

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Monthly Management Report

September 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*)

Section Reports

Planning:

Monthly Report September 2017		
Development Management:	Month	Year to Date
No. of planning applications received	55	457
No. of planning applications granted	28	335
No. of planning applications refused	3	22
Number of pre-planning meetings held	29	190
Planning Enforcement:		
No. of complaints received	18	90
No. of sites inspected	48	416
No. of warning letters issued	8	63
No. of enforcement notices issued	1	17
No. of prosecutions initiated	2	5
No. of convictions secured	0	0
No. of cases closed	6	52
Taking in Charge of Housing Estates	Quarter	
No. of estates outstanding	35	
No. of inspections carried out	68	
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 was presented to Planning SPC. Strategy has been finalised and will require a Variation of the CDP, MLAP and ATP to be implemented.
Athlone Joint Retail Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting convened with consultants and Roscommon Co Council to progress preparation of the Strategy west of Athlone. The preparation of the Joint Retail Strategy for Athlone was advertised in the local press and six submissions were received on the draft strategy. The baseline review and capacity market assessment has been completed. Workshop held with the Consultants and Roscommon County Council on the findings of the above reports. Draft Joint Strategy is currently being prepared.
Variation No. 3 to the CDP 2014-2020 (Amendment to zoning to provide for residential use at Water St, Castlepollard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared and issued Scoping Letters to the prescribed Environmental Authorities in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report in connection Variation No. 3.
Amendment No. 1 to the MLAP (Amendment to zoning to provide for residential use at three plots in Mullingar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared and issued Scoping Letters to the prescribed Environmental Authorities in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report in connection with Amendment No. 1 to the MLAP. Prepared documents for display. Advertised proposed Amendment in local press and on Council website. Closing date for public submissions is October 9th.
Variation No. 1 to the ATP 2014-2020 (Amendment to zoning to provide for residential use at Arcadia, Athlone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared and issued Scoping Letters to the prescribed Environmental Authorities in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report in connection Variation No. 1.
Westmeath County Development Plan 2020-2026, Mullingar Local Area Plan 2020-2026 & Athlone Local Area Plan 2020-2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary policy analysis for new Plans has commenced as well as tender process for specialist advice in relation to SEA, AA and Strategic Flood Risk.
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Workbooks distributed to Primary Schools around the County Set up mailing list to advise on forthcoming heritage events Promoting heritage issues on social media platforms
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"> A progress update on the six applications seeking funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme was undertaken and returned to the Department.

Advance designation of Hill of Uisneach as World Heritage Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met other Local Authorities to discuss coordinating efforts to advance this initiative • Technical evaluation of Royal Sites submissions being conducted by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs.
Proposed Variation 4 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.
Vacant Site Levy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial work is being undertaken to review the CDP, ATP and MLAP to facilitate the implementation of the Vacant Site Levy. This will involve the preparation of Variations to the aforementioned Plans.
Review of the Local Area Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work has commenced on the review of the Local Area Plans contained in the ATP 2014-2020.

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

No. of Staff Employed (head count/fte):	Head Count; 521
	FTE 459.27

Community Development (*Quarterly Report*)

ACTION	PROGRESS Q3 (July to Sep) 2017
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	<p>Meetings of Westmeath LCDC held in July 2017 and Sep 2017 and issues considered incl.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEADER • SICAP • Age Friendly Strategy • Community Facilities Grants • Healthy Ireland initiative • LCDC Quality and Capacity Development.
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"> • 2017 Mid-year review of programme completed and approved • Procurement for Programme Implementer for new 5 year programme commenced.
Public Participation Network (PPN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 520 Community Groups registered with PPN at Q3 2017. • New PPN Website under development. • 3 No meetings of PPN Secretariat • Meeting of PPN MD to prepare local issues for MD's
Rural Development Programme / (LEADER)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCDC approved 15 No LEADER projects • Programme to simplify LEADER process for community groups ongoing.

