

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Monthly Management Report

June 2017

(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: April 2017*)

Planning:

Monthly Report June 2017		
Development Management:	Month	Year to Date
No. of planning applications received	45	308
No. of planning applications granted	42	222
No. of planning applications refused	4	17
Number of pre-planning meetings held	39	105
Planning Enforcement:		
No. of complaints received	2	49
No. of sites inspected	27	290
No. of warning letters issued	4	47
No. of enforcement notices issued	0	15
No. of prosecutions initiated	0	1
No. of convictions secured	0	0
No. of cases closed	11	42
Taking in Charge of Housing Estates	Quarter	
No. of estates outstanding	38	
No. of inspections carried out	60	
No. of estates for which the taking in charge process has commenced	32	

Forward Planning - Quarterly Report	
Objective	Progress
Westmeath Retail Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Retail Strategy for the County has been prepared and has been presented to Planning SPC. Meeting has been convened with consultants and Roscommon Co Council to progress preparation of the Strategy west of Athlone. The preparation of the retail strategy for Athlone has been advertised in the local press and submissions invited on the draft strategy.
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Heritage Officer prepared the press release for the local media to advise that a new heritage officer has been appointed by Westmeath County Council. A further press release has been issued seeking nominations to the Heritage Forum.
Structures at Risk Grant Assistance Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three applications for Structures at Risk funding were received, assessed and a formal return submitted to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs for approval of funding.
Built Heritage Investment Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six applications for funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme were received. Initial site inspections were conducted on the six sites and the return completed and submitted to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs.
Advance designation of Hill of Uisneach as World Heritage Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical evaluation of Royal Sites submissions being conducted by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs.
Variation 2 CDP 2014-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A variation 2 was adopted by the members of Westmeath County Council on 24th April 2017
Proposed Variation 3 CDP 2014-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tyrrellspass Settlement Plan drafted, including SEA and AA Screening. Raharney Settlement Plan drafted, including SEA and AA Screening. Awaiting Flood Assessment of both villages.
National Taking in Charge Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The members resolved to take in charge the following three no estates at the Council Meeting on 29th May 2017, Woodville Athlone, Beechpark, Collinstown and Cois Lene, Collinstown.

Human Resources *(Quarterly Report to 30th June 2017)*

No. of Staff Employed (head count/fte):	Head Count; 524 FTE 445.66
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Community Development (Quarterly Report)

ACTION	PROGRESS Q1 (Apr to Jun) 2017
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	<p>Meetings of Westmeath LCDC held in Apr 2017 and Jun 2017 and issues considered incl.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground Support Policy for Local Community Groups. • Approval of CLAR Measure 3 applications. • LEADER projects
Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of LECP 2017 Work Plan underway
Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of 2017 Annual Plan underway.
Public Participation Network (PPN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 510 Community Groups registered with PPN at Q2 2017. • New PPN Website under development. • Meetings held of Municipal District PPN with Municipal District Members re local issues. • 3 No meetings of PPN Secretariat
Rural Development Programme / (LEADER)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCDC approved 3 No LEADER projects • Targeted Call for projects under basic services for hard to reach communities. • Significant changes make to simplify the process for community groups applying for LEADER funding.
Community Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd round of 2017 Festival and Events grants advertised and applications assessed and approved. • Community Grants for Tidy Towns, Residents Associations, and Community Action Scheme assessed and approved. • New Dept Community Facilities Grant scheme advertised.
Cathaoirleach Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cathaoirleach awards event held on Fri 12th May 2017 in Belvedere with presentation of a number of awards to groups and individuals.
Westmeath Age Friendly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation in respect of development of new age friendly strategy underway.
Comhairle na nOg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event held in relation to Youth Mental Health in conjunction with local schools
Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements being put in place for Phase 1 of the Westmeath Resettlement programme for 13 No families to arrive in Mullingar in July to Sep 2017.
Town and Village Renewal Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 projects under construction in Castlepollard, Moate, Kinnegad, Ballymore, Clonmellon, and Streamstown. • Application submitted for 14 No projects for 2017 scheme.

Local Enterprise Office:

(Quarterly Report)

Local Enterprise Office Westmeath 2017 Report (April – June)

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.
- Promotion and participation of National Events coordinated by the LEO Network nationally.
- Securing LEO Regional Competitive Funds.
- Promotion of new funding opportunities.

