



Wicklow County Council
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin

Annual Report 2014





Mission Statement

“To improve the quality of life for the people and communities of County Wicklow through sustainable development, efficiently delivered effective services, democratic civic leadership, and co-ordination with other public, community and private organisations to optimise available resources.”

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Cathaoirleach's Message



As Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council I am delighted to introduce the Annual Report for the year 2014. This report outlines the very many and varied activities of Wicklow County Council across all services.

A number of projects were successfully implemented across the various services of the Council such as national road maintenance improvement projects, Tourism Development, Environmental Services and recreation and amenity, many of which are described within this report.

During the year preparatory work began on the new County Development Plan for County Wicklow for the period 2016 to 2022, and in October, 2014 the Council formally advertised the initial stages of the consultation process. The Plan is an important document which charts the direction of the planning and development of the County and guides decisions on a range of issues affecting our towns, population, new housing development, employment and enterprise development as well as important infrastructure.

In line with the Government's Action Programme for effective Local Government 'Putting People First' the work of the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) moved at a fast pace over the 12 months and the draft CWETT Action Plan was finalised in December, 2014. The Plan identified five strategic objectives, supported by a practical set of actions which were grouped under the following five headings: Brand, The Big Idea, Marketing and Communications, Film, Retail and Recreation and Industry and Infrastructure. Overseen by a Steering Committee, throughout 2014, the CWETT engaged in a strategy development process involving consultation with relevant stakeholder groups and I am looking forward to the Plan being presented to the Elected Members of Wicklow County Council in early 2015 for implementation. The CWETT Action Plan will feed into the Local Economic Plan and the Local Economic Community Plan.

In September, 2014, I was delighted to welcome President Michael D Higgins to County Wicklow to officially open the Homeless Accommodation facility at Kilmantin Hill in Wicklow Town. This new facility operated by the Simon Community on behalf of the Council offers accommodation for up to 17 residents.

Also during 2014 the Council continued its important work in the area of environmental awareness through its greens schools projects, community education, children's summer activities, waste prevention and reuse promotion policies and school book exchange as well as other important initiatives involving tidy towns and tree planting.

The library service plays an important role in contributing to recreation and amenity and the council's policy of 'free library membership' ensures that the public library service remains accessible to everyone and membership remained constant at over 30,000. Activities in this area during 2014 included regular class visits, exhibitions, culture night events, book clubs for adults and teenagers, a very successful world book week and story reading for children. I am delighted to highlight that work continued on the new Arklow Library and Arklow Municipal District Office in 2014 which will be complete and operational in 2015.

The office of Community, Cultural and Social Development continued its work in developing and promoting the social cultural and economic health and well being of County Wicklow and facilitated community participation across County Wicklow in the annual Co-operation Ireland All-island Pride of Place Awards. Congratulations must be extended to Festina Lente which scooped top prize in this annual award, winning the top position in the Community Innovation Category. In September, 2014 the results of the National Tidy Towns competition were announced and accolades were awarded to Auhgrim by way of a Gold Medal and a bronze medal to both Arklow and Wicklow Towns. Congratulations to everyone involved for their commitment, dedication and hard work and to all our tidy towns committees and volunteers across the County who work tirelessly to keep our towns litter free and tidy.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my fellow Elected Members and to thank them for their co-operation and assistance to me during the year, particularly the members of the Corporate Policy Group and each of the five strategic policy groups who were instrumental in contributing to the policy and decision making forum affecting the entire Council. I would also like to take the opportunity to extend my thanks to Mr. Eddie Sheehy, Chief Executive and all the staff of Wicklow County Council for the manner in which they assisted me in the performance of my role as Cathaoirleach.

Councillor Christopher Fox
Cathaoirleach
Wicklow County Council

Chief Executive's Foreword



I am delighted to welcome the publication of the 2014 Annual Report. Wicklow is a wonderful County and despite the challenges we have faced this year we have had many successes and achievements which are outlined in more detail within the Annual Report, such as the provision of community playgrounds, support for the County Arts Programme and library services and the provision of funding for the very successful and meritorious community awards scheme. These successes were achieved through the constant commitment of Council staff, the Elected Members and the citizens of County Wicklow.

The Local Government Reform Act, 2014 introduced significant changes for Wicklow County Council in 2014 and paved the way for the Council to play a more direct role in the development of the local economy to help grow business, create jobs and support sustainable communities.

Key initiatives which commenced in 2014 which will continue to support economic development in 2015 are:-

- The establishment of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support (EDES) SPC with a specific focus in this area
- The establishment of the County Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), which comprises representatives from across the community. Together with the SPC it will support the delivery of the Local Economic and Community Plan.
- The continued work of the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) established to develop a practical Action Plan which will be used to drive and maintain economic activity and feed into the Local Economic Plan.

On the 1st of January, 2014, water services which were previously the responsibility of local authorities transitioned to Irish Water. Town government reached the end of its historical era in June, 2014 when the four town Councils of Bray, Arklow, Greystones and Wicklow were abolished and replaced with five municipal districts including Baltinglass. The number of county councillors increased from 24 to 32 and the five strategic policy committees were re-established.

We were delighted to welcome Taoiseach Enda Kenny, TD to officially launch the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office (LEO) at Wicklow County Campus in May of 2014. Located at Wicklow County Campus the Wicklow LEO is part of a new nationwide network of 31 LEOs which will deliver an improved system of local enterprise support to start-ups and small businesses across the country.

Meanwhile, work continued at Wicklow County Campus to physically improve the campus and the number of students studying Lifelong Learning and Education Courses provided by its key stakeholder, IT Carlow, has increased to 250. At a double conferring ceremony held in November, 2014 over 90 students graduated.

Underpinning all our activities is the Council's Corporate Plan. It provides a framework and context for the annual service delivery plan which identifies the services to be provided and the standard to which they will be delivered, monitored and measured. These Plans clearly set out the various policies and objectives of Wicklow County Council and progress on the implementation of the objectives contained therein continues to be closely monitored within each Council department.

Service indicators are an important mechanism for monitoring and tracking the performance of local authorities. They provide us with important information, enabling us to identify good and poor practice and in this regard, the Council's performance in respect of the forty two national service indicators is contained in this report.

While the last 12 months have been difficult with reduced staffing levels and increasing pressures on budgets etc. the Elected Members and staff of Wicklow County Council have adapted to change and continued to provide quality services to the people of County Wicklow in 2014. I would like to commend the Elected Members of Wicklow County Council, the Members of the SPC's and the CPG, and all of the other hardworking committees for their continued work and contribution in the delivery of effective services to the public in what has been quite a challenging year. I would especially like to thank the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Christopher Fox as well as the entire staff of Wicklow County Council for their ongoing support and assistance during the year.

Eddie Sheehy
Chief Executive
Wicklow County Council

Members of Wicklow County Council (up to May 2014)



Party	Name and Address	Telephone	Email
Arklow Electoral Area			
FF	Pat Doran, Tomacork, Carnew, Co. Wicklow	05394 26249	pdoran@wicklowcoco.ie
LAB	Nicky Kelly, 15 Anchor Mews, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	086 3123977	info@nickykelly.ie
FG	Vincent Blake, Coolruss, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow	0402 38256	vblake@wicklowcoco.ie
FG	Sylvester Bourke, Three Oaks House, Killiniskyduff, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	0402 32185	sbourke@wicklowcoco.ie
FF	Pat Fitzgerald, 32 Oaklands, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	0402 39563(H)	pfitzgerald@wicklowcoco.ie
Baltinglass Electoral Area			
NP	Thomas Cullen, Deerpark, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow	059 6481786	tcullen@wicklowcoco.ie
NP	James Ruttle, Lisheen, Manor Kilbride, Blessington, Co. Wicklow	01 4582234	jruttle@wicklowcoco.ie
FG	Edward Timmins, Grangecon, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow	087 2357914	etimmins@wicklowcoco.ie
Bray Electoral Area			
FG	Mick Glynn, 19 The Headlands, Putland Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow	086 2579505	mglynn@wicklowcoco.ie
LAB	John Byrne, 1, Roselawn Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow.	01 2829861(H)	jbyrne@wicklowcoco.ie
FG	John Ryan, "Huntingdon", 13 Ardmore Lawn, Bray, Co. Wicklow	01 2761439	jryan@wicklowcoco.ie
NP	Christopher Fox, Calary Lower, Kilmacanogue, Bray, Co. Wicklow	086 8374765	crfox@wicklowcoco.ie
LAB	Barry Nevin, 7 Sidmonton Gardens, Bray, Co. Wicklow	087 0505570	bnevin@wicklowcoco.ie
FF	Pat Vance, Beachmount, Putland Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow	01 2868169	pvance@wicklowcoco.ie
SF	John Brady, 63 Kilbride Grove, Bray, Co. Wicklow	087 0666780	jobrady@wicklowcoco.ie
Greystones Electoral Area			
LAB	Tom Fortune, 'DeLacey', Sea Road, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow	01 2876135	tfortune@wicklowcoco.ie
FG	Derek Mitchell, "Kiltoorish", Manor Avenue, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	01 2874115	mitchelld@ireland.com
FG	George Jones, 2, La Touche Close, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	01 2875678(H) 01 6363210(O)	gjjones@wicklowcoco.ie
FG	Grainne McLoughlin, Wilfield, Leabeg Middle, Newcastle Co. Wicklow	01 2018912	cllgrainnemcloughlin@gmail.com
Wicklow Electoral Area			
FF	Pat Casey, Glendalough Hotel, Glendalough, Co. Wicklow	0404 45683 0404 45122	pcasey@wicklowcoco.ie
LAB	James O'Shaughnessy, Woodside, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow	0404 46844	joshough@wicklowcoco.ie
FG	Irene Winters, 23 Wicklow Heights Court, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow	087 2443610	iwinters@wicklowcoco.ie
LAB	Conal Kavanagh, 12 Springfield, Wicklow Town.	0404 61942	ckavanagh@wicklowcoco.ie
SF	John Snell, 81 Seaview Heights, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow	087 2210222	jsnell@wicklowcoco.ie

H = Home O = Office

Members of Wicklow County Council (from June 2014)



Party	Name and Address	Telephone	Email
Arklow Electoral Area			
FF	Pat Fitzgerald, 32 Oaklands, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	0402 39563 087 2049013	pfitzgerald@wicklowcoco.ie
FF	Pat Kennedy, Kirikee, Greenane, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow	087 4198022	patkennedy1@outlook.com
FF	Tommy Annesley, 'Clydebank', Dublin Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	0402 31705 087 2508205	tomannesley@yahoo.co.uk
FG	Sylvester Bourke, Three Oaks House, Killiniskyduff, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	0402 24415 087 2501734	sylvesterbourke@hotmail.com
IND	Miriam Murphy, 4 Avondale Crescent, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	0402 33245 086 2410065	murphyinmotion@gmail.com
SF	Mary McDonald, 2 Willow Grove, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	085 2251980	marymcdonaldsinnfein@gmail.com
Baltinglass Electoral Area			
IND	Thomas Cullen, Deerpark, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow	059 6481786 087 1934300	tommy@tommycullen.ie
SF	Gerry O'Neill, Butterhill Lane, Blessington, Co. Wicklow	087 2629129	cllr.gerryoneill@gmail.com
IND	James Ruttle, Lisheen, Manor Kilbride, Blessington, Co. Wicklow	01 4582234	jruttle@wicklowcoco.ie
FG	Edward Timmins, Grangecon, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow	087 2357914	etimmis@wicklowcoco.ie
FG	Vincent Blake, Coolruss, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow	0402 38256 087 2322521	vblake@wicklowcoco.ie
FF	Pat Doran, Tomacork, Carnew, Co. Wicklow	05394 26249 087 2770349	pdoran@wicklowcoco.ie
Bray Electoral Area			
SF	John Brady, 63 Kilbride Grove, Bray, Co. Wicklow	087 0666780	johnbradysf@gmail.com
IND	Joe Behan, 55 Richmond Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow	01 2868125 086 8375602	joebehan@outlook.ie
IND	Christopher Fox, Calary Lower, Kilmacanogue, Bray, Co. Wicklow	086 8374765	crfox@wicklowcoco.ie
SF	Oliver O'Brien, 'The Bungalow', Killough, Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow	087 1420586	olobriain@gmail.com
IND	Brendan Thornhill, 19 Glendale Drive, Vevay Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow	086 0663144	jbthornhill@gmail.com
GP	Steven Matthews, 'Saoirse', 12 Sydenham Mews, Sidmonton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow	086 6086420	stevensgreenbray@gmail.com
FG	John Ryan, 'Huntingdon', 13 Ardmore Lawn, Bray, Co. Wicklow	01 2761439 087 2585738	jryan@wicklowcoco.ie
FF	Pat Vance, 'Beachmount', Putland Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow	01 2868169 086 8391871	pvance@wicklowcoco.ie
Greystones Electoral Area			
IND	Jennifer Whitmore, 4 Dromont, Delgany, Co. Wicklow	086 6634747	whitmore.jennifer@gmail.com
IND	Tom Fortune, 'DeLacey', Sea Road, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow	01 2876135 086 2488195	tfortune@wicklowcoco.ie
FG	Derek Mitchell, 'Kiltoorish', Manor Avenue, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	01 2874115	mitchelld@eircom.net
FG	Grainne McLoughlin, 'Wilfield', Leabeg Middle, Newcastle, Co. Wicklow	01 2018912 086 8329686	cllrgrainnemcloughlin@gmail.com
FF	Gerry Walsh, 33 Burnaby Heights, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	085 8639848	gerrywalsh00@gmail.com
SF	Nicola Lawless, 25 Rivendell Grove, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	086 1607686	nicola.lawless.sf@gmail.com
Wicklow Electoral Area			
FF	Pat Casey, Glendalough Hotel, Glendalough, Co. Wicklow	0404 45683 0404 45122	pcasey@wicklowcoco.ie
LAB	James O'Shaughnessy, Woodside, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow	0404 46844	joshough@wicklowcoco.ie
FG	Irene Winters, 23 Wicklow Heights Court, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow	087 2443610	iwinters@wicklowcoco.ie
LAB	Conal Kavanagh, 12 Springfield, Wicklow Town.	0404 61942	ckavanagh@wicklowcoco.ie
SF	John Snell, 81 Seaview Heights, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow	087 2210222	jsnell@wicklowcoco.ie

Your Elected Representatives

ARKLOW ELECTORAL AREA



Pat Fitzgerald
Fianna Fáil
Cathaoirleach of Arklow
Municipal District



Sylvester Bourke
Fine Gael
Leas-Cathaoirleach of
Arklow Municipal District



Mary McDonald
Sinn Féin



Miriam Murphy
Non-Party



Tommy Annesley
Fianna Fáil



Pat Kennedy
Fianna Fáil



Contact Details

Address: Arklow Municipal District,
Avoca River House, North Quay,
Arklow, Co Wicklow.

Telephone: 0402 42700

Fax: 0402 42100

Email: arklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie

Area: 48,380 hectares
Population: 24,450

Your Elected Representatives

BALTINGLASS ELECTORAL AREA



Pat Doran
Fianna Fáil
Cathaoirleach of
Baltinglass Municipal
District



Jim Ruttle
Non-Party
Leas-Cathaoirleach of
Baltinglass Municipal
District



Vincent Blake
Fine Gael



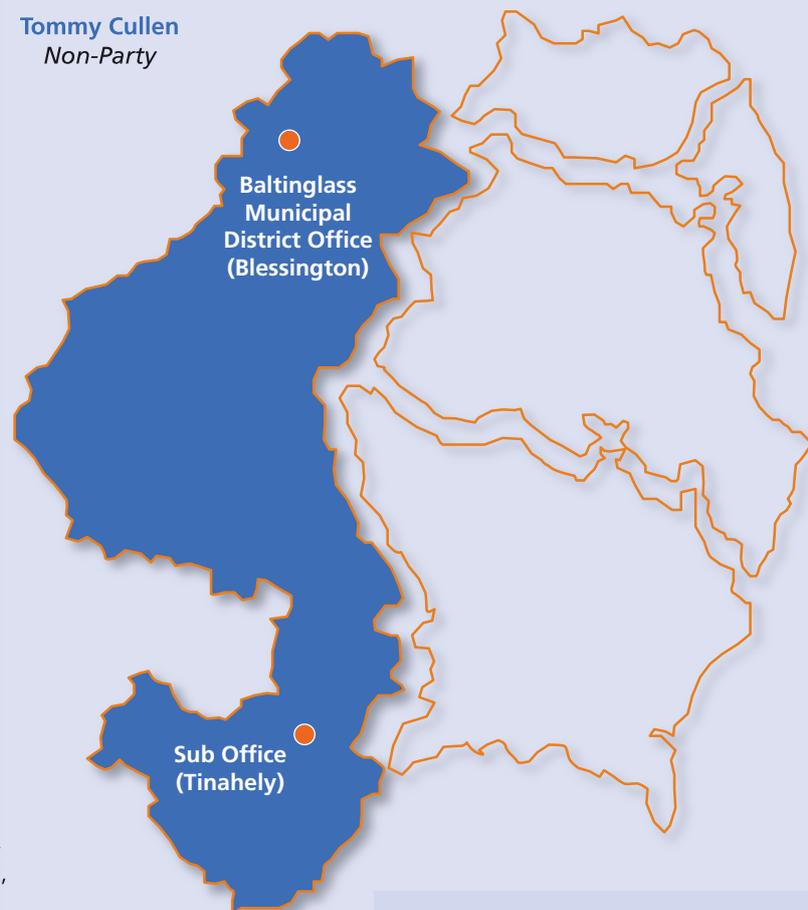
Edward Timmins
Fine Gael



Tommy Cullen
Non-Party



Gerry O'Neill
Sinn Féin



Contact Details

Address: Baltinglass Municipal District,
Civic Offices, Blessington Business Park,
Blessington, Co. Wickow.

Telephone: 045 891222

Fax: 045 865813

Email: BaltinglassMD@wicklowcoco.ie

Area: 91,290 hectares
Population: 25,267

Your Elected Representatives

BRAY ELECTORAL AREA



John Brady
Sinn Féin
Cathaoirleach of Bray
Municipal District



Brendan Thornhill
Non-Party
Leas-Cathaoirleach of
Bray Municipal District



Joe Behan
Non-Party



Christopher Fox
Non-Party



John Ryan
Fine Gael



Oliver O'Brien
Sinn Féin



Pat Vance
Fianna Fáil



Steve Matthews
Green Party



Contact Details

Address: Bray Municipal District,
Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow
Telephone: 01 2744900
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Email: BrayMD@wicklowcoco.ie

Area: 12,350 hectares
Population: 34,335

Your Elected Representatives

GREYSTONES ELECTORAL AREA



Tom Fortune
Non-Party
Cathaoirleach of
Greystones Municipal
District



Gráinne McLoughlin
Fine Gael
Leas-Cathaoirleach of
Greystones Municipal
District



Gerry Walsh
Fianna Fáil



Jennifer Whitmore
Non-Party



Nicola Lawless
Sinn Féin



Derek Mitchell
Fianna Fáil



Contact Details

Address: Greystones Municipal District,
Civic Offices, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wickow.
Telephone: 01 2876694
Fax: 01 2877173
Email: GreystonesMD@wicklowcoco.ie

Area: 6,484 hectares
Population: 24,846

Your Elected Representatives

WICKLOW ELECTORAL AREA



Pat Casey
Fianna Fáil
Cathaoirleach of Wicklow
Municipal District



Irene Winters
Fine Gael
Leas-Cathaoirleach of
Wicklow Municipal District



Daire Nolan
Non-Party



John Snell
Sinn Féin



Pat Kavanagh
Non-Party



Shay Cullen
Fine Gael



Contact Details

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Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow

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Email: WicklowMD@wicklowcoco.ie

Area: 43,240 hectares
Population: 26,742

Unification of County and Town Councils



2014 was a year of momentous change in local authorities both in terms of local government structures and the delivery of services. The merger of Wicklow County Council with the Town Councils of Arklow, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow was part of the national reorganisation of local government called 'Putting People First'. This amalgamation is enshrined in legislation in the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

The primary purpose of the amalgamations was to reduce costs, increase efficiency and establish more effective arrangements for local democracy. Wicklow County Council now has a much stronger role in leading economic and community development at a local level.