ACTION	PROGRESS Q3 (July to Sep) 2017
Community Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment of 2nd round of 2017 Festival and Events grants ongoing. • Payment of Community Grants for Tidy Towns, Residents Associations, and Community Action Scheme in progress. • New Dept Community Facilities Grant scheme assessed, approved and payments issued.
Pride of Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjudication undertaken by national judging panel of Westmeath nominees at Fore and Brawney.
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"> • Presentation to Minister Zappone on youth representative structures.
Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resettlement of 10 Syrian refugee families in Mullingar completed with integration measures ongoing.
Rural Support Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLAR – 2 No projects approved for CLAR funding totalling €77,000 • Outdoor Recreation – 16 No projects approved for grant funding totalling €934,000 • Town & Village Renewal – Project approval from Dept to issue in Oct 2017.
Healthy Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application submitted to Dept for 6 No projects seeking €100,000 grant funding.
Town & Village Action Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants appointed to prepare action plans for 8 No Towns and Villages in the county.

Local Enterprise Office:

(Quarterly Report)

Local Enterprise Office Westmeath 2017 Report (July – Sept)

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 3 2017:

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

ACTION	METRICS Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	TOTAL
Grants No of eligible enterprise projects received for funding brought forward to the Evaluation & Approvals Committee.	2 projects brought forward and approved.	10	13		25
No. of projects approved as : Feasibility studies	0	2	3		
Start up businesses Priming	0	2	9		
Business Expansions	2	6	1		25
Mentoring:					
No. of mentoring assignments awarded	12	24	16		52
No. of Business mentor clinics	11	18	14		43
Training Programmes:					
All Leo Programmes (Seminars & Programmes)	12	15	6		27
Management Development Programme	1	0	0		1
Seminars					
No of Business Seminars	5	1	0		6
Total No. of Participants Training & Seminars	338	183	110		631
Online Trading Vouchers					
Awarded	4	12	22		36
Website Grants					
Awarded	4	*	*		4
Trade Fair Grants					
Awarded	12	1*	*		13
Microfinance Loan Applications					
Submitted	2	5	1		8
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:

NWED

The National Women's Enterprise Day takes place on Thursday, October 12th 2017 (#NWED). There will be seven events held throughout the country.

The Midlands Region is (Westmeath, Longford, Laois and Offaly) LEO Laois is lead co-ordinator for the 2017 midlands event which takes place in the Heritage Killenard Hotel, Portarlinton, Co. Laois.



M.C. Carole Coleman,
Journalist RTE



Bernice Moran, Founder of The
Be Sweet Company



Ramona Nicholas,
M.D. Cara Group



Margaret Jeffares, M.D. and
Founder of Good Food Ireland



Showcase of Heidi Higgins new
online City Fashion Collection
'ebiz - line'

This 'On the Couch' style event will be in informal interview/chatshow format with MC, Carol Coleman in conversation with all our panel speakers, Ramona Nicholas of Cara Pharmacy and Dragons Den fame, Bernice Moran a pilot with Virgin Atlantic and founder of Be Sweet Company, Margaret Jeffares founder of Good Food Ireland. There will also be a fashion show showcasing business wear from Heidi Higgins, a successful designer and boutique owner from Laois.

National Ploughing Championships 2017 Enterprise Tent

The 2017 National Ploughing Championships took 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 hosted a Local Enterprise Village at this year's National Ploughing Championships.

Two businesses had been successful in securing a stand in the LEO Enterprise Village from Westmeath.

The Local Enterprise Office Westmeath also gave grant funding for three other local businesses to take a stand at the ploughing but not within the Enterprise Tent.

IBYE Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur Competition

Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Competition for people under 35 years was open for applications until 29th September 2017. 44 applications were received across the 3 categories in LEO Westmeath. The national final will be held in March 2018.

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)

Student Enterprise Programme

The first round of visits to the schools is currently taking place and two new schools are joining the initiative St. Finian's College, Mullingar and Columba College, Killucan which will bring the number of Westmeath schools participating to 13 schools for 2017-2018 Student Enterprise Programme.

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.

