

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Monthly Management Report

December 2016

(furnished to Elected Members in accordance with section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 as inserted by section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014)

[Notes: (i) some items will be reported on a monthly basis, others quarterly at end of March, June, September, December; (ii) form/content/frequency of elements of the report may evolve in future e.g. to best serve the Council's information needs, to co-ordinate with other reporting requirements, or under DECLG guidance/Ministerial regulation]

Chief Executive's Orders: Schedule advised monthly to elected members

Section Reports

Finance: Reported quarterly to Finance Committee of Council (*last report: September 2016*)

Planning:

Monthly Report December 2016		
Development Management:	Month	Year to Date
No. of planning applications received	49	506
No. of planning applications granted	28	361
No. of planning applications refused	3	48
Number of pre-planning meetings held	20	180
Planning Enforcement:		
No. of complaints received	10	98
No. of sites inspected	35	446
No. of warning letters issued	0	46
No. of enforcement notices issued	0	14
No. of prosecutions initiated	0	6
No. of convictions secured	0	3
No. of cases closed	1	53
Taking in Charge of Housing Estates	Quarter	
No. of estates outstanding	47	
No. of inspections carried out	78	
No. of estates for which the taking in charge process has commenced	35	

Forward Planning - Quarterly Report	
Objective	Progress
Westmeath Retail Strategy	11 submissions received during public consultation phase. Baseline Review and analysis completed.
Biodiversity Action Plan for Co. Westmeath	Preparation of Discover and Learn Workbook on Habitats in Westmeath for Primary Schools. Graphic design for lakeside biodiversity information display boards completed. (12 no. signs) Information board prepared on the ecology of Crosswood Bog in connection with promotion of the Old Rail Trail.
Structures at Risk Grant Assistance Scheme	3 no. approved projects completed, formal returns submitted & recoupment received from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs.
Built Heritage Investment Scheme	8 no. approved projects completed, formal returns submitted and recoupment received from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs.
Advance designation of Hill of Uisneach as World Heritage Site	Technical evaluation of Royal Sites submissions being conducted by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs.
Proposed Variation 1 CDP 2014-2020–Amendment to wind energy policy	Variation 1 finalised following Ministerial Direction.
Proposed Variation 2 CDP 2014-2020	Tyrrellspass Settlement Plan drafted, including SEA and AA Screening Raharney Settlement Plan drafted, including SEA and AA Screening. Awaiting Flood Assessment of both villages.
Proposed Variation 3 CDP 2014-2020	SEA and AA Screening Reports have been completed. Will be subject to public consultation in Q1 2017.
Westmeath Joint Policing Sub Committee	Final report and recommendations prepared.
National Taking in Charge Initiative	Returns completed and submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government. Works undertaken on the five designated housing estates.

Human Resources *(Quarterly Report to 31st December 2016)*

No. of Staff Employed (head count/fte):	Head Count; 517 (includes 1 no Gateway) FTE 443.39
Numbers of participants on Labour Market Activation programme (by programme)	Gateway - 1 Job Bridge – 0
<u>Gateway Participants:</u> <u>Outdoor:</u> 1 Participant: Mullingar MD <div style="text-align: right;">1</div>	

Community Development *(Quarterly Report)*

ACTION	PROGRESS Q4 (Oct to Dec) 2016
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	Meeting of Westmeath LCDC held in Dec 2016 and issues discussed incl.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEADER Service Level Agreement, Evaluation Committee membership, training, and LEADER projects at expression of interest stage. • Approval of SICAP annual plan for 2017.
Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of measures in the 2016 LECP workplan ongoing.
Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of SICAP annual action plan for 2017 in conjunction with programme implementer, Westmeath Community Development Ltd. The 2017 Plan was agreed with the Dept and approved by LCDC.
Public Participation Network (PPN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 490 Community Groups registered with PPN at end of Q4 2016. • Meeting held between Athlone Municipal District and Athlone Municipal District PPN to discuss local issues for consideration in the context of 2017 budgets. • County Plenary PPN meeting of reps of all community groups held in Nov 2016 • Replacement PPN reps nominated onto LCDC, SPC's, JPC and PPN Secretariat.
Rural Development Programme / (LEADER)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEADER programme fully operational from Aug 2016. • Negotiation and completion of Service Level Agreement with Implementing Partner, Westmeath Community Development Ltd. • Independent Evaluation Committee established to assess project applications. • Training in LEADER programme requirements held for LCDC members and Independent Evaluation Committee members.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 No expression of interest received for LEADER projects.
Community Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd round of 2016 Grants approved by Municipal Districts for Tidy Towns, Residents Associations, and Community Action Schemes. • Approval by Municipal Districts of grants for upgrading of Christmas lights. • Payment of Festival and Events grants, and community diaspora grants ongoing.
Westmeath Age Friendly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age Friendly Alliance agreed to review existing Westmeath Friendly Strategy 2013-2016 and commence consultation process in respect of a new strategy. • Age Friendly Housing and Public Realm training provided. • Age Friendly reps attended national convention..
Comhairle na nOg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGM of Comhairle na nOg held. • Inaugural meeting of new Comhairle Executive held.
Westmeath 2016 Centenary Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remembering the Rising ‘wrap up’ event held in Aras an Chontae on 3rd Nov 2016. • Number of Westmeath commemorative programme events and project ongoing. • Payment of 2016 commemorative community support grants ongoing.
Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants totalling €380,000 approved for projects in Castlepollard, Moate, Kinnegad, Kilbeggan, Ballymore, Clonmellon, and Streamstown.