From the 1st of June 2014 Town Councils were abolished and 5 Municipal Districts were established, they are Arklow, Baltinglass, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow.

The number of County Councillors for Wicklow increased from 24 to 32, however with the abolition of the Town Councils the overall number of Councillors has reduced from 50, some of whom had dual mandates.

Outgoing Town Councillors who retired or were non-returned included:

Arklow T.C.

John Byrne
Peter Dempsey
Nicky Kelly
Vincent McElheron R.I.P.
Una Kelly
Donal O'Sullivan

Bray T.C.

John Byrne
Mick Glynn
David Grant
Eugene Finnegan
Sarah Wray
Ronan McManus
Ciaran O'Brien
Rossa Murray
Tracy O'Brien

Greystones T.C.

George Jones
James O'Sullivan
Stephen Stokes
Kathleen Kelleher
Ciaran Hayden
Chris Maloney

Wicklow T.C.

Pat Byrne
Gail Dunne
Malcolm Earls
Mervyn Morrison
Séan Smullen
Garrett O'Reilly
Conal Kavanagh

Wicklow County Council

John Byrne
George Jones
Conal Kavanagh
Jimmy O'Shaughnessy
Nicky Kelly
Mick Glynn
Barry Nevin

All former Councillors served their towns and county in challenging times, championing many issues for their constituents and contributing to local politics in times of great change. They were dedicated and hardworking and their contribution to the improvement of the County is acknowledged by all.

The staff, both indoor and outdoor along with outgoing Town Clerks must also be acknowledged. The following pages detailing projects carried out in all Town Council areas demonstrate the difference the staff and Councillors working together made in the towns they served.

Farewell to Bray Town Council



The 2014 programme of Local Government Reform will bring 157 years of town government in Bray to an end. The town's history predates Norman times, when Strongbow was granted lands on behalf of the Crown to Sir Walter Riddlesford circa 1171. Thanks to the arrival of the railway in 1834, the bustling town developed into a popular seaside resort and became known as the 'Brighton of Ireland'. In 1857 Bray became a Town in its own right, with a population of just over 3,000. Today, Bray's population has grown to 32,000 and boasts a rich heritage, splendid scenery, a vibrant arts scene, a bustling main street and thriving industry.

The following is a small sample of what the Town Council has achieved in recent times.

Purple Flag for Bray Town

Bray has been awarded the prestigious international Purple Flag. Similar to the *Blue Flag* given to our finest beaches, the *Purple Flag* is an accreditation scheme that honours excellence in the appeal and management of the evening economy town or city. Purple Flag centres offer the highest quality in shopping, dining, pubs and entertainment ensuring a visitor has all they need for a great evening out.

Bray Town Council worked closely with the Gardaí, Bray Tourism, local residents and the local business community. A key part of success for Bray Town Centre was the partnership approach taken according to judges.

River Dargle Flood Protection Works

The Office of Public Works (OPW) is funding the construction of the River Dargle Flood Scheme. Works on the Flood Defence Scheme include deepening and widening of the river channel, which will make the river as hydraulically efficient as possible. Construction of walls and embankments along the riverbanks will contain the flow within the river channel from a 1 in 100 year fluvial flood event of the river Dargle and a 200-year tidal flood event.

35% of the works have been completed to-date and a number of smaller contractors will be appointed to re-commence works in the River this summer with a view to completing the River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme by 2016.

New Playground for Bray Seafront

A new childrens playground is currently being constructed on the seafront opposite the Esplanade Hotel and is due to open by the end of May 2014. The provision of a playground at this location will enhance the attractiveness of the seafront as a place to visit and provide play facilities for local and visiting children.

It will compliment the recent improvements to the seafront that were carried out in 2013 which included upgrading of the South End toilet block, installation of Victorian seatbacks, enhancement of the lights on the promenade, candy stripe painting of the seafront kiosks and new cycle lane and trees on the northern end of the esplanade. These additions have served to enhance an already fabulous, free facility enjoyed by the people of Bray and our many visitors.

Bray Main Street Improvement Works

The roads and footpaths in the Main Street in Bray have just recently received a new face lift with additional pedestrian crossings, improved road surface, improved lighting, widened granite footpaths new storm drains and a new cycle path making the street a very attractive place for visitors, shoppers and locals alike, whilst enjoying the shopping, cafés and restaurants. Trees now also line the footpaths. The €1 million funded NTA project is due for completion by mid 2014.



Farewell to Greystones Town Council



Greystones Town Council was established as Greystones Town Commissioners in April 1984 and since then have taken the initiative promoting the social, cultural and economic development of the town.

Over the years members were actively involved in campaigns to improve the town for the benefit of all its citizens. There have been numerous improvements to infrastructure and sports and leisure facilities in the past 30 years, resulting in Greystones receiving the prestigious Livcom Gold Award in 2008. This international award recognises Greystones as the best place to live in the world with a population under 20,000.

Of the many developments which took place in the town over the life time of the Council the extension of the DART from Bray and the harbour development have both made a significant positive impact locally. Members of the Town Council were actively involved in promoting and progressing both projects over the years. While there was some local opposition, both facilities are seen as a community gain and are being enjoyed by many, both from within the Greystones community and from further afield.

The Council has promoted a wide range of social and cultural initiatives which are important dates on the social calendar in Greystones. The annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and the turning on of the Christmas lights attract large crowds and provide family entertainment. The People of the Year Awards, held annually recognise the achievements of local people who have contributed to and promoted sport, culture, community and economic activity in the town.

The La Touche Legacy Committee was set up in 1988 to explore the history of the La Touches, a french Huguenot family that settled in Greystones and were involved in the founding of the Bank of Ireland. The Committee have hosted annual seminars over the past 25 years, which bring tourism revenue to the town and are attended by delegates from all over Ireland. In the 1990s the committee welcomed the Mayor of Newtownards, Co. Down and representatives from Ards Borough Council. The partnership has flourished over the years and members exchange regular visits between Greystones and the Ards peninsula.

The Council has been active promoting Town Twinning. The first twinning was with Biscarosse in France and more recently Greystones has been twinned with Holyhead in Wales. Links have been established between local groups and organisations and their counterparts in Wales, a number of exchange visits have taken place. The Mayor Cllr. Stephen Stokes welcomed the first boat from Holyhead, the Becky 1V, into the new Greystones Marina on 5 July, 2013.

The members and staff who served in Greystones since 1984 are proud of their achievements in developing the town as a great place to live and are confident that the new Municipal District will work together to ensure that this work continues.



Farewell to Arklow Town Council



Arklow Town Council has served the community of Arklow for over 100 years and contributed to the betterment of the town for all its citizens.

The Council had many achievements in delivering its Housing Programme over the lifetime of the last Council, all Council houses were provided with central heating at a cost of €2m. Disabled Persons Grants were provided to 44 houses since 2009. 200 houses had replacements under the windows and doors programmes and 93 houses were allocated under the Affordable Housing partnership.

Over €1.01m was invested in Roads during this period with the Town Council providing contributory funding to the works on Arklow Bridge. Other developments included works at Mill Road and North Quay and improvement works on the Wexford Road. Another major investment was the undergrounding of ESB cables.

Significant investment took place in Water Services: Ballyduff Water Plant is due for completion in Autumn 2014, the Lamberton Reservoir refurbishment is completed and South Green, Harbour Road is due to commence later in 2014. Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant is still engaged with court proceedings and the Flood Relief Scheme has been advanced.

Other areas where the Council excelled was in the provision of recreational and amenity provision. Playgrounds were provided at St. Peter's Place and South Green. A skateboard park and outdoor gym and fitness parks were also provided. The pool was upgraded to include disability access and the heating system was updated. The Council also contributed to the establishment of the Arklow Youth Centre and for the provision of a road into the Inbhear Mor Sports Centre / artificial pitch.

The next major project for Arklow will be the provision of new offices and a library facility which has commenced and is due to be completed in the last quarter of 2015, providing a home also for the new Municipal District.



Farewell to Wicklow Town Council



The following is a small sample of the Wicklow Town Council's achievements in recent years.

Road Improvements

The South Quay road reconstruction project has significantly improved the safety, visual appearance and flooding problems that existed for many years. A number of additional car-parking spaces were also created as well as improvements for users of the port.

The introduction of the one-way system at *"The Mall"* greatly improved traffic flow in the town and made the whole area safer for road users and pedestrians.

Housing

In the area of housing, when other larger Town Councils relied on the County Council to carry out the County's house building programme, Wicklow Town Council carried out its own house building and even its own house building crew. The Hillview Estate, built by contractors, is the most recent house building project completed by the Town Council.

Parking

Parking improvements at the rear of the Gaol, and in particular the provision of bus bays, have greatly enhanced the area. The development of a carpark at Kilmantin Hill and improvements at Abbey Street and South Quay have been welcomed by traders and shoppers alike. The introduction of pay-parking has freed up car-parking spaces and made shopping more convenient.

Community Facilities

The lack of community facilities in the town was identified as a serious impediment to the many groups and organisations that required such facilities down through the years. The Council acquired the Assembly Hall and developed a Community Centre. The Council also assisted the Parochial Hall redevelopment committee in retaining that hall as a Community Centre. One of the last actions of the Town Council, prior to its abolition, was to acquire the former F.C.A. hall at the Murrough. This will provide another community facility.

Other community facilities developed by the Town Council

include the playpark at Ballynerrin, the skate park/bmx park, outdoor gym, playground and cycle track at the Murrough.

Other Achievements

- Signing of a Memorandum of Association with the Wicklow Town and District Chamber of Commerce
- New signage provided throughout the town
- Sli na Sláinte developed at the Murrough
- Irrigation system for the hanging baskets installed in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce
- Market Square re-development
- Town Twinning with Portmadog in Wales, Eichenzell in Germany and Montigny-le-Bretonneux in France



Management Team



Council Membership and Meetings

Since the Local Elections held in May 2014, Wicklow County Council comprises 32 Members elected from five electoral areas i.e. Arklow, Baltinglass, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow. Council meetings are held on the first Monday of each month with the exception of August, when there are no meetings. The Council is represented on a number of committees including:

- Housing & Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee
- Planning & Development Strategic Policy Committee
- Transportation, Water & Environmental Services Strategic Policy Committee
- Community, Cultural & Social Development Strategic Policy Committee
- Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee
- Wicklow County Tourism Ltd.

Corporate Policy Group

The Corporate Policy Group is designed to enhance the democratic mandate and policy-making role of the Elected Members. It is supported by the Chief Executive and comprises the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council and the Cathaoirleach of each of the five Strategic Policy Committees.

The main function of the Corporate Policy Group is to co-ordinate the work of the different Strategic Policy Committees and provide a forum where policy decisions affecting the whole Council are agreed for submission to the full Council for decision. The Corporate Policy Group also plays a key role in the preparation of the Annual Financial Budget.

Wicklow County Council Management Team



Mr. Eddie Sheehy
Chief Executive



Mr. Sean Quirke
Director of Services
Transportation and Roads Infrastructure



Mr. Bryan Doyle
Director of Services
Water and Environmental Services



Mr. Des O'Brien
Director of Services
Planning & Development



Mr. Michael Nicholson
Director of Services
Housing and Corporate Estate



Mr. Joe Lane
Director of Services
Community, Cultural & Social Development



Mr. Thomas Murphy
Director of Services
Enterprise and Corporate Services



Mr. David Sweetman
Law Agent



Mr. Liam Fitzpatrick
Head of Information Systems



Ms. Loraine Lynch
Head of Finance

Housing and Corporate Estate



Housing and Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Nicky Kelly

Wicklow County Council

Cllr John Snell

Cllr Joe Behan

Cllr Sylvester Bourke/Vincent Blake

Cllr Tommy Annesley

Cllr John Brady

Cllr Pat Kavanagh

Outside Agencies

Trade Union

Tony Robinson (SIPTU)

Disadvantaged

Pat Greene (Dublin Simon)

Business/Commercial:

John Nolan (Bray Chamber)

Community:

Ann Halpin

ESTABLISHMENT

Director of Services

Michael Nicholson

A/Senior Executive Officer:

Margaret Malone

Senior Engineer

Breege Kilkenny

- Social Housing Provision & Planning
- Housing Management
- Social Inclusion
- Building Control
- Corporate Estate

Housing and Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee

The Housing and Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee met on four occasions in 2014 and focussed on a number of key areas including:

- Budget 2014 - Implications for Housing Authorities nationally in terms of future housing supply, management and investment issues
- Housing Priorities for 2014 including future housing supply, management and investment issues
- Implications for Housing Authorities in terms of Municipal Reorganisation
- Management of Housing Stock

- Update on HAP – Housing Assistance Payment
- New Housing Strategy
- Proposed Construction Programme
- Traveller Accommodation
- Voluntary Housing
- Homelessness Update
- Control of Horses

Social Housing Provision and Planning

Wicklow County Council continued to work throughout the year to meet the needs of those requiring accommodation through the Council's own Housing Construction programme by constructing both social rented, and through social leasing.

The Council was approved a capital allocation of €4,108 million by the Department of the Environment under the Social Housing Investment Programme 2014, to fund its social housing construction programme. Other capital construction projects underway in 2014:

- Build of a four bedroom specially adapted bungalow at 7a Seaview Cottages, Redford, Greystones, Co Wicklow by direct labour.
- Commencement of a four bedroom bungalow at Knockraheen, Roundwood, Co Wicklow.

Construction defects - the rectifying of construction defects in targeted estates continued in 2014 including work undertaken in Enniskerry, Greystones and Blessington to address a number of issues.

Funding included in the €4,108 million were received in respect of the following schemes

- Capital Assistance Scheme (Voluntary Housing) - €909,539
- Private House Grants - €753,799

Energy Efficiency upgrades to Social Housing Stock in Co. Wicklow

An amount of €860,039 was claimed by Wicklow County Council from the Department of the Environment for Energy Efficiency works in 2014. A total of 284 houses across County Wicklow had works carried out under this scheme in 2014.

Maintenance of Council Housing Stock

Housing Management

A lack of funding at national level and a significant drop in the number of Tenant Purchases, resulting in a shortfall in the Internal Capital Receipts fund, resulted in a reduced maintenance programme in 2014. Every effort was made, however, to deal with emergency situations as they arose and

to address cases of specific need. In addition, in terms of re-lets and repairs, the Council ensured that all such houses received the following in 2014:

- Electrics check and repair/rewire;
- Plumbing check;
- Replacement of kitchen units/sanitary ware where necessary;
- Upgrade of properties to enhance energy efficiency.

2014 Housing Allocations

Wicklow County Council allocates houses in accordance with the Scheme of Letting Priorities adopted by Council Members and approved by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. Any person in need of housing and unable to obtain it from their own resources may be included on the Council's Housing Waiting List.

A total of 3,519 housing applicants were on the housing list for County Wicklow at 31st December 2014. A total of 71 houses were allocated during 2014 at various locations throughout the County as per the table below:

01/01/2014 – 31/12/14	
Casual Vacancies	60
New Houses	
Social Leasing	
Rural Cottages	
Purchases	6
Refurbishments	5
Total	71

Role of the Voluntary Housing Sector

Wicklow County Council continued to work closely with the voluntary housing sector in the provision of social housing supports in County Wicklow in 2014.

Other Housing Options

In terms of other housing options, Wicklow County Council continued to promote a broad range of additional housing options in 2014 including:

- Mortgage Allowance Scheme
- House Purchase Loan
- Housing Grants
- Mortgage to Rent

Other Housing options promoted by Wicklow County Council in 2014 included RAS and Long Term and Short Term Social Leasing.

RAS (Rental Accommodation Scheme)

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) caters for the accommodation needs of persons who are in receipt of rent supplement, normally for more than 18 months and who have a long-term housing need (excluding asylum seekers or non-nationals who do not have leave to remain in the state

permanently, students and persons in receipt of rent supplement such as a "back to work" incentive).

The aim of RAS is to improve the quality and standard of rented accommodation and to provide greater security of tenure for the tenant.

As of 31st December 2014, the following statistics applied to the RAS scheme in Co. Wicklow:

RAS Statistics	Total as at 31st December, 2014
Voluntary Agency Transfers	31
Number of Tenant Interviews	1395
Number of Property Inspections	1177
Tenancy Agreements/ contracts Signed	622

A total of 63 applicants transferred to the RAS scheme in 2014.

Long Term & Short Term Social Housing Leasing

Efforts continued throughout 2014 to promote leasing as a social housing option in Co. Wicklow.

This is where properties are leased from the private sector and used to accommodate households from local authority waiting lists. Leased properties will be allocated to tenants, in accordance with the local authorities' allocations schemes.

There has however been a limited uptake of this scheme and a total of 7 units were leased to Wicklow County Council as of 31st December 2014.

Estate Development

Due to resource issues, a restricted estate development programme of work was undertaken by Wicklow County Council in 2014. The Estate Development Officer continued to work however with a large number of resident associations and individuals in assisting with the improving and overall running of the estates. A limited number of grants were awarded in 2014 towards the general maintenance of estates to include planting, grass cutting, signage, community gardens, mini orchards etc. The Estate Development Officer also worked closely in 2014 with Environmental Awareness, Community and Enterprise and Area Engineering staff, to assist in the development of a number of projects.

Tenant Liaison Officer

Throughout 2014, the Tenant Liaison Officer (TLO) continued to provide a support service to local authority estates in the county. As well as supporting tenants experiencing specific issues with their tenancy, the Tenant Liaison Officer played a pro-active role in addressing Anti-Social Behaviour issues as and when they arose. This work is undertaken with the support of the Gardai throughout the county. The Estate Development Officer supports the Tenant Liaison Officer in addressing some of the more serious cases.

Housing Rents

As of 31st December 2014, Wicklow County Council had a total of 4,862 rented dwellings. This includes 486 RAS properties and 23 units under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative. The average rent for 2014 was €48.20 per week, with a minimum rent of €23.00 and a maximum rent of €200.00. The debit balance on the rent account at 31st December 2014 is €845,600.

Control of Horses

2014 saw a serious escalation in the numbers of roaming and abandoned horses in the county. Many serious welfare issues were addressed throughout 2014 and a number of significant seizures of horses were made on a multi agency basis. The Housing Directorate continued to employ contractors for the provision of services related to horse control in Co. Wicklow as per the Control of Horses Act, 1996. A total of 253 horses were impounded in 2014.

Housing Grants

In 2014, a total of €753,799 funding was received from the Department – this was matched by €135,824.85 matching funding from Wicklow County Council. A total of 171 grants were awarded as follows:

- 18 Housing Adaptation Grants
- 56 Mobility Aid Grants
- 97 Housing Aid for Older People

Remaining applications will be carried over into 2015 funding and will be assessed depending on the 2015 funding allocation from the Department of the Environment.

Traveller Accommodation

Much of 2014 was devoted to the development of a new *Wicklow Traveller Accommodation Plan 2014 to 2018* by the members of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC). This Plan will seek to meet the accommodation needs of Travellers living in Co. Wicklow up until 2018. This includes planning for the provision of standard housing, halting sites, group housing, rural houses and temporary/emergency sites.

Homelessness

Emergency accommodation continued to be provided locally by Wicklow County Council for people experiencing homelessness in the county throughout 2014. As a result of increased demand for homeless services, Wicklow County Council continued to work with the Simon Community to develop a supported accommodation facility in Wicklow town for people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the Simon Community expanded its services in the county, by providing an increased team of support workers based in Co. Wicklow.

Demand for homeless services placed severe strain on the resources of the Housing Section in 2014. Rising rents and lack of private rented accommodation options throughout the county saw an increasing number of people seeking support from the Council's homeless services.

Wicklow County Council continued to participate throughout 2014 in the Mid-East Joint Homelessness Forum whose purpose is to address long-term homelessness in counties Meath, Kildare and Wicklow and put in place effective preventative policies and services.

Building Control

The Housing Directorate has a responsibility to encourage best practice and innovation in building design and construction standards in County Wicklow as well as providing a healthy and safe working environment. This includes ensuring compliance with the Building Control Act, 2007 and Building Regulations.

Under the Building Control Act, 1990 the Housing Directorate is obliged to carry out inspections in respect of all new developments. The Housing Directorate carries out inspections on a random basis.

In addition to Building Control, the expertise and knowledge of the Building Control Team is being used in inspection of rental properties under the Private Residential Tenancies Board registration scheme. Funding is allocated to the Council for this purpose from the proceeds of registration fees collected by the Private Rented Tenancy Board (PRTB). In 2013 the Council inspected 128 rented dwellings in accordance with the legislation.

