

November 2017



Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Report



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Contents

Housing and Community

1. Social Housing Support
2. Allocation of Social Housing
3. Social Housing Stock
4. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery
5. Part V
6. PPP Social Housing Project (Bundle 1)
7. Approved Housing Bodies (AHB)
8. Housing Schemes Remediation
9. Home Improvement/ Adaptation
10. Addressing Homelessness
11. Community and Social Development
12. Library Service
13. Arts
14. Local Sports Partnership
15. County Archives Service

Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure

1. Economic Development
2. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)
3. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)
4. Planning and Development
5. Water and Environmental Services
6. Transportation and Roads

Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. Recruitment
2. Access to Information
3. Register of Electors
4. Press Releases
5. I.C.T. Report
6. Revenue Account
7. Cashflow/Overdraft
8. Capital Account
9. Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections
10. Cashflow/Overdraft
11. General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund

This Month:

Annual Budget for 2018 *adopted at Council Meeting dated 27th November*

*Blessington crowned **Most Enterprising Town in Leinster in the 3,000 – 7,000 population category** in Bank of Ireland Enterprising Town Awards*

Tender for New Wicklow Town Library issued

*Greystones awarded **Runner up in Leinster in the over 7,000 category population category** in Bank of Ireland Enterprising Town Awards*

*Minister of State, Kevin "Boxer" Moran **officially opened the River Dargle Flood Scheme, Bray***

County Wicklow Heritage Plan *adopted by the Members on 6th November*



HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. Social Housing Support

No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP)	3,567
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	516 as at 01/01/2017
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	400
No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation	7
No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation	10

2. Allocation of Social Housing

WCC Social Housing	53
Approved Housing Bodies	5 + 4 pending

3. Social Housing Stock

- › 4,330 tenancies occupied
- › Casual Vacancies/Relets 58
- › Total weekly rental accrual €240,587 (€12.5m per annum)
- >Minimum rent €24 pw - Maximum rent €275 pw
- › Arrears €1,402,393.90

4. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

12 schemes approved €35,500,000

Scheme	Units	Current status
Brewery Bends, Rathdrum (Phase 2)	20	Commenced
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	Commenced November 2017
Kilbride Lane, Bray (Murphy's Lands)	42	Tender out 3 rd November 2017
Farrankelly, Greystones (Phase 2)	23	Part 8 September 2017
O'Byrne Road, Bray	1	Commencing 27 th November 2017
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	25	Part 8 on display
Sugarloaf View, Kilmacanogue	20	Part 8 adopted – proceeding to tender stage
FCA Hall, Wicklow Town	8	Detailed design being prepared
Kilmantin Place, Bray	4	Detailed design being prepared
Ard Na Mara, Kilcoole	2	Detailed design being prepared
Druids Brook, Kilcoole	2	Detailed design being prepared
Old Library, Arklow	7	Tender return 1 st Dec 2017



5. Part V

2017 - 5 units

1 unit purchased and allocated
4 units undergoing final snagging

2 units - Agreement reached.

Potential units

Negotiations ongoing with a number of developers at preplanning and planning stage

- › 98 units approved, planning granted
- › 192 at pre planning stage

6. PPP Social Housing Project

[Bundle 1)

Development Site at Convent Lands, Wicklow. The Department of Housing has dedicated €300 million towards delivery of housing through the public, private partnership model in the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan. Wicklow has been included as a project in Bundle 1. The Part 8 was passed by the members at the Council Meeting of 3rd July 2017.

7. Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs)

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

5 units were provided under a CALF lease to Co-operative Housing on the Greenpark Road in Bray.

Approval has been received from the Department of Housing, Planning Community and Local Government for a leasing arrangement with Cluid to provide 45 units of accommodation on the Council's site at St. Earnan's View, Ballybeg, Rathnew. Estimated delivery date of these units is quarter 3 2019.

A new CALF project with Tuath Housing was approved on 20th September 2017 for 32 units at Bollarney North, Wicklow Town. There is currently no start or completion date available.

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) The CAS call for 2017 was advertised and some proposals have been received from 2 Approved Housing Bodies.

Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands - A preferred proposal has been identified.

8. Housing Schemes Remediation

Glending, Blessington – Remediation

- › Stage 2 and Stage 3 Phase 3A – No 1 to No. 12 Glending Road has been completed.
- › Stage 3 Phase 3B – No. 1 to No. 10 Glending Square and No. 1 to No. 4 Glending Way Contract signing in November 2017
- › Tenants are currently being moved out of these properties for this phase of the development.

Parknasilloogue, Enniskerry - Remediation

Remediation works completed.
Legal proceedings ongoing.

Hillview, Wicklow - Remediation

Roof works across the entire estate approximately 50% complete. Bridge works to "F" types due to start. Refurbishment to "B" types 60% complete. Ceiling Repairs in B & C type dwellings due to start.

9. Home Improvement/Adaptation

Mobility Aid Grants/Housing Adaption Grants/
Housing Aid for Older People

- › Grant funding for private houses - €1.1M
- › Grant funding for social houses - €650,000
- › 35 Open Applications to value of €563,267

Housing Assistance for Older People

9 applications - € 42,821

Mobility Aid Grants

7 applications - € 35,446

Housing Adaptation Grants

19 applications - €485,000

Approved

- › 58 Mobility Aid Grants - €311,590
- › 23 Housing Adaption Grants - €366,888
- › 50 Housing Aid for Older People - €283,239

House Purchase Loans	Incremental Purchase Scheme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 62 applications › 10 granted › 4 pending › 48 declined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 141 applications to date › 90 offers to purchase to date › 13 sales completed

10. Addressing Homelessness

Total Presentations 1st January up and including to 31st October 2017 = 397

Individuals: 184
Families: 123
Includes dependant children - 357

No in emergency accommodation :-

6 families (13 adults, 25 children); 1 individual

Wicklow County Council owned properties in Wicklow, Bray and Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 22 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients.