Local Enterprise Office: (Quarterly Report)

Local Enterprise Office Westmeath 2016 Report (September - December)

LEO Activities:

Services provided by the LEO include:

- The provision of direct financial supports to micro businesses*. Micro Enterprises are businesses with 10 or less employees.
- Advice on a range of alternative funding options and supports available.
- Offer business information, advisory services and enterprise support.
- Delivery of high-quality training to meet the needs of businesses including; Start Your Own Business, Managing Your Business e.g. Marketing, Sales, Financial Management, Strategy and Business Planning.
- Facilitation of a mentoring service to support businesses with experienced experts in a range of business topics
- The provision of advice on local authority regulations, planning, accessibility, environment, procurement and other issues affecting business.
- Progression pathways for high-potential companies to Enterprise Ireland.
- Advice on local property solutions for start-ups and business expansions.
- Organisation of key enterprise events.
- Facilitation of business networking.
- The promotion of entrepreneurship education in schools.

Summary of LEO Activities for 2016:

Financial, Mentoring & Training Programme Activities as of 31st December 2016 are as follows:

ACTION	METRICS Q1	METRICS Q2	METRICS Q3	METRICS Q4	YEAR TO DATE 2016
No of eligible enterprise projects received for funding brought forward to the Evaluation & Approvals Committee Meetings held to date.	12 projects brought forward to two meetings held during the period.	7 projects brought forward to two meetings held during the period.	8 projects brought forward to two meetings held during the period.	13 projects brought forward to two meetings held during the period.	40 projects brought forward to 8 meetings.
No. of projects approved as :					
Feasibility studies	3	0	1	2	6
Start up businesses (Priming)	2	2	4	1	9
Business Expansions	6	5	3	10	24
Decommitted Project	1				1
Funding approved for projects	€153,886	€127,500	€73,500	€191,624	€546,510
Mentoring:					
No. of mentoring assignments awarded	12	9	14	23	58
No. of Business mentor clinics	2(10 attended)	0	0	7	9
Training Programmes:					
All Leo Programmes (Seminars & Programmes)	24 programmes	17	15	18	74
Specialised(Management Development Programme)	1 (10 attended)	0	0	0	1
Seminars					
No of Business Seminars	3 (148 attended)	6 (131 attended)	2 (34 attended)	0	11 (313 attended)
Total No. of Participants Training & Seminars	314	248	162	248	972 participants
Online Trading Vouchers					
Awarded	1	9	12	3	25
Website Grants					
Awarded	15	5	0	0	20
Trade Fair Exhibition Grants					
Awarded	15	9	1	0	25

LEO Westmeath hosted a number of network events in 2016 including Women in Business Networking Events and General Business Networking Events alternating between Mullingar and Athlone. In excess of 300 businesses participated in these seminars and networking events. In addition, the LEO promoted a number of competitions to promote entrepreneurship during 2016 including the Westmeath section of Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Competition, the National LEO Enterprise Awards, and the LEO Student Enterprise Awards. One to one business advice clinics were held on an ongoing basis, County wide.

Fourteen businesses were offered assistance in making applications to Micro Finance Ireland to obtain loans.

Business Clinics

Business Clinics were held on a regular basis during the period in Athlone and Mullingar and were offered in other locations across the County.

IBYE Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur

Westmeath received a total of 55 applications across the 3 categories. A total of 18 participants were selected to attend Boot camp.

The winners will go on to represent Westmeath at the Regional Finals of IBYE in March 2017.

- Best Idea (not yet trading) Ciaran Walsh, Rathowen.
- Best Start Up Business (trading for 36 months or less) Smart Business Analytics/James & Adrian Sherlock, Moate.
- Best Established Business (trading for more than 36 months) Enda Geoghegan -Lift Hire Ireland Ltd. Mullingar.

Student Enterprise Programme

Programme is well underway with 11 schools now participating. Schools have completed the Idea Brainstorming workshops and are currently validating ideas and preparing business plans for the county final next March. Participation numbers to date are 466 students.

2 teacher training workshops were delivered to encourage teacher participation

Trading Online Vouchers:

LEO Westmeath held 2 lunch time briefing events for small businesses in June Mullingar and July Athlone where Maricka Burke Keogh Digital Marketing Manager AltoCloud presented on the benefits of e-commerce for small businesses.