Health and Safety

The Wicklow County Council Health and Safety Policy has been established to ensure that in so far as is reasonably practicable, everyone who works for or on behalf of Wicklow County Council does so in the safest and healthiest conditions possible. The Housing Directorate has endorsed this Health and Safety Policy as being applicable to all Wicklow County Council operations within the Housing Section.

Appropriate resources were made available in 2014 to allow the Policy to be effectively carried out.

Corporate Estate

The Housing Directorate continued to meet its responsibilities throughout 2014 to manage, protect and develop the headquarters of Wicklow County Council (County Buildings, Wicklow).

Additionally, work continued in 2014 to maintain and update the Property Asset Register of Wicklow County Council resulting in a joint project with the Information Systems department to digitize the Council's land data.

Transportation and Road Infrastructure



Strategic Policy Committee

Following the local elections in May 2014 and the amalgamation of the Town Councils the former Environment and Transportation and Roads Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee were amalgamated to form the Transportation, Water and Environmental Services Strategic Policy Committee comprising of five County Councillors along with four members from sectoral interest groups. The Strategic Policy Committee holds regular meetings throughout the year at which both national and local issues are discussed.

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Derek Mitchell

Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Daire Nolan

Cllr. Mary McDonald

Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald

Cllr. Pat Doran

Outside Agencies

Trade Union/SIPTU

Mr. Christy Byrne

Environment/Conservation

Mr. Paul Leahy

Agriculture/Farming Community

Mr. Richard Burke

Development/Construction

Mr. Paddy Mordaunt

EXECUTIVE

Director of Services

Sean Quirke/ Bryan Doyle

A/Senior Executive Officer

Theresa O'Brien/ Helena Dennehy

A/Senior Engineer

Declan Marnane/Michael Geaney

Objective

“To promote and facilitate the provision of all transport in an integrated manner and so to foster social and economic development, having regard to environmental considerations, sustainable development and social inclusion and Health and Safety”

Road Safety

The Road Safety Together Committee, which includes members of the Gardaí, Fire Service, Road Safety Authority, National Roads Authority and Officials of Wicklow County Council meet on a quarterly basis to review road safety in County Wicklow. The main objective of the Road Safety Plan is to reduce the number of casualties on County Wicklow's roads and to provide focus on making Wicklow a safer county for both motorists and pedestrians through Education, Enforcement, Engineering and Evaluation. This plan is available on Wicklow County Council's website www.wicklow.ie

The Road Safety Officer continued to assist schools in the County to promote road safety awareness amongst students by:

- Promoting and assisting with the establishment of Walking Buses.
- Distribution of leaflets, DVDs, high viz jackets and armbands to schools.
- Provision of a School Traffic Warden service at a number of locations.

A programme of low cost safety improvements is carried out each year with funding from the NRA.

Objective

“To construct and maintain the national, regional and local roads networks to the highest possible standard for each road type, current and future usage and best value for money.”

National Roads

N11 Rathnew to Arklow Road Improvement Scheme – PPP Contract

- Construction ongoing – project due for completion August 2015
- Land acquisition (including payment of compensation) has been completed on 99% of the footprint area.

National Primary N11 Maintenance/Improvements/M11 Projects completed in 2014:

- Pavement overlay in Ballinameedsa Bends
- Pavement overlay between Kilmurry (Barndarrig) and Jack Whites
- Completion of pavement renewal (ongoing since 2012) between Jack Whites and Scratnagh
- Eradication of Winter Heilotope and other noxious weeds
- Ongoing verge maintenance along N11 between Arklow Rathnew with particular emphasis on junctions

National Secondary N81

Works Undertaken in 2014:

Tracblasting and surface dressing were completed on the following sites in 2014:

- Athgreaney - Surface dressing.
- Mullycagh - Tracblasting
- Whitestown Lower - Surface dressing.
- Saunder's Grove - Surface dressing
- Tuckmill - Tracblasting.

Surfacing works including strengthening and regrading were carried out at the following locations:

- Knockroe Bend.
- Athgreaney to Mullycagh.
- Baltinglass to Raheen.

Surfacing works including patching and repairs were carried out at the following locations under Ordinary Maintenance funding:

- Blessington South.
- Merginstown.

N81 Safety Schemes

There were two safety schemes which included drainage, surfacing and the installation of a containment kerb. These were carried out at the following locations:

- Annalecky Junction – Surface and Drainage works.
- Sally Gap Junction at Tinode – Trief containment kerb together with drainage and landscaping. Timber barrier removed.

Drainage works

There were two drainage schemes which were located at opposite ends of the county. These were carried out at the following locations:

- Baltinglass North – New culvert across the N81 at the Golf Club/Coillte forest to bypass old drainage. This should address a small scale flooding problem.
- Crosscoolharbour – Installation of a 1.2m diameter drainage network east of N81 as well as a crossing of the N81. Also a smaller drainage system on western side of N81. This has addressed a long standing flooding issue that was a threat to road safety and private property.

Crash Barrier

Crash barrier repairs carried out at the following locations:

- Eldon Bridge
- Poulaphuca – This followed on from damage arising from fallen branches during a storm.

Specific Improvement Grant works 2014

Works were carried out at the following locations in 2014:

- Annacurragh
- Manor Kilbride

Funding was also provided for principal inspections to be carried out on 141 bridges throughout the County. These were all bridges on regional roads and other bridges on our internal repair register on local roads. In addition to these inspections, due to a combination of works coming in under budget and our own resources, we funded the repairs of damaged parapet walls on 10 bridges throughout the county. These repairs were undertaken by our bridge crew on:

- Lockstown Bridge;
- Ballinagee Bridge;
- Kilbaylet Bridge;
- Gibbstown Bridge;
- Kilcarney Bridge;
- Ballyteige Upper Bridge;



- Ballynamonoge Bridge;
- Ballyduff Bridge;
- Carrigmore Bridge;
- Clara Vale Bridge.

Low Cost Safety Improvement Works 2014:
Improvements works were carried out at the following locations in 2014:

- R755 Shramore, Roundwood
- R117 Church Road, Enniskerry
- R752 Ballygahan, Avoca
- R747 Borkill More, Kiltegan
- R117 Knocksink Road, Enniskerry

Objective

“To facilitate and promote walking and cycling and use public transport as a means of reducing congestion, promoting healthier lifestyles and providing access to facilities for those who do not drive or have access to public transport.”

NTA Traffic Management Funding

The National Transport Authority funded progress of the following projects in 2014:

- Bray Main Street
- Kilcoole Main Street/Sea Road Junction
- R761 Three Trout's footpath
- Boghall Road Bray - cycle way – QOS upgrade
- Killincarrig double roundabouts
- Beech Road Footbridge Arklow
- Rathdrum Pedestrian Crossing
- Improvement works at Schools in Glenealy and Ashford
- Dublin Road, Bray Junction Upgrade
- Bray Dart Interchange
- Delgany Village Vulnerable Road user Audit
- Arklow Junctions
- Glendalough – Traffic control measures
- Fitzwilliam Square Wicklow
- Pedestrian Access to Wicklow Rail Station
- Cycle Route from the Port Access road to Wicklow Town
- Harbour to Lidl Greystones - Cycle Route
- Baltinglass Traffic Management
- R772 Wexford Road Cycle Lanes
- Rathdrum Traffic Management
- Junction Wicklow Gap/Glendalough
- Bray To Greystones Cycleway

- Strand Road Bray - Cycle Scheme
- N81 /R410 Junction Blessington

Liaison with Transport Providers

Wicklow County Council continued in 2014 to liaise and work closely with the Public Service Transport Providers, with the improvement of the public transport service for County Wicklow the main objective.

Disability Access

The Transportation and Roads Infrastructure Directorate will continue to keep up to date with the guidelines from the National Disability Authority, ensuring that the highest standard of 'access for all' is achieved through compliant standards of design.

Health and Safety

The Transportation and Roads Infrastructure Directorate is committed to ensuring adherence to the principles of Safety Health and Welfare at work. In this regard plans and policies have been and are continuing to be developed and updated to improve our health and safety procedures. Extensive training programmes are provided for staff continually to ensure compliance with construction and safety regulations. Safety Statements are reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The implementation of good health and safety practices has resulted in additional costs for various projects, but notwithstanding this, the Council remains committed to the health and safety of its employees.

Motor Tax



Following on from the changes in 2013 where the Road Safety Authority assumed responsibility for driver licences, and the new arrangements in relation to declaring a vehicle off the road for motor tax purposes, there were no major changes to functions in Motor Tax Offices in 2014. There were no changes to Motor Tax Rates.

The Motor Tax offices, as licensing authorities, provide multiple services in relation to the statutory and regulatory framework of local authorities and other public bodies. They also provide advice to the customer about services operated by other local bodies, including: directing members of the public with driving licence queries to the NDLS, NCT queries to the NCT, how to access the national online service operated by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

Motor Tax Offices process refund applications where registered owners seek a refund of motor tax fees paid. They also process change of ownership on vehicles registered prior to 1st January 1993. There has been a considerable increase in the volume of changes of vehicle ownership since the new rules in declaring a vehicle off the road were introduced in 2013.

Motor Taxation services are provided in Wicklow, Bray and Blessington, with the following opening hours:

Wicklow:

Monday-Friday, 9.00am to 3.30pm

Bray:

Tuesday-Thursday, 10.30am to 2pm

Blessington:

Tuesday, 9.00am to 12.30pm, 2.00pm to 3.30pm

Water, Wastewater and Environmental Services



Objective

“To provide and maintain drinking water and wastewater facilities to meet existing and future demand, adhering to the principles of sustainable development.

To protect and enhance the natural environment of County Wicklow in accordance with the principles of sustainable and balanced development, in partnership with all sections of the community, having regard to national and EU policies and programmes.”

Introduction

The Water and Environmental Services Section in Wicklow County Council deals with a wide range of issues, which continue to provide significant staffing and financial challenges, these include:

- C01 Operation and Maintenance Water Supply
- C02 Operation and Maintenance Wastewater Treatment
- C03 Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges
- C04 Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences
- C05 Administration of Group and Private Installations
- C06 Support to Water Capital Programme
- C07 Agency and Recoupable Services
- E01 Operation, Maintenance and Aftercare of Landfill
- E02 Operation and Maintenance of Recovery and Recycling Facilities
- E03 Operation and Maintenance of Waste to Energy Facilities
- E04 Provision of Waste Collection Services
- E05 Litter Management
- E06 Street Cleaning
- E07 Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement
- E08 Waste Management Planning
- E09 Maintenance of Burial Grounds
- E10 Safety of Structures and Places

- E11 Operation of Fire Service
- E12 Fire Prevention
- E13 Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution
- F03 Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations
- G02 Operation and maintenance of piers and harbours
- G03 Coastal Protection and Flood mitigation works
- G04 Veterinary Services
- H07 Operation of Market and Casual Trading

Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

The Transportation, Water and Environmental Services Strategic Policy Committee comprises of five County Councillors along with four members from sectoral interest groups. The Strategic Policy Committee holds regular meetings throughout the year at which various policy issues are discussed.

- Cllr Derek Mitchell
- Cllr Daire Nolan
- Cllr Mary McDonald
- Cllr Pat Doran
- Cllr Pat Fitzgerald
- Paul Leahy - Environment/Conservation
- Shane O’Loughlin- Agriculture/Farming
- Paddy Mordaunt - Development/Construction
- Christy Byrne - Trade Union

During 2014, one meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee took place before the end of the old Council and another meeting took place after the formation of the new council and the appointments to the SPC. The following policy areas were discussed including a review of the work carried out by the previous Strategic Policy Committee:

- Burial Grounds
- Waste Water Treatment Plants
- Water & Environmental Services Operational Plan 2014
- Update Irish Water & Municipal Districts
- M50/M11 Corridor review
- Consideration of a full time Fire Service for Bray/North Wicklow.



Water and Wastewater Services

With effect from 1st January 2014, Irish Water assumed responsibility for the provision and maintenance of Water and Waste Water Facilities country wide. Wicklow County Council entered into a Service Level Agreement to provide services to Irish Water with respect to Water Services functions and accordingly the Agreement defines and provides a framework for the relationship and delivery of service over a 12 year period.

Irish Water has responsibility for the areas of:

- C01 Operation and Maintenance Water Supply
- C02 Operation and Maintenance Wastewater Treatment
- C01 & C02 will now include the Water & Wastewater Quality element of Pollution Control and Enforcement
- C03 Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges
- C06 Support to Water Capital Programme
- C07 Agency and Recoupable Services

Wicklow County Council will retain responsibility for the areas of:

- C04 Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences
- C05 Administration of Group and Private Installations

Operation and Maintenance Water Supply

Operation and Maintenance Wastewater Treatment

The main duties of the Water Services operations and maintenance section is to:

- Continue to operate and maintain water supplies and wastewater facilities to the highest standards and continue to deliver high quality water and wastewater services in County Wicklow while meeting objectives and requirements of Service Level Agreement and Annual Service Plan in conjunction with Irish Water
- Ensure that public water and wastewater schemes continue to function efficiently and effectively
- Promote the value of drinking water through public awareness programmes and continue implementation of Water Conservation scheme.

Water & Wastewater Quality – Pollution Control & Enforcement

Wicklow County Council, on behalf of Irish Water, continues to monitor and control water and wastewater pollution in accordance with legislation and EU regulations.

Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges

The National Water Services Pricing Policy requires that all non-domestic customers be charged for water and wastewater services on the basis of metered consumption. Wicklow County Council continued to bill all non-domestic users on behalf of Irish Water during 2014. The Regulator will fix water pricing in the future.

Installation of domestic meters commenced in Wicklow in 2014. All domestic installations are to be installed by a regionally appointed contractor (Sierra Ltd) and charging of domestic customers will commence by Irish Water from Quarter 4 2014.

Support to Water Capital Programme

The Water Services Investment programme ceased at end of 2013 and all Capital Water Programmes are determined by Irish Water. Wicklow County Council continue to provide support to this area of activity.

Agency & Recoupable Services

This area accounts for connections to public water and sewer network. Applications for connections will be reviewed by Irish Water at an early planning stage.

Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences

This area includes operation of public toilets in Enniskerry, Greystones, Roundwood, Glendalough and Blessington. Operation includes three automated facilities. Wicklow County Council retains responsibility for this area.

Administration of Group and Private Installations

Wicklow County Council will retain responsibility for this area of operation that includes:

- Administration of water supply to private houses through Well Grant system.
- Progression of group water schemes by seeking funding under the national Rural Water Programme and to advance such schemes in a prioritised manner.

Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems serving Single Houses

The main reasons for the implementation of the registration and inspection regime for septic tanks are to enhance and protect public health and the environment to ensure compliance with the European Court of Justice ruling against Ireland in October 2009 in relation to the treatment of waste waters from septic tanks and other on-site wastewater treatment systems.



Domestic Wastewater Treatment System, registration for private dwellings commenced in 2012 and inspections commenced in 2013. There are 10,910 properties registered.

2014

Number of inspections completed – 4
Pass Rate 100%

EPA to determine number of inspections required going forward

Environmental Services

Complaints Procedure

The total number of complaints received in 2014 by Water and Environmental Services was 1734 and cover areas of Waste, Litter, Water Pollution, Noise, Air, Waste Water and Miscellaneous.

Waste Management

Waste Enforcement Team

The Waste Enforcement Team is dedicated to enforcing waste management legislation and has proven to be a great asset to the County.

The team dealt with 1734 environmental complaints during 2014. Eighteen prosecutions were secured under the Waste Management Act 1996 and 155 Litter Fines were issued.

Additional responsibilities taken on by the Enforcement Team were the “smoky coal” regulations. The ban on the burning of smoky coal in households was extended to Wicklow, Rathnew, Greystones and Delgany.

There was an increased emphasis on getting food waste from commercial premises out of the disposal bin into the composting bin and there was a good level of compliance at the end of 2014.

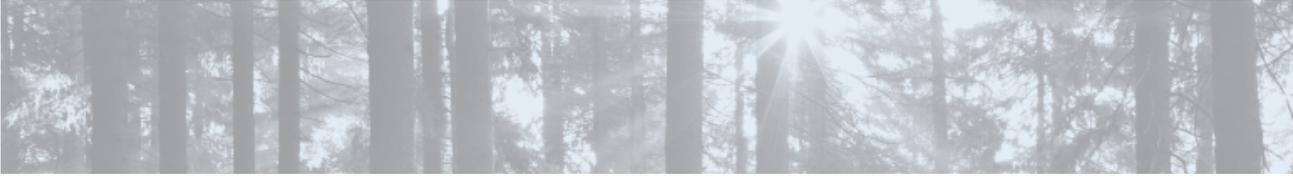
County Wicklow ranks in the top five nationally in the level of compliance of commercial premises with the Packaging Regulations and the Waste Tyre Regulations.

Recycling Facilities

From 2007 to 2013 the tonnage of recyclables collected by Wicklow County Council had fallen by 25%. In 2014 the levels of recyclables collected levelled out for the first time, halting the decline.

A review of the opening hours in all the recycling centres was carried out, extending opening hours, allowing greater access. There was continued investment in new machinery and this ensures reliability in the service and reduces enforced temporary closures of the recycling centres. Information on the recycling centres and recycling is now being provided through social media.

The collection of hazardous waste has been extended to all recycling centres. In Bray and Arklow recycling centres the



collection of waste paint is available on a permanent basis.

Wicklow County Council recycles from all its corporate locations. In 2014 Wicklow County Council was also involved in the collection of recyclables from seventeen schools in west Wicklow.

Other recycling initiatives progressed in 2014 include:

- Bottle Banks
- Mobile Collections
- Hazardous Waste Collection
- Continued support to Tinahely Development Association in operating community-recycling centre at Lugduff, Tinahely

PURE (Protecting Uplands and Rural Environments)

PURE (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments) is an environmental project established to combat the increase of illegal dumping/fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin uplands and was officially launched in September 2006.

Initiatives

PURE Mile

The PURE Mile is an environmental initiative that aims to foster greater appreciation and awareness of our country roadscapes by rewarding and acknowledging local community efforts. Local community groups come together to keep a mile stretch of road and the immediate environment litter and rubbish free, while simultaneously considering the preservation and careful maintenance of the flora and fauna, ditches, hedges, rows, and any other natural or man-made features of the area. 24 locations took part in the 2014 PURE Mile competition and Macreddin PURE Mile was the overall winner.

PURE Education

PURE has produced an information pack for primary schools designed to provide teachers with information and work sheets on environmental education. The education programme is divided into four sections and covers all classes in primary schools, i.e. each sheet is designed for two classes. All of the inserts can be printed, photocopied and distributed to pupils. The information and exercises are fun and interesting ways for children to learn about their natural environment, with stories, games, activities, word games, quizzes, simple class room experiments, and much more. The education pack was designed to accompany the current primary school curriculum and was distributed to all schools in the Wicklow, South Dublin and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown regions.

General Waste Management

In 2012, an evaluation of the 2007 Waste Management Plan recommended that a new Plan was required. It was decided in 2013 that County Wicklow would join a new Eastern and Midlands Region for the purposes of Waste Management. A new Waste Management Plan is due for publication.

Since 2012, the management of all Waste Collection Permits has been carried out by Offaly County Council. This has assisted with Waste Enforcement as all vehicles authorised to collect waste in County Wicklow are saved on a central database.

In 2013 the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government launched public consultations on the End of Life Vehicle Regulations, the Tyre Regulations and on the Household Waste Collection market.

The exemption that allows farmers to burn green waste for agricultural benefits was continued until 2016.

Environmental Awareness and Education

The focus of environmental awareness and education is on sustainable living with the key themes of waste, litter, energy and water conservation.

It is a core objective to encourage the population to get involved at a local level and take more responsibility for environmental management. The Environmental Awareness Office works with community groups such as tidy towns, residents associations, youth groups and clubs, offering talks, an advisory service and partnership programmes targeting local issues. The Environmental Awareness Office supported local environmental projects through the Local Agenda 21 grant scheme and through the annual Environmental Awards. The Environmental Awards recognised contributions made by local groups in the areas of tidy main street, tidy estates, coast care, waste minimisation, sustainable tourism and wildlife and natural amenities. 2014 award winners included the tidy towns committees in Avoca, Roundwood, Hollywood and Aughrim, Dunlavin Residents Association, Arklow Coastcare and the Teermann Community Garden in Baltinglass.