20 companies in total with 7 companies from Westmeath are taking part in the programme which involves intensive training, mentoring, a meet the buyer event and a dedicated engineering network and website. To date 2 training workshops and 1 networking event have taken place with a significant amount of one to one mentoring completed to date.

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 **6 companies** from Westmeath who are implementing the programme and are in discussions for further 3 applications to take place in 2017.

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.

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. Eleven 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 Council is supporting the following initiatives to Market Mullingar under an SLA agreement with Mullingar Chamber of Commerce:

- Re-vamp and re-launch of Mullingar.ie website
- Renewal of Purple Flag accreditation
- Development of Digital Brochure to Market Mullingar

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

A review of the LECP for H1 2017 has been conducted. The findings will be presented at the next meeting of the Economic Enterprise and Tourism SPC.

Economic Enterprise and Tourism SPC

The Economic Enterprise and Tourism SPC met on 15th Sept. Presentations were received from Barry Kennedy, Chief Executive, Irish Manufacturing Research, Gerry McCormack Broadband Officer, Westmeath County Council and Una Doris, Tourism Officer, Westmeath County Council. The committee oversees the expenditure of the Business Promotion Fund. Initiatives supported by the fund in 2017 to date are:

- National Engineering and Life Sciences Expo, Mullingar
- Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland Conference, Athlone
- Premises for Mullingar Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre
- Midlands Food Directory

Tourism

Action Plan and Countywide Structure

A Tourism Action Plan to cover the period July 2017 to December 2018 was outlined at the Economic, Enterprise and Tourism SPC Meeting on the 15th September 2017. This includes activities that will contribute to the implementation of the County Tourism Strategy 2016-2020 over the coming 1.5 years. This Action Plan includes timelines and estimated budgets required for implementation.

Action 5.5 outlined in the County Westmeath Tourism Strategy 2016-2020 is to establish the structures required to enable and encourage industry-led collective marketing and product development which takes account of regional and inter-agency opportunities. This will comprise of an overarching Steering Group, with Action Groups for each of the three pillars in the Strategy; Athlone, Mullingar and Greenways/Blueways.

The Steering Group is now being established, with the relevant agencies and associations asked to nominate a representative onto this group. The role of the group will be to steer the implementation of the adopted Strategy at a county level, giving strategic input to countywide branding, marketing, product development initiatives and other actions. The activities of the Steering Group will be co-ordinated, facilitated and supported by the Tourism Officer and the first meeting of this group will take place in November 2017.

The Action Groups will be industry-led, delivering tasks and projects for the development and promotion of Athlone (existing 'Destination Athlone') and Mullingar as international destinations. The third Action group will enable a strategic approach to the development of recreational tourism to link tourism enterprises, attractions, accommodation and our towns and villages to our extensive recreational infrastructure in order to gain maximum economic advantage from the investment that has been made. Each Action Group will be capable and eligible to access funds through LEADER and other sources to supplement privately raised funds and any Council support.

Greenways - Development and Promotion Plan

A REDZ budget is in place, totalling €120,000, of which €39,114.28 has been spent to date. €40,885.72 of the remaining budget is earmarked for infrastructure and it has been determined that Mullingar Town should be the focus for this spend, as there is currently no strong trailhead in the town or signage that will encourage trail users to stop and stay. Work is underway to plan for creating a 'sense of arrival' for cycling tourists in Mullingar at two locations; Piper's Boreen and Mullingar Train Station, in collaboration with Transportation and the MMD office.

A marketing plan has to be prepared as part of the REDZ project, which aims to encourage multi-day visits, with outdoor recreation at the core, themed to focus on our key target markets. Procurement is underway for implementation of this plan, including content development (photography, video, copy) and digital marketing, in advance of a campaign to run in early 2018. We are collaborating with Destination Athlone (Garry Walsh) and Waterways Ireland (Sharon Lavin) in developing content, to ensure that the greatest value for money is obtained.