Food Academy

In conjunction with LEO Offaly, LEO Westmeath has commenced a new round of the 'The Food Academy' Programme. This is a comprehensive food business development programme run in conjunction with Bord Bia and Supervalu. Two Westmeath businesses were successful and are going forward for trial with Supervalu.

Economic Development Activities

Business Incentive Scheme: The Business Incentive Scheme benefits ratepayers occupying properties which have been continuously vacant since 1st April 2015 who may be eligible for a rebate on their Commercial Rates. Refunds on Commercial Rates paid are available to qualifying applicants as follows: 40% in year one; 30% in year two and 20% in year three. A leaflet drop has been carried out to promote the scheme along with promoting the e-Working Centres and the Rates section notify eligible occupiers when issuing rate demands.

24 valid applications have been received to date for 2016.

Property:

LEO is involved in the marketing of property in Westmeath. This involves both private and Westmeath County Council owned property. Westmeath County Council has put some commercial property up for sale. The purpose of this is to release this property for development and to realise funds for reinvestment in other property for enterprise development.

Property Database:

The format of the database is currently under review and the contents are under ongoing maintenance. A map illustrating vacant properties by location across the County has been developed and can be accessed through LEO Westmeath website - <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Westmeath/Enterprise%20Development/Property-Database-for-Westmeath/>

County Promotions:

LEO is involved in producing marketing materials for the county. A series of Videos were produced and marketed. A combined promotional video has been produced and was directly emailed to 3,200 recipients and is being promoted via social media channels.

E Working Centres:

The LEO is currently working on marketing the E Working Centres. The E Working centres are based in Mullingar, Castlepollard, Delvin, Rochfortbridge, Killucan & Kinnegad. Promotional activities undertaken to date include; print and radio adverts, press releases, posters, a leaflet drop, distribution of flyers, community billboards, emails and inclusion in newsletters. In addition **Wi-Fi Hotspots** will be available to the public in the five locations.

Tourism Strategy 2016 – 2020:

A Tourism Strategy for Co. Westmeath has been prepared and adopted by the Members. Recruitment for the post of Tourism Officer is currently underway.

Competitive Funds:

LEO Westmeath has won two competitive funds in conjunction with Offaly, Longford and Laois, one in respect of the Engineering Sector and one in respect of growing small businesses.

- (a) The Midlands Engineering Cluster Programme will facilitate engineering businesses focus on growth & development based on growth planning, training, mentoring and sales development. This programme is currently going through the tendering process with a view to commence in Feb 2017.
- (b) The Midlands One to Two Growth Initiative targets solo entrepreneurs to overcome the legal, regulatory and administrative barriers to adapting employer status, thus stimulating new employment creation and job creation. This programme is currently going through the tendering process with a view to commence in Feb 2017.

CEDRA Funds:

Westmeath County Council were successful in securing two REDZ projects for the County.

1. A collaboration REDZ project for Mullingar and Athlone, BLUEWAYS and GREENWAYS – Unlocking Potential initiative which will develop the tourism economy.
2. The Royal Canal Cycleway Extension Project (from the Royal Canal supply line to Lough Owel Amenity Area at Mullally's Point)

Culture/Tourism/Recreation: (Quarterly Report)

Area	Status
1. County Arts Plan delivery	Continuous review of objectives (commenced consultation on new Plan through SPC)
2. Promotion & support for new Public Art Projects	2.1 Public Art Advisory Group formed & regular meetings scheduled
3. Grants 3.1 Monitor grant projects 3.2 Tenors/Schools Music - Athlone 3.3 Music Masterclasses - Mullingar 3.4 Mural project 3.5 Film location dev. project / web 3.6 Pilot Dance Project / residency 3.7 Midlands Artist Residency CCI Paris Arts Council 3.8 Application for 2017 funding.	3.1 Feedback reports collated, ongoing 3.2 Performance opportunity for 3 x schools 3.3 Series of M/Classes – Helen Hasslett 3.4 Pilot collab (HSE, local artist & historian) 3.5 Phase 1 of enhanced location profile 3.6 Collaboration with Dance Ireland 3.7 County x 4 partnership / Artist Pat Boran Arts Council 3.8 Confirmation received of annual grant to Westmeath County Arts Programme of €47,216 (<i>as of Jan 6th, 2017</i>)
4. Programming (External) 4.1 Supporting agreed annual events and activities as part of the Arts Development Plan	4.1 Events/activities/development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Luan Programming panel (agreed 2017 exhibition programme), Athlone - Current Abbey Road Artists in residence (1) Lelia Henry, (2) Tina Hayes (3) Kate Desmond (4) Deirdre Feeney (<i>new</i>) - Nov 3rd, Celebrating 1916/2016, showcase event, Mullingar - Nov 10th, Launch of Mullingar Art Guild annual show, Mullingar