Areas of Environmental Awareness and education covered and progressed during 2014 include:

- Green Schools/Green Flag Programme
- Tidy Towns Advice and Training
- Community Education
- Composting Workshops
- Community Gardening
- Children's Summer/Blue Flag Beach Activities
- Environmental Competitions



- Waste prevention and Reuse programme
- School Book Exchange
- Seasonal, commercial and schools recycling
- National Sustainable Living and Green Communities Programmes
- In House recycling and energy management in County Buildings
- National Gum Taskforce
- Green Dog Walkers
- Waste Prevention Demonstration Programme

Energy Management

SI 542 of 2009 and SI 426 of 2014 require all public bodies to report annually on energy usage. The target is to improve energy efficiency by 33% by 2020. The target is based on kilowatt per hour (KWH) savings as opposed to saving in monetary terms. Wicklow County Council is currently at 4% of its target.

Pollution Control

Wicklow County Council is committed to ensuring that Pollution Control legislation is strictly enforced. The increase in pollution control legislation is placing a heavy burden on the existing resources, of both finance and personnel, in Wicklow County Council. A RMCEI (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspection) Plan forms the basis of controlling environmental pollution.

The Council continues to implement the Farm Survey Programme. The programme rates farms' compliance in a number of areas such as use of fertilizers, animal and farm waste production, slurry and soiled water tank and open yards. Serious breaches are reported to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and may result in penalties in the form of reduction in the single farm payment. Surveys in 2014 resulted in six farm holdings being cross-reported with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food implementing the appropriate penalty.

Action Plans for sub-catchments within the River Basin Districts have been developed and implemented on a prioritised basis. The measures to improve and protect water bodies were operational in 2013.

The Council utilises the Groundwater Protection Scheme in its environmental assessment of developments in Co. Wicklow.

The Council processes applications for certificates to control the emission of Volatile Organic Compounds from installations such as Dry Cleaners and Vehicle Refinishers under new regulations introduced in 2012. Inspections were carried out by Wicklow County Council to enforce the European Union (Installations and Activities using Organic Solvents) Regulations

2012 and the European Union (Paints, Vehicle Refinishing Products and Activities) Regulations 2012.

All other areas of Pollution Control continue to be progressed and include:

- Surface Water Abstraction Regulations 1989
- European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations (No.122) 2014
- Nitrates Directive 1991 and Good Agricultural Practice Regulations 2011
- Urban Wastewater Regulations 1998 and 2001
- Freshwater Fish Directive and Salmonid Waters Regulations 1988
- Water Framework Directive 2000
- Environmental Quality Objectives for Surface Water Regulations 2009
- Environmental Quality Objectives for Ground Water Regulations 2010
- Ground water protection scheme
- Air Pollution Act 1987, European Union (Installations and Activities using Organic Solvents) and European Union (Paints, Vehicle Refinishing Products and Activities) Regulations 2012
- European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protections of Waters) Regulations 2014
- European Union Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008

Drinking Water

Revised drinking water regulations were introduced under the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014. The Council, under its remit as supervisory authority, monitors private water supplies and requires remedial action where deficient quality was found. In 2014 Wicklow County Council concentrated efforts on private water supplies and working with the owners of the water supplies to improve standards. This resulted in the lifting of eight boil water notices.

Bathing Waters

There are six designated bathing waters in County Wicklow. The monitoring of these and many other commonly used bathing areas continued in 2014. The bathing water monitoring is displayed at the beaches and on the Splash website through the bathing water season, 1st June to 15th September each year. There were a number of poor water quality results at Brittas Bay that indicated incidents that prompted further investigation. Despite this, however, overall the bathing water quality at the six identified bathing waters was at good to excellent status in 2014.



Blue Flags

Wicklow County Council retained its three Blue Flags in 2014 - Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Greystones South Beach.

Arklow Harbour

Wicklow County Council assumed responsibility for the operation and maintenance of Arklow Harbour from 1st January 2012.

2014 saw major works being carried out. Remedial works to the existing channel gate continued. The dredging works at the river mouth and the dock were substantially completed and new pontoon mooring facilities were provided. Funding for these projects of over €190,000 was committed by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Burial Grounds

There are thirty two burial grounds currently in use, which are controlled by the Council. Part-time registrars are employed by the Council to sell grave spaces and maintain burial registers.

The Council for its part through the area engineers carries out the heavier type of maintenance where machinery etc. is required to be used.

The extension at Rathbran was completed and the blessing of Castlemacadam also took place in 2014.

Monitoring of all graveyards continues.

Fire Service and Emergency Planning

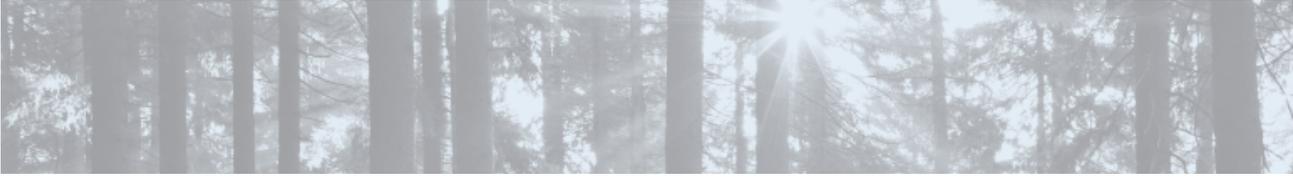
Major Emergency Planning

Wicklow County Council is part of the Eastern Region for Emergency planning with the Dublin Local Authorities and Kildare. A Regional Working Group with representatives from the Local Authorities in the region, An Garda Síochána and Health Service Executive operates in the Eastern Region to co-ordinate Emergency Planning for the Region.

A Major Emergency Management Committee is in place in Wicklow County Council and comprises of Senior Personnel from all sections of Wicklow County Council and the town authorities. Regular meetings were held in 2014 and ongoing review of emergency planning arrangement together with the provision of appropriate training in different aspects of Major Emergency Planning is the continued focus of the committee. An interagency tabletop major emergency exercise was held in December 2013 and the exercise was reviewed in 2014

Other areas of Fire Service activity progressed during 2014 included:

- Inspection of Fire Hydrants
- Inspections and enforcement under Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003
- Assessing Fire Safety Certificates and Disability Access Certificates under the Building Control Regulations 1997 to 2009.
- Community Fire Safety
- Training of Fire Personnel



Veterinary Services

Food Safety

Wicklow County Council as an official agent of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) and makes provision for food control services for three abattoirs and six low-capacity meat premises in the county. Inspections are carried out by the Council's Veterinary Inspectors.

Dog Control

The ISPCA provides a dog control service on behalf of Wicklow County Council. Two Dog Wardens and a Kennel Assistant are employed to operate this service, which is based in the dog pound located in Rathdrum. A subsidised neutering scheme is available for dogs rehomed by the pound and for problem breeders in the community in an effort to reduce the production of unwanted puppies. Re-homed dogs are microchipped at the dog pound to aid in their future identification.

Civil Defence

For over fifty years Civil Defence through the local authority and its emergency services has been providing support throughout the county. This support has been provided at both operational and community levels for the benefit of people within County Wicklow. This contribution has been widely acknowledged and culminated in the local authority providing Civil Defence with its own purpose built headquarters and training centre just outside Greystones.

Other areas of Civil Defence progressed in 2014:

- Basic training for volunteers
- Training of instructors
- Community events/operations
- Upgrade of equipment
- Long service awards

Community Events / Operations

Co. Wicklow Civil Defence had a very active year. Training continued throughout the County and Civil Defence personnel took part in Operational Activities and Training Exercises. These activities were in line with the overall Mission Statement of the Local Authority '...To improve the quality of life for the people and communities of Co. Wicklow...'

New Headquarters & Training Facility

The highlight of the year was the construction of Co. Wicklow Civil Defence's first purpose built headquarters and training centre. This project was provided for despite increasing pressure on overall budgets etc. The headquarters are located just outside Greystones with easy access from the N11, linking the facility with the rest of the County. This project was the result of input and support from many departments within the Local Authority including Enterprise & Corporate Services, Water & Environmental Services, Planning and Finance. The establishment of this facility provided a very welcome and clear signal to the volunteers who give freely of their time that their efforts are recognised and appreciated by Wicklow County Council and its members.

Regional Exercise

In April Wicklow Civil Defence hosted a Regional Exercise in the Greystones area. Five Counties participated – Dublin, Kildare, Meath, Laois and Wicklow. Over 120 Volunteers participated in this exercise. Also in attendance were senior representatives from the Department of Defence, Director of Service – Water & Environment, and Management & Staff from the Civil Defence College, Roscrea.

Health and Safety

Water and Environmental Services staff are trained to deal with all aspects of delivery of service within the directorate and to improve internal and external communications. There are individual Ancillary Safety Statements written for the following areas: Waste Management, Operations, Water Conservation, Fire Service, Water Capital Projects Office, Laboratory, General Offices, Veterinary Services and Civil Defence and in excess of 95 Local Safety Statements have been prepared.

In order to manage all the requirements in Health and Safety a safety committee was set up in the Water and Environmental Services Section.

Planning and Development



Strategic Policy Committee

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Vincent Blake & Sylvester Bourke (2.5 years each)

Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Pat Vance

Cllr. Edward Timmins

Cllr. Christopher Fox

Cllr. Tommy Cullen

Cllr. Steven Matthews

Cllr. Gerry O'Neill

Outside Agencies

Development/Construction

Tony Lawlor

Agriculture/Farming

Michael Byrne

Environment/Conservation

Matthew Wilson

Business/Commercial

Trevor Wood

Executive

Director of Services

Des O'Brien

A/Senior Planner

Sorcha Walsh

Senior Engineer

Fergal Keogh

Functions Include

- Preparation of County Development Plan and Local Area Plans.
- Monitoring of the effectiveness of policies of Development Plan.
- Development Management.
- Enforcement.
- Heritage

Goal

"To provide for proper and effective planning balancing the need for sustainable development, the rights of individuals, the protection of the environment and the social and economic needs of each area."

Development Management

Development Management is the general term used to describe the functions relating to the processing of planning applications.

Year	No. of Applications
1998	1671
1999	1844
2000	1758
2001	1607
2002	1460
2003	1889
2004	2118
2005	2326
2006	2560
2007	2799
2008	2146
2009	1359
2010	1147
2011	976
2012	939
2013	987
2014	1285

In addition to planning applications, Development Management also deals with, pre-planning, compliance, appeals, collection of development contributions and section 5 referrals among other matters.



Enforcement

The functions of the Enforcement Section within the Planning & Development Department include:

- Implementation of Part VIII (Enforcement) of the Planning and Development Act 2000.
- Monitoring the development of residential projects in compliance with Section 180 of the above Act for the purposes of taking in charge of such developments by Wicklow County Council.
- The management of commencement notices in accordance with the Building Control Act 1990 and the associated Building Regulations.

Part VIII of the Planning and Development Act enhanced the role of the Planning Authority within the area of Enforcement. There is now greater obligation on the Planning Authority to consider and respond to complaints from the public with regard to alleged unauthorised developments.

Forward Planning

Wicklow County Development Plan

A new development plan must be prepared every six years. The review of the 2010-2016 plan commenced 2014, with the first phase of public consultation.

The Planning & Development Acts require that a development plan shall set out the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County and shall consist of a written statement and plans or plans indicating the development objectives for the County. In general, a development shall include objectives for:

- the zoning of land for the use solely or primarily of particular areas for particular purposes
- the provision or facilitation of the provision of infrastructure including transport, energy and communication facilities, water supplies, waste recovery and disposal facilities waste water services, and ancillary facilities;
- the conservation and protection of the environment including, in particular, the archaeological and natural heritage and the conservation and protection of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed
- the integration of the planning and sustainable development of the area with the social, community and cultural requirements of the area and its population;
- the preservation of the character of the landscape, including the preservation of views and prospects and the

amenities of places and features of natural beauty or interest;

- the protection of structures, or parts of structures, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest;
- the preservation of the character of architectural conservation areas;
- the development and renewal of areas in need of regeneration;
- the provision of accommodation for travellers, and the use of particular areas for that purpose;
- the preservation, improvement and extension of amenities and recreational amenities;
- the provision, or facilitation of the provision, of services for the community including, in particular, schools, crèches and other education and childcare facilities.

Settlement Plans

Volume 3 of the County Development Plan adopted in 2010, comprises Land Use Plans that form part of the County Development Plan, and are called Town Plans and District Plans for the reason of differentiating them from Local Area Plans, which are adopted through a separate process under Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended)

Town and District Plans included in this Volume are:

- Auhgrim Town Plan
- Baltinglass Town Plan
- Carnew Town Plan
- Newcastle Town Plan
- Roundwood Town Plan
- Shillelagh Town Plan
- Tinahely Town Plan
- Rathdown No 2 District Plan

During 2014, the Ashford Town Plan and Dunlavin Town Plan were adopted. The durations of the Newtownmountkenedy Local Area Plan and the Enniskerry Local Area Plan were also extended.

Wicklow Heritage

The aim of the Heritage Office is to promote pride, raise awareness, provide advice and propose policy in relation to Heritage in County Wicklow. These functions are carried out through the planning section of the council and through liaison with other departments. The Heritage Officer contributes on an ongoing basis to the development of plans and strategies through the forward planning section, provides advice to the development management section as necessary and deals with a range of public queries.

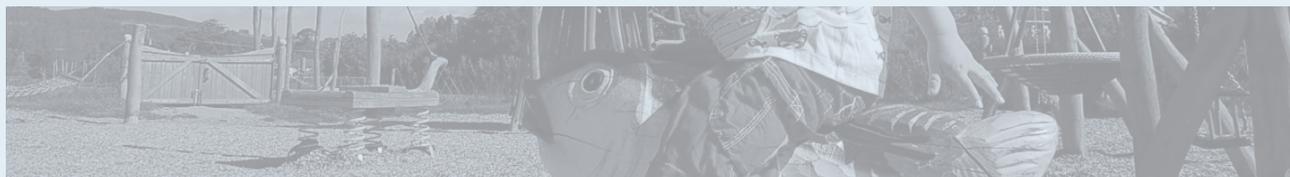


The Heritage Officer co-ordinates the Wicklow Heritage Forum and has responsibility for overseeing the delivery of actions in the County Heritage and Biodiversity plans.

During 2014:

- Meetings held for the Wicklow Heritage Forum
- Heritage input to the various plans undertaken in 2014 and the County Development Plan review
- Completion of the “Metal Links” Interreg project to identify, record and promote historical mining heritage at Glendalough
- Continued participation in the development of Heritage (GIS) viewer
- Publication of a book, “ Wicklow’s Traditional Farmhouses”
- Launch and development of the Wicklow’s Online Community Heritage Archive

Community, Cultural and Social Development (CC&SD)



Members of the Community, Cultural and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

Cathaoirleach

Cllr Jim Ruttle

Wicklow County Council

Cllr Jim Ruttle

Cllr Gráinne McLoughlin

Cllr Nicola Lawless

Cllr Shay Cullen

Cllr Brendan Thornhill

Cllr Miriam Murphy

Cllr Pat Kennedy

Outside Agencies

Business/Commercial

Ms. Irene Sweeney [Chamber of Commerce]

Public Participation Network

Ms. Gertie Salley [PPN Social Inclusion]

Public Participation Network

Mr. Ejvind Morgenson [PPN Community & Voluntary]

Public Participation Network

Ms. Ann Halpin [PPN Community & Voluntary]

Director of Services

Mr. Michael Nicholson

The Community, Cultural and Social Development SPC considered and supported a wide range of Policy issues during 2014.

SPC – Policy Development and Monitoring Implementation:

- Wicklow County Council's Play Policy Programme
- Community Awards Scheme/Ballynagran Small Grants Scheme/Katie Taylor Bursary Award Scheme for 2014
- Sport and Recreational Amenity Policy Programme
- Community Development Policy
- Community Playgrounds and sustainable Community Development / Facilities and Social Infrastructure
- Input into Wicklow County Council's Planning and Development process to reflect the sustainable Social Infrastructure, Community Development and Sport and Recreational Amenity needs of Communities, to ensure integrated and sustainable Planning that promotes Community Cohesion and Social Capital.
- County Wicklow Local Sports Partnership.
- Reviewing the Community Strand of Wicklow County Council's Development Levies Contribution Scheme (Class 3's)
- Development and rollout of the Library Development Plan and the Library Programme and Service for 2014.
- Development and rollout of the Wicklow County Arts Strategy for County Wicklow and the Arts Programme for 2014.
- Wicklow County Council's involvement in a range of Community / Voluntary based Awards Schemes, including the Annual IPB Co-operation Ireland All-Island Pride of Place Awards.
- County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy
- Wicklow Way Partnership

Community, Cultural & Social Development (CC&SD) Function includes:

- The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for the establishment of Local Community Development Committees (LCDC)
- Community, Cultural and Social Development is working, in line with National Government policy, to establish the LCDC and its associated sub-structures including: -
 - To engage with Corporate Policy Group/Elected Members regarding the setting up of the LCDC
 - To engage with Stakeholders (as per National Government Regulations) regarding Membership
 - Establish the LCDC
 - Prepare the Community element of the six year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)
 - Implementation, or arrange for the implementation of the Community elements of the LECP
 - Review the Community elements of the LECP
 - Co-ordination, management and overseeing the



implementation of Local and Community Development Programmes – LEADER and SICAP

- Effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoidance of duplication between public funded Local and Community Development Programmes
- Public Participation Network (PPN) Representatives, Linkage Group and PPN – role in shaping, monitoring and evaluation of LECP; SICAP; LEADER

The County Wicklow LCDC comprises:

- Local Authority Members: 3
- Local Authority Officials: 2
- Public Authorities: 2
- PPN: 5
- Social Partners/LCI: 3
- Local Development Companies: 2

Support County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN) is the new framework for public engagement and participation, being developed at the direction of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. The PPN will become the main link through which Wicklow County Council will connect with Community and Voluntary Groups and Organisations tackling social exclusion, and Environmental Groups across the county. The aim of the Network is to provide structures that will enable these Groups and Organisations to have their voices heard and to facilitate their representation on decision-making committees and bodies within Local Government.

Activity Performance Indicator 2014

Percentage of nominees to LCDC membership via the PPN structures from the most marginalised SICAP groups = **5.88%**

The Social Inclusion Unit (SIU)

The Social Inclusion Unit (SIU) continued its role of supporting anti-poverty initiatives and raising awareness of key Social Inclusion issues during 2014, and facilitated the following:

- County Wicklow Social Inclusion Measures Group (SIM)
- County Wicklow Traveller Interagency Group
- County Wicklow Anti-Racism and Diversity Committee.
- Co-ordination and promotion of events during Social Inclusion Week 2014.
- Work with communities to develop recreational and amenity facilities

- Represent Social Inclusion issues on the Community, Cultural & Social Development SPC
- Facilitate representation of the Social Inclusion sector on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
- Assist with the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) - Social Inclusion Actions in the Plan.
- County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)
- Provision of statistical data and research analysis to Wicklow County Council Directorates and other outside Agencies
- Participate on regional and national committees, networks and structures
- Promotion of Integration Programme

County Wicklow Social Inclusion Measures Group (SIM)

The County Wicklow Social Inclusion Measures Group (SIM) is comprised of representatives from a broad spectrum of community/voluntary and statutory agencies throughout the county, concerned with Social Inclusion.

The SIM Committee continued with the following during 2014:

- Implementation of SIM Work-Plan.
- Facilitated information exchange and networking between members.
- Approval of the Annual Plans of County Wicklow Partnership and Bray Area Partnership.
- Provision of support to SIM's associated sub-structures and groups.

Social Inclusion Week 2014

The Social Inclusion Unit co-ordinated a programme of over 30 events, from 10th to 16th November 2014, to mark Social Inclusion Week.

The week provided groups and organisations from across County Wicklow, an opportunity to showcase the superb work they are doing on the ground to combat poverty and disadvantage.

The SIU published an accompanying information and events brochure.

