously reported that blasting was completed in this area. Additional material was identified and is being extracted for construction purposes.

Affected landowners are being notified by the contractor 14 days in advance of blasting commencing and 3 days by either text or a phone call in advance of the blast taking place. Results to date for Vibration and Noise Monitoring have returned below the maximum permitted levels for the contract.

## **Ongoing repairs and monitoring of local roads**

The following roads are being inspected on weekly basis by the contractor and Wexford County Council. Any defects arising from this inspection are being addressed by the contractor.

- L1027, Ballygullen Road
- R702, Milehouse Road
- L6048, Glenteige Road
- L2011, Tinnacross Road

## **Newsletter**

The Newsletter for Q2 of 2018 is currently being drafted and once finalised will be uploaded on to the PPP Co. website. This website is updated on a monthly basis providing information on blasting and road closures and traffic management.

A 24-emergency telephone is also operational to deal with any queries or complaints from the public. The number is 1800 815701, 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.

## **Drone Survey**

The drone survey for 2018 has been completed and has been uploaded on to Wexford County Councils Web Site.



## Applications submitted to WCC from the PPP:

### Road Closure Applications

The following road closures have been enacted:

Road	Closure Date	Duration (months)	Opening Date
M11-S11, L5092, Corbally Road	05/02/18	7	07/09/18
M11-S13, L6055, Drumgold Road	31/10/17	7	11/5/18 (3/8/18)
M11-S15, L6048, Glenteige Road	31/10/17	5	Opened
N30-S2, L2014, Ballyorril	2/1/18	2	Opened
N30-S5, L2030, Bessmount Road	16/1/18	3.5	27/4/18
N30-S8, L2049, Dunsinane Road	05/02/18	8	05/10/18



**N80 River Slaney Structure**





**N80 River Slaney Structure**



**M11 Southbound towards Ballygullen Road**





**Laying Base Course on CBGM on M11 Northbound Carriageway**



**N30 looking towards Clavass Junction**





**N30 looking towards Killalligan Bridge**



**Laying of CBGM N30**

### **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 commenced on 3<sup>rd</sup>. January and are due to be completed by early June.

##### **N30/ R700 Roundabout**

Tramore House Regional Design Office is working on the contract documents. This scheme should be tendered in May/June.

## **N11 Kyle Upper Pavement Scheme**

The tender return date was 15<sup>th</sup> February. The tender assessment was carried out in February. This scheme commenced on 16<sup>th</sup> April and be completed by 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

## **N11 Ferrycarrig Bridge to Kyle Upper**

This scheme should be tendered in June. Construction should commence in July/August.

## **N30 Enniscorthy Southern Approach**

Topographical survey works to be carried out in early May. This scheme should be tendered in June.

## **N11 Killeen to Newtown**

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.

## **N30 Mountelliot**

Topographical survey works to be carried out in May/June. This scheme should be tendered in November/December 2018. This scheme will be constructed in April/May 2019.

## **2018 HD28 Pavement Works**

TII forwarded the list of locations in March. It is hoped to tender these works in July and complete the works by October.

## **2017/2018 Barrier Repair Contract**

The contractor has completed repairs on the N25 at Drinagh, N11 at Ballinastraw and Ballynalough, N25 Ring Road, Clonard, Wexford, N25 Begerin.

Works are currently being carried out on the N80 at Bunclody.

## **2017 HD28 Pavement Works – Contract 1**

This contract is substantially completed. The remainder of the contract will be completed in May subject to suitable weather conditions.

N11 Glentigue  
N11 Edermine  
N11 Baylands

## **2017 HD28 Pavement Works – Contract 2**

Works will commence in May subject to suitable weather conditions.

N25 Ashfield Cross Roundabout  
N25 Whitford Roundabout  
N25 Carrickbyrne

## **Winter Maintenance**

The 2017/2018 winter maintenance programme commenced on Monday 16<sup>th</sup>. October. There have been 82 no. call outs up to 26<sup>th</sup>. April 2018.

The Winter Maintenance programme finished on 29<sup>th</sup>. April

## **REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS**

### **Strengthening**

Strengthening programme commenced in the Gorey District on February 19. Programme has been severely disrupted by Storm Emma and its aftermath.

Roads completed in the last month: Clonroe (Gorey District). Glenbrien to Ballinkeele; Ballymore More (LIS); and Monglas (LIS) (all in Enniscorthy District).

Macadam surfacing at Ballymitt; Ballyanne; and Tomanine to Moneymanough (all in New Ross District).

Preparation for strengthening in Wexford and New Ross Districts.

### **Improvement Works**

Construction work on Oaklands Roundabout (New Ross District) ongoing.

Tender process commenced for Mountelliott Roundabout (New Ross District).