<p>5. Programming (Internal)</p> <p>5.1 Development of The Atrium as an improvised visual art exhibition and performance space</p>	<p>5.1 Regular Exhibition show turnover</p> <p><i>Atrium Events/exhibitions/launches:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exhibition: Artists x 4 from Abbey Road Studios Athlone, Group show (ran Oct 11 – 21) - Exhibition: Artwork & memorabilia celebrating 1916 events (ran Oct 31 – Nov 4) - Celebration: ‘Velines’ Celebration of Lithuanian Community holiday with readings, art, music & candle lighting ceremony (Nov 1st) - Exhibition: ‘This is Me’ Poster collage show (ran Nov 7-13) - Launch: (Nov 8th) St Loman’s Artists official opening of ‘This is Me’ - Exhibition: Brosna Art Group – group show (ran Nov 13 – 28) - Launch: Official opening Brosna Show (Nov 14th) - Exhibition: ‘Fading Facades’ photographic exhibition, Robert Smyth (Nov 28 – Dec 9) - Launch: Official launch, ‘Fading Facades’ (Dec 1) - Exhibition: ‘Ways of Seeing & Doing’ Joint Exhibition of craft and artworks (ran Dec 12 – Jan 6) - Prize-giving Evening: Schools art competition winners ceremony, collab with library (Dec 6) - Launch: Evening of dance a& song officially opening St Bridgid’s School & Mullingar Variety Group – joint show (Dec 13th) - Concert: Mullingar Charity Variety Group , children’s and adult choir Christmas Performance (Dec 15)
<p>6. Developmental – Music Generation</p> <p>6.1 Instrument Bank, Music Generation Offaly /Westmeath</p>	<p>6.1 Westmeath Instrument Bank Strand: (<i>Ongoing delivery of programme - 500 instruments currently in use in Westmeath within the Programme</i>)</p>

6.2 Review process, Music Generation Offaly/ Westmeath	6.2 Overall review of Music Generation Offaly Westmeath Project commenced to reflect progression to next phase of programme with regular meeting of Management and Working Groups taking place
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Westmeath Arts Office Management Report - Statistics	
STATISTICS	2016
Grants / support	
• Artists' Bursaries (€400)	€12,800 (32 x grants)
• Arts Act Grants (€300 - €350)	€9,450 (27 x grants)
• Arts in Community Grants (€300 - €700)	€14,000 (20 x grants)
Atrium - County Buildings	
• Number of events / shows	36 x events programme (to end Sept)
Music Generation Programmes <i>Total Programme Participation across 2 x counties = 5,000+ students</i> *awaiting end of year updated figures	
• Instrument Outreach Programme	7 schools (221 pupils)
• Kodaly Programme	13 schools (1180 pupils)
• String Programme	1 school (30 pupils)
• Choral Music Programme	3 schools (108 pupils)
• Ensemble Development	1 school (25 pupils)
• Community Group Partnership	1 group (45 participants) *

Westmeath Library Service Management Report, Q4, 2016 - Commentary

AREA	STATUS
1. Implementation of Library Development Plan 1.1 Relocation of Moate Library 1.2 Development of ICT	1. Implementation of Library Development Plan 1.1 Completed 1.2 Completed
2. Maximize web presence 2.1 Westmeath in the Past 2.2 Reminiscence 2.3 Archival collections	1. Maximize web presence 1.1. Completed 1.2. Pending 1.3. Ongoing
3. Online Resources Usage 3.1 eBooks 3.2 eAudiobooks 3.3 Mango Languages 3.4 Zinio magazines	2. Online Resources Usage : 2.1. 438 loans 2.2. 475 loans 2.3. 0 sessions 2.4. 456 checkouts
4. Implementation of Age Friendly Strategy 4.1 Bealtaine programme	4. Implementation of Age Friendly Strategy 4.1 Completed
5. Supporting literacy 5.1 Working with schools to provide tours and class visits 5.2 Supporting family reading through the Summer Reading Challenge 5.3 Supporting adult literacy	5. Supporting literacy 5.1. 3,047 visits by school children to Westmeath Libraries in Q4 2016 5.2. Completed 5.3. Ongoing
6. Programming 6.1 World Book Day 6.2 Seachtain na gaeilge 6.3 Bealtaine 6.4 Heritage Week 6.5 Culture night 6.6 Childrens Book Festival 6.7 Christmas Programme 6.8 Regional activity 6.9 Additional activities	6. Programming 6.1. to 6.5 - Completed 6.6. Comici Gael bilingual workshops in Athlone, Moate, Castlepollard & Mullingar. Irish History Live in Mullingar & Killucan. Vroom-Town in Ballynacarrigy & Mullingar. Paul Timony storyteller in Moate & Kilbeggan. Book Clinics in Moate. LouLou Rose Mindfulness, storytimes, and Monster Doodle in Athlone. Monster Doodle in Mullingar. 6.7. “Night Before Christmas” storytimes in Castlepollard. A Christmas Gathering with music by local school in Athlone. 12 Books of Christmas challenge in Moate. Christmas Doodle in Mullingar Library. Christmas competition & prize-giving in Kilbeggan 6.8. Battle of Wits held in Athlone with TY reps from 4 counties. 6.9. Library service participated in “Remembering the Rising” Wellness events in Athlone, Castlepollard, and Mullingar. John McAuley photographic exhibition in Mullingar. Countywide Road Safety Competition & Prizegiving in association with Road Safety Office & Arts Office