Carraig Eden, Greystones - Wicklow County Council completed the purchase of the property known as Carraig Eden in Greystones in November and will enter into a lease agreement with Tiglin (Approved Housing Body) which will ensure that the long term needs of the facility's residents will be addressed by their progression into sustainable, long term tenancies via the various social housing supports available. Funding of €3,182,100 was approved to purchase and refurbish the building (includes €150,000 WCC funding).

11. Community and Social Development

Local Action Group (LAG)/LEADER

Training on the LEADER Programme 2014 - 2020 was held on the 13th November for elected members and staff of Wicklow County Council.

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) noted Circular no. 20 regarding uniform application forms and agreed to the changes involved, on the recommendation of the LEADER subgroup.

The LCDC approved ten projects for funding, following recommendations from the evaluation committee.

Evening information sessions were held in order to explain the changes that have been made to the LEADER programme and to advise on the application process on the following dates:

Tuesday 21st Nov - Hollywood Community Centre
Wednesday 22nd Nov - Kilcoole Parish Centre
Thursday 23rd Nov 2017- Tinahely Community Hall

Wicklow PPN (Public Participation Network):

Wicklow PPN's application to be one of four national pilot programmes for the development of the "Well-being Vision Toolkit" has been successful. This is a great achievement for our local PPN and undoubtedly a reflection of the high regard which it and its Resource Worker is held in nationally. The work will take place over the next six months after which the learning will be rolled out to all PPNs. The other pilots are South Dublin, Longford, and Roscommon.

The development of the Wellbeing Vision Statement is at the heart of creating a cohesive and community based PPN, so the combined efforts of the four pilots will play an important part in ensuring the ongoing vitality and sustainability of PPNs across the country.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Plan (SICAP):

The process of awarding the SICAP 2018-2022 contracts for Co. Wicklow is ongoing. In the meantime, Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership continue to implement their 2017 Annual Plans.

Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development (RAPID)

The Dept. of Community & Rural Development has just announced an investment of €64,500 into the RAPID areas of Bray through local community groups. It will be a grant application process and will be administered by the LCDC.

Age Friendly

Community care road shows took place in 6 locations (Baltinglass, Bray, Arklow, Blessington, Tinahely and Wicklow) with very positive feedback received from the community.

The national convention of Older Persons Councils in Limerick was attended by 5 representatives from Wicklow. As Wicklow are hosting the convention in 2018, it was an extremely beneficial event. The annual seminar for the Older Persons Council took place on the 24th November in the Glendalough Hotel.

November 2017



The department of Rural and Community Development have tasked Pobal with rolling out the Seniors Alert Scheme.

Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairle na nÓg Wicklow's AGM was held in the Parkview, Newtownmountkennedy on 26th October 2017. There were approximately 100 attendees with tremendous energy in the room. Following the AGM a submission was made to Local Link, based on the 100 participants, for inclusion in their department submission on transport in Wicklow.

Playgrounds, Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA's) and Skate Parks

Knockanna Playground – due to commence November 2017

Rathdangan Playground – completed but grass and drainage need a month to settle.

Baltinglass Skatepark – Skatepark complete, ROSPA report received

Carnew Playground – start date 27th November 2017.

12. Library Services

Items borrowed (Issues) across Wicklow libraries from January to October 2017 have already exceeded the total amount borrowed in 2016.

2016 total = 468,305

2017 Jan – Oct = 485,840

Even allowing for December being traditionally quieter than other months, a total in excess of 550,000 is projected for 2017.

Grants of €161,515 have been approved for Wicklow County Council library service for the provision of radio frequency identification (RFID) self service machines at all full time libraries. Wicklow is well represented having over 3.2% of the total national grant of just under €5m. 75% of this amount is grant aided, with 25% being funded by each local authority

Tender for Wicklow Town's New Library

Wicklow County Council has gone to tender for an architect led team for the provision of a library and County Archives over 6 floors at the recently

acquired former Ulster bank building on Wicklow's Main Street. Closing date for tenders in this regard is 21st December 2017. The project will be completed by summer 2019 and will provide a state of the art facility for the people of Wicklow town and environs, in addition to being a centre of excellence for the County Archive

13. Arts

Management of Arts Act Grants

Following a call for quotations, Annette Moloney was appointed to manage Arts Act Grants 2018 for individual artists (to be advertised in January)

Following a call for quotations, Liz Kelly was appointed to manage to manage Arts Act Grants 2018 for arts groups/ organisations and for arts festivals (to be advertised in January)

Creative Ireland

Literature Curator: Following a call for proposals and quotations, Nell Regan was selected to work as Literature Curator for Wicklow in collaboration with the libraries in Blessington and Arklow. The decision was made at a panel meeting on Thursday 16th November.

Choral Activation – A brief was developed and Katherine Zeserson, a UK based specialist in choral development, was approached to undertake action research into community choral activity in the county along with recommendations to develop capacity.

Children and Young People – In the run up to a county-wide research programme, key resource people in the county have come together to collaborate on a pilot programme to promote more effective engagement models for children and young people in the arts.

Arts Strategy: The Arts Officer attended at a national meeting of Creative Ireland that took place in IMMA in Dublin. The Culture Team met twice in November and appointed a consultant to assist them in developing a five year strategy (2018 – 2022) and plan of action for 2018.

Public Art – Bray Commissions

Albert Avenue Underpass – the panel met and selected a shortlist of three artists who were each awarded €1,000 to develop detailed proposals for the site. A site visit was organised for these three artists at the end of October.

Coláiste Ráithín, Ravenswell – the selection panel met on Oct 27th and assessed the proposals from a shortlist of six artists. The commission was awarded to Alice Rekab.