Summary of LEO Activities for Q 2 2017:

Financial, Mentoring & Training Programme Activities as of 30th June 2017 are outlined as follows

ACTION	METRICS Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	TOTAL
No of eligible enterprise projects received for funding brought forward to the Evaluation & Approvals Committee.	2 projects brought forward and approved.	10			12
No. of projects approved as :					
Feasibility studies	0	2			
Start up businesses Priming	0	2			
Business Expansions	2	6			12
Funding approved for projects €	33,846	130,460			164,306
Mentoring:					
No. of mentoring assignments awarded	12	24			36
No. of Business mentor clinics	11	18			29
Training Programmes:					
All Leo Programmes (Seminars & Programmes)	12	15			27
Management Development Programme	1	0			1
Seminars					
No of Business Seminars	5	1			6
Total No. of Participants Training & Seminars	338	183			521
Online Trading Vouchers					
Awarded	4	12			16
Website Grants					
Awarded	4	*			4
Trade Fair Grants					
Awarded	12	1*			12
Microfinance Loan Applications					
Submitted	2	5			7
Approved	1	3			4

* available for exporting/export potential businesses only. Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters' Grant now introduced by Dept.

Business Clinics

Business Clinics were held on a regular basis during this quarter in Athlone and Mullingar on a weekly basis.

National Events

LEO Westmeath promoted and participated in a host of National Events coordinated by the LEO Network nationally. Details are outlined below:

National Enterprise Awards

The National Enterprise Awards final took place in the Mansion House on 25th May 2017. LEO Westmeath was represented by Enda Geoghegan of Lift Hire Ireland Ltd and while Enda was unlucky not to win a prize on the night he was delighted to have been chosen to get that far in the competition.

Lift Hire Ireland was established in 2007. It provides truck and van mounted lifts with operators on a nationwide basis from their depot in Mullingar Co. Westmeath. They also offer boom and scissors lifts without operators to all sectors including construction, film productions, CCTV maintenance and repairs. Their aim is to specialise in providing an all round service to the telecommunications sector in Ireland for all access requirements in relation to maintenance and repairs to telephone masts and equipment. They have eight full-time and two part-time employees.

IBYE Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur Competition

Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Competition for people under 35 years was launched again and the final will be held in March 2018 and is open again for applications since mid June 2017. Westmeath hopes to build on the success of last year and increase the number of applications received. Last year a total of 55 applications were received across the 3 categories.

The 2018 IBYE competition is open to people aged **between 18-35 across 3 categories:**

1. Best Idea (has an idea for a business but has not started trading at time of application)
2. Best Start-Up Business (has started trading but in business 18 months or less)
3. Best Established Business (has been trading for 18 months or more)

The IBYE Website for people to pre-register their interest in the competition is www.ibye.ie

Student Enterprise Programme

The National Final of the Programme was held in the Croke Park Conference Centre in Dublin on Wednesday 3rd May.

The winners of Westmeath County final who went on to display their businesses in Croke Park were as follows:

Senior Category	Castlepollard Community School	Terrawing
Intermediate Category	Athlone Community College	Relay Smart
Junior Category	Our Lady's Bower, Athlone	Forever Scented

Relay Smart from Athlone Community College won the Best Innovation Award in the Intermediate Category. Their business was a charger that predicts rising temperature so that your phone will stop charging, they have also created an app so that it will remind you to unplug the charger when it overheats.

National Ploughing Championships 2017 Enterprise Tent

The 2017 National Ploughing Championships will take place in Scraggan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly from 19th to 21st September. With over 1,700 exhibitors and 283,000 visitors, it is the market leading agricultural exhibition in Europe.

The Local Enterprise Offices are hosting a Local Enterprise Village at this year's National Ploughing Championships.

Two businesses have been successful in securing a stand in the LEO Enterprise Village.

LEO Regional Competitive Funds

Westmeath were successfully in obtaining two Regional Competitive initiatives:

- Midlands One to Two Growth Initiative
- Midlands Engineering Cluster Programme

1. Midlands One to Two Growth Initiative

The Midlands One to Two Growth Initiative is a comprehensive offering by the Local Enterprise Offices in Laois, Longford, Offaly and Westmeath in supporting business growth and creating employment. The participants have completed 2 training days/workshops to date and it has been very well received by the 41 people who signed up for the programme. They are also receiving mentoring to meet their individual demands.

2. Midlands Engineering Cluster Programme

The Midlands Engineering Cluster programme began in June. LEO Westmeath is the project lead for this project as part of collaboration between the Local Enterprise Offices of Laois, Longford, Offaly and Westmeath. Westbic & Almir Training are delivering the programme.

Five companies from Westmeath are taking part in the programme which will involve intensive training, mentoring, meet the buyer event and a dedicated engineering network.