Culture/Tourism/Recreation (cont'd.):

Westmeath Library Service Management Report, Q4, 2016- Statistics:				
STATISTICS	2015 4th Quarter	2015 YTD	2016 4th Quarter	2016 YTD
7.1 Books borrowed				
Total	71,043	296,833	77,618	337,596
By Adult	31,008	129,547	30,987	137,538
By Children	40,035	167,286	46,634	200,058
7.2 AV material borrowed				
Total	5,988	17,871	6,288	27,063
By Adult	3,264	9,785	3,744	15,885
By Children	2,724	8,086	2,544	11,178
7.3 Membership				
Total	3,004	12,894	3,043	14,957
By Adult	1,494	13,101	1,733	8,497
By Children	1,510	10,549	2,544	6,460
7.4 Visits to libraries	68,544	294,820	71,147	304,589
7.5 Visits to Library website	5,553	22,068	2,838	15,359
Facebook likes	80	547	60	832
Twitter followers	46	1128	75	1437
Tumblr followers	n/a	n/a	7	367
7.6 Internet usage				
Total	6,002	25,455	7,259	29,337
Wifi	2,012	9,186	2,460	10,264
7.7 Online Resource usage	n/a	n/a	2,474	6,765
7.8 School visits and tours	3,056	10,275	3,047	10,014
7.8 Summer Reading Challenge Participants	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Visitor Numbers to Amenity /Tourist Facilities

Facility	2015 Total	2016				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2016 Total
Belvedere House Park and Gardens *	126,503	19,649	53,695	32,475	22,018	127,837
Athlone Castle Visitor Centre	24,136	2,723	6,688	12,052	4,110	25,573
Athlone Regional Sports Centre	211,800	88,088	77,897	58,734	71,715	296,434
Mullingar Swimming Pool **	67,664	26,564	35,434	26,983	33,125	122,106
Luan Gallery	12,942	3,548	4,077	5,254	2,349	15,228

Note

* - Belvedere visitor numbers includes attendance at festivals and events. In 2015 this included approx 12,000 at the Midland Home and Garden Festival which the promoter decided not to stage in 2016. Excluding this event the visitor numbers for Belvedere represents 11.6% increase on 2015.

** - Mullingar Swimming Pool includes swimming class numbers in 2016 visitor numbers which had been excluded from 2015 data.

Housing: (Monthly Report)

Westmeath Housing Services Management Report, December 2016 - Commentary	
AREA	STATUS
1. Housing Supply – In Progress	1. Housing Supply – Schemes In Progress
2. Housing Supply – Pre Planning	<p>2. Housing Supply In-house design team in place.</p> <p>2.1.1 Schemes approved</p> <p>Schemes Approved – DEHLG Stage 1 Approved –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bun Daire, Kinnegad (€5.25m) – 28 units. - preliminary work underway; <p>DEHLG Stage 2 Approved –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Laurence’s Tce., Mullingar (€2.01m) – 9 units - Part 8 approved by Members. Stage 3 submission lodged with Department December 2016. Arcadia, Athlone (€6.7m) – 33 units – Currently on Part 8 display. Public Information session held 15/12/16. <p>DEHLG Stage 3 Approved –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement dwelling at 16 Ennell Court (€0.21M) - To proceed to Tender January 2017. <p>2.1.3 Advanced planning underway for projects at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> McCormack Park – 12 units; Belvedere Orphanage, Tyrrellspass - 5-6 units; Battery Heights - 6 units; Ashdale (Site A) – 20 units Ennell Court – 20/30 units. <p>2.1.4 Acquisitions Programme 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35 purchases completed 3 further in progress (contracts received or returned) 3 Sale agreed 6 Offers placed 1 currently under consideration and awaiting inspection <p>2.1.5 CAS – DHPC&LG approval received for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RESPOND (€0.75m) - Chapel St. Athlone – 4 units; RESPOND (€0.09m) - Sarsfield Sq. Athlone – 1 unit; Tuath (€0.8m) - Canal Ave. Mullingar – 9 units; Tuath (€0.5m) – Farran, Mullingar – 3 units Tuath (€0.7m plus CALF funding €0.7m) for approx 28 units