Site visits are taking place and briefs are being developed for the other two sites (St. Philomena's NS, Ravenswell and the Fran O'Toole Bridge)

Music Generation Wicklow

Members of Music Generation Wicklow met with staff and Board members from the national office for a tour of schools in the county. The group met with tutors, teachers and children in Donard National School, Tinahely National School and St. Patrick's National School Greystones and discussed the artistic, social and interpersonal benefits of the programme for children in the county. Ann Nolan reported that 4,000 children and young people in Wicklow were engaged in regular music performance education with 31 musician tutors employed on a weekly basis.

14. Local Sports Partnership (LSP)

Sport Ireland has announced their funding allocation of Dormant accounts to date. *Wicklow LSP has secured funding for two programmes;*

- (i) *€13,300 for Community Coaching, which is an up skilling programme in both sports coaching and personal development targeted at disadvantaged communities.*
- (ii) *€16,000 for a joint project with Ladies Gaelic Football that is targeted at teenage girls to prevent the large dropout in this age group.*

Four safeguarding courses were completed from October to end November in Baltinglass, Wicklow, Newtownmoutkennedy and Bray.

Schools Programmes

LSP Dance programme has begun in Vallemount and Kilbride national schools targeted at motor development in young children and will be extended to the rest of the county.

Introduction to Weight Lifting 8 week course has started in Loreto Secondary school Bray.

2018 Core grant application has been submitted to Sport Ireland for Wicklow Local Sports Partnership.

15. County Archives Service

County Archives Service supporting local history in Wicklow

A free local history day took place in the Brockagh Resource Centre on Saturday, November 4th to highlight the important role of local historical societies in County Wicklow and to explore opportunities to support and strengthen this role, particularly by the heritage, library and archives services of Wicklow County Council. The event was organised as an action of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan and is co-funded by Wicklow County Council and The Heritage Council. Professor Raymond Gillespie, from Maynooth University Department of History, was the keynote speaker. Catherine Wright, County Archives Service gave a talk on the resources available in the County Archives and Local Studies in the library service. Heritage officer Deirdre Burns highlighted the role of our online community archives Our Wicklow Heritage in supporting local history and heritage. Presentations were also given from five local historical societies in County Wicklow – topics included:

- *Early Medieval Enclosures at Roundwood*
- *The Kynoch Explosion Arklow 1917- It's Importance To Wicklow As A Whole*
- *Wicklow Women and the Ulster Declaration of 1912*
- *Glenmalure, the Wild Mountains of Wicklow*

The feedback from the day was extremely positive. The event ended with a group workshop session focussing on ideas for strengthening the role of historical societies in modern day Wicklow, which will form the basis of a solid plan to support local history in County Wicklow into the future.

November 2017



Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure

1. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

LCDC

The LCDC last met on 14th November 2017. The next meeting is 12th December 2017. There was one new member in attendance, Lyndsay Malone of Carlow IT.

The Dept. of Community & Rural Affairs is carrying out a review of the LCDC's at present. The review will be completed in February 2018.

The Dept. of Community & Rural Affairs is putting in place a programme of training aimed to strengthen the capacity of LCDC members and staff to effectively carry out LCDC functions.

LECP

The Advisory Group is continuing to monitor the implementation of the LECP, both the community and the economic actions, and to ensure the integration of economic and community actions. Update on Community Actions:

LECP Update Summary

<p><i>Goal 1: Develop Community Capacity in disadvantaged communities and engage in urban regeneration and rural development</i></p> <p><i>Build capacity and social capital across all communities</i></p> <p><i>Maximise opportunities for urban regeneration and rural development</i></p>	<p>A RAPID Programme for 2017 has just been announced by Dept. Community & Rural Affairs. Each county receives €64,000. The aim of the funding is to improve the quality of life for residents in disadvantaged urban areas and provincial towns. The funding is for urban areas and regional towns, however the LCDC voted to restrict it in Wicklow to Bray. The project is being administered by Bray MD. The closing date for applications is the 24th November. Funding is to be spent by the end of 2017.</p> <p>Town & Village 2017 projects are underway.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation projects for 2017 are underway and near completion</p>
<p><i>Goal 2: Promote active citizenship underpinned by good governance and participation in decision making</i></p> <p><i>Develop strong representative fora in the county</i></p>	<p>Ongoing support for:</p> <p>PPN</p> <p>Comhairle na nÓg</p> <p>Co. Wicklow Older Persons Council</p> <p>Wicklow Disability Access Action Group</p>
<p><i>Goal 3: Develop high quality integrated services available to all communities, in particular disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups</i></p> <p><i>The LCDC will provide the strategic direction for the integration of existing services</i></p> <p><i>The LCDC will provide representation for additional services and resources where gaps are identified or where new issues arise</i></p>	<p>A decision on the Healthy Ireland submission for funding is expected at end November 2017</p> <p>Rural Transport – Consultation on the Rural Transport Wicklow scheme is complete and a report has been forwarded to Ring-A-Link to form the basis for a submission for the expansion of the programme in Wicklow</p>
<p><i>Goal 4: A vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector</i></p> <p><i>Establish a strong social & community enterprise sector in the county</i></p>	<p>Consultant appointed to:</p> <p>Map social enterprise in the county</p> <p>Outline steps to develop the sector</p> <p>Identify supports needed for start-ups and up scaling stages</p>



November 2017

2. Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) Action Plan

The Economic Development Unit of the Enterprise and Corporate Services Directorate is charged with implementing the economic actions in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). Many of the 142 actions listed in the LECP have come from the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) Action Plan. The CWETT which was initiated in 2013 was a collaborative project initiated by Wicklow County Council and involved the business community from across the county and the County Enterprise Board (now LEO Wicklow).

Listed below are just some of the actions that are currently underway:

BRAND

The Endless Opportunities Brand will be re-launched early in 2018 in conjunction with the web-portal launch.

FILM

The South Eastern Creative Corridor is an initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices funded under the Regional Action Plan for Jobs targeting supports to entrepreneurs and businesses that provide or could potentially provide products and services into the Creative Industry including the Film and wider Audio Visual industry. The initiative is led by LEO Wicklow. The final event of this year long programme - "The Big Picture" Conference - was held on 17th November in Druids Glen Hotel with 135 delegates attending. The final programme report is being prepared.