Leisure Facilities Operations

Charlesland Sport and Recreation Park and Skatepark
Charlesland, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. Operated by Shoreline Leisure Tel. **01 - 2016145**

Greystones Swimming Pool, Gymnasium and Community Sports Centre

This state-of-the-art, six-lane 25m swimming pool, gymnasium and double community/sports hall (with retractable seating for c.500) is located at Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. This complex is operated by Shoreline Leisure Tel. **01 – 2878180**

Bray Swimming Pool and Gymnasium

Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
This complex is operated by Shoreline Leisure Tel. **01 – 2765660**

Wicklow Historic Gaol

Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow Town.
Tel. **0404 – 61599**
E-mail wicklowgaol@gmail.com
Web: www.wicklowshistoricgaol.com
Wicklow Historic Gaol is operated by W.E.P. Gaol Ltd.



Library Service

Wicklow County Council continues to provide a quality library service to the public. The Council's policy of providing 'free library membership' ensures that the public library service remains accessible to everyone and membership remained constant at over 30,000 in 2014.

Wicklow County Council Library Service operates thirteen branch libraries throughout the county. The Mobile Library serves a further 34 locations throughout the county. A library

service is also provided to Shelton Abbey Open Prison. In addition, a monthly service is provided to some nineteen nursing homes in the county, including Carnew Community Care, Cheshire Home, Shillelagh and Rathdrum Hospital.

Arklow Library and Arklow Municipal District Offices

Construction of the new Arklow Library and Arklow Municipal District Offices at Main St., Arklow commenced during 2014 and the project will be completed and operational towards the end of 2015.

Activity Programme in 2014 included:

- Regular school class visits.
- Historical talks, including on WWI
- Exhibitions incl. 'Gallant Sons', World Book Week Activities, World War One Centenary Commemoration Exhibition and Talks
- Culture Night 2014 events
- Music Circle
- Book Clubs for adults and teenagers.
- Story reading for children.
- Quizzes
- Arts and crafts activities.
- Maths Eyes in Blessington Library
- Bealtaine Talks in Bray Library
- Wicklow Arts Festival in Wicklow Library
- Heritage Week Talks
- Science Week in Greystones Library -November 2014

Outreach and Social Inclusion

"*Shelf Help*" is a Mental Health initiative between the Health Services Executive, Kildare County Council and Wicklow County Council and is a collection of some 60 Book Titles covering various mental health topics, on display in Baltinglass, Blessington and Dunlavin libraries.

"Accessibility for All"

- Further research into the provision of books in electronic format.
- Introduction of Internationally recognised certified programme – Touch, Type, Read and Spell, particularly aimed at assisting people with special needs and dyslexia.

Wicklow County Council commits to outreach and public equality of access and social inclusion, to ensure equality of access to its public library service by:



- Continue to develop the monthly Library Service to Nursing Homes and Hospitals in the County.
- Promote the Library Service to immigrants, including free internet access at all libraries and online access to Newspapers in 33 languages.
- Programme of Exhibitions, Commemorations and Presentations at Libraries, where space permits.

“Digitise the Nation” and “Get Ireland Online”

Computer classes took place in Ballywaltrim, Bray, Baltinglass, Blessington and Greystones Libraries during 2014.

Wi-Fi Access

Wi-Fi access in libraries is proving very popular with the public, with over 20,000 Wi-Fi sessions availed of in 2014.

New Technology and IT

The Library Service has created a page on ‘Facebook’ to engage directly with users and other agencies to promote and advertise events, facilities and new services, as they come on-stream.

Library Development Plan 2015 – 2019

Public consultation took place during 2014 regarding the updating of the current Library Development Plan.

Family History Centre and County Archives

Wicklow Family History Centre

The Wicklow Family History Centre is a genealogy research service established in 1987 by Wicklow County Council and FÁS and has computerised County Wicklow’s Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland parish registers.

The Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF)

The Irish Family History Foundation represents over 30 Irish county centres and administers the Rootsireland site.

Online Research Service – Pay per View records on www.rootsireland.ie

The Rootsireland site currently holds over 19 million records. The Wicklow Family History Centre features on the worldwide site, offering Irish parish records as a genealogy resource.

County Wicklow Heritage Forum

The Heritage Forum promotes County Wicklow in terms of genealogy and heritage tourism.

Projects

The genealogy service continues to process Research Projects for Diaspora families with ‘Wicklow Roots’. The County Wicklow Heritage Website, is part of a network of heritage websites created by the National Museum of Ireland. This site

includes information on Wicklow’s genealogy, history and heritage.

Wicklow County Archives Service

Records Management Programme:

- The archives service has developed documented systems for the retention and disposal of the records of Wicklow County Council, in partnership with Filestores. This programme continued during 2014.

Community activity engaged in by Wicklow County Council throughout 2014:

Comhairle na nÓg 2014

Wicklow County Council, in partnership with Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) continued to develop Wicklow’s Comhairle na nÓg structures. There are some twenty three local schools and youth groups involved in the Local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme.

There is one regional youth council in each of the five Local Electoral Areas of County Wicklow:

- Wicklow
- Bray
- Greystones
- Arklow
- Baltinglass

The five Regional Youth Councils/Fora meet regularly and link to their Local Authority and other decision-making Bodies. They have elected representatives to the county based Comhairle na nÓg, which will link with Wicklow County Council, Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board, Wicklow Local Sports Partnership, Health Service Executive and other decision making Bodies in the County. This structure will also elect delegates to the national Dáil na nÓg.

Community Awards 2014

The Community Awards Scheme for 2014 had an overall fund of €70,000, granted to some 117 Applicants under the Community Awards Scheme across the following categories:

- Community Activity Award.
- Merit Award.

Pride of Place 2014

Wicklow County Council was proud to be involved in the 2014 Annual IPB Co-operation Ireland All-Island Pride of Place Awards Competition. This is an All Ireland competition,



organised by Co-Operation Ireland in conjunction with Local Authorities North and South to promote civic pride and to celebrate community activity and achievement.

Festina Lente, Bray; Wicklow Uplands Council and Ashford Community Park represented County Wicklow in the 2014 Annual IPB Co-operation Ireland All-Island Pride of Place Awards. Congratulations and well done to Festina Lente, Bray, Co. Wicklow, which scooped top prize in the Community Innovation Category, at the annual IPB Co-operation Ireland, All-Island Pride of Place Awards Gala Ceremony, which took place in Ennis, Co. Clare on Saturday 15th November 2014.

Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations

This includes the operation, maintenance and improvement of the following outdoor leisure facilities.

Playgrounds provided by Wicklow County Council throughout County Wicklow

- Arklow: Seaview Avenue, Arklow.
- Arklow: St. Peter's Place, Arklow.
- Arklow: South Green, Arklow.
- Bray: Ballywaltrim, Bray.
- Bray: Fassaroe, Bray
- Bray: Giltspur Heights, Southern Cross Road, Bray.
- Bray: Peoples Park, Dargle Road, Bray.
- Bray: Sidmonton Park, Bray.
- Bray: Seafront, Promenade
- Wicklow Town: Ballynerrin.
- Wicklow Town: Hill View.
- Wicklow Town: The Murrough.
- Baltinglass Recreation Park and Playground.
- Blessington Playground, Business Park, Blessington.
- Enniskerry Playground, Monastery Grove, Enniskerry.
- Greystones Playground, Mill Road, Greystones.
- Kilmacanogue Playground, Rockfield Park.
- Newcastle Playground, Wicklow Coast Road, Newcastle.

Skateparks

- Arklow Skatepark, Seaview Avenue.
- Wicklow Town Skatepark: Seafront, The Murrough.
- Blessington Skatepark, at Business Park, Blessington
- Charlesland Sport, Recreation and Skateparkpark, Charlesland Greystones, at 01 2016145.

Playgrounds facilitated by Wicklow County Council in partnership

- Aughrim Playground.
- Arklow Skatepark, Seaview Avenue.

- Ashford Community Park Playground
- Charlesland Sport, Recreation and Skateparkpark, Charlesland Greystones, at 01 2016145.
- Dunlavin Playground.
- Eden Gate Playground, Charlesland, Greystones.
- Grangecon, Playground.
- Knockananna Playground.
- Rathdrum Playground.
- Tinahely Playground

Baltinglass Community Park

Baltinglass Community Park is an impressive recreational facility, developed jointly by Wicklow County Council and the Baltinglass Park Committee.

The Park has many fine features including a playground, accessible boardwalk along the river Slaney, picnic areas, pitches, and a series of walkways throughout the park. This Park is a very good example of partnership in action between the Local Authority and Local Community.

Community Development and Sport and Recreational Development

In Partnership at:

- Ashford Community Park; Inbhear Mor Scouts and Youth Facility, Arklow; Ashford Development Association; Rathnew Community Centre; Rathnew Active Forum, Walking/Jogging Track; Aughrim Community Sports and Leisure; Glenealy Village Hall; Blessington and District Forum Trails; Wicklow Skatepark and Outdoor Gym; Kilcoole Community Centre.
- Tourism/Wicklow Outdoor Recreational Strategy/Recreational Trails.
- Wicklow Way Partnership.
- Blessington Greenway Walk Partnership.
- Kildare/Wicklow Fáilte Ireland.
- Wicklow Local Sports Partnership Strategy.

County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy

The County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee was established in July 2009 to implement the strategies as outlined in the County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy.

This strategy is the outcome of an extensive consultation process managed by County Wicklow Partnership in partnership with Coillte, Fáilte Ireland, Irish Sports Council, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Wicklow County Council, Wicklow IFA and Wicklow Uplands Council. Out of this consultation process an overall vision was agreed for Outdoor Recreation in County Wicklow.

Five strategic objectives were identified for the planning period 2009 – 2013 that collectively, will help to achieve the agreed vision.



These objectives are:

- Integrated outdoor recreation management.
- Improving opportunities and facilities for sustainable outdoor recreation.
- Supporting conservation through outdoor recreation.
- Promotion, education and raising awareness of outdoor recreation.
- Stimulating outdoor recreation tourism and entrepreneurship.

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership (LSP)

C/o Shoreline Leisure, Mill Road, Greystones.
(01 – 2878184)

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership concentrated on increasing participation in all sports during 2014, in partnership with sports clubs, statutory bodies, local development companies and community and voluntary groups across the County.

The objectives of Wicklow Local Sports Partnership are identified in its Strategic Plan 2010 – 2013 (under review). The main functions of Wicklow Local Sports Partnership include:

1. Information provision: involving the co-ordination of local sports information, initiating research, compiling sports directories/database, identifying needs and resources to form the basis of local planning and establishing a consultative sports forum.
2. Education & Training: provision of opportunities for education and training at a local level, including generic training courses in areas such as Code of Ethics, First Aid and Active Leadership, while also supporting the delivery of sports specific courses in conjunction with National Governing Bodies of Sport.
3. Implementation: implementation of a range of national programmes to encourage participation e.g. Buntus, Women in Sport, Go for Life. Programmes are delivered in areas such as Sports Development, Community Sport and Physical Activity, Schools Sport, Youth Sport and Sport Inclusion. Wicklow Local Sports Partnership will also implement sports programmes in the context of the local strategic plan for Sport and Physical Activity and in line with Irish Sports Council priorities.

Actions in 2014

- Wicklow Local Sports Partnership assisted in the delivery of a wide range of initiatives aimed at promoting participation in sports and physical activity.
- Supported and facilitated groups involved in Operation Transformation and organised County Walks in Bray and Wicklow Town.

- Delivered three Link It Up programmes with County Wicklow Partnership and the Health Services Executive Healthy Eating Project.
- Proactive involvement in Bike Week 2014 and delivered arrange of events for Bike Week in partnership with Primary Schools.
- Two Disability Inclusion Training Courses were delivered in partnership with the CARA Centre.
- Basketball for All programme started in Bray.
- Three Children's Officer Courses were delivered.
- Ten Code of Ethics Basic Awareness Courses were delivered.
- Twelve Primary Schools participated in the School Yard Athletics Programme during 2014.
- Twenty three participants completed a Physical Activity Leader Course in partnership with Age and Opportunity.

Actions Planned for 2015

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership will continue to deliver a wide range of programmes promoting club development and aimed at increasing participation in sport and physical activity:

- Children's Officer Courses
- Code of Ethics Basic Awareness Courses
- Information to Sports Clubs and Organisations through Website, Facebook Page and Twitter.
- Buntus Start and Buntus Generic Programmes
- Work in partnership with Arklow and Bray Sports Promotion Units
- Support Operation Transformation Groups in County Wicklow
- Organise and facilitate information evenings for Sports Clubs on Code of Governance
- Promotion of Active Schools Week
- Disability Inclusion Training in conjunction with CARA Adapted Physical Activity Centre
- Develop Go For Life League in County Wicklow with County Wicklow Network for Older People
- Pilot Get Ireland Walking Active Community Walking Programme
- Develop and deliver Link it Up programmes with HSE Healthy Eating init
- Bike Week 2015.

The Wicklow Local Sports Partnership is on Facebook and Twitter, web: www.wicklowlsp.ie



Wicklow County Arts Office

County Wicklow has a rich artistic and cultural tradition with a range of vibrant activities taking place in the visual arts, music, theatre, literature, sculpture, youth arts, community arts and festivals.

Wicklow County Council's Arts Programme is to nurture and develop this rich tradition and to ensure that the arts are made accessible to all in the county.

The Wicklow County Arts Strategy 2014 – 2016 – is the Strategic Statement on Wicklow County Arts Office support to the Arts Sector from 2014 – 2016:

- Public Arts Programme.
- Music Generation, Wicklow Programme spend over three years 2012 – 2014 will amount to €1.4m on music education/lessons for children and young people under 18 years in County Wicklow.
- Wicklow County Council, on behalf of Music Generation Wicklow and Wide Open Music, in association with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra presented 'BLUEBOTTLE' in the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre in November 2014.
- Awards and funding for Festivals Development etc.
- Advice and support is offered to individual artists, craft practitioners, arts facilitators, art centres, art groups, art organisations, festival committees, schools and community groups in relation to the Arts in County Wicklow.
- Visual Artist Development Programme.
- Visual Arts Discussion Group.
- Development of a Music Educators Network.
- Artlinks Programme.
- Artist Residencies – in education and community contexts.
- Absolutely Wicklow.
- Grants and Bursaries.
- Wicked Young Film Makers Programme.
- Youth Arts and Education Programme in Film, Music, Visual, Art and Drama.
- Get Vocal Older Persons Choral Programme extended to four locations in County Wicklow.
- Culture Night.
- Per Cent for Arts Programme.

Enterprise & Corporate Services



Access

In accordance with the National Disability Act 2005, the Access Officer for Wicklow County Council ensured that their services are accessible for people with disabilities by providing integrated access to mainstream services where practicable and appropriate. The Disability Act 2005 places a specific obligation on public bodies to make public buildings and services accessible to people with disabilities by 2005.

Wicklow Local Authorities Access Group (WLAAG)

WLAAG continued to support and advise Wicklow County Council on access issues throughout 2014. This group, which consists of people with disabilities and representation of disability organisations resources the Local Authority with experts in the area of disability and access. The Access Office is in regular contact with both local and national groups and organisations dealing with access to ensure that Wicklow Local Authorities are meeting their obligations.

The Local Authority Access Officer Network commenced with a new project in 2012 called 'Enabling Access across Generations'. This consists of a transition year e-learning module that all schools in County Wicklow were invited to take part in. The module culminates in a national art competition to produce an A4 size poster that all Access Officers throughout Ireland use throughout the year to highlight access issues. The entry of Gaelcholáiste na Mara in Arklow won the national art competition in 2012. In 2014 two schools took part in the e-learning module but none submitted art work for the competition.

Audit Committee

The Wicklow County Council Audit Committee was initially established in 2007 under the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2005 and comprises Mr. Tom Gegan, Chairman, Mr. Noel Geraghty, Vice Chairman, Cllr. Pat Casey, Ms. Mary Savage and Cllr. Edward Timmins.

The functions of the Audit Committee include:

- To review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the Local Authority
- To foster the development of best practice in the Internal Audit function
- To review the Local Government Audited Reports and Special Reports and assess follow-up action by Management
- To assess and promote efficiency and 'value for money'

- To make such recommendation to the Council as the committee considers appropriate
- To review the findings and recommendations of the National Oversight & Audit Commission (NOAC) and the response of the Chief Executive to these and take further action as appropriate.

As part of the reporting process, the Audit Committee presented the Annual Report to the Council in April 2014. In the report, the Committee welcomed the completion of the following during the year:

- Assessment of the Debt Management Procedures
- Review of Payroll Operations
- Procedural Compliance - Cash receipting
- Business Continuity - Data Recovery
- Procurement function

The Local Government Auditor was invited to address the Committee during the year. This proved to be a useful opportunity for the Committee to exchange views with the Local Government Auditor on a wide range of issues.

Conferences attended in 2014



Conference	Date	No. attended
EU Sports Funding, Bunratty	10th -11th January 2014	2
Developing and Supporting Enterprises Locally, Galway	10th - 11th January 2014	1
Local Government Bill, Tralee	17th - 18th January 2014	3
Valuation Process for Rating Properties, Limerick	17th - 19th January 2014	1
Waste Management, Westport	24th - 25th January 2014	3
Managing Time & Productivity, Roscarberry, Cork	24th - 26th January 2014	1
LAMA Spring Seminar, Monaghan	30th January - 1st February 2014	4
Eco Energy Conference, Waterford	1st - 2nd February 2014	2
AMAI , Bundoran	14th - 15th February 2014	3
Anti Social Behaviour, Tralee	14th - 15th February 2014	1
Tourism Conference, Ennistymon	21st - 23rd February 2014	3
Educating to Drive the Economy, Galway	28th February - 1st March 2014	2
ACCC Annual Conference, Cavan	6th - 7th March 2014	4
Pylons & Wind Farms, Letterkenny	7th - 9th March 2014	2
Value for Money in Local Government, Letterkenny	14th - 16th March 2014	1
Changes to Construction Contracts, Carlingford, Co.Louth	21st - 23rd March 2014	1
Role of Ombudsman, Limerick	21st - 23rd March 2014	1
FOI Conference, Dublin	27th March 2014	1
Carlow Tourism Conference, Carlow	3rd April - 4th April 2014	2
Data Protection, Mullingar	4th - 5th April 2014	1
Portaferry Tourism Conference	9th - 10th April 2014	2
National Register of Health Services Providers, Galway	11th - 12th April 2014	1
MABS & Insolvency Service of Ireland, Rosscarbery	11th - 13th April 2014	1
River Flooding and Management Issues	2nd - 3rd May 2014	1
Reform of Local Government, Bunclody	9th - 10th May 2014	1
AILG Training, Tullamore	26th June 2014	18
AILG Training, Dundalk	11th September 2014	10
AILG Training, Carlow	16th September 2014	10
La Touche Legacy Training	26th - 28th September 2014	11
Planning Conference, Dublin	10th October 2014	1
AILG Training Athlone	23rd October 2014	10
AILG Training, Cavan	29th - 30th October 2014	8
AILG Training, Trim	17th November 2014	3
Local Government Conference, Galway	5th - 6th December 2014	1
Technology Changing Global Tourism, Roscarbery	13th - 15th December 2014	1



County Wicklow Film Commission

The County Wicklow Film Commission is the longest established film commission in Ireland, committed to attracting audio-visual production into the county. Funded by both Wicklow County Council and Bray Municipal District, the film commission is based in Clermont House, Wicklow County Campus, but represents the whole county.

The main objective of the County Wicklow Film Commission is to market and promote the county as a film location for any kind of audio-visual production ranging from feature film to commercial, short film, television production or music promo. The film office assists any project regardless of the size of the budget with the aim of bringing economical benefits into the area.

As a secondary objective the County Wicklow Film Commission is committed to maximise the tourism spin off of film activity. Film tourism is a growing market as many holidaymakers decide their destination based on films and television series they have seen. Films such as 'PS I love You' and 'The Tudors' are used to attract visitors here by featuring them on our website and through the County Wicklow Movie Map, which was reprinted in 2012. Copies of the movie map are distributed to all tourist offices and major tourist attractions in County Wicklow. The Wicklow Film Commission also assists Tourism Ireland with media and familiarisation trips along the Wicklow film trails.

In 2014 County Wicklow experienced high levels of production activity. Over 340 shooting days were recorded containing a mixture of all types of audio-visual production. The financial benefit from audiovisual productions tends to be higher from feature films than from television.

Services on offer to any of these productions include location scouting, advice, assistance and location suggestions through personalised web brochures, liaison with Local Authorities personnel and local communities.