New Funding Opportunities:

LEO Westmeath have been successful in securing funding for a number of new initiatives:

LEAN for Micro

The “Lean for Micro” is a support scheme for businesses. It follows on from the pilot carried out in 2015 by LEO Westmeath.

What is Lean?

Lean is about being effective and efficient - doing things **quicker, better, cheaper**.

Lean tools and techniques are helping companies **across all sectors** and all sections from e.g. production, business processes but also sales and financial analysis and strategy.

The techniques are used to address competitiveness issues within their businesses, building the capability of their people to identify issues and improve their operations. Lean is about being effective and efficient - doing things quicker, better, cheaper...together. Lean strives to stamp out waste and to continually improve.

The **Local Enterprise Office Westmeath** recognises these very substantial improvements in productivity and profitability that can result from the application of lean principles and aims to support owner/managers in effectively embracing lean methodologies in their businesses.

We currently have two companies from Westmeath who have applied for the programme and are in discussions for further applications.

Micro Exporters Grant (Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters' Grant)

A new grant has been introduced to enable clients to explore and develop new market opportunities.

Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters' Grants will part-fund the costs that can be incurred in investigating and researching export markets e.g. exhibiting at Trade Fairs, preparing marketing material and developing websites specifically targeting overseas markets. These grants should increase the numbers of LEO clients developing new export opportunities.

BREXIT

LEO Westmeath ran a "Get Your Business Brexit Ready" seminar in the Radisson Hotel, Athlone on 8th June 2017, 42 participants were in attendance.

The objective of this information seminar was to inform business on preparing your business to be Brexit ready. It focused on identifying exposure to Brexit and how business can prepare to address them. Details of the 'Brexit SME Scorecard' online tool was introduced to clients where they can self-diagnose their readiness for Brexit. This online tool is available on LEO Westmeath website. LEO Westmeath also announced that they will be having tailored mentoring to address the Brexit challenges for its clients.

Speakers on the day were:

- **John Finn, MD, Treasury Solutions Ltd - Preparing for Brexit with a focus on financial and commercial implications for your business.**
- **Michael Brougham, Enterprise Ireland Regional Director, Eastern and Midlands**
- **Paddy Savage, Programme Manager, Inter TradeIreland**
- **Christine Charlton, Head of LEO Westmeath**

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: 50% in year one; 40% in year two and 30% in year three. Six new applications have been received to date for 2017. A further 31 businesses which were approved for the scheme in 2015 & 2016 will be eligible to avail of the grant again in 2017.

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 placed commercial property 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. The LEO maintains a database of properties for sale or rent in the County.

County Promotions

The Mullingar.ie website has been re-developed and re-launched. The project was implemented by Mullingar Chamber of Commerce in co-operation with LEO staff and was funded by Westmeath County Council under a Service Level Agreement to Market Mullingar. Also under the SLA, a Digital Brochure, to attract inward investment, is being developed.

E Working Centres

E-Working facilities are provided in the Governor's House, Mullingar and in the Council's Civic Offices in Castlepollard. Workspace with high quality broadband is available for use by both employees and small business owners.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) – Economic Section

Review of 2016 implementation plan conducted and 2017 workplan agreed.

Tourism

The new Tourism Officer has recently commenced employment and is currently working on an action plan to implement the Westmeath Tourism Strategy.

Town & Village Renewal:

An application for funding has been made under Town and Village Renewal 2017 towards funding a Hop-on Hop –off sightseeing tour. If successful the proposed tour will link existing tourist attractions in southwest Westmeath, southeast Roscommon and north Offaly. The application is supported by Roscommon and Offaly County Council's with Westmeath acting as the lead authority.

Arts/Culture : (Quarterly Report)