An outline plan for further development of the Greenways, including storyboards, heritage interpretation and rest stops has been prepared; so that we are ready to avail of funding opportunities, including Outdoor Recreation Fund 2018.

Other Tourism Activities Ongoing Currently

- Lough Ree / Mid Shannon 'Roadmap' project – inter-county and agency collaboration to harness the potential of the region, through development of a visitor experience brand and specific project identification. 'Roadmap' report to be completed in November 2017 with our input.
- Funding application prepared for submission by 13th October under the National Angling Development Fund for interactive mapping with engaging text and imagery to encourage angling tourism
- Ongoing work to support Destination Athlone, including content development, development of a regional food experience, availing of international marketing opportunities for the Athlone.ie materials, including Tourism Ireland France and the Netherlands international autumn campaigns.

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 through the Public Art Advisory Group
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 collaborative project involving HSE, local artist & Historian in progress July-Sept 2017, 3.4 Phase 1 of enhanced location profile – ongoing 3.5 Collaboration with Dance Ireland / call out to community groups 3.6 County x 4 partnership to continue 2017 3.7 - Meetings x 4 of Culture Team - 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: Ballinalack visual art Josephine Guilfoyle (July 7) solo show

<p>5.2 Programming – new choir set up</p> <p>5.3 Programming – Culture Night 17</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St John’s Day Service (July 10-21) Service user’s group show, medium - paintings - Launch of ‘Our Mark’ with artists Paul Timoney 11 July - Exhibition Eric Edert solo exhibition Aug 3 – 18, mixed visual art - Launch of ‘Effects’ August 11th - Heritage week Exhibition and info., August 21 – Sept 1st - Libraries & Arts Collaborative – ‘process’ exhibition of Mullingar Mural Project - Exhibition –Rochfortbridge school, mixed media (fashion, film, portraiture, calligraphy) Sept 4 – 15th - Launch of Whole School exhibition Sept 5th - Annual Exhibition Mullingar Camera Club Sept 18 – 29, photography - Launch of Club exhibition – writer Patricia Gibney Sept 19th <p>5.2 Workplace Choir September 20th, inaugural meeting & schedule set</p> <p>5.3 Culture Night 2017 Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50+ FREE events countywide
<p>6. Music Generation Programmes</p>	<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 year</i> - String Programme: <i>WLDC LEADER funding supported programme, involving c.120 primary pupils.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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, Q3, 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
1. Maximize web presence 1.1 Westmeath in the Past 1.2 Reminiscence 1.3 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 : 3,673 3.1 509 issues 3.2 696 issues 3.3 39 searches 3.4 69 sessions 3.5 1,038 searches 3.6 949 searches 3.7 30 sessions 3.8 718 issues
4. Implementation of Age Friendly Strategy 4.1 Bealtaine programme	4.1 Complete
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	Supporting literacy 5.1. 636 visits to the Library by school children 5.2. Summer Stars Reading Programme held in all branches. Activities including Monster Doodle, Fun with K'nex and Summer Stars Storytimes and Teddybears picnics took place in Athlone. Blockbusters lego sessions and storytimes in Mullingar Library. Presentation of medals in all 7 libraries. 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 Children's Book Festival 6.7 Christmas Programme 6.8 Regional activity 6.9 Additional activities	6. Programming 6.1 Complete 6.2 Complete 6.3. Programme Completed 6.4 Spark of Genius in all libraries. A history of the Courthouse in Moate Library. James Joyce exhibition and Talk on Kilafree Graveyards in Castlepollard and Nature's finest moments in Mullingar Library. 6.5 Liam C Martin art exhibition in Mullingar, Our Space exhibition by Making Space in Athlone Library. Display of entries from Write Here Write Now writing competition on My Ireland hosted by Castlepollard Writers Group in Castlepollard Library. 6.6 Pending 6.7 Pending 6.8 Pending 6.9 Responsible dog owner talks by the Dogs Trust in 6 libraries. Fairy Garden exhibition by Irish Wheelchair Association in Athlone and Moate. Digitise the Nation workshops in Moate Library. Book launch by Niamh Sweeney Waugh and NCBI workshops in Mullingar.

