

Initial Draft
Annual
Report
2007

Westmeath Local Authorities Annual Report 2007

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Cathaoirleach and County Manager's Introduction

We are pleased to introduce Westmeath Local Authorities Annual Report for 2007. This was an eventful year for the Authorities as they seek to deliver quality and cost effective services. The scale & diversity of activities outlined in this report reflect the ongoing development of Westmeath as a vibrant and attractive County.

In 2007 the Council continued to deliver on important elements of the National Development Plan with major improvements on National Primary Routes, including completion of N6 Kilbeggan to Athlone dual carriageway and commencement of N6 Kilbeggan to Athlone Section. In addition significant investment was expended on water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure to support economic development, housing supply, and urban and village renewal. Waste Management continues to play a pivotal role in our activities, which is demonstrated with the completions of Mullingar Civic Amenity Centre and the extension to Ballydonagh Landfill Site.

The Council continued to develop and support an enterprise culture within the County in conjunction with the various agencies and interests with the provision of a Business Park in Ballynacargy and with the commencement of an Enterprise Centre in Mullingar. The preparation of a new Development Plan 2008 – 2014 together with the completion of a review of the County Retail Strategy, which takes cognisance of Mullingar & Athlone's status as part of the Midland Gateway will further facilitate the development of the County as well as the preservation and improvement of the quality of life for all its citizens.

In the context of sustainable communities the Council expanded its community initiatives with the introduction of the inaugural annual Cathaoirleach Awards Scheme which recognises individuals who bring additionality to their communities through active citizenship.

The adoption of a Play Policy by the Council in 2007 will considerably enhance the development of recreational facilities within the County. In this regard contracts were signed for the provision of playground facilities in Castlepollard, Kilbeggan, Moate and Mullingar. The Council in association with the F.A.I. and the Department of Arts Sports and Tourism developed four Multi -Use Games Areas, two in Mullingar and two in Athlone. The planned development of a new Integrated Sports Centre in Mullingar was also progressed.

The new Civic Headquarters commenced in late 2007, which on completion will provide an integrated service delivery centre with ultra modern facilities for both staff and customers.

We wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work and dedication of the elected members of the Council together with the members of the various Strategy Policy Committees and County Development Board during the year. We would also like to thank all members of staff for their continued co-operation and commitment throughout the year.

Finally we would like to acknowledge the contribution of Senator Nicky McFadden & Susan Murray who stepped down from the Council during the year. We wish them well for the future.

Cathaoirleach

County Manager

Membership of the Council

Councillors Names & Photos + map of county to be inserted

Meetings of the Council

At the Annual Meeting in June Cllr. Michael Dollard was elected Cathaoirleach. There were 22 full Council meetings held in 2007 including the Annual Meeting, Budget Meeting and Finance Committee Meetings.

The Corporate Policy Group met on 12 occasions during 2007.

Representatives of the Council attended a total of 43 conferences during 2007. The total cost of conference fees amounted to €29,569 (Details of conferences attended are contained in appendix 4). Council Membership of Committees and other Bodies is detailed in Appendix 2.

Strategic Policy Committees

The following information will be put in tabular format when the report is designed.

17 no. SPC Meetings were held during 2007. (Membership of SPCs detailed in Appendix 3)

Housing Social and Cultural SPC

The Housing Social and Cultural SPC met on four occasions during 2006 and examined a wide range of topics within their remit. The most demanding area was the review of the draft byelaws under the Maritime Safety Act to control power boat usage on the lakes within Westmeath. A sub-committee of the SPC was formed and was extended to include other interested groups for example Shannon Regional Fisheries Board, Waterways Ireland and the local Water Safety Committee and the Waterways Section of the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government. Other issues examined included the New Housing Grants Scheme, Estate Management Policy, Housing Activity in the areas of Construction, Acquisition, Affordable Houses and RAS accommodation.

Environment SPC

The Environment SPC met on four occasions during 2007. The following are the main topics presented for discussion during the year:

Launch of Community Warden Service

Environment Awareness Plan 2007

Burial Ground Byelaws

Water Framework Directive.

Regional Waste Management Plan 2005 – 2010

Brown Bin Pilot Scheme

Report in respect to Litter Pollution Act

Farm Plastic and Animal Healthcare Collection Scheme

Presentation of Waste Bye laws

Transportation and Infrastructure SPC

Four meetings of the Strategic Policy group were held during 2006 with the following major items being considered.

- Update on Water Services Programme
- Update on Major Road Projects
- Draft Water & Waste Water Bye-Laws 2007
- Provision of Bus Shelters

- Broadband Policy – Provision of Access to Council Sites and Infrastructure for Rollout of Wireless Broadband
- Special Speed Limits
- Tourist Signposting
- Planning & Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act, 2006.
- Water Services Act 2007.
- EU Representative Project.
- Septic Tank Bye Laws.

Economic Development and Planning SPC

The Committee held five meetings during 2007 considered the following: -

- Development Contribution Schemes
- Supplementary Development Contribution Schemes
- Review of County Development Plan
- Control of Quarries
- Retail Strategy
- Planning Enforcement
- Implementation of Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines Mullingar

Westmeath County Development Board

The Board met on four occasions during 2007. Cllr. Michael Dollard assumed the Chair from Cllr. Joe Flanagan in June 2007. The following formed the work for the year 2007.

- ❑ Endorsement of local development agency plans 2007
- ❑ Report on the Mullingar Youth Forum/Youth Café
- ❑ Presentation on the Research project on the needs of people with disabilities regarding training etc.
- ❑ Westmeath Play Policy and Playground Provision Scheme
- ❑ Sports and Recreation Strategy, Local Sports Partnership
- ❑ Presentation on Westmeath Arts Plan
- ❑ Enterprise Sub Group Report – Enterprise Space Study.
- ❑ Established CDB Disability Monitoring Group
- ❑ Progressed the Cohesion of Athlone Community Taskforce and Westmeath Community Development.
- ❑ Monitoring of the Rapid Implementation Programme in Athlone
- ❑ The CDB also received updates on other projects in the 3 year action plan:
 - Volunteerism Project
 - Older People Project update
 - Open Door, Mullingar project

The CDB also monitors the work of the SIM group and Rapid.

(see CDB annual report for details on www.westmeathcoco.ie/cdb)

Corporate Services & Human Resources

Westmeath County Council advanced the modernisation agenda during 2007 with the support and assistance of the Corporate Services/HR Department, who liaise with all departments on a wide range of change issues. The Corporate Services/HR Department has overall responsibility for the delivery on customer service, change processes, communications, and improvements in operations and efficiency in the provision of our services.

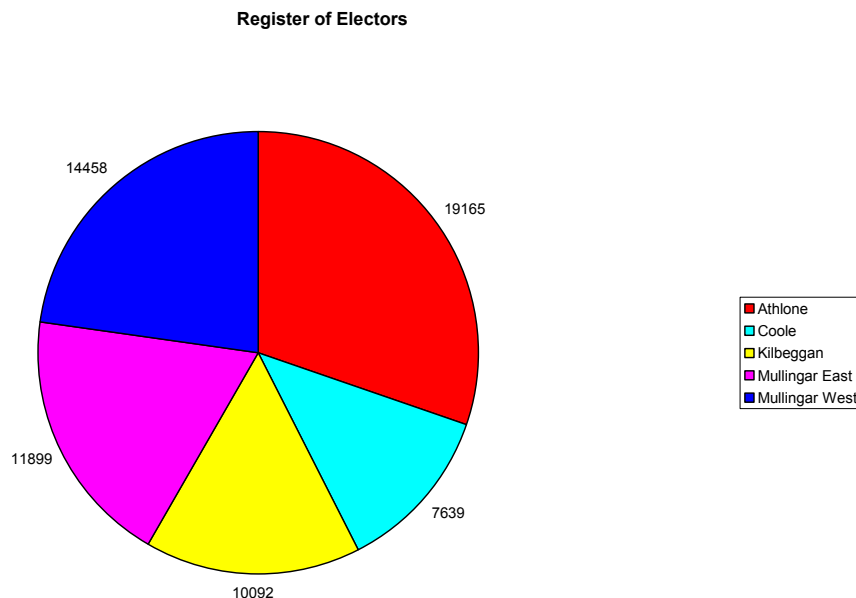
Quality Customer Service

In 2007 we commenced a review of customer Services focusing on the following initiatives:

- Audit of Telephone systems and implementation of reporting.
- Introduction of a new Customer Contact Management System to manage and monitor contacts and complaints.
- Review of Customer Service Action Plan
- Review of Performance Management System

Register of Electors

Corporate Services Department compiles the Register of Electors annually. The total no. of Electors registered on the 2007/2008 Register of Electors was 63253 and the breakdown of this figure across the five electoral areas is outlined in the chart below:



Higher Education Grants

Westmeath Local Authorities administers the Higher Education Grant Scheme on behalf of the Department of Education and Science.

Grants	2007
New Grants Awarded	172
Grants Renewed	352

Freedom of Information

Requests on hands at 31 st Dec 06	3
Requests received in 2007	13
Requests granted	11
Requests part granted	4
Requests refused	1
Requests on hand at 31 st Dec 07	0

Office of the Ombudsman

9 No. of complaints received and processed during 2007

Media

Throughout 2007 the Council continued to provide access for the public to more and more information through the Councils website www.westmeathcoco.ie. A total of 39 Press releases were issued during 2007.

Mullingar Civic Offices

Work commenced in August 2007 on the new Civic Offices for Westmeath County Council. This state of the art sustainable building will accommodate all the headquarter sections of the Council, the Mullingar Area Office & a new Mullingar Branch Library. The building will comprise of approx. 7000 square meters of public & office space & will significantly contribute to the revitalisation of the Gaol Hill/Mount Street area. The building is scheduled for completion by May 2009.

Human Resources

The Department was very active in 2007 in the recruitment and selection process for a wide range of grades and roles within the organisation ranging from general service grades, clerical/administrative grades to professional/technical grades with a total of 67 recruited in 2007.

Recruitment Performance Indicators 2007

Interview Competitions Held - 37

Number attended for interview - 527

New Staff Appointed - 67

Staff Left - 50

Permanent Staff Promotions - 13

Employee Assistance Programme

The Employee Relations Programme was reviewed and was relaunched in April 2007. It continues to provide discrete, confidential professional support to staff.

Work life Balance

No of staff who availed of the following Family Friendly Initiatives in 2007:

- Work sharing 29
- Parental Leave 7
- Career Breaks 8

Attendance Management

In 2007 the Attendance Management Policy was published providing guidelines on the application of timekeeping and attendance procedures for employees.

- **Attendance Management Statistics 2006**
 - Level of certified sick leave 3.02 %
 - Level of uncertified sick leave 0.61

Partnership and Handling Significant Change

The Partnership Committee adopted a comprehensive action plan in 2007 which included the development of projects to the mutual benefit of staff, customer and organisation.

During 2007, agreement was reached with staff representatives on the implementation of significant change initiatives in the areas of:

- Operation & management of Mullingar Civic Amenity Site
- Mullingar Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Non Domestic Water Meter Reading

Discussions commenced during the year on change initiatives design to improve the quality of customer services & VFM in the areas of:

- Road Sweeping
- Pre-Letting Repairs

It is anticipated that these change projects will be agreed by end of the first quarter of 2008.

Training and Development

A comprehensive training plan was published in 2007 focusing on organizational, health and safety and personal developmental objectives. 4.68% of payroll was spent on training needs identified through the PMDS process.