1. County Arts Plan delivery	Continuous review of objectives. New plan due in 2017, with scheduling to allow for creation of Culture Plan (Creative Ireland) also.
2. Promotion & support for new Public Art Projects	2.1 Ongoing / new Public Art Advisory Group since 2016
3. Grants 3.1 Arts Grants 2017, administered 3.2 Creative Ireland Grants 2017, administered 3.3 Mural project 3.4 Film location dev. project / web 3.5 Pilot Dance Project / residency 3.6 Midlands Artist Residency CCI Paris 3.7 Arts Officer appointed to coordinate Creative Ireland activities	Grants 3.1 Arts Grants 2017 completed. Art in Community x 13, total €9,710 Art Act Grant x 38, total €11,940 Bursary x 46 , total €14,950 3.2 Creative Ireland x 45 grants awarded, total €41,300 3.3 Pilot collab (HSE, local artist & historian) in progress July-Sept 2017, launch in Autumn 2017 3.4 Phase 1 of enhanced location profile – ongoing 3.5 Collaboration with Dance Ireland / in dev 3.6 County x 4 partnership to continue 2017 3.7 - Meetings x 4 of Culture Team - Crinniu na Casca event held in Athlone Castle (free 1 x day family event) - Grants scheme processed and 45 x payments made - County Activation plan completed, and launched
4. Programming (External) 4.1 Supporting agreed annual events and activities as part of the Arts Development Plan	4.1 Events/activities/development - Current Abbey Road Artists in residence (1) Lelia Henry, (2) Tina Hayes (3) Kate Desmond (4) Leigh Francis
5. Programming (Internal) 5.1 Development of The Atrium as an improvised visual art exhibition and performance space	5.1 Regular Exhibition, events, launches; - Art exhibition: Mullingar Art Room local art group (April 3 -14) - Exhibition Launch evening: Exhibition

	<p>launched by artist Kevin Flood April 4th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portrait Exhibition: Selection of portraits by artist David Dunne Local (April 17 - 28) - Artist Launch Evening: April 20th, launched by County Librarian Paula O'Dornan - Art Exhibition: '<i>Submerged</i>' Rose Marie Langtry (May 1-12) solo show, midlands visual artist - Book launch: John Ennis (joint library/arts) - book launch, officially launched by Nigel Connor '<i>Going Back for all I'd On</i>' - Double Book Launch: May 9th. Joint library & arts office book launch of author Mark Ahern. <i>Not The Usual Suspects + Chronicles of Martian</i> - National Photographic Federation - Annual Event: national 2 x day event (exhibitions, competition, accreditations). May 13 & 14th - Exhibition: Alison Laredo Photographic Exhibition '<i>Ten weeks that changed the world</i>' May 15 – 26 - Launch Evening: May 17th to coincide with IDAHO day, launched by Cathaoirleach Frank McDermott - Art Exhibition: (June 12 – 23) local artist Sheila Martin solo show '<i>Uisneach</i>' - Launch Evening: May 30th, launched by local historian Ruth Illingworth - Art Exhibition: Ballinalack visual art Josephine Guilfoyle (June 26 – July 7) solo show
6. Music Generation Programmes	<p>Multiple Programme Strands across 2 x counties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instrument Outreach Programme; <i>Delivering tuition in a range of classroom instruments - keyboard, guitar, recorder, drum kit</i> - 2 x county EOI for Leader funding submitted: <i>Applied to expand Instrument Bank resources</i> - June / Big Sing Event, Athlone: <i>1200 primary school pupils in 2017</i> - Kodaly Programme - growing; <i>Now in its 4th</i>

	<p><i>year</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - String Programme: <i>WLDC LEADER funding supported programme, involving c.120 primary pupils.</i> - Choral Music Programme: Targeted intervention predominantly in school completion partner schools - Ensemble Development: <i>Athlone Youth Orchestra, a community youth orchestra serving the young people of Athlone/ Tullamore/ Birr. 40 regular members</i> - No of schools participating in Music Generation: 52 - Community groups: <i>Gateway Athlone (Foroige). YWI Mullingar . YWI Edenderry. YWI Tullamore from Sept 2017. Birr Children's Choir (Part of Birr Festival of Music & Voice)</i> <p><i>Total Programme Participation across 2 x counties = 5,900 + students at end June 2017</i></p>
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Westmeath Library Service Management Report, Q2, 2017 - Commentary

AREA	STATUS
1. Implementation of Library Development Plan 1.1 Development of ICT 1.2 Implementation of Opportunities for All	1.1 Pending 1.2 New distribution system in place for all libraries
2. Maximize web presence 2.1 Westmeath in the Past 2.2 Reminiscence 2.3 Archival collections	2. Pending
3. Online Resources Usage 3.1 eBooks 3.2 eAudiobooks 3.3 JSTOR 3.4 Mango Languages 3.5 Newspapers 3.6 ProQuest 3.7 Universal Class 3.8 Zinio magazines	3. Total usage : 3527 3.1 459 issues 3.2 554 issues 3.3 109 searches 3.4 26 sessions 3.5 1113 searches 3.6 567 searches 3.7 38 sessions 3.8 661 issues
4. Implementation of Age Friendly Strategy 4.1 Bealtaine programme	4.1 Events held in Athlone, Mullingar, Castlepollard, Moate and Killucan Libraries
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	5.1. 5996 visits to the Library by school children 5.2. Launch of Summer Reading challenge in June. Storytelling with Alan Nolan in Athlone, Mullingar, Castlepollard and Moate 5.3. TTRS in Castlepollard and Killucan Libraries
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	6.1 Complete 6.2 Complete 6.3. Carnation Theatre performances in Athlone, and Moate. Storytelling in Killucan. Bealtaine exhibition in Castlepollard "Ag obair le cheile". Coffee and Mindfulness sessions in Mullingar. Athlone Castle Writers Group Reading for Bealtaine 6.4 Pending 6.5 Pending 6.6 Pending 6.7 Pending 6.8 Pending 6.9 Book launch by John Ennis, Baltrasna Boreen exhibition in partnership with Environment section, workshops in partnership with NCBI in Mullingar. Athlone Art Group festival exhibition in Athlone as part of Drama Festival. Gateway youth photography exhibition. Irish Rural Link computer classes, Meditation and Genealogy workshops in Athlone. Oliver Goldsmith exhibition. Lions and leprechauns recording in partnership with Athlone Community Radio.