Westmeath Library Service Management Report, Q1-3, 2017- Statistics:		
STATISTICS	2016 Q1-3	2017 Q1-3
7.1 Books borrowed		
Total	259,978	251,871
By Adult	106,551	
By Children	153,427	101,456
		150,415
7.2 AV material borrowed		
Total	20,775	18,727
By Adult	12,141	10,910
By Children	8,634	7,817
7.3 Membership		
Total	11,914	10,686
By Adult	6,764	6,004
By Children	5,150	4,682
7.4 Visits to libraries	233,442	294,407
7.5 Visits to Library website	12,521	44,084
Facebook likes	782	1,279
Twitter followers	1,362	1,618
Tumblr followers	357	370
7.6 Internet usage		
Total	22,078	22,862
Wifi	7,804	9,020
7.7 Online Resource usage	4291	13,686
7.8 School visits and tours	6,964	6,831
7.8 Summer Reading Challenge		
Participants	3,673	2,748

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	66,351	31,890		
Athlone Castle Visitor Centre	25,573	2,691	9,956	14,247		
Athlone Regional Sports Centre	296,434	81,676	71,006	61,139		
Mullingar Swimming Pool	122,106	44,342	35,375	19,587		
Luan Gallery	15,228	2,460	3,449	5,038		

Housing: (Monthly Report)

Westmeath Housing Services Management Report, September 2017 - Commentary	
AREA	STATUS
1. Housing Supply – In Progress	<p>1. Housing Supply – Schemes in Progress.</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. Commenced on site July 2017 – 4 month contract. 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
2. Housing Supply – Pre Planning	<p>2. Housing Supply</p> <p>2.1.1 Schemes approved</p> <p>DHPC&LG – Stage 1 Dept Approval received on 22nd September for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ennell Court phase 1- 33 units, McCormacks Field, Cloghanboy, Athlone 10 units, <p>DHPC&LG Stage 3 Approved –</p> <p>Arcadia, Athlone (€6.86m) – 33 units</p> <p>Tenders received recommendation for contract award awaited.</p> <p>2.1.3 Pre- planning underway for projects at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belvedere Orphanage, Tyrrellspass - 5 units; Railway Terrace, Mullingar- 34 units; Bishopsgate Street, Mullingar – 4 units <p>2.1.4 Acquisitions Programme 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 purchases completed to 30/9/2017. 4 further in progress (contracts received or returned) 3 Sale agreed 1 Offer placed <p>2.1.5 CAS – DHPC&LG approval received for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RESPOND (€0.09m) - Sarsfield Sq. Athlone – 1 unit; Tuath (€0.8m) - Canal Ave. Mullingar – 9 units; Tuath (€0.5m) – Farran, Mullingar – 3 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</p>

	<p>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 – 6</p>
3. Housing Supply – Land Use Planning	<p>3 Housing Supply – Land Use Planning</p> <p>3.1 Progressing variations and amendments to Development Plans as agreed with Members.</p> <p>3.2 Agreement reached with Dept re. LIHAF funding for infrastructure at Brawney, Athlone. Legal and financial Advisors appointed</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- county wide maintenance contract in place.</p> <p>5.1 Planned Maintenance – Proposals for survey of existing stock under consideration</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 in Q4 2017.</p> <p>5.4 Tenant management pack completed.</p>
6. Disability and Housing	<p>6 County Disability Strategy forwarded to Housing Agency.</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 14th September 2017.</p> <p>7.2 Received Regional Budget allocation of €800,000 for 2017.</p> <p>7.3 Commenced review of emergency accommodation services in the Region.</p>