The potential to submit an application for funding to the next call under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund is being explored. The project aim is to develop a Content Creation Enterprise Hub situated in Wicklow County Campus. Closing date 2nd March 2018.

The Crowe Howarth report on the Audio Visual Skills Strategy has been published. One of the key recommendations is the development and continuation of much stronger links between training and education providers and the audiovisual industry, this ties in with the objectives for the development of the hub.

RETAIL

The Arklow Municipal District and Arklow Town Team hosted an information evening aimed at retailers. The event was held on the 19th October at

7 pm in the Arklow Bay Hotel. In addition to the talk by David Fitzsimons of Retail Excellence Ireland, there was a presentation on commercial rates, online trading vouchers for retailers and a presentation on Age Friendly Business at this event.

Attendees on the night were very impressed with the presentation given by David Fitzsimons Chief Executive of Retail Excellence Ireland which provided an insight on how to survive and thrive in retail and learn how changing consumer behaviour will impact retail in the future. It also highlighted what retailers must do to remain relevant and who is winning in retail and why.

The Florentine is at the second stage of the tender process. It is anticipated that the tender will be awarded by the end of 2017.

TOWN TEAMS

Town Teams have been established in Bray, Arklow, Greystones and Wicklow and initial discussions have been held with Blessington Forum with a view to forming a Blessington

Three towns: Arklow, Blessington and Greystones were nominated to enter the Bank of Ireland National Enterprising Towns Awards 2017 and each entrant put forward excellent presentations and tours of their towns.

At the Enterprising Towns Awards event on 15th November, Blessington was crowned the Most Enterprising Town in Leinster in the 3,000 to 7,000 population category.

This exciting achievement for the town was the culmination of a huge amount of hard work by the local Enterprising Town Committee with strong support from Blessington Forum, the local business community and the Baltinglass Municipal District.

Greystones was also successful and was awarded runner-up in the Leinster region in the over 7,000 population category. Congratulations go to Greystones 2020 and Greystones Municipal District.

OTHER TOWN TEAM ACTIVITY

Towns Matter has been engaged to carry out Town Centre Health Checks in Wicklow and Arklow. This will be followed by health checks in Greystones, Blessington, Baltinglass, Kilcoole, Rathnew, Rathdrum and Newtownmountkennedy.

November 2017

A number of projects are underway in the various towns and Leader funding applications have been submitted for some of these projects.

Arklow Town Team is to make an application to the Department of Justice and Equality for funding towards the installation of a community based CCTV system for the town. A survey has been carried out and a map showing proposed locations of the cameras is currently available for public viewing.

A key objective of the Town Team initiative is to encourage more collaboration, communication and cooperation between the Local Authority, business and the wider community and to develop one voice from one team for each town.

It has been agreed that a report on town team activity will be submitted to the relevant Municipal District and Chamber of Commerce on a monthly basis.

WEB PORTAL PROJECT

- Wicklow County Council has appointed 'INVENTISE' to design, develop and host our new Web Portal.
- When completed the Web Portal will play a key role in communicating the new 'Wicklow' brand which encapsulates what Wicklow has to offer across multiple dimensions: start and grow a business, live and work, visit and stay.
- To this end the Web Portal will have three key elements organised under the primary navigation headings of: VISIT, LIVING and BUSINESS.
- A large team of County Council staff are currently engaged in editing and developing the web content. Further editing will be done by a copywriter to ensure consistency of tone.
- We anticipate that the portal will be ready for user testing toward the end of 2017; it will go live shortly thereafter and will be officially launched early in 2018.

TOURISM

Tourism Statement of Strategy and Work plan 2017-2022

Following a tendering process Wicklow County Council appointed 'Bluesail Consulting Ltd.' to draft a County Wicklow Tourism Strategy in November, 2017.

The overall vision is to make Wicklow the number one choice for visitors seeking an idyllic escape that harmonises a wide range of outdoor pursuits in

Wicklow's world class natural arena, while driving job creation.

The consultants will carry out a SWOT analysis of the existing product, taking account of the LECP, carry out an assessment of the accommodation offering and to make recommendations for maximising bed nights, building on Ireland's Ancient East improving our festivals and events, develop recommendations for marine tourism, walking and trails, food and beverage, spiritual tourism etc. Make recommendations for the development of Glendalough and recommend how we can capitalise on our popular attractions.

A meeting of the CWETT Tourism Strategy Group has been scheduled for 29th November to commence this process.

OTHER TOURISM ACTIVITY

A delegation from Wicklow County Council and tourism interests travelled to China to promote the County and its attractions during November at the invitation of the Hainan Province with whom Wicklow signed a friendship agreement in July of this year. The group attended the 2017 Hainan Tourism Island and World Leisure Tourism Expo. This was a fantastic opportunity to showcase County Wicklow's tourism offering to tour operators from all over China.

In anticipation of direct flights from China commencing in 2018, Wicklow is positioning itself as the ideal location for visitors to base themselves while visiting Ireland.

The delegation also visited Shanghai where they attended a number of meetings with Tourism Ireland, the Irish Consul and former Ambassador to Ireland Mr Sha Hai Lin, now Vice Chairman of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress and a great friend to County Wicklow and to Ireland.

MARITIME

The Maritime Business Development Group is due to reconvene on 30th November 2017.

Key issues under consideration

- The development of a maritime strategy which will include an audit of marine assets, and an audit of land available in the vicinity of the commercial harbours and a plan to maximise opportunities arising out of tourism, wind energy and aquaculture.

November 2017



- How best to maximise the opportunity presented by offshore wind energy developments; The ESB is seeking expressions of interest for the provision of renewable energy marine services related to offshore wind farms. ESB plans to develop or acquire the offshore wind farms commencing in 2018. The location of these initial offshore wind farms is expected to be in the Irish sea. This is very significant for County Wicklow and we need to ascertain

how to best maximise the benefit of such activity.