Information & Communications Technologies

During 2007 the following activities were progressed/completed:-

- Development work on the new intranet was largely completed by year-end with the assistance of an In-House Review Group.
- Spatial data services were upgraded both in-house with the launch of the Spatial intranet and on our website with the introduction of Location Publisher.
- Policy adopted by Council to facilitate providers of broadband services by granting access to Council infrastructure to facilitate broadband rollout to areas not already covered by broadband coverage. The Council also connected three of its offices to the Mullingar Metropolitan Area Network, improving ICT services to staff running key line of business applications.
- Establishment of dedicated Project Team to carry out preparation work on a major national H.R/Payroll/Superannuation IT System.
- Work on the e-Representative project (www.erepresentative.org) continued with pilot testing taking place in the Council's Transportation & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee. The Council also hosted a meeting of the project consortium with representatives from the nine partners from across Europe participating.

Community and Enterprise Section

Community Grants and Cathaoirleach's Awards

(PHOTOS to be inserted)

In 2007 Westmeath County Council introduced the Cathaoirleach's Award Scheme for the first time in order to celebrate the work and successes achieved by individuals in the community. On the 7th June this unique event for Westmeath County Council attracted over 300 people to Belvedere House, Gardens and Park to celebrate the awardees, honour the Pride of Place entrants, the School Garden Pride of Place and announce the grant recipients.

Pride of Place This was the second time for Westmeath to participate in the Pride of Place competition with representation from Belvedere, St. Kierans Athlone, Youth Project in Battery Heights, Tyrrellspass and Crookedwood. Westmeath County Council supported and coordinated the programme at a local level with all Ireland coordination provided by Co-Operation Ireland. Crookedwood was short listed in their category.

Community and Voluntary Forum

The Area Fora (Kilbeggan, Coole, Athlone and Mullingar) met a number of times and delivered their submissions to Westmeath County Council area committees and were part of the consultative process for the Review of the County Development Plan. The County Forum held five meetings. A successful newsletter was produced in July 2007.

Disability Implementation Plan

Westmeath Local Authorities Disability Implementation Plan 2008 – 2015 was completed and submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in July 2007.

The Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government provided funding in the sum of €320,280 to implement actions in accordance with the objectives of the Disability Act.

Some of the works undertaken by the Council with the assistance of the Disability Fund are as follows: -

- Mullingar – Improved accessibility at the Green Bridge, pedestrian crossing
- Athlone – Improvement works at Retreat Road, Market Place, Custume Place and Fry Street/Connelly Street market place, Athlone demarcate pedestrian walkway over railway bridge.
- Moate – Upgrading of existing footpaths and pedestrian crossing
- Ballymore – New footpath from school to Council Housing development
- Collinstown – Pedestrian crossing.

Active Citizenship - Comhairle na nÓg and Junior County Council

In 2007 Over 73% of Secondary Schools attended and many young people from disadvantaged target groups.

The Electoral Area structure facilitates the election of delegates to attend a yearly national event to voice the concerns of Westmeath's youth to the Minister for Children. In addition the Junior County Council has representatives on Comhairle na nÓg which is an important linkage for the schools.

Enterprise

- The Council continued to encourage and support the development of an enterprise culture within the county in conjunction with the various agencies and interests for e.g. provision of new Business Park in Ballynacarrigy by the development of ten serviced sites.
- Commencement of negotiations for new Business Park development in Castlepollard to provide start-up incubation space for small businesses.
- The development of the first phase of the new Enterprise Centre at Clonmore in Mullingar, to provide an initial 17 units, is currently under construction.
- A Rolling Enterprise Fund of €1m in 2007 to assist enterprise development was approved.

Sport, Recreation and Leisure

- In January 2007, the Council adopted a Play Policy that paves the way for the development of recreational infrastructure around the county in the coming years. Contracts for the provision of playground facilities in Castlepollard, Kilbeggan, Moate and Mullingar were signed in 2007.
- The Council progressed in conjunction with the FAI and the Department of Arts Sports and Tourism, the development of four Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA's) in the County. Two of the state of the art facilities were installed in Athlone and two in Mullingar, at an estimated all in cost of €452,000. The four pitches were completed in December 2007.
- Completed agreement with the FAI for the appointment of an "FAI Football in the Community Development Officer" with a focus on disadvantaged areas and Social Inclusion.
- John Delaney, Chief Executive Officer of the FAI visited a number of sites in Westmeath where the Council are assisting in the provision of land for sporting activities i.e. Kinnegad, Raharney and Delvin.
- Commencement of process for the development of a new Integrated Sports & Leisure Complex in Mullingar. The project is to provide sporting and leisure infrastructure on a scale necessary to cater for the existing and future population of Mullingar and environs.
- The Council continued its management role in conjunction with Westmeath Community Development Ltd., in respect of the Westmeath Way walking route between Kilbeggan and Mullingar.

Tourism

The Council in 2007 engaged with Failte Ireland, East and Midlands Region in the development of two pilot projects in the county, namely:

- The establishment of Mullingar as a Category One Cycling Hub Town, which has identified specific cycle-friendly routes around the town. bike stands, bike hire and repair services, maps & guides and arranged tours, to encourage the public to explore the area by cycle.
- The development of Athlone as a Centre of Angling Excellence and an initial project at “The Meadows” involving refurbishment of existing angling facilities, has been approved by Failte Ireland for funding.

Bus Service

Westmeath County Council in assessing the potential for a bus service in Mullingar carried out a comprehensive survey and has invited interested parties to submit information on the costs to operate a pilot bus service in the town. Submissions received in December 2007, will be considered by the Council to determine the next steps to be taken in progressing this project.

Housing Social & Cultural Affairs

Housing Construction

Last year was extremely active one for the Housing Department with the completion of 72 units at various locations throughout the county. The Council also purchased 25 second hand properties and received another 36 units under part V. The major developments were in Dalton Park (30) Mullingar (30) Rochfortbridge (18) and Moate (14). All of these developments were finished to a high standard.

Various schemes totalling 166 were also commenced in 2007 which are due for completion in 2008. This includes a major mixed tenure development of 81 units at Farronshock, Mullingar, 58 units at Boreen Bradack, Kinnegad, 11 units at Clonmellon, 8 units at Delvin, plus some rural houses.

Housing Allocations

The total housing stock at the end of 2007 was 1067. During the year 170 units were allocated to new tenants consisting of newly constructed units and casual vacancies in our stock.

Housing Maintenance

In addition to routine maintenance of our housing stock of over 1000 units, the council completed major improvements to our older housing stock with the installation of central heating. Over 300 units have now being provided with central heating as well as an ongoing window and door replacement programme. The total expenditure on routine housing maintenance amounted to €380,000. In addition €180,000 was expended on Planned Maintenance Programmes.

Rental Accommodation Scheme

The Rental Accommodation Scheme commonly know as the RAS has become an increasing attractive option for our housing applicants with over 100 accommodated under the scheme at the end of 2007. Applicants under the scheme have greater choice about the location where they want to live.

Part V Planning and Development Acts

Thirty six number units were delivered under Part V in a mix of location and developments around the county in Athlone, Moate, and Rathwire with contracts signed for the delivery of more units at these locations for Mullingar, Kilbeggan, Delvin, Castlepollard and Clonmellon.

Disabled Persons and Essential Repairs Grant Schemes

In 2007 Westmeath County Council received 195 applications for Disabled Persons Grants and 140 applications for Essential Repairs Grants. A total of €1.7 million was spent on these grants in 2007.

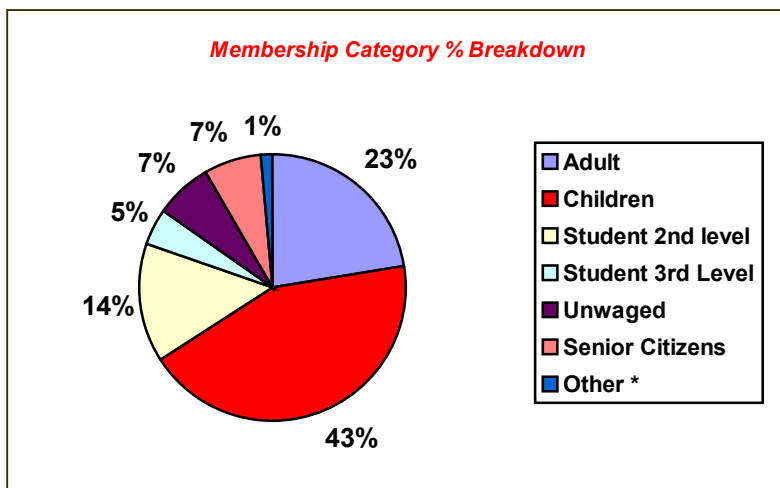
Library Service

Customer Service

The full time libraries were open a total of 6,488.25 hours in 2007 an average of 38.65 hours per week, while the part - time libraries were open a total 3,205 an average of 16.31 hours per week . During the last quarter of 2007, in line with our commitment to improve services to our customers, Kilbeggan Library's opening hours were extended to 30 hours per week. The library is now open late two nights per week and also has lunchtime opening on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Membership and Loans

Membership of the Library Service was 12,367, a drop of 1% on the previous year. A drop in membership was experienced by both Athlone and Mullingar libraries while all other libraries increased their membership .



(* Other Category = block loans, adult literacy tutors & special needs)

The branch library network lent 274,968 books and audio visual items while the schools library service visited 89 primary schools and lent a total of 20,767 books.

15,633 books and audio visual items were purchased and added to stock during 2007.

Public Access to Computers

12,460 internet sessions were booked by the public during the year .

An additional number of non internet sessions were also booked by people availing of the computer facilities to access the Driver Theory Test ,the OSI maps online and language courses . Staff in Athlone, Castlepollard and Mullingar libraries offered Lifesteps Computer sessions to members of the public keen to familiarise themselves with the internet for the first time .

Local Studies / Archives Service

There were 596 visits to the local studies department at Library HQ while Athlone Library which holds the local studies collection for South Westmeath dealt with 340 personal callers and a further 235 email / phone call queries.

A wide range of archival items were processed and microfilmed to enable greater public access to this material.

Cultural Events Programme

All branch libraries held an extensive range of events to highlight and develop the ethos of the library as *an inclusive community space for all*.

Arts Development Programme

Artists Bursaries ,Arts Act Grants & Artist in Context Residency Scheme

In 2007 32 Westmeath Artists received bursaries to develop their own professional practise and work in the County. 33 Grants were allocated to local groups for assistance in relation to various arts projects around the County. The residency scheme enabled various types of groups and organisations to work with an artist on a particular project over a three-month period. In 2007 a diverse range of programmes across disciplines were offered to 7 primary schools, 6 Health Care Centres and 4 Community Groups.

Public Art

Two Pieces of Public sculpture were commissioned in 2007. **“Passage”** A New Public Art Work Commissioned by Westmeath County Council for N6 Phase 1 Kinnegad to Kilbeggan by Irish Bog Oak sculptor Brain O’Loughlin and **“The Turf Cutter”** by Barry Wrafter, on the N52 at Belvedere

Mullingar Arts Centre

During the year 2007 over 92,000 people attended events at Mullingar Arts Centre including 82 professional theatrical events and 24 amateur events. Mullingar Student Players staged the musical Little Shop of Horrors. In 2007 after an absence of 20 years a new group, Mullingar Pantomime Group, staged a Christmas Pantomime, Cinderella for eight performances in December.

In addition, the 2007 Regional, Leinster and All Irelands of Scoil Dramaiochta, St. Colman’s Credit Union Primary Schools Drama competition, Siamsa Gael Linn, The Briary Gap Festival, Cinema for the elderly have all been held in the Arts Centre.

A variety of Visual Arts classes were also conducted with over 435 participants. Arts Appreciation in seven disciplines was provided to nine National Schools in the County with a total participation of 220 students.

Belvedere House

- Belvedere moves into a new era with visitor numbers having risen by 80% since end 2003 to over 160,000 in 2007. Belvedere is constantly adapting to new tourism trends and has successfully operated a Calendar of Events for past four years.
- Belvedere currently has over 3,000 annual members.
- In 2007 Belvedere hosted: Midlands Garden Festival which was attended by 25,000 over the weekend, also Midland Music Festival with POD Promotions. 17’000 people attended Midlands Music Festival, headlined by world famous acts including Christy Moore, Kris Kristofferson, Glen Campbell and Paul Brady.