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

Westmeath Library Service Management Report, Q1, 2017- Statistics:		
STATISTICS	2016 Q1-2	2017 Q1-2
7.1 Books borrowed		
Total	168,217	160,093
By Adult	70,714	65,800
By Children	97,503	94,293
7.2 AV material borrowed		
Total	13,958	12,384
By Adult	8,235	7,311
By Children	5,723	5,073
7.3 Membership		
Total	7,690	6,536
By Adult	4,594	3,852
By Children	3,096	2,684
7.4 Visits to libraries	154,410	158,247
7.5 Visits to Library website	16,515	29,439
Facebook likes	689	1019
Twitter followers	1,291	1653
Tumblr followers	344	368
7.6 Internet usage		
Total	14,902	15,625
Wifi	5,810	6,574
7.7 Online Resource usage	2543	6,823
7.8 School visits and tours	6270	5,996
7.8 Summer Reading Challenge		
Participants	2,398	1,871
Books read		

Visitor Numbers to Amenity /Tourist Facilities

Facility	2016 Total	2017				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2017 Total
Belvedere House Park and Gardens	127,837	14,428	56,351			
Athlone Castle Visitor Centre	25,573	2,651	9,956			
Athlone Regional Sports Centre	296,434	81,676	71,006			
Mullingar Swimming Pool	122,106	44,342	35,375			
Luan Gallery	15,228	2,460	3,449			

Housing: (Monthly Report)

Westmeath Housing Services Management Report, June 2017 - Commentary	
AREA	STATUS
1. Housing Supply – In Progress	1. Housing Supply – Schemes In Progress.
2. Housing Supply – Pre Planning	<p>2. Housing Supply</p> <p>2.1.1 Schemes approved</p> <p>DHPC&LG Stage 1 – Ennell Court Masterplan received Stage 1 Dept Approval.</p> <p>DHPC&LG Stage 3 Approved – Arcadia, Athlone (€6.86m) – 33 units - Tender to be sought July 2017.</p> <p>DHPC&LG Stage 4 Approved –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement dwelling at 16 Ennell Court (€0.21M) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contract awarded to M. Bracken & Sons Ltd. - Due to commence July 2017. • St. Laurence's Tce., Mullingar (€2.01m) – 9 units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contract awarded to TH Contractors Ltd. - Commenced on site June 2017 - 12 month contract <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 <p>2.1.4 Acquisitions Programme 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 purchases completed to 30/6/2017. • 8 further in progress (contracts received or returned) • 5 Sale agreed • 2 Offer placed <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 • Muiriosa – Acquisition of 2 properties at Killucan and Scurlockstown, Delvin. <p>2.2 Housing Supply – SHCEP/Leasing - Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) – Clúid Housing – 6 x 2 bed units at Shannon Close, Excise Street, Athlone – Tenancies concluded.</p> <p>2.3 Tuath – 2 x 4 bed units at Cluain Mullen, Castlepollard – Tenancies concluded.</p>