- Investigation into the development of an aquaculture cluster in County Wicklow

3. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO Objectives
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of the enterprise message at local level. - Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship. - Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs. - Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early stage promoters and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises. - Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland - Acting as a First Stop Shop for business information and referral

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2016	2017	2017
Grants Approved (number/ value)			
<i>Measure 1</i>			
<i>Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters</i>	18/€362,875 N/A	Meet Demand Meet Demand	22/€447,731.90 17/€27,664.03
NB: Ability to meet demand is determined by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			
METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2016	2017	2017
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers	80	75	75
Management Development Programme Participant numbers (commences September)	21	18	21
<i>Business Skills Training Courses Participant Numbers</i>	192	190	157
<i>Business IT Training Courses Participant numbers</i>	151	140	132
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	5
<i>Seminars participant numbers</i>	414	400	435

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL		TARGETS
	2016	2017	2017
Number of new enquiries	627	700	541
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings	369	350	345
Businesses assigned a Mentor	44	50	60 (incl 8: SECC mentoring)
Businesses assigned a MFI pre-application mentor	16	10	7
Businesses assigned a MFI post-approval mentor	3	10	7

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL		TARGETS
	2015/2016	2016/2017	Year to Date
Secondary Student Participants (number)	939	940	1116

November 2017 Activities

- Following the Trading Online Seminar on Friday 13th October, 15 applications were received and approved in November.
- On Thursday 9th November the Social Media Intermediate course took place with 12 participants.
- On Tuesday 15th November the 'Investigate Your Business Idea' course took place with 7 participants at Wicklow County Campus.
- On Friday 17th Nov the 'Bookkeeping for Small Businesses' Course started with 16 participants.
- On Monday 20th November the 'Online Video as a Marketing Tool' Course took place with 9 participants.
- The South Eastern Creative Corridor programme was successfully rounded off with the Big Picture Conference in Druids Glen Hotel on Friday 17th November. The conference was attended by 120 clients and AV industry experts.
- Marketing your Tourism Business online - Seminar focused on digital marketing strategies in Parkview hotel in collaboration with Failte Ireland, in addition to keynote speakers were Agencies LEO, CWP, Wicklow Tourism and Failte Ireland. 65 registered to attend. 2 Radio interviews were conducted on East coast fm to promote the event.
- Food Academy programme (in conjunction with Bord Bia and Supervalu) underway with 9 businesses participating. 6 month programme with workshops and mentoring taking place over the period.
- IBYE Training took place for all applicants in Druids Glen on 21st October and follow up training Bootcamp for finalists in the Glenview hotel on 10th and 11th November (12 attended bootcamp)
- In addition to clients met at the business advice clinics Leo staff had 5 additional one to one client meetings.
- Seven Digital Marketing clinics took place in Wicklow County campus on Thursday 23rd November.
- On Thursday 30th November, the 'Bookkeeping using Excel' course will take place with 10 participants in the IT Lab in Wicklow County Campus.

November 2017



4. Planning and Development

Forward Planning:

Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan 2018

The Chief Executive's report was considered by the Elected Members at the November Council meeting and it was agreed to place the Proposed Amendments on public display and seek submissions. The public display period runs from 22nd November to 19th December 2017.

Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan 2018

The Chief Executive's report issued to the Elected Members during November for their consideration.

Heritage:

- All capital grants awarded under the Structures at Risk Funding (SRF), and the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) have been paid to the successful applicants and the recoupment of these monies has been submitted to the Department of Heritage, Culture and the Gaeltacht.
- The Elected Members adopted the County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022 at the November Council meeting. The Plan is prepared and overseen by the Wicklow Heritage Forum, a partnership group set up by Wicklow County Council and co-ordinated by the Heritage Officer. The Plan sets out five key objectives for the management of natural, built and cultural heritage, underpinned by a series of actions.
- A "Making Local History" seminar was held on 4th November at the Brockagh Centre, Laragh, being a one day public event organized by the Heritage Office to showcase and promote the role of local historical societies in the county. The keynote speaker was Professor Raymond Gillespie of Maynooth University, while Catherine Wright and Deirdre Burns gave presentations on Wicklow Archives and the online community heritage archive. Key priorities to support local historical research in Wicklow were agreed as part of the workshop sessions held.

Planning Applications:

A total of 132 applications were received during October, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	33
Housing Developments	10
Agricultural Structures	3
Commercial	36
Other Developments	50
Total	132

To the end of October 2017, a total of 1,316 applications were received, compared to 1,200 applications for the same period in 2016. This represents a 9% increase from last year, continuing a trend of increasing applications, year on year.

Decisions issued in respect of 87 applications in October, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	6
Individual Houses	24
Other Developments	57
Total	87

In relation to decisions issued to date in comparison to 2016, the details are as follows:

	31/10/2017	31/10/2016
Total Number of decisions issued	893	865
Total Number of decisions to grant	733	679
Total Number of decisions to refuse	160	186

Planning Enforcement

Details of activity during October:

- 10 New files were opened
- 38 Advisory letters issued
- 19 Warning Letters issued
- 8 Enforcement Notices served
- 2 Files was referred for legal action
- 11 Files have been closed

Derelict Sites:

No inspections or statutory notices issued during October.

5. Water and Environmental Services

River Dargle Flood Defense Scheme

The River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme was officially opened by Mr. Kevin "Boxer" Moran T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform with special responsibility for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief, on Wednesday 8th November 2017.

An exhibition titled 'Our Town Our River – The story of the River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme' was

November 2017

opened to the public in the Civic Offices on the 6th of November by Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Christopher Fox and ran until 17th of November 2017. This showed the historic context of the Scheme, and allowed teachers from the Bray area bring their classes in to see the exhibition and learn about the Scheme.