- The hosting of such international music festivals raises the profile of Belvedere, Mullingar and Westmeath and generates a 5- 8 million euro spin off into the local economy over the weekend of the event. Belvedere's total value to the local economy on an annual basis was between €9 million and €9.2 million euro. Belvedere is proud to achieve the above while receiving support of less than 1/3 of 1% of total annual revenue spend from Westmeath County Council.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Road Construction and Maintenance

Westmeath County Council is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of roads in the county. Expenditure on this road network in 2007 amounted to €124 million. Funding of €107 million was provided by the National Roads Authority towards the national roads while the Department of Transport and Westmeath County Council provided €17 million toward the Regional and Local road network.

Major Projects

In accordance with European, National and Regional road objectives set out in the National Spatial Strategy, the National Development Plan, and The County Development Plan, the Council progressed a number of major road projects in 2007 including the following:

- **N6 - Kinnegad to Kilbeggan.**

This 28 km section of major inter urban (Dublin – Galway) dual carriageway was completed and opened to traffic in May 2007. Completion of this project almost one year ahead of schedule was a major achievement by the Council, the National Roads Authority and the Contractor, Ascon Ltd.

- **N6 – Kilbeggan to Athlone.**

Construction work on this 28 km section of dual carriageway continued during 2007. The project is well ahead of schedule and is expected to be open to traffic in the third quarter of 2008.

- **N4 – Kinnegad to Mullingar**

Traffic on the N4 has increased significantly in recent years and the existing median openings and junctions on a 5 km section at The Downs, Mullingar, are now a safety concern. Westmeath County Council in association with the National Roads Authority are examining the closure of these median openings and the provision of a grade separated junction. Design consultants were engaged, preliminary surveys undertaken and public consultation held in 2007.

- **N4 – Mullingar to Longford**

Westmeath County Council, in partnership with Longford County Council and in association with the National Roads Authority, are promoting a scheme to upgrade approximately 50km of the N4 National Primary Road between Mullingar and Tomiskey, County Longford. This proposed road will link the N4 Mullingar Bypass to the newly constructed N4 Dromod-Roosky Scheme . Preliminary work undertaken in 2007 included, engagement of design consultants, survey, a constraints study, public consultation and identification of various route options.

- **N52 – Mullingar to Belvedere**

This scheme which involved the construction of 4.2 km of single carriageway, extending south from the N52 Mullingar Bypass at Tullanisky and connecting to the existing N52 at Carrick bridge was completed and opened to traffic.

- **N52 – Carrick to Clonfad Td.**

This scheme will improve that section of the N52, between Carrick Bridge and the northern-most point of N52 link road, constructed as part of the Kinnegad to Kilbeggan Scheme, at Dalystown. Planning for this scheme progressed to selection of the preferred route.

- **N52 – Mullingar to Clonmellon**

Realignment of a 2 km section of this road at Macetown, Mullingar, was completed and opened in November 2007.

- **Athlone**

Construction of phase 1 of an Inner Relief road north of the town centre was completed with major improvements to the adjacent Crescent junction and Glesson Street.

- **Other Road Projects**

Planning and design work for a number of other road projects was advanced during 2007. National road project advanced included, Rathconnell Mullingar on the N52 and Fandrum to Ballinahown on the N61. Non national projects included, Garycastle Bridge Athlone, and the Clonmore and Robinstown link roads Mullingar. Improvement works were undertaken on 26 Local Improvement Schemes benefiting 47 families.

Road Maintenance

Maintenance and improvement work on the 2,200 km. of road network in the county undertaken in 2007 included 117km. surface dressing, 86km Road Restoration, 16km Surface Restoration

Additional road maintenance included Road Drainage, Street Sweeping, Public lighting, Winter gritting, Weed and verge maintenance, Bridge repairs, Road sign maintenance, Traffic management schemes, provision of additional car parking, etc.

Road Safety Strategy

The preparation of a road safety strategy for the County, involving the Gardai, HSE and other external agencies, was advanced during 2007 and is due for publication in 2008. Specific Road safety improvement were undertaken at a number of locations where hazards were identified such as sight distances improvements on the N52 (Mullingar to Delvin) and a number of junctions, etc. All of the major road improvement projects and maintenance works undertaken by the Council have a significant positive impact on safety of road network in the County.

Water Services

Maintenance of Water Services

In 2007, Westmeath County Council produced over 13,000 m³/day of drinking water to a population of 60,000, from five water supply sources which serves all of the major towns and villages in the county as well as an extensive rural network. Waste water was also collected from 8,000 premises and treated by 23 waste water treatment plants. The total cost of maintaining this water services infrastructure in 2007 was €12 m.

The standard of drinking water in Westmeath is monitored by the HSE on behalf of Westmeath County Council, and the results are published by the EPA which indicated a very satisfactory standard of drinking water in the County. The water treatment plant at Lough Owel includes microfiltration technology to protect against contamination by *Cryptosporidium*. In order to provide for an increased level of security on the remaining public water supplies, the Council installed ultraviolet disinfection systems at its water treatment plants to reduce the risk of *Cryptosporidium* contamination. The introduction of new Drinking Water Regulations required more stringent

systems of monitoring drinking water including monitoring requirements for group schemes and some private water supplies. New legislation, requiring the Council to seek licences from the EPA for discharge from waste water treatment plants was also introduced in 2007.

Water Services Investment Programme

The provision and upgrading of water services infrastructure is critical in facilitating the future development of the County. Under the National Water Services Investment Programme, 2007 – 2009, it is estimated that €219m will be invested in water services infrastructure in the County. During 2007 the following schemes were progressed:

- **Athlone Water Treatment**

Increasing the capacity of the water treatment plant in Athlone from 2 million gallons per day (MGD) to 3 MGD was completed in 2007 at a cost of €4.0 m

- **Rochfortbridge and Clonmellon Sewerage Schemes**

Construction work to upgrade these schemes was in progress and scheduled for completion in early 2008.

- **Castletown-Geoghegan Sewerage Scheme**

Construction work on provision of a new sewerage scheme for the village of Castletown Geoghegan commenced during the year.

- **Non Domestic Metering Project**

Installation of meters on all non domestic premises in progress and charges based on meter reading will commence in 2008.

- **Water Conservation**

A project to reduce the volume of unaccounted water from the water supply networks continued in 2007.

Projects at Planning and Design

A number of other projects for the provision or upgrading of water and sewerage schemes were advanced during the year, these included:

- Mullingar Sewerage Improvement
- Athlone Main Drainage
- South Westmeath Water
- Glasson / Ballykeeran Sewerage
- Delvin Sewerage
- Moate Sewerage
- Kilbeggan Sewerage
- Rathowen Sewerage
- Milltownpass Sewerage
- Coole Sewerage
- Finnea Sewerage

Rural Water Programme

The Rural Water Programme facilitates the development of water services in rural areas of the County and expenditure on this programme in 2007 was €2 million. Through the rural water programme the Council facilitated:

- The construction of 11 No new group water schemes serving 131 houses.

- Upgrade and taking in charge of 11 No existing group water schemes.
- 42 No grants towards provision of private water supply wells.
- Upgrading of existing water services under the small schemes programme.

Environment

Community Warden Service

Westmeath Local Authorities launched the Community Warden Service in January 2007. The development of the Community Warden service is an expansion of the previous role fulfilled by the Litter Wardens. The Wardens role encompasses not only enforcement but also provision of additional services to the community. Community Wardens are designated as ‘Authorised Persons’ under a range of legislation giving them essential powers and functions. Activities involve the Community Wardens interacting with the Public, Voluntary bodies, Councillors, Area Staff etc on a daily basis.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS & EDUCATION

Highlights

Green School’s Programme

The participation of schools in the Green Schools Programme increased during 2007 with 61 primary schools (rising to 72% from 62%) and 13 secondary schools (rising to 81% from 73%) registered at the end of 2007. The number of schools with green flag status rose to 30 during the same period. A Blue Flag Art Competition confined to schools undertaking the Water Theme of the Green Schools Programme created awareness of the programme. The winning entrants will be displayed at the Blue Flag Marina in Athlone during 2008.

Tidy Town’s Merit Awards & Tidy Estate Competition

The Tidy Towns Merit Awards are hosted by Westmeath County Council to recognise the commitment and dedication of local groups and to celebrate their achievements at local and national levels in the Tidy Towns competition. 35 towns and villages entered the national competition. A Tidy Estate Competition was run in Mullingar and 46 Residents Associations applied for funding to maintain the upkeep of their estates.

Local Agenda 21 Programme

Ten groups were awarded funding totalling €15,122 (50% funded by the Council and 50% funded by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government) under the Local Agenda 21 Programme for projects which supported and compliment national environmental policies such as those on Waste, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Air, Water, Sustainable Development etc.

Anti Litter Projects

Funding of €23,000 was received from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for Anti Litter Projects including ‘Litter and the Law’ Leaflet, Anti Litter Radio Advertisements, Anti-Litter Cinema Campaign and Community Clean Ups.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

Waste Enforcement & Litter Control

A total of 1423 environmental complaints and enforcement issues were received and investigated by enforcement staff during 2007. Of the 1423 complaints 418 required enforcement procedures (legal notice, fine, prosecution). In 2007 a total of 263 on the spot fines were issued with 61 prosecutions taken.

Waste Management Regulations 1998-2006

Regulatory activities under these Regulations include the following:

14 Permit Applications were received and processed.

105 Retailer Applications re Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment were processed and approved.

7 Vehicle Checkpoints were conducted in conjunction with the Gardai and other agencies.

24 applications were received from producers of end-of-life vehicles.

Audit was undertaken of all domestic waste collectors within the county.

Derelict Sites

A detailed review of all existing Derelict Site files commenced in May 2007.

Since this review began files have been created in respect to **101** new sites, currently there are **159** Active/Open files with **31** sites being formally registered and **128** sites going through the process of registration. Following works carried out by owners 61 sites were removed from the register, as they were deemed non-derelict. Going forward Legal proceedings will be pursued including the collection of levies where sites continue to remain derelict with the inspection of sites being extended across the county.

Pollution Control

General Activities

During the course of 2007 the pollution control team investigated a total of 179 complaints in relation to water, air and noise pollution.

Issued a total of 110 warning letters, and 12 enforcement notices. In addition to the aforementioned there are 36 discharge licences to water currently on our register and 15 licences to sewer and 7 air emission licences.

Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive is now the main legislative driver in the area of water quality management in Europe. All waters in Westmeath must achieve high or good status for all waters by 2015. During 2007 we have engaged with our stakeholders in the Shannon and Eastern River Basin Districts and have implemented an agreed monitoring programme for Westmeath. We also engaged the Public Consultation process on the key Water Management Issues and attended the public meeting in Athlone in October. The pollution control team continued surveillance of industrial discharges and farm pollution during the year. This work together with the installation and upgrade of the Waste Water Treatment Plants in the County is critical in order to achieve the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

Bathing Waters

The Pollution Control team currently monitors three designated bathing water sites The Cut (Lough Lene) Lilliput (Lough Ennell) and Portnashangan (Lough Owel) In addition the team monitor Coosan (Lough Ree). This site is awaiting designation as a bathing water site from the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Bin Collection Service

Westmeath Local Authorities alternate week bin collection service operated very successfully in 2007. The scheme is managed by Westmeath Local Authorities and the bins are collected, under contract, by Allied Waste Management Ltd, Oldcastle, County Meath. During 2007 the weights collected were as follows:

Grey refuse bins:	Weight collected	=9600 tonnes
Recycling bins:	Weight collected	=2300 tonnes

Brown Bin Pilot Project

The Brown Bin Pilot Project introduced in October 2006 was continued during 2007 but due to relatively low levels of participation by customers and ongoing national review of waste policy it has been decided not to roll out the service at present to all areas of the county. Instead some variations will be introduced to the current pilot scheme and national policy developments will be monitored during 2008.