One of the many projects shot in County Wicklow in 2014 was the third series of 'Vikings' in the new film studios at Ballyhenry, Ashford. It is estimated that the €30m production has employed over 500 Irish cast and crew and invested a hefty €20m in the county, from everything to set designs, studio facilities, and employing thousands of extras.

Other projects that were filmed in County Wicklow during 2014 include the German-Irish co-production A Dangerous Fortune, Sacrifice starring Radha Mitchell, Ian McElhinney and Rupert Graves and My Name is Emily directed by Greystones director Simon Fitzmaurice. The second series of the production 'Penny Dreadfull' occupied Ardmore Studios for many months and also used many locations around the county.

The Pure Wicked Young Film Makers training programme and subsequent screening festival took place during the autumn months of 2014 and was managed by Zucca Films in collaboration with Bray Youth Service. Over 20 young filmmakers wrote, filmed and produced a number of short films in the Bray and Newtownmountkennedy area, which was shown during the Wicked Film Festival in the Mermaid Arts Centre in Bray in December 2014. The Wicklow Film Commission hopes to build on the momentum created by the training programme in 2013 depending on funding and resources available.



Wicklow County Campus, Clermont House, Rathnew

Overview of Energy Usage in 2014

The main energy user is to heat the all the campus buildings.

LPG gas is used for heating.

Total LPG consumption for 2014: 37,287 Litres

Total Electricity consumption for 2014:

Day 109.140KWH

Night: 94.080KWH

Total: 203.220KWH

In 2014 electricity supplied by Energia has been sourced from the following fuels:

74.6% Renewable sources

25.5% Fossil: gas/coal/peat/other

No use of natural gas or gasoil in Clermont.

348 litres of petrol were used for grass cutting and strimming.

Actions Undertaken in 2014

In 2014 Wicklow County Council undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

- Manually turn down the radiators on warmer days during the winter.

Actions Planned for 2015

In 2015 Wicklow County Council in Clermont House intends to further improve our energy performance by undertaking the following initiatives:

- To replace the windows in the courtyard buildings. It is not known how much energy is saved annually.
- Turn down the heating system by 1 degree in the main college building.
- Introduce a waste separation system.
- To request a follow up energy audit by the SEAI, following on from the report carried out in 2007.
- We propose to follow the SEAI report to improve energy performance over the coming years, subject to cost and budgets.

Wicklow County Campus, Clermont College, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow

Wicklow County Campus in Rathnew is an exceptional development and is being developed by Wicklow County Council to be a Centre of Excellence in Enterprise, Education and Innovation in County Wicklow and to act as a catalyst for Economic Development in the County. The Clermont Campus is an impressive 65 acre facility. The buildings comprise offices, meeting rooms, a conference and exhibition venue, lecture rooms, I.T. rooms and a college library. Clermont House accommodates the Wicklow County Enterprise Board and Teagasc.

A strong partnership is in place with the national and local development agencies such as the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, the Local Enterprise Office, County Wicklow Partnership and the Chambers of Commerce to achieve the vision and to create a high quality environment for a thriving business quarter on the campus.

Strategic Plan 2008-2013

In 2008 a Strategic Plan for Wicklow County Campus was adopted by the Elected Members for 2008-2013, which included our mission statement and goals and objectives under the headings of;

1. Academic Portfolio and Learner Population
2. Enterprise and Economic Development
3. Management and Organisation
4. Physical Infrastructure
5. Financial Planning

During 2014 a review of this strategy was started, to be finalised in 2015.

Wicklow County Campus and IT Carlow

Wicklow County Council in conjunction with IT Carlow is providing a range of part-time Lifelong Learning Education and Training Courses. In 2014 there were some 310 students attending Wicklow County Campus for part-time evening courses and this figure is expected to grow considerably over the lifetime of the plan for the campus with the introduction of new academic programmes. Some 300 students have graduated from the College with various degrees since 2006.



Courses on offer include:

Postgraduates

- Master of Arts in Child Youth and Family Studies
- H Dip. In Early Childhood Education and Care
- H Dip in Applied Social Studies
- H Dip in Business Management
- H.Dip in Business
- H.Dip in Fund Accounting and Rick Analysis
- H.Dip in Arts (Digital Media Design)

Undergraduates

- Business and Accounting
- BA of Business (Honours) in Management
- Higher Cert in Business
- Cert in Project Management
- Cert in Digital media
- Cert in Web Design
- Cert in Online Marketing

Humanities

- BA of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Education & Care
- BA of Arts (Honours) in Applied Social Studies
- Certs in various Law topics

Engineering

- BA of Science in Energy Management
- Computing and Science
- Cert in Health, Safety and Environmental Management

Some of the major events held in 2014 in Wicklow County Campus include:

- The launch of the Local Enterprise Office by an Taoiseach Enda Kenny.



- Visit to Clermont by Minister of Enterprise and Jobs Richard Bruton.
- The Local Enterprise Office Student Enterprise Awards.
- The Local Enterprise Office Best Young Entrepreneur County Wicklow finals.
- Two Conferring Ceremonies of Awards and Prizes – Institute of Technology Carlow. Over 100 graduates were conferred at these ceremonies.
- The rooms in Clermont House and College are rented out for numerous training courses (i.e. CPC/Health and Safety / ECDL) and meetings by various businesses and agencies

on a day to day basis.

All of the above events and meetings continue to promote Clermont as a unique and exceptional venue for a range of uses as well as highlighting the Life Long Learning and higher education and training programmes run by the Institute of Technology Carlow. The main objectives of hosting these events are to promote the overall concept of Wicklow County Campus and to bring the Campus to the notice of the general public

Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Act 2014 came into effect on the 14th October 2014. This Act abolished the requirement to pay a fee when making a request.

The Freedom of Information Acts assert the right of members of the public to obtain access to official information to the greatest extent possible consistent with the public interest and the right to privacy of individuals.

The Act established **three new statutory rights:**

- A legal right for each person to access information held by public bodies;
- A legal right for each person to have official information relating to himself or herself amended when it is incomplete, incorrect or misleading; and
- A legal right to obtain reasons for decisions affecting oneself.

Wicklow County Council received a total of 34 requests during 2014 under both the Freedom of Information Acts 1997, 2003 and 2014. The following table shows the analysis of the decisions made on those requests.

No. of live cases as at 1st January 2014	2
No. of requested received	34
No. of requests granted	11
No. of requests part-granted	10
No. of requests refused	7
Number of requests transferred	0
No. of requests withdrawn/handled outside FOI	7
No. of live requests as at 31st December 2014	1



Health and Safety

Wicklow County Council subscribes to a dynamic and interactive Health and Safety process. Accordingly the Health and Safety Office avails of every opportunity to reflect these principles in terms of consultation, training and the development of a comprehensive Health and Safety Management System.

Training is provided throughout the year on a proactive basis. Training provided includes: Safe Pass, Safety Awareness, City & Guilds Chainsaw, Confined Spaces Entry, Abrasive Wheels, Manual Handling, Construction Skills Certification Scheme (C.S.C.S.), First Aid, and Safe System of Work Plans, amongst others.

Policies and procedures in Wicklow County Council are constantly being reviewed in line with new best practices, legislative changes and national initiatives. Staff participation in the process is encouraged and the input of the Safety Representatives is valued.

Higher Education Grants

Wicklow County Council acts on behalf of the Department of Education & Skills in administering the Higher Education Scheme. In 2011, the Higher Education Grant Scheme was further reinforced by the introduction of the Student Support Act, 2011 and the Student Support Regulations, 2011. These may be amended by the Department of Education & Skills each year to take account of any changes. The new legislative changes allowed for a single unified Higher Education Grant Scheme for all awarding authorities.

All monies paid in respect of maintenance and fees are recoupable with the exception of a fixed contribution of €6,019.83, which the Council is obliged to pay under the 1968 Act.

Maintenance Grants

Maintenance is payable at eight different rates. NA (non-adjacent) rates apply where a candidate lives over 45 kilometres from the college while the A (adjacent) rates apply where a candidate resides 45 kilometres or less from the college. The rates of maintenance for the academic year 2014/2015 are as follows:

	Non-Adjacent Rate		Adjacent Rate	
Full Maintenance	€3,025	NA1	€1,215	A1
Part Maintenance (75%)	€2,270	NA2	€910	A2
Part Maintenance (50%)	€1,515	NA3	€605	A3
Part Maintenance (25%)	€755	NA4	€305	A4

Special Rate of Maintenance Grants for disadvantaged students (Top-Up Grants)

In July 2001 the Department of Education & Skills introduced special rates of maintenance grants in respect of disadvantaged students who are in receipt of NA1 and A1 category grants. The special rate for full non-adjacent grant is €5,915 and for full adjacent rate is €2,375. The income limit (net of standard exclusions as set out in Clause 1 of the Scheme and child dependant allowance) is €22,703 for the year ended 31st December 2013 and must include an element of Social Welfare (a specified long term qualifying payment only as per Scheme) as part of the income.

Free Fees Initiative

The free fees initiative was introduced in 1995 and came into full effect in the 1996/97 academic year. Under the initiative, undergraduate students are charged a registration fee only in the sum of €2,750* in respect of their attendance at third level courses. Students attending postgraduate courses in approved institutions in Ireland and Northern Ireland are entitled to a maximum fee grant of €6,270 if they satisfy the relevant clauses of the grant scheme. There is no funding available in respect of post-graduate study outside of Ireland.

**All students qualifying for a grant are also entitled to the registration fee.*



Income Limits

The income limits for the 2014/2015 Scheme are set out in the following table:

Number of Dependent Children	Full Maintenance and Full Fees	Part Maintenance (75%) and Full Fees	Part Maintenance (50%) and Full Fees	Part Maintenance (25%) and Full Fees	Fees (100%) only*	Fees (50%) only
Less than 4	€39,875	€40,790	€43,380	€45,790	€49,840	€54,240
4 – 7	€43,810	€45,025	€47,670	€50,325	€54,765	€59,595
8 or more	€47,575	€48,890	€51,760	€54,630	€59,455	€64,700

*Full Student Service Charge is paid where income is at or below this level.

Human Resources, Payroll & Superannuation Project (HRPS)

In recognition of the major changes facing local government, the Local Government Management Services Board commissioned PA Consultants to undertake a wide-ranging review of the HR function in local authorities in order to address the structures, resources and processes required to meet the various strategic and operational requirements of local authorities.

Core International was engaged to advance this project on a national basis. Wicklow Local Authorities commenced the project in January 2009. Phase 1 was completed in 2011, with the introduction of organisation structure, payroll, CSO & departmental returns, recruitment, time & attendance and employee self service across all four Wicklow Local Authorities.

With the completion of phase 1 modules, there is now a cohesive and streamlined process between the main functions of HR, Payroll, Superannuation and Finance. This has resulted in huge savings both in time and money with more benefits to be realised in the years to come.

As Core is an integrated HR, Payroll and Superannuation system, Wicklow Local Authorities are now able to implement any statutory changes in legislation, or requirement from the Croke Park Agreement / Haddington Road Agreement in a more efficient and timely manner. Changes to the sick leave scheme; annual leave entitlements and calendar; and payroll frequencies were made during 2012 under the Croke Park Agreement.

Work commenced on Phase 2 and is ongoing. This involves the rollout of the MyPay, Superannuation, Health & Safety and Performance Management modules, along with the implementation of the Town Council mergers. It is also envisaged that CORE version 19 will be implemented during 2015.



Enterprise & Development

The Council in partnership with national and local development agencies and in conjunction with local chambers of commerce works closely with existing enterprise centres in County Wicklow. Enterprise Centres have not escaped the affects of the challenging financial times however significant development and expansion has taken place in this area in County Wicklow.

The Wicklow Enterprise Centre/Business Park comprises 74,000 sq ft of enterprise space providing a complete turnkey facility to existing and new developing businesses. It comprises workspace units, research & development, manufacturing and distribution and food production training in size from 180sq ft up to 5,000 sq ft along with hi-spec office accommodation, training facilities and conference room. Recently completed refurbishment work on the building has taken place and 11 specially designed new office units as well as 2 state of the art training rooms have been provided.

The Arklow Business and Enterprise Centre is a community initiative set up to provide workspace for new embryo and small expanding businesses together with a range of support facilities. The centre offers approx 30,000 sq ft of workspace consisting of 14 small/medium sized production units and 14 offices and facilitates 34 businesses.

It is proposed to develop new enterprise centres in Greystones and Bray also.

Sites for Enterprise/Employment uses

Wicklow County Council has invested some €1.3m on the construction of Avondale Business Park, Rathdrum over the past four years. The park is divided by four roads, linked by a main roundabout. The bulk of the work has been carried out to Road no. 1 and 2 and also to the new roundabout with most of the utility providers' ducts and pipes laid on Road no. 1 and 2. High quality fencing has been erected to the front perimeter of the site as well as construction of entrance pillars and gateway etc.

Work commenced on the construction of the first business premises in May, 2014 which opened its doors for business in early, 2014. This is a very positive step for Avondale Business Park, having regard to the current economic conditions which overtook activity and discouraged private investment somewhat in the past. The Enterprise Unit is in communication with businesses that have expressed an interest in locating to

the Business Park, and the Council will continue to push forward with its plans for the development of the site into the future.

In addition to this site, the Council has some varying size landbanks at a number of locations throughout the County including Arklow, Aughrim, Blessington, Ashford and Tinahely.

Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

In accordance with the guidelines for the establishment and operation of the SPCs, Wicklow County Council established the Economic Development Enterprise Support SPC in September, 2014. The main function of the SPC is to assist the Council in the formation, development and review of policy in this area. The SPC comprises seven Elected Members and six external members drawn from the various pillars, such as: Environment/Conservation, Agriculture/Farming Community, Trade Union, Development/Construction/Business commercial and Business (West Wicklow and held its inaugural meeting on the 10th of November, 2014. The SPC along with the Local Community Development Committee is engaging to formulate the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) which will set out the objectives and actions needed to support economic development and local community development.

County Wicklow Economic Think Tank

The Government's Action Programme for effective Local Government 'Putting People First' provides for an enhanced role for Local Authorities in promoting and facilitating Enterprise and Economic Development. In order to adopt a more co-ordinated approach to enterprise development and job creation, in late 2013 Wicklow County Council established the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT). The CWETT is a collaborate process of engagement between local business and Wicklow County Council the objective of which is to develop a Countywide practical action plan that will drive and maintain economic activity and increase employment in County Wicklow. Overseen by a Steering Committee, throughout 2014, the CWETT engaged in a strategy development process involving consultation with relevant stakeholder groups and developed the draft County Wicklow Economic Action Plan to be presented to the Elected Members of Wicklow County Council in early 2015.

The plan identified five strategic objectives, supported by a practical set of actions which were grouped under the following five headings:- Brand, the Big Idea, Marketing and Communications, Film, Retail and Recreation and Industry and Infrastructure.



The County Wicklow Economic Think Tank Action Plan will feed into the Local Economic Plan and the Local Economic Community Plan.

Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee – public meetings

Section 36(2)(c) of the Garda Síochána Act provides that the function of a joint policing committee is, inter alia, to ‘arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area.’ The Wicklow County Council JPC held a Public meeting on 10th of February, 2014 in Baltinglass. Following the local elections in 2014, the County Wicklow Joint Policing Committee was re-established and held its inaugural meeting on the 8th of December, 2014.

Further public meetings will be held in 2015.

Members Expenses

Cathaoirleach annual allowance	€38,283.04
Leas-Cathaoirleach annual allowance	€3,099.67
SPC annual allowance	€30,000.00
Annual representational allowance	€552,712.00
Councillors annual allowance	€217,779.00
Conference (travel and subs)	€40,243.00
Total	€882,116.71

Ombudsman

Any person who is dissatisfied with the manner in which they have been dealt with by the Local Authority may appeal to the Ombudsman.

Wicklow County Council, including the Municipal Districts, had a total of 24 outstanding cases with the Ombudsman at the end of 2014.

Partnership Agreement with Würzburg

The Partnership agreement between Wicklow County Council/Bray and the city of Würzburg was signed in Wicklow and Bray in 1999. A celebration of the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Partnership agreement was held on 31st October 2014. A large delegation from Würzburg visited Wicklow to celebrate the anniversary and participated in

events including a tour of Ashford Studios, a visit to Kilruddery and a Bavarian evening in the Barracuda.

The German Irish Society of County Wicklow was formed in 2014. Professor Ernst Burgschmidt gave the inaugural lecture on German Irish connections, to the society in Bray Town Hall.

Expenditure on Twinning in 2014 totalled €9,785.

Register of Electors

Under the Electoral Acts, Wicklow County Council is charged with preparing and publishing the Register of Electors for the County every year. The total local government electorate on the 2014/2015 register was 93,213. Progressively smaller electorates apply in the case of Elections to the European Parliament, the Dáil and the office of Uachtarán na hÉireann where citizenship requirements exist.

The Council strives to provide a comprehensive and accurate Register of Electors to facilitate the democratic process at election time. Through extensive local advertising and initiatives, both web based and traditional, coupled with the efforts of a well trained and resourced team of 39 field workers covering the county, a Register is produced which is tested at each election. Every opportunity is provided to any qualified person to be included in the Register.

The team of fieldworkers are employed to visit every household in the County during the months of July/August /September each year. If there is no reply at the door, a personalised call card is left along with a FREEPOST voter registration form for the householder to return to the Franchise section of the Council.

Existing electors who have not been met at the door by the fieldworker or who have not replied via the registration form left at their residence will be contacted in writing during the last 10 days of October informing them they will be removed from the final register unless they contact the Franchise section of the County Council before 25th November.

The Budget provision includes for payroll and travel expenses for the field-staff and office staff along with local advertising, postage and printing.



Training & Development

Wicklow County Council recognises that training and development assists staff and Elected Members to realise their full potential and can lead to greater organisational performance and job satisfaction and therefore is committed to ensuring that every member of staff has the opportunity and support available to them.

Staff members also regularly attend seminars and conferences directly related to their area of work and expertise.

The Council encourages and assists staff to undertake relevant further education at all stages of their career.

In 2014 training was delivered to staff throughout the year on a wide variety of topics including: Health and Safety, Customer Care, Personal Development Training, Agresso Training, Legislative Training, IT Training, Risk Management Training, Disability Awareness Training and Managerial Development Training.

Information Systems (IS)



Our goal is to connect all stakeholders to the power of technology both in their workplaces and communities. The main aims include:

- support of quality customer service through innovative use of ICT,
- promotion of methods of participation by citizens in local self government,
- enhancement of the role of local councillors by facilitating representational role and allowing easier access to information necessary to support their policy making role, and
- support and encouragement of internal business process improvement.

Wicklow County Council recognises that Information Communication Technology is a key component enabling the Irish Local Government system to progress and deliver quality services required by a modern society in a cost efficient manner.

We also actively search for economies that can be made with shared services initiatives involving other Councils.

The Information Systems Department operates administrative and technical computer applications, and provides support to local and wide area computer networks, with in excess of 500 nodes, spread over a number of local and remote sites.

Supporting this environment includes the operation and maintenance of more than 60 server based systems that facilitate the business functions of the organisation. In addition, generic services applicable across the organisation are provided. These include common network maintenance, file and print services, email and scheduling, internet access and desktop support.

The team of 10 within the function include programmers, analysts, infrastructure/pc and server system support staff, team and departmental management, database administrators and administrative support.

Highlights from 2014 include:

- The tendering for and successful implementation of a new virtual server infrastructure together with a new Storage Area Network (SAN),
- Migration to an updated version of Microsoft Exchange, thus future proofing and improving the resilience of one of our most mission critical systems,
- Preparation of tender documents and going to the market for a new telephony system using VOIP technology,

- Improvement to LAN speed connectivity between Bray Civic Offices and Government Networks,
- Wireless Data network and
- Mobile Voice and Data Services framework.

Websites

Wicklow County Council maintain and update our public website www.wicklow.ie on a daily basis for the varied services we provide.

During 2014 we continued to extend the use of Social Media via Twitter (c1,500 followers) and Facebook. This has allowed us to provide real-time updates to the public on road closures, severe weather conditions etc. A number of departments successfully update their section feeds on a regular basis.

Applications

Tailored applications are developed and maintained by the information systems function that meet specific non 'off the shelf' requirements.

The Council is pro-active in using technology to maximize efficiencies in the management and payment of mobile telephony accounts.