	<p>CAS Call for Proposals 2016 – Applications received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muiriosa – Acquisition of 2 properties at Killucan and Scurlockstown, Delvin. • Tuath – Construction of 12 Units at Rochfortbridge; • Tuath - Construction of 7 units at Moate. <p>2.2 Housing Supply – SHCEP/Leasing - Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 16 no. projects (constructed and under consideration) amounting to a total possible 367 to 497 units <p>2.3 Traveller Accommodation</p> <p>2.3.1 Blackberry Lane Redevelopment – LTACC agreed to commence consultation with residents.</p> <p>2.3.2 - Traveller households housed to date 2016 – 8.</p>
7. Housing Supply – Land Use Planning	<p>3 Housing Supply – Land Use Planning</p> <p>3.1 Progressing SEA and AA screening for a number of sites, as agreed with Members.</p> <p>3.2 Ongoing work with the DHPC&LG and a number of approved housing bodies to utilise Council owned land to construct social housing.</p>
8. Housing Supply – Mortgage to Rent	<p>4 Housing Supply – Mortgage to Rent</p> <p>4.1 Continuing to implement the Mortgage to Rent Scheme for local authority mortgage holders.</p>
9. Housing Maintenance/ Estate Management	<p>5 Housing Maintenance</p> <p>5.1 Managing Housing Maintenance County wide, on a value for money basis while addressing demands within an acceptable timeframe.</p> <p>5.2 Revised Tenant's Handbook finalised for circulation to tenants.</p> <p>5.3 Energy Efficiency Phase 2 (Replacement of single glazed windows / doors and external insulation) due to be completed February 2017.</p>
10. Disability and Housing	<p>6 Disability Steering Group to finalise draft Disability Strategic Plan.</p>
11. Homeless	<p>7 Homeless</p> <p>7.1 We continue to administer the homeless service within the County including implementation of devolved funding regime for the Midlands Region.</p> <p>7.2 The Midlands Regional Homelessness Forum meets each quarter – next meeting scheduled for 3rd March 2017</p> <p>7.3 Regional budget allocation for 2016 - €800,000.</p>

Westmeath Housing Services Management Report, December 2016 – Statistics			
Housing Need Assessment			
No. of approved applications at 01 Jan 2016		2729	
No of approved applications at 31 December 2016		2259	
RAS and Leasing			
	RAS	LEASING	
No. of contracts at 1 Jan 2016	463	228	
No. new contracts 1 Jan and 31 December 2016	141	39	
No of contracts terminated to 31 December 2016	45	23	
No. of Contracts at 31 December 2016	559	244	
Housing Allocations (Social Units)			
Total Vacant Dwellings 1 Jan 2016		14	
No. of Casual Vacancies 1 Jan to 31 December 2016		57	
No. of offers made to 31 December 2016		93	
No. of Tenancies agreed to 31 December 2016		58	
No. of Vacant dwellings at 31 December 2016		13	
House Grants			
Total Budget Allocated for 2016		€1,998,826	
	No. of Grants Approved YTD	Value of Grants Approved	
Housing Grant for People with a Disability	115	1,090,752	
Mobility Aid Grants	109	244,607	
Housing Aid for Older People	51	490,425	
Totals	275	1,825,784	
PRTB Inspections			
No. of dwellings inspected 01 Jan to 31 December 2016		318	
No. of non compliance letters issued 01 Jan to 31 December 2016		265	
No. of Improvement Notices issued 01 Jan to 31 December 2016		0	
No. of Prohibition Notices issued 01 Jan to 31 December 2016		0	
Loans			
Loan Type	Applications Received YTD	Applications approved to 31 December 2016	Loans paid out to 31 December 2016
Construction/Purchase	9	6	6
House Improvement	0	0	0
Mortgage to Rent Applications			
No. of new Applications 2016 to date		3	
No of applications concluded 2016 to date		1	
Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme			
No. of Applications received to 31 December 2016		36	
No. of Applications approved to 31 December 2016		21	
No. of House Sales Completed to 31 December 2016		1	
Repairs and Maintenance 2016			
Repair requested logged to 31 December 2016		1940	
Repairs carried out to 31 December 2016		1445	
No. of outstanding repair requests as at 31 December 2016		258	
Homelessness			
	Midlands	Westmeath	
No. of persons accommodated in Emergency Accommodation at 31 December 2016	59	18	

Transportation: (Quarterly Report)