The household waste recycling rate for County Westmeath now stands at 18% of all household waste collected. This figure relates to Kerbside collection only.

Mullingar and Athlone Civic Amenity Centres

The new Civic Amenity Centre at Mullingar Business Park was completed and opened to the public in January 2007. A wide range of materials are accepted for recycling at this facility e.g. paper, cardboard, food tins, batteries, white goods, electrical equipment, fluorescent tubes, metal waste, clothes, etc. In 2007 a total of 936 tonnes of materials were collected and sent for recycling.

Athlone Civic Amenity at Golden Island Athlone which accepts a similar range of recycling materials has been in operation for over three years.

In 2007 a total of 1,622 tonnes of materials have been accepted at this facility which is very positive when compared to 2006 when a total of 1,305 tonnes of materials were accepted. This is an increase of 24.3% over the previous years figures.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Two hazardous waste collections took place at Mullingar & Athlone Civic Amenity Centre's during 2007 and the total tonnage collected amounted to 5.57 tonnes.

Ballydonagh Landfill

An extension to Ballydonagh Landfill was completed and opened in March 2007. This consists of three new cells with a combined capacity for 180,000 tonnes of residual municipal waste. During 2008 a total of 53,000 tonnes was landfilled at the Ballydonagh facility.

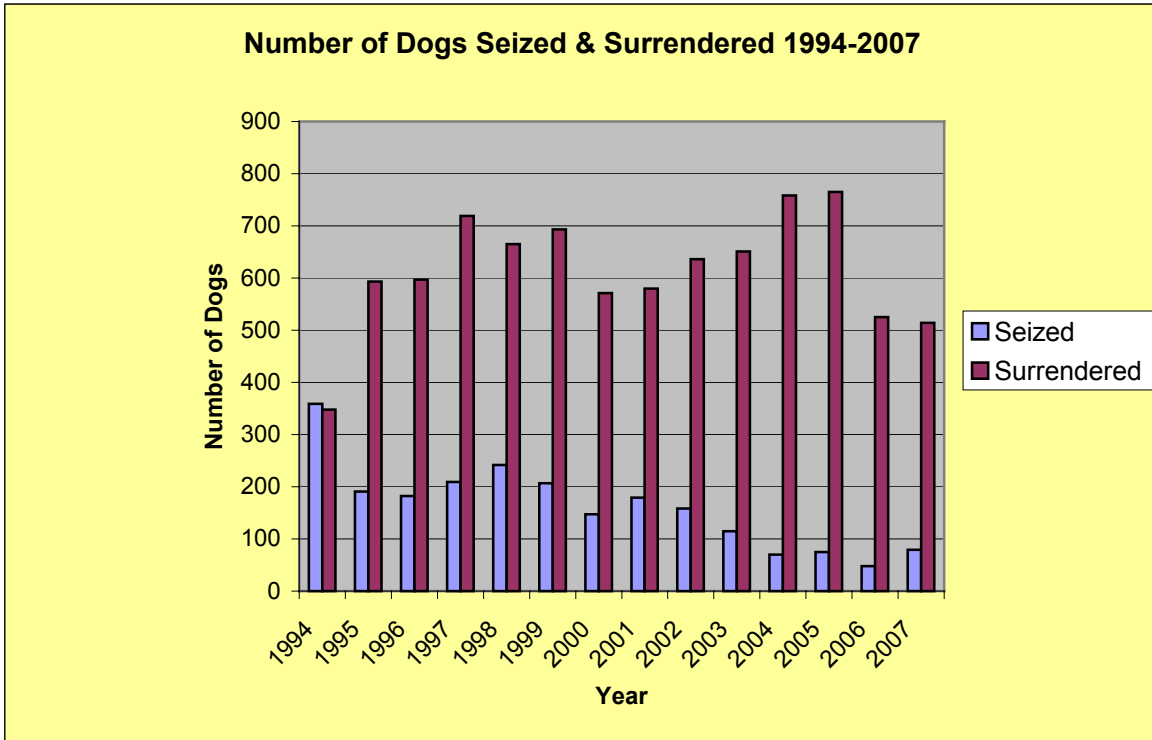
Veterinary Services

Westmeath County Council Under contract with the FSAI is responsible for enforcement of animal health, animal welfare and food safety legislation in 13 Abattoirs and two small meat manufacturing plants.

Dog Warden Service

2007 has seen a further downward trend in the number of stray dogs collected or surrendered to Westmeath County Council. While this is encouraging the numbers of unwanted and stray dogs is unacceptably high by international standards. Westmeath County Council is working in partnership

with the Dogs Trust to increase awareness of and to support a neutering initiative for non breeding dogs.



Civil Defence

Organisation & Training

Members attended courses on a diverse range of courses, including Leadership in Crisis or Emergency Situations, Basic Life Support, Automated Emergency Defibrillator Instructor, Healthcare Provider, Map Reading, Induction, Media, Welfare Evacuation, Accommodation and Caring for displaced persons. Westmeath members Second Officer Eileen Duncan and Mary Power won through county, region and national competitions and beat off challenges from 13 other teams to reach the final in a multi agency competition, where they were runners up, This competition took place at the RESUS International Resuscitation Conference which was held in Limerick on the 7th and 8th December. As a result of their efforts Civil Defence was showcased in a very favourable light at this extremely prestigious event.

Community Assistance

During the year Civil Defence members provided traffic management, logistical support, stewarding, ambulance, first aid and boat cover at large community events and a water search.

International Military Pilgrimage

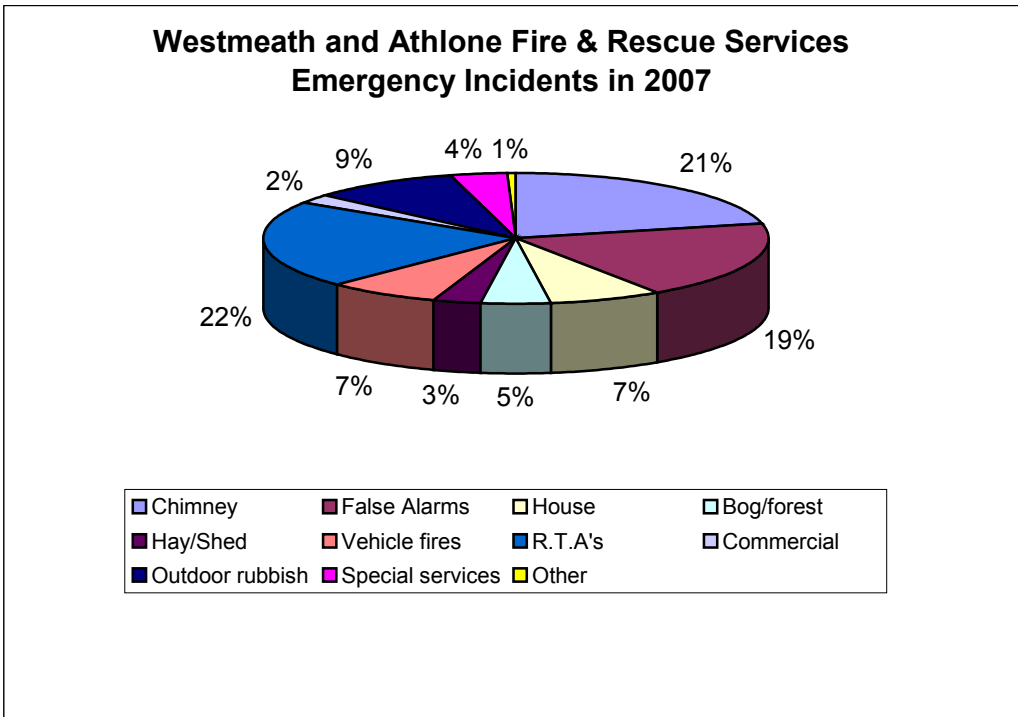
Seven Westmeath members travelled with the Civil Defence group as part of the Defence Forces contingent, which participated in the 49th International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 10th-17th May.

Fire & Rescue Service

Fire & Rescue Operations

Westmeath and Athlone Fire & Rescue Services responded to a total of 1,175 incidents in 2007. The overall number of incidents attended by the Westmeath and Athlone Fire & Rescue Services in 2007 increased by 64 from the 2006 figures. The number of chimney fires attended in 2007 fell by 10% on the previous year however the number of house fires remains unchanged from the number recorded in 2006. Road traffic accidents decreased by 3.6% compared to 2006.

The breakdown of incident type is presented in the chart below:



Training

Training of new recruits to the Fire & Rescue Service and on-going training of existing personnel continued in 2007. In addition, new training took place for water awareness, the introduction of a Critical Incident Stress Management Programme for all operational staff and for the Community Fire Safety Programme for primary schools. Training also commenced during the year on new management procedures to be used when the Major Emergency Plan is activated. This training included joint exercises involving the H.S.E, An Garda Siochana and Civil Defence.

Educational Awareness & Smoke Alarms

The Community Fire Safety Programme for primary schools was introduced in 2007 with fire-fighters speaking to 352 children in third classes in primary schools in the county. In addition, the fire stations were visited by over 1,000 school children in 2007.

Over 900 smoke alarms were distributed to various homes in Co. Westmeath in 2007.

Fire Safety Certificate Applications and Planning Applications

In 2007 a total of 207 Fire Safety Certificate applications and 281 planning applications were processed in the Fire Department.

Economic Development and Planning

Highlights

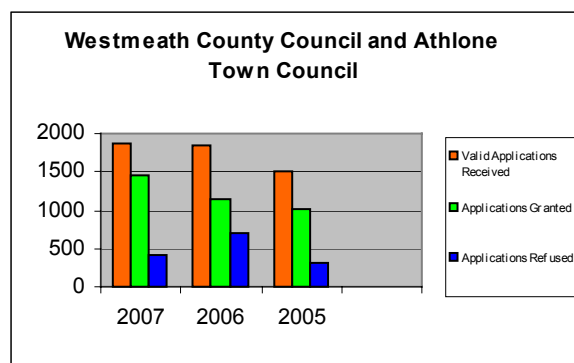
- Ongoing Review of County Development Plan 2002-2008 and preparation of a new Development Plan for the period 2008-2014
- Completed a Review of County Retail Strategy taking account of Mullingar and Athlone's status as part of the Midland Gateway.
- Establishment of the Legal and Enforcement Section to focus on planning enforcement, collection of development levies, building control and the taking in charge of housing estates.
- Hosted successful Midland Gateway Economic Development Conference in Mullingar in September 2007.
- Completed the Loughanaskin Urban Design Framework in Athlone
- Adoption of Supplementary Development Contribution Schemes for Athlone Main Drainage, Mullingar Main Drainage, Robinstown Link Road and Clonmore Link Road

Conservation Grants Scheme

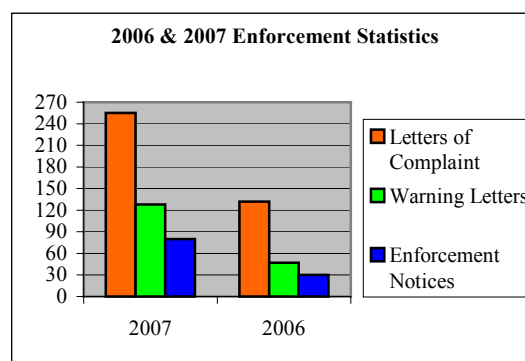
In 2007 the Council was allocated €90,000 by the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government. This was awarded to 10 successful grant applicants who carried out approved essential restoration works to protected structures in the County.