	<p>Tuath has made an application to the Dept for a further 9 units at Farran under the CALF/P&A.</p> <p>2.4 Traveller Accommodation</p> <p>2.4.1 Blackberry Lane Redevelopment Toilet block upgrade completed and consultation with residents ongoing re upgrade of group housing.</p> <p>2.4.2 Traveller households housed to date 2017 – 5</p>
3. 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 LIHAF Application for Lands at Brawney, Athlone approved by Dept.</p>
4. 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>
5. Housing Maintenance/ Estate Management	<p>5 Housing Maintenance-new maintenance contract in place.</p> <p>5.1 Planned Maintenance – survey of existing stock to commence to inform planned maintenance programme.</p> <p>5.2 Managing housing maintenance county wide, ensuring value for money while adhering to response times set in Tenant handbook.</p> <p>5.3 Energy Efficiency Phase 2 (installation of external insulation) due to be completed August 2017.</p> <p>5.4 Revised Anti-social behaviour strategy adopted.</p>
6. Disability and Housing	<p>6 Draft National Disability strategic Plan received from Housing Agency January 2017.</p>
7. Homeless	<p>7 Homeless</p> <p>7.1 WCC 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 – last meeting 8th June 2017.</p> <p>7.3 Received Regional Budget allocation of €800,000 for 2017.</p> <p>7.4 Tendered for review of emergency accommodation services in the Region.</p>

Westmeath Housing Services Management Report, June 2017 – Statistics			
Housing Need Assessment			
No. of approved applications at 01 Jan 2017			1979
No of approved applications at 30 th June 2017			1708
RAS and Leasing			
	RAS	LEASING	
No. of contracts at 1 Jan 2017	559	244	
No. new contracts 1 Jan and 30 th June 2017	56	3	
No of contracts terminated to 30 th June 2017	21	4	
No. of Contracts at 30 th June 2017	594	243	
HAP			
	Month	Year to Date	
Number of Sign Ups		161	
Last 5 Week Trend - Avg. Weekly Tenancy sign ups		8 per week	
Housing Allocations (Social Units)			
Total Vacant Dwellings 1 Jan 2017			12
No. of Casual Vacancies 1 Jan to 30 th June 2017			25
No. of offers made to 30 th June 2017			26
No. of Tenancies agreed to 30 th June 2017			30
No. of Vacant dwellings at 30 th June 2017			7
House Grants			
Current Budget Allocated for 2017	€2,015,911.00 (€958,391 DOE + €1,057,520 ICR)		
	No. of Grants Approved YTD	Value of Grants Approved	
Housing Grant for People with a Disability	84	827,916.50	
Mobility Aid Grants	39	163,903.00	
Housing Aid for Older People	101	438,632.00	
Totals	224	1,430,451.50	
PRTB Inspections			
No. of dwellings inspected 01 Jan to 30 th June 2017			311
No. of non compliance letters issued 01 Jan to 30 th June 2017			228
No. of Improvement Notices issued 01 Jan to 30 th June 2017			0
No. of Prohibition Notices issued 01 Jan to 30 th June 2017			0
Loans			
Loan Type	Applications Received YTD	Applications approved to 30 th June 2017	Loans paid out to 30 th June 2017
Construction/Purchase	20	8	3
House Improvement	0	0	0
Mortgage to Rent Applications			
No. of new Applications 2017 to date			3
No of applications concluded 2017 to date			3
Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme			
No. of Applications received from 1 st Jan to 30 th June 2017			18
No. of Applications approved from 1 st Jan to 30 th June 2017			10
No. of House Sales Completed from 1 st Jan to 30 th June 2017			4
Repairs and Maintenance 2017			
Repair requested logged to 30 th June 2017			917
Repairs carried out to 30 th June 2017			460
No. of outstanding repair requests as at 30 th June 2017			341
Homelessness			
	Midlands	Westmeath	
No. of persons accommodated in Emergency Accommodation at 30 th June 2017	82	16	

Transportation:

Major Schemes-summary		
N52 Cloghan to Billistown	<p>Phase 1 Cloghan to Turin (3.5km)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fox Building and Engineering Ltd. commenced construction on 29th August 2017. Substantial completion expected Q4 2017.• Following the 3 month road closure the N52 was re-opened to traffic on 13th June 2017.• Construction works are continuing under the 50 kph temporary speed limit with intermittent lane closures. <p>Phase 2 Turin to Billistown (6km)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preliminary Design is in progress and environmental reports are being prepared.	
N55 Tang to the Pigeons (Ballymahon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Route Selection process ongoing.	
N55 Glasson to Cornamaddy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental design consultants, Atkins, appointed.• Constraints study has commenced.	
National Cycleway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Irish Rail’s design of the Greenway underpass structure adjacent to Abbey Road ongoing.• EIS and CPO for new pedestrian/cycleway bridge across the River Shannon were submitted to An Bord Pleanala on 9th May and 16th May 2017 respectively.• Directional fingerpost signs and map boards signs were erected for the Old Rail Trail.	
National Road Improvements		
	Budget 2017	% completed to end Q2 2017
National Road Resurfacing-Schemes Approved June 23rd	€310,000	0%
N4 Ballinalack Overlay(2016)-Relates to retention amount only	€48,223	1%
National Road Maintenance		
	Budget 2017	% completed to end Q2 2017
NP Ordinary Maintenance Increased funding request to be submitted. Includes costs relating to accident to be recouped from insurers	€55,791	116%
NP Winter Maintenance	€75,000	62%
NP/NS Safety Barrier repairs	None allocated to date	0%
NS Ordinary Maintenance	€146,611	63%
NS Winter Maintenance	€195,000	43%
Market Surveillance	€15,000	4%

