



# Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin

## WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Áras An Chontae / County Buildings  
Cill Mhantáin / Wicklow  
Guthán / Tel: (0404) 20158  
Faics / Fax: (0404) 20112  
Rphost / Email: cosec@wicklowcoco.ie  
Suíomh / Website: www.wicklow.ie

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

### To the Cathaoirleach and Members of Wicklow County Council

The Local Government Act 2001 requires a report to be presented to the Elected Council indicating the programme of capital projects to be undertaken over the forthcoming three-year period. The proposed Capital Investment Programme (C.I.P.) 2017 - 2019 is attached to this report. The proposed programme will be presented by the relevant Director, in conjunction with the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2017, at the Council meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

The 2017 - 2019 CIP, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, sets out the proposed capital investments over the three years. It details ongoing and potential future projects with their associated estimated costs for each of the three years. In addition it identifies the potential sources of funding for the projects.

The CIP provides an indication of the investment Wicklow County Council would like to undertake over the forthcoming three years. It is not a guarantee of the commencement or completion of these projects. Under the Act the Local Authority is required to take a realistic and prudent assessment of the investment required together with the resources available to it.

Wicklow County Council must also ensure that projects and investment proposals meet the appraisal standards and value for money assessments determined by the Public Spending Code.

Preparing the CIP facilitates future capital investment planning, identifies the programme of works for the forthcoming years and highlights the resources needed to deliver these projects. Through this, the Council can prioritise projects on the basis of available funding, level of need/urgency, and creation of future development opportunity.

There are many worthwhile and necessary projects listed on the CIP 2017 – 2019. However their ultimate realisation is critically dependant on availability of funding. The CIP is a rolling programme within which the status and viability of all potential projects is reviewed annually.



The ability to secure and finance additional borrowings is restricted by Local Authorities contribution to GGB (General Government Balance). The Departments of the Environment, Community and Local Government, and Public Expenditure and Reform are committed to ensuring that the local government sector continues to be managed in balance over the medium term and, in particular, that General Government Balance (GGB) neutrality is again achieved in 2017. This requires that local authorities strictly adhere to the stipulations of FIN 01/2015 together with Circulars LGF 03/09 and 03/10 in terms of ensuring balanced revenue and capital accounts in 2017.

The 2017 Revenue budget allowed for no increase in direct funding or financing of additional loan repayments to aid future capital investment. Although Wicklow County Council optimised available funding from Local Property Tax, the balanced Revenue Budget 2017 only allowed for maintaining operational activities for the most part.

It is important that Wicklow County Council play our role in facilitating wider economic recovery through capital investment in our County and we should be cognisant of that in framing future Revenue budgets.

The implementation of this proposed investment programme depends on a number of factors:

- Continued Government approval to projects
- Timely delivery of proposed grant aid
- Availability of cash flow
- Ability to secure and finance borrowings
- Staff resources to manage and deliver projects

## **Conclusion**

Per the 2001 Act, the Programme is presented “on the basis of information available to it at the time”. It is a 3-year rolling Programme and accordingly will be reviewed in the light of evolving circumstances and presented to the Council on an annual basis. Appendix 1 provides a summary by Division of the proposed Capital Investment Programme 2017 - 2019 to be presented at the Council meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

*Deborah Cromie*  
**DEBORAH CROMIE**  
**A/HEAD OF FINANCE**