Westmeath Housing Services Management Report, September 2017 – Statistics			
Housing Need Assessment			
No. of approved applications at 01 Jan 2017		1979	
No of approved applications at 30 th September 2017		1774	
RAS and Leasing			
	RAS	LEASING	
No. of contracts at 1 Jan 2017	559	244	
No. new contracts 1 Jan and 30 th September 2017	79	7	
No of contracts terminated to 30 th September 2017	28	8	
No. of Contracts at 30 th September 2017	610	243	
HAP			
	Month	Year to Date	
Number of Sign Ups	30	259	
Last 5 Week Trend - Avg. Weekly Tenancy sign ups		8	
Housing Allocations (Social Units)			
Total Vacant Dwellings 1 Jan 2017		12	
No. of Casual Vacancies 1 Jan to 30 th September 2017		41	
No. of offers made to 30 th September 2017		40	
No. of Tenancies agreed to 30 th September 2017		38	
No. of Vacant dwellings at 30 th September 2017		15	
House Grants			
Current Budget Allocated for 2017	€2,192,901.00		
	No. of Grants Approved YTD	Value of Grants Approved	
Housing Grant for People with a Disability	120	1,146,016.50	
Mobility Aid Grants	52	207,435	
Housing Aid for Older People	149	654,111	
Totals	321	2,007,562	
PRTB Inspections			
No. of dwellings inspected 01 Jan to 30 th September 2017		501	
No. of non compliance letters issued 01 Jan to 30 th September 2017		411	
No. of Improvement Notices issued 01 Jan to 30 th September 2017		0	
No. of Prohibition Notices issued 01 Jan to 30 th September 2017		0	
Loans			
Loan Type	Applications Received YTD	Applications approved to 30 th September 2017	Loans paid out to 30 th September 2017
Construction/Purchase	29	8	4
House Improvement	0	0	0
Mortgage to Rent Applications			
No. of new Applications 2017 to date		5	
No of applications concluded 2017 to date		8	
Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme			
No. of Applications received from 1 st Jan to 30 th September 2017		22	
No. of Applications approved from 1 st Jan to 30 th September 2017		13	
No. of House Sales Completed from 1 st Jan to 30 th September 2017		5	
Repairs and Maintenance 2017			
Repair requested logged to 30 th September 2017		1358	
Repairs carried out to 30 th September 2017		696	
No. of outstanding repair requests as at 30 th September 2017		449	
Homelessness			
	Midlands	Westmeath	
No. of persons accommodated in Emergency Accommodation at 30 th September 2017	67	18	

Transportation:

Major Schemes-summary		
N52 Cloghan to Billistown	Phase 1 Cloghan to Turin (3.5km) <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. Phase 2 Turin to Billistown (6km) <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.• Oral Hearing took place on 24th August for new pedestrian/cycleway bridge across the River Shannon. An Bord Pleanala decision expected in October/November	
National Road Improvements		
	Budget 2017	% completed to end Q3 2017
National Road Resurfacing-Schemes Approved June 23rd	€310,000	34%
N4 Ballinalack Overlay(2016)-Relates to retention amount only	€48,223	1%
N62 Creggan Roundabout Pavement Improvement	€416,600.00	90%
National Road Maintenance		
	Budget 2017	% completed to end Q3 2017
NP Ordinary Maintenance Increased funding rec’d Sept 17. Includes costs relating to accident recouped from insurers	€76,602	105%
NP Winter Maintenance	€75,000	62%
NP/NS Safety Barrier repairs	None allocated to date	0%
NS Ordinary Maintenance Increased funding rec’d Sept 17.	€240,250	75%
NS Winter Maintenance	€195,000	44%
Market Surveillance Increased funding rec’d Sept 17.	€50,000	35%

Regional and Local Road Improvements		
	Budget 2017	% completed to end Q3 2017
Pavement Improvement Works	€3,815,368	89%
Severe Weather Funding	None allocated to date	0%
Surface Dressing	€963,296	95%
Low Cost Safety Schemes	€165,000	35%
Bridge Rehabilitation	€200,700	30%
Speed Limits (Housing Estates)	€56,825	84%
Discretionary Maintenance	€1,598,358	63%

Public Lighting (Monthly Report)

Public Lighting September 2017		
	Sept	Year to Date
No of Faults Reported	126	2001
Faults Fixed	110	1832