Regional and Local Road Improvements		
	Budget 2017	% completed to end Q2 2017
Pavement Improvement Works	€3,815,368	62%
Severe Weather Funding	None allocated to date	0%
Surface Dressing	€963,296	59%
Low Cost Safety Schemes	€165,000	1%
Bridge Rehabilitation	€200,700	2%
Speed Limits (Housing Estates)	€56,825	84%
Discretionary Maintenance	€1,598,358	41%

Public Lighting (Monthly Report)		
Total No. of Public Lights as of June 2017	12,600	Overall %
No. of Lights out - end of June 2017	101	0.8%
Number of faults reported in June 2017	584	
Number of repairs carried out in June 2017	573	98%

Faults abnormally high due to ongoing electrical testing

Water Services: (Quarterly Report)

Rural Water Programme 2017		
<u>Measure</u>	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Scheme</u>
Measure 1 Environmental & Public Health Compliance	-	Notification of allocation of funding under Measure 1 is awaited
Measure 2 Enhancement of existing Schemes (Group Water Sector)	€37,995	Interim block grant allocation for the enhancement of existing Group Water Schemes (GWSs). Applications for funding by Laragh GWS and Multyfarnham GWS are currently being considered
Measure 3 Rural Development – New Group Water Schemes	-	
Measure 4 Transition of Schemes to Public Water and Waste Water Sector; includes takeover of Group Water Scheme and New Group Sewerage Schemes	€70,400	Funding has been allocated in 2017 to commence works required to allow the following schemes to be taken in charge by Irish Water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartronganny • Emper Ballynacarrigy • Hodgestown • Shureen • Simonstown

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	No longer required as Plant has been taken out of service.
2	Collinstown Waste Water Treatment Plant – installation of sludge holding tank and flow balancing tank	Contract documents prepared by IW and being reviewed by IW. Planning application prepared by Consultants and lodged 30 th June 2017. Anticipated works will go to tender end of August 2017.
3	Ballymore Waste Water Treatment Plant – installation of storm water holding tank	Contract documents prepared by IW and being reviewed by IW. Planning application prepared by Consultants and lodged 30 th June 2017. Anticipated works will go to tender end of August 2017.
4	Kinnegad Waste Water Treatment Plant – installation of storm water holding tank	Works complete and storm tank in operation. Maintenance period underway.
5	Frewin Hill Lower Reservoir – H&S improvement works	Tender received by IW 14 th June and tender evaluation took place 20 th June. Hoped to appoint Contractor end of July 2017.

6	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.
7	Rathowen Sewerage Scheme – preliminary assessment	Business case submitted to IW in July 2015 and currently under consideration by IW.
8	Energy Assessment of Portloman Water Treatment Plant	To be completed by IW.
9	Energy Assessment of Athlone Water Treatment Plant	To be completed by IW.
10	Replacement of distribution watermain on Ballymahon Road, Athlone	Tender received by IW 14 th June and tender evaluation took place 20 th June. Hoped to appoint Contractor end of July 2017.
11	Old Dublin Road Moate – watermain extension	Tender received by IW 14 th June and tender evaluation took place 20 th June. Hoped to appoint Contractor end of July 2017.
12	Ballany WTP – stand-by UV units	Being completed by IW (Veolia).
13	Chlorine Booster Station at Quillwood Water Tower	Scope of works being reviewed.
14	Replacement of 2.5km AC watermain at Drumman, Milltownpass	Works completed 9 th June 2017. Maintenance period underway.
15	Replacement of 100mm AC watermain at Clonbrusk West, Athlone	Works completed 12 th May 2017. Maintenance period underway.
16	Realignment of sewer at Drumaconn, Athlone	Contract Documents completed and being reviewed by IW prior to issue to market. IW examining alternative funding source.
17	Collinstown WWTP – C&F Discharge Flow Monitoring & Sampling	Quotations for sampling equipment procured. IW has asked Contractor to provide price for work on inlet and this is awaited. Application for ESB connection for the sampler on the outlet has being processed and installation of the pole adjacent to the site is awaited. Order has been placed with the sampler installation and supply contractor.
18	Castlepollard WWTP Inlet Screen	Part of the Countywide Inlet Works Programme (<i>see 20 below</i>)
19	Flow Monitoring & Sampling Programme (WWTPs)	Contractor appointed and works commenced 26 th April 2017. Contractor has carried out asset survey at all sites.
20	Inlet Works Programme (WWTPs)	Initial data capture complete and submitted to IW.
21	Service Reservoir Refurbishment Programme	Initial inspections of the reservoirs completed by IW Contractor end May/early June 2016. More recent inspections carried out at Castlepollard (High Level), Quillwood, Glascorn, Frewin Hill High Level and Tyrrellspass Water Tower.
22	Replacement of existing cast iron watermain at Main Street, Ballynacarrigy & Old Dublin Road, Kilbeggan	Tender was received by IW on 14 th June and tender evaluation took place on 20 th June. It is hoped to appoint a contractor at the end of July 2017.