Development Control

The number of valid planning applications received in 2007 by Westmeath County Council and Athlone Town Council combined was 1,880. Trends in the number of applications received, granted and refused are illustrated in the following graph.



2007 Enforcement Statistics (ATC & WCC combined)



Legal and Enforcement Section

Unauthorised development continued to be an area of concern for the Council during the year and it was decided that a dedicated Legal and Enforcement Section would be established in 2007 with a view to concentrating enforcement expertise and ensuring the creation of a culture of compliance with the Planning & Development Act 2000. This was established in January to manage planning enforcement, housing estates, development levies and building control.

287 complaints were received in 2007 leading to:

- 27 complaints dismissed;
- 128 resolved;
- 128 Warning Letters issued;
- 80 Enforcement Notices served; and
- 13 Legal referrals
-

In the area of building control, 774 notices of commencement were received, representing 1397 new buildings commenced during the period. 14.89% of notified building commencements were investigated under the Building Control Act, 1990. This is in line with the national guideline rate of 12 to 15%.

Development Contribution Scheme

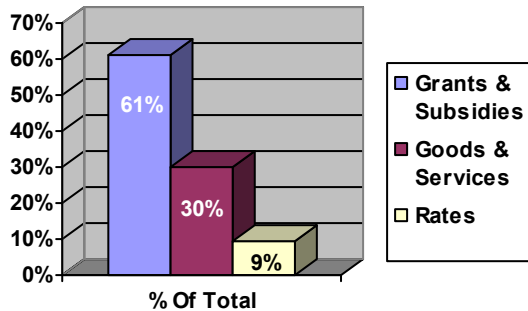
- Monies due under the scheme in 2007 €10.43million
- Monies expended under the scheme in 2007 €309,700

Finance

The Council's Income and Expenditure Account for the year 2007 and Balance Sheet as at December 31st 2007 are set out on the following two pages.

Income

A summary of the major sources of revenue income is set out in the chart below:



For every €1 of revenue income we received in 2007, 61 cent was represented by Grants and Subsidies, 30 cent was represented by Goods and Services and 9 cent was represented by Commercial Rates.

Expenditure

A summary of the major categories of revenue expenditure is set out in the table below:

Expense Category	€m	%
Payroll	28.3	36.8%
Operational	35.4	46.0%
Administration	3.7	4.8%
Financial	2.8	3.6%
Other	6.8	8.8%
Total Expenditure	77.0	100.0%

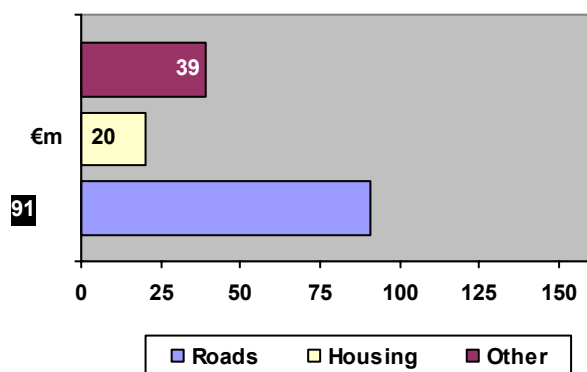
For every €1 of revenue expenditure incurred in 2007, 37 cent was absorbed by Payroll Expenses, 46 cent was incurred on Operational Expenses (Materials, Plant Hire, Equipment etc), and 17 cent was represented by all other expenses, comprising mainly of, Loan Interest, Energy, Legal & Other Fees, Communication Costs, and Training.

Capital Programme

In excess of €150m was spent on the capital programme by the Council in 2007. This included expenditure on the following schemes:

- €76.0 M6 Motorway
- €3.6m Social Housing. Ashe Road, Mullingar
- €3.4m N52 Mullingar-Belvedere
- €3.3m Upgrade Water Treatment Plant, Athlone
- €2.9m St. Michael's Park, Mullingar
- €2.9m Macetown Realignment
- €1.5m Landfill Site, Athlone

A summary of the major categories of capital expenditure is set out in the table below:



Ongoing Work

The Agresso Financial Management System suite of software was further enhanced during 2007 to reflect the changing needs of the local authority. This work included:

- Implementing a system for the monitoring of the Capital Account, including monthly reporting to the Management Team.
- Finalising a budgetary control system to include monthly reporting and sign-off at Directorate level.
- Implementation of a new costing system the objective of which is to reflect more accurately the real cost of services provided.

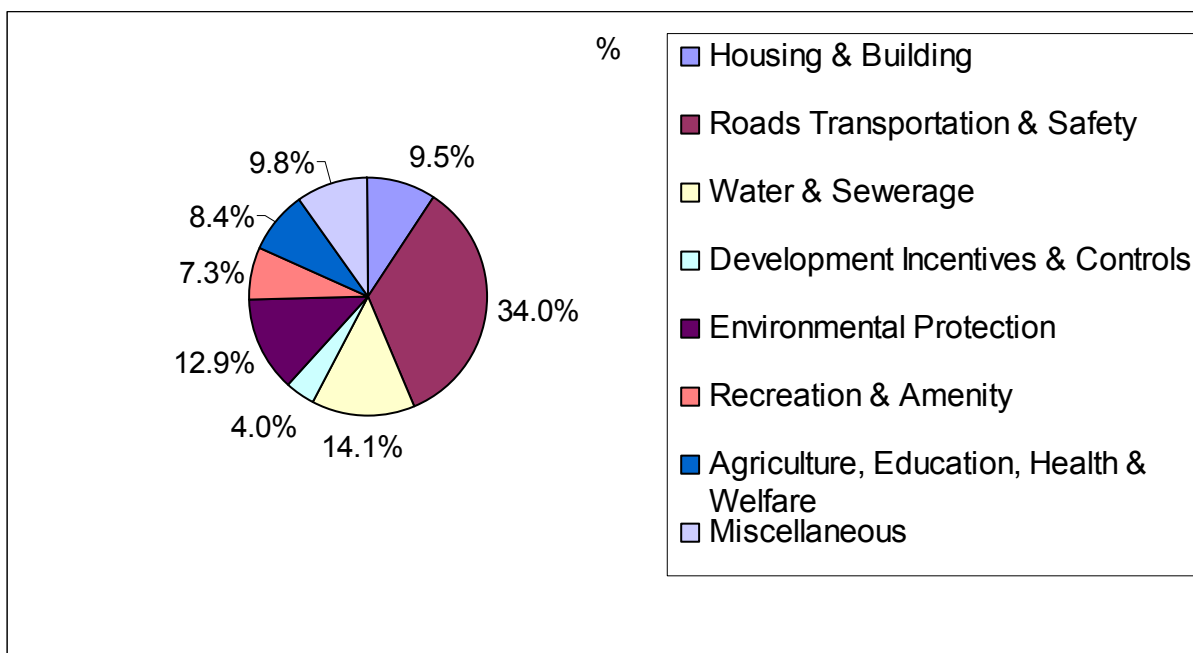
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st December 2006

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

Expenditure by Programme Group	%	Gross Expenditure	Gross Receipts	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
		€	€	€	€
		2006	2006	2006	2005
Housing & Building	9.5%	7,290,737	6,601,825	688,912	873,814
Roads Transportation & Safety	34.0%	26,219,896	20,506,223	5,713,673	5,861,103
Water & Sewerage	14.1%	10,894,129	3,331,574	7,562,555	7,990,676
Development Incentives & Controls	4.0%	3,056,066	2,339,286	716,780	1,030,114
Environmental Protection	12.9%	9,905,157	9,414,163	490,994	2,103,984
Recreation & Amenity	7.3%	5,648,493	1,734,627	3,913,866	3,759,596
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	8.4%	6,504,092	6,179,832	324,260	148,296
Miscellaneous	9.8%	7,555,147	4,807,246	2,747,902	2,985,678

Total Expenditure\Receipts	100.0%	77,073,717	54,914,776	22,158,941	24,753,261
Funded from:					
Rates				7,125,927	6,650,067
Local Government Fund *				21,387,685	19,855,624
Charges to Urbans				800,000	700,000
Surplus\ (Deficit) for Year before Transfers				7,154,671	2,452,431
Transfers to/from Reserves				-5,125,062	-1,950,152
Overall Surplus\ (Deficit) for Year				2,029,610	502,279
General Reserve @ 1st January 2006				-5,788,243	-6,290,521
General Reserve @ 31st December 2006				-3,758,634	-5,788,243

Total Revenue Expenditure by Programme Group



BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

	2007 €	2006 €
Fixed Assets (See note below)		
Operational	167,743,257	167,743,257
Infrastructural	1,574,762,002	1,574,762,002
Community	14,745,383	14,745,383
Non-Operational	2,424,744	2,424,744
	1,759,675,386	1,759,675,386
 Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	 424,177,910	 321,406,075
 Long Term Debtors	 36,670,989	 36,514,390
 Current Assets		
Stocks	239,460	198,738
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	37,717,525	25,763,896
Bank Investments	28,000,762	18,500,762
Cash at Bank	-	-
Cash on Hand	6,622	6,500
Urban Account	-	700,000
	65,964,369	45,169,896
 Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)		
Bank Overdraft	4,516,629	1,030,772
Creditors & Accruals	22,359,979	14,465,069
Urban Account	-	700,000
Finance Leases	-	-
	26,876,608	16,195,841
 Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	 39,087,761	 28,974,055
 Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)		
Loans Payable	70,052,402	59,001,734

Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable deposits	1,965,250	1,605,418
Other	-	-
	72,017,652	60,607,152
Net Assets	2,187,594,394	2,085,962,753
Financed by		
Capitalisation Account	1,759,675,386	1,759,675,386
Income WIP	410,354,098	320,057,021
Specific Revenue Reserve	677,531	677,531
General Revenue Reserve	(3,758,634)	(5,788,242)
Other Balances	20,646,013	12,041,057
Total Reserves	2,187,594,394	2,086,662,753

Note: Fixed Asset & other capital transfers not yet complete

Mullingar Town Council

The current Members of the Council are as follows:

Michael Dollard, 15, Beechgrove, Mullingar
Ken Glynn, 2, Brosna Close, Clonmore, Mullingar
Frank McIntyre, Church Lane, Mullingar
Ruth Illingworth, 7, Bishopsgate Street, Mullingar
Betty Doran, 2, Newbrook Drive, Clonmore, Mullingar
Pat Collins, 67, Lynn Heights, Mullingar.
Detty Cornally, 4, Woodlands Ave.,Mullingar
Pat Whelan, Nationwide House, Austin Friars St., Mullingar
Jim Bourke, Larkfield, Knockdrin, Mullingar

Monthly Meetings

Mullingar Town Council meets at 8pm on the fourth Thursday of every month in the Market House. There is no meeting held in August each year.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for 2007 was held on 28th June, 2007. Cllr.Pat Collins was elected Cathaoirleach for 2007/2008, assuming the Chair from Cllr.Pat Whelan.

Cllr.McIntyre was elected Leas Cathaoirleach for the period 2007/2008.

The Cathaoirleach of Mullingar Town Council also attended meetings of Mullingar Area Committee during the year.

Attendances at Conferences

Cllr. Frank McIntyre and Cllr.Pat Collins both attended the Spring Seminar of the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland held in Tralee, Co.Kerry.
Cllr.McIntyre and Cllr.Collins also attended the Annual Conference of the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland held in New Ross, Co.Wexford.

Civic Functions:

The following functions were held during 2007.

On 30th January, 2007, an Address of Recognition was given to the Mullingar Training Development Agency.

On 2nd March, 2007, a Civic Reception was held for the visiting delegates to the Lions Club International Conference which was held in Mullingar.

On St Patrick's Day, 2007, the Town Council gave the use of the Market House to the organising Committee of the Mullingar St.Patrick's Day Parade for a pre-parade reception.

On 10th April, 2007, an Address of Recognition was given to Mullingar Credit Union (see photo).