Harbours & Ports

Under the National Strategy for Angling Development Fund (Inland Fisheries Ireland), three Grant Applications submitted by deadline 13th October 2017

- Arklow Access Ladders - €11,070
- Wicklow Access Ladders - €11,070
- Bray Harbour Pontoon - €29,750.

Private Well Grants

Well Grants Received

2017 - 158 applications received

10 received in October 2017

Well grants processed

2017 - 132 grants paid €223,192.78

7 paid in October 2017 value €11,253.43

Private Supplies - Group Water & Wastewater Schemes

A total of €63,657.71 was paid in 2017 under the annual operational subsidy for group water schemes. There are currently 8 group water/sewerage schemes claiming the annual subsidy and this includes a new scheme that has come into being in 2017. We are currently liaising with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes to help a further group water scheme in the west of the county. We are working towards re establishing the scheme's management structure, providing practical advice and assistance to improve the scheme's water quality and ensuring the scheme has access to subsidies and capital grants.

A total of 82,584.80 in grant aid was provided in 2017 under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2016 – 2018. Six group water schemes were successful in their applications for funding under various measures of the Programme such as capital replacement costs, public health compliance and rural development. The projects have progressed well during the year and are currently nearing completion. There was no funding made

available to group sewerage schemes under the programme in 2017.

Private Waste Water Supplies – Septic Tanks

26 inspections done in 2017 (compared to a target of 21 inspections)

18 compliant

8 Non compliant - 8 advisory notices issued

6 have completed the works and are closed off as compliant

2 outstanding but the works are not due for completion until the 21/04/18 and 30/04/18

Waste Management Section - October 2017

No. of Complaints Received	223
No of Litter Fines Issued	16
No. of Waste Management Files Open	3
No. of Warning Letters Issued	1
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	15
No. of Burning Applications Granted	4
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	5
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	5
No. of Cases heard in Court under Litter Pollution Act	1
No. of Cases heard under the Waste Management Act	5
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	260

Court cases underway for large scale dumping in Charlesland in July 2016

Wicklow County Council are taking a number of prosecutions under the Waste Management Acts 1996 in relation to this large scale dumping incident where it was estimated that as much as 100 tonnes of waste may have been dumped.

On 7th September in Dun Laoghaire District court three individuals pleaded guilty to handing over their waste to an unauthorised collector and were each ordered to pay the sum of €450 to the council towards costs.

A fourth individual contested the summonses and following a hearing of the evidence and a cross examination by the councils solicitor, the judge convicted her in respect of both the summonses

November 2017

before the court and fined her €500 and ordered her to pay €850.00 costs to the council.

On 25th October at Bray District Court an individual entered a guilty plea for illegal dumping of waste and handed over €750 in respect of the councils costs and, and on the hearing of the evidence Judge Kennedy ordered that the individual be assessed for his suitability for a community service report.

There are 8 further cases pending relating to this dumping incident, these are due to be heard in Bray District court on 27th November next.

Halloween Bonfires

Each year illegal bonfires constitute a hazard to the environment and to property as well as causing a mess. This year the Waste Management section put a policy in place to deal with Bonfires where dangerous stockpiles could be removed prior to Halloween. This involved liaison between the Fire Service and Environmental Wardens in the Waste Management section.

PURE Project

189.44 tonnes collected to date
150 miles of road entered in 2017 PURE mile
Number of dumping incidents identified on covert CCTV during 2017 and these cases are now in Legal System for prosecution.

6. Transportation & Roads Infrastructure

TII	2017 allocation	Draw down at 20.11.17
National Roads		
Improvement		
N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment Scheme HD28 NS Pavement Renewals 2017 LA Eng Support	€985,000	€244,202
Maintenance		
NS Ordinary Maintenance 2017 NS Winter Maintenance 2017	€252,275	€80,202
Both NP & NS		
Support (Maintenance) 2017 Support (Winter Maintenance) 2017	€25,200	€11,324
NTA		
Strand Road Cycle, Bray	€298,000	€206,047
Vale Rd Wexford Rd /Main St Arklow	€60,000	€35,027

Ongoing publicity of project in National Press and Radio

Ex-hurricane Ophelia

Ex-hurricane Ophelia hit Wicklow on Monday the 16th October, 2017. A total of 116 calls were received throughout the day. 25 roads were closed around the County. In the Arklow Municipal District, major damage was done to the rock amour on North and South Beach, Arklow. Also damage was done to the crest on North Beach, Arklow. In the Greystones Municipal District damage was sustained to the slope at The Cove, Greystones. A recoupmnt claim was submitted to the Department on the 17th November, 2017 in the sum of €1,374,973.44 covering this damage and other costs i.e., clean up costs, emergency works, etc.

Overall the staff of Wicklow Local Authorities pulled together throughout both the ex-hurricane Ophelia and cleanup efforts. Offices remained opened despite loss of power and telephone communications in certain areas. All outdoor staff reported for duty and were available to attend various incidents. It is worth nothing that all staff remained safe during this time.

Dept of Transport Tourism & Sport		
Non National Road		
Road improvement Length: 64.5km	€3,466,297	€3,042,181
Road Maintenance Length: 56.4km	€952,823	€832,145
Discretionary Grant	€1,827,616	€1,827,616
Bridge Rehabilitation Works Rathdrum, Fortgranite Bridge, Cherrymount Bridge, Avoca, Rosnastraw Bridge, Tinahely, Roddenagh Bridge, Beech Road Bridge, White Road Bridge, Avoca Knockrath Bridge, Laragh; Griffinstown Bridge and Ballykilmurray Bridge	€204,000	€162,507
Safety Improvement Works Calary Upper, Roundwood, Church Road/Lane, Greystones, Main Street, Castlepark, Arklow, Adelaide and Florence Road Bray and Avoca	€310,000	€181,811

Local Improvement Scheme

A sum of €310,000 was allocated to Wicklow County Council under the Local Improvement Scheme.

Work is continuing on the seven schemes awarded under the Local Improvement Schemes with some roads completed and others due to be completed before end of year.