23	Replacement watermain at Balgarrett, Mullingar	Tender was received by IW on 14 th June and tender evaluation took place on 20 th June. It is hoped to appoint a contractor at the end of July 2017.
24	Replacement of Distribution watermain, Cypress Gardens, Athlone	Tender was received by IW on 14 th June and tender evaluation took place on 20 th June. It is hoped to appoint a contractor at the end of July 2017.
25	DMA Programme – Athlone DMA Programme	Works complete on site. Maintenance period underway.

Water Services – Suppressed Capital Maintenance / Capital Maintenance Programme

Works funded by Irish Water

<u>Ref.</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Progress</u>
1	Replace chlorine dosing control at Ballinahown WTP	Procurement underway.
2	Replace Pump No.1 & 2 at Cornamagh Pump Station	Procurement underway.
4	Replace 2 no. chlorine dosing pumps at Annagh Booster Station	Procurement underway.
5	Replace motor and bridge drive at Moate WWTP	Procurement underway.
6	Replace 2 no. mixers in anoxic tank at Moate WWTP	Procurement underway.
7	Replace chlorine dosing pumps at Ballany WTP.	Complete.
8	Replace mixer and lifting equipment in aeration basin at Tyrrellspass WWTP	Procurement underway.
9	Replace diffuser heads in aeration basin at Moate WWTP	Procurement underway.
10	Upgrade SCADA at Athlone WTP	Order placed on 13 th June 2017.
11	Replace Foul Pump No.1 and VSD at Coosan East PS	Procurement underway.

Water Services – Water Network Programme

Works funded by Irish Water

1	Replacement of 250mm diameter AC Knockdrin Rising Main	IW has approved work and indicated that the Water Network Programme contractor will commence in Q3 / Q4 2017.
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Building Control: *(Quarterly Report)*

No. of commencement notices received (year to date)	104
No. of Disability Access Certificates received (year to date)	15

Litter Management: *(Quarterly Report)*

No. of litter fines issued (year to date)	112 (76 MMD + 36 AMD)
No. of prescribed notices issued (year to date)	15 (8 MMD + 7 AMD)

Veterinary Service: *(Quarterly Report)*

No. of stray horses seized (year to date)	21
No. of dogs seized (year to date)	196 seized (144 seized + 52 surrendered)

**Report to Westmeath Elected Members on Westmeath Fire & Rescue Service
Activities
1st April 2017-30th June 2017 (inclusive)**

Operational Activities:

Breakdown of fire calls across the four brigade areas

Fire Service Incidents attended by Westmeath Fire Brigades				2 nd Quarter	Year Total
Brigade	No. of calls - April	No. of calls - May	No. of calls - June		
Mullingar (WH11)	14	19	11	44	90
Kilbeggan (WH12)	7	3	4	14	32
Castlepollard (WH13)	6	9	5	20	40
Athlone (WH15)	13	20	15	48	93
Totals	40	51	35	126	255

Total Number of Calls (01/04/2017-30/06/2017) = 126 No. Calls

Fatalities: None

Prevention Activities:

Fire Prevention Activities (2 nd Quarter 2017)	
No. of planning files reported on by the fire service	40
No. of standard fire safety certificate applications received	22
No. of 7-day notice fire safety certificate applications	4
No. of revised fire safety certificate applications	1
No. of regularisation fire safety certificate applications	1
No. of dangerous substances licence applications received	0
No. of primary schools visited (Annual Schools Programme (Jan.-June)*)	100% complete at end of Q1

Signed:



10th July 2017

**Pat Gallagher
Chief Executive**