Water Services: (Quarterly Report)

Rural Water Programme 2017		
<u>Measure</u>	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Scheme</u>
Measure 1 Environmental & Public Health Compliance – Block Grant Measure 1(a) – Scheme-Specific Allocations	€7,000 €16,056	Laragh GWS Multyfarnham GWS & Ballybroder/Ballycallaghan GWS
Measure 2 Enhancement of existing Schemes (Group Water Sector)	€50,660	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	Collinstown Waste Water Treatment Plant – installation of sludge holding tank and flow balancing tank	Contract documents complete and Notice of Grant of Planning Permission issued to IW on 28 th Aug. Awaiting the appeals period to elapse and works will be put to tender (October 2017).
2	Ballymore Waste Water Treatment Plant – installation of storm water holding tank	Contract documents complete and Notice of Grant of Planning Permission issued to IW on 28 th Aug. Awaiting the appeals period to elapse and works will be put to tender (October 2017).
3	Kinnegad Waste Water Treatment Plant – installation of storm water holding tank	Works complete and storm tank in operation. Maintenance period underway.
4	Frewin Hill Lower Reservoir – H&S improvement works	Tender received by IW 14 th June and tender evaluation took place 20 th June. Award / Regret letters to be issued to tenderers week commencing 18/09/17.

5	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.
6	Rathowen Sewerage Scheme – preliminary assessment	Business case submitted to IW in July 2015 and currently under consideration by IW.
7	Energy Assessment of Portloman Water Treatment Plant	To be completed by IW.
8	Energy Assessment of Athlone Water Treatment Plant	To be completed by IW.
9	Replacement of distribution watermain on Ballymahon Road, Athlone	Tender received by IW 14 th June and tender evaluation took place 20 th June. Award / Regret letters to be issued to tenderers week commencing 18/09/17.
10	Old Dublin Road Moate – watermain extension	Tender received by IW 14 th June and tender evaluation took place 20 th June. Award / Regret letters to be issued to tenderers week commencing 18/09/17.
11	Ballany WTP – stand-by UV units	Being completed by IW (Veolia).
12	Chlorine Booster Station at Quillwood Water Tower	Telemetry interface works underway and expected to be complete by end Oct' 17.
13	Replacement of 2.5km AC watermain at Drumman, Milltownpass	Works completed 9 th June 2017. Maintenance period underway.
14	Replacement of 100mm AC watermain at Clonbrusk West, Athlone	Works completed 12 th May 2017. Maintenance period underway.
15	Realignment of sewer at Drumaconn, Athlone	Contract Documents complete and being reviewed by IW prior to issue to market. IW examining alternative funding source.
16	Collinstown WWTP – C&F Discharge Flow Monitoring & Sampling	IW has now asked WCC to proceed with procurement of a Contractor to provide flow meters on inlet pipes to the plant. Clarification is being sought in relation to one quotation and installation is expected to be complete by end Nov' 17. Sampler on the outlet has been installed and awaiting energising by electricity supplier.
17	Castlepollard WWTP Inlet Screen	Part of the Countywide Inlet Works Programme (<i>see 19 below</i>).
18	Flow Monitoring & Sampling Programme (WWTPs) Ballinalack, Ballymore, Ballynacarrigy, Castletown Geoghegan, Clonmellon, Collinstown, Delvin, Kilbeggan, Moate	Contractor appointed and works commenced 26 th April 2017. Contractor has carried out asset survey at all sites. Construction is anticipated to begin on 27 th Nov and be complete 13 th Dec.