On 23rd April, 2007, an Address of Recognition was given to the Mullingar branch of St.Vincent de Paul Society.

On 30th October, 2007, an Address of Recognition was given to Mullingar Employment Action Group (see photo).

Special Block Grant for footpaths in former Town Commissioner areas

Grant aid in the sum of €107,410 was made available in 2007 by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for the repair and replacement of footpaths situated in former Town Commissioner areas of Mullingar Town.

Athlone Town Council

The current Members of the Council are as follows:

- Cllr. Austin Berry, 34 Assumption Road, Athlone.
- Cllr. John Butler, 5 Montree, Abbey Road, Athlone.
- Cllr. Mark Cooney, Northgate Street, Athlone.
- Cllr. Paul Hogan, 49 Retreat Park, Athlone.
- Cllr. Ray Lennon, Connaught Street, Athlone.
- Cllr. Nicky McFadden, 9 Arcadia Crescent, Athlone.
- Cllr. Kieran Molloy, Connolly Street, Athlone.
- Cllr. Egbert Moran, Bonavalley, Athlone.
- Cllr. Kevin (Boxer) Moran, Cornamagh, Athlone.

In July Senator McFadden was elected to Seanad Eireann and she was replaced by Cllr. Michael O'Connell, 208 River Village, Athlone.

Cllr. John Butler was Mayor for the first half of the year and Cllr. Paul Hogan succeeded him for the remainder of 2007.

Housing

The Loughanaskin Masterplan which provides for the regeneration of the St. Mel's Terrace and Loughanaskin area was adopted by the Council during the year. In addition plans for the construction of 4no. houses for existing tenants in the area were developed to planning stage and the Part 8 planning process was commenced. The rehousing of tenants continued during the period and while it is a slow process, progress has been satisfactory with 5no. families rehoused.

The capital housing allocation was €3.6m and 15no. houses were purchased and 89no. existing houses were provided with central heating from this funding and 5no. dwellings were approved for extensions/alterations.

A grant of €50,000.00 was expended on remedial works at Cornamaddy and funding was approved by the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government to employ a Community Worker for the Willow Park area and recruitment was completed in the year.

Land at the Clonown Road was also acquired for housing and will be developed under this programme in future years.

SOCIAL & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Triathlon which is supported by the Town Council was again an outstanding sporting and entertaining spectacle last summer with 1500 athletes taking part. The event is set to grow further with the announcement that Athlone will be the venue for the 2010 European Traithlon Championships.

The Council also supported the Rehab People of the Year Awards, the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Festival of Europe in Finland all of which attracted public interest and entertainment for the people of the town.

Chambers Ireland also acknowledged and recognised the work and role of the Town Council in the development of the Athlone Town Centre, with an Excellence in Local Government Award for its endeavours.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Part 8 planning process for the mixed use development and 128no. space car park at O'Connell Street was completed and subject to the finalisation of a number of legal issues, procurement arrangements will now be implemented to construct the development.

The proposals to enhance and upgrade the Town Centre Streets from Sean Costello Street via Church Street to the Town Bridge were developed to planning stage and the Part 8 planning process was commenced.

The first stage of the construction of the Railway Field Road at the Crescent junction was commenced and completed during the year at a cost of €2.88m. The works did inconvenience motorists and neighbouring properties but it was managed to minimise the impact and to reduce the construction period to the minimum. The new junction and link roads were completed to coincide with the Town Centre Shopping Centre opening and the new traffic arrangements have provided the necessary capacity for the increased traffic volumes. Negotiations continue with C.I.E./Bus Eireann for the acquisition of the necessary lands to complete this proposed 4 lane road.

ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The much anticipated Town Centre Shopping Centre opened in November and the range of department stores now available have brought a new dimension to shopping in Athlone and the Midlands. The increased availability of car parking (1200 spaces) and the additional footfall has rejuvenated the traditional centre of the town and given the economic benefits expected.

The Town Centre recently received a design award from the Irish Planning Institute and the manner of its placement into the existing streetscape while respecting the grain and scale of existing development is a model that many designers will follow in the future.

Connaught Street and the Westside also received a welcome boost with the completion of the M&M Development. A mixed use development with over 70no. residential units in a design which reflects and is sympathetic to the architecture of the area it also retained the old existing grant facades and with non commercial users in place has breathed new life into the area.

Local Area Plans for Lissywoolen South, and Loughandonning were commenced and will be presented to the Council and the public for consideration in 2008.

RECREATION AND AMENITY

The Town Park at Goldenisland was extended along the Shannon Banks in 2007 at a cost of €155,000.00 and this has broadened the appeal of the

Park for the use of the public. A Waterfront Plan is being commissioned and when implemented it will enhance and bond the Park and the river along the Shannon banks.

Upstream at Wansboro Park a new playground was provided at a cost of €149,000.00 and this will service the Residential estates at St. Kieran's Terrace, Assumption Road, Tormey Villas and beyond. Mini all weather pitches were installed at Woodlands Grove and Brawney.

Towards the end of the year the future of the Fr. Matthew Hall was determined by the Members with the decision to retain the existing building and with an appropriate single storey extension to the north to use it as an Art Gallery.

The Christmas lighting scheme was implemented directly by the Council in 2007 and the lighting infrastructure acquired will be built on in future years to provide a comprehensive coverage of the principle retailing areas.

As in previous years the Marina and the Regional Sports Centre were again awarded "Blue Flags" and this reflects the high standards that prevail at both facilities.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Derelict sites on Connaught Street, have been a concern for some time and orders to acquire 7no. properties compulsorily were made. One property has been rendered non-derelict, another has been acquired and the remainder have been appealed to An Bord Pleanala.

FINANCE

Revenue expenditure in 2007 was €10.95m and Capital expenditure was €9.81m. The respective figures for income were €11.14m and €11.10m.

Appendix 1 – Corporate Plan Annual Progress Report

Key activities included the following:

Corporate Services

- Introduction of a new Customer Contact Management System to manage and monitor contacts and complaints;
- Review of Customer Service Action Plan;
- Review of Performance Management System;
- Implementation of Handling Significant Change Protocol;
- Co-Ordination and Collation of Service Indicators;
- Commencement of new Civic Headquarters in Mullingar.
- Approval of Irish Language Scheme by Dept. of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
- Establishment of dedicated Project Team to prepare implementation for major National H.R. Payroll/Superannuation I.T. Programme.
- Review of Council's Intranet.

Housing Social and Cultural Affairs

- Completion of 100 units with a further 35 units received under Part V.
- Commencement of a further 164 units in various locations around the county.
- Total number of RAS units increases from 37 to 102.
- Commencement of Community Facilities in Delvin and Mullingar.
- Remedial Works Scheme commenced in Grange Crescent
- Implementation of comprehensive Arts Development Programme

Community & Enterprise

- First Cathaoirleach's Awards held in June 2007.
- Provision of playgrounds in Castlepollard, Kilbeggan, Moate and Mullingar
- Provision of four Multi-Use Games Areas , two in Athlone and two in Mullingar
- Appointment of FAI Development Officer
- Improved accessibility under the Disability Act
- 73% of Secondary Schools attended Comhairle na nÓg
- Expansion of Volunteer Centre to cover the county

Transportation & Infrastructure

- Improvement of N6 National Primary route including completion of Kinnegad to Kilbeggan and commencement of construction on Kilbeggan to Athlone section.

- Planning for improvement works on N4 to Kinnegad Longford route.
- Improvement of sections of N52 Kilbeggan to Clonmellon.
- Advancement of Road Safety Strategy for County.
- Completion of new Athlone Water Treatment Plant.
- Construction work on upgrading of Rochfortbridge and Clonmellon Sewerage Schemes.
- Advancement of major Water Services Schemes including Mullingar Sewerage Improvement, Athlone Main Drainage and South Westmeath Water Schemes.

Environment

- Additional resources deployed in the area of Environmental Protection and Enforcement particularly in relation to the Nitrates Action Plan.
- Public consultation took place in relation to Water Management issues arising from River Basin Districts Studies.
- A new Civic Amenity Centre at Clonmore Mullingar was opened to the public in February 2007.
- Provision of additional landfill capacity was provided by the completion of three additional cells at Ballydonagh Landfill Site (Athlone).
- Westmeath County Council continued to implement the aims of The Regional Waste Management Plan.
- Participated in a Strategic environmental Assessment of the County Development
- A detailed review of Derelict Sites commenced with additional resources being allocated to reduce the number of such sites across the county.

Economic Development & Planning

- Ongoing Review of County Development Plan 2002-2008 and preparation of a new Development Plan for the period 2008-2014
- Completed a Review of County Retail Strategy taking account of Mullingar and Athlone's status as part of the Midland Gateway.
- Establishment of the Legal and Enforcement Section to focus on planning enforcement, collection of development levies, building control and the taking in charge of housing estates.
- Hosted successful Midland Gateway Economic Development Conference in Mullingar in September 2007.
- Adoption of Supplementary Development Contribution Schemes for Athlone Main Drainage, Mullingar Main Drainage, Robinstown Link Road and Clonmore Link Road

Appendix 2 Membership of Committees and Other Bodies
MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER BODIES 2007

Association of County and City Councils

Cllr. Ken Glynn

Cllr. Joe Whelan

Cllr. Johnny Penrose

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Limited

Cllr. Mark Cooney

Local Authority Members Association (L.A.M.A)

Cllr. Pat McLoughlin

Midland East Regional Tourism Authority

Cllr. Frank McDermott

Midland Regional Authority

Cllr. Tom Cowley

Cllr. Joe Flanagan

Cllr. Mark Nugent

Border, Midlands & Western Regional Assembly

Cllr. Joe Flanagan

Cllr. Mark Nugent

EU Operational Committee*

Cllr. Michael Dollard

(* The Cathaoirleach is automatically appointed to this Committee)

Westmeath Community Development Limited

Cllr. Pat McLoughlin

Cllr. Dan McCarthy

Athlone Community Taskforce

Cllr. John Dolan

Cllr. Kevin “Boxer” Moran

Westmeath County Enterprise Board

Cllr. Fintan Cooney

Cllr. Michael Newman

Cllr. Paddy Hill

Cllr. Detty Cornally

Westmeath Tourism Council

Cllr. Pat McLoughlin

Cllr. Susan Murray

Mullingar Arts Centre Committee

Cllr. Dan McCarthy

Cllr. Ken Glynn

Cllr. Fintan Cooney

Westmeath County Development Board

Cllr. Fintan Cooney

Cllr. Detty Cornally

Cllr. Michael Newman

Cllr. Jim Bourke

Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee

Cllr. Jim Bourke

Cllr. Frank McDermott

Cllr. Dan McCarthy

Traveller Consultation Committee

Cllr. Joe Whelan

Cllr. Michael Dollard

Westmeath Arts Forum

Cllr. Michael Dollard

Belvedere House & Gardens Committee

Cllr. Robert Troy
Cllr. Pat McLoughlin
Cllr. Mark Nugent

Westmeath Heritage Forum

Cllr. John Dolan

Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council

Cllr. Kieran Molloy
Cllr. Mark Cooney

Eastern River Basin District Advisory Council

Cllr. Michael Newman
Cllr. Michael Dollard

Westmeath Vocational Education Committee

Cllr. Tom Allen
Cllr. Frankie Keena
Cllr. Robert Troy
Cllr. Frank McDermott
Cllr. John Dolan
Cllr. Joe Whelan
Cllr. Dan McCarthy
Cllr. Susan Murray
Cllr. Michael Dollard