Geographic Information Systems

- The IS section provides an in-house GIS technical service to streamline and improve decision-making processes. Significant time has been dedicated to the production of Strategic Environmental Assessments during 2014. Work on supporting the production of Local Area Plans is also ongoing.
- During the last quarter of 2014 we initiated a project to deliver a web map viewer and a set of tools (widgets) that supports the capture of spatial data in relation to planning and other GIS based processes in the Council.
- Work on the Property Interest Register (PIR) project is ongoing as is the incorporation of relevant data into Myplan.ie (www.myplan.ie)
- Work on preparation for the integration of Eircodes into our GIS and other databases commenced.



Information Technology Infrastructure

- Provision of technical support,
- catering for any infrastructural changes that occurred during the course of the year,
- continued investment in protecting our network,
- on-going testing of the backup and recovery of systems and data in the event of a disaster,
- creating a more resilient security system on the Wide Area Network,
- integrated input of IT resources in planning for Major Emergency Management and associated issues regarding business continuity.

The network is made up of several complex components that require on-going management, maintenance and monitoring. Responsibility for managing the network also includes maintaining a Wide Area Network that connects all remote offices back to county buildings, using leased lines, wireless and fibre optic links.

Municipal Districts



ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

District Members

Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Pat Fitzgerald (FF)

Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Sylvester Bourke (FG)

Council Members

Councillor Tommy Annesley (FF)

Councillor Pat Kennedy (FF)

Councillor Miriam Murphy (IND)

Councillor Mary McDonald (SF)

District Staff

Director of Services

Bryan Doyle

District Administrator

Linda McDonald

District Engineer

Jack Kelly

Technician

Sean Dunne

Assistant Staff Officer

Iris Gould

Clerical Officer

Jacinta Jameson

Clerical Officer

Julie Kenny

Clerical Officer

Pauline Canavan

Contact Details

Address: Floor 2, Avoca River House,
North Quay, Arklow, Co Wicklow.

Telephone: 0402 42700

Email: arklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie

Website: www.wicklow.ie

Area: 48,380 hectares

Population: 24,450

As part of the amalgamation process from the 1st June 2014 the Town Councils became Municipal Districts. Arklow Municipal District (AMD) covers 26% of roads in County Wicklow (598 KM) being the second highest District in the County. The number of local authority houses within the AMD is 860. A total of 1611 requests for housing repairs/general requests were recorded for 2014.

The public counter is opened from 9.00 – 1.00 & 2.00 to 5.00 each day and queries are dealt with in relation to housing applications, housing repairs, roads etc. Cash receipting also takes place in AMD for housing rent, rates, NPPR, parking fines, leases etc. During 2014 a total of 5884 counter receipts were issued.

The Members of Arklow Municipal District hold their District Meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 3.30pm, with the exception of August when there is no meeting.

Community Sector

Community Grants Scheme

24 applications were received for assistance under this scheme compared to 42 for 2013. The total funding awarded amounted to €12,400.

Arts Grants Scheme

11 applications were received for assistance under this scheme compared to 18 for 2013. The total funding awarded amounted to €5,000.

Bursary Scheme

The Members of AMD provided funding to the Christian Brothers Secondary School and Arklow Community College for a Bursary Scheme.

Christmas Lights

AMD continued to be responsible for the erection, maintenance and cost of the Christmas Lights in Arklow Town. The Members also provided for a contribution of €5,000 to the Rathdrum Committee towards the cost of replacement Christmas lights.

Public Area Enhancement Scheme

During 2014 Arklow Municipal District received a grant of €27,500 from the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government for the following two projects. This funding had to be matched by 25% from the District.

- South Beach Arklow – Part replacement of Sand Ladder
- Restoration of Abbey Graveyard, Castle Park, Arklow. An



official opening of the Graveyard took place on the 10th December.

Retail / Business Sector

Shop Painting Grants

Shop Painting grants were awarded to 26 businesses in Arklow Town during 2014 at an approximate cost of €20,000.

Free Parking

Arklow Municipal District continued to support the retail/business sector by allowing three weeks free parking during the Christmas period.

Meetings

Arklow Municipal District continue to work and meet with local traders, Chamber of Commerce and Tidy Towns Committee on a regular basis for the betterment of the town.

IBAL

Arklow Town was ranked 11th out of 40 towns and cities in terms of being litter free in the 2014 IBAL survey. This means Arklow now has a status of "Cleaner than European Norms".

Tidy Towns

The results of the National Tidy Towns competition were announced on 8th September 2014. Aghrim was awarded a Gold Medal having secured 310 points in Category C, an increase of 3 points on 2013. Arklow was awarded a Bronze medal having secured 291 points in Category F, an increase of 6 points on 2013.

Arklow Municipal District acknowledges that the efforts by teams of volunteers around the town who work hand in hand with Council staff, is crucial to the success of villages and towns in leagues/competitions such as the IBAL and Tidy Towns.



BALTINGLASS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

District Members

Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Pat Doran

Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor James Ruttle

Council Members:

Councillor Vincent Blake

Councillor Thomas Cullen

Councillor Gerry O'Neill

Councillor Edward Timmins

Senior Staff

Director of Services:

Sean Quirke

District Engineer:

Declan Geraghty

Executive Engineer (Tinahely Area):

Ken Jones

District Administrator:

Gail Walsh

Contact Details

Address: Civic Offices, Blessington Business Park,
Blessington, Co. Wicklow

Telephone: 045 891222

Fax: 045 865013

Email: BaltinglassMD@wicklowcoco.ie

BRAY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

District Members

Cathaoirleach:

Councillor John Brady (SF)

Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Brendan Thornhill (Ind)

Council Members

Councillor Joe Behan (Ind)

Councillor Christopher Fox (Ind)

Councillor Steven Mathews (GP)

Councillor Oliver O'Brien (SF)

Councillor John Ryan (Fine Gael)

Councillor Pat Vance (FF)

Senior Staff

Director of Services

Des O'Brien

District Administrator

David Forde

District Engineer

Liam Bourke

Administrative Officer

Housing/River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme: Triona Irving

Contact Details

Address: Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, Co Wicklow.

Telephone: 01 2744900

Fax: 01 2860930

Email: braymd@wicklowcoco.ie

Website: www.braytowncouncil.ie

Area: 12,350 hectares

Population: 35,000

Community

Festivals

St Patrick's Festival	€17,000
Bray Summerfest	€12,000
Bray Air Display	€3,000
Bray Jazz	€4,800

Community Involvement

Arts Funding	€9,000
Civic Awards	€9,000
Christmas Lighting	€20,000
Water Safety	€29,500

Tourism Development & Promotion: €55,500

The following list represents just some of Bray Municipal District key involvements in 2014

- Refurbishment of Ballywaltrim Playground, equipment includes swings, equipment for the mobility impaired a climbing frame, slide etc.
- Installation of playground on the seafront.
- Installation of adult fitness equipment on the seafront.
- Improvements to the Pavillion Peoples Park.
- Reception for the Haiti Minister for Tourism Karine Condae and Tom Lennon Head of Marine Studies in the USA.
- Civic Reception for Bray Emmets
- The River Dargle Flood Protection Scheme recommenced in mid July 2014. Among some of the ongoing works, 50% of the defence wall at Coburg is complete and haul roads are in situ to enable works to continue throughout the winter. The target completion date is October 2016.
- Bray Main Street Improvement Works completed
- The Oldcourt Energy Efficiency Project Phase 2 has commenced.
- Purple Flag was awarded in May 2014.
- Works to the water main on the Upper Dargle Road.
- New surface water sewer from Fassaroe to Sutton Villas.
- Roger Casement Park to Beech Road surface water separation.
- Monastery Road – Enniskerry drainage
- Bray Head interception drain
- Raheen Park drainage
- Fassaroe – River Dargle Drainage Phases 1 and 2.
- Bray Boxing Club official Opening
- Sports Clubs/Groups Equipment and Training (Once Off) Grants.
- Shopfront Grant
- Opening of Slí de Buitlear
- Easter Promotion
- The Christmas programme of activities for Bray included a Shopping Stroll, Christmas Lights, Santa Experience and Cookery Demonstrations



GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

District Members

Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Tom Fortune (NP)

Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Grainne McLoughlin (FG)

Members:

Councillor Derek Mitchell (FG)

Councillor Nicola Lawless (SF)

Councillor Gerry Walsh (FF)

Councillor Jennifer Whitmore (NP)

District Staff:

Director of Services:

Joe Lane

District Engineer:

Ruairi O' Hanlon

District Administrator:

Myra Porter

Technician:

Vincent Byrne

Assistant Staff Officer:

Anne Marie Roberts

Clerical Officers:

Kay Coughlan

Lily Davis

Andrea Egan

Contact Details

Address: Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

Telephone No: 01 – 2876694.

Fax No: 01 – 2877173.

Email: greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie

Population: 24,846

As part of the amalgamation process, from 1st of June 2014 the former Greystones Town Council was abolished and replaced by Greystones Municipal District. The new Municipal District includes the villages of Delgany, Kilcoole, Newcastle and a small part of Newtownmounkennedy. Greystones Municipal District covers 6.5% of roads in county Wicklow (146 KM). The number of social houses within the district is 575.

The offices of the Municipal District are situated on Mill Road, Greystones.

Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, except in August.

General

A number of road improvement projects were completed within the District in 2014. Road resurfacing and footpath repairs were carried out in Kindlestown Park, Lower Grattan Park and Oaklands. Both of the Zebra crossings in Kilcoole were provided with improved low level floodlighting to illuminate the locations to a higher light level than the surrounding area. The National Transport Authority funded major improvement works at the Killincarrig roundabouts and at the Kilcoole Main Street/Sea Road junction, to provide enhanced facilities for vulnerable road users.

Greystones South Beach was again awarded Blue Flag status as a result of compliance with a set of stringent criteria from bathing water quality, environmental management and education, as well as safety and services.

The monthly meetings of the Municipal District provided lively debate on a variety of issues. Members received representatives from Disability Action Greystones, Eircom, Sisk, Apcoa and Hillside Residents Association at their meetings.

Christmas lights were provided in association with Greystones Business Community Group who organised an afternoon of family entertainment in Burnaby park to light up Christmas. There was a large crowd of families in attendance and Santa took time out of his busy schedule to meet with all of the children. Greystones Municipal District continued to support the retail and business sector by allowing free parking on Saturdays in the run up to Christmas.

Members and staff continued to work with Tidy Towns groups in the District and acknowledged the efforts of the many volunteers whose work is crucial to the success of local villages and towns in the IBAL and Tidy Towns competitions.



Greystones Municipal District welcomed the placement of the first participants on the Gateway Labour Activation scheme in 2014. Gateway is a government initiative to provide training and work experience for people in receipt of job seekers allowance to assist them to get back into the workplace. Participants work 19.5 hours a week and are engaged in a number of projects to enhance and improve public areas and facilities.

Work continued to improve access to the amenities of the harbour development, including arrangements for the commencement of construction of the community clubhouses in early 2015. The project is a public private partnership between Sisk and Wicklow County Council. It has provided major benefits to the community and significant additional amenities including a new harbour & coastal protection works. When completed the development will include facilities for local sporting clubs, public square and park, a boardwalk and improved access to the cliff walk. Also included will be retail facilities including shops, restaurants and residential units.

WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

District Members

Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Pat Casey (FF)

Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Irene Winters (FG)

Council Members:

Councillor Daire Nolan (IND)

Councillor John Snell (SF)

Councillor Shay Cullen (FG)

Councillor Pat Kavanagh (IND)

District Staff

District Manager

Lorraine Lynch

District Engineer

Paul Byrne

District Administrator

David Porter

Executive Engineer

Alan Martin

Technician

Aidan Doyle

Assistant Staff Officer

Catherine McCann

Clerical Officer

Caroline Lynch

Clerical Officer

Frances Clinton

Clerical Officer

Sinead Turner

Contact Details

Address: Wicklow Municipal District, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow.

Telephone: 0404 20100

Email: wicklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie

Website: www.wicklow.ie

As part of the amalgamation process from the 1st June 2014 the Town Councils became Municipal Districts. Wicklow Municipal District is responsible for 880 Local Authority Houses and 423kms of road.

The public counter is open from 9:00 – 1:00 & 2:00 – 5:00 each day and deals with a wide variety of queries including: housing repairs, roads and general queries. The members of Wicklow Municipal District hold their meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at 3:00pm with the exception of August when no meeting is held.

Community Sector

Wicklow Town Council/Wicklow Municipal District provided support to a number of different groups throughout 2014 including the following:

Town Twinning Committee	€3,000
St. Patrick's Day Parade	€1,500
Wicklow Tidy Towns	€5,000
Wicklow Regatta Festival	€1,000
Wicklow Arts Festival	€1,500
Music Generation	€3,000

Wicklow Town Council/Wicklow Municipal District also made a contribution of €20,000 towards the provision of Christmas Lights in Wicklow Town.

The Elected Members of the Wicklow Municipal District have also facilitated a number of groups by meeting them to discuss their particular concerns.

Retail/Business Sector

Wicklow Municipal District continued to support business by allowing in excess of 3 weeks free parking during the Christmas period and up to two hours free parking every Saturday.

Wicklow Municipal District continues to work with and meet local traders, Chamber of Commerce and Tidy Towns committees on a regular basis for the improvement of the district.



Tidy Towns

The results of the Tidy Towns competition were announced on Monday 8th September 2014. Wicklow Tidy Towns were awarded a Bronze medal having secured 290 points, an increase of 4 points on last year.

Wicklow Municipal District acknowledges the efforts made by teams of volunteers around the Town and District who work hand in hand with Council staff and are crucial to the success of the villages and towns.

The newly established Wicklow Municipal District has dealt with a wide range of issues during its first six months including:

- The Ashford Development Plan,
- Revised proposals on Fitzwilliam Square,
- Draft Municipal District Budgetary Plan,
- Hillview Estate,
- Coastal Erosion and
- the Cliff Walk

Many of these issues are ongoing. It has also been involved in the provision of new facilities e.g. the play park on the Murrough.

Energy Consumption Wicklow Local Authorities



The National Energy Efficiency Action Plan sets out several obligations on public bodies to lead the way in relation to energy efficiency stating *“The public sector will improve its energy efficiency by 33% and will be seen to lead by example — showing all sectors what is possible through strong, committed action”*.

SI 542 of 2009 & SI 426 of 2014 – All Public Bodies are required to report annually on their energy consumption and performance. Reduce public sector energy consumption by 33% by 2016. Or 3% P/A.

SEAI, on behalf of the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, put in place a process and associated IT system for energy efficiency monitoring and reporting to enable public bodies to measure their performance towards the 33% target.

The Annual Report 2014 on Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance sets out an analysis of the data reported by public bodies who submitted complete reports using the M&R system by the reporting deadline in 2014.

The report comprises an analysis of the data reported on:

- annual energy consumption and spend
- energy savings achieved
- energy efficiency performance in 2013 against 2020 targets

Wicklow overall status of energy efficiency improvement on baseline for 2013 is illustrated as follows:

- Wicklow County Council had achieved 4% overall savings since baseline of 2009.
- More efficient than baseline, but not yet on the path for 2020 target.

The 2014 Public Sector Energy Report is yet to be published but Wicklow County Council underwent a Data Verification Assessment on 2014 data and has passed this assessment. Wicklow County Council will be listed in report as having successfully submitted a complete report.

In 2014, Wicklow County Council consumed 12,867.48MWh of energy, consisting of:

- 8815.604 MWh of grid electricity;
- 3961.881 MWh of fossil fuels
- 89.995 MWh of renewable fuels

In 2014, Wicklow County Council spent €2,877,698 on energy.

There are 1300+ MPRNS and 8 GPRNS in Wicklow

Energy Saving projects completed or scheduled by Wicklow County Council include:

- Public Lighting - Proposed Farrankelly Dimming Project, Replacement of 55w Sox lanterns with 55wPLLH, LED installation in public lighting - All subject to finance resources
- Energy In tern - Change of timing on water heaters, analysis of electricity usage in recycling centres
- Clermont Campus
- Energy Efficiency upgrades to social housing stock

Wicklow County Council work closely with an assigned SEAI mentor to work towards maximising energy efficiency.

Financial Statement



The Income and Expenditure Statement summarises all revenue related receipts and expenditure. It shows the surplus/deficit for the year.

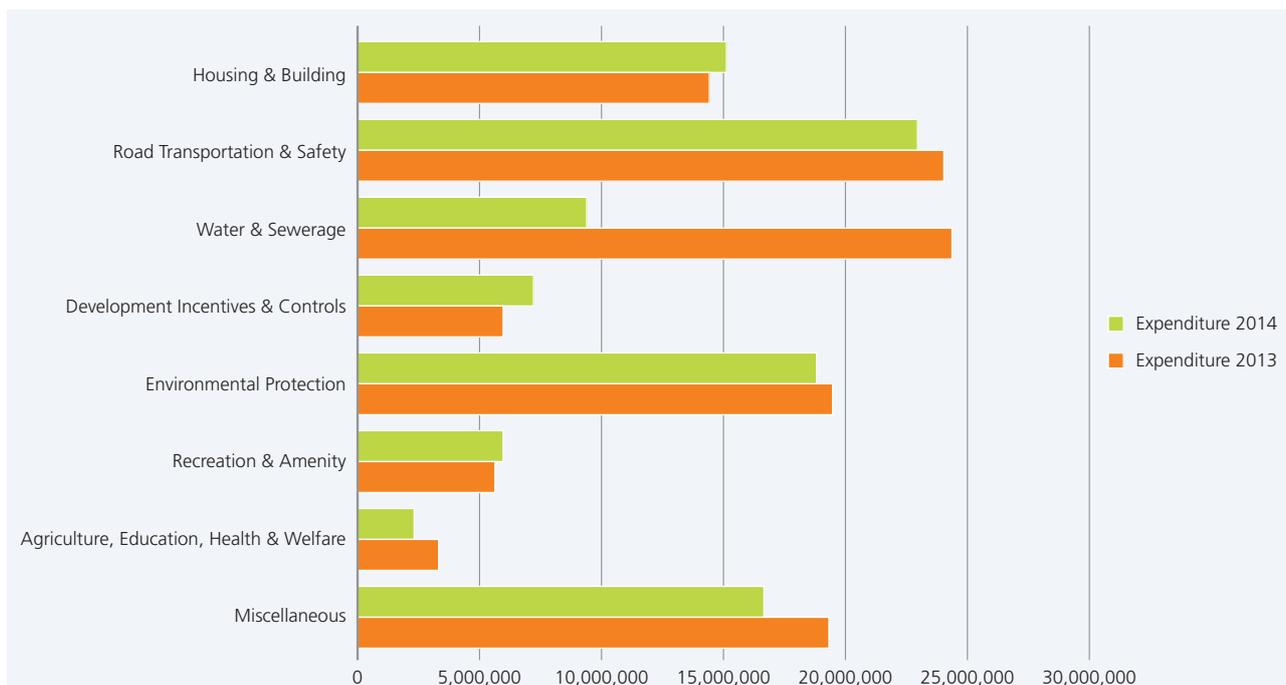
Income And Expenditure Account Statement For The Year Ended 31st December 2014				
Expenditure By Programme Group	Gross Expenditure 2014	Income 2014	Net Expenditure 2014	Net Expenditure 2013
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	15,109,781	17,653,413	(2,543,632)	(3,078,499)
Road Transportation & Safety	22,941,361	12,583,362	10,357,999	10,155,942
Water & Sewerage	9,378,587	8,962,888	415,699	16,106,153
Development Incentives & Control	7,257,949	2,497,409	4,760,540	4,401,825
Environmental Protection	18,818,599	8,578,525	10,240,074	9,292,013
Recreation & Amenity	5,927,592	543,719	5,383,873	5,166,891
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,288,077	1,633,620	654,457	320,601
Miscellaneous	16,650,085	10,292,033	6,358,052	7,423,284
County Charge	-	-	-	8,151,177
Total Expenditure/Income	98,372,030	62,744,970		
Net Cost Of Divisions to be funded from				
Rates and Local Government Fund			35,627,060	57,939,387
Pension Related Deduction			1,700,937	1,796,702
Local Government Fund			6,846,310	19,839,289
County Charge				8,245,941
Rates			29,937,895	29,154,881
Surplus/(Deficit) for year before Transfers			2,858,082	1,097,425
Transfers From/(To) Reserves			(2,557,611)	(3,787,952)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			300,471	(2,690,527)
General Reserve @ 1st January			(4,084,331)	(1,393,804)
General Reserve @ 31st December			(3,783,860)	(4,084,331)