Major Schemes-summary		
N52 Cloghan to Billistown	<p>Phase 1 Cloghan to Turin (3.5km)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following the procurement process the construction contract was awarded in August to Fox Building and Engineering Ltd. of Omagh, Co. Tyrone.• Fox Building and Engineering Ltd. commenced construction work on site on 29th August. The contract construction period is twelve months.• Progress to-date includes site fencing work and installation of piped culverts. <p>Phase 2 Turin to Billistown (6km) Preliminary Design proceeding</p>	
N55 Tang to the Pigeons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scheme extended to include Tang to Ballymahon under a Section 85 agreement with Longford County Council.• Route Selection process proceeding.	
N55 Glasson to Cornamaddy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topographical survey being procured.	
National Cycleway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction of Garrycastle to White Gates (Ballymahon Road) completed in December 2016.• Irish Rail has commenced the design for the Greenway underpass structure adjacent to Abbey Road.• EIS for Cycle Bridge across the River Shannon to be submitted to An Bord Pleanala in Q1 2017.	
N4 Ballinalack Overlay	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete.	
National Road Maintenance		
	Budget 2016	% completed to end Q4 2016
NP Ordinary Maintenance	€230,681.00	100%
NP Winter Maintenance	€68,265.00	100%
NP/NS Route Lighting Inventory	€6,356.00	100%
NP Route Light Refurbishment @ N4 Rathowen	€31,644.00	100%
NP/NS Safety Barrier repairs	€59,050.00	100%
NS Ordinary Maintenance	€304,964.00	100%
NS Winter Maintenance	€161,949.00	100%
NS Flood Damage repairs	€104,000.00	100%

Regional and Local Road Improvements		
	Budget 2016	% completed to end Q4 2016
Pavement Improvement Works	€3,422,269.00	100%
Severe Weather Funding	€3,300,000.00	100%
Surface Dressing	€963,296.00	100%
Low Cost Safety Schemes	€180,790.00	100%
Bridge Rehabilitation	€200,700.00	100%
Speed Limits	€75,225.00	89%
Discretionary Maintenance	€1,561,023.00	100%
Public Lighting Inventory	€27,964.00	100%
Garrycastle Bridge	€124,370.00	100%

Public Lighting (Monthly Report)		
Total No. of Public Lights as of December 2016	12,632	Overall %
No. of Lights out - end of December 2016	99	0.78%
Number of faults reported in December 2016	186	
Number of repairs carried out in December 2016	173	93%

Water Services: (Quarterly Report)

Rural Water Programme 2016		
<u>Measure</u>	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Scheme</u>
Measure 1 Environmental & Public Health Compliance & Measure 2 Enhancement of existing Schemes (Group Water Sector)	€15,000	Ballybroder/Ballycallagh Group Water Scheme – installation of a UV treatment system.
Measure 3 Rural Development – New Group Water Supply Schemes (GWS)	---	---
Measure 4 Transition of Schemes to Public Water and Waste Water Sector – includes Takeover of GWS and new Group Sewerage Schemes	€10,400	A number of Group Water Supply Scheme schemes were approved for funding for works required to allow the Schemes to be taken-in-charge by Irish Water. Works were carried out on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gallstown GWSS • Clonaglin GWSS • Emper/Ballynacarrigy GWSS
Measure 5 – Innovation and Research	---	---

Water Services – Minor Capital Works**Minor works funded by Irish Water**

<u>Ref.</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Progress</u>
1	Fluoride monitor at Moate Water Treatment Plant	On hold by Irish Water
2	Upgrade electricity supply to Windtown WwTP, Rathowen	New ESB supply connected. New pumps installed. Plant operating to test percolation area.
3	Collinstown Waste Water Treatment Plant – installation of sludge holding tank and flow balancing tank	Site Investigation contract underway and due to be complete by mid-Jan 2017. Contract documents prepared and awaiting SI report.
4	Ballymore Waste Water Treatment Plant – installation of storm water holding tank	Site Investigation contract underway and due to be complete by mid-Jan 2017. Contract documents prepared and awaiting SI report.
5	Kinnegad Waste Water Treatment Plant – installation of storm water holding tank	Works 99% complete and storm tank in operation. Contractor to complete snagging in Jan 2017.
6	Frewin Hill Lower Reservoir – H&S improvement works	Contract Documents being completed and expected to be sent to market in Jan 2017.
7	Kilbeggan Waste Water Treatment Plant – upgrade sludge press	Under review with Irish Water; sludge press out of service; this project is being pursued by IW Process Optimisation.