Community Involvement Schemes

Both roads under the Community Involvement Schemes have been completed.

N81 Baltinglass Resurfacing Works

The Baltinglass Resurfacing Works Scheme covers the section of the N81 between the Mart and a point just south of the L8379 Castledermot Junction. Surfacing Works on sections either side of the junction commenced on 27th October.

Bray

The Putland Road Scheme in Bray commenced during the first week of November. It is Contra Flow Cycle Scheme designed to provide improved and enhanced facilities for cyclists in and around the Strand Road area of the town and is to tie into the new and recently completed cycle scheme along the Bray seafront. Works have commenced on the new footpaths and shared areas with paving and road marking works to follow towards the end of November.

An application for a road closure by the contractor

has been made for elements of the work including works under the railway bridge.

Works to provide cycle facilities on the Bray Harbour Schools Access Scheme are well advanced with the section from Strand Road at Martello Terrace to the Harbour Bridge being substantially completed except for the installation of new lighting. A contractor has been appointed for completing section north of the harbour bridge and this commenced week beginning the 6th November. Land owner agreement has yet to be finalised.

Works for the new road junction onto the Dublin Road to service the new schools and the golf club lands are substantially completed. Schools are expected to open towards the end of November. Increased traffic delays on the Dublin Road are expected.

R755 Calary Upper Realignment

Resurfacing of Calary Lane following the installation of a new bridge was carried out on the 31st October. The roadway is now reopened to traffic.

Traffic & Transport

Drawings and documents for a Part 8 Planning Application for the expansion of the Herbert Road Car Park are currently being prepared. The proposal is to provide for approximately 100 additional parking spaces.

November 2017



Bridges

Works were carried out to three additional Bridges:- Knockrath Bridge, Laragh; Griffinstown Bridge and

Ballykilmurray Bridge. All 2017 bridge works are now complete.

Parking Income by Municipal District - Jan - Oct 2017	€
Income Florence Road Carpark Bray	207,750
Income Herbert Road Carpark Bray	120,148
Income North Beach Car Park - Strand Road Bray	38,237
Income Restricted Parking Bray	432,409
Income Parking Fines Bray	33,389
Income Residential/Special Parking Discs Bray	17,895
Bray Municipal District	849,828
Income Greystones Pay Parking Scheme	381,867
Greystones Municipal District	381,867
Income Parking Charges Wicklow	315,631
Income Residential Parking Disk Wicklow	5,930
Income Traffic Fines Wicklow	55,007
Wicklow Municipal District	376,567
Income Parking Traffic Fines Arklow	35,370
Income Pay Parking Fees And Permits Arklow	214,257
Arklow Municipal District	249,627
Wicklow County Council Total	1,857,890

Public Lighting

List of faults per Municipal District currently outstanding:

	Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attend)	3		2	4	5	14
Cable Fault (Attend)				2	1	3
ESB Requested (Attended)	16		18	15	13	62
Knock Down (Attended)	1					1
Materials required	4		19	7	10	40
No Supply	1	1	1	2		5
On Hold	8		1	10	2	21
Rectified	4		1		5	10
Submitted	54	18	103	63	73	311
Traffic Management required	3	1	4	6	10	24
Grand Total	94	20	149	109	119	491

November 2017



Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. Recruitment

Competition for the post of Craft Worker Plumber was held in November.

Recruitment Staff Numbers

	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017
Managerial/Administrative	246	245	246
Professional/Technical	103	109	109
Outdoor	305	311	311
Temporary/Seasonal	47	58	46
Non DOECLG	45	14	14
Total	746	737	726

(Excludes figures for Firefighters)

2. Access to Information

No. of FOI requests

October – 13

Jan to Oct. 2017 – 121

No. of Ombudsman Requests

October – 1

Jan to Oct. 2017 – 7

3. Register of Electors

Wicklow County Council met their obligations under the statutory deadline by publishing the Draft Register of Electors on www.checktheregister.ie and also in hard copy format in all libraries, council offices, post offices and garda stations by the 1st November 2017.

Following completion of the Draft Register, there were 100,027 electors in the system. 4,911 letters issued to those people that the fieldworkers were unsuccessful in contacting either through having moved out of the county or being unable to establish if they were still resident.

The Franchise Department are now busy actioning all of the replies generated from the 4,911 letters issued to constituents according to the information received on same. If new addresses are received

for other local authorities this information is forwarded to the relevant local authority. Likewise information is passed to Wicklow County Council from other local authorities and will be actioned as appropriate.

The closing date for receipt of correspondence for corrections, additions, amendments to the Draft Register was 25th November. Keying will cease and the I.T. Department will process the re-run of the Draft and run the duplicates list to have a final tally of electors on the Wicklow Draft Register. This file will be resubmitted to the Department for putting up on www.checktheregister.ie in order to reflect the changes made since the 1st November.

The Postal and Special Voters list are compiled after the 25th November where electors registered in nursing homes, army personnel, disabled voters living at home, postal voters by circumstance of occupation and the diplomatic service will be contacted to see if they wish to remain on or be removed from this list.

The Claims Court date has been set for mid December with the County Registrar.

4. Press Releases

September – 14 Press Releases

5. I.C.T. Report

IT Helpdesk

- Workflow analysis of IT Helpdesk function has been used to develop a working model for customer care & case management.
 - Monthly tickets handled have now reached 450 items
- #### Customer Relations Management (CRM)
- Workflow analysis in Environmental Services area has been used to develop a proof of concept in the use of Microsoft Dynamics.
 - This is expected to be trialled in a live environment in January 2018

Managed Print Service (MPS)

November 2017



- Renewal of MPS is progressing. Vendor neutral audit of print requirement complete and request for tenders is to be published this month. Closing date is early December with roll-out of new devices expected in January

Unified Communications

- Voice over IP phone solution has been extended to main Council sites across county Wicklow. This includes Bray MD, Greystones MD, Arklow MD.