Dublin – Mid Leinster Regional Health Forum

Cllr. Frank McDermott
Cllr. Kevin Moran
Cllr. Michael Dollard

Appendix 3 Conferences Attended

Conferences attended by Westmeath County Council Members in 2007

Date	Conference : Organising Body & Location	Purpose / Theme of Conference
26 - 28 January 2007	Cumann Merriman Cathair na Mart, Co. Mhaigh	Scoil Gheimhridh Merriman 2007
1 - 3 February 2007	Kadenza Consultancies Ltd Clonea Strand Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford	The Local Government Planning Service
9 -10 February 2007	Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Brandon Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry	A.M.A.I. Spring Seminar
16-Feb-07	Mid-West Regional Authority Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick	"Implementing the NDP 2007- 2013 - The Role of the Regions"
17-Feb-07	TJK Conferences Ltd Earl of Desmond Hotel, Tralee	Planning Seminar for Councillors
21 - 22 Feb 2007	Wicklow County Tourism Marriott Hotel Druids Glen & Country Club	Annual & International Tourism Conference
23 - 25 Feb 2007	Colmcille Heritage Trust & Donegal VEC Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Letterkenny	"The Contribution of the GAA to the Sporting and Social Life in Ireland"
2 - 3 March 2007	Atlantic Events Conference Management Killybegs, Co. Donegal	Rural & Regional Development Conference
2 - 4 March 2007	Kadenza Consultancies Ltd Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	Energy Seminar
8 - 10 March 2007	Association of County and City Councils Park Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford	Annual Conference
28 Mar - 1 April 07	Rattoo Heritage Society Golf Hotel, Ballybunion, Co. Kerry	15th Annual Kerry Environmental Recognition Conference
29 - 30 Mar 07	Sherkin Island Marine Station Carrigaline Court Hotel, Carrigaline, Co. Cork	"Enforcement of Environmental Regulations"
12 - 13 April 2007	Kerry County Council Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney	LAMA Conference 2007
18 - 20 April 2007	Irish Rural Dwellers Association Conference The Brehon Hotel, Killarney	"Last Call for Rural Planning"

27-Apr-07	Confederation of European Councillors Mount Errigal Hotel, Donegal	The Role of Local & Regional Government in North-South Economic Cooperation
27 - 29 April 07	Kadenza Consultancies Ltd The Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	Local Government Housing Service
30 May - 3 June 07	Kerry Writers Museum Listowel, Co. Kerry	Writers' weeke
13-Jun-07	Border, Midland & Western Regional Assembly The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	Renewable Energy - An opportunity for regional development
29 June - 1 July 07	Wexford County Enterprise Board Gorey, Co. Wexford	13th Byrne/Perry Summer School
1 - 7 July 07	Synge Summer School Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow	Synge and His Contexts
5 - 7 July 07	Kadenza Consultancies Ltd Baltimore Harbour Hotel, Baltimore, Co. Cork	Local Government Planning Service
15 - 20 July 07	MacGill Summer School Glenties, Co. Donegal	27th Annual MacGill Summer School
23 - 27 July 07	The John Hewitt Society Marketplace Theatre and Arts Centre, Armagh	The John Hewitt International Summer School
6 - 10 August 2007	William Carleton Summer School Corick House Hotel, Clogher, Co. Tyrone	Carleton's Literary Context
12 -17 August 2007	The Parnell Summer School Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow	Continuity and Change in Irish Culture, Society and Politics
19 - 25 Aug 07	Cumann Merriman Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare	Merriman Summer School
23 - 26 Aug 07	International Humbert School County Mayo	General Humbert Summer School
24 - 26 Aug 07	Glencree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow	14th Annual Summer School
6 -7 Sept 07	Kilkee Waterworld Kilkee Bay Hotel, Kilkee, Co. Clare	Rural Tourism 2007 - 2013 The Challenges and the

		Opportunities
12 - 15 Sept 07	Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Brandon House Hotel, New Ross, Co. Wexford	A.M.A.I. 94th Annual Conference
25 - 26 Sept 07	Kadenza Consultancies Ltd Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly	Local Government & Rural Development
28 - 30 Sept 07	Greystones Town Council Greystones, Co. Wicklow	19th Annual La Touche Legacy Seminar
4 -5 Oct 07	Kerry Life Education Ltd Malton Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry	Getting a Grip 2007 "Winning or Losing?"
12 -13 Oct 07	TJK Conferences Ltd Earl of Desmond Hotel, Tralee	Planning Seminar
19-Oct-07	Association of Irish Regions The Malton Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry	"The Challenge of Climate Change for the Island of Ireland"
26 - 27 Oct 07	Kadenza Consultancies Ltd Carrick on Suir, Co. Tipperary	Health & Safety in Local Government
6 - 7 Nov 07	The Céifin Centre Ennis, Co. Clare	Tracking the Tiger a decade of change
9 - 10 Nov 07	Local Authority Members Association Dolmen Hotel, Carlow	LAMA Annual Winter Conference
16 - 18 Nov 07	Kadenza Consultancies Ltd Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	Effective Communications for Councillors
23 - 24 Nov 07	Clare Tourist Council Ennistymon, Co. Clare	Clare Tourism Conference 2007
30 Nov - 1 Dec 07	Donegal County Museum Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny	Neil T Blaney Winter School
01-Dec-07	Kadenza Consultancies Ltd Bunclody, Co. Wexford	The Local Government Budget 2008
07-Dec-07	Confederation of European Councillors The Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen	Tackling Poverty and Social Need in Ireland, North & South

SPC MEMBERSHIP 2007

Sector	Housing, Social & Cultural	Environment	Economic Development & Planning	Transportation & Infrastructure
Westmeath County Council	Cllr. Detty Cornally (Chair) Cllr. Michael Dollard Cllr. Ken Glynn Cllr. Frankie Keena Cllr. Joseph Flanagan Cllr. Joe Whelan	Cllr. Jim Bourke (Chair) Cllr. Kieran Molloy Cllr. Johnny Penrose Cllr. Susan Murray Cllr. Mark Cooney Cllr. Pat McLoughlin	Cllr. Michael Newman (Chair) Cllr. Mark Nugent Cllr. Robert Troy Cllr. Tom Cowley Cllr. John Dolan	Cllr. Fintan Cooney (Chair) Cllr. Kevin "Boxer" Moran Cllr. Paddy Hill Cllr. Tom Allen Cllr. Dan McCarthy Cllr. Frank McDermott
Athlone Town Council	Cllr. Ray Lennon		Cllr. Egbert Moran	
Mullingar Town Council		Cllr. Ruth Illingworth		Cllr. Pat Whelan
Agriculture/ Farming		Dermott Leavy	Gordon Johnston	
Environment/ Conservation/ Culture	Hugh Farrell	Bob Morrison		
Development/ Construction	AN OTHER			Frank Kelly
Business/ Commercial		Sean Feeney	John Brennan	AN OTHER
Trade Union				Denis Rohan
Community & Voluntary/ Disadvantaged	Linda-Jo Quinn Joyce Furlong	Fionn Gallagher	Seamus Browne	Hugh Maguire

Appendix 4

Area	Indicator		Description	2004	2005	2006	2007	Contextual Information for 2007
Arts and Cultural Services	A&C1	Arts Grants	Number of arts grants paid	70	66	93	88	
			Total value of arts grants paid per 1,000 population	593.25	459.5	1378.41	1292.44	€102550 in 2007 €99050 in 2006 (Change in population also has impact)
Community Participation and Cooperation	CP. 1		Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Óg scheme	17.89%	30.76%	30.80%	73.33%	Total no. of schools is 15. 11 are involved in Comhairle na Nog
Corporate Issues	C. 1	Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through	Certified leave	2.30%	3.55%	3.53%	3.02%	4441 days are lost through certified leave
			Uncertified leave	0.46	0.58	0.57%	0.61%	905 days are lost through uncertified sick leave
	C.2	Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs	Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs	7%	7%	4.04%	4.68%	Total payroll cost 25.2m Total cost of training activities = 1.2m
Environmental Services - Water	E1	WaterPercentage of River Channel which is:-	a) Unpolluted	37%	n/a		N/A	EPA/LGMSB input.
			b) Slightly Polluted	36%	n/a		N/A	EPA/LGMSB input.
			c) Moderately Polluted	26.70%	n/a		N/A	EPA/LGMSB input.
			d) Seriously Polluted	0.30%	n/a		N/A	EPA/LGMSB input.
	E2	% of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes	% of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes	96%	98.24%	99.30%	N/A	EPA/LGMSB input.

		% of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to private schemes (where appropriate)	% of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to private schemes (where appropriate)	90%	98.53%	97.16%	N/A	EPA/LGMSB input.
Environmental Services - Fire Services	E3	Average time in minutes to mobilise fire services	in Full-Time stations	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Figures do not include road traffic incidents
			in Part-time stations (minutes)	5	5.33	5.74	6.33	Total no. of incidents (fire only) = 726
	E4	Percentage of attendance at scenes where	first attendance is at scene within 10 minutes (0 to 10)	39%	42.60%	38.20%	36.36%	264 incidents(reduced due to traffic volumes, no. of developments, traffic restrictions at green bridge)
			first attendance is at scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes (10 to 20)	50%	47.80%	47.90%	49.45%	359incidents(reduced due to traffic volumes, no. of developments, traffic restrictions at green bridge)
			first attendance is at scene after 20 minutes (>20)	11%	9.60%	13.90%	14.19%	103 incidents(reduced due to traffic volumes, no. of developments, traffic restrictions at green bridge)
	E5	Fire Prevention	Total number of fire certification applications received.	171	199	226	207	
			Total number of fire certification applications processed.	154	183	207	209	15 of these were Fire Safety Certs received in 2006
Environment - Waste Management	E6	Waste Management	Percentage of households provided with segregated waste collection	78.70%	100%	100%	75.96%	No. of households is 20560 based on database and collectors returns however only one collector operates an account system which requires customers to register. Household as per CSO 2006 is 20,560
	E7	Household waste collected which is sent for recycling	Household waste collected which is sent for recycling-tonnage		4759	4394	4844	Total Tonnage is 17907, landfilled is 13063, recycled 4844
			Percentage of household waste collected which is sent for recycling	15.45%	27%	24%	27%	This is based on data returned from private contractors.Total Tonnage is 17907, landfilled is 13063, recycled 4844
	E8	Household waste collected which is sent to landfill	Tonnage		13174	13941	13063	This is based on data returned from private contractors.Total Tonnage is 17907, landfilled is 13063, recycled 4844

			Percentage of household waste collected	85%	73%	76%	73%	This is based on data returned from private contractors. Total Tonnage is 17907, landfilled is 13063, recycled 4844
	E9	Recycling Facilities - Glass	Number of bring sites	55	48	47	46	
			Number of Civic Amenity Sites	2	2	2	2	
			Total Number of Facilities	57	50	49	48	
			Number of locations per 5000 of population	3.97	3.47	3.4	3.02	Number of locations divided by Pop *5000 = $48/79346*5000=3.02$
			Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	67.42	72.09	87.65	92.9	Combined 2007 Glass Tonnage of CAC & bottle banks 1474 T = $(1474.31/79346)*5000=92.90$
		Recycling Facilities - Cans	Number of bring sites	55	48	47	46	
			Number of Civic Amenity Sites	2	2	2	2	
			Total Number of Facilities	57	50	49	48	
			Number of locations per 5000 of population	3.97	3.47	3.4	3.02	Number of locations divided by Pop *5000 = $48/79346*5000=3.02$
			Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	2.49	2.96	2.82	3.37	Combined 2007 Can Tonnage of CAC & bottle banks 53.45 T = $(53.45/79346)*5000=3.37$
		Recycling Facilities - Textiles	Number of bring sites	4	20	26	23	
			Number of Civic Amenity Sites	2	2	2	2	
			Total Number of Facilities	6	22	28	25	
			Number of locations per 5000 of population	0.42	1.53	1.95	1.58	Number of locations divided by Pop *5000 = $25/79346*5000=1.575$
			Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	2.55	8.2	15.76	13.59	Combined Textile Weights of Bring Banks & CAC 215.7 = $(215.7/79346)*5000=13.59$
		Recycling Facilities - Batteries	Number of bring sites	0	0	0	0	
			Number of Civic Amenity Sites	2	2	2	2	
			Total Number of Facilities	2	2	2	2	
			Number of locations per 5000 of population	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.13	Number of locations divided by Pop *5000 = $2/79346*5000=0.13$
			Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	2.389	2.09	2.02	1.41	tonnage $22.4/79346*5000=1.41$
		Recycling Facilities - Oils	Number of bring sites	0	0	0	0	