Capital Account Statement of Balances For The Year Ended 31st December 2014		
	2014	2013
	€	€
Housing & Building	(11,452,662)	(8,110,890)
Road Transportation & Safety	33,273,090	31,865,831
Water & Sewerage	(1,910,750)	(2,296,205)
Development Incentives & Control	13,776,719	10,875,985
Environmental Protection	283,032	(699,864)
Recreation & Amenity	(1,941,706)	(952,995)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	545,865	689,707
Miscellaneous	17,408,346	16,934,617
Total	49,981,933	48,306,187



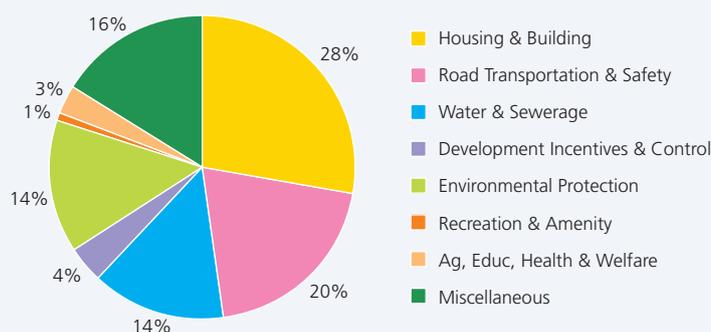
Balance Sheet for the Year Ended 31st December 2014		
	2014	2013
	€	€
Fixed Assets		
Operational	1,063,416,340	1,064,292,296
Infrastructural	1,454,707,772	1,646,100,014
Community	18,031,962	17,946,864
Non-Operational	220,000	220,000
	<u>2,536,376,074</u>	<u>2,728,559,174</u>
Work In Progress And Preliminary Expenses	153,313,014	226,072,076
Long Term Debtors	24,626,085	26,675,464
Current Assets		
Stock	270,959	305,831
Trade Debtors And Prepayments	56,468,537	40,370,397
Bank Investments	46,038,217	53,090,900
Cash at Bank	3,682,099	8,586,143
Cash in Transit	425,143	282,224
Urban Account	-	81,152
	<u>106,884,954</u>	<u>102,716,648</u>
Current Liabilities		
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	45,067,282	39,963,854
Finance Leases	-	-
	<u>45,067,282</u>	<u>39,963,854</u>
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)	<u>61,817,672</u>	<u>62,752,793</u>
Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)		
Loans Payable	91,089,894	123,552,180
Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable Deposits	13,761,059	14,236,257
Other	2,018,267	2,034,966
	<u>106,869,220</u>	<u>139,823,403</u>
Net Assets / (Liabilities)	<u>2,669,263,626</u>	<u>2,904,236,104</u>
Financed By		
Capitalisation Account	2,536,376,074	2,728,559,174
Income WIP	140,072,843	211,737,996
Specific Revenue Reserve	642,771	642,771
General Revenue Reserve	(3,783,860)	(4,084,331)
Other Balances	(4,044,202)	(32,619,505)
Total Reserves	<u>2,669,263,626</u>	<u>2,904,236,105</u>

Revenue Accounts 2014 / Financial Profile at a Glance

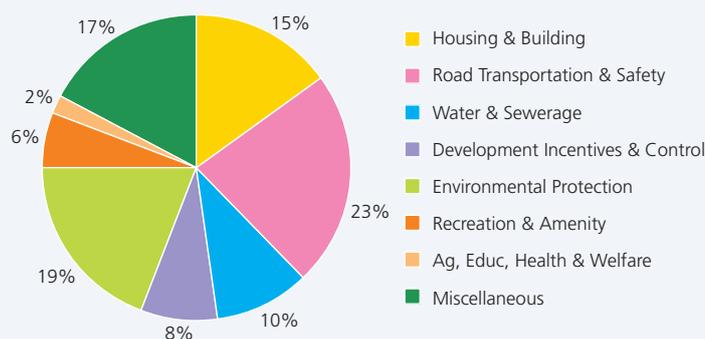


	Expenditure 2014	Expenditure 2013
Housing & Building	15,109,781	14,395,926
Road Transportation & Safety	22,941,361	24,031,900
Water & Sewerage	9,378,587	24,305,890
Development Incentives & Controls	7,257,949	5,964,778
Environmental Protection	18,818,599	19,446,210
Recreation & Amenity	5,927,592	5,628,534
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,288,077	3,274,231
Miscellaneous	16,650,085	19,308,660
Total Expenditure	98,372,031	116,356,129

Rev Income 2014		€
Housing & Building	17,653,413	
Road Transportation & Safety	12,583,362	
Water & Sewerage	8,962,888	
Development Incentives & Control	2,497,409	
Environmental Protection	8,578,525	
Recreation & Amenity	543,719	
Ag, Educ, Health & Welfare	1,633,620	
Miscellaneous	10,292,033	
	62,744,969	

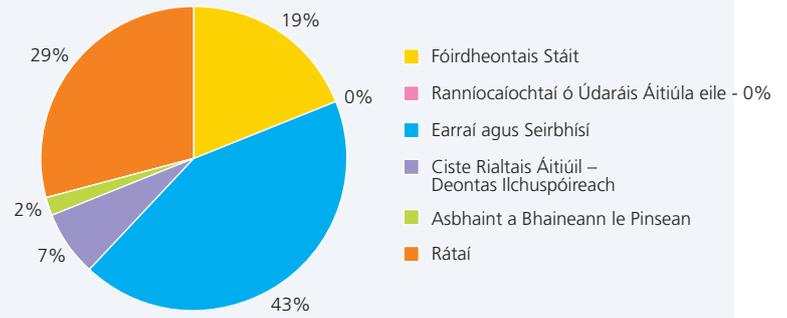


Rev Expenditure 2014		€
Housing & Building	15,109,781	
Road Transportation & Safety	22,941,361	
Water & Sewerage	9,378,587	
Development Incentives & Control	7,257,949	
Environmental Protection	18,818,599	
Recreation & Amenity	5,927,592	
Ag, Educ, Health & Welfare	2,288,077	
Miscellaneous	16,650,085	
	98,372,031	

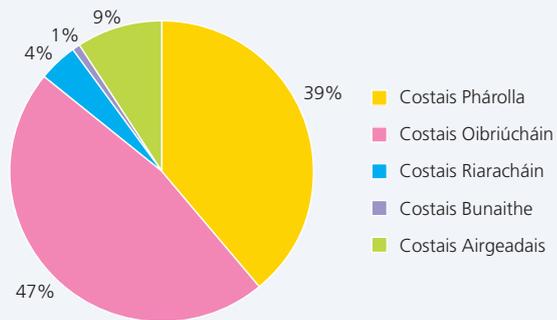




Analysis of Revenue Income 2014		€
State Grants & Subsidies	18,809,811	
Contributions from other LA's	368,885	
Goods & Services	43,566,275	
Local Government Fund - General Purpose Grant	6,846,310	
Pension Related Deduction	1,700,937	
Rates	29,937,895	
County Charge		
Total Revenue Income	101,230,113	



Analysis of Revenue Expenditure 2014		€
Payroll Expenses	38,036,567	
Operational Expenses	46,641,287	
Administration Expenses	3,573,838	
Establishment Expenses	1,463,752	
Financial Expenses	8,656,586	
Total Revenue Expenditure	98,372,030	



Service Indicators



C: CORPORATE

C1 / C2: Total Number of WTEs / Working Days lost to Sickness

C1-A. The whole time equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2014 (consistent with figures provided to DECLG by way of staffing returns for December 2014)	684.65
C2-A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave	2.86
C2-B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave	0.30
In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	
Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave	4451.55
Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave	467.5
Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days	655.5
Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days	27.5

C3: No. of page visits to LA website

A. The cumulative total page views for the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service	787662
On site web analytics for rebuilt site www.wicklow.ie from April 14 pro rata for full year	

C4: Overall Cost of ICT provision per WTE

A. All revenue expenditure on hardware and software plus depreciation divide by WTE under 'C1' above	3341
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E: WASTE / ENVIRONMENT

E1: Number of Waste Facilities authorised by the LA

A. The number of waste facility permits and certificates of registration granted by the LA and not yet expired as at 31/12/2014	30
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E2: No./% of Households with access to a 3 bin service

A. The number of households, based on the 2011 Census, who are in receipt of a 3 bin service at 31/12/2014 <i>Supplied by NWCPD</i>	8088
B. The percentage of households within the LA area (also as per the 2011 Census) that the number at 'A' above represents	17.00

E3: No. of Waste complaints lodged with the EPA Office of Environmental Enforcement

A. The number of distinct complaints relating to waste within the LA area that were referred to the OEE in the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 because the problem persisted after investigation of the complaint by the LA <i>PAE 2014/40; PAE 2014/111</i>	2
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E4: Percentage of other environmental pollution complaints closed

Percentage of Litter pollution cases closed by 31/12/2014	75.68
Percentage of Air pollution cases closed by 31/12/2014	80.74
Percentage of Noise pollution cases closed by 31/12/2014	60.0
Percentage of Water pollution cases closed by 31/12/2014	78.57

In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

The total number of Litter pollution cases in respect of which a complaint/s was/were made through any medium during 2014 whether instigated by the public or by the LA itself <i>WCC data is based on number of complaints as system does not record / summarise no of cases.</i>	333
Number of Litter pollution cases received in 2014 on which either a decision was taken that no investigation was warranted or an investigation was finalised (whether through prosecution or otherwise) during the year <i>WCC data is based on number of complaints as system does not record / summarise no of cases.</i>	252
The total number of Air pollution cases in respect of which a complaint/s was/were made through any medium during 2014 whether instigated by the public or by the LA itself <i>WCC data is based on number of complaints as system does not record / summarise no of cases.</i>	135
Number of Air pollution cases received in 2014 on which either a decision was taken that no investigation was warranted or an investigation was finalised (whether through prosecution or otherwise) during the year <i>WCC data is based on number of complaints as system does not record / summarise no of cases.</i>	109
The total number of Noise pollution cases in respect of which a complaint/s was/were made through any medium during 2014 whether instigated by the public or by the LA itself <i>WCC data is based on number of complaints as system does not record / summarise no of cases.</i>	10
Number of Noise pollution cases received in 2014 on which either a decision was taken that no investigation was warranted or an investigation was finalised (whether through prosecution or otherwise) during the year <i>WCC data is based on number of complaints as system does not record / summarise no of cases.</i>	6
The total number of Water pollution cases in respect of which a complaint/s was/were made through any medium during 2014 whether instigated by the public or by the LA itself <i>WCC data is based on number of complaints as system does not record / summarise no of cases.</i>	14
Number of Water pollution cases received in 2014 on which either a decision was taken that no investigation was warranted or an investigation was finalised (whether through prosecution or otherwise) during the year <i>WCC data is based on number of complaints as system does not record / summarise no of cases.</i>	11

E5: Percentage of LA area within the 5 levels of litter pollution

This data will be obtained directly from Tobin Consulting Engineers	
The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was unpolluted or litter free	8
The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was slightly polluted	70
The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was moderately polluted	21
The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was significantly polluted	1
The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was grossly polluted	0

F: FIRE SERVICE

F1: Cost per Capita of the Fire Service

A. Cost per Capita 41.82

In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E 2014 data consisting of E11 - Operation of fire Service and E12 – Fire Prevention and the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme E
5713629 Appendix 2 of AFS 2014

F2: Service Mobilisation

A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire
Retained Fire Service Only 0

B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect fire 5.5

C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents
Retained Fire Service Only 0

D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents 6.04

F3: Percentage of attendances at scenes

A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes 39.08

B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes 50.85

C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes 10.07

D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes 25.71

E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes 61.14

F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes 13.14

In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 586
Total number of incidents is 621, with 586 calls registered as having a time in attendance

Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes 229

Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes 298

Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes 59

Total number of call-outs in respect of incidents of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 175
Total number of incidents is 191, with 175 calls registered as having a time in attendance



Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	45
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	107
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	23

H: HOUSING

H1 / H2: Social Housing Stock / Housing Voids

H1-A. The overall total number of dwellings provided by the local authority in the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014; comprising:	72
H1-B. The number of dwellings directly provided (constructed or purchased) by the LA in 2014	10
H1-Ba. Number constructed (from B. above)	1
H1-Bb. Number Purchased (from B. above)	9
H1-C. The number of units provided under the Rental Accommodation Scheme in 2014	62
H1-D. The number of units provided under the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme in 2014 if operated (or else indicate if scheme not yet being operated in the LA)	0
H1-E. The number of units provided under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative (including unsold Affordable Scheme units and NAMA sourced properties and Mortgage to Rent Scheme) in 2014	0
H1-F. The overall total number of social housing dwellings in the LA at 31/12/2014; comprising:	4862
H1-G. The total number of dwellings directly provided (constructed or purchased) by the LA	4353
H1-H. The number of units provided under the Rental Accommodation Scheme	486
H1-I. The number of units provided under the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme if operated (or else indicate if scheme not yet being operated in the LA)	0
H1-J. The number of units provided under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative (including unsold Affordable Scheme units and NAMA sourced properties and Mortgage to Rent Scheme)	23
H2-A. The percentage of the total number of dwellings at H1-G above that were vacant on 31/12/2014	1.33
The number of dwelling units within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2014	58

H3: Average Re-letting Time and Cost

A. The time taken from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date in 2014 when a new tenancy had commenced in the dwelling, averaged across all units re-let in 2014	20.97
B. The cost expended on getting the re-tenanted units in 2014 ready for re-letting, averaged across all units re-let in 2014	14016.59

In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

The number of units that were re-tenanted on any date in 2014 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	93
The number of weeks from when the previous tenant vacated the dwelling up to the date of the new tenant's first rent debit, with any partial week decimalised to two decimal places, totalled for all units included above	1950
Total expenditure on repairs necessary to enable re-letting of the units included above	1303542.63



H4: Housing Maintenance Cost

A. Expenditure during 2014 on the repair and maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA compiled on a continuous basis from 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014, divided by the no. of directly provided units in the LA stock at 31/12/2014 (H1G above)	2416723.28
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H5: Private rented sector inspections

A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area (obtained directly from the PRTB)	6981
B. Number of inspections carried out	366

H6: Long-term Homeless Adults

A. Number of adult individuals that are long-term homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals	46.34
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In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

The number of adult individuals classified as homeless in the Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) as at 31/12/2014	41
The number of homeless adult individuals who, on 31/12/2014, have been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively over the previous 12 months	19

J: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

J1: No. of jobs created

A. The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014	106.5
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L: LIBRARY / RECREATION SERVICES

L1: Library Visits

Number of visits to libraries per 1,000 population	3283.23
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In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

Total number of visits to libraries	448621
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L2: Cost of operating a Library Service

A. Cost of operating a Library Service per 1,000 Population	20787.80
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In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F 2014 data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service and the relevant proportion of the central management charge for programme *F2840445 Appendix 2 of AFS 2014*



M: FINANCE

M1: 5 Year summary of Revenue Account balance

A. The debit/credit balance at 31/12/2010 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS)	1143247
B. The debit/credit balance at 31/12/2011 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS)	1420281
C. The debit/credit balance at 31/12/2012 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS)	1393802
D. The debit/credit balance at 31/12/2013 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS)	4084331
E. The debit/credit balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS) - (even if unaudited)	3783860

M2: 5 Year summary of % collection levels for major revenue sources

2010

Rates	72
Rent and Annuities	95
Housing Loans	80

2011

Rates	69
Rent and Annuities	93
Housing Loans	74

2012

Rates	65
Rent and Annuities	92
Housing Loans	74

2013

Rates	64
Rent and Annuities	93
Housing Loans	74

2014 (even if unaudited)

Rates	69
Rent and Annuities	92
Housing Loans	73

P: PLANNING

P1: New Buildings Inspected

A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority 12.85

In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

Total number of new building notified to the local authority 1432

One commencement notice received in respect of approx 800 units. To date approx 50 commenced.

Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2014 that were the subject of at least one inspection undertaken by the local authority under section 11 of the Building Control Act 1990 184

P2: No./% of Planning decisions confirmed by An Bord Pleanála

A. Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in the last year 53 749 decisions made with 53 (7%) appealed. 39 of 53 were upheld

B. Percentage of the determinations at 'A' above which were to confirm either with or without variation the decision made by the LA 73.58

In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision with or without variation 39

P3: Percentage of Planning Enforcement cases closed as resolved

A. Total number of planning cases (as opposed to complaints) referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 that were investigated 227

B. Total number of cases that were closed during 2014 244

C. % of the cases at 'B' above that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000 2.05

D. % of the cases at 'B' above that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations *No warning letter issued but case resolved as no unauthorized development, was exempt, conditions complied with etc* 16.80

E. % of the cases at 'B' above that were closed due to enforcement proceedings *Cases closed after Warning Letter, Enforcement Notice or Legal action.* 56.15

F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2014 836

In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

Number of cases at 'B' above that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000 5

Number of cases at 'B' above that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations 41

Number of cases at 'B' above that were closed due to enforcement proceedings 137



P4: Cost per Capita of the Planning Service

A. Cost per Capita 29.26

In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 – Development Management, D03 - Enforcement and the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme D

3997743

Appendix 2 of AFS 2014

R: ROADS

R1: Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index

Regional Road Surface

At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 1	0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 2	0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 3	0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 4	0.19
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 5	0.93
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 6	0.31
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 7	31.35
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 8	48.92
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 9	10.18
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 10	8.12
Overall Percentage (based on length) of condition recorded on MapRoad	100

Local Primary Road Surface

At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 1	0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 2	0.86
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 3	1.1
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 4	4.67
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 5	4.49
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 6	6.74
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 7	51.13
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 8	25.62
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 9	4.49
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 10	0
Overall Percentage (based on length) of condition recorded on MapRoad [ALL LOCAL ROADS]	100



Local Secondary Road Surface

At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 1	0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 2	2.21
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 3	9.63
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 4	13.28
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 5	12.23
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 6	11.42
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 7	22.51

R: ROADS

R1: Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index

Local Secondary Road Surface

At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 8	16.63
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 9	12.02
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 10	0.08

Local Tertiary Road Surface

At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 1	0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 2	13.48
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 3	18.48
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 4	8.26
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 5	3.55
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 6	0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 7	27.84
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 8	28.39
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 9	0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 10	0

R2: Percentage of motor tax transactions conducted online

This data will be obtained directly from the Vehicle Registration Unit

A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued)	61.06
Total number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	59413
Total number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	8000
Total number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with online	105713



W: Water

W1: Unaccounted for Water as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under LA Schemes

Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied in 2014 under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for under a Service Level Agreement 24.25

In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

Total volume of water (m³) supplied from 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for under an SLA, divided by 365 days
WCC data is based on 9 months data 2014 and based on 273 days 965

Volume of unaccounted for water (m³) lost from 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for under an SLA, divided by 365 days 234

W2: Percentage of drinking water in compliance with statutory requirements

This data will be obtained directly from the EPA

Public schemes 97.8

Private schemes 93

Y: YOUTH / COMMUNITY

Y1: Participation in Comhairle na n-Óg scheme

Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Óg scheme 21.10

In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

Total number of second level schools and youth groups in the LA area at 31/12/2014 109

Number of second level schools and youth groups in the LA from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na n-Óg AGM held in 2014 23

Y2: No. of Gateway participants employed as % of target

A. Number of Gateway participants who commenced a work placement during 2014 expressed as a percentage of the placements allocated to the LA 102.50

In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

No. of employed Gateway participants who commenced a work placement at any time during 2014 (inclusive of those who dropped out before the year-end) 82

No. of Gateway placements allocated to the LA as agreed between the Department of Social Protection and the CCMA 80



Y3: % of nominees to LCDC membership via the PPN structures from the most marginalised SICAP groups

The overall number of private sector members of the LCDC at 31/12/2014 nominated via the PPN structures who are of any of; Travellers, Roma, Unemployed, People with Disabilities, Lone Parents or Families in Disadvantaged Areas and Disadvantaged or Ne

1

1 Member of 17

Y4: Number progressing to FT, PT or self-employment within 6 months of receipt of a Goal 3 employment support

The no. of people in the 'Individuals supported into employment or self-employment' category, who commenced that employment within 6 months of receiving a Goal 3 support, included in the 2014 Local Community Dev. Programme Annual Report

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