### **General Maintenance**

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

## **WATER SERVICES**

### **A. Irish Water – Asset Management**

#### **Irish Water Capital Schemes**

#### **IW Asset Management: Enniscorthy Sewerage Scheme – Stage 3 (included in IW – CIP14-16 i.e. Irish Water Capital Investment Programme (CIP) 2014 to 2016)**

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 on target with programme.

#### **IW Asset Management: Enniscorthy and Sow Regional Water S.S. (included in IW - CIP14-16)**

IW Asset Strategy has approved the following elements of work on this Scheme:

- New intake and pumping station at Clonhasten.
- New rising main from Clonhasten to Vinegar Hill WTP.
- Hydraulic model of the Enniscorthy and Sow Schemes.

Terms of Reference are being agreed for appointment of Consultant and first meeting held with Consultant .

Preparation of budget application for Concept Design is underway; this includes for Strategic Report and review of options for the entire scheme.

#### **IW Asset Management: Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme (included in IW - CIP14-16)**

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. Revised terms of reference and new appointment for the Consulting Engineer, is complete. The design of the scheme is in progress and preparation of tender documents. A detailed design report was prepared and workshop held to review report.

#### **IW Asset Management: Gorey Sewerage Scheme – Stage 2 (included in IW - CIP14-16)**

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 (included in IW - CIP14-16)**

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 was advertised in February, 2018. Draft tender documents are ready and currently under review.

#### **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.

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

Site Investigation works are complete for gas and water main installation around Wexford town. There are two areas of common gas / water mains to be laid and complete. 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.

#### **New Ross Sewerage Scheme – Irishtown to Nunnery Lane Sewers**

The works are now complete, with the new sewers tested and live. Reinstatement works are still to be completed.

#### **IW Asset Management: Water Conservation Stage 3– Watermain Rehabilitation Phase 2 (Direct Labour Crew)**

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

## **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.

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

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

Meeting held with EPS and Irish Water on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 to finalise design.

### **Flow Monitoring & Sampling Programme**

Awaiting for Irish Water to progress further.

### **Sewer network pump station maintenance contract**

2<sup>nd</sup> round almost complete.

### **WWTP pre-planned Maintenance Contract**

1<sup>st</sup> round almost complete.

### **Bawnmore PS, New Ross.**

Fully upgraded.

### **Rosslare Strand WWTP**

Civil works almost completed to the upgrade of final effluent pumpstation at Rosslare Strand.

### **Our Lady's Island WWTP**

Health & Safety Works 90% complete

### **Campile Waste Water Pumping Station**

M&E works completed

Valve chamber work shall be completed end of May.

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

Works in progress for the upgrade of the controls for the Generator.

### **Generator Change Over Switches**

All sites completed with the exception of Carcur and Distillery road.

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

Two new raw water pumps installed and commissioned. Works complete at Ededvale and Newtown with the exception of minor snagging.

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

Commissioning at both plants ongoing.

### **IW Asset Management: pH Emergency (Automated dosing control)**

Coolgreany caustic pumps serviced mid January. Waiting for Veolia to commission pumps.

### **IW Asset Management: Coagulation automation at Creagh, Vinegar Hill and Newtown WTW**

Commissioning at Vinegar Hill complete and gathering raw water data. Newtown WTW going into automatic mode with manual override early May. Coagulation automation due to be installed in Creagh in mid May.

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

Vinegar Hill: Concrete slab for new hypo tank complete. Tank to be installed 1<sup>st</sup> week in May.

Newtown: Kiosk to be installed 1<sup>st</sup> week in May.

### **Water Network Program**

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

## **Capital Maintenance Budget**

Initial budget for 2018 has been allocated to maintenance projects. Additional budget of 400k provided.

## **C. RURAL WATER PROGRAMME**

### **Blackstairs Group Water Scheme – Contract No. 11 Pollpeasty**

Contract approximately 65% complete

### **The Bing Group Sewerage Scheme**

As soon as an Engineer is appointed to Rural Water, 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.

## **5. Finance:**

### **Audit Committee**

The next meeting of the Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The Audit Committee have prepared their statutory report for the council and the report has been circulated to members and is listed as a separate item on the meeting agenda. The report contains the committee's report on

- Audit Committee commentary on the contents of the 2016 Accounts and audit findings in accordance with Section 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014
- Overview of Audit Committee work programme completed during 2017 in accordance with section 15 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014
- Details of the Audit Committee's proposed work programme for 2018

### **Annual Financial Statement 2017**

The 2017 Accounts have been completed and have been circulated to members together with a report presenting a summary overview of the results contained within the accounts. The Accounts have been included as a separate item on the agenda for consideration and approval of members.

The Local Government Audit Service will now progress the audit of the 2017 accounts.

### **Borrowing Programme 2018**

Ministerial Sanction is still awaited in respect of the borrowing programme for 2018 as approved by members at the February meeting

### **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.

**Tom Enright,  
Chief Executive.**