Data Collection Systems

- Data collection systems using mobile devices have been used for the Register of Electors.
- Other trials including in Housing and Roads departments are underway.
- Housing Condition Survey being finalised while the first roads project is now live.

6. Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST OCTOBER 2017							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to date	Actual income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to date	
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
A - Housing and Building	14,136,781	17,165,654	82	17,449,120	21,679,785	80	-3,312,339
B - Road Transport & Safety	14,464,465	18,159,414	80	7,180,351	10,499,393	68	7,284,114
C - Water Services	4,474,659	6,327,118	71	5,163,584	7,449,560	69	-688,924
D - Development Management	6,747,886	9,293,470	73	3,674,500	4,739,275	78	3,073,387
E - Environmental Services	7,967,383	10,110,290	79	1,304,475	1,721,900	76	6,662,907
F - Recreation and Amenity	4,915,040	6,108,501	80	439,379	464,910	95	4,475,661
G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	944,600	1,329,599	71	537,830	717,428	75	406,770
H - Miscellaneous Services	9,515,430	11,551,758	82	6,243,925	6,945,323	90	3,271,505
J - Central Management Charges	12,659,223	15,165,742	83	878,403	1,209,411	73	11,780,820
LG - Local Government Fund				10,437,215	11,958,514	87	-10,437,215
PL - Pension Levy				75,290	-		-75,290
RA - Commercial Rates				23,121,584	27,976,047	83	-23,121,584
	75,825,467	95,211,546	80	(76,505,655)	(95,361,546)	80	-680,188

8. Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT				
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST OCTOBER 2017				
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2017	Actual Expenditure	Actual income	Closing Balance at 31/10/2017
	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	15,538,901	13,290,477	(3,139,356)	25,690,022
Road Transport & Safety	-33,175,607	3,421,055	(5,428,867)	-35,183,419
Water Services	-7,079,808	279,999	(1,560,609)	-8,360,418
Development Management	-8,973,752	583,986	(788,697)	-9,178,463
Environmental Services	877,533	14,165,656	(12,383,661)	2,659,528
Recreation and Amenity	2,162,143	1,807,997	(3,033,555)	936,585
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	-483,714	167,590	(291,464)	-607,588
Miscellaneous Services	-11,596,917	2,330,290	(2,451,925)	-11,718,552
	-42,731,221	36,047,050	(29,078,134)	-35,762,304

9. Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31st OCTOBER 2017									
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2017	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/10/2017	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	8,307,373	27,742,651		(2,000)	36,052,025	21,093,791	14,958,234		59%
Rents & Annuities	1,407,659	11,393,694		(644)	12,800,709	11,395,101	1,405,608		89%
Housing Loans	398,441	1,043,572			1,442,013	1,021,776	420,237		71%

N.B.
 Vacancy Property Adjustments are accounted for as part of year end procedure.
 Specific doubtful arrears = (i) Vacancy applications pending/criteria not met & (ii) Accounts in examinership/receivership/liquidation and no communication and are accounted for as part of year end procedure.

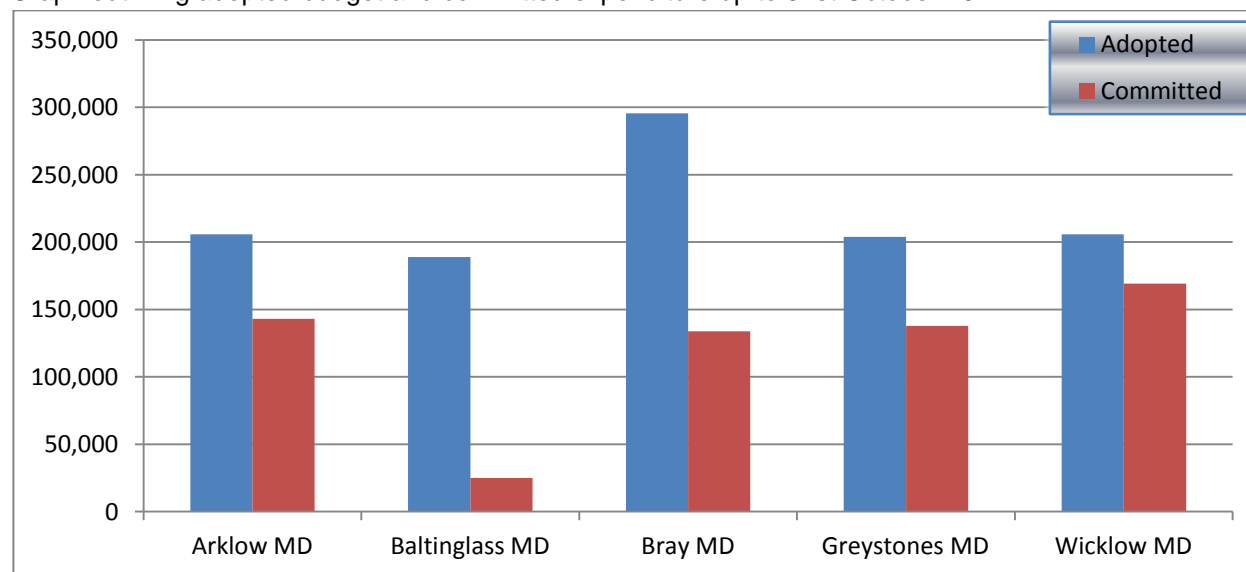
10. Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st October 2017 to 31st October 2017.

11. General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2017

Adopted Estimate 2017 €1,099,500

Graph outlining adopted budget and committed expenditure up to 31st October 2017.



Municipal District	C/F from 2016	Adopted	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	(30,746)	205,750	143,092	62,658
Baltinglass MD	(20,339)	188,750	25,053	163,697
Bray MD	(126,929)	295,500	133,705	161,795
Greystones MD	(15,205)	203,750	137,774	65,976
Wicklow MD	(87,198)	205,750	169,242	36,508
Total	(280,417)	1,099,500	608,865	490,635

November 2017