19	Inlet Works Programme (WWTPs)	Initial data capture complete and submitted to IW. IW currently has this project out to tender to procure a Consultant for the national programme.
20	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, Glascom, Frewin Hill High Level and Tyrrellspass Water Tower.
21	Replacement of existing cast iron watermain at Main Street, Ballynacarrigy & Old Dublin Road, Kilbeggan	Tender received by IW 14 th June and tender evaluation took place 20 th June. Award / Regret letters to be issued to tenderers week commencing 18/09/17.
22	Replacement watermain at Balgarrett, Mullingar	Tender received by IW 14 th June and tender evaluation took place 20 th June. Award / Regret letters to be issued to tenderers week commencing 18/09/17.
23	Replacement of Distribution watermain, Cypress Gardens, Athlone	Tender received by IW 14 th June and tender evaluation took place 20 th June. Award / Regret letters to be issued to tenderers week commencing 18/09/17.
24	DMA Programme – Athlone DMA Programme	Works complete on site. Maintenance period underway.
25	Replacement of Distribution watermain, Nocturnes, Ballymahon Road, Athlone	Tender received by IW 14 th June and tender evaluation took place 20 th June. Award / Regret letters to be issued to tenderers week commencing 18/09/17.
26	Westmeath NCAP (National Certificate of Authorisation Programme) Sites <i>Surface Water Discharge:</i> 1. Ballinalack <i>Ground Water Discharge:</i> 2. Hillside Finnea 3. Raharney 4. Rathowen	RPS has been appointed as Consultant for the National programme and data capture will be undertaken Nationally between Sept 2017 and March 2018.

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	IW has reviewed the need for this installation and the upgrade has now been deemed unnecessary.
2	Replace Pump No.1 & 2 at Cornamagh Pump Station	Procurement underway.
3	Replace 2 no. chlorine dosing pumps at Annagh Booster Station	Order placed in July' 17 and works anticipated to be complete by end Oct' 17.

4	Replace motor and bridge drive at Moate WWTP	Complete.
5	Replace 2 no. mixers in anoxic tank at Moate WWTP	Complete.
6	Replace chlorine dosing pumps at Ballany WTP.	Complete.
7	Replace mixer and lifting equipment in aeration basin at Tyrrellspass WWTP	Installation of the mixer is complete and the lifting equipment installation is underway.
8	Replace diffuser heads in aeration basin at Moate WWTP	Complete and efficiency is currently being assessed by IW Process Optimisation.
9	Upgrade SCADA at Athlone WTP	Order placed on 13 th June 2017. Works 95% complete.
10	Replace Foul Pump No.1 and VSD at Coosan East PS	Pump has been ordered and installation is expected to be complete by end Oct' 17.

Water Services – Water Network Programme

Works funded by Irish Water

1	Replacement of 3.4 km of 250mm diameter AC Knockdrin Rising Main	Preliminary design received from the Contractor is being reviewed. Works expected to start 9 th October 2017.
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Building Control: *(Quarterly Report)*

No. of commencement notices received (year to date)	172
No. of Disability Access Certificates received (year to date)	29

Litter Management: *(Quarterly Report)*

No. of litter fines issued (year to date)	150 (87 MMD + 63 AMD)
No. of prescribed notices issued (year to date)	41 (26 MMD + 15 AMD)

Veterinary Service: *(Quarterly Report)*

No. of stray horses seized (year to date)	32
No. of dogs seized (year to date)	263 seized (196 seized + 67 surrendered)

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

Operational Activities:

Breakdown of fire calls across the four brigade areas

Fire Service Incidents attended by Westmeath Fire Brigades				3 rd Quarter	Year Total
Brigade	No. of calls - July	No. of calls - August	No. of calls - Sept.		
Mullingar (WH11)	8	12	6	26	116
Kilbeggan (WH12)	13	4	2	19	51
Castlepollard (WH13)	8	5	8	21	61
Athlone (WH15)	19	15	14	48	141
Totals	48	36	30	114	369


Total Number of Calls (01/07/2017-30/09/2017) = 114 No. Calls

Fatalities: None

Prevention Activities:

Fire Prevention Activities (3 rd Quarter 2017)	
No. of planning files reported on by the fire service	31
No. of standard fire safety certificate applications received	13
No. of 7-day notice fire safety certificate applications	4
No. of revised fire safety certificate applications	3
No. of regularisation fire safety certificate applications	3
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 October 2017

Pat Gallagher
Chief Executive