8	Rathowen Sewerage Scheme – preliminary assessment	Business case submitted to IW in July 2015 and currently under consideration by IW.
9	Energy Assessment of Portloman Water Treatment Plant	To be completed by IW.
10	Energy Assessment of Athlone Water Treatment Plant	To be completed by IW.
11	Replacement of distribution watermain on Ballymahon Road, Athlone	Contract Documents being completed and expected to be sent to market in Jan 2017.
12	Ardnampandra Reservoir (Moate) – supply upgrade from Mullingar Low Level Scheme	Works complete; awaiting final electricity connection at Mount Temple Road Booster Station; expected to be operating in mid-Jan 2017.
13	Old Dublin Road Moate, watermain extension	Contract Documents being completed and expected to be sent to market in Jan 2017.
14	Ballany WTP Standby UV Units	Being completed by IW (Veolia).
15	Chlorine Booster Station at Quillwood Water Tower	Scope of works being reviewed.
16	Replacement of 2.5km AC watermain at Drumman, Milltownpass	Main Contract Documents sent to market; closing date for receipt of priced tenders is Friday 27 th Jan 2017.
17	Replacement of 100mm AC watermain at Clonbrusk West, Athlone	Main Contract Documents sent to market; closing date for receipt of priced tenders is Friday 27 th Jan 2017.
18	Realignment of sewer at Drumaconn, Athlone	Contract Documents being prepared.
19	Collinstown WWTP – C&F Discharge Flow Monitoring & Sampling	Quotations for sampling equipment procured. Application for ESB connection is being processed with IW.
20	Castlepollard WWTP Inlet Screen	Part of the Countywide Inlet Works Programme (<i>see 21 below</i>)
21	Flow Monitoring & Sampling Programme (WWTPs)	Site visits as part of tendering completed by Tenderers at end Sept 2016. Tender returns are awaited.
22	Inlet Works Programme (WWTPs)	Initial data capture complete and submitted to IW.
23	Service Reservoir Refurbishment Programme	Initial inspections of the reservoirs were completed by IW Contractor at the end of May and beginning of June 2016.
24	Replacement of existing cast iron watermain at Main Street, Ballynacarrigy and Old Dublin Road, Kilbeggan	Contract Documents being completed and expected to be sent to market in Jan 2017.
25	Replacement watermain at Balgarrett, Mullingar	Contract Documents being completed and expected to be sent to market in Jan 2017.
26	Replacement of Distribution watermain, Cypress Gardens, Athlone	Contract Documents being completed and expected to be sent to market in Jan 2017.
27	DMA Programme – Athlone DMA Programme	Works 95% complete on site and final close out by end Jan 2017.

Water Services – Suppressed Capital Maintenance programme

Works funded by Irish Water

1	Replacement of defective sewer line on Mount Street, Mullingar, which is generating a high level of complaints, high OPEX costs and overflows frequently giving rise to a public nuisance associated with jetting	CCTV survey of line along Mount Street has been completed and works are being programmed.
2	Emergency repairs to final clarifier at Kilbeggan WWTP	Works complete.
3	Upgrade pumps in Tullamore Road, Kilbeggan Pumping Station	PO was raised early Oct. and work is being scheduled by Contractor.
4	Replacement of defective electrical panels in Coosan West Pumping Station	PO has issued and service alteration application is with ESB for action.
5	Upgrading of pumps and guide wires in Pumping Station B at Moate WWTP	Works complete.
6	Replacement of Return Activated Sludge pipework at Ballymore Waste Water Treatment Plant	Works underway and due to be completed in early Jan 2017.
7	Replace failed chlorine dosing control at Ballinahown WTP	Procurement underway.
8	Replace Abbey Road Foul Pump No.1	PO was issued to Contractor 1 st Sept. and works are expected to be completed by mid-Jan 2017.
9	Replace Cornamagh Pump Station Pump No.1&2	Procurement underway.
10	Bulk Water Meter Replacement – Frewin Hill High Level Reservoir	Meters acquired and in stock for installation when required.
11	Replace 2 no. chlorine dosing pumps at Annagh Booster Station	Procurement underway

Building Control: *(Quarterly Report)*

No. of commencement notices received (year to date)	157
No. of Disability Access Certificates received (year to date)	38

Litter Management: *(Quarterly Report)*

No. of litter fines issued (year to date)	98
No. of prescribed notices issued (year to date)	26

Veterinary Service: *(Quarterly Report)*

No. of stray horses seized (year to date)	50
No. of dogs seized (year to date)	134 seized (48 seized + 86 surrendered)

Report on Westmeath Fire & Rescue Service Activities 1st October – 31st December 2016 (inclusive)

Operational Activities:

Breakdown of fire calls across the four brigade areas

Fire Service Incidents attended by Westmeath Fire Brigades				1 st Quart	2 nd Quart	3 rd Quart	4 th Quart	Yearly Total
Brigade	No. of calls – October	No. of calls – November	No. of calls – December					
Mullingar (WH11)	27	29	20	76	47	31	76	230
Kilbeggan (WH12)	3	8	8	32	17	16	19	84
Castlepollard (WH13)	7	5	5	21	18	9	17	65
Athlone (WH15)	34	22	27	58	66	56	83	263
Totals	71	64	60	187	148	112	195	642

Fatalities: None

Prevention Activities:

Fire Prevention Activities	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter	Yearly Total
No. of planning files reported on by the fire service	22	22	23	22	89
No. of standard fire safety certificate applications received	14	14	20	9	57
No. of 7-day notice fire safety certificate applications	2	2	3	4	11
No. of revised fire safety certificate applications	0	1	1	3	5
No. of regularisation fire safety certificate applications	0	1	5	2	8
No. of dangerous substances licence applications received	2	3	0	0	5

Signed:



Pat Gallagher
Chief Executive

10th January 2017