			Number of Civic Amenity Sites	2	2	2	2	
			Total Number of Facilities	2	2	2	2	
			Number of locations per 5000 of population	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.13	
			Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	0.139	0.43	0.47	0.09	Total Tonnage Recycled $1.35 / 79346 * 5000 = 0.09$.
		Recycling Facilities - Others	Number of bring sites	0	0	0	0	
			Number of Civic Amenity Sites	2	2	2	2	
			Total Number of Facilities	2	2	2	2	
			Number of locations per 5000 of population	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.13	This does not include recycling day's organised by WMCC for xmass trees/household haz waste/WEEE
			Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	90.59	110	124.95	139.83	Total Tonnage Recycled for "Other" $2219 / 79346 * 5000 = 139.83$ "other" includes- timber, White/small electrics/cardboard/news papers/plastics/metal/tetr apacs/greenwaste/compute/Tv's/Greenwaste/flou rescent tubes/gas cylinders & also Recycling day Tonnages.
Environment - Litter	E10	Litter Prevention and Environmental Enforcement	Total Number of Fulltime Litter Wardens	2	2	2	0	
			Total Number of Part-time Litter Wardens	5	5	5	8	4 Community wardens, 2 Traffic Wardens in Mullingar plus 2 Traffic Wardens in Athlone.
			No. of Litter Wardens (part-time and full-time) per 5000 population	0.488	0.48	0.49	0.5	$8(\text{no of wardens}) / \text{population} * 5000$
			No. of On The Spot Fines	305	327	338	334	
			No. of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	45	94	52	65	
			No. of Prosecutions secured	24	11	19	11	
		Percentage of areas within the local authority that are:	Unpolluted (litter free)	45.20%	11%	0%	0%	LGMSB input.
			slightly polluted with litter	35.80%	43%	35%	0%	LGMSB input.
			moderately polluted with litter	14.30%	32%	41%	0%	LGMSB input.
			significantly polluted with litter	4.70%	12%	24%	0%	LGMSB input.

			grossly polluted with litter	0.00%	2%	0%	0%	LGMSB input.
	E11	Environmental Complaints and Enforcement:	Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (waste, litter, water, noise and air pollution)	986	1093	1363	1489	
			No. of complaints investigated	924	1093	1363	1489	
			No. of enforcement procedures taken.	584	753	735	499	As per rmcei stats-incl Litter fines and warning notices /letters issued under litter act
	E12	Percentage of Schools participating in Environmental Campaigns	Primary Schools	46%	47%	62%	71.76%	Number of Schools taken from Dept of Education Website (enrolment database 2007):61 divided 85 = ..0717 x 100 = 71.76%
			Secondary Schools	60%	64%	73%	81.25%	13 divided by 16 = .8125 x 100 = 81.25%
Housing	H1	Housing Vacancies	Total No of dwellings in LA stock	1448	1426	1491	1579	
			Overall % of dwellings that are let	98%	97.05%	96.58%	95.20%	1503 dwellings
			Overall % of dwellings that are empty	2%	2.95%	3.42%	4.80%	76 dwellings. Includes 6 vacant demountable dwellings
			% of empty dwellings that are subject to major refurbishment:	33%	40.05%	31.37%	36.84%	28 dwellings
			% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	70%	44%	65.70%	36.84%	28 dwellings.
			% of dwellings available for letting	30%	56%	34.30%	26.32%	20 dwellings
	H2	Average time to relet	Average time (in weeks)taken to relet dwellings available for letting	4	3	2.2	3.24	Allocation difficulties due to traveller feud in Mullingar Area
	H3	Repairs completed	Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received.(in calendar year)	97%	97%	95.16%	90.60%	597 repairs completed. 589 valid repair requests received.
	H4	Average time taken (in days) to inform applicants of local authority's decision on applications for:	the shared ownership housing scheme	15	20	15	0	No applications approved
			housing loans schemes	15	20	20	10	
local authority housing			40	35	46	55.65	Delays due to EHO reports	

	H5	Traveller Accommodation	Traveller Accommodation - Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	100%	30%	166%	118%	Target 11 families in Traveller Accommodation plan. 13 accommodated
Library Services	L.1	Public Opening Hours	Average number of public opening hours per week for full-time libraries	41.75	41.33	39.1	38.65	No of f/t libraries increased from 3 to 4 in last quarter 2007
			Average number of public opening hours per week for part-time libraries	17	16.5	16.68	16.31	No of p/t libraries decreased from 4 to 3 No in last quarter of 2007
	L.2		Number of registered library members as a percentage of the local population	17%	18%	18.00%	18.00%	12367 in 2007 v 12554 in 2006
	L.3	Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for:	Books	3.29	3.77	4.00	3.52	279296 in 2007 v 284161 in 2006
			Other Items	0.18	0.24	0.24	0.21	16439
	L.4		Percentage of libraries that offer Internet access to the public	100%	100%	100%	100%	All 7 Libraries have internet access
	L.5		Number of internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	127.82	256.8	243.10	157	12460 reduced increase of broadband to homes, internet availability in other locations with less restrictions. Reduced use by non irish due to economic decline.
Motor Taxation	M1	Number of motor tax transactions which	are dealt with over the counter		62717	76750	82621	
			are dealt with by post		21854	14276	12860	
			are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)		10778	14073	19354	Online - increase
		Percentage of motor tax transactions which	are dealt with over the counter	66%	66%	73.02%	71.95%	
			are dealt with by post	34%	23%	13.58%	11.20%	
			are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	0	11%	13.40%	16.85%	Online - increase
	M2	Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application	a) On the same day	24895	17332	11927	10295	
			b) On the third day or less	3424	4522	1988	1889	
			c) On the fifth day or less	0	0	309	343	
			d) Over 5 days	0	0	52	333	
Percentage of overall postal	a) On the same day	87.90%	79%	83.60%	80.05%			

		overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application	b) On the third day or less	12.10%	21%	13.90%	14.69%	
			c) On the fifth day or less	0	0	2.20%	2.67%	
			d) Over 5 days	0	0	0.40%	2.59%	
	M3	Public Opening Hours	Average number of public opening hours per week	30	35	35	35	
Planning & Building Control	P1	A - Individual Houses	No. of Applications decided	832	722	818	808	
			No of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks		355	401	414	
			No of decisions which required the submission of further information		362	417	393	
			No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34 (9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000.		4	0	1	
			Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	77.13	81	79	76	
			% of grants	71.27%	71.33%	68%	68%	555 applications
			% of refusals	28.73%	28.67%	32%	32%	255 applications
			% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	54.54%	54.54%	78%	91%	20 applications
			% of cases where the decision was reversed with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	27.27%	13.80%	22%	9%	2 applications
			New Housing Development	No. of Applications Decided	84	110	92	93
		No of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks		39	39	44		
		No of decisions which required the submission of further information		70	52	49		

		No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34 (9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000.		1	1	0	
		Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	130.76	130	80	110	
		% of grants	45.24%	59.10%	53%	53%	49 applications
		% of refusals	54.76%	40.90%	47%	47%	44 applications
		% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	83.33%	75.00%	77%	94%	16 applications
		% of cases where the decision was reversed with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	0%	25.00%	23%	6%	1 application
	Other - not requiring EIA	No. of Applications Decided	317	490	676	972	
		No of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks		304	442	684	
		No of decisions which required the submission of further information		186	233	283	
		No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34 (9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000.		2	1	5	
		Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	75.42%	87%	78%	78%	
		% of grants	89.90%	89.39%	88%	88%	855 applications
		% of refusals	10.10%	10.61%	12%	12%	117 applications
		% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	36.84%	88%	84%	85%	33 applications

		% of cases where the decision was reversed with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	26.32%	12%	16%	15%	6 applications
	Other: REQUIRING EIA	No. of Applications Decided	7	4	6	19	
		No of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks		0	2	10	
		No of decisions which required the submission of further information		4	4	9	
		No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34 (9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000.		0	0	0	
		Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	104.2	81	44	43	
		% of grants	85.71%	100%	83%	95%	18 applications
		% of refusals	14.29%	0%	17%	5%	1 application
		% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	50%	100%	100%	0%	
		% of cases where the decision was reversed with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	0%	0%	0%	0%	
P2	Planning Enforcement	Total number of cases subject to complaints that are investigated	151	130	116	255	
		Total number of cases subject to complaints that are dismissed	0	0	0	27	
		Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations		0	0	128	
		Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	63	38	41	128	

			Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	94	33	41	80	
			Number of prosecutions	1	0	2	11	
P3	Opening Hours		Average number of public opening hours per week	35	35	35	35	
P4	Pre Planning Consultation		No. of pre-planning consultation meetings held	n/a	797	639	580	
			Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	25.62	26.55	31	42	
P5	Buildings inspected as a % of new buildings notified to the local authority		Buildings inspected as a % of new buildings notified to the local authority	11%	9.60%	15%	14.89%	No. of new buildings notified = 1397 No. of buildings inspected = 208
Recreational Services	Rec. 1	No. of Children's Playgrounds per 1000 population	directly provided by the local authority	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.08	6 playgrounds at Mullingar Town Park, Burgess Park, Athlone, Belvedere House, Kinnegad, Clonyn Rd, Athlone & Castlepollard
			facilitated by the local authority	0	0	0.06	0.05	4 playgrounds at Sarsfield square, Blackberry lane x2 and Regional Sports centre
	Rec. 2	Number of visitors to local authority facilitated swimming facilities per 1,000 population	Number of visitors to local authority facilitated swimming facilities per 1,000 population	3656.23	4094.91	3922.1	3411.35	180007 Athlone Pool, 90.670 Mullingar Pool (Total = 270677)
Revenue Collection	Rev. 1	House Rent	Amount collected at year end as a % of amount due	78.90%	81.90%	83.60%	86.40%	Total amount due at end of year = 649284. Total collected = 1561860. 95% of the arrears is accounted for by 54% of the accounts in arrears.
			Percentage of Arrears	4-6 weeks old	3.30%	3.30%	4.40%	6.30%
		6-12 weeks old		6.10%	6%	9.20%	10.10%	65645
		More than 12 weeks old		88.60%	88.30%	80.70%	77.90%	525063
	Rev. 2	Housing Loans	Amount Collected at year-end as a % of amount due	67.44%	75.90%	77.00%	73.80%	912649 due at year end. 1508570 collected at year end. 95% of the arrears is accounted for by 52% of the accounts in arrears

		Percentage of Arrears	1 month old	4%	8.90%	7.20%	5.40%	90693
			2-3 months old	1.80%	3.40%	2.00%	1.70%	37250
			more than 3 months old	93.80%	86.20%	89.50%	90.80%	129573
	Rev. 3	Commercial Rates:	Amount Collected at year-end as a % of amount due	90.52%	93.35%	94.40%	95.60%	As of 14/02/08 21% of arrears have been collected
	Rev. 4		Refuse Charges: % of households paying refuse charges at year end	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	Bin Tag System in operation
	Rev. 5		Non-Domestic Water Charges: Amount Collected at year-end as a % of amount due	42.15%	57%	76.40%	70.70%	Adversely impacted by old balances which are presently progressing through the debt collection process.
Roads	R1	Local and regional roads surface dressed per annum (square metres) and Percentage of local and regional roads surface dressed per annum	Surface Dressed per Annum	481000	493302	563,019	570,960	Total area of local and regional roads = 9347400
			Percentage surface dressed per annum	4.60%	4.60%	6.00%